

Special points of interest:

- Online access to *Voices* now possible
- Volunteers help with archival tasks
- Preservation speakers to come in Feb. and May
- Two special events planned for COPH supporters

COPH Staff:

- Art Hansen, Director
- Natalie Fousekis and Cora Granata, Co-directors
- Stephanie George, Collections Curator
- Sharon Owen, Systems Librarian
- Kathy Frazee, Admin. Support Coordinator
- Suzanne Walter, Tapes into Type Coordinator
- Larry de Graaf, Steve Edgington, JoAn Kunselman, Brent Johnson, and LeeAnn Hansen, research associates
- Phanendra Hanumanula and Shu-ping Lu, student assistants

Director Hansen Introduces Successors

Beginning with the current academic year, I joined the ranks of many of my History Department colleagues and entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program. What this means is that for a five-year period I will work a half-time schedule at California State University, Fullerton. Although I will continue to direct the Center for Oral and Public History, the Center needs to plan for its future growth. In keeping with this mandate, I am pleased to announce the appointment of two extremely able and well-qualified assistant professors in the History Department as the Center's new associate directors: Dr.

Natalie Fousekis and Dr. Cora Granata.

Natalie Fousekis is a tenth-generation Californian. She was born in San Francisco and grew up in Berkeley. She received her B.A. in History from



Natalie Fousekis



Cora Granata

Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA, where she first realized she wanted to study modern U.S. history. After college, Natalie headed east to the nation's capital to explore her growing interest

in American politics. In Washington, D.C. she interned for California Senator Pete Wilson. When her internship ended, Natalie worked for an environmental organization, the Grand Canyon Trust, dedicated to protecting the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau. In 1992, Natalie took a job with then-Congresswoman Barbara Boxer. It was in Boxer's office that Natalie became interested in women's political history.

Cora Granata was born and raised in Southern California with dual German and American citizenship. She received her B.A. degree in 1992 from the University of California, Berkeley, in

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Two Successful Proposals Funded

Two successful grant proposals will provide \$17,000 for COPH to use on new public history projects this spring. The first grant for \$12,000 came from the University Planning Initiative program which solicits ideas from the entire campus. From the many plans submitted, COPH's proposal

to work with the Latino Advocates for Education, Inc. to produce an anthology centered on the Orange County Mexican American experience during World War II was selected. This publication will be the first of its kind on this topic.

The project intends to transcribe interviews already

in the archive that were conducted by students in earlier sections of historical writing classes. Professors Art Hansen and Wendy Elliott-Scheinberg, who taught those classes, will work with the president of the Latino Advocates for Education, Judge Frederick P. Aguirre, to select the best

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“If You Fail to Plan, You Plan to Fail”



One of the equipment stations to be used in the audio migration process for the 3000 interviews in the archive.

When it comes to technology, “planning” has become a priority at COPH. Plans are now underway to transfer approximately 5,000 hours of audio tape to CDs. With the fast pace of technology it has become a necessity, rather than a dream, to transfer our aging collections to new formats. Not only are the audio tapes themselves well beyond their life expectancy of 25 years, professional equipment (and parts) to play the originals or rerecord master tapes is also becoming obsolete, difficult to find, or very expensive.

Concerns about our collections came to light after hiring consultant, Richard Hess of National Tele-Consultants, Inc. Hess’s expertise verified our fears. Problems ranged from humidity and temperature fluctuation to binder failure. A complete report is on our website at <http://coph.fullerton.edu/hessreport>.

Fortunately, many at the university, including CSUF President Milton Gordon, CSUF VP Hiram Smith, H&SS Dean Tom Klammer, Assistant H&SS Dean Ray Young, the Physical Plant and IT Departments are making every effort to help us save these valuable collections.

In February we expect to begin a one-year project to transfer the entire collection to digital format. The president has funded a temporary position for a project manager who will direct seven graduate assistants in the transfer process. A mastered and working copy will be created on

professional quality gold CDs. Future migration to new technology will be less expensive and less taxing on staff.

In conjunction with this project our Systems Librarian, Sharon Owen, has recently completed a technology plan anticipating the Center’s needs over the next ten years. With this we will be able to plan for the future rather than react in a crisis situation. Having a plan where progress can be tracked and current technology trends reviewed is a significant step towards preserving the collective voices of historical memories.

If you are considering transferring audio tape to CD don’t miss our workshop on Saturday, February 7th at the Center. Richard Hess will show you how to transfer audio tapes to CDs, what equipment to purchase and the right materials to use. Bring your questions and challenge him for an answer. Call us at 715 278-3580 or visit our website at http://coph.fullerton.edu/coph_workshop_series6.htm to find out more. ☺

Online Access to *Voices*

Starting with this issue, the Center for Oral and Public History will make its semi-annual newsletter available on the internet. This is an effort to make the most of our limited funds, especially now during the state fiscal crisis.

If you would still prefer to get a paper copy of the newsletter, please call or write and let us know.

Otherwise, in the future you will receive a notice in the mail when the newsletter is posted on the COPH website.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. ☺

Growing Collection

The Center for Oral and Public History has always worked closely with students enrolled in the oral history classes on campus. Professors have designed classes so that not only do they teach students the methods of oral history, they also reveal the social relevance of preserving the stories of those around us. Ultimately, they culminate with the practical hands-on interview. These documents—created by narrator and interviewer as primary historical materials—are deposited in the archives to be used by researchers.

Some of the more recent interviewing projects, which are still being processed, deal with the following subjects: Mexican-American veterans, perceptions of Southern California, war, gerontology, and African-American migration in Orange County in the 1960s. These collections should be available to the public by Summer 2004. ☺

“Binder failure” occurs when the magnetic coating falls off the backing layer. Binder is the “glue” that holds the magnetic particles and is supposed to adhere to the tape. Temperature and humidity fluctuation is one of the most common causes of binder failure.



New Mission Brings New Name

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the new name of our newsletter, "Voices." We are quite excited about the name and what it represents about the mission of the Center for Oral and Public History. Perhaps most explicitly, the name evokes the multitude of historical voices--from elites to everyday citizens--that

are contained in our oral history archive. These voices, with their wonderfully rich first-person recollections, have become an invaluable resource to students and scholars from across the country.

"Voices," however, does not simply refer to the oral histories housed in our archive. We sought a name that would also reflect the important public history mission of the COPH. Thus, our new newsletter name also refers to the variety of narrative forms that disseminate historical knowledge to a broader public. "Voices" in this respect calls to mind historical voices represented in film, museum exhibits, heritage tourism, and theatrical performances, just to name a few. In addition to voices on tape, we hope the newsletter name will reflect the diverse public and community voices that are such a central part of the mission of our Center. ☺

New Co-Directors

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political science, focusing on contemporary Germany. She then moved to study at the University of Bonn and worked as a legislative intern for the German Parliament. There she worked on the integration of former East German states into united Germany. She returned to the U.S. to earn her master's degree in 1996 in German and European Studies at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. In 2001 Cora received her Ph.D. degree in modern German history from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and joined the CSUF History Department faculty in the fall of that year.

Coincidentally, Natalie also received her M.A. and Ph.D degrees from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. At UNC she spent seven years as a staff member of the Southern Oral History Program, serving as a research assistant, holding the Archie K. Davis Fellowship, and working as one of the project coordinators for the Women's Leadership and Grassroots Activism Project. Her dissertation and current book project concerns a group of working mothers and educators who fought for state-

sponsored child care in post-World War II California. In her spare time, Natalie competes in triathlons and likes to escape to her family's house in the eastern Sierras.

Cora's current research focuses on a social and cultural historical examination of minority identities in communist East Germany from 1945-1989. She examines the everyday lives of two cultural minorities--the small Jewish community that stayed or returned to East Germany after the Holocaust, and a small Slavic-speaking community in Germany known as the Sorbs. Her research combines archival sources from the East German state and secret police with oral interviews of prominent and everyday East German residents. She has published on the problem of memory and the methodological challenges of conducting oral interviews on East German history in post-unification Germany. Cora looks forward to promoting the internationalization of the Center. In addition to serving as COPH's Associate Director, Cora is also Coordinator for CSUF's European Studies Program.

In light of the information on these two junior colleagues, the future looks very promising indeed for COPH. ☺

New COPH Book Shows How Branch Library Construction Copies Irvine Mansion

The James Irvine Mansion burned to the ground in 1963. Archaeological field work was undertaken from 1999-2002 to piece together remnants from the mansion, including buried pipes, tile fragments, and oral interviews, in order to provide the floor plan for a new county library, the Katie Wheeler Branch Library.

Under the aegis of Santa Ana College, Santiago Canyon College, and the County of Orange, Nicholas Magalousis led students in the project at the Irvine Ranch Headquarters. David Knox, member of a longstanding Orange County family, was in this class and conducted interviews with Irvine family members and ranch employees.

These two men came to the COPH office and asked for help to make the valuable information in the interviews available to a broader audience. The resulting collaboration received support from the Orange County Pioneer Council and culminated in the publication *Piecing the Past – Together*. Along with aerial photos eight interviews develop a view of life on the ranch where there was humor, etiquette, and a humble appreciation for the land.

Some who share their recollections of life in the mansion are Kathryn Wheeler, Linda Irvine Smith, and Betty Pinkston; among those who give observations on ranch practices are Jim Sleeper, Floyd "Buck" Holland, and Ernie Brown.

Copies can be purchased for \$29.50 plus tax and shipping via the COPH website or by calling the COPH office at 714-278-3580. ☺



Enthusiastic Interns and Local Volunteers Energize COPH Archive Project

The spring semester has begun and with it comes interns! While the Center for Oral and Public History has had a few volunteers and students working sporadically during the last several years, this is the first time it has created a position in which students can gain practical experience in the area of public history. This internship, which conforms to the University's policies and guidelines regarding this type of learning experience, provides students with the basic skills needed for a position in oral history archives. In addition, working with COPH's special projects—workshop series, grant writing, and partnerships with local historical sites—will offer an intimate knowledge and understanding of all that can be involved in a non-profit historical organization.

Hoping for one student, the Center was overwhelmed with qualified candidates from the fields of American Studies, History, and Business. It was decided to accept three interns this semester. Sarah Hartman is an American Studies graduate student who also teaches part-time at Cal Poly Pomona. Charlene Riggins is completing her master's in History and will work on completing the Mexican-American Community Project. Former volunteer Susan Brewer is a history undergrad who will be working as an intern this spring semester. It should be mentioned, as well, that John Stahler, another History graduate student, continues to work on transcribing tapes that are nearly thirty years old. We are quite pleased to have such enthusiastic and capable recruits!

We do not wish to ignore those who volunteer their time at COPH. They implicitly understand the role it plays in the community with the rich treasures it holds. It is because of this that they spend several hours a week on tasks that are integral to the Center's mission and outreach. Currently,

Marilyn Lasker and Megan Tanaka are updating our entire inventory of oral histories. This will eventually translate into a database that will allow searches by narrator, interviewer, date, and collection. The Center would also like to mention Cheryl Eberly, a former student assistant, who has organized the photograph collection and will prepare a database that can be searchable by keyword.

It is with dedicated volunteers and interns that the Center is better able to accomplish its goals. We extend our thanks and best wishes to them. ☺

Proposal funding

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interviews for inclusion in the anthology and Aguirre will write the introduction to the volume. The publication will be the fourth in the Michi Nishiura and Walter Weglyn Multicultural Publication Series.

The second grant is \$5,000 from the California Story Fund, a statewide initiative of the California Council for the Humanities, which supports public humanities programs that bring to light California's diverse communities. Kathy Frazee, COPH administrative support coordinator and resident of Placentia, will head this project entitled "Packed in, Squeezed out: Citrus in

Fun at Ruby's Diner

♪ **Scooby Dooby down to Ruby's** for a COPH fundraiser! Why cook when you can share a booth with your favorite COPHers?

Here's all you have to do: Bring the enclosed flyer (you absolutely **MUST** have this with you) on **Monday, March 1, 2004** between **5 PM and 9 PM**. Present the flyer to your server and Ruby's Diner will donate 20% of your receipt to the Center for Oral and Public History. It's easy!

We'll all be at the Ruby's Diner, 1301 S. Harbor (southwest corner of Harbor and Orangethorpe), Fullerton, so come join us for a Beach Burger or chocolate malt. Additional flyers found on our website can be printed out. See you there! ☺

Placentia."

Redevelopment in the city of Placentia has fueled north-south division among the residents. This project will focus on the citrus packinghouses that played a key role in the town's early economy. New interviews conducted with citrus owners and employees will be combined with existing interviews held by the Placentia History Room in the city's library to create a script for a reader's theater. This public presentation will not only preserve local history but will also afford the community an opportunity for better understanding of their neighbors. ☺

Documentary Film makers Come to CSUF

Documentary film makers Michelle Mason and Jeff Schutts will be on campus for a presentation of their work, *Friendship Village*, which centers on the role of establishing a place in Vietnam to assist victims of Agent Orange. Ironically, the person who is at the center of the film and narrates it, an American soldier in the Vietnam War,

died from the effects of Agent Orange shortly after the film was completed.

The film will be shown on Thursday, April 15 at 2:30 p.m. in Pollak Library South 363.

The film will play again at 11:00 a.m. on April 17 in the Community Room of *Nguoi Viet* newspaper in the local Vietnamese community. ☺

Donor Appreciation Day

Muckenthaler Cultural Center and

CSUF Cricket Club Game

February 22, 2004 starting at 10:45

Donor Appreciation Day this year begins at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton where we will have a guided tour of the historic structure and learn fascinating details about the Muckenthalers, an early Fullerton family. Join us in the Cultural Center's parking lot at 10:45 a.m. and enjoy the spacious grounds and panoramic view as we walk to the front of the house to enter through the large main door used by the first residents. We can also peek at the juried art show currently on exhibit.

After the tour, we will proceed to nearby Smith Murphy Park to cheer on the CSUF Cricket Club in their match against Westwood. Lunch will be provided by the Cricket Club, which is captained by Phanendra Hanumanula, a COPH student assistant. Bring your lawn chair and try to figure out the strategies of the game while you delight in the Indian cuisine that the team will share with us.

Everyone who receives this newsletter has at some time provided financial or moral support for the Center for Oral and Public History. All are invited to participate in this outing. **Please call the office at 714-278-3580 to let us know you're coming.**

Muckenthaler Cultural Center is located at 1201 W. Malvern Avenue in Fullerton; Smith Murphy Park is at 8201 Country Club Drive in Buena Park.

Thanks to Recent Donors

We would like to acknowledge donors who have contributed to the Center for Oral and Public History since the last Oral History Program newsletter. Their generous support has been most helpful and encouraging.

Aiko Endo * Jane Mueller * Andrew Clay * Roy and Clare Engle * Ron and Annette Larson
Orange County Pioneer Council
Paul Clark in memory of Florence Smiley * Myrtle Asahino in memory of Mits Kawakami
Jane Stewart in memory of Cam Stewart

CENTER FOR
ORAL AND PUBLIC HISTORY

CAL STATE FULLERTON

SCHOOL OF
HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES

Cal State Fullerton
PO Box 6846 - PLS 363
Fullerton CA 92834-6846

Phone: 714-278-3580
Fax: 714-278-5069
Email: coph@fullerton.edu

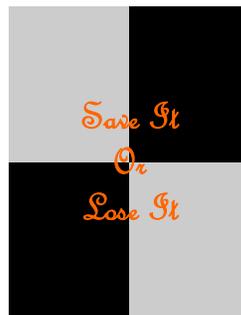
We're on the Web
<http://coph.fullerton.edu>

Preservation Workshops Focus on Audio Tapes and Photos

During the spring semester *Save It or Lose It*, COPH's continuing preservation workshop series, will cover topics of general interest for representatives of institutions as well as private individuals.

On February 7 Richard Hess, principal consultant at National TeleConsultants, will present a brief history of audio recording with audio examples and hands-on media samples. Workshop participants are invited to bring their own unique or rare formats and try to stump Mr. Hess. He will review a wide variety of formats, tell how to recover some of them, and talk about tape track formats and transfer strategies.

On May 1 two individuals will share their expertise in creating documentary films and



photograph exhibits. Sandra Alicia Membrilla-Robbie has won a Golden Mike Award and been nominated for an Emmy for her KOCE-PBS documentary "Mendez vs. Westminster: For All the Children/Para Todos los Ninos." She will explain the steps involved in documentary film making. Yolanda Morelos Alvarez, Cal State graduate and creator of the historical exhibit "Fire in the Morning," will

expand on creating the display, including information of the acquisition and preservation resources for photographs.

In October Gabriel Carey, senior archivist and senior historian for History Associates, Inc., in Brea presented the inaugural workshop on managing and preserving archival records. The following month, Ed Rokochoy, president of the Yorba Linda Historical Conservancy, addressed the politics of preservation through a mock city council meeting where participants learned to plead their case for preserving a local significant site. To register for either spring session, you may either go to our website at <http://coph.fullerton.edu> or call the Center at 714-278-3580. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch ☺

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