DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Fall 2020 Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

The Covid-19 lockdown and the transition to remote instruction in the middle of the 2020 spring semester created new challenges and opportunities for the history department at Cal State LA. Over the summer months, our faculty participated in extensive training to become more proficient at remote instruction. Graduate students Moìses Ponce-Zepeda and Chris Fennessy, with help from Professor Chris Endy and Professor Sara Pugach, created Virtual King Hall, a digital interactive platform for the department. Since April, Virtual King Hall has offered students informational seminars on current politics, video game nights, movie nights, and conducted an online book club on Leo Tolstoy's, *War and Peace*. Our students continue to learn and thrive in these difficult circumstances, thanks to the efforts of our dedicated, innovative, and caring faculty.

Students enrolled in History 4970 with Professor Pfleger during the spring 2020 semester produced and published the 47th issue of *Perspectives. A Journal of Historical Inquiry*. *Perspectives* is written and edited by students in the department and members of the Eta Xi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at Cal State LA. Without access to the University Library, and unable to meet in person, the editorial team labored remotely to complete their project by the end of the semester. Please visit the *Perspectives* website to read the latest issue.



A note from Professor Birte Pfleger about*Perspectives. A Scholarly Journal of Historical Inquiry*.

"I am particularly proud of having taught Editing and Publishing *Perspectives* (HIST 4970), the student authored and edited journal of the history department every year since 2007, except for 2013 (co-taught with Professor Eileen Ford Vol 40). I have guided students through the process of reviewing student authored research papers (anywhere from 15-25 for each volume), choosing the best for publication and working with the authors over many weeks to produce final drafts. In addition to editing and copy-editing the student authored research articles, students in the course write and edit their own book reviews, an introduction to the journal and successfully solicit advertisements from campus vendors such as the University Bookstore and the Luckman Fine Arts Complex as well as the prestigious national American Historical Association (AHA). Further, I work with students to create online content for the journal website and to make volumes available online. Finally, students and I mail copies of the journal to all CSU history departments and libraries, as well as the Chancellor's Office. We also submit copies of the journal to Phi Alpha Theta's national headquarter in consideration for the Nash Prize, awarded annually to the best student journal. The journal has received an award for nearly every volume (except in 2014 and 2019). Part workshop, part seminar, and many, many hours of hard work performed by exceptionally dedicated students result in the publication of the journal both in paper and online."

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Graduate Students:

Arielle Steimer-Barragan (M.A., Latin American Studies) was selected as the Cal State LA delegate to the 2020 CSU Student Research Symposium. She earned second place at the state-wide research symposium. Professor Kittiya Lee served as the research supervisor.

Maria Esters Ivy was awarded a Glenn and Dorothy Dumke Fellowship by the CSU Foundation to study to conduct research in the CSU archives on the history of African American religion.

Christopher Fennessy received the William E. Lloyd Memorial Fellowshipfrom the Cal State LA Emeriti Association.

Fernando Jaureguí presented his paper, “Tupi Voices in Sixteenth-Century Brazil: How to Find Indigenous Agency in Texts Written by European Outsiders,” at the 45th Annual S4 Social Science Student Symposium. The virtual meeting was hosted by Social Science Research and Instructional Council on May 2020. Professor Kittiya Lee served as the research supervisor.

Jewelyn Mims and **Nicole Aros** created a website on historic photos of earthquakes in Los Angeles, using images from the LA Times Digital Archives. Professors Eileen Ford and Choi Chatterjee served as the research supervisors. View the website here >>.

Jewelyn Mims was a finalist for the California State University Trustees Award.

Rebecca Pérez-Durán created the website, “Mesoamerican Ethnohistory” using primary sources to illustrate how the indigenous people in Central America used their natural environment. Professor Kittiya Lee served as the research supervisor. To learn more, visit the website here >>.

Moìses Ponce-Zepeda was awarded a research prize by the Los Angeles Historical Society for his essay, "Unapologetically Left: Temple-Beaudry Community Activism, 19701990.” Professor Chris Endy served as his research supervisor.

Jewelyn Mims and **Moìses Ponce-Zepeda** were awarded research internships through a grant from the US Department of Agriculture to build a database on climate-adapted food and medicinal plants that have been grown in the Los Angeles region for the last three hundred years. Professor Choi Chatterjee serves as their research supervisor.

Undergraduates:

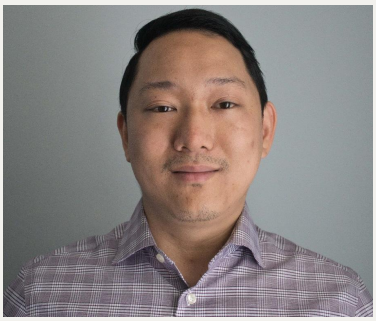
Abigail Calderon was awarded a research prize by the Los Angeles Historical Society for her essay, “Eradicating History or Embracing Change: The Debate About Renaming Streets to Cesar E. Chavez Ave. in East Los Angeles in the 1990s.” Professor Mark Wild serves as her research Supervisor.

ALUMNI NEWS

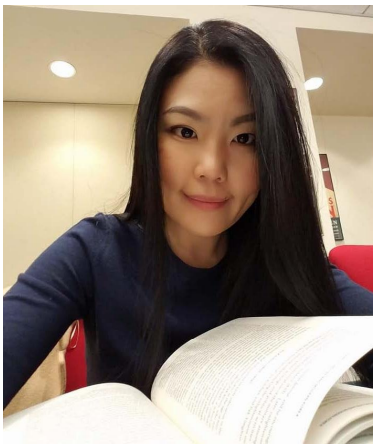
It gives the department great pleasure to announce that **Juily Phun, Ph.D**., (M.A., 2006) has been appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies at Cal State LA. Phun is a multiethnic refugee from Vietnam, known as the "boat people." She grew up in the San Gabriel Valley, aka the "626" and specifically in Monterey Park and the surrounding cities. She received her bachelor’s degree in history from the University of California, San Diego



(2000), and an master's degree in history from California State University, Los Angeles (2006). She completed her dissertation entitled "Contours of Care: the Influenza Pandemic, Public Health, and the Asian American Community in Los Angeles, 1918-1941" from the University of California, Irvine (2016) under Chicana historian, Vicki Ruiz. Phun has been a high school teacher in the San Gabriel Valley and an educator for over twenty years. She has been a lecturer at Cal State LA in the history department and Asian and Asian American Studies since 2006. She considers teaching and service-learning as an integral component of her education and research.



Jason Chiu (M.A., 2010) has been admitted into the Cal State LA Charter College of Education's Ed.D. program, starting this fall. He has been an adjunct professor in the Asian and Asian American Studies program since 2012.



Katherine Hye-Ryun Yang (M.A., 2017) has received a research fellowship from the Seoul National University Kyujanggak Institute: International Center for Korean Studies to conduct research for her Ph.D. dissertation during the 2020-2021 academic year. Yang is a doctoral student in Modern Asian history at George Washington University (Washington DC). Her research topic is entitled "Korean Women's Sex Work During the Cold War in Global and Transnational Perspective."



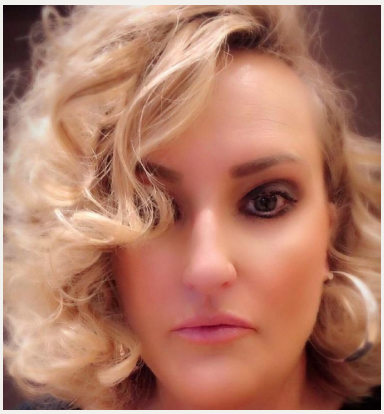
Ryan Allen (M.A., 2014), a doctoral student in modern European history at the University of Illinois, has been awarded a dissertation completion fellowship for 2020–2021. He was named the Nina Baym Fellow by the Graduate College of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Baym Fellowship is awarded annually to the top-ranked nominee from the humanities. The award will allow Allen to complete his Ph.D. dissertation on the articulate backlash to hyper-modernization that pervaded French social thought after World War II.

FACULTY NEWS

We welcome **Camille Suárez, Ph.D.**, who recently joined the department in the fall 2020 semester. Suárez grew up in Los Angeles, California and graduated from James Monroe High School in the San Fernando Valley. She received a B.A. in history from the University of Notre Dame, where she focused on Latino and African American history. Suárez earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, where she specialized in the histories of the



US West and the 19th Century United States. Her dissertation studies the colonial processes by which the people, land, and legal customs of California were incorporated into the United States. She is currently working on turning her dissertation into a manuscript for publication by an academic press. She is broadly interested in the history of the US West and intends to write an environmental history of California for her second book. Before coming to Cal State LA, Suárez worked as an assistant professor of history at Valparaiso University in Indiana. A passionate teacher, she is excited to not only get to teaching but to also to build community at Cal State LA. An avid reader, music lover, and urban walker, Suárez lives in Downtown Los Angeles with her partner and fellow historian, Paraska Tolan-Szkilnik, and their cat, Beethoven.



Dawn Dennis, Ph.D., is the co-recipient for a California Humanities grant for the project, "Mervyn M. Dymally Bridgebuilder and History Maker, Public Events and Exhibition." Dennis and her students are processing the papers of Mervyn M. Dymally in partnership with the Autry Museum. They will host a series of public events with materials from the collection.



Ping Yao, Ph.D., has been appointed by Harvard University's Board of Overseers to serve on the Harvard Divinity School Visiting Committee for a third consecutive term (2020-2022).



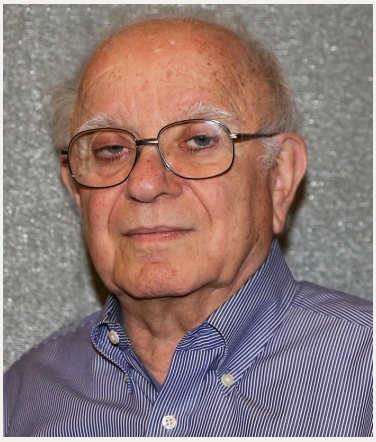
Angela Vergara, Ph.D., has been appointed to the Board of editors for the *American Historical Review*, the most prestigious journal of historical research in the United States for a three-year term starting in 2020.

Choi Chatterjee, Ph.D., is the co-recipient of a grant from the US Department of Agriculture for the project, "Growing Food in the City: Urban Food Gardens for Research and Education." She is part of a faculty team that is installing a food garden on



campus. The garden that will serve as a site of scholarly research on hydrology, plant biology, nutrition, and the history of climate adapted agriculture in the Los Angeles region.

Publications



Stanley Burstein, **Ph.D**., "The War Elephant: East and West," *World History Connected* 17, 2 (June, 2020).

Stanley Burstein, "'The Essence of Classical Culture': Werner Jaeger's First Public Address in the United States," *History of Classical Scholarship* 2 (2020) 115-130.

Stanley Burstein, "The Subject of *P. Oxy*. 4458: A Suggestion," *Zeitschrift fur Papyrologie und Epigraphik*, 2020.



Afshin Matin-Asgari, **Ph.D.**, "Intellectual Statesmen and the Making of Iran's Illiberal Nation-State (1921-1926)," in Ramin Jahanbegloo ed. *Mapping the Role of Intellectuals in Iranian Modern and Contemporary History* (NY: Lexington Books, 2021): 191-216.

Afshin Matin-Asgari's recently published book, *Both Eastern and Western. An Intellectual History of Iranian Modernity* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) has been translated into Persian and will be published in Iran later this year as *Ham sharqi, Ham gharbi: Tarikh-e roshanfekri-e moderniteh-e Irani* (Both Eastern and Western: An Intellectual History of Iranian Modernity), Hasan Fesharaki, trans. (Tehran: Shirazeh Publishers, 2020).

In Memoriam

Professor Arthur Lee Smith died at the age of 93 on February 14, 2020. Smith taught Modern European history, especially that of Germany, from 1957 to 1992. He was also the founding faculty sponsor of the department's Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) chapter. He served in the United States army in Germany during WW II and in the American occupation after the war. His experience in Germany informed his scholarship, which included nine books, the most famous of which was *Churchill's German Army: Wartime Strategy and Cold War Politics, 1943-1947* about Winston Churchill's plan to keep the German army intact for possible use against the Soviet Union after WW II. He was a superb teacher who introduced his students to the excitement of archival research. (Submitted by Stanley Burstein, emeritus professor, Cal State LA).

Lawrence Welch, alumni of the history department passed away on October 2, 2020. John Donovan, a history department faculty member, remembers that Welch was a fixture in the Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) office on the fourth floor of King Hall. Welch spent much of his life teaching history in the San Diego public school system. Another alum, Robert Llizo, who is currently teaching at Houston Baptist University describes Welsh as "a man of great humor, super-friendly, and a perpetual prankster. I got him back a few times. I remember when he drew an orange-haired picture of himself titled "Map of Larry", and stuck it up on the wall in the Phi Alpha Theta office. The picture invited a number of additions, which quite a few, including myself, added on." Our deepest condolences to the Welch Family.

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