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Spring 2009

College of the Pacific

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

SPRING 2009

Greetings historians!

As usual, there is lots of activity in the department to report. In April, we have six students - Annie Lake, Amy Langford, Benjamin Damazo, Johanna Bakmas, Lloyd Barba and Win McLaughlin - heading down to the Phi Alpha Theta conference at the Cal State Stanislaus campus in Turlock. That travel is underwritten by generous gifts to the department from

alumni. Many thanks! We also have three students - Johanna Bakmas, Annie Lake and Marath Pich - busy interning at the Haggin Museum here in Stockton.

The department was privileged to have University of Florida Professor Betty Smocovitis on campus for two days. Her visit was sponsored by Pacific's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor society. Dr.

Smocovitis is both a historian and a zoologist and is an expert on Charles Darwin and the history of evolutionary thought. In addition to a well-attended public lecture, she talked to Professor Kinukawa's Gender and Science class in which our students shone!

Our faculty members are busy publishing as well as teaching. Dr. Gerhard's article Food and Genocide:

Nazi Politics in the Occupied Territories of the Soviet Union came out in *Contemporary European History*, Ken Albala's latest book called simply *Pancake* was published by Reaktion Press at the end of last year and my article on Boy Soldiers in the American Revolution appeared in an anthology called *Children and Youth in a New Nation* (NYU Press, 2009).

Have a wonderful spring.
Caroline Cox, Chair

MEET PROFESSOR TERESA BERGMAN



Teresa Bergman joined Pacific as an Associate Professor in Communication in Fall 2006. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis in Cultural Studies with an emphasis in Documentary Film. In her research, Dr. Bergman is looking at how historical sites are telling their stories in their informational films. She studies the orientation films at

the California State Railroad Museum, Mount Rushmore, The Alamo, Alcatraz Island and the Lincoln Memorial. Professor Bergman found that the stories told at these locations can change dramatically over time. Her work in public history is of great interest to history majors. Some of Dr. Bergman's classes that nicely complement History course offerings are COMM 193A/293A Documentary Film as Persuasive Communication (Fall 2009) or her new class on Documentary Production to be taught in spring 2010. The History Department is thrilled to have Dr. Bergman in the Communication Depart-

Alumni Current Students & Emeriti

Are Invited to:

Department's Year End Party

May 1 at 5:00PM

**Bill Swagerty's Home,
1266 W. Mariposa Ave**

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HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA CLASS OFFERS FIELD TRIP TO THE GOLD COUNTRY

This past fall, on a beautiful autumn day in October, the History of California class motored from Stockton to the Gold Country to see firsthand places of importance in the State's development. Main destinations: Sutter's Old Fort in Sacramento, Sutter's Mill at the Gold Discovery State Park in Coloma, and Fiddletown, home to many Chinese during and after the Gold Rush. The class is composed of College of Education and College of the Pacific undergraduates, most of whom will become teachers in the state's K-12 programs.

Students heard interpretive

talks at all three venues, toured some of the oldest architectural structures remaining from the Gold Rush era, and gained perspective on the logistics of traveling into and out of the Sierra in the 1840s and 1850s.

Thanks to support from deans of the College of Education and College of the Pacific, the trip will be repeated this coming fall 2009. History majors and alumni interested in joining the class for this event, please contact wswagerty@pacific.edu.

W. Swagerty



GREETINGS FROM PHI ALPHA THETA PRESIDENT



Hello history enthusiasts!

This spring marks a pivotal time for Phi Alpha Theta as we prepare for upcoming events and the initiation of new members into our chapter.

First, be sure to mark your calendars for April 21st.

This is national Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah. In honor of this sobering time in history, PAT is joining Hillel, the Jewish organization on campus, to host an event in the Pacific Theatre that will feature talks by both a Holocaust survivor and our own Professor Gerhard. Please come and show your support!

April 24th and 25th marks the overnight Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference that will be held at CSU Stanislaus. Six Pacific students

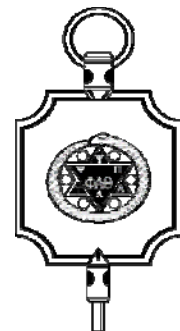
have submitted entries and will square off against other schools for first place for best research paper. Other chapters from CSU Stanislaus, Sacramento, Chico, and our archrival, Santa Clara University, will be in attendance. Can we beat them? Yes we can.

Finally, if you are interested in joining Phi Alpha Theta, now is the time! To be eligible you must have completed 12 units of history courses and hold an overall GPA of 3.0 and a history GPA of 3.1. (Open to non majors!) You

can pick up applications outside of Professor Swagerty's office now on the second story of WPC. It's time to make history!-

Johanna Bakmas

Phi Alpha Theta President



HISTORY DEPT OFFERS ONLINE SUMMER COURSES

Back by popular demand! The History Department offered its first online class last summer. A large number of students registered and finished *World History I* with great success. This summer, two history courses will be offered online. Professor Jennifer Helgren is offering US History, Part 1, in Summer Session I. Professor Greg Rohlf is offering World History, Part 1, in Summer Session II.

FLORENCE

A Poem By Dan Guerra

Dan was a history major who graduated in Spring 2007. His travels through Europe in the summer following graduation inspired him to write this poem. Dan lives in Santa Cruz. He will give a reading of his poetry at Hartnell College in Salinas in April.

Streets of Florence in summer
the opaque heat sultry
heavy like original sin
oppressing as
Dante's cold-hearted inferno-
gypsies cry seagull cries for money
hunched over
gnarled like the roots
of a copse of wispy willows-
sprawled in a gutter faceless

you two mongrels
you two gallants
dig your gypsy freedom with your red-
blooded American hands and feet that
tomp all over cobble-lined
streets of the Medici
snaking alongside and beyond the Arno-
rucksacks
of the celestial bums
overflowing with stolen wine
bread fruit
moleskins Petrarch's verses
papers tobacco hash-

winsome-the streets of humanity
that exhale yesterday's renaissance
and inhale today's labor pains
of promise-
winsome-the repugnant wails of a
preacher of by-gone days hypnotizing
the city cut down savagely by the fires
of the papacy!
winsome-the mosaics! the bronze doors!
King David with Mick Jagger swag!
the dome!
the manner in which
the Italian women
choose to ignore you
both of you
star struck-
women in flowing Mediterranean dresses
with hedonistic breasts
oil black Gucci sunglasses shielding
Latin eyes
cigarettes planted firmly
in their pagan mouths
the smoke dancing heavenwards
long olive legs exposed
supported by
stilettos

piercing your famished hearts
pricking your essence just
south of your gasping
hearts-

two mongrels
two gallants
perched on street corners
penniless
watching the flowering of humanity
pass them by

Florence! ah Florence!
your opulent streets dazzle those
opalescent eyes
that dart
tirelessly
ever hungry with the appetite
of lions

<<<<<>>>>

Angel Island Field Trip

On April 2, Dr. Helgren's History of American Immigration class went along with Dr. Zhou's Introduction to Ethnic Studies class on a field trip to Angel Island Immigration Station. We were very excited to have had this opportunity, especially since the station has been closed for preservation for the last three years. From 1910 to 1940, the site housed primarily Chinese immigrants as they were quarantined before being admitted to the US or sent back to China. For history students, the building itself is a primary source. Students can examine the architecture of the barracks and station to understand how race, class, and gender divided immigrants as they came to the US. In addition, students can explore the poetry written on the walls (much of it recently unearthed) to appreciate how immigrants resisted their detention. For more information, contact

Professor Helgren jhelgren@pacific.edu.

*Professor Ken Albala is organizing a
conference in Lodi this fall!*

1849

The Food History Committee
Of the International Association of Culinary
Professionals
presents

**The Fourth Food History Conference
All Things Culinary Around the World in 1849
and their Convergence upon California
Thursday October 7th –Saturday the 9th, 2009**

At the Historic
Wine and Roses Inn
Lodi, California

Speakers Include: Warren Belasco, Darra Gold-
stein, Andrew F. Smith, Jeffrey Pilcher, Dan Strehl,
Andrew Coe, Colleen Sen, Kyri Claflin, Roger Haden
and Carol Helstosky

For more information, contact Dr. Albala
kalbala@pacific.edu

SUPPORT HISTORY AT PACIFIC !

We invite you to become involved in the education of our current students. Underwriting opportunities exist for donors at all levels of support. Your gifts help support field trips, the Phi Alpha Theta chapter, and our student club, the Pacific Historical Society .
Contact Interim Chair Ken Albala at kalbala@pacific.edu



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★ Got an idea for a story in the Fall ★
★ 2009 Newsletter? Send it to ★
★ historynews@pacific.edu ★

Executive Editor: Gesine Gerhard
Editor: Susan Mitchell

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

NEWSLETTER

Faculty & Alumni News

Heather Mellon ('06) is curating an exhibit for her master's degree. The exhibit is called "Building the 'Burbs: Constructing the Suburban Hayward Area" at the Hayward Area Historical Society (where she works). The opening is on May 14th.

Alexandra Wagner ('05) published her article "Grashoppered: America's Response to the 1874 Rocky Mountain Locust Invasion" in *Nebraska History*, vol. 89, no. 4 (Winter 2008).

Melissa Stewart (née Cyfers, '05) finished her Master's Degree in History and lives in Reno where she teaches at a vocational high school. She and her husband Dustin became parents of Lucinda Elisabeth Stewart on January 9,

2009. Melissa writes that "Dustin and I have decided that while we have done some pretty cool things in our lifetime, she is, by far, the coolest thing we have ever done." Congratulations, Melissa!

George Yagi ('03) is offering three history classes for Pacific's Center for Professional & Continuing Education (CPCE). For more information, go to www.pacific.edu/cpce.

Thank you, **Mr. Alden Huff**, for your generous donation to the History Department!

Dr. Gesine Gerhard's article "Food and Genocide: Nazi Politics in the Occupied Territories of the Soviet Union" came out in *Contemporary European History* vol. 18, no. 1 (2009).

Dr. Ken Albala's book *Pan-cake* was published by Reaktion Press at the end of last year (2008).

Dr. Caroline Cox's article on "Boy Soldiers in the American Revolution" appeared in an anthology called *Children and Youth in a New Nation* (NYU Press, 2009).

Dr. Marisela Ramos led a discussion on "Chicana Feminism" on Monday, March 31. The event was a way to commemorate Cesar Chavez Day and was part of Women's History Month and the Inter-American Program.

Dr. Greg Rohlf is on sabbatical this semester. He finished his book manuscript on population resettlement in Western China and is working on his next project on movie theatres, bookstores and the geography of leisure in China's cities.

FALL 09 CLASSES

- 80963 HIST 10 Western Civilization I
- 80961 HIST 20 US History I
- 81623 HIST 30 East Asian Civilization I
- 81950 HIST 40 Colonialism / Latin America
- 80962 HIST 50 World History I
- 81961 HIST 63 Hist of Science & Tech.
- 81956 HIST 70 Historical Imagination
- 82625 HIST 100 Renaissance/Reformation
- 82674 HIST 105 History of Ancient Greece
- 82628 HIST 121 Colonial America
- 80947 HIST 130 History of California
- 82630 HIST 134 African American History
- 82102 HIST 137 "HIS-PANIC" USA
- 82631 HIST 142 Modern Chinese History
- 80722 HIST 160 Pacific Hist. Sem. Capstone
- 82627 HIST 193 History Goes to Hollywood