



# History Newsletter



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## HISTORY FORUMS



On October 2, 2009, the History Department was pleased to welcome **Dr. James Meriwether**, Professor of History at CSU Channel Islands, as its first History Forum speaker of the 2009-2010 academic year. Professor Meriwether, who was a member of the CSUB History Department from 1997-2007,

delivered a talk titled, “‘It’s not a War’: Three Elections, Two Obamas, One Fulbright.” Dr. Meriwether’s engaging presentation discussed his research in Kenya, his recent article in the *Journal of American History* on the “African Airlifts” and the 1960 presidential election between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, as well as his own experiences with the 2007 Kenyan presidential election while he was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Nairobi. Integrating PowerPoint images depicting history, life, and politics in Kenya into his discussion, Professor Meriwether captivated his audience with his exploration of Kenya and its relations with the United States.

Please join the History Department for its Winter and Spring 2010 History Forum presentations. On January 29, 2010, the department welcomes **Dr. Bettine Birge**, Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Southern California. Professor Birge’s talk, “Marriage and the Law in China During the Age of Khubilai Khan,” will explore marriage in thirteenth-century Mongolia and is based on her recently published book. On April 30, 2010, the department welcomes back **Dr. Jerome Kleinsasser**, Professor of Music at CSU Bakersfield. Professor Kleinsasser will speak on Bakersfield native son and opera great Lawrence Tibbett. His talk is titled, “Lawrence Tibbett: America’s First Labor Leader for the Performing Arts.” A pioneer in opera, sound motion pictures, and radio concert shows, Tibbett was also a formative figure in the labor movement for musical performers. Professor Kleinsasser’s presentation will focus on Tibbett’s involvement in the labor movement. As always, History Forum events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call the History Department at 654-3079.

## OILDALE AND BEYOND: INTERPRETING OUR REGION THROUGH WORDS, IMAGES, AND MUSIC

By Miriam Raub Vivian

Oildale, Bakersfield, and Kern County were the focus of a conference at CSUB on Saturday, November 7, 2009. Held in conjunction with the centennial celebration of Oildale, the conference was developed by the new **Public History Institute** at CSUB. The brainchild of **Dr Ed Sasaki**, Interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Public History Institute, housed in the History Department, seeks to explore this region’s history, primarily by building an archive of oral histories. These will cover a broad range of topics of historical interest, but will focus particularly on oil and natural gas, ranching and agriculture, migrant labor, music, and diverse communities in this region.



The Oildale conference, the PHI’s first endeavor, was an all-day event featuring exhibits on the history of Oildale and the county, and twenty presentations in panels of three or four; the panels were spread over two sessions during the morning portion of the conference. Presentations focused on three main themes: the

impact of national events on Kern County; the experiences of ethnic groups in the county; and resources in the Valley (oil and water). Titles included “The Spanish Influenza in Bakersfield: The Lost Winter of 1918” (see a short version of this paper elsewhere in this newsletter), “Oildale Basques,” “Before Oildale There was Oil Center,” Lockheed’s Skunk Works and the U-2 Spy Plane in Oildale, California,” “Cage of Freedom: The German P.O.W. Camps in Kern County,” “A Forgotten History in our Midst: the WWII African American Soldiers of Minter Airfield,” “The War on Poverty: Grassroots Struggles for Racial and Economic Justice in Kern Co.,” and “Parting the Kern River: Keeping Peace in Kern County.”

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## 2009 GRADUATING HISTORY MAJORS

(\*Denotes Phi Alpha Theta members)

Jacklyn Aguirre	Amanda Avila	*Dennise Bentle
*Ken Cook	Luz Cruz	Alyssa Curtis
Jacque Farr	Kevin Jenkins	Jeremy Kujala
Daniel Miller	*Patrick O’Neill	Zeth Ulman

Several current and former CSUB history students made morning presentations:

**Steve Bsharah, Josh Dixon, Kevin Jenkins, Garth Milam, Ellen Miller, Marie Poland, Oliver Rosales, and Rafael Villalon.**

## SMALLPOX ARRIVES IN IROQUOIA<sup>1</sup>

Professor Oliver Rink

By the mid 1630s, the Dutch were a familiar presence in the Hudson River Valley. They came first in the decade following Henry Hudson's famous voyage of 1609. In the 1620s the Chartered West India Company, the less well-known counterpart to the United East India Company that would rule large swaths of South Africa and Southeast Asia for nearly a century, took over the small trading posts established by private merchants from Amsterdam and Rotterdam. In addition to the well known post on the southern tip of Manhattan Island, christened New Amsterdam when the West India Company built its fort and settled French-speaking Walloons around it in the 1620s, the Company acquired an outpost some 116 nautical miles up river. The Company fortified the outpost at great expense following a brief but bloody war with the Mohawk. The fort, named Fort Orange after the House of Orange, came to be inhabited by a strange collection of company soldiers and employees, fur traders, tenant farmers, and Native Americans from as far away as the Connecticut River Valley.

In 1634, the company commander at Fort Orange, Marten Gerritsen, sent out an expedition into the Mohawk River Valley to extend and secure a trading relationship with the Mohawks and their allies in the Iroquois League. Headed by twenty-three year old Harmen Meyndertsz van den Bogaert, the barber-surgeon at Fort Orange, the expedition took the Dutchmen deep into the heart of Iroquoia.<sup>2</sup> A brief reverence in Van den Bogaert's journal of the trek provides one of our first glimpses of the consequences of contact between old world and new world biota.<sup>3</sup>

Traveling by foot in the dead of winter, Van den Bogaert and his companions struggled through waist-high snow in the pine bush barrens west of Fort Orange. On the third day out of Fort Orange they came upon a village of "36 houses, row on row in the manner of streets." Its neat streets and well-constructed longhouses fascinated Van den Bogaert. He personally stepped off the length of several of the structures and reported that some were greater than one hundred steps. He estimated their height to be about twenty-three feet. Their interior doors made of split planks with iron hinges impressed him, as did their storage areas bulging with maize. Most of the men were away on the hunt. Only one chief remained; he lived in a separate cabin at some distance from the village, because, in the words of Van den Bogaert, "Indians here in the castle had died of smallpox."<sup>4</sup>

The introduction of old world pathogens into immunologically vulnerable Indian populations was part of what historians have come to call the "Columbian Exchange," the ecological transformation wrought by the exchange of crops, domesticated animals, weeds, and disease between the European invaders and the native population of the Americas. The "virgin-soil epidemics," sparked by old world germs, set in motion the greatest demographic decline in the history of the species. From Hudson's Bay to Terra del Fuego, wherever European or African germs found haven in the New World, there followed lethal epidemics.

The Mohawk may have acquired their smallpox in their dealings with the Dutch at Fort Orange or from the Algonquian tribes in New England, who had suffered earlier epidemics. The epidemics reaching the Iroquois in the 1630s had already rolled over the coastal Indians. Measles were probably some of the first gifts received by the Native Americans who welcomed Henry Hudson and his crew in 1609. Smallpox and other "poxes" as well as respiratory ailments became common among coastal bands of Algonquians after prolonged contact with Europeans.

In 1649, Adriaen van der Donck, one of New Netherland's elite "Patroons," expressed the belief that the Indians of New Netherland had been "ten times as numerous as they now are" before the coming of Europeans and "before the small pox broke out amongst them." The Indians he talked to affirmed that "their population had been melted down by this disease, whereof nine-tenths of them have died."

Such estimates were once dismissed as exaggerations, but the science of epidemiology suggests they may not be far off the mark. In virgin-soil epidemics the mortality rate is initially high, sometimes reaching 90 percent or more. Forty years after Hudson sailed into New York Bay, the population of Indians who had been in almost constant contact with Europeans may have experienced mortality of this magnitude. Van den Bogaert's brief reference to smallpox among the Mohawk in the early 1630s indicates that the once isolated Iroquois were no longer safe from the ravages of the Columbian Exchange. In just thirty-five years, the epidemiological frontier had advanced much faster than the line of European settlement.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from "Tales from the Dutch Empire," a paper prepared for the Renesselaerswyck Conference in celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's Voyage, Albany, New York, October 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Historians have in recent years termed the region controlled by the Five Nations of the Iroquois League (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca) "Iroquoia." Geographically it stretched from the eastern bank of the Hudson River to the finger lakes of western New York State and north to Lakes George and Ticonderoga.

<sup>3</sup> Charles T. Gehring, trans., William A. Starna, ed., *A Journey into Mohawk and Oneida Contry, 1634-1635: The Journal of Harmen Meyndertsz van den Bogaert* (Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1988).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 4.

## THE SPANISH INFLUENZA IN BAKERSFIELD: THE LOST WINTER OF 1918

By Garth Milam

On a small farm outside of Bakersfield, a robust woman of 32, the mother of a small child, died quietly in the early hours of Sept. 30, 1918. As tragic as this loss was to the family, and the small community of friends and neighbors, it was only the beginning.

Over the next three months alone, death visited hundreds in one California city after another. During the same time, thousands were dying around the nation, millions around the globe. The Spanish influenza, the most efficient killer ever known to humankind, had descended upon Bakersfield.

By the fall of 1918, the arrival of the influenza had been expected for nearly nine months. Reports of an unusually bad seasonal flu, or *la grippe* as many referred to it, had been reported in the Eastern United States, but it appeared to have been confined to army bases. Many had concluded that the flu had run its course. In reality, the first wave of what epidemiologists identified 80 years later as the H1N1 virus was merely mutating into a much more virulent killer.

By August the flu was again ravaging the eastern seaboard. Boston, Philadelphia and New York were reporting staggering death rates.

In early October efforts by the media to downplay the epidemic had begun. On Oct. 12, the first "counter report" ran in *The Bakersfield Californian*. These were reports that may have had little basis in fact, but were sent out of Washington to allay fears. The *Californian* stated that "the influenza has been stopped in eastern cities." The reality was that thousands were soon to die; in fact, the worst was yet to come for several major eastern cities. On Oct. 14, the *Californian* made its first reference to the local medical response from doctors. Dr. C. A. Morris was quoted as saying, "Wild rumors of a general epidemic in the county are unfounded." He further stated, "Many cases of flu have been reported in the city and county. Most are probably simple colds. Merely as a precaution, moving picture shows will be closed to children under 17 years old and to those with colds."

Yet, by the second week of October 1918, people had begun to take notice of this new influenza. The *Californian* listed the number of dead at 78, which, based on death records, was probably half the number of those who actually had died from the flu. Even then the paper stated that most of the victims were from out of the Bakersfield area.

All medical information on the local condition of the influenza came from only two men: Dr. C. A. Morris, the county health officer, and Dr. P. J. Cuneo, the city's health officer. Their messages were always in agreement, and consistent with typical public health administrations around the nation: "Don't get scared. There is no reason to get excited. The emergency is passing. The worst is over. Things are looking brighter today." Oddly, the only practical advice, which came by the end of October, was to wear gauze masks, which probably did almost no good.

By Oct. 17, the situation had worsened considerably; every hospital had probably reached saturation. This can be deduced by the fact that temporary hospitals were opened in several large halls in Bakersfield, Taft, and Fellows, including a 50-bed

influenza ward at the county hospital. The schools were not utilized as hospitals for another week because they were still open, and remained so until Oct. 24; this was long after the disease had thoroughly exposed every student attending school. Dr. Cuneo defended his decision to keep the schools open for nearly a month after the disease entered the city by saying, "Children are at greater risk roaming the streets than they are at school under the supervision of their teachers."

Finally, on Oct. 25, 1918, Bakersfield city schools were closed. The headline read, "Close City Schools to Stamp Out The Influenza." Cuneo added, "Falling off of attendance, not the epidemic, is the cause of the action." He then added the often-repeated advice, "The best remedy is, 'Don't lose your head and get excited.'" It appears that parents had begun to enforce their own form of quarantine even if the public health department would not.

So how many victims of the influenza were there in Kern County? As recently as May 1, 2009, *The Bakersfield Californian* published a contributed article that claimed as many as 100 died of the Spanish influenza in Kern County. But underestimating the influenza has not been only a Kern County problem.

What we know is this: Of the three mortuaries in Bakersfield alone, at least 325 of the deceased processed from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 1918, had listed as cause of death either flu or pneumonia. The vast majority were in their 20s or 30s. Many more dead, though an unknown number, were cared for by family or by some other means. We must also remember that the disease ran for another six months, until the summer of 1919. Nationally, death rates averaged 1.5 percent to 2 percent. Even with the limited available data we have, and considering they encompass only 90 days of the epidemic, the lower number of 1.5 percent mortality for Kern County is realistic. That would put the county-wide number of dead for the entire term of the influenza well over 700 victims.

If this number is accurate, it would be greater than the number of all the war dead in the history of Kern County, and many times more than all forms of disaster countywide combined. Though few today are aware of the devastation that was wrought in 1918, the pain and loss of our forbearers are incalculable. Ultimately, the citizens of Kern County, like every other community, moved on. There was no other option.

We will never know completely the social and human cost of the Spanish influenza. What giants were lost? Who would have joined society's historic memory and become beacons for following generations? Instead, their names mean little to us today. Ninety years ago the death of Leala Bosserdet came and went with little notice. Few knew what was to come. A wife and mother were lost; grief-stricken parents buried their young daughter. A small family's pain slowly became lost in a global tragedy. Two generations later, far removed from their pain, we cannot help but wonder, how would that family have been different had nature not chosen to rage in the winter of 1918?

*Garth Milam is a battalion chief with the Bakersfield Fire Department and a graduate student in the history program at CSU Bakersfield. This is a condensed version of a longer paper, which he presented at the Oildale and Beyond conference at CSUB on 11/7/09.*

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF A PLACE THAT DOESN'T REALLY EXIST

By Patricia Puskarich

The earliest recorded history describes the land across the Kern River from Bakersfield, a series of small, independent ranches and farms, as the “North Side.” The earliest map of the Beardsley Canal is dated 1878, and Beardsley School began classes in 1882.

All this changed in 1899 when oil was first discovered on the Means Ranch, east of Gordon’s Ferry. Dug with a shovel by the Ellwoods, the Discovery Well on the north side of the river initiated a whole new industry and population. A forest of wooden oil derricks eventually flanked both sides of China Grade Loop. The oil leases grew, the boom bringing single men, and eventually their families, to live in communities developed by the oil companies: Oil Center, Oil City, and Waits (where the train depot was built along the railroad tracks near Chester Avenue). This railroad oil spur came off the main Southern Pacific RR line at Oil Junction (where Roberts Lane and Norris Road intersect). Four schools served the population that reached 9,000: Aztec, the largest and most enduring; Toltec #1; Toltec #2; and Petroleum. There was also a library and a church in Oil Center.

A thriving business and residential district grew, with early housing developments established on the east side of Chester Ave. by Mr. Ferguson (1909) and Mr. Hughes (1910). Standard School opened in 1909. A business center developed, and the US Postmistress lumped all of these places together in 1916, coining the name “Oildale.”

Those who inhabited Oildale were typical of those who had migrated west to the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley: self-reliant, resourceful, independent, honest, hard working, and hopeful; however, they were also reluctant to trust the government. Oildale was never successfully incorporated into Bakersfield, nor did it ever incorporate. The population was almost completely WASP: two-parent families, with the father the breadwinner and the mother staying home. Service organizations and schools provided community activities for the children.

Oildale had its own library, and librarians and teachers imparted to Oildale’s children an appreciation of art, music, drama, and literature, expanding our world-view. Other features included the canal (a major source of recreation and water play for the children of Oildale when it was still an unfenced dirt trench), farms, the railroad, oil-related industries, churches, the library, and local businesses, the first airport in Kern County (now Meadows Field), the State Highway (now 99, which used to run through Oildale, right past the famed Beardsley Ballroom), the River Theater (opened in 1939), Bakersfield Speedway (mid 1940s), a fire station, a recording studio, and its own water agency. Lockheed had a plant in Oildale—Skunk Works—secretly building the U2 spy plane near the airport runways. Of course, there were also bars and saloons, a brothel, and a meetinghouse for the Ku Klux Klan.

Today, with many homes in the earliest neighborhoods over 100 years old, there is also a lot of poverty—different from the kind of poverty of my childhood (I was born in 1937), when we had come out of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl. The post-WWII boom brought changes: wooden derricks were replaced by rocking-horse pumps and steam lines. The homogeneity of the area was forever changed when the laws of the land required that segregation must end, even in Oildale. Currently, civic leaders are using this centennial year to heighten attempts to revitalize Oildale, seeking to restore our little corner of the world to its unique character and promise.

## Phi Alpha Theta News

The National History Honor Society  
By Miriam Raub Vivian, Advisor

Mark your calendar NOW for **Saturday, April 10, 2010!** That’s because OUR chapter of the national history honor society—we’re Psi-Zeta—will be hosting the annual regional student paper conference on that day, here at CSUB. This is a huge event, requiring many hands, feet, heads, and hearts, which means I’ll be recruiting faculty and student members to participate in one way or another. From helping to check in registered attendees, to providing directions for confused visitors, to presenting your own work, there will be plenty to do at this all-day event. Stay tuned for all the details in the winter term newsletter in late March, or contact me directly for more information. Submissions of papers will be no later than March 15.

Now that we are on break, this is the perfect 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 a 3.0—then you qualify. See our department web page ([www.csub.edu/history](http://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 resumé. It also qualifies you to participate in our chapter’s annual paper competition.

The **annual chapter paper competition** is just around the corner, so start preparing now. Applications are going out before the end of December. If you wrote a research paper over the last calendar year (winter, spring, or fall), and earned an A on it, please consider submitting it for the competition. We’ll be awarding cash prizes, thanks to the J.R. Wonderly Memorial Award provided by alumnus Peter Wonderly. **The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 29, 2010.** Blue applications are also available in the rack outside my office; please read carefully the instructions for submitting your paper.

If you have any questions about Phi Alpha Theta, contact me or ask a member of the board of officers for 2009-10: **President:** Fernando Jara; **Vice-President:** Robert Frank; **Secretary:** Ethan Borba; **Treasurer:** Jennifer Williams; **Historian:** Marc Booc; **Paper Award:** Peter Wonderly; **Banquet:** Ken Cook.

## STUDY HISTORY ABROAD

Professor Cliona Murphy

(CSUB's International Programs Faculty Representative)

"The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there."  
L.P. Hartley

As a history student you cannot travel into the past, but you can (and should) travel to a foreign country, better still, study in another country. As someone who traveled abroad for part of my student career, I can testify that it is "life changing." If you are really interested in being educated, challenging yourself and getting out of your "comfort zone," studying abroad is the answer.

The discipline of history is about human relations and the interaction of different cultures and nationalities. It is also about empathy and an effort to understand why groups of peoples and individuals behave as they do. Living abroad for a year will sharpen your skills as a historian, enrich your compassion for fellow human beings, and provide you with a different image of your own country.

So, if you think you would like to study abroad, learn history in a foreign location, get some of your other requirements out of the way in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Japan, or one of the other host countries, the CSU has a superb International Program for you. It allows students to study abroad for a year in a choice of nineteen countries. A number of those countries offer a history focus, including a few universities in the United Kingdom and Italy.

It is not as expensive as one might think. Students pay Cal State fees and get Cal State credit for their courses. Financial aid is applicable to students in this program. In many instances, rent is the same or cheaper than it is in Bakersfield. According to the CSU website, "The estimated cost for participation in the CSU International Programs varies from country to country, but, on average, the cost to spend a year abroad on IP is comparable to studying at the CSU for a year... IP Program Costs range from

about \$14,250 to \$25,000, depending on the country you choose." <http://www.calstate.edu/ip/>

Interested students should have a GPA of 3.0, or above, at the time of application. It is recommended that students go in their junior year. Some programs are designed for sophomores as well. Depending upon what country you choose, there may be a language requirement or course requisite. For example, for Japan you need a semester of Japanese (available at BC). To go to Africa, you should have taken at least one course on Africa.

If you are curious, you can talk to me, and more importantly, you should also talk to International Programs Coordinator on campus, Ms. Dagmara Karnowski (661-654-6113). Ms. Karnowski has fliers on each country that has a program, and she has a DVD called "Breaking Barriers with Study Abroad." This broadcast portrays CSU students who have gone abroad talking about their expectations before they go, and about their experiences after they come back. The students in the video are of a variety of ages and ethnicities, and they include a single parent who brought her two children to Paris for a year.

Ms Karnowski can also help students with the online application. Her office is in the Student Services building. Enter the EOP door and you will find her in room 137. The deadline for the next academic year (2010-2011) is February 1 for most programs. Students are interviewed on campus, and the CSUB committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the central Office of International Programs. A statewide committee makes final recommendations, and students are notified of the results in early April for most programs.

If you think this coming academic year is too soon for you, there is plenty of time to plan for the following year. Remember full details are available at <http://www.calstate.edu/ip/> and Dagmara Karnowski ([dkarnowski@csub.edu](mailto:dkarnowski@csub.edu)) and I ([cmurphy@csub.edu](mailto:cmurphy@csub.edu)) would be delighted to talk to you.

### JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CLUB!

You are not ready to go abroad yet? Why not join the International Student Club. It is open to all students regardless of where they were born or what citizenship they have. So far this term (Fall 2009) the club has had an international faculty and student picnic by the dorms, an international music night, and a faculty and student brunch at Dr. Murphy's house. Many other events are planned, including the international dinner to be held on campus in March 2010. This is how the international students have describe their club: "The International Club is an organization with the intention of uniting overseas and local students to experience other cultures, and to become familiar with each others' customs and traditions. We organize events during the year. Any student is welcome to join and share their experiences with us. Don't be shy and come join us on Thursdays at 12 pm, in the Blue Room located in the Student Union." Dr. Murphy from the history department is the club faculty advisor.

### HISTORY CLUB RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!

In Dr. Baker's absence, Profs. Vivian and Murphy have reserved the **Blue Room of the Student Union** for an organizational meeting of the CSUB History Club for **Friday, January 8, at 3:00pm**. Please join us to share your ideas about what you would like from History Club.

## FACULTY NEWS

Professor Emeritus **Forrest Wood** has retired from acting. When he is not at the gym or Starbucks, he might be found at the Emeritus Assisted Living where he reads to the retirees.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Natasha Efseaff** (BA '03), a teacher at Granite Hills High School in Porterville, recently was named the 2009 San Joaquin Valley Council for the Social Studies Teacher of the Year. Tulare County Office of Education Instructional Consultant Marsha Ingraio, who nominated Efseaff for the award, commented: "Her kids could be historians because they are learning to think critically, ask questions, do research, and wonder why. They're thinking — it's because of her excellent teaching and passion for people and her subject matter." Efseaff will now move on to the state competition.

**Sethea Heng** (BA '04) earned a MA degree in Oral and Public History from CSU Fullerton in 2008. In the summer of 2006, while a graduate student, he participated in an archaeological project with the Rio Bravo Archaeological Survey. The project focused on deciphering the character and significance of ancient Maya households in an unexplored subtropical forest in Belize, Central America. From 2006 to 2008, he was the Archivist for the Museum of Tolerance (Los Angeles, CA). He now works with Records Management at ILFC (International Lease Finance Corporation, Los Angeles, CA), an aircraft leasing company.

**Philip Jenkins** (BA '09) is studying law at Temple University in Philadelphia.

**Erin Miller** (BA '01) is teaching US history at Bakersfield College. A candidate for the Ph.D. in history at Notre Dame, she will defend her thesis in March.

**Corrine Raub** (BA '02, MA '04) and her family recently welcomed their third daughter, Molly Jean.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Joshua Rocha** has been selected to participate in the 2009-2010 Student Research Scholars Program. The award includes up to \$2000 to pursue his research and will enable him to travel to London, Dublin, and Cork.

## STUDENT BLOOPERS

Re a Roman triumph, which featured loot from the vanquished: "A parade was done and the soils of war were demonstrated." [Who said one man's dirt isn't another one's gold?]

"Many large buildings were constructed with large columns to indicate power and perseverance....Because the columns portrayed power, they helped Greece ward off attacks for hundreds of years." [Perhaps it's the column that's mightier than the sword!]

"Polis was written by the Greek philosopher Socrates and is a good example of humanism."

"After they got the pharaoh's brains out they would wrap up his body and put species on him."

Yes, word order matters! Regarding the Mesopotamian epic hero Gilgamesh and his desire for immortality, one student wrote this: "[His solution would be] leaving his name behind once he dies on a brick."

## Exhibits of Historical Interest at the Getty Villa in Malibu

17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Pacific Palisades 90272;  
(310) 440-7300 Thurs.-Mon., 10am to 5pm; closed Tues.-Wed.  
<http://www.getty.edu/museum/exhibitions/>

### The Chimaera of Arezzo



Daily through February 8, 2010  
Floor 2, Getty Villa  
**This is the first time this 2,400-year-old piece of art has traveled to the United States.**

Here is the museum's description:  
"Inaugurating a partnership with the National Archaeological Museum in Florence, this exhibition traces the

myth of Bellerophon and the Chimaera over five centuries of classical art. Featured is a masterpiece of Etruscan sculpture known as the Chimaera of Arezzo: a large-scale bronze of the triple-headed, fire-breathing monster that was slain by the virtuous hero. From its ancient dedication to the supreme Etruscan deity in a sanctuary at Arezzo to its Renaissance display in the Medici collection, the Chimaera has endured as an emblem of the triumph of right over might."

### Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity



Ongoing

"Over 180 ancient glass objects from the collection of Erwin Oppenländer are featured in this exhibition.

"The Oppenländer collection, which the Getty acquired in 2003, is remarkable for its cultural and chronological breadth. It includes works made in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Greek world, and the Roman Empire, and spans the entire period of

ancient glass production, from its origins in Mesopotamia in about 2500 B.C. to Byzantine and Islamic glass of the eleventh century A.D.

"Also notable in the Oppenländer collection is the variety of ancient glassmaking techniques, such as casting, core forming, mosaic, inflation, mold blowing, cameo carving, incising, and cutting. All these techniques are still used by glass artists today."

## SOCIAL SCIENCE UPDATE

Any student seeking social science certification who did not complete the requirements under the program that expired June 30, 2009, must now complete the requirements under the program recently approved by California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. To download a copy of the new program requirements and for additional information about the social science program, please see the link on the History Department web page at: <http://www.csub.edu/history/ss.htx>. Questions about the program may be referred to Prof. Alicia Rodriguez, Social Science Program Coordinator, in FT 301-A.

Dr. Mark Martinez, professor of political science, will be offering **Inst 390**, the capstone course for the Social Science Program, in Spring 2010. This course is tentatively scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the 5:20 p.m. to 7: 25 p.m. time block. Inst 390 is now a 5-unit course.

Finally, students should be aware that as a result of budget cuts, course offerings that satisfy the social science program requirements are fewer than in the past. Please note that under Breadth and Depth Requirements, International Economics (number six on the social science worksheet), neither Econ 340 nor Econ 440 will be offered in winter or spring 2010.

## Oildale cont. from pg. 1

Before lunch, a play set in Oildale by local writer Louis Medina, “Common Denominators,” was read by two actors from the community and three CSUB student actors, and directed by Theater Department Chair, Mandy Rees.

The program after lunch focused mainly on music. Three individuals—undergraduate history major **Jared Bradford**, former history student (and nonagenarian!) **Kathryn Burke**, and the Director of the Kern County Museum, **Jeff Nickell**—presented their knowledge of the Bakersfield Sound.

The first of two conference headliners (both native sons of Oildale), writer and professor emeritus **Gerald Haslam** gave the conference’s keynote address. Bringing many years of perspective to both Oildale and the larger region, Haslam delivered a fabulous talk, one that captured in so many ways—both large and small—the meaning for him of this region. Perhaps his most memorable line was noting that he never imagined finding himself in Bakersfield to celebrate Oildale!



Afternoon refreshments provided a brief interlude, and showcased local produce donated by area growers: almonds from Blue Diamond Growers; baby carrots from Grimmway Farms, Inc.; Fuji apples from Murray Family Farms; pistachios, compliments of Paramount Farms; grapes donated by Marko and Theo Zaninovich of Sun View Vineyards; and clementines (“cuties”) from Sun Pacific Growers.



Ushering in the much-anticipated appearance of Country Music Hall of Fame singer-songwriter **Merle Haggard**, **Robert Price** of the *Bakersfield Californian* galvanized the audience’s attention with a one-hour interview of Haggard and friend **Marty Stuart**, another country music star. Both singers shared reminiscences of life in country music, and Haggard acknowledged that the death of his father affected him deeply as a young boy of 9. He shared impressions of others in the business, including Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan, and the two finished the session, joined by friends on guitar and keyboard, by singing several songs.

A Q & A session with Gerald Haslam and two childhood chums—James L. Wattenbarger and Patricia Puskarich—wrapped up the event. Those from Oildale seemed to particularly appreciate an opportunity to share memories and impressions of Oildale at the century mark. Patricia Puskarich provided a history of Oildale for our program, which is reprinted in this newsletter.

Many helping hands made this conference possible, not least of which were those of members of the History Department. Special thanks to **Jean Stenehjem**, Administrative Assistant, whose efforts were so critical to the success of the conference, and to those faculty who chaired panels or helped in other ways. Funding crucial to support the conference was provided by the Dean’s Office, as well as two community sponsors: **The James L. and Gloria Wattenbarger Family Trust** and **A-C Electric Company**. The Walter Stiern Library joined the History Department in sponsoring this conference, and Librarian **Curt Asher** provided enormous assistance. Audio expertise, set-up, supervision, and several huge portraits of musicians of Bakersfield fame came compliments of **Tom Rockwell** and Trout’s Nightclub in Bakersfield, which was the scene of a conference kick-off concert the previous evening, featuring the Blackboard Playboys in period attire playing well-known tunes of the Bakersfield Sound.

The PHI plans to develop regular conferences exploring our region’s history, as well as a Public History Institute web site, which will be linked to the CSUB History web page.

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