I recently saw the celebrated film _The King's Speech_. When I first heard about the topic I thought it was a very slender thread upon which to hang a whole movie. For those who have not seen it or read about it, it concerns the struggle of the second oldest son of King George V (ruled 1911-1936), the Duke of York, to control his severe, life-long stammer, a matter that becomes very serious when his older brother, Edward VIII, abdicates in 1936, and he must assume the throne as George VI. What lifts the story out of the realm of the personal and makes it high drama indeed, is the historical context. In normal times a constitutional monarch who cannot speak in public without long, embarrassing pauses is just a nuisance. But in the mid-1930s, confronted by a menacing Nazi Germany led by a demonically gifted speaker, Adolf Hitler, a king who cannot rally his nation is a potential disaster. Hence the enormous cinematic tension that builds up as King George VI works with his speech therapist Lionel Logue to be able to deliver the Christmas 1939 address to his people. I am aware of some of the criticisms leveled against the film’s depiction of George VI but his Christmas speech is a matter of record and it is a deeply moving document.

I bring this up because it reminded me once again of the dual nature of history. On the one hand, it aspires to be a rigorously analytic approach to the study of the past, posing questions, weighing evidence, contextualizing events and ideas. In this regard it makes sense to place history among the social sciences as in fact is the case in most CSU campuses. Yet history is also, as _The King’s Speech_ reminds us, a deeply dramatic story, equal or superior to anything found in literature. Hence its location in some colleges of the humanities as is the case at Chico.

The same thought occurred to me during several of our public events this past academic year. On September 15 Stephen Lewis spoke about the ways in which the Mexican government intended to celebrate the 200th anniversary of independence and the 100th anniversary of the Mexican revolution. He pointed out the discomfort the one-party Mexican state has traditionally had in celebrating certain aspects of the revolution and the way in which it has, over the years, manipulated the memory of these events. A month later the Department celebrated an important emotional anniversary of its own when Joan Waugh (UCLA) gave the tenth annual Joanna Cowden Dunlap Memorial Lecture, addressing the memory and myths surrounding Ulysses S. Grant. Professor Waugh presented a vigorous defense not only of Grant’s generalship, but of his presidency as well, arguing persuasively for the role of well-placed Southern apologists—particularly Southern historians—in blackening his memory.

Our History Roundtable Discussion on “The Politics of Economic Decline,” held on
November 3, was largely analytical in approach. Professor Erich Rauchway of UC Davis gave one of the best public talks I have ever heard, a brilliant defense of the New Deal’s role in bringing America out of the Depression. My colleagues Jeff Livingston and Sandra Collins provided insightful comparative commentary on the American economic crisis of the 1970s and the Japanese crisis of the 1990s respectively. Finally, this February Jim Matray spoke on the battles for Pork Chop Hill during the final stages of the Korean War, emphasizing the military futility of these bloody engagements. It was moving to hear from several veterans of the conflict in the audience in the question and answer period. Stay tuned for next year’s public events, including lectures by Tim Sistrunk on sustainability in history and Robert Tinkler on the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.

There have not been many any significant changes in terms of personnel since the last newsletter. We were not allowed to mount any searches for tenure-track faculty last year or this year. Nor does it look like we will be able to do so next year. Yet we continue to lose colleagues to retirement. This semester will be Larry Bryant’s last in a long, illustrious career of teaching; Judy Raftery’s last semester will be next fall. We did manage to hire Howard Miller—on a part-time basis—to teach some of our courses on Middle Eastern history. Miller is a Chico State alumnus who went on to earn his PhD in medieval Spanish history at Yale, specializing in the history of the Arabic-speaking population living in the Christian parts of Spain. But over the long run I do not know how the Department can survive if it cannot hire young scholars to replace those who are retiring. Yet, despite the continuing budget gloom, faculty remain as active as ever in improving their teaching and pursuing their scholarly work as you can glean from perusing their reports from this year.

Despite rising tuition and diminishing prospects for employment, our students appear to retain their spirits, at least judging by the activities of Phi Alpha Society and the History Club. You can read about their works and days below.

One very gratifying constant over the past year has been the unwavering support of our alumni and alumnae. Contributions to the Department’s foundation account continue to arrive, permitting us to ease somewhat the pain of continual budget cuts. We are able, for example, to pay for the entire cost of our student contingent attending the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference this spring. Although not alums, our three most generous donors, Bob Barnhart, John Boyle, and Bob McCulley, once again made very significant contributions this year, for which the entire Department is grateful.

I will conclude by mentioning two new opportunities for alums. First of all, we now are on Facebook. There are plenty of picture albums up and more will be coming. Perhaps you can find one of yourself or your friends. We hope to add features such as discussion topics as we move along. Please stop by! In addition we have added a book review section to this newsletter for alums who have read a history book they want to bring to the attention of faculty, students, and alumni. My thanks to the first two reviewers: Seth Igarta and Katheryn Thompson.

Faculty Research: Michael Magliari on the history of Indian slavery in California

How did you come across this topic?

Actually, I discovered this topic while preparing my very first lectures for my California history course here at Chico back in Fall 1990. I had not studied Native American history at all during grad school, so I was desperately trying to get up to speed on the subject quickly enough to whip together an Introductory Section on California Indians for my course. While reading James Rawl’s
Indians of California and George Phillips's Enduring Struggle, I was shocked to learn about the California Indian Act of 1850 and the whole grim business of Indian "indenture" and "apprenticeship" that prevailed in California during the gold rush and Civil War eras. This was completely surprising and fascinating news to me, since I had never heard of it before. I had always been taught that antebellum California was a free state.

How much is known about Indian slavery in California?

The basic outlines have been laid out clearly by Rawls, Phillips, and other scholars, most notably Al Hurtado and the anthropologist Robert Heizer. But their works only reveal the tip of the iceberg, and many essential details remain unexplored and unknown. No one knows exactly how many Indians laborers were legally bound as wards, apprentices, indentured servants, peons, or leased convicts between 1850 and 1865. Similarly, the names and locations of the white employers who exploited unfree Indian workers remain largely unidentified, as do the numerous slave traders who kidnapped Indians to supply the unfree labor market.

What has surprised you the most in doing this research?

Two things, mainly. First, the unexpected geographic variations within the unfree labor market. For reasons I'm still trying to figure out, debt peonage and convict leasing appear to have been far more common in southern California, especially in Los Angeles and on the old Mexican cattle ranchos, while minor custodial wardship, apprenticeship, and indenture prevailed largely in Northern California, as did the illegal slave trade in kidnapped Indian servants. In addition, there were large areas of California, particularly the Mother Lode gold fields, where bound Indian labor appears to have been almost non-existent.

The second great surprise is just the sheer brutality of the period. Like most American frontier regions, gold rush California was marked by high levels of violence that was directed both internally within the white community and outwardly against Native American peoples. We've known for a long time that the 49ers were not simply fun-loving, young, wealth-and-adventure seekers. They were also invad...
like the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, the Huntington Library in San Marino, and the California State Library and State Archives in Sacramento. I should also acknowledge the importance of key sources I’ve found in less-wonderful but still essential places like the basement of the Mendocino County Courthouse in Ukiah and the Solano County government records warehouse in Suisun City.

What do you hope will be the contribution of your book to the history of California and the West?

Beyond filling in the knowledge gaps I’ve already mentioned, my greater hope is to contribute to the seismic shift that is taking place right now in the historiography of American slavery. For the past ten or fifteen years, a number of scholars have been intensely investigating the history of unfree Indian labor in the United States, and eventually the cumulative weight of their work will compel a fundamental recasting of the traditional narrative that historians have always used to tell the story of American slavery. Essentially, the structure of that narrative has always rested upon three foundational dualisms or “binary oppositions”: Free Labor vs. Slave Labor, North vs. South, and Black vs. White. My work on bound Indian labor in California contributes to the ongoing scholarship that is now rapidly undermining or at least revising all three of the pairings that make up this venerable triad. So too does the work of scholars looking at the colonial South (e.g., Allan Gallay, William Ramsey, and Christina Snyder); the colonial Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes (Carl Ekberg, Juliana Barr, and Brett Rushforth); Hispanic and American New Mexico (James Brooks and Ned Blackhawk); Mormon Utah (Sondra Jones and Richard Kitchen); and, of course, California, where I’m sharing the turf with Stacey Smith, Ben Madley, and others. When the results of all this research are viewed collectively, it becomes very clear that the history of racially-based American slavery cannot be written or fully understood without including Indians, the West, and the various legal forms of unfree labor that occupied the long overlooked but critical space lying between the opposite poles of chattel slavery and free wage labor: indentured servitude, debt peonage, convict leasing, etc. In fact, some colonial historians are already pushing for a redefinition of American slavery that incorporates indentured servitude and even apprenticeship. Instead of the traditional distinction between slavery and various contracted forms of “voluntary servitude,” they point to the obvious coercion behind, and within, these ostensibly voluntary contractual arrangements and call for making a new distinction between perpetual slavery and temporary slavery.

For a historian, this is all very exciting stuff. When the new master narratives of American slavery eventually begin to appear later in this century, I hope to be there in the footnotes and bibliographies.
Phi Alpha Theta and the History Club

Phi Alpha Theta and History Club are a collection of students and faculty with a passion for history. We meet semi-regularly throughout the semester to organize various trips and fundraisers. This past December, we drove to San Francisco to enjoy the Post-Impressionist exhibit at the De Young, and the Legion of Honor’s complementary show, “Japanesque.” In between our museum visits, we stopped for dim sum and a presentation on the evolution of European art by Professor Easton – a surprisingly good combination!

One of the goals of the club this school year is to visit museums in Chico that are often overlooked by students and are full of great local history. In the fall we toured the Bidwell Mansion, and learned about the founders of Chico and their contributions to the city. Many thanks to our very own Joshua Knudson for a fascinating guided walk through the house! Later in the spring, we plan on visiting the Stansbury House, another fantastic mansion here in Chico.

In April, the club is planning a hike up into the Feather River Canyon. With Professor Emmerich as our guide, we’ll discuss the Maidu culture and learn about the diverse histories of the indigenous groups that used to thrive in this area. We are also planning a couple of fun trivia nights moderated by our very own History faculty, inspired by the fun we had at the trivia night at the T. Bar and Fusion Cafe in the fall. Let us know if you’d like to write some trivia.
We often send members to the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference as well as the Humanities and Fine Arts Symposium. Last year our member Bryce Havens came home with the top prize for a graduate student paper at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference! Wish us luck at the meeting this March – and we hope to see some of you at the HFA Symposium, later in the year.

Our President and Vice President, with the help of some other members of the Clubs, have also engaged in bringing in funding for a new history lecture series called “New Directions in History.” The idea is for students to select professors from campuses nearby to come and speak about their research and current projects. Ideally these lectures would not only educate students to the new advances in history, but would also enable students to gain contacts that would potentially enhance both their educational and professional careers.

Thanks to everyone who helped make 2010-2011 a great year for Phi Alpha Theta and History Club!

Advisors: Professors Jessica Clark and Jason Nice

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**Faculty and Staff News: 2008/2009**

**Claudia Beaty**
In addition to my duties involved with my attempt to keep the History department office running smoothly, I have finished the coursework required for a Master’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. I am gearing up to start writing my thesis, and hope to graduate next fall. The Butte County Historical Society’s *Diggins’* magazine recently published, “California Senator Ray E. Johnson: Citizen-Turned Lawmaker,” a paper I wrote for Michael Magliari’s Archival Research seminar.

**Lawrence Bryant**
In July 2010, Lawrence Bryant conducted two seminars as Visiting Faculty at a National Endowment for the Humanities faculty seminar on “Performances of Ritual” at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. Also, he reviewed “The French Renaissance Court” for *The Court Historian* and Performance, Poetry, and Politics on the Queen’s Day: Catherine de Médicis and Pierre de Ronsard at Fontainebleau for *H-France*.

**Hugh Campbell (retired)**
You might care to pass on to my old colleagues that I am enjoying my retirement like no other time in my life.

I am staying busy with various volunteer activities, including serving as President of the Chico Chapter of the Retired Public Employees Assoc, Treasurer of the Chico State Retired Faculty Assoc., and Vice President of my Sons in Retirement Branch.

Also, since I retired, I have been a member of the Board and Secretary for several years of the Butte County Historical Society and on the Board of the Working Training Center (for Developmentally Disabled adults).

So you can see that I am not just hanging around street corners.

**William Campbell**
During the 2009-2010 academic year, I presented research papers at four conferences in Philadelphia, Berkeley, Reno, and Toronto. I also had book reviews published in the *Journal of American History*, *Pennsylvania History*, and *History Matters*. Moreover, I managed to finally complete the revisions for a chapter entitled “Surrender in the Northeastern Borderlands of Native America” in Strachan, H. and Afflerbach, H., eds., Why Fighting Ends in the Changing Character of War Series (Oxford University Press, forthcoming). Finally, with help from a Newberry Library scholarship, I had the chance to spend a wonderful month conducting research in Chicago.

**Jessica H. Clark**
It’s hard to believe it has been three years since I first came to Chico! This past year, I contributed an essay to ABC-Clio’s online ancient history database (“A Lost Cause: Why Caesar’s Death Could Not Restore “the” Republic”), and reviewed *Praeda: Butin de guerre et société dans la Rome républicaine* /
Kriegsbeute und Gesellschaft im republikanischen Rom (M. Coudry and M. Humm, eds.) for Classical Review 61.2. I gave a lecture at UC-Davis last April, on Tacitus’ Histories, and presented part of my current book project at UC-Berkeley in October. Indeed, I held off finishing this update until I could add that said book manuscript is now “under review”! In addition, Jason Nice and I have continued to advise the fantastic students of our History Club and chapter of Phi Alpha Theta – you can read more about our adventures in this edition of the newsletter.

Sandra Collins
After a very pleasant first year at Chico, I was fortunate enough to receive the Internal Research Grant from Chico’s Research Foundation that supported my week-long research trip to the archives of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland in June. I was there when Switzerland won its first World Cup match, and the whole town celebrated in typical Swiss style: honking their horns and drinking ale!

I returned from summer research to Chico in August, thoroughly excited to begin my second year.

During the Fall Semester, I was invited to present my newest research project, “The East Asian Olympic Games: 1964 Tokyo, 1988 Seoul and 2008 Beijing,” at several international conferences. In August I presented at ChunCheon World Leisure Congress in South Korea; in September at Beijing’s Communication University of China; in November at the International Olympic Symposium Conference at Western Ontario University in Canada; and in December at Chengdu Sport University also in China. These were wonderful opportunities to meet colleagues and begin several exciting collaborative projects.

I have also been having fun introducing a series of films from East Asia during the mini-series within the series on chance that the Humanities Center at Chico has sponsored. Who knew there were such dedicated ballroom dancers in Chico!

During intersession this winter, I will present some new research on “Winning the Cold War in East Asia: GANEFO and the 1964 Tokyo Olympics” with fellow sport and Cold War colleagues, Chris Young (Univ. of Cambridge), Bob Edelstein (UC San Diego), John Soares (Univ. of Notre Dame), and Barbara Keys (Univ. of Melbourne) at the American Historical Association’s conference in Boston in January 2011. The panel represents just how international and interdisciplinary the field of sports studies has become. I was invited to serve on the Academic Editorial Board for the International Journal of the History of Sport commencing 2011.

Laird Easton
I just received the designs for the interior pages of my book, Journey to the Abyss: The Diaries of Count Harry Kessler, 1880-1918. My free time during the fall semester was spent assembling the art program and doing the final cuts with the editor, mostly over the phone to New York. It will appear this fall with Knopf. Much of the rest of my time has been absorbed with navigating the History Department through the shoals of an ambitious redesign of the General Education program at CSU-Chico. I also proposed, along with my colleagues Jason Nice and Jessica Clark, a new so-called GE Pathway entitled Great Books and Ideas, which has been accepted as a component of the new General Education reform. This spring semester I will be very busy both with negotiating which history courses will be accepted into the other Pathways, and with populating our own Pathway with classes. I look forward therefore to my research trip to Paris this summer. I plan to continue working there on my edited anthology on art and politics in Europe from 1890 to 1930 as well as investigating the celebrated trial of the infamous Maugerite Steinheil in 1909 (Google her!).

Stephen Lewis
The year 2010 has been a busy one for historians of Latin America. It marks the bicentenary of the independence process in Spanish Latin America and the centenary of the start of the Mexican Revolution. Universities, Mexican government ministries, and researching historians took the opportunity to host an array of conferences and edit commemorative volumes. I was fortunate to receive invitations to present my work at two conferences in Mexico, one in Texas, and one in Seville, Spain. The latter conference is part of a project funded by the Spanish government that takes a comparative, hemispheric
look at official Indian policy in Latin America. Now that the travelling and schmoozing is behind me, I now have to hold up my end of the bargain by writing two book chapters and an article for my hosts!

**Jeff Livingston**
I continue to research the Bicentennial Commemoration of 1976; some of that research hopefully will find its way into publication someday. I am enjoying a quieter, more pleasant workplace now that I no longer chair the campus Faculty Rights Committee, a position that entails representing faculty with grievances against the university. Most important and most pleasant, of course, are my roles as Julie’s husband and Jade and Levi’s dad.

**Mike Magliari**
Michael Magliari was awarded a one-year research fellowship for 2010-2011 by the National Endowment for the Humanities to enable him to complete work on a new book. Entitled “Free State Slavery: Bound Indian Labor in California, 1850-1867,” Magliari’s book is under contract with the University of Nebraska Press. Magliari presented a paper on his current work at the annual conference of the Western History Association in October. He also published a review of Randall Milliken’s “Native Americans at Mission San Jose” in the April 2010 issue of *California History*. As a practicing public historian in the local community, Magliari continues to serve on the board of directors of the Bidwell Mansion Association and the Chico Heritage Association. This past summer, Magliari helped direct the CHA’s successful campaign to secure enactment of a new historic preservation ordinance by the Chico City Council. The ordinance, which passed on a 6-1 vote, became effective in September.

**Jim Matray**
June 25, 2010 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the start of the Korean War, making last year a very busy one for me. In May, I was program co-chair at a conference on “The Legacy of Harry S. Truman in East Asia: Japan, China, and the Two Koreas” and presented “Mild About Harry: Truman’s Legacy in Northeast Asia” at the Truman Little White House in Key West, Florida, which later was aired on C-SPAN. That same month, I delivered the keynote address at a conference on “Arkansas in the Forgotten War: The Korean War Remembered” at University of Arkansas, Little Rock. During June, I was co-organizer and chaired a session at a conference “New Documents and New Histories: Twenty-First Century Perspectives on the Korean War,” at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri. That same month, I presented a paper at a conference commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War at the University of Southern California. And in June, I chaired a session on U.S. postwar occupation of Korea and Germany in Madison, Wisconsin at the annual convention of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR).

I spent much of the rest of the summer preparing PowerPoint presentations for my course covering U.S. history from 1945 to 1974. I also revised a previous application for sabbatical leave for Fall 2011, which was granted to provide time for me to complete my manuscript examining the Battles of Pork Chop Hill. My op-ed article titled “Korea: Lessons and Legacies of a Memorable War” as printed in the *Bakersfield Californian* on 23 June 2010. That same month, my essay titled “Korea: Lessons and Legacies of a Memorable War” was posted on the SHAFR Website. Also, my interview was featured in “Forgotten No More,” a special section printed in the *Omaha World Herald* on 31 May 2010. In April, H-Diplo posted my “Commentary” on the “Special Issue on the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War” of the *Journal of Strategic Studies*. In December, I was featured in a front-page article appearing in the Chico Enterprise Record providing commentary explaining the military clashes this past year on the Korean peninsula.

and my historiographical article on the Korean War appeared in Korean War History. I also published reviews the International History Review and American Historical Review, while preparing another to appear in the Journal of American History.

Jason Nice
Jason Nice received two course releases during the Fall 2010 semester to redesign History 102 (CELT Instructional Grant) and begin work on his next research project (Faculty Development Grant). The research grant gave Jason time to begin his analysis of thousands of photographs of seventeenth-century manuscripts relating to the career of John Egerton, first earl of Bridgewater. In March, he will present his preliminary findings at the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies to be held at the University of Washington. As a new member of the General Education Advisory Committee, Jason has also contributed to campus efforts to redesign the general education program at Chico State.

Judith Raftery
Judith Raftery presented a paper, “Immigrant or Conqueror: A Tale Within a Tale of Americans in the Philippines,” on the panel “Across the Pacific: Migration between Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan…and the United State,” at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Washington, D.C., April, 2010. This is the third presentation at major conferences for Professor Raftery since 2008. An article from one of the pretentions, “Bridge Border, Brokering Divides: Confronting the Limits of Cultural Assimilation, Essays by Lynne M. Getz, Judith R. Raftery, and Eileen Tamura” has been published in The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, in April 2010 edition. Professor Raftery has been asked to review three articles for publication in refereed journals and has served as an outside reviewer for tenure consideration at another university.

Dale Steiner
Dale Steiner was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Council for History Education, and appointed as chair of its Conference Committee. Steiner has served as Executive Director of the NCHE’s California affiliate, the California Council for History Education, since 2005.

Tim Sistrunk
I was a plenary speaker at the California Council for History Education in September 2010 where I presented “Urban Order and Natural Resource Use in the Middle Ages.” I was also the Content Director of the course Thematic World History Instruction: Investigating Global Environmental History, which trained 6th, 7th and 10th grade instructors for the North State History and Social Science Project in Red Bluff, June, 2010.

Robert Tinkler
In addition to teaching a full complement of courses and serving as the department’s Graduate Coordinator, I’ve been busy with conferences and outreach programs as well as a couple of outside projects. In summer 2010, I was one of sixteen participants in a month-long NEH Seminar on “The Civil War at 150” held at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah and also participated in a Faculty Seminar on “Citizenship and the Global Polity” at the Aspen Institute’s facility on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. During the fall of 2010, I presented a session at the California Council for History Education meeting in Sacramento on new emphases in Civil War scholarship and talked to Redding-area school teachers on “The Civil War as a Watershed” as part of a UC-Davis Teaching American History grant. The other projects included substantially revising the Instructor’s Manual for W. W. Norton’s best-selling U.S. history textbook, Give Me Liberty! by Eric Foner, and serving as writer/editor for a new textbook to be published by Pearson Education next year. I also received Chico State’s Outstanding Teaching Award at a Fall 2009 luncheon.

Kate Transchel
I have been quite busy lately with my research on human trafficking from the former Soviet Union. Having received a CSU Chico Lantis professorship in 2008, I was able to spend six months in Russia, Moldova, and Ukraine interviewing victims of human trafficking and their rescuers. Since that time, I have been transcribing and translating those interviews. Consequently, I presented the first of my research in a paper entitled “From Hope to Hell: Trafficked Victims and Their Rescuers Talk about Their Lives” at the annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) in November, 2010.
I received a sabbatical leave for the Fall 2010 semester, and was awarded a short-term travel grant from the International Research and Exchanges Board. Consequently, I was able to spend another four months in Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova from July-November, 2010 finishing research for my monograph on human trafficking. The monograph, Hidden in Plain Sight: An Oral History of Modern-day Slavery from Eastern Europe, traces the history of human trafficking from the former Soviet Union through the life stories and lived experiences of the victims of trafficking and their rescuers. The individuals I interview come from Moldova, Ukraine, and Russia and were either trafficked or worked in a non-governmental organization (NGO) dealing with trafficked victims between 1989 and 2008. In telling the story of human trafficking in the words of those rescued and their rescuers, my study deepens our understanding of the historical context and evolution of the slave trade in Russia and Eastern Europe, and gives human expression to a tragic social and economic problem of considerable magnitude.

During this last research trip, I traveled extensively in all three countries, meeting with trafficked victims, scholars, government officials, and people who work in NGOs. While in Russia, Moscow’s Channel 4 TV invited me to participate in a film documentary they were making on drinking in Russia (the topic of my last book). This led to an invitation to give a lecture on my research at Kostroma University in Russia, as well as meet with members of the History Department there. This meeting sparked another invitation—this time to speak in Vladivostok. While there, I met with scholars at the Center for Organized Crime Studies housed at the Far Eastern Academy of Sciences. The Head Researcher of the Center, Liudmilla Erokhina, and I discussed the possibility of collaborating on a research project on human trafficking next year.

I returned to the US in time for this year’s meeting of the AAASS in Los Angeles where I presented a paper detailing states’ involvement in trafficking entitled, “Human Trafficking and the Post-Soviet State.” My most current research reveals that there is a high level of state complicity in human trafficking. It is a highly lucrative business that depends upon the cooperation of corrupt officials. This particular aspect of my research has gotten me into hot water in both Moldova and Ukraine...

Since human trafficking is a rather hot topic right now, I have been invited to speak in numerous venues—locally and for various state and non-governmental organizations. I am hoping to complete and publish an article in the near future on a Moldovan lawyer I met in Chisinau, Moldova. She was imprisoned for prosecuting traffickers in 2006. After several of her clients were murdered for agreeing to testify against their traffickers, she herself was imprisoned on bogus charges. Her story typifies the risks one encounters working in the field of anti-trafficking and highlights the level of government corruption in post socialist states. She is currently in the United States seeking political asylum.

Never one to have a simple agenda, I am concurrently working on compiling and co-editing a collection of essays on late-socialist underground rock and roll movements in Eastern Europe. While the work I do on trafficking is important, it is quite difficult and heartbreaking. So I decided to also do something that was a bit more fun. The collection, The Socialist Beat in Eastern Europe: Rock, Youth Identities, and the State, brings together the works of North American and Eastern European scholars. We just signed a contract with Rowan and Littlefield for publication in late 2011.

Since I will be teaching for USAC in Luneburg Germany this summer, I am looking forward to a European adventure that doesn’t include danger and heartbreak. We’ll see...

For the millions of Filipinos who immigrated to the United States in the early 20th Century, Carlos Bulosan’s America is in the Heart is a sobering reminder of the hardships and intolerances they faced when reaching America’s shores. Published in 1946, this semi-autobiographical novel of the celebrated Filipino author recounts his childhood in Binalonan, Philippines, his journey to America, and his life as a migrant laborer on the Western coast of the United States.

More specifically America is in the Heart recounts the collective experience of thousands of Filipinos who, while being recruited for employment under the authority of the US government, were lured to this country in the 1920s and 1930s by the attraction of America’s ideals and its promise of a better life. Bulosan details the brutalities and alienation that most Filipinos faced upon arrival on the Harvest Trail of the West. Deprived of their rights, treated as subhuman strangers, and confronted by hatred, violence and exploitation, they endured cruelty and persecution. He writes, “I know deep down in my heart that I am an exile in America…I feel like a criminal running away from a crime I did not commit. And the crime is that I am a Filipino in America.”

While the chronology, characters and locations of the book can at times become blurred, its message heart wrenching and gripping. Amidst the backdrop of this disheartening historical account is an enduring and reaffirming faith in America, once lost, yet regained, a faith rooted in the hope of the possibility for America. America is in the Heart is a classic story of immigration that I recommend to all without hesitation.


One of the joys of life for modern enthusiasts of history is that the concept of what is worthy of historic study and presentation has broadened greatly. Take, for example, the history of food. Mark Kurlansky’s popular books, Salt and Cod, are both deeply researched studies of the food commodity and its social, political, economic and cultural significance. Now Pat Willard, an acclaimed food writer, has presented her first book in this genre of history with Secrets of Saffron: The Vagabond Life of the World’s Most Seductive Spice. Willard presents her history, liberally sprinkled with quotes from poetry, literature, ancient and modern, as well her personal memoirs, in order to infuse her prose with the seductive warmth of saffron.

Saffron is a unique spice. It is, by far, the most expensive spice in the world, but it is not an exotic import from the Far East. It comes from a Mediterranean plant, a delicate fall-blooming crocus, later introduced into India, China and beyond. It has traditionally been grown in areas where hand labor is inexpensive. The harvest period is short, fast and intense. The flowers must be picked immediately upon opening, at dawn, before the mid-day heat, then, the stamens and style at the center of the flower are separated, removed and dried. It requires the harvest of a full ton of crocus flowers to produce a single ounce of dried saffron threads. The flowers and their valuable interior parts are incredibly delicate. No mechanical method has ever been devised that can harvest this crop and separate the
saffron threads with the speed and agility of human hands.

Because it has always been the poor of Europe and the Mediterranean who have harvested this crop, Saffron has been one of the few expensive spices available to even the most poverty stricken. This close relationship between the poor and the spice explains why many of the most famous recipes using saffron began as peasant food, such as paella from Spain or bouillabiasse from France. To illustrate the broad cultural use of saffron, Willard provides historic formulae for the use of saffron in medicines, perfume and cosmetics. In addition, Willard offers recipes from various countries for the use of saffron in foods. As a source of information about the spice, but also as an example of a very individualized way of writing history, Secrets of Saffron must be recommended.

Alum News

Nathan Bento, MA 1998
Thank you so much for your fantastic newsletter! I’m glad to hear that you are soldiering on through our economic crisis. I was just wondering the other day how things were going with you all there.

I am a teacher in Tracy Learning Center teaching students from 5th to 7th grades. I enjoy teaching them ancient history. I am glad to be gainfully employed (though we had to take pay cuts). I was especially happy to hear how Phi Alpha Theta continues to thrive—I am especially beholden to Phi Alpha Theta as I married my adversary from the conference!

Please relay my greetings to everyone there—especially Dr. Bryant!

If I win the lottery, I’ll remember CSU Chico History Department.

Nathan (Nate) Carey, BA 1995
I have been working as the head of the Leasing Department for Ray Morgan Company in Chico for the past six years. In 1998, I married another Chico State alumni, Cathy Cliff Carey (BA, Speech Pathology and Audiology, ’86), who works as a full-time Interpreter/Transliterator for the Disability Support Services department at CSU, Chico. We have one daughter, Elaina. I still enjoy reading about history in my spare time, along with other pastimes such as boating, playing music, and spending plenty of quality time with my family and friends.

Dillon Carroll, BA 2007, MA 2009 in History
I graduated in May of 2009 with an MA in History. After graduation I applied to numerous PhD programs and was eventually accepted to the University of Georgia, Athens. I am currently in my first year of the PhD program at UGA. I am working towards writing my dissertation on wounded Civil War soldiers and their assimilation into Post-War America.

Chuck Cohn, BA 1967
I was not born to be an academic, but I loved history. I’d been admitted to upper division work at Chico State conditionally. My junior college grades had averaged C–!

I loved all my history classes at CSU, Chico! There wasn’t one that didn’t fascinate, entertain, and absolutely captivate me. Two of my memorable classes were the two semesters of the history of the UK I took from Lois Christensen. She was a marvelous lecturer and gave demanding reading assignments. Her classes were huge, both in their scope, but also in the number of students. I loved to sit near the front, if not in the front row in all my classes. It gave me a feeling of intimacy with the professor, even though I knew they really didn’t know me from any of the other eighty or so students in attendance on any given day. I never made any attempt to cultivate any kind of a personal relationship with Dr. Christensen. I think I ended up with an A in her classes, I enjoyed them so much!

After graduation, I worked for about six months, then volunteered for the draft. After I returned from my military service, including a brief tour in
Vietnam, some personal business called me back to Chico. While there, I made a point to give myself a tour of the campus, including a stroll through the, then, new history department building. As I walked down the hall on the second floor musing to myself about the names on the doors, I came to Dr. Christensen’s office. The door was open. I walked in, and there was Dr. Christensen, standing, looking out the window, deep in thought, her back to me.

I cleared my throat quietly and she turned to see me. She immediately broke into a broad smile, and said warmly, “Well, Chuck Cohn! How have you been?” Back then, being a Vietnam Vet was not something you brought up about yourself. Even being a graduate of Chico didn’t seem to have much cache, particularly with a degree in history. Being unemployed didn’t do much for one’s self esteem either. But, you know, I knew at that moment that there must be something special about me, that this great lady whom I so admired, could, after close to three years, turn and recognize me instantly by name and with such warmth.

Ask me, sometime, about H. H. Hutchinson, or G. D. Lillibridge!

Chris Coutant, BA 1994
It is hard to believe that it has been over 15 years since I graduated from CSU Chico and your class (early 20th century European History) was my last final. It is good to see you as the Chair of the History Department and I hope you are moving the program forward and making it even stronger under your leadership.
Quick question for you, what happened to both Professor Peter Hoffman and Professor Geshekter. They were both very good teachers and overall mentors as I was in the history program and I see they are no longer with CSU Chico.

Arlene Shipley Farley, BA 1968
I was delighted to find the Chico State History Newsletter in my mailbox. I wish we would have had a History Club while I was attending Chico. I graduated from Chico in 1968 with a BA in History and received my teaching credential the following year. I received my MA in Education (Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Technology) from Sac. State in 2000. I retired in June 2008 after 38 years at the elementary level. Since I graduated over 40 years ago, I naturally did not see any of my professors on the list, but a favorite of mine was my advisor and chair of the department, Dr. Clarence McIntosh, Dr. Mac, as we called him. I was also inspired by Dr. Jiri Vojta who taught Russian History, among other classes.

Michael "Mike" Grummitt, BA 1993
After leaving Chico, I’ve worked for various companies as a project manager, Help Desk and supervisor for a Help Desk. Now I reside in Sacramento, CA and work for Cisco Systems, Inc. as a project manager. I spend a lot of my off time reading and studying books about World War II, Ancient Greece and California History. I hope to work my way back into working in my field of study and become more involved with local historical groups.

Ed Hayden
Early retirement rules. No more daily suit and tie in Sacramento. But the demands for careful analysis, source material, diverse readings, need for independent research on your own, as well as heaps of writing assignments did a lot to help me go as far as I did in State government. I can’t think of any other degree that would have given me that. The math, accounting and technical things changed too frequently, and they are peculiar to each employer not something a college can teach unless you make CSUC a job training program for IBM or WalMart. The historical skills and data were best learned in university. There are lots of neat thing to do out here on the East Coast, too. Where I live in Pittsburgh puts me close to all sorts of great places! And it only gets 1/2 the snow of Chicago or New York by a fluke of topography :) Spend my time flying military cargo to fun places. Spent last summer in Europe; came back after having helped to build a stone domed temple, and digging on the same site found a 6,000 year old flint knapping stone the site director let me keep. European trains are a hoot. From Kaiserslautern you get just about anywhere. The only part of Europe that really freaks me out are the pop-up urinals; especially at night when you see someone actually using one. Women have even developed some sort of personal spout so they do it, too. Eek! Although I may be in Rome (or in this case Holland) I do not see it as proper or necessary to “do
as the Romans do.” This summer I’m thinking about practicing my bad Spanish down in Latin America for a good long spell. All I can think of though as I watch the news is your old Western Civ class Professor Easton :) It is strange and timely that you wrote us alumni I suppose. How many Middle East rulers do you think would have benefited from your sanguinary lectures on the French Revolution? If you try to hang on to power past any measure of common sense you gamble with your life. If the mobs are angry, or hungry enough they will drag you out of your house (or palace) and do bad things to your person... Ceausescu for instance didn’t read any books on the French I expect. then after the revolution I hope whomever is in the new leadership will also pay attention to the old French example... there are the poor sans-culottes on the streets of Egypt right now, and plenty of bourgeois waiting to see how this all turns out, too... Professor Haws and his love of TV appearances comes to mind :) People with things to loose who will react angrily to any radical actions or rhetoric by a new government. So who will be the new Robespierre, the new Murat? Or maybe they will find some silk stocking of a man to run things :) I have to admit I enjoy watching world events with all the juicy background a history degree provides.

**Tom Maxwell, BA 2001**
I graduated from Chico State in December 2001 with my BA in History and then exited the Chico State Teacher Prep Program in December 2002. Since Graduation I have been Teaching High School History in the Phoenix Arizona area. I have taught world history, U.S. history, U.S. government, AP U.S. history, and AP U.S. government. Currently, I am in the process of completing my principal internship and in May 2010 I will graduate from Northern Arizona University with a Master’s in Educational Leadership. I would like to thank the CSU, Chico history and education faculty for all that they did for me. I would have never been as prepared as I was if it was not for their excellence in teaching. Thank you.

**Tom Miskey, BA with Honors, 1994**
I don’t know if you remember me, but I was one of your students. I graduated from CSUC in 1994 with a degree in History/Soc Sci Teaching Prep, and honors in History and GE. I wanted to thank you for sending me the newsletter, and I hope things turn around quickly and get back on the right track.

After graduating, I taught art at the Chico Art Center for a couple years, and then was accepted into the JET Program, which is and English teaching and cultural exchange program sponsored by the Japanese government. I lived in Japan for 2 years, teaching at Hashimoto High School, about 1 hour south of Osaka by train. Upon returning to the US, I got a job in the bay area doing office work for a company that sold Toshiba phone systems. After that, I worked for Nippon Express, in the perishable air transport division, arranging for shipments of California fruit to Japan. When I was laid off there, I moved back to Chico and I currently do payroll and bookkeeping for a company that removes old orchards and grinds the wood for sale to co-generation power plants. I also do the JET Program recruiting at CSUC for the fall/winter career fair each year.

Also, please pass along my ”welcome to Chico” to Prof Sandra Collins, and my email if she’d like to talk with me. I was living in Japan during the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics, though I was not able to attend them personally. But I can tell her about the news coverage and cultural feelings of my friends and co-workers at the time. Also, she laments the lack of a good Asian bookstore here... well, I shipped home a very large collection of manga that I bought while I was there, about 1,600 original Japanese language manga, many of which have never been translated to English and are rare or unknown in the US. She might be interested in looking through it or maybe borrowing some to read, since she said she enjoys manga.

**Gerald “Jerry” Mitchell, BA 1999**
It was nice to hear from the history dept and glad to hear from you. I hope you can keep those of us who are not local anymore up to date with what is going on in the future. I had not heard about Dr. Cheng (he was my first history professor at Chico. I also was able to do an interview with him for one of Steiner’s classes and learned a lot about his life before he came to the U.S.). I think he was a good man. Very sorry to hear about the fiscal issues, but I do believe that California as a whole is positioned to rebound with a vengeance. Contrary to how the
country (I now live in Utah) views your financial woes, some of the investments that were made prior to the financial meltdown are going to prove fruitful. I think that the meltdown was overdue. Just one of those corrections that needed to be made (not that my opinion counts for anything).

I have a suggestion. Can you include in your newsletters a list of “must reads” for history? Since I am not in those loops, it is hard to know which books or papers are worth the time of day. On that note, I am 300+ pages into The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich. I like the fact that he (Shirer) was there during the time that he is writing about, but I’m not sure about his opinions. Does he take too many liberties (in writing) because he was there? I only ask you this because of a book you asked us to read “the Hitler of history” (the author did not back up his opinions with hard facts). Before that book, I took everything as fact. You made us take a very objective look at what was being said by the author. I was also able to do a leisure read on Effi Briest. Thank you. I didn’t have the time to “really” read the book during the class. I now understand why you wanted us to read the book. I recommend it to everyone who mentions the era. Once again thank for the newsletter, and I hope to hear from you and the department again.

Darleen Saunders, BA 1983
I am a 1983 History graduate with a minor in Tourism. After graduation I went to work for Pacific Express Airlines which was based in Chico at the time. I also have worked for the Intercontinental Hotel chain, Troy State University at Frankfurt, Germany, and Entertainment Inc. an advertising company. After settling down to raise a family I began work as a parent educator for families with gifted children which I still do today while home schooling my daughter and traveling.

Michael A. Ryan Simonovich, BA 2006
After graduation I was forced by economics to leave my beloved Chico and entered the workforce as a Networking Consultant for a small firm in Los Altos, helping K-12 schools and Junior Colleges improve their data networks. I am now in my second year as Director of Academic Technology at Dunn School (www.dunnschool.org <http://www.dunnschool.org>), a small independent school in the Santa Ynez Valley. I occupy my days keeping the school network running, working with the Dean of Faculty to incorporate technology into the curriculum, advising the Tech Club and hitting the waves with the Surf Team as often as I can.

I live in Santa Barbara, CA with my wife Sadie and one year old son, Yuri.

Katheryn A. Thompson, BA 1980
I graduated from Chico State in 1980, with a BA in History and Spanish. The next year I earned the secondary credential. I spent the remainder of the 80’s teaching Spanish in northern California and having babies. I attended the University of California, Riverside for the MA and PhD in Spanish. In 2002, I was offered a full-time tenure track position at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, and moved east. In 2006, I moved across town to Chattanooga State Community College. I find the community college a more conducive working environment for what I hope to achieve in higher education; high quality teaching, strong student support service and regular community involvement. This year I was promoted to Associate Professor.

My education at Chico State has been particularly useful in my work. I regularly discuss history in my foreign language classes. In addition, each week, I go to La Plaza Comunitaria, an educational outreach to the immigrant community. There I teach a GED prep course in US History, Civics and Social Studies, in Spanish.
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