



# ***SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER***



## **MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT:**

On May 20, 2023, we held the **History Department Banquet** to celebrate our outstanding students and newly minted graduates. We also welcomed new initiates into the **Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society**. The event was held in the beautiful La Kretz courtyard and we thank **Melody Singleton, Priscilla Segura, Dr. Eileen Ford, and Dr. Birte Pflieger** for their untiring efforts to make this event successful. Dr. Birte Pflieger and her students enrolled in History 4970 launched the **50th issue of Perspectives: A Journal of Historical Inquiry**. The journal features scholarly essays and book reviews written by students in the History Department and is edited and produced by members of the Eta Xi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at California State University, Los Angeles. The current issue is available at

**<https://www.calstatela.edu/centers/perspectives/volume-50>**



# DEPARTMENT NEWS

The History Department has hosted several scholarly events, invited talks, and symposia in the spring semester of 2023.

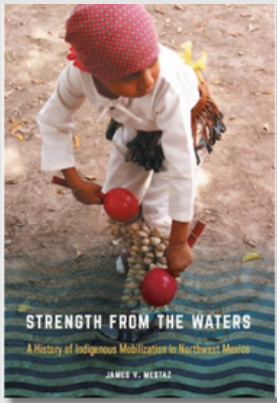


In February of 2023, **Dr. Lamont Yeakey** invited two eminent African American intellectuals to speak at our campus in celebration of Black History Month. **Dr. Carl Grant** (Hoefs-Bascom Professor of Education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison) presented a lecture entitled, "A Footnote in African American History. Don't Fear the M Word. Multiculturalism 1991-2003," on 21st February. **Dr. Gerald Horne** (Mores Professor of History and Chair of African American Studies Department at the University of Houston) presented a lecture entitled, "The American Revolution (1776) and the US Acquisition of Texas 1820-1848," on 27th February." **Dr. Enrique Ochoa** and **Melody Singleton** helped organize the events.

**Dr. Jorge Muñoz** and **Dr. Sara Pugach** gave lectures for Black History Month in HIST 2050, RELS 3500, and HIST 5400.

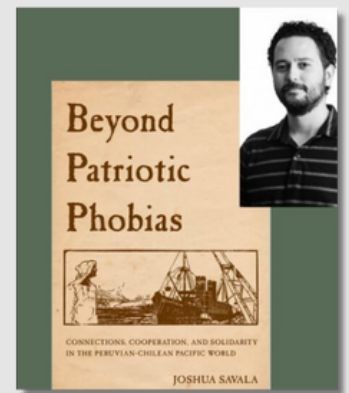


# DEPARTMENT NEWS



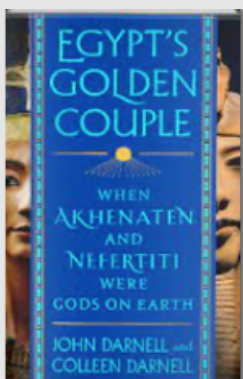
**Dr. Enrique Ochoa** invited **Dr. James Mestaz** (Assistant Professor of History, Sonoma State University) to campus he presented a talk entitled **“Strength from Waters: A History of Indigenous Mobilization in Northwest Mexico,”** on March 21, 2023.

On April 12, 2023, **Dr. Angela Vergara** invited **Dr. Joshua Savala** (Assistant Professor of History, Rollins College, Florida) to campus he presented a talk entitled **“Peru, Chile, and the Pacific. Towards Collaborative and Parallel Histories.”**



**Dr. Afshin Matin-asgari** was the co-organizer of a mini-conference, sponsored by the Department of History, Latin-American Studies, and the College of Ethnic Studies). The conference entitled **“Wars and Social in the Shadow of the US Empire: Africa, Asia, and Latin America”** was held on campus on 25 April 2023. Faculty speakers at the event included Dr. Enrique Ochoa, Dr. Afshin Matin-asgari, Dr. Chris Endy, and Dr. Choi Chatterjee.

**Phi Alpha Theta** and students enrolled in HIST 4970 held an online conference on 27 April 2023 entitled **“Combat, Comradery, and Common Labor.”** Featured speakers included Christina Esquivel, Eduardo Magallanes, and Maricela Varela Ramos.



On April 27, 2023, **Dr. Timothy Doran** invited **Dr. John Coleman Darnell** (Professor of Egyptology, Princeton University) and **Dr. Colleen Darnell** (University of Hartford) to present the **8th Annual California State University Los Angeles Distinguished Visiting Lecture in Ancient History** entitled “Egypt’s Golden Couple.”

# »» Graduate Students ««

**Cole Costello** received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the History Department for the academic year of 2022-2023 for his scholarly achievements.

**Diana Buendia** was accepted to a Ph.D. Program in History at Brown University.

**Esmeralda del Rio** was accepted to a Ph.D. Program in History, UC Riverside; and a Ph.D. Program in History, University of Indiana.

RSCA Student Symposium, Outstanding Presenter CSULA 2023  
PAT-Northern California, Stockton 2023, research advised by **Dr. Camille Suarez** and **Dr. Kittiya Lee**.

**Elisa Holley** was awarded CIEE, Teach in Spain Immersion [4 weeks of Spanish Class (Madrid) program (Fall 2 Semesters - 2023)].

RSCA Student Symposium, Outstanding Presenter CSULA 2023, research advised by **Dr. Kittiya Lee**.

**Dominic Sheehan** was accepted into the Ph.D. Pipeline Program, Berkeley, Department of History, Spring 2023; received an Outstanding Presenter Award at the Cal State LA 2023 RSCA Student Symposium; and gave a guest lecture, HIST 1010, April 24, 2023, to Dr. Kittiya Lee's class on Tupi chivalry in sixteenth-century Brazil; research advised by **Dr. Kittiya Lee** and **Dr. Scott Wells**.

**Katherine Lainez**

CSU State Student Symposium, first place Humanities and Letters, Graduate level.  
CSULA RSCA Student Symposium, first place and state delegate, March 3, 2023.  
Katie is a Latin American Studies major with a History minor, research advised by **Dr. Enrique Ochoa**.

# Undergraduate

**Christopher Muñoz** received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award from the History Department for the academic year of 2022-2023 for his scholarly achievements.

**Karina Gutierrez** is a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow on campus and is developing a research project examining the history of immigrant rights activism in the Inland Empire. She has received a Sally Casanova Fellowship for the CSU Pre-Doctoral Program. Research advised by **Dr. Joy Sales**.

**Hazel Urbina-Carias** has received the Los Angeles County Historical Society scholarship for her essay: "Conspirando en Los Angeles: Central American Political Organizing at MacArthur Park during the 1980s." CSU State Student Symposium, first place in Humanities and Letters, Undergraduate level. March 2023. CSULA RSCA Student Symposium, first place, and state delegate.

## EUGENE FINGERHUT AWARD

Diana Buendia  
Dominic Sheehan  
Nubia Valencia

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## MIKE KIMMEL AWARD

Diana Gavidia  
Robert Coronado  
Daniel Palodichuk

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## DAVID WOESSNER AWARD

Hazel Carias-Urbina  
Karina Gutierrez  
Elisa Holley

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## MONICA TAYLOR AWARD

Cristina Esquivel  
Alicia Arrigo  
Monica Alvarenga

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## HOWARD STARRETT MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Kazzandra Gallegos

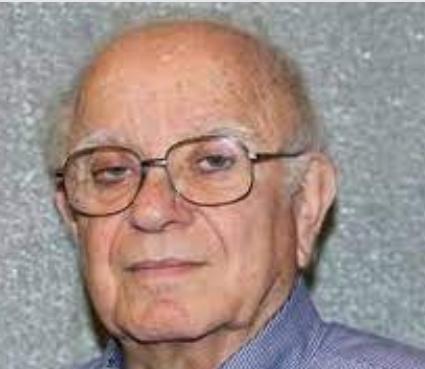
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## DAVID AND MRS. DAVID MILLER SCHOLARSHIP

Alicia Arrigo  
Henry Barerra-Perez  
Haley Castello  
Robert Coronado  
Isabella Sanchez

# FACULTY NEWS:

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**Dr. Stanley Burstein** received a Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Ancient Historians in 2023.

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**Dr. Choi Chatterjee** presented the **Third Hari Vasudevan Memorial Lecture** in February 2023 in Kolkata, India.

<https://harivasudevan.com/memorial/3rd-hsv-memorial-lecture-by-choi-chatterjee>



She was invited to present talks from her latest book, *Russia in World History: A Transnational Approach* (2021), at Berkeley (February), and the University of Toronto (April). She was a keynote speaker at the Columbia University Conference, **“Unsettling the Union: An Interdisciplinary Symposium”** (April). She also presented her research at the annual conferences of the **Association of Asian Studies** (March), and the **British Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies** (April).

Dr. Chatterjee was also invited to present her research on the Russian-Ukrainian war at the conference, **“Trans-Asian Mnemoscapes: Rethinking the Politics of Memory in Asia and Beyond,”** in Seoul, Korea (June.)

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**Dr. Dawn Dennis** co-presented a talk entitled **“Unity Under the Sun: Mural Unveiling in Watts”** at the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations’ initiative LA vs. Hate in partnership with the nonprofit Build Plus Community Marketplace in March. She also gave a talk: “The Power of Story: Restorative Histories in Watts,” on 14 April 2023 at the Autry Museum.

# FACULTY NEWS



**Dr. Chris Endy** gave a talk, **"What Good is the Cal State System's U.S. History Requirement?"** on 10 May 2023 at the Autry Museum.

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**Dr. Eileen Ford** received a sabbatical for 2023-2023 for her research on labor and leisure in Southern California in the early twentieth century.

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**Dr. Enrique Ochoa** received a sabbatical for Fall 2023 for his forthcoming book on food politics in modern Mexico



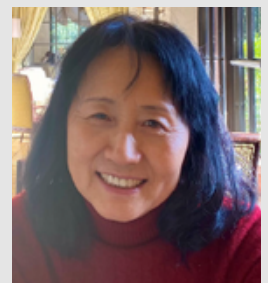
**Dr. Kittiya Lee** has received a sabbatical for 2023-2024 for her research on language policies in Colonia Brazil.

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**Dr. Birte Pflieger** has received **Provost's Faculty Fellow award** for 2023-2024 for her research on German immigrant politics during the Second World War in the United States. She has also received a faculty fellowship for Cal State LA's Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions grant, **Éxito! Building Student Support and Faculty Quality.**



**Dr. Ping Yao** presented a paper entitled **"Approaching Women's History and Gender History: Mainland China, Taiwan, and Beyond"** at the **"Words and Interpretation: Comparative Approaches to Chinese Literature and History"** Conference hosted by Ghent University, Belgium during May 31-June 1. She presented a paper entitled **"Marriage with a Dead Wife's Sister: Cases of Zi Wang Mei Xu from Middle Period China"** at the Third International Conference on Middle Period China, hosted by Yale University during June 22-25.



# ALUMNI NEWS:

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Don't miss out on the latest updates and highlights from the History Department. Visit our website for more information.



**Jewelyn Mims** (M.A., History, 2022) has secured a place in the Graduate Intern Program run by the Getty Foundation. She will be starting her internship in the Fall of 2023.



**Sasha Prakir** (B.A. Politics Science and History Minor 2022) has been accepted into the Law Program at Georgetown University.

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# FACULTY PEDAGOGY:

**Dr. Jorge Muñoz** (Lecturer, History Department, Cal State LA) has written this very thoughtful reflection piece on his teaching practices.

## **A Higher Standard: Compassion and Higher Expectations**

One of the things I have heard from my students lately is that I give a lot of work, and that for 2000 and 3000 level courses, I demand too much. To me, it means that I am doing something right. College is meant to be difficult, rewarding, and fun. I make sure to present my courses where my students are challenged, rewarded, and have fun learning in the process. I explain to my students that it does not matter to me whether they are here at **Cal State LA**, or at a higher tier school; my expectation is the same as if I was teaching my own child. We must as instructors hold our students to a higher standard. We must be strict, but also compassionate, have higher expectations, while at the same understanding their specific needs. I expect much from my students, but I also expect them to demand much from myself as well. Teaching is a community dialogue between students and instructor. We, as instructors, must demand the very most from them, and provide them with the very best of ourselves.

Students must realize that they are not getting a participation trophy merely because they attend class, but rather they must earn their grade. The first step, as I tell my daughter who is about to embark in her own college journey, is to attend class (and meet the instructor during office hours). Second, do the work. Just by doing those two things, you have already won two thirds of the battle. Doing the work means doing the reading, going over the notes, and turning in your work on time. The last third is of course studying for tests. If we teach students to hold themselves accountable to a higher standard, and if we as instructors have compassion, listen to them, and have high expectations in terms of their work and their learning ability, they will surprise us. As instructors, we wish, and we hope, that all our students would listen to us, and follow our advice, but there are always those who exceed our expectations. They are the ones that make it all worthwhile. I teach them all the same as if they are that one student who shines brightly. We never know which student will blossom because we took the time to demand more from him or her, but when the opportunity presents itself, we must be ready to help. We need to constantly ask ourselves: am I holding myself and my students to a higher standard? The answer, to me at least, should always be yes.