DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



The Student of the Year awards recognize those students whose achievements and commitment to their studies have fostered a culture of learning that benefits everyone in the history department.

The honorees included bachelor of arts students, **Nicole Aros, Sara Godinez, and Fernando Jauregui**, and master of arts students, **Alex Jreisat** and **Tara Kendall**. Kendall was also the recipient of the Monica Taylor Award.



Thanks to all who attended our department banquet in May, especially our alumni speakers, **Dr. John Chen** and **Aline Tavlian** (pictured left).



Pulps, Films, and Sex Politics: The Astounding History of Science Fiction

Cyrene Cruz, a Master of Arts in History student, curated an exhibit on display at the University Library (Special Collections and Archives) titled "Pulps, Films, and Sex Politics: The Astounding History of Science Fiction." The exhibit will be on display though the end of the fall semester.

Congratulations to the 2019 Student Scholarship Winners

Butrus Abd al-Malik Scholarship
Abigail Calderon (B.A.)
Cyrene Cruz (M.A.)

Hugh Bonar Endowed Scholarship
Aaron Lugo (B.A.)
Alex Mulraney (B.A.)

William E. Lloyd Memorial Fellowship
Cyrene Cruz (M.A.)

Howard Starrett Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Lainez (B.A.)
Sanjuana Rodriguez-Lopez (B.A.)

Carol J. Smallenberg Emeriti Fellowship for Academic Excellence
Jewellyn Mims (M.A.)

ALUMNI NEWS



Alumni Profile: Nancy Escalante, B.A. History (Magna Cum Laude, 2017); M.A. History (2019)

Congrats on just finishing your master's degree! Why did you choose history?
I chose history because of the opportunity it gives me to ask questions and seek answers. The research process is something I find exciting, whether it's digging through archival material or reading the monographs of other historians. I also chose history because it has helps me contextualize my personal family history and the experiences of people I meet.

Best experience in the program?
Reading and writing alongside classmates. Meeting with them in the library and spending time discussing our initial thoughts on readings and sharing our writing progress with each other really made the program special to me. My classmates provided crucial support and laughs.

What work in history have you been doing outside the class?
Outside the classroom, I have participated in internships that have expanded my personal and professional goals. My first internship was at the Museum of Social Justice as a research assistant for the exhibition, *Con Safos: Life in the Barrio*. I then interned at the Getty Research Institute and processed an archival collection, Joanie 4 Jackie, donated by artist Miranda July. This past summer, I was a Smithsonian Latino Museum Studies Fellow at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. I got to work on a curatorial project and wrote a prospectus for coloring cards that will accompany the exhibition *Girlhood (It's Complicated)*, opening in 2020.

Wow! You're a busy woman! What's next?
My experience at Cal State LA and my internships/fellowships have solidified my interest in becoming an Exhibition Curator. As of right now, I am applying to doctoral programs in American Studies and Public History for Fall 2020.

FACULTY NEWS



Faculty Profile: Ping Yao, Ph.D.

How long have you been teaching at Cal State LA? I'm beginning my 23rd year. I joined the department in 1997.

What do you teach? Everything about Asia, but mainly Chinese history and Japanese history. I also teach world history, including gender in world history.

What's your favorite class to teach and why? All of my classes excite me in different ways. For example, I had never studied Asian American history before I joined the department. Teaching that course gives me a great opportunity to learn American history and to reflect on my own identity and experience as an Asian American. And I always look forward to the graduate seminar on Modern Asia: I assign new monographs each time I teach it so I can explore the most recent scholarship along with my students.

What do you do when you're not professing? I read nonfiction and popular history. I love Doris Goodwin's works, and I like Patrick Keefe's *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* a lot. And may I recommend *Dear Friend, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life*? It is a memoir by Yiyun Li, a Chinese American writer and Professor of Creative Writing at Princeton. I also knit, garden and do yoga.

We hear you've got a new book coming out. What's it about? It's about Chinese epitaphs from the first century to the 19th century, with an introduction on the history of the genre, the practice of funeral writing, and the importance of epitaphs as sources for historical research. The title is *Chinese Funerary Biographies: An Anthology of Remembered Lives*; I co-edited it with my mentor Patricia Buckley Ebrey (University of Washington) and Cong Ellen Zhang (University of Virginia). It will be the very first English-language publication on Chinese funerary biographies.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lani Cupchoy's new documentary film, "Urban Seeds," on the community garden/School Grown Movement, is currently on the festival circuit. She is planning on hosting a free screening at Cal State LA in the spring. Stay tuned!

Dawn Dennis authored an op-ed in Random Length News on *California's Not So Golden Past*.

In June, **Tim Doran** gave a talk on "Lucretius and Big History" at the Big History, Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, and the Future of Humankind Conference in Milan, Italy.

Eileen Ford has received two fellowships, one from the Huntington Library and one from the John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation, to begin intensive research on her new project about the economic and cultural impact of the Wrigley Family in Southern California.

On June 5, 2019, **Ping Yao** participated in a panel at the Getty Villa titled, "What Can the Ancient World Teach Us About Feminism?"

Articles

Stan Burstein, "Werner Jaeger Comes to Chicago," *International Journal of the Classical Tradition*, 26 (2019) 319-332.

Choi Chatterjee, "Accidental Transnationalist: An Autobiographical Manifesto," *Ab Imperio Quarterly* 4 (April 2019), 29-41, with feature commentary from six scholars.

Franz Metcalf, "Our *Buddhadharma*, our Buddhist Dharma," in *Methods in Buddhist Studies: Essays in Honor of Richard K. Payne*, New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019

Birte Pfleger, "'Ein schrecklicher Zustand': Race, Slavery, and Gradual Emancipation in Pennsylvania," appeared in *Babel of the Atlantic*, ed. Bethany Wiggin (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019).

Angela Vergara with Paola Orellana, "Los trabajadores de las grandes tiendas: Gath y Chaves, Chile 1910-1952" . *Claves* (Uruguay) 5, no. 8 (2019): 35-65.

Angela Vergara, "'Cuando la comida es poca, venga la copa'. Trabajo y producción de vino en Chile, 1880-1950", in Patricio Herrera and Juan Carlos Yáñez eds., *Alcohol y Trabajo en América Latina. Siglos XVII-XX*, (América en Movimiento, 2019.

Lamont Yeakey, "Close-Up: Ava DuVernay's Selma, The Film and History of Selma, Alabama, 1965," *Black Camera, An International Film Journal*, 10 (Spring 2019), 159-225.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Sixth Annual Cal State LA Distinguished Visiting Lecture in Ancient History

The Sixth Annual Cal State LA Distinguished Visiting Lecture in Ancient History will feature Professor Kathlyn Cooney for a talk on "Women and Power in the Ancient World: Patterns of Rule." The event will be held at the University Library Community Room (B131) on October 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

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