Footnotes

The Newsletter of the Department of History

2016 Seasons Greetings from Phi Alpha Theta and the History Students Association at California State University Fullerton

Back row (left to right): Russell McKinney, Joshua Cawley, Madison Pavia, Art Tell, Charles Romeo, Joey Hwang, Edgar Huerta, Lexi Rasey, Kiana Nakamura, Dr. Kristine Denneyh, Ben Cartwright, Courtney Cartwright, Janelle Yannoy, Kenny Pinedo, Chris Robbins, Rebecca Millard; front row (seated, left to right): Dr. Jochen Burgdorf, Dane Hoyster, Danielle Turner, Matt Snider, Richard Upward, Kourtney Ford, Mark Berry, and Stephen van Daalen Vettes.
A Letter from the Chair

First, once again, let me thank our MA student Caralou Rosen for putting together our newsletter for Fall 2016. She has worked tirelessly to organize and edit materials to make the newsletter possible. I also want to thank Dr. Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi for overseeing the newsletter’s production.

Unfortunately, once again we are ending a semester that has been both sad and exciting. We are now grieving the loss of B. Carmon Hardy, who devoted his life and academic career to the History Department at CSUF. A specialist in Mormon history, Dr. Hardy wrote numerous prize-winning articles and two books on the culture and practice of Mormon polygamy in both the United States and Mexico. He was also a dedicated teacher, who supervised the work of many graduate students at the same time that he engaged large numbers of undergraduates who were fortunate enough to take his classes in introductory world civilization. I found a quote of his on a website that perhaps best reflects on his beliefs for life and the classroom: “That which is unchallenged and exercised as habit rapidly becomes ritual. When this occurs, dissent becomes an object of surprise, if not resentment.” I am guessing that he posted this a long time ago, but it seems particularly relevant to our world today and remains good advice to our students. In the words of one of his undergraduates, “Professor Hardy didn’t only teach me about the history of the world, he shared a bit of philosophical wisdom that inspired me to be always curious.” As Dr. Lynn Sargeant reflected, “he was a treasured colleague,” and we all miss him!

As you can see from the articles in the newsletter, the History Department has continued to thrive, as our students and faculty have engaged in interesting and creative work in all areas of history. Our graduates have become involved in conferences dedicated to Britain’s wartime prime minister, Winston Churchill, and to the theory and practice of Oral History. They have opportunities to meet leading scholars in their fields and have succeeded in getting admitted to prestigious graduate programs throughout the country. They have taken skills learned in our public history program to the wider world. We are thrilled to welcome our two newest faculty members, Dr. Aitana Guia from Spain and Dr. Anelise Shrout from New York/New Jersey. They bring energy and excitement to the department in Modern European and US History, although both have studied physical and cultural migration and their impacts on multiple societies and histories that transcend specific borders. Thus, they, along with one of our newest colleagues—Dr. Jamila Moore-Pewu, will be presenting their work on April 11, from 11:30-12:50 in PLS 360 as part of the College of Humanities and Social Science’s series on “Interdisciplinary Conversations on Crossing Borders.” As part of the same series, Dr. Natalie Fousekis will be presenting her work on “Women in Leadership” on March 14 (PLS 360, 11:30-12:50), while Drs. Cora Granata, Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi, Jonathan Markley, and Lisa Tran will discuss “A Global History of Border Walls” on March 20 (PLS 360, 12:00-12:50).

Dr. Volker Janssen has continued to sponsor webinars and workshops that introduce our students to the various kinds of careers our major prepares them for. Our student organizations are lively and engaged. At the same time, we are pleased to be able to showcase our new “high impact practice, media production” room that was funded by various sources including a CSU Chancellor’s Office grant designed to promote innovative ways of course redesign. I’m not very good at taking selfies, but I thought my photo might at least give you a taste of our new room, where we will provide space for students to work individually and in groups on innovative history projects. In short, we continue to be a creative department in multiple ways, and are looking forward to the coming semester for new adventures in our classrooms, archives, and other spaces of intellectual inquiry!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Nancy Fitch

Dr. B. Carmon Hardy

Table of Contents

Introduction Letter...............................2
Getting to Know the Faculty: Dr. Guia...........3
Students out in the World......................4
Churchill Conference.......................5
Getting to Know the Faculty: Dr. Shrout.....6
What’s up in the Department ......7

Dr. Nancy Fitch, Chair of the Department of History.
Where were you born and raised? How would you describe your upbringing/childhood?

I was born in the Mediterranean city of Valencia, the third largest city in Spain. My childhood was filled with delicious food, family, and protests. My parents were anti-Franco activists and Catalan nationalists, which gave me an early introduction into politics and cultural traditions.

For most of my childhood I felt out of place, as Edward Said explained in his memoir, but in my case it was due to being a minority Catalan speaker in a mostly Spanish speaking town and having to deal with a confused household where Marxist Leninism was in miraculous symbiotic relationship with cultural conservatism and the self-determination of peoples. I still think I should have become a comedian.

How did you become interested in history? What inspired you to get your Ph.D.?

History is the bread and butter of nationalism. Bad history, I mean. I grew up with narratives and stories that celebrated Catalan conquerors over Muslims, Catalan mercenaries in the Mediterranean, and fifteenth-century Catalan glory days. I was ready to become a chemist. But then, in eighth grade, I had the most wonderful history teacher ever. He made us live in Ancient Rome. He made us feel what it meant to be a medieval vassal. I was hooked.

Passion for history was not enough though. It was not until I left Spain to finish my history degree in Canada that I learned to love historical writing and research. Historians Marc Stein (CSUSF) and Marcel Martel (York University) and political scientist Harvey Simmons (York University) were key influences in my decision to enter a PhD program.

Who is your favorite historian?

I admire Tony Judt. His Postwar gargantuan feast of good writing and cunning interpretations and his New York Review of Books essays compiled in Reappraisals are some of the books that I devour over and over again. Judt died way too early and I still mourn the 25 years of good writing and historical thinking we have lost with his passing. Timothy Snyder's Bloodlands together with Natalie Zemon Davis' The Return of Martin Guerre come second. The three of them are engaged public intellectuals.

Tell us about your research.

My 2012 Ph.D. from York University, Toronto, Canada, looked at the struggles migrants have waged to attain civil rights, with narratives and stories that celebrated Catalan conquerors over Muslims, Catalan mercenaries in the Mediterranean, and fifteenth-century Catalan glory days. I was ready to become a chemist. But then, in eighth grade, I had the most wonderful history teacher ever. He made us live in Ancient Rome. He made us feel what it meant to be a medieval vassal. I was hooked.

Passion for history was not enough though. It was not until I left Spain to finish my history degree in Canada that I learned to love historical writing and research. Historians Marc Stein (CSUSF) and Marcel Martel (York University) and political scientist Harvey Simmons (York University) were key influences in my decision to enter a PhD program.

What did you do before you came to Cal State Fullerton?

I have lived in eight cities (Valencia, Barcelona, Guelph, Toronto, Caracas, Florence, London, and Placentia) in 6 countries (Spain, Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy, Venezuela, and the USA). Right before I came to Fullerton, I was a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence and I still miss the Tuscan hills, Renaissance beauty, and unbelievable food. My home away from home was, however, Guelph, in the Canadian province of Ontario. And while I do not miss the frigid Canadian winters, I do miss the Canadian universal health care system and quality public education for all.

Teaching and courses? Courses you teach now and plan to develop in the future?

In the fall, I taught a survey course on Modern European History (HIST 320) and I plan to continue teaching it. We read Primo Levi's memoir of his ordeal in Auschwitz and a cultural history on forgeries of Vincent Van Gogh's painting in Weimar Germany. I also teach Postwar Europe (HIST 429B) and we'll read the Italian Nobel Prize Literature winner Dario Fo's plays and a novel about women during the Yugoslavian civil wars. Next year, I will concentrate on twentieth-century Europe with exciting new courses on Fascism 1918-1945 (HIST 435B), the Spanish Civil War (HIST 435C) and Modern Italy (HIST 438).

What are your favorite hobbies and pastimes outside of work?

Drinking a craft beer in a jacuzzi after trekking all day in a park.

Favorite TV shows/films?

"The Wire" is an all-time favorite. World and independent movies are my thing. Winter’s Bone, La grande bellezza, El laberinto del fauno, Incendies, Before the Rain,... the list is long. Please share your suggestions with me!
A Graduate in the Big Apple

Aristo Fatwan

It’s been more than one year since I graduated from Cal State Fullerton. In September I started the second year of my Master’s program in Near Eastern Studies at New York University, and by this time next year, I will have finished my graduate studies. I am currently working as an archivist for the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at NYU, busy digitizing the videos of the Jack G. Shaheen Collection. I also assist Prof. Zvi Ben-Dor Benite’s research on Mizrahi feminist Tikva Levy.

Throughout the fall semester, my colleagues and I worked with Jacqueline Salloum and Suhel Nafar, Palestinian artists and activists, to curate an exhibition called “Memory Metamorphosis,” a synthesis of art and memory of Palestinians living in exile. The exhibition debuted on December 9 and was warmly received with a full house at the opening reception. It will remain on display at the Kevorkian Center until January 31, 2017.

None of this would be possible without my training at Cal State Fullerton’s History Department. The department’s rigorous standards helped me hone my argumentative skills such that I could excel in the competitive MA program at NYU. The opportunity to work with Prof. Benjamin Cawthra in his “Practicum in Public History,” where I learned the ins and outs of putting on exhibitions and how to work with artists, landed me a job as an archivist. It also helped me work on the Kevorkian Center’s “Art and Memory” exhibit commemorating the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. My classes with Professors Maged Mikhail and Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi gave me the foundation to study the Middle East and analyze the issues and events important to the region.

My past research includes Armenian merchants in the Dutch East Indies, an approach to food studies in the Iranian diaspora, and representations of the Middle East and Muslims in mass media. My thesis will focus on second-generation Iranian Americans in Orange County.

As always, Go Titans!

An Enriching Experience: The Annual Oral History Meeting

Mark Garcia

In October the Oral History Association conducted its Fiftieth Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California. The theme of the annual meeting was “OHA@50: Traditions, Transitions and Technologies from the Field.” Many of my fellow classmates and I attended the annual meeting. I had a unique role as the Oral History Review editorial assistant roaming the floor, attending panel discussions, providing updates via the Oral History Review social media account, and writing on the Oxford University Press blog about the historical significance of Long Beach sites. In addition, I attended the Oral History Review editorial meeting and took notes.

The heart of the annual meeting consisted of many panel discussions. One of the panels I attended was “Centennial Voices: Using Oral History to Document Traditions and Guide Transitions” where historian Lu Ann Jones discussed the various oral history projects of the National Park Service. Another powerful panel was “Activist Women Within: Re-thinking Red, Yellow, Brown and Black Power through Oral History.” Special guest and commentator of the “Warrior Women’s Film Project” Madonna Thunder Hawk provided oral history accounts of the Standing Rock protest in North Dakota. Our very own Dr. Natalie Fousekis, director of the Center for Oral and Public History, was a speaker for the "Oral History, Now (and Tomorrow)” plenary session. Dr. Fousekis provided insights on the current status of oral history plus ideas, opinions, and discussion of future oral history projects. These are just a few highlights from the many engaging panels.

This experience affirmed my desire to be an oral historian. This journey began at Cal State Fullerton, where I learned some of the many practices presented at the conference. For more information on the conference, listen to Outspoken: A COPH Podcast, Episode Five.
On October 27, 2016, historians, politicians, and Winston Churchill aficionados from all over the globe met in Washington, D.C. to partake in the 33rd International Churchill Conference. The conference chairman, our very own Dr. David Freeman, welcomed all at the Mayflower Hotel Grand Ballroom, thus commencing the start of the conference. The program consisted of speakers, such as Sir David Cannadine, Lord Watson of Richmond, and Candice Millard, who are specialists in Churchill’s role in British and global history. Also present was Randolph Churchill, the great-grandson of Churchill. With over 300 attendees, the conference proved to be nothing short of a success. It attracted the attention of many in the nation’s capital. In fact, the entire conference was covered live by C-SPAN2.

This event also included excursions throughout the city. As the chair, Dr. Freeman offered registered members a tour of Ford’s Theater, where President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Participants had the opportunity to step on stage and experience the viewpoint of the actors on that tragic evening. Other trips included a visit to the newly instituted National Churchill Library and Center at George Washington University, where we had the opportunity to interact with a plethora of newly digitized primary sources. In addition to the scheduled program, Dr. Freeman organized an exclusive tour of the Pentagon, where six individuals and I saw the Hall of Heroes, the 9/11 Memorial, and a life-size bust of Churchill. One of the most interesting highlights of the conference was the opportunity to have dinner at the State Department, where former Secretary of State James A. Baker III gave a keynote speech. I explored every room of the eighth floor of the State Department and experienced American history through the various artifacts displayed everywhere I looked.

Once the conference ended, I realized how much detail and effort Dr. Freeman and his team put into the event to assure everyone enjoyed attending. In fact, I was fortunate to assist both the Churchill Society and Dr. Freeman with logistical tasks, such as making sure the excursions and events proceeded as planned. Overall, the 33rd International Churchill Conference paid its due diligence to twentieth-century British history and the global impact of Churchill’s politics for generations to come. Dr. Freeman’s involvement with the International Churchill Society as Director of Publications and Conference Chairman truly raises the caliber of our department. His involvement serves as an example of what can be done with a history degree for all of our students.
Getting to Know New Faculty: Dr. Shrout

Where were you born and raised? How would you describe your upbringing/childhood?

I was born in New York, but raised (and deeply from) northern New Jersey. In fact, on my mother's side my family has been from Essex County, NJ since the Irish famine of the 1840s.

My father is a professor of psychology at NYU, and my mother is a public interest lawyer, so I grew up in an academically inflected house. In some ways, my interests in the history of philanthropy and quantitative history stem from the conversations that were happening in my house in my youth.

How did you become interested in history? What inspired you to get your Ph.D.?

I have always liked narrative, and knew that I wanted to do something that involved textually conveying stories. I was a history major in college at the University of Chicago, and it was there that I caught the proverbial archives bug. I really enjoyed digging into microfilm, and in my year at Trinity College Dublin I also discovered that I enjoyed historiographical wrangling.

Who is your favorite historian? This is tricky, because there are so many wonderful practitioners of historical craft. I am going to fudge a bit and say that at the moment my favorite historical text is a book entitled *Dispossessed Lives* by Marisa Fuentes. Fuentes takes on the question of how women of color in the eighteenth-century Caribbean experienced violence, and how that violence continued to be codified in the archival records produced about those women. It is a masterful work of both theory and historical practice.

Tell us about your research.

I work on the intersection of politics and philanthropy in the nineteenth century, and particularly the ways in which non-elites who were excluded from traditional political spaces were able to use philanthropy to critique the power structures within which they were embedded. I’m currently working on a chapter about enslaved people in antebellum Alabama who sent money to victims of famine in Ireland. My book project takes on donors to Irish famine relief more broadly.

I use both traditional archival methods and quantitative history (maybe the new, new social history) to get at the experiences of people who left only the barest of marks on the historical record. I also use newer methods like network analysis to track the movement of news about the famine across the Atlantic world. I hope to eventually build a public, editable database of nineteenth-century donors to philanthropic causes, which will allow historians of philanthropy to track whether “their” donors were giving to one or many causes. This is in the very early stages.

I am also in the middle stages of a project that tracks and reconstructs the experiences of immigrants in New York City’s public health infrastructure in the nineteenth century. Basically, since there are very few records of how public health and immigration systems were structured, I am trying to use individual immigrants’ movement through these systems to get a sense of how people new to America navigated new bureaucracies.

What did you do before you came to Cal State Fullerton?

I finished my PhD at NYU in 2013, and worked as a visiting assistant professor and then postdoc at Davidson College in North Carolina from 2013 to 2016.

Teaching and courses? Courses you teach now and plan to develop in the future?

I teach in the fields of American, Atlantic and digital history. Last semester I taught the Atlantic survey, historical thinking (with a focus on disaster) and a seminar on nineteenth-century America. This semester I am teaching American social history and digital history. In the future, I hope to develop some courses on the history of technology, environmental history, and maybe even a grad digital history seminar!

What are your favorite hobbies and pastimes outside of work?

I am coming to enjoy the podcast time I get on my commute into work, but when not working or commuting I spend time training for and running half marathons, hanging out with my small dog, and playing board games. I also try to get in some weird theatre during the semester.

Favorite TV shows/films?

I am an avid watcher of “Doctor Who,” and also the British speed archaeology show “Time Team.” I am generally a fan of procedural crime dramas and anything that involves historians solving crime!
What’s up in the Department?

-Danielle Riedl, B.A. ‘15, joined the Fullerton Police Department. She served as a Community Services officer at CSUF.

-Chris Chacon, M.A. ‘16, started University of California, Irvine’s South Asian history doctoral program.

-Carol McDoniel, M.A. ‘14, recently published “Riverside’s Wood Streets: Rediscovering a Practical Lifestyle” in the spring 2016 edition of American Bungalow. She currently serves as the president of the Old Riverside Foundation.

-Amanda Tewes, M.A. ‘10 in public history and former staff member at the Center for Oral and Public History, is the oral historian at the San Diego History Center. She launched the Legacy Oral History Program there in 2015.

-Donald Hickey has been accepted into the history doctoral program at the University of California-Santa Cruz. Hickey is an intellectual and cultural historian who completed his master’s thesis, “The Existentialism of Ambrose Bierce: A Study of Memory in Postbellum Literature,” under the direction of Dr. Cawthra in 2013.

-María Quintero, a history and Latin American Studies graduate, is the outreach and programs coordinator for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. Quintero completed her Master’s degree in public humanities at Brown University.

-Stacey Ellison, M.A. ‘13 in public history, recently became executive director of the Escondido History Center. Ellison designs exhibits, assists researchers, writes articles, and raises funds for the Center.

-Joshua Copple, B.A. ‘16, started University of California, Irvine’s Master of Arts in Teaching Program in fall 2016.

-Lara Kolinchak, M.A. ‘13, is completing Ph.D. coursework in history at Claremont Graduate University. Kolinchak studies under Claremont art history professor Frances K. Pohl.

-Erin Wroe, B.A. ‘16, will attend the online Master’s in Library and Information Science Program at San Jose State University.

-Dr. Allison Varzally filmed an episode of “Angeleno,” a PBS SoCal documentary airing in 2017 that explores Los Angeles through the lives of its diverse residents. She also edited book reviews for 98.4 volume of Southern California Quarterly.


-Dr. David Freemen gave a presentation entitled “Sir Winston Churchill: Student of History- Champion of Democracy” for the Churchill Club of Iceland. He also attended a ceremony at the Westminster Abbey in the presence of Queen Elizabeth.

-Dr. Guia presented “The UNHCR Can’t Protect Refugees Without Us” for the United Nations Generation Club at California State University Fullerton, on November 2, 2016.

-Dr. William Haddad started his sixth year as the editor of the International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies. Graduate student Caralou Rosen serves as an assistant editor for the journal.