HISTORY FORUMS

In fall 2010, the History Forum hosted two talks. Dr. Gabriel Gutierrez, Associate Professor of Chicano Studies at CSU Northridge, delivered the first on October 14, 2010. Professor Gutierrez’s talk, “‘Amanzar’: Historical and Cultural Readings of Victor Villaseñor’s Educational Journey in Burro Genius,” engaged CSUB’s First-Year Experience book, Burro Genius, by Victor Villaseñor. Burro Genius also served as the Kern County Library’s One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern city-wide read. Professor Gutierrez discussed various themes in the memoir within their historical contexts.

On November 17, 2010, Dr. Mark Baker delivered the second History Forum talk of the quarter. Professor Baker’s presentation, “Patron, Protégé, and Prophet: Mirsaid Sultan-Galiev, Party Disloyalty, and the 1923 ‘Affair,’” investigated the 1923 arrest, interrogation, and "trial" of Mirsaid Sultan-Galiev, at the time the Communist Party’s leading authority on the Soviet Republic’s Muslim East. Dr. Baker is Assistant Professor of History at Koc University in Istanbul, Turkey. (Professor Baker is on leave from CSUB in 2009-2011.)

Upcoming History Forums:

“Norman Clyde: Legendary Mountaineer of California’s Sierra Nevada.”

On Friday, January 28, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in the Albertson Room, Robert C. Pavlik, Environmental Planner and Historian with the California Department of Transportation, will discuss one of the most notable personalities of the mountain climbing world as he reconstructs the life of legendary mountaineer Norman Clyde (1885-1972). Clyde made his mark on history with more than one hundred and thirty first ascents throughout western North America, and many believe he knew the High Sierra better than anyone else, including John Muir. Russo’s Books will be selling copies of Pavlik’s book at the event.

“William Penn: ‘A Faith that Overcomes the World’”

On Friday, April 22, 2011, the History Forum will welcome Erin Miller, Associate Professor of History at Bakersfield College and CSUB History Alumna (BA 2001). Miller will argue that William Penn's faith enabled the birth of American democracy. Born into a family of economic, social, and political standing in England, Penn was raised by a father who encouraged religious and political inquiry, while instilling in his son the values of good moral character, integrity, and independence. As a boy Penn embraced God, and eventually Quakerism, risking the future his father had laid out for him. Driven to understand government's legal right to dictate a man's religion and therefore his thoughts, his innermost being, Penn pursued legal knowledge with an unquenchable thirst. Just as Penn's social position facilitated his acquisition of Pennsylvania, his education facilitated its political scaffolding. His faith, however, allowed him to set his ideals free in a world of intolerance and corruption. God, Penn believed, would have to let his Holy Experiment flourish. Miller’s talk will take place in the Albertson Room at 3:30 p.m.

REMEMBERING KATHRYN BURKE

Kathryn Burke (BA 1996; MA 2001) died on October 10, 2010 at the age of ninety-seven. She left a number of the history department professors sad and wistful for the days when she sat in their classes, leaning forward listening extremely carefully to the lectures. Kathryn sat in the front row (like all good students!) with her books and notes in front of her. This was one student who had done all the reading, remembered it, thought about it, and without fail had strong opinions about what she had read. However, she was not one to dominate. She would wait for the others to speak, and then come in with her insightful opinions and unique perspective.

And she was wise. She was wise because she was Kathryn. She was wise because she had lived longer than any of us, and because she had seen interesting times. She was born in 1913 in Minnesota, and was fifteen when she married in California. She worked in many capacities during her first marriage, and later on she supported her two sons after her divorce. When she married the “love of her life,” Victor Burke, her desire for her sons to have a university education was shared by her new husband. They worked hard running restaurants in and around Bakersfield. After Victor died, Kathryn continued to work, but also to read as much as she could. The pastor at her church, Ray Alderman, and several congregation members remember Kathryn’s passion for knowledge.

See Burke cont. on pg. 7
REFLECTIONS ON MY SABBATICAL
By Professor Cliona Murphy

The idea of a sabbatical is to provide professors with time to stand back from the hectic schedule of teaching and grading and allow them space to think, research, reflect, and write. What a wonderful luxury and a very appealing part of academic life. Faculty can apply for a sabbatical every 7 years. While we try to keep up with our research and writing on a regular basis, being provided with a time block to do so is invigorating intellectually and professionally extremely important. For the historian must not just be a teacher; he/she also needs to be a practitioner and contribute to the knowledge base of the discipline.

This sabbatical took me to Veracruz, Mexico and to Dublin, Ireland. My projects reflect my current research interests in trans-Atlantic contacts between independent Mexico and Western Europe (particularly Britain and Ireland), and the role the Irish played in British India. While my sabbatical did not go exactly as planned, punctuated and shaped by hurricanes (Veracruz), snowstorms and record-breaking low temperatures since 1947 (Ireland), and economic calamity that threatened to bring down the European Union (Ireland again), it certainly allowed me to get back to “hands on” history.

Early on in the sabbatical while I was staying in an apartment which had a beautiful view of the Gulf of Mexico, I wrote an essay for the Dictionary of Irish Biography (Cambridge University Press) based on research carried out by myself and students Josh Rocha (now in the doctoral program at UC Santa Barbara) and Jared Bradford (a recent graduate). This work concerned an Irishman, Daniel Healy (1884-1962), who rose high in the ranks of the British police force in India, and who arrested Gandhi in 1922. Jared and Josh went to England and Ireland in the Spring 2010 to examine archival material, and the piece we wrote was biographical in nature since nothing has been previously published on Healy. Our next project is to write a more focused article based on the 1922 arrest and Gandhi trial.

Veracruz itself is linked to other projects I have been working on. It was an entry point for many invaders and business entrepreneurs both before and after Mexican Independence. A project that is in a very early stage concerns an episode which graduate student Matthew McCoy helped me uncover when he was doing research with me earlier this year. It concerns the British foreign minister in Veracruz in the late 1850s. Loftus Charles Otway ruffled the feathers of Mexicans, Americans, and British citizens in Mexico and incurred the disapproval of his own government back in London, when he took sides in the Reforma (Reform War) and was accused of not adequately protecting British (and American) citizens.

Two projects which are further along concern Irishmen who entered Mexico through the port of Veracruz, one in the 1820s, Thomas Coulter (1793-1843), the other, John Finerty (1846-1908), in the 1870s.

Thomas Coulter trained as a physician in Trinity College, Dublin, but is better known as a botanist and one of California’s pines, Pinus Coulteri, is named after him (For pictures see: http://waynesword.palomar.edu/coulter1.htm and http://www.conifers.org/pi/pin/coulteri.htm). The Mexican connection is that he spent a few years working for the British Real del Monte mining company in Pachuca (1825-1829). Thus, here were the British in newly independent Mexico trying to establish a business enterprise and staffing it with professionals from their side of the Atlantic. Was this a case of informal imperialism? Coulter was first hired as the mine physician, but soon was working in a managerial capacity. However, he was neither a happy physician nor a good businessman, and after a few years he headed north to Alta California, compiling glossaries of Native American languages and documenting indigenous vegetation (and sending numerous specimens back to Ireland and Europe). I spent the last few weeks looking at his Mexican papers not in Mexico but in the archives in Trinity College Dublin (founded 1592). I hope to present my findings on that research at the next conference of the Irish Society for Latin American Studies (Dublin, March 2011). Interestingly enough, student Joel Greenhow found the location of the Coulter sources for me as part of an Independent Study he took two years ago.

John F. Finerty was bigger, louder and brasher than Coulter. He was an Irish immigrant to the United States and veteran of the American Civil War. (Historians of the West know him for his eye-witness accounts and documentation of the war against the Sioux in his book Warpath and Bivouac (1890)). He became a journalist for the Chicago Times in the mid 1870s. In that capacity he visited Mexico for a few months in 1879 with a delegation of American businessmen. He wrote some rather controversial and unflattering views of the country, which incurred the wrath of the Mexican press. He also interviewed President Porfirio Diaz, and supposedly was the first “American” journalist to do so. I gave a paper on him at a conference in Morelia, Mexico last year and have been working on turning it into an article during the sabbatical.

The biggest dilemma the researcher faces (student or professor) is dealing with the “so what?” factor. Research is interesting and fun, but the challenge is writing it up, putting it in a significant context, and saying why it is of value and how it adds to the existing scholarship. These are the challenges I have with Coulter, Finerty, and even with Healy. They are interesting to me, because they are Irish and they went to Mexico and India, but what is their significance to the discipline?

Coulter, the botanist, whether he perceived it or not, was part of, and collaborated in, informal British imperialism in a newly independent country, despite his great contributions to science. Finerty is an odd one. He very quickly came to see himself not only as an Irishman, but as an American, too. Moreover, he had been brought up in British-ruled Ireland and had essentially received a middle-class Victorian education with all its racial assumptions. Hence, he embodied both ideas of Manifest Destiny and White Man’s Burden when he visited and wrote about Mexico for the Chicago Times. Healy’s situation in India is perplexing. He and other Irishmen helped the British rule India at a time when some of their countrymen were fighting for Ireland’s independence.

See Sabbatical cont. on pg. 6
Research Papers

Calling all members who have written a strong research paper in 2010! You have TWO opportunities to present your work in the coming calendar year: in our chapter’s annual paper competition for the J.R. Wonderly Memorial Award (papers due January 28) and at the Southern California regional student paper conference, to be held at Chapman University in Orange (on Saturday, April 9). Upper-division history courses requiring a research paper, especially Historical Writing and Senior Seminar, as well as our graduate seminar in Research Methods, are a good source for this kind of competitive paper.

I anticipate that several of us will be going to the regional conference at Chapman, so please plan to join us—and save the date! It is a great experience in a very supportive environment, especially for graduate students and undergraduates considering graduate school, but ANY PAT member with a strong research paper is encouraged to participate. Abstracts are due electronically by December 17 (to advisor Brenda Farrington @ farrington@chapman.edu), with completed papers (and you may revise yours as much as you’d like) due by March 5. So, please make a decision now about your participation and please let me know that you would like to participate (mvivian@csub.edu). I have the electronic form for the abstract, which I will e-mail to you.

Much closer to us is the annual chapter paper competition, which is just around the corner. Start preparing now! Applications will be mailed out to current (enrolled) members around the middle of December. If you wrote a research paper during 2010 (last winter or spring, or this fall), and earned some kind of an A on it, please consider submitting it for the competition. (You may revise it as much as you’d like and are encouraged to do so.) There are cash prizes for the winners, thanks to the J.R. Wonderly Memorial Award, provided by alumnus Peter Wonderly. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 28, 2010. Blue applications will soon be available in the rack outside my office; please read carefully the instructions for submitting four copies of your paper.

Membership

Now that fall quarter is a fading memory, it is a good time to consider applying for Phi Alpha Theta, if you are not already a member. If you have a 3.1 GPA or higher in all your CSUB history courses (minimum four)—and an overall GPA of at least 3.0—then you qualify. (Graduate students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA in four or more CSUB graduate history courses.) See our department web page (www.csub.edu/history), and click on P.A.T to find the online application. If it’s more convenient, there are also red information/application forms in the rack right outside my office (Faculty Towers 304A.) A lifetime membership is $40—worth the price when you consider that it can help distinguish your résumé. It also qualifies you to participate in our chapter’s annual paper competition. (See above.)

Newest Members

This fall we welcomed two new members to PAT: Michael McKeehan and Matthew Wilson. Congratulations to both of you on your academic achievement!

PAT Board of Officers, 2010-11

If you have any questions about Phi Alpha Theta, contact me or ask a member of the board of officers for 2010-11: President: Ethan Borba; Vice-President: Ben Zermeno; Secretary: Marc Booc; Treasurer: Brandy Ketchum; Historian: John Stegall; and Paper Award: Peter Wonderly.

ALUMNI NEWS

Landon Bogan (BA ‘97), his wife Amy, and their son Clayton welcomed a new addition to their family. Dylan James arrived March 17, 2010.

Christopher Livingston (BA ’02; MA ’04) is now writing for Bakersfield Magazine as their Historical Editor. His first article was about the Kern County dairy industry; his second, on the Civil War and Kern County, came out in October. Chris also delivered a talk, “Life of an Architect: Charles Biggar and the Building of Kern County,” at the Beale Library on November 20.

Madeline Newberry (BA ’08) is teaching fifth grade at William Penn Elementary School in Bakersfield. A Merit Scholar at CSUB, Madeline also received the James H. George, Jr Scholarship (2007) and the Clio Award in History (2008).

History graduate students Peter Parra and Ben Zermeno (BA ’10) are the recipients of the new Title V Part B scholarships for Hispanic graduate students.

Jason Plume (BA ’02) has a one-year teaching position at SUNY-Oswego. He is teaching a 3/3 load while finishing the last chapter of his dissertation, which he should defend sometime in Spring of 2011. The dissertation is a history and analysis of how social movement organizations challenge and reform federally entrenched (namely executively-driven) illicit substance control policies. His primary focus is the medical marijuana political/social movement. The courses he is teaching include Constitutional Law, Supreme Court, and Introduction to American Government. Plans for a Drug Policy course for the spring are in the works.

FACULTY NEWS

The late Dr. Hugh Graham (1925-1994), first chair of the History department when the campus opened in 1970 and professor of History until his retirement (1991), has been honored for his work on behalf of the Soviet/American law enforcement exchange program. A plaque, awarded by the Republic of Russia and the St. Petersburg Militia garrison acknowledging his dedication to improving relations between the two world powers, now hangs in the History department office.
In June and July 2010, I spent four weeks participating in a National Endowment for the Humanities institute, “Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Northwest Coast.” Along with twenty-three other faculty members from universities and community colleges around the country, I traveled the length of the northern Northwest Coast learning about the archaeology, cultural anthropology, art history, oral literature, and performance traditions of the region’s peoples, particularly the Tlingit of southeast Alaska, and the Tsimshian, Haida, and Kwakwaka’wakw of British Columbia, Canada.

The program began in Juneau, with ten days of reading seminars and lectures by prominent scholars of the Northwest Coast, including archaeologist Ken Ames (Portland State University), art historian Aldona Jonaitis (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), and two specialists in the oral literature of the Tlingit people, Richard Dauenhauer and Nora Marks Dauenhauer (University of Alaska, Southeast). We also took field trips to the Alaska State Museum and the Alaska State Library in Juneau, where the collections of those institutions gave us a useful overview of the history of the Alaskan portion of the Northwest Coast.

The second half of the institute provided an opportunity for travel and field study of the region’s native cultures. Our first stop was Sitka, Alaska, one of Alaska’s most historic cities. There, we visited the impressive collection of historic totem poles at Sitka National Historic Park and met with rising young Northwest Coast artists such as Nicholas Galanin (a silversmith and conceptual artist), Tommy Joseph (a Tlingit carver who runs the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center at the Sitka National Historical Park), and Donny Varnell (a Haida artist whose totem poles—one heavily influenced by Japanese manga—and other carvings are taking the Northwest Coast style in new and less traditional directions). All three have also worked in New Zealand with Maori artists, pointing to a fruitful interchange between indigenous artists of the northern and southern hemispheres.

From Sitka we flew south to Ketchikan, Alaska. We spent two days there meeting with Dr. Rosita Worl (Tlingit) of the Sealaska Heritage Institute and several Native Alaskan political leaders learning about the contemporary political and economic challenges facing Native people in Southeast Alaska. Unresolved land claim awards under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, state restrictions on subsistence fishing, and high suicide rates among young people, are some of the issues facing the region’s native leaders. We visited Ketchikan’s three important sites for Northwest Coast art and architecture: Totem Bight State Park, the Totem Heritage Center, and Saxman Native Village. Totem Bight features a reconstructed Tlingit cedar plank house and several totem poles, carved by Tlingit artisans under a project operated by the U.S. Forest Service through the Civilian Conservation Corps during the New Deal years of the 1930s. The program helped revive the region’s carving traditions and led to a new era of public appreciation of native art in Alaska. The Totem Heritage Center preserves and displays several 19th-century poles from now-abandoned villages around southeast Alaska that would have otherwise rotted away if left in place. At Saxman Native Village, a Tlingit community, the emphasis is on demonstrating that the Tlingit people are still around and have a thriving culture. A Tlingit dance group performs for visitors in a reconstructed plank house overlooking a park featuring a good collection of totem poles. Nearby, famous Tlingit artist Nathan Jackson works in a carving shed producing impressive commissioned works. When we visited, he was under a tight deadline to finish a large cedar panel carving, but despite being tremendously busy, he took quite a bit of time with us to demonstrate his techniques and answer questions.

From Ketchikan, we took an overnight ferry to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, in the territory of the Tsimshian people. The Tsimshian had been wealthy and powerful people on the Northwest Coast, controlling a position on the Nass and Skeena Rivers that gave them control over the region’s trade in eulachon oil (or “grease,” as it was more commonly known). Eulachon are a type of smelt, rich in oil. So rich, in fact, that a dried fish could be lit and would remain burning for quite a long time—leading them to also be called “candlefish.” Eulachon grease was an important part of the Northwest Coast diet. Along with seal oil, it was a prime source of fat and a supplement that helped make the ubiquitous dried salmon more palatable. We visited the small but excellent collection of the Museum of Northern British Columbia and participated in a performance of Tsimshian dance, music, and storytelling. The highlight of the visit to Prince Rupert was a performance of Tsimshian dance, music, and storytelling. The highlight of the visit to Prince Rupert was a

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1 The Kwakwaka’wakw were formerly known as the Kwakiutl.
boat trip to Pike Island, a cultural reserve where Tsimshian guides took us on a tour to learn about Northwest Coast ethnobotany and to see the archaeological remains of a village site with numerous house pits and petroglyphs.

From Prince Rupert we took the ferry and made a seven-hour crossing of the Hecate Strait to reach the archipelago of Haida Gwaii (formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands). There we spent two days in the village of Skidegate at the Haida Heritage Center—a modern facility built to look like a Haida village of plankhouses. We visited the center’s excellent exhibits, learned from Haida elders, and ate a meal of traditional Haida foods—ranging from delicious spring salmon and halibut to more exotic offerings like octopus and herring roe on kelp. The most memorable part of our visit to Haida Gwaii, however, was the opportunity to paddle a replica Haida war canoe. Named Looitas (“wave-eater”), the 50-foot canoe had been built by Haida artist and carver Bill Reid for the 1986 Vancouver World’s Fair. After the fair, a crew paddled the canoe all the way back up the coast to Haida Gwaii. It took the paddlers only fourteen hours to paddle across the Hecate Strait—which had taken us seven hours to cross in a modern ship. We paddled Looitas probably less than 500 yards—nothing like the 500 miles from Vancouver—but it was a thrill nonetheless.

We flew from Haida Gwaii to Vancouver. After three weeks in small and remote communities, the big city was a bit of a shock but also a welcome change. We stayed at the University of British Columbia, where the program included seminar sessions with several UBC anthropologists on the contemporary political issues facing Northwest Coast “First Nations” (as tribes are called in Canada). While no Indian treaty has been made in the United States since 1871, the Canadian government recently reopened its treaty process and is currently negotiating new treaties with several First Nations groups. We also visited the astonishing Northwest Coast collections of the university’s Museum of Anthropology. The museum’s collection of totem poles and other carving is impressive, but the most amazing part of the museum was a new collections storage system that stored objects in such a way that most of the Northwest Coast collections could be viewed in their storage locations.

The last stop on our institute tour was Alert Bay, the Kwakwaka’wakw community of the ‘Namgis First Nation, located on a small island off the northern tip of Vancouver Island. There, we spent a day at the U’Mista Cultural Center. The center houses the Kwakwaka’wakw masks and ceremonial objects previously confiscated by the Canadian Government. The potlatch is one of the major ceremonies of Northwest Coast peoples. A potlatch involves the giving away of wealth and property. Potlatches were held by prominent families to mark important events—such as the bestowing of names, marriages, and funerals—or to remove shame from a family member. The community gathered and the hosts distributed a huge quantity of gifts of foods and goods. Missionaries and government officials outlawed the practice, motivated by a belief that the potlatch was worked against the assimilation of what they had come to regard as the “incorrigible Kwakiutl.” In the 1910s and 1920s, potlatches were raided, community members were arrested, and masks and other goods associated with their ceremonies were confiscated. After a long political struggle and legal battle, the confiscated goods were finally returned to Alert Bay in the 1970s and the U’Mista Cultural Center was built in 1980 to house them. “U’Mista” means “the return of something important” in the Kwak’wala language.

The National Endowment for the Humanities’ institute on the Native Cultures of the Northwest Coast has given me a much deeper understanding of a very complex cultural region. As a result of this once-in-a-lifetime travel and learning experience, I will be able share some of this new knowledge with students in my classes, such as HIST 445: The American West, HIST 453: Environmental History of the U.S., and HIST 467: American Indian History.

Tlingit artist Nathan Jackson in his Ketchikan studio.
The Social Science Program Committee has approved History 413: The Middle East In World History, 600 – 1453, to count for the Social Science Certification program under II. Breadth and Perspective, number 2, Asia/Africa. This course covers the Middle East in world history from the birth of Islam in the early seventh century to the conquest of Constantinople in 1453. Using primary sources in translation, the course will seek to bring to life several aspects of the region: its politics and society, scientific explorations, technological enterprises, cultural diversity, the pursuit of the creative arts, travel, and spirituality.

This course, taught by Professor Mustafah Dhada, is being offered in winter quarter, MW, 5:20 - 7:25 p.m. The course will be the first in a three-part series, which will include a course on the Ottoman Empire from its rise in the late thirteenth century to its demise in 1923 and one on the modern Middle East.

If you have questions about the Social Science Program, please visit the Social Science Program web page (http://www.csub.edu/history/ss.htm) or contact Professor Alicia Rodriguez, the Social Science Program Coordinator, at arodriquez@csub.edu, (661) 654-2166, or in FT 301-A.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISTORY
MAJORS AND GRADUATES

International Studies and Programs: CSUB offers numerous opportunities for students to study abroad while pursuing their degrees. Deadlines are July 1 for the fall quarter, October 15 for the winter quarter, and January 15 for the spring quarter. For more information see http://www.csusb.edu/isp/

Applications for the Capital Fellows Programs are now available online and the postmark deadline is February 23, 2011- www.csus.edu/calst/programs

Sabbatical cont. form pg. 2

Therefore, writing about these three men is more than just putting together biographical pieces of interest to myself and maybe a few others. It is about analyzing particular eras and their mindsets as documented in a piece of these men’s lives. What intrigues me is the trans-national aspect of these projects and the opportunity to discuss the movement of ideas (even unsavory ones) and people, as well as examining different views of nationalism, imperialism, international intrigue, exploitation, and so on.

So, you see, the sabbatical has achieved its purpose. I am all revved up with ideas and with projects (some would say too many!). I am particularly appreciative of how certain students have assisted me with my research. The challenge now is to see these projects to completion, especially as I resume my other major duty as a professor, teaching the discipline that I love. Hopefully, the projects will be completed before my next sabbatical begins!

CSUB MA STUDENTS AND ALUM
AT CCPH CONFERENCE

In October, Prof. Douglas Dodd chaired a panel featuring three current/former CSUB MA students at the annual meeting of the California Council for the Promotion of History (CCPH), in Sonora and Columbia, California. CCPH is California’s statewide professional public history organization. The panel, “Public Education and Public Health: Views from Interior California,” featured paper presentations by Oliver Rosales, Garth Milam, and Peter Parra. Oliver Rosales (who has been teaching some courses here at CSUB) earned his MA from CSUB in 2005, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in history at UC Santa Barbara. His paper, “A New Battleground for Civil Rights: The Desegregation of the Bakersfield City School District, 1969-1984,” explored the struggle to end segregation in the BCSD and the resulting Department of Justice consent decree that represented a major shift in federal desegregation policy. Garth Milam, a battalion chief with the Bakersfield City Fire Department and a current MA student, presented a paper, “The Spanish Influenza in Bakersfield: The Lost Winter of 1918-1919,” which examined issues of public memory and “social amnesia” surrounding the influenza epidemic. Peter Parra, a history teacher at Highland High School and current MA student, looked at the reform of American Indian education in the 1960s and 1970s in his paper, “A School, A Sign, and a Word Called ‘Survivance’: The Sherman Indian High School Experience.”

The panel and the papers were well received by the audience and the participants received several compliments on the quality of the student research at CSUB.

CSUB ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

In anticipation of CSUB’s 50th anniversary in 2020, the Public History Institute at CSUB will begin a long-term oral history program in January that will capture the recollections of former faculty members, administrators, staff, and alumni. The oral histories will support the writing of a history of the university that will recount CSUB’s founding, development, and growth during its first half-century. The first phase of the oral history project will focus on collecting oral history interviews with the university’s founding faculty and administrators, who were here when the university opened its doors in 1970, and who played a key role in shaping the institution. Douglas Dodd, Associate Professor of History, and Curt Asher, Associate Librarian at the Walter Sterin Library, will lead the project. The CSUB oral history project is the first in what the Public History Institute plans to be a permanent regional oral history research program.
Her belief in education eventually bore fruit. Her sons and her grandchildren went to university and collected a number of undergraduate and graduate degrees between them. Kathryn herself received her GED in her seventies and began her higher education career at Bakersfield College.

When she came to CSUB in 1993, she amazed and surprised us on several grounds. Kathryn insisted on climbing the stairs to the third floor offices of the History Department, somehow managing to carry her handbag, bag of books, and walking stick. She refused all offers of help. Indeed, she was almost offended by them. Unlike many of her fellow students, some not even a quarter of her age, she did not arrive puffing and panting when she finally reached the top of our “tower!” On the occasions that Kathryn needed to talk to us from her home in Oildale, she would leave a loud and clear message on voicemail, stating her query in her distinctive and almost imperious voice. One did not hesitate to call her back as soon as possible.

What struck those of us who teach the twentieth century was that Kathryn was not just a student - she was a primary source. Her fellow students had their professors’ reflections, their textbooks’ perspective and, finally, Kathryn’s take on the situation, person, or event under discussion. The Depression, the Second World War, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and Women’s Liberation were among the many topics on which she had “insider information.” What a gift to have her in class!

Kathryn not only received media attention when she received her BA in 1996 at the age of 82, but she also made a comeback when she received her MA in 2001 at 88. And she received more attention when her MA thesis (on Buck Owens and the Bakersfield Sound), which she wrote under the mentorship of Dr. John Maynard, was published in 2007. (The book is cited extensively on the Wikipedia entry on Buck Owens http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buck_Owens.)

There is much more one could write about Kathryn: her life on the island of Dominica where she went to live with her son David and his wife, Auzileia, when she was in her nineties; her trips to Brazil; her glorious return to CSUB at the age of ninety-six to deliver a talk on Buck Owens at the Olddale Conference in November 2009; her frequent trips to Bakersfield to visit friends in the History Department and in Oildale; the book she was writing for children about her own childhood; the last book she was reading (The Celts) in her home of the past two years in Georgia; her good friend and former pastor, Ray…. But to do all that one would need to write a book!

Kathryn was a great lady. We miss her.

Heartfelt sentiments by Professor Cliona Murphy

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</table>

**Blooper**

"Moses was chosen by God to free them [the Hebrews] from slavery and after wondering in the dessert to the promise [sic] land, Yahweh gives Moses the covenant...."