



CENTER FOR
ORAL AND
PUBLIC HISTORY

CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

WINTER 2023



BIENNIAL REPORT | 2022-2023



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Center for Oral and
Public History

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From the Director

DR. NATALIE FOUSEKIS



As 2023 ends, I find myself most grateful that for the past two years the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History has been filled with people. When we opened our doors in spring 2021 this wasn't the case. Since spring 2022, students, faculty, and community members have attended workshops, symposiums, classes, and receptions. Our Bette and Wylie Aitken Community room has hosted workshops as part of the Digital Ethnic Futures program at CSUF, hosted the CSU-wide Digital Humanities consortium; students in Dr. Cawthra's African American History course and Dr. Moore-Pewu's Digital History course digested and worked with the African American oral histories from our archive; students from Dr. Marlen-Rios Hernandez' Chicana Feminism course learned about our collections and how to deposit their interviews for archival preservation, and in Dr. Brown-Coronel's Practicum in Public History course students put together an exhibition on the environmental and social histories of the area around Pio Pico State Park; History and HSS faculty have gathered for meetings and retreats; the Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Board hosted two of its meetings at the de Graaf Center as did the Pacific Chorale Board. Former CSUF President Fram Virjee often dropped by with campus visitors such as Congresswoman Young Kim, Congresswoman Katie Porter, and Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis. Out of all of this, I took the greatest pleasure watching students study, debate, cooperate, and even laugh together in the Kay Sanford Van Harte Collaborative Work Room.

We have also continued making progress on our major oral history projects and have finally caught

up from the delays of the pandemic. Staff interviewers, my students, and I have continued adding oral histories to the California State Politics Oral History Project, CSU Women Presidents Oral History Project, and the Santa Barbara Women, Politics, and Activism Project. For Women's History Month, I moderated a discussion on Zoom with two former legislators I interviewed for the State Politics project – the Honorable Delaine Eastin and the Honorable Rebecca (Becky) Morgan. California Secretary of State Shirley Weber introduced the panel and talked about the project's efforts to record diverse stories of those who have shaped policy and political life in the state. This past fall we launched an Indian Wells Oral History Project in partnership with the Indian Wells Preservation Foundation to record interviews with some of the city's founders and earliest residents. Master's students and students in my oral history course have continued to record stories of pandemic and protest for our COVID-19/Black Lives Matter Oral History Project. Our students and former students have presented at the Oral History Association conference (see cover photo), assisted with exhibitions installed at the Orange County Great Park, and been interviewed by Dr. Cawthra for our *Outspoken* podcast.

In the following pages you will get to hear about the exciting projects our staff, my colleagues, and our students have been involved with over the past two years. Katie Horstman-Arellano has been interviewing members of the California State Student Association executive team. Ben Cawthra and his students helped process and make more accessible one of our oldest oral history collections, the African American History collection. Margie Brown-Coronel launched

Cover images, clockwise from top left:

Dr. Fousekis with CSUF history students Destini Lenard, Kenneth de Seriere, and Benjamin Aiga at the 2022 Oral History Association conference; Japanese American archival collections on display at COPH, 2022; Vicki Ruiz meets with students in COPH before giving our annual Hansen Lecture, 2023; Dr. Benjamin Cawthra recording an episode of COPH's podcast, "Outspoken" with CSUF history students: Natalie Vandercook, Angelica Smith, Kayla Ratliff, in 2023.

a partnership with the California State Parks to assist them with Pio Pico State Park, providing our students the opportunity to research and help draft an updated interpretive plan and education materials. Carl Privette shares his reflections on reprocessing another of our large, older collections – the Richard Nixon collection. Abby Waldrop reports on the return of the Celebrating Orange County’s Political Legacy dinner after its pandemic hiatus. Two de Graaf Center interns and our graduate assistant reflect on the valuable skills they learned while working with our archival collections.

Finally, I want to thank our donors and supporters whose financial contributions helped make the new de Graaf Center a reality, stepped up to endow the Hansen Lectureship and Fellowship in Oral and Public History, and provided general funds for our programs and students. I am particularly grateful for the support of Dean Sheryl Fontaine, who is stepping down from her role as Dean in January 2024. Sheryl played a key role in making the new Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History a reality. She encouraged my fundraising efforts, helped secure a loan so we could begin construction, and sat in on every planning, construction, and design meeting from 2018-2021. Her leadership in the college will be missed, but she should always consider COPH her home on campus. COPH was also sad to lose an early supporter and champion this past October, Paul Folino. As someone passionate about history, he understood our mission and eagerly connected us with Orange County philanthropists who cared about preserving and recording the region’s history. These connections resulted in a couple major gifts that helped the new de Graaf Center space become a reality. We were so fortunate to have a friend like Paul.



Dr. Lawrence de Graaf, Dr. Natalie Fousekis, President Fram Virjee, Dr. Art Hansen, and Dean Sheryl Fontaine cut the ribbon to our new space in December, 2021.

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CSSA Oral History Project: Recording the Journeys of CSU's Student Advocates

BY KATIE HORSTMAN-ARELLANO | PROGRAM ASSOCIATE



2021-22 CSSA executive officers at the California Higher Education Student Summit on March 5, 2023, in Sacramento. From left to right: Krishan Malhotra, Dixie Samaniego, Trent Murphy, Varenya Gupta, and Jonathan Molina Mancio.

For the past two years I had the pleasure of conducting oral history interviews with the California State Student Association (CSSA) executive team. Representing nearly half a million students from the largest university system in the United States, CSSA officers serve as the primary liaisons between CSU students, administrators, and California state legislators. The CSSA Oral History Project documents the personal journeys of nine CSSA officers, the unprecedented challenges they faced throughout their college careers, and their invaluable advocacy efforts on behalf of CSU students.

Through the course of ten oral history interviews, I learned that this group represented a wide range of academic pursuits—from political science and engineering majors to students working towards their MBA. Elected to lead CSSA during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years, the officers included undergraduate and graduate students, an international student, and several first-generation college students.

As I asked officers about their journey to the CSSA executive board, I listened to stories that reflected the unprecedented challenges faced by CSU students over the past two years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CSSA officers guided their organization through the transition to in-person events—all while navigating their own return from virtual learning on their home campuses. In addition, as the twenty-three CSU campuses underwent a systemwide Title IX investigation, CSSA executive officers traveled across the state to meet with students and ensure their voices were heard throughout the assessment process. Moreover, CSSA officers Krishan Malhotra and Dixie Samaniego each sat on one of the two chancellor search committees, providing a crucial voice that reflected the qualities that CSU students—the university system's largest stakeholder group—desired in the next chancellor.

Nearly all of the CSSA officers emphasized the importance of student feedback in their approach to higher-education advocacy. Each year CSSA officers travel across the state to visit CSU students and

“The impact that we’re having on the student that never goes to ASI to get involved, that doesn’t even join an organization, join a club, or anything like that, a commuter student, a first-generation student, an underserved minority . . . because we’re representative of those populations on our own board and our executive officer team, that is the [most] rewarding part—the work that we’re doing that people are never going to know, that this organization exists to do.”

– Krishan Malhotra, CSSA Vice President of Legislative Affairs (2021-22) and President (2022-23), interviewed on May 25, 2022, and May 17, 2023.

listen to their concerns. “I think number one is affordability, first and foremost,” said Trent Murphy. He and other officers noted that meeting students’ basic needs was also a primary concern among CSU students—from affordable housing to access to food, menstrual products, and reliable technology.

Both CSSA presidents noted the importance of building connections with the CSU Board of Trustees and university administrators to strengthen the bargaining power of CSU students. “I made promises to our students,” explained President Isaac Alferos (2021-22), “I want to be a partner in decision making, and I want to establish the voice of students as a partner in the CSU which is seen as an equal value.” Similarly, Krishan Malhotra (2022-23) explained, “When you step into the president role, it becomes very political. And politics is very relational, and you need to know people and have good relationships with people, and I think we’ve done that this year.”

CSSA Vice Presidents of Legislative Affairs Fabiola Moreno Ruelas (2021-22) and Trent Murphy (2022-23) had success lobbying on behalf of CSU students in the State Legislature. In 2022-23 they supported bills that removed the ACT/SAT admission requirement, implemented the CSUCCESS program to close the technology equity gap for CSU students, and made it easier for community college students to transfer to CSUs. In 2022-23 CSSA sponsored bills that will make it easier for students to qualify for Cal Grant awards, protect students from predatory creditor colleges, and make it easier to build housing near university campuses. Through these and other legislative efforts, CSSA continues to play a significant role in the development of higher education policy in California.

Throughout this project, I was surprised by how honest and open the students were with sharing their personal insights and experiences. During the interviews, the CSSA officers laughed, cried, and vented their frustrations as they shared their experiences with student advocacy. One recurring theme was the hectic balance

between academic commitments, CSSA leadership, and life outside of school. Some of their most memorable moments included leading the CSSA monthly plenaries, attending the CHESS (California Higher Education Student Summit) conference, and collaborating with legislators on impactful bills. Students also shared valuable lessons they learned during their time with CSSA—insights that will guide them in their future careers and shape their continued activist endeavors.

It has been such an honor to capture these stories and add the CSSA interviews to COPH’s archive. They are a testament to the dedication, resilience, and impact of CSU student advocates. Moreover, these interviews add to the collective memory of student advocacy during a significant moment in the history of the California State University System. To listen to the CSSA interviews or learn more about other ongoing COPH projects, visit our website (www.coph.fullerton.edu) or contact our archivist, Natalie Garcia, at ngarcia@fullerton.edu.



CSSA Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Trent Murphy, testifies on behalf of CSU students to the CA State Assembly, on May 2, 2023, in Sacramento.

Students Access African American Life Through Historic Interviews

BY DR. BENJAMIN CAWTHRA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HISTORY



“The whole work of the NAACP has not been to build something of our own, but to challenge the American conscience and urge that we be given the opportunity, not to have a separate baseball league owned by Negroes but be given an opportunity to play in whatever league. And if that’s true with sports, it must be true with business and finance and religion.”

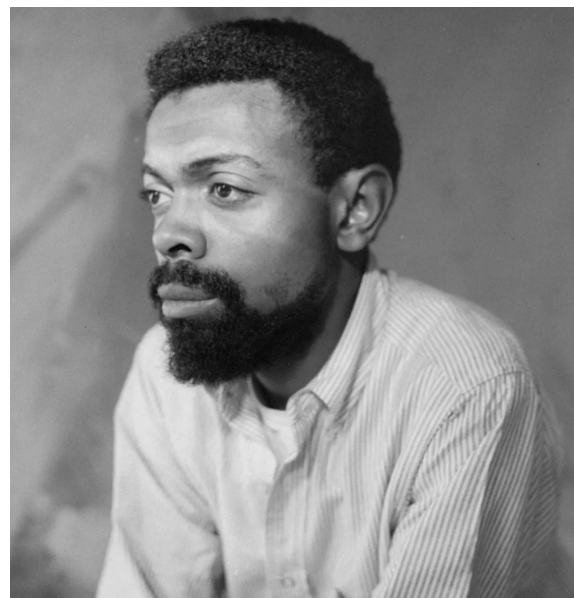
—H. Claude Hudson, president of Broadway Savings and Loan, interviewed on November 29, 1966

In the aftermath of the George Floyd murder and the consciousness raising of the Black Lives Matter movement, Cal State Fullerton history students had the chance to study post-Civil War Black history with Dr. Benjamin Cawthra in Spring 2022. As they read the writings of Frances Harper, W.E.B. Du Bois, Malcolm X, and James Baldwin and the work of historians investigating major themes such as Jim Crow segregation, the Great Migration, and the postwar Freedom Movement, students also got a chance to work with oral histories housed in the De Graaf Center for Oral and Public History archive.

Primary source materials such as these are precious building blocks for studying African American history as so many stories of those on the margins of US society are not found in written documents. With access to education and literacy outlawed for most Black Americans before Emancipation, reconstructing Black history has always been a challenge—reading white sources through a Black lens and filling in gaps with oral histories are ways historians have compensated.

The Titan history students learned that the Center’s African American collection has the deepest roots in the entire archive. The Center’s namesake, Professor Lawrence de Graaf, began collecting oral histories of Black citizens of Los Angeles in the mid-1960s,

and this work became the genesis for first the Oral History Program and later the Center for Oral and Public History. De Graaf interviewed businesspeople, community leaders, migrants from the South, and many more, hauling a heavy period magnetic tape recorder around to learn the stories of Black Southern Californians. The collection continued to grow, including interviews with nationally prominent African Americans, such as writer Amiri Baraka, and later a major project on African Americans in Orange County.



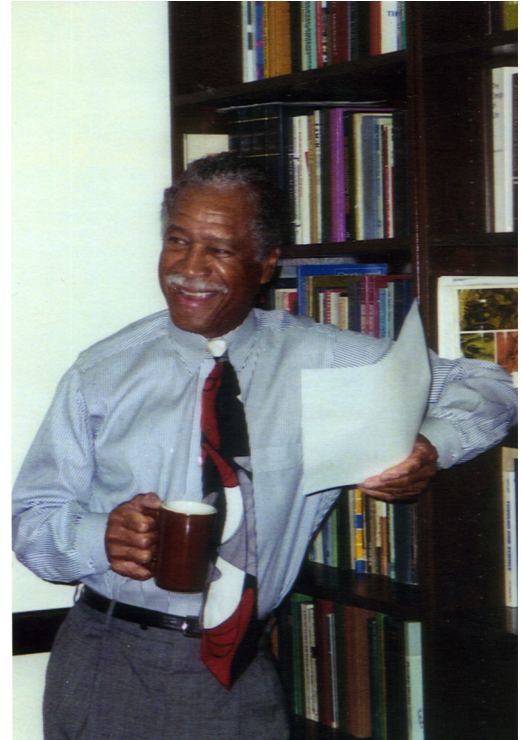
Amiri Baraka (previously known as LeRoi Jones) was an activist, poet, playwright, and father of the Black Arts Movement. His 1976 interview is included in COPH’s African American History project.

As with any pioneering endeavor, standards for transcription and archiving evolved as time went on, so over the years gaps in the presentation and availability of the oral histories presented an ongoing problem waiting for an enthusiastic group of students and their class project. This involved painstakingly correcting transcripts based on new digital audio files and creating new abstracts so that the subject matter contained in the interviews will be more easily accessed. Although tedious at times, there were plenty of memorable moments. One interview “mentioned Dr. De Graaf which made my eyes pop!” said one student. “Wow, I really have a course in a building that is named after an individual who cared about voices that were not heard.” Another embraced the task as an important part of the historical process. “These interviews that we all had to transcribe were essential pieces to the puzzle that our predecessors were building. The fact that they were old and outdated only fueled us to truly put these historical interviews in their rightful place.” Another called the project “an amazing experience. From reading the interview and hearing the voices of figures that are instrumental to our understanding of American history, I felt a sense of not only pride but purpose in the project itself.”

“Los Angeles at that time, and even up to the time that I became the first Negro councilman, was not psychologically ready to accept a Negro in a policy making legislative branch of government, where we make the laws and where we have equal power and equal authority with the other group. They were just not psychologically and educationally ready.”

—Gilbert Lindsay, first African American elected to the Los Angeles City Council, interviewed on November 13, 1967

The attraction for students was that they were making a tangible contribution that will assist future students and scholars. “I felt I was doing a service to Black scholarship by transcribing the interview,” one said. Another thought “exposure to oral narratives and transcriptions is an essential experience for those learning to be historians” and “provides a deeper connection to the people who lived through the era the historian is striving to uncover.”

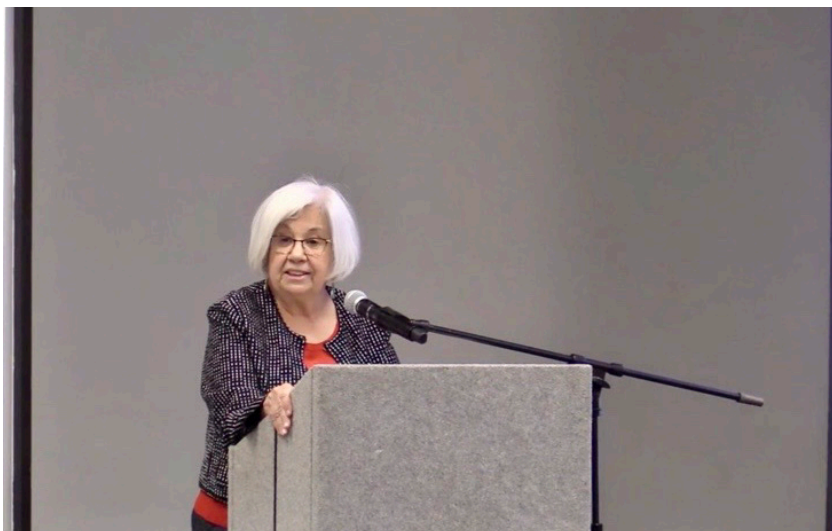


Everett Winters, former Affirmative Action Coordinator for CSUF and member of the Orange County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Winters was interviewed on November 12, 1974 and commented on forms of racial discrimination in housing, employment, and educational opportunities in Southern California.

Archivist Natalie Garcia, who worked closely with the students to make sure the Center’s standards were met, is grateful for their work. “For many years we simply didn’t have the resources to polish these interviews to the degree that we could make them fully accessible to the public,” she said. “The fact that so many of them take us all the way back to the very beginning of the Center is profound. I’m so grateful to the students for their excellent work—they really took pride in it.”

Annual Hansen Lecture Returns with Endowment for the Future

BY DR. NATALIE FOUSEKIS | DIRECTOR



Chicano/Latino Studies scholar Vicki Ruiz, was COPH's 2023 Hansen lecturer

On April 17, 2023, students, faculty, and community members gathered in the Titan Student Union to listen to Vicki Ruiz, Distinguished Professor Emerita of History and Chicano/Latino Studies at the University of California Irvine, deliver this year's Hansen Lecture in Oral and Public History, "An Elegant Radical: Luisa Moreno and Her Quest for Social Justice." Established in 2008 to honor Professor Arthur Hansen, the longest-serving director of the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH), the Hansen Lectureship attracts nationally prominent speakers whose work engages or illustrates the value of oral and public history. The Hansen funds also provide an annual fellowship to support a History master's student pursuing an oral and/or public history project.

All Hansen lecture attendees were thrilled to be gathering for the first time since the pandemic and to have such a trailblazer in U.S. Latina History reflect on her four decades of writing and thinking about Luisa Moreno's life and activism. As only the fourth

Mexican American woman to receive a doctorate in history and as the author of numerous books and dozens of articles as well as mentoring multiple generations of graduate students and young scholars, Ruiz has reshaped the fields of U.S. Women's History, U.S. Labor History, U.S. Western History, and Oral History. Before talking about Moreno's extraordinary life, Ruiz acknowledged the impact of Hansen's work on our understanding of the Japanese American experience and helping to preserve a diverse history of Orange County. Ruiz captivated audience members with her descriptions of Moreno's life and transnational activism as well as her audacity and tenacity as she stood up for herself and workers from the garment industry in New York to cigar factories in Florida to the canneries in Los Angeles.

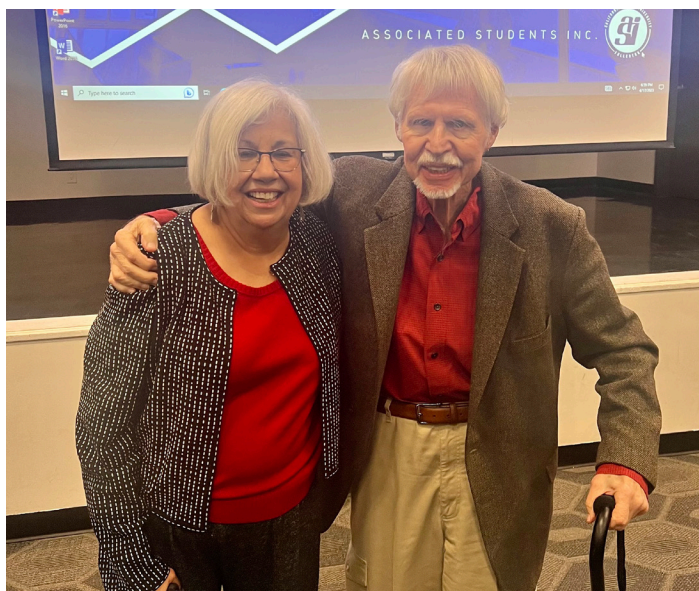
Before her talk Ruiz also met informally with about 45 CSUF undergraduate and graduate students from History, Chicana and Chicano Studies, and Political Science at the de Graaf Center to share with them her journey toward becoming an historian and to answer their questions about her research, career path, and

oral/public history work. Ruiz asked students questions about their own academic interests and passions as well as offering advice and inspiration.

We are also excited to announce that because of the generosity of COPH donors and Scott-Jewett matching funds, we have endowed the Hansen Lectureship and Fellowship for future generations. In June 2021 Cal State Fullerton was awarded an unrestricted \$40 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott and her then husband, Dan Jewett. The university set aside \$11 million of the gift to offer a 50% match toward funds raised for endowments during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Inspired by this matching opportunity, COPH raised \$53,000 from individual donors, which was matched by Scott-Jewett funds. The Hansen endowment will allow us to continue awarding fellowships to graduate students and attracting nationally recognized practitioners in oral and public history for our yearly lectureship for many years to come.



Students gather in the Titan Theatre to hear Ruiz's lecture, "An Elegant Radical: Luisa Moreno and Her Quest for Social Justice."



Vicki Ruiz with Art Hansen, former director of COPH and the namesake of the Hansen Lecture series.

PREVIOUS SPEAKERS

2008 **INAUGURAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY PANELS**

- 2010 **ROBERT SUTTON**
National Park Service
- 2011 **DR. STEPHEN SMITH**
USC Shoah Foundation
- 2012 **TOM HAYDEN**
Activist
- 2013 **ALESSANDRO PORTELLI**
Oral Historian, Scholar
- 2014 **KATHY SLOANE**
Oral Historian, Photographer
- 2016 **SAUL GONZALEZ**
Producer, Public Radio Reporter
- 2017 **KEIR PEARSON**
Screenwriter, Producer
- 2017 **SAM STEPHENSON**
Author, Documentarian
- 2019 **COPH 50TH ANNIVERSARY PANELS**
- 2019 **GREG WILLIAMS**
Director of Archives, CSUDH
- 2023 **DR. VICKI RUIZ**
Professor Emerita, UCI

Oral Herstory Project: La Chicana

BY NATALIE GARCIA | ARCHIVIST | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2015



“We lived in Tustin for a while, and Tustin at that time was predominantly white, so everybody spoke English. And it would be recess and we would talk to each other in Spanish because that’s what we spoke at home, and we would get in trouble for it because we were speaking a language that they did not understand, and how dare we speak a language that nobody else in school understood but us.”

–Diana Medrano, interviewed on April 12, 2022

Before the spring semester of 2022, Dr. Marlén Ríos-Hernández visited COPH with another faculty member. I gave them a tour and discussed our projects with them. This conversation sparked a relationship and collaboration that I am honored to be part of. Once the semester began, I met with Dr. Ríos-Hernández’s two “La Chicana” courses and started working with her students. I first gave them a presentation about the center and then gave them a tour of our space. As the semester continued, we also met and I trained the students on how to sign legal paperwork, create abstracts, and overall how to ensure that their oral histories will be preserved at COPH.

Currently, we have archived over ninety oral history interviews. Many interviews are in Spanish, as well as English. According to Dr. Marlén Ríos-Hernández, she started this project to “understand the current status of the Chicana population related to education and politics; to become familiar with the role of the Chicana and Chicano in the Chicano, civil rights, feminist, and women’s movements; to appreciate the contributions Chicanas have made in historical, identity, literature, queer, border studies, and cultural scholarship; to understand the ways in which activism and resistance have been appropriated

by Chicanas; and to develop critical thinking and writing skills related to Chicana Scholarship grounded in social justice praxis”.



Dr. Marlén Ríos-Hernández, Assistant Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies at CSUF.

“We got the ticket for the plane, and we came to TJ, and the first time I remember I saw the freeway I was like, ‘wow that’s a huge street for cars’ (laughs), well, a highway, you know? I think it was the 5 Freeway, but every time I pass by the 5 Freeway and I’m crossing Carlsbad or something, I always think about the time I passed.”

–Jenni Verdi, interviewed on April 21, 2022

All interviewers for this project are CSUF students—mostly first generation, Latinx or Chicax identifying and often had no experience with formal interviewing practices. However, the project lent itself to honor the already existing storytelling skills of communities of color between the students and their chosen narrator. I found that the students enjoyed conducting their interviews once they were done and, in the process, learned more about their interests and their own family histories.

“The best advice is go to school, go to school and get an education because that’s the only way you’re going to be able to provide for your children. If you don’t have an education you don’t have a lot of choices, as far as work is concerned. You have to take the worse jobs, the less pay. But the minute you get that education you have choices.”

–Irma Franco, interviewed on April 18, 2022

The students and Dr. Rios-Hernández inspired me to share this project at the Oral History Association’s annual meeting, which was located in Baltimore, Maryland this year. I played multiple clips from this project, showcasing the diverse group of Latinas that CSUF students interviewed over the past couple of years for the La Chicana Oral Herstory Project. The room of fellow oral historians enjoyed the clips and loved how personal the oral histories were, due to the rich relationships the students had with their narrators

(since many were family members). It was a wonderful space to share such important stories. I’ll also be sharing these clips on an upcoming episode of our podcast, *Outspoken*, where Dr. Rios-Hernández and I talk with Dr. Cawthra about our collaboration. I feel privileged to have worked with such skillful students as well as with Dr. Rios-Hernández.

You can listen to this episode of *Outspoken* (and all our previous episodes!) on Soundcloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/coph-csuf>



COPH Archivist, Natalie Garcia, shares clips from the La Chicana Oral Herstory Project at Oral History Association’s annual meeting.

Orange County Politics Event Returns

BY ABBY WALDROP | PROJECT ASSOCIATE | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2013



CSUF President, Fram Virjee; 2022 honorees: Chris Cox, Loretta Sanchez, and Jean Pasco; Emcee, Dick Ackerman (2018 honoree); and CPH Director, Dr. Natalie Fousekis

After its 2021 cancellation due to Covid, the Center was eager and ready to resume its annual OC Politics fundraising event held at Fullerton's Summit House.

The 2022 highly anticipated return recognized Congressman Chris Cox, journalist Jean Pasco, and Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez for their unique and robust contributions to Orange County and the nation. Chris Cox served California's 47th/48th Congressional District, focusing on numerous bipartisan issues, including human rights, securities and litigation reform, and homeland security; and later culminated his career as chairman of the SEC. Jean Pasco spent a decades-long career covering local politics for the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register, and later transitioned to work at the County of Orange and its archives. Loretta Sanchez served California's 46th/47th Congressional District for twenty years—defeating longstanding incum-

bent Bob Dornan—where she specialized in issues related to education, women in the military, national security, and non-nuclear proliferation. Keeping with tradition, the event was hosted by steadfast emcee (and former honoree) Dick Ackerman, who along with new and previous attendees, seemed contented to return to pre-pandemic festivities.

"I always tried to approach reporting to get as much of a sense of everybody's stakes in things that I could. I take that away as the most gratifying thing that I tried to do, and I think I did so successfully as a reporter."

– Jean Pasco, interviewed on January 11, 2022.

“I feel very proud that we won the district, and the people began to believe if they showed up to vote and understood what they were voting for that they could change their own destiny, and they did that.”

– Loretta Sanchez, interviewed on March 14, 2022.

Continuing the celebratory momentum into 2023, COPH recognized Mayor Miguel Pulido, Congresswoman Mimi Walters, and Congressman Ed Royce. Miguel Pulido served as Santa Ana’s mayor from 1994-2020 and oversaw vast changes and improvements to the City, including reduction in crime, creation of new businesses and cultural centers, and retention of Santa Ana as the official county seat. Mimi Walters served the Laguna Niguel City Council, California State Assembly, California State Senate, and finally, the U.S. Congress, where she worked closely with Speakers John Boehner and Paul Ryan as House liaison and championed the Survivor’s Bill of Rights (signed into law by President Obama). Ed Royce served California’s State Senate and transitioned to Congress where he served on (and later chaired) the House Foreign Affairs Committee for twenty-five years, tackling a plethora of issues including victim’s rights, women’s empowerment, and environmental and wildlife conservation in Africa. Royce’s recognition coincides with the accession and processing completion of his congressional papers, the Edward R. Royce Collection, which is now available for reference from the COPH archive.



COPH Director Dr. Natalie Fousekis with 2023 honorees: Miguel Pulido, Mimi Walters, and Ed Royce; Emcee, Dick Ackerman; CSUF President, Fram Virjee

...if you know what you think is right, figure out how to find other people that can agree with you, maybe on how to get there, and figure out how you can compromise in a complicated system that was based on compromise, in order to move towards a solution.”

– Ed Royce, interviewed on September 13, 2022.



Honorees, Miguel Pulido and Ed Royce, mingle before the event starts.

Past and current highlight videos for those recognized may be viewed at vimeo.com/COPH

For inquiries on the Ed Royce Collection, please email coph@fullerton.edu



Guests gather at the Summit House to recognize the contributions of Orange County politicians, during COPH’s annual Orange County Politics dinner.

COPH Benefactors | 2022-2023

LEGACY
(\$50,000 AND ABOVE)
Bette and Wylie A. Aitken

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INVESTOR
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Indian Wells Preservation Foundation

LEADERSHIP BENEFACTOR
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Drs. Art and Debra Hansen
Richard E. Hartman
Horowitz Management, Inc.
Dr. Natalie M. Fousekis
MIMI PAC / Mimi Walters

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Emile K. Haddad
Kyle House Group, LLC
James V. Mazzo
Picoco, LLC
William F. Podlich, III
David and Molly Pyott Foundation

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Beall Family Foundation
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Exciting New Partnership between CSUF and California State Parks

BY DR. MARGIE BROWN-CORONEL | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Designer Gail Griswold (far left) and students from Dr. Brown-Coronel's Practicum in Public History course installing the exhibit panels created in spring 2023 semester.

In spring 2023, students enrolled in the Practicum in Public History course installed a pop-up exhibit at the De Graaf Center for Oral and Public History. Titled *Legacy, Land, and Community*, the exhibit focused on the environmental and social histories of the area surrounding Pio Pico State Historic Park. This exhibit was just one effort of an ongoing partnership between the CSUF Public History Program and California State Parks (CSP). Beginning in fall 2022, Dr. Margie Brown-Coronel partnered with CSP through the Relevancy and History Program (R & H). The R & H program at CSP aims to (re)envision and integrate more inclusive, diverse interpretative planning and uplift historically marginalized voices and histories at State Parks. By

partnering with public history programs at regional universities, R & H also provides exciting opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience conducting historical research for cultural interpretation, understanding community engagement, and designing public and educational programming. CSUF is part of a group of UCs and CSUs that partner with the CSP's R & H program, such as UC Riverside with Citrus State Park, UC Santa Barbara with El Presidio Historic State Park, and San Diego State University with Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. We are thrilled to now have this program at CSUF to offer our students some great opportunities to work in the field.



Pio Pico State Historic Park entrance (left), leading to the site of Pico's adobe ranch house and surrounding 9,000-acre property.

Students jumped right into researching the histories of the land and communities of Pio Pico State Park. In the fall 2022 Introduction to Public History course, students began exploring the fundamental practices of cultural interpretation with a focus on California State Parks. We learned and practiced drafting mission statements, goals, and objectives for cultural institutions like Pio Pico State Park. Students also applied the steps to building an interpretive plan as their final course assignment. Using a combination of historical research and literature on the best practices in cultural interpretation, the class created an interpretive plan focused on key themes such as community and labor, environmental change and the physical landscape, and family and traditions—to name a few. Students in the Spring 2023 Practicum executed this interpretive plan to developing and designing a pop-up exhibit. They researched and curated artifacts and documents and wrote powerful and informative text labels. With funds from the grant, the course partnered with designer Gail Griswold to create vibrant and engaging panels. Students were so proud to have their work featured in such a professional way.

Pio Pico State Historic Park became a state park in 1958. Bordered by the San Gabriel River to the west and the 605 Freeway to the east, the state historic park was preserved for its cultural significance as the home of Pio Pico, California's last Mexican governor. Pico resided on his land, affectionately calling his 15-room adobe and 9000-acre property his "El Ranchito." After the US-Mexico War, financial debt and land dispossession fell upon Pio Pico. Neighbors and friends organized to preserve his home in the 1890s. Efforts over the years, led by Harriet Strong, preserved the home until it

was acquired by California State Parks. Currently the park's interpretive program focuses on Pico's life and times. CSUF Public History students built upon this history by considering broader themes. Undergraduate student Joshua Gutierrez researched a community called Jimtown, a diverse and vibrant community that was home to many workers of El Ranchito. Another team focused on the relatively unknown issue of vigilantism in the region that Pico fought against. And finally, another team framed the home's history in the context of changes in the built and natural environment.

CSUF Public History program students will continue partnering with CSP in the spring 2024 Graduate Seminar. In this course, students will explore new interpretive themes and content, develop programming that will engage the neighboring communities, and design a new tour for the home and grounds. Since the park's main visitors are elementary school groups from Whittier and Pico Rivera, we've been asked to create a curriculum of pre and post activities, as well as potential revisions to the current field trip program. The CSUF partnership with CSP's R & H is just one exciting development in our program.

Pio Pico State Park is located at 6003 Pioneer Boulevard, Whittier, California. The park is open Thursday through Sunday 9 am – 3:30 pm. Check back in spring for an update!

Reprocessing Richard Nixon

BY CARL PRIVETTE | ARCHIVAL ASSOCIATE | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2020



With more than 200 interviews, the Richard M. Nixon Oral History Project is one of the largest projects at the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). The project began during the 1968 Presidential Campaign, under the direction of Dr. Harry P. Jeffrey, with the majority of the interviews conducted during the 1970-71 academic year. While funding for the project ended in 1972, a few additional interviews were conducted during the 1990s and early 2000s.

The interviews consist of family members and friends who knew Richard Nixon and First Lady Patricia Nixon before the former president entered politics in 1946, when he became a freshman member of the House of Representatives. Narrators primarily spoke about Nixon's years growing up in Yorba Linda and Whittier, California; his family; his Quaker background; his academic years at Fullerton High School, Whittier High School, and Whittier College; his passion and skill as a debater and speaker; playing on the high school and college football teams; participating in school glee clubs and community theater; practicing law in Whittier before he joined the Navy during World War II; how Richard Nixon entered politics; and Patricia "Thelma" Ryan. Interviews conducted during the 1990s and early 2000s focused more on Nixon's time in politics.

The Richard M. Nixon Oral History Project has not received much archive preservation attention since about 2004, when the center created the finding aid for the oral histories. Back in the 1970s, COPH staff members transcribed all of the interviews to date onto older paper mediums using typewriters. Those final transcripts included a copyright heading and cover page with the university and center's old names:

California State College, Fullerton, Oral History Program. Those transcripts were eventually digitized into COPH's database. After the center conducted additional interviews in the 1990s and early 2000s, the staff transcribed those interviews and included a different copyright heading and cover page with the university's and COPH's current institutional names. The Nixon Project, then, had two sets of digitized, transcribed material with two different copyright headings and cover pages.



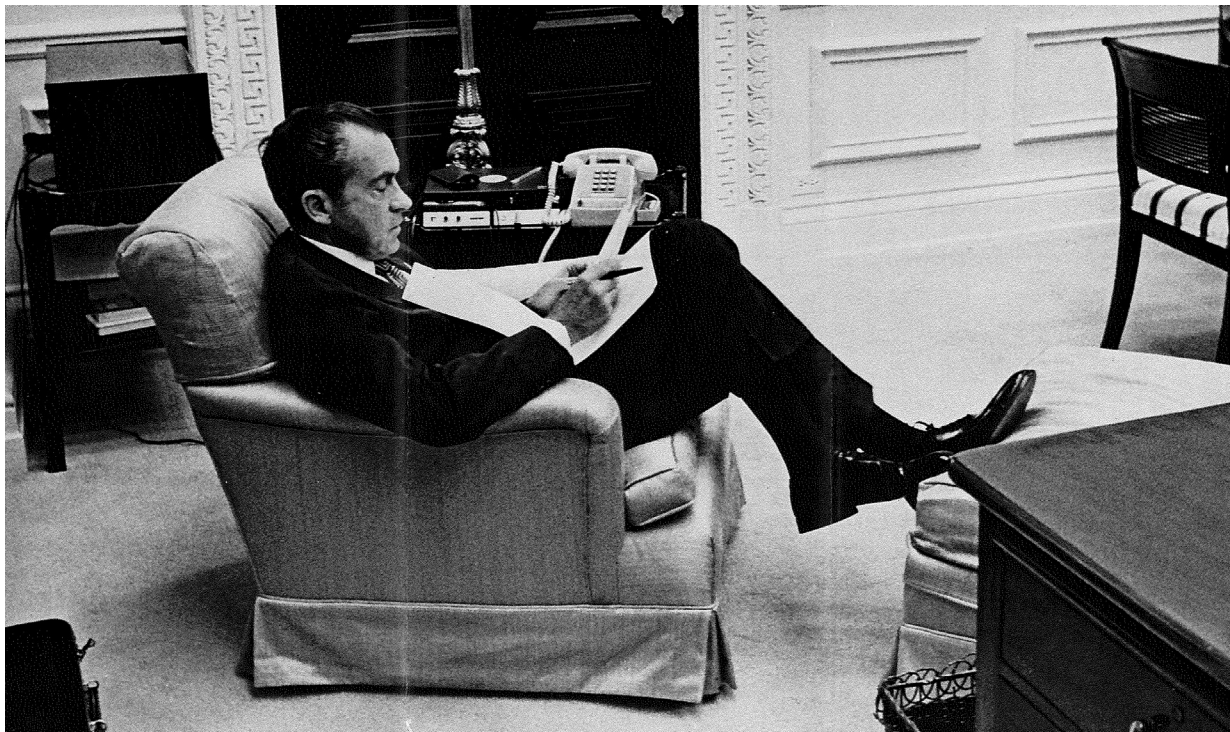
"The Young Nixon" *Life Magazine*, November 6, 1970.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, I have worked on re-processing the entirety of the Richard M. Nixon Oral History Project. Some of the interviews needed to be transcribed verbatim for the first time; other transcripts needed to be finalized. The biggest endeavor was re-transcribing practically the entirety of the Nixon Project into Microsoft Word documents, using COPH's current copyright heading and cover page template. This included fixing any spelling mistakes, punctuation errors, and other minor technical issues discovered while re-transcribing each oral history—which were more than I anticipated. I conducted a second pass of each oral history I re-transcribed and fixed any other lingering errors. With the exception of the restricted interviews, each oral history in the Nixon Project is now updated to reflect COPH's current transcription format, copyright statement, and cover page.

Additional re-processing work included updating both the 1992 finding aid created for the project's twelve boxes of collection mate-

rials and the 2004 finding aid created for the oral history interviews. Changes were made to both documents to update formatting and institutional names. Finally, we replaced the non-archival blue folders that housed the transcripts with acid-free folders. These folders will ensure the longevity of the original transcripts at COPH and help prevent deterioration and decay.

The next steps in re-processing the Nixon Oral History Project will include: editing and finalizing the remaining verbatim transcripts, and when fiscally possible, replacing the original, damaged archival boxes with newer archival boxes. Rehousing the physical transcripts, photographs, administrative files, and other documents into newer boxes will further protect the material and extend their longevity.

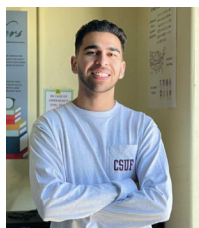


President Nixon working on his State of the Union address. From *Monday Magazine*, January 25, 1971.

A Walk Amongst the Archives: My Journey as an Intern

BY DIEGO GARCIA-SALAS | INTERN | M.A. STUDENT, HISTORY

“My experience at the Center for Oral and Public History has given me insight into the groundwork of recording and preserving sources, not only for myself, but for the hundreds of students that I teach every year.”



Diego Garcia-Salas sorts and organizes documents in the COPH archive.

I started my passion for the discipline of history from an early age, most of my experiences coming from museums, exhibits, and popular culture through movies. As I got older, I was able to understand the true meaning of what the discipline of history entailed. Fast-forward to my graduate studies at Cal State Fullerton, I was now able to experience one question first-hand: How exactly are historical events thoroughly preserved and documented? There is no significant answer other than a historical archive. Prior to interning at the Lawrence De Graaf Center for Oral and Public History [COPH], I did not know what to fully expect. I had never worked in an archive during my undergraduate studies, and as a high school educator I had spent countless hours teaching my students how to read, examine, and analyze historical sources. Now it was my turn to experience

working with sources from a different perspective. Throughout my time as an intern, I had the opportunity to learn about several topics, including the United Farm Workers [UFW] movement; LULAC's [League of United Latin American Citizens] influence in Southern California; Mexican Repatriation during the 1930s; and immigrant experiences.

My experience at COPH taught me the “behind the scenes” of what it means to be involved in the field of history. Being an archivist is similar to that of the frontline infantry of any military; the history is front and center. I created abstracts on a multitude of oral histories from a few prominent figures, such as Sal Castro, Dolores Huerta, and other individuals involved in the UFW movement in California. I digitized numerous sources involving LULAC's

influences in the Orange County region, and I scanned countless documents discussing the repatriation of Mexican Americans, which involved hundreds of thousands during the 1930s. Starting with dusty, old, web-infested files, I was able to clean, preserve, and categorize primary source material from Senator Joe Dunn's offices. Once filed in archival boxes, I was able to upload the files into digitally created folders in the COPH's database.

By far, my favorite experience at COPH consisted of listening to oral histories from 1999, ironically the year I was born, but more importantly, these histories share eight unique accounts of immigration to the United States. Thanks to the help of Archivist, Natalie Garcia, these immigration stories will be used to instruct students in my Ethnic Studies course, consisting of a focus on oral history. My experience at the Center for Oral and Public History has given me insight into the groundwork of recording and preserving sources, not only for myself, but also for the hundreds of students that I teach every year. Future high school, undergraduate, and graduate students will be able to access precious sources for research and examination.



Garcia-Salas digitizes oral history interviews initially recorded onto cassette tapes, in order to preserve audio for future use.



Garcia-Salas scans newspapers, during his summer 2023 internship.

The Center for Oral and Public History has given me the privilege to grow my understanding of what it means to be a true student of history. The staff has given me academic tools and has guided me for future interactions with archival work. I believe that the greatest characteristic of COPH is not only maintaining a space for historical work but being able to be a home for future graduate students to continue to add their own signatures to the vast archives of COPH's databases. As I continue my academic journey in the graduate program at Cal State Fullerton, I will take my experiences and skills and apply them for the purpose of becoming the best possible historian, in hopes of one day applying to a doctoral program in the discipline of history. The Lawrence De Graaf Center for Oral and Public History is truly the gift that keeps on giving!

A Journey of Discovery: My Time as an Intern and Graduate Assistant

BY ANGELA MINNING | GRADUATE ASSISTANT | M.A. STUDENT, HISTORY



Since undergraduate school, I always imagined working behind-the-scenes in a museum, as an archivist. Prior to my internship at the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH), I was aware that an archivist oversees the materials brought into a museum and manages the data for its collections. But there had to be more, right? As someone with the utmost interest in learning the responsibilities of an archivist, an internship with the COPH seemed only right to truly explore the archival field.

My initial interest in the COPH began in my second year of the graduate program at CSUF. As a requirement, graduate students must complete an internship prior to graduation. I knew I wanted to learn more about the tasks involved in an archivist's daily work, but I wondered where I could start. This led me to the COPH. I learned of the Center during my early courses in the graduate program and decided to interview with archivist Natalie Garcia for an internship for the Fall of 2022. Like any graduate student, I was nervous. I hoped that out all of those who applied, Natalie would give me the opportunity. The following week, my journey with The Lawrence de Graaf Center began.

During my time as an intern, I was given the opportunity to assist on various projects, each offering a unique glimpse into the lives of those who experienced historical events, such as the Second World War, the global pandemic, and the Holocaust. I was able to work on several oral history projects for the COPH from fall 2022 to spring 2023. While I enjoyed every single one, there were two collections that stood out: Hitler's Europe to the Golden State Oral History Project and COVID-19/Black Lives Matter Oral History Project. I was first introduced to the Hitler's Europe Oral History Project in the fall of 2022 and I was both excited and honored to be tasked

with organizing such an important collection for COPH and future researchers.

Working with these projects, I was able to obtain extensive knowledge and archival skills. My first day on the Hitler's Europe Oral History project, I was introduced to the process of creating inventories and writing abstracts (little did I know how important writing skills would be for my internship!), and as the semester moved forward, I learned how to covert audio reels and cassettes into digital audio files, scan documents and photographs using archival standards, and transcribe oral history interviews. Through these tasks, I was offered a deeper understanding of the work that goes into preserving oral history. The Center's dedication to preserving these narratives impressed upon me the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the stories we are entrusted with.

As my internship drew to a close, I knew that my journey with the COPH was far from over. When I was offered the graduate assistant position, I immediately took the opportunity, as this would allow me to delve even deeper into the archival field. The role came with increased responsibilities and a chance to continue my work with the Center, and as I moved forward in my new position, my love for archives continued to grow. My time at the COPH has left an indelible mark on my life. It has taught me several invaluable lessons, including: the power of storytelling, empathy, patience, and ethical responsibility. The Center has not only shaped my academic pursuits, but has also enriched my understanding of humanity through the stories it holds within its collections. My journey has been a transformative experience, one that has deepened my appreciation for the role of archivists, and has inspired my professional goals to continue working in the archival field

Uncovering Hometown History

BY AMANDA MURPHY | STUDENT, HISTORY

“Archival work, and history as a field, is not as action-packed or exhilarating as seen in Hollywood adaptations, but that doesn’t mean it’s any less important.”



Amanda Murphy working in the COPH archives during her summer internship.

My initial introduction to the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) was through Dr. Cora Granata. In spring 2023, I enrolled in her History of the Holocaust course, and we met at COPH on the second day of class. It was there that archivist, Natalie Garcia, informed the class about an archiving internship that COPH was offering over the summer. Given that I had an interest in archival work as a future career option, I jumped at the opportunity. After sending in my resume and having an interview with Natalie, I was most fortunate to receive one of the internship positions for summer 2023. Oral history is often an underappreciated field, but one of my favorites because it presents an emotional experience alongside historical events, instead of simple facts and statistics.

As an intern at COPH, I spent a large portion of my time working on the Tustin History Project. For this project, I listened to oral histories and wrote abstracts about them, digitized ephemera, digitized audio from cassettes, and created a finding aid to help people

navigate the collection. Having been raised in Tustin, California, it was so fulfilling to be able to learn about my city’s history and how it became what it is today. Additionally, the knowledge that I am aiding future researchers provides a sense of surrealness that is hard to find in a professional setting nowadays.

The sheer gratitude I feel for being able to have this opportunity is indescribable. Not only was I able to gain practical skills for my future career, but I also learned about the early history of my community from those who experienced it firsthand. Archival work, and history as a field, is not as action-packed or exhilarating as seen in Hollywood adaptations, but that doesn’t mean it’s any less important. This experience has taught me that an unfathomable amount of thought, dedication, and care is put into the preservation of history and historical knowledge. Therefore, take advantage of the resources available to you before they are not here anymore.

CALENDAR

For additional activities and events, please visit coph.fullerton.edu

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

CAPTURING THE SPOKEN WORD: AN INTRODUCTORY ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

COPH will lead this introductory workshop, ideal for students, independent researchers, and community members seeking to learn the methodology, preparation, recording, and transcription of oral histories.

For more information please email: coph@fullerton.edu

MARCH 7, 2024

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF ORANGE COUNTY'S POLITICAL HISTORY

Please join us for dinner and a public program at the Summit House in Fullerton. Invitations will be mailed in early 2024.



Image: students in Dr. Benjamin Cawthra's Visual History class work on curating an exhibition, 2022.