

COPH

CENTER FOR
ORAL AND
PUBLIC HISTORY

CALIFORNIA STATE
UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

WINTER 2019



BIENNIAL REPORT | 2018-2019



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON

LAWRENCE DE GRAAF CENTER
FOR ORAL AND PUBLIC HISTORY

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From the Director

DR. NATALIE FOUSEKIS



The past two years have been very exciting at the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH).

First, as you can see from the cover, we are thrilled to announce that construction has begun on our new space on the 6th floor of Pollak Library South. We should be moving up to our renovated and expanded space in late spring/early summer 2020. Since it will take us a while to get settled, we anticipate a ribbon cutting ceremony and opening celebration in fall 2020. The new de Graaf Center will house a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled archival storage for our audio, video, photograph, and document collections; a collaborative work space for students working on our oral and public history projects; a reading room for community members, students, and scholars wanting to access our collections; and a community room/conference room to house workshops, lectures, and gatherings for those interested in the region's history and the center's work.

Despite the fact that we will be moving to a brand new location three floors up in the spring, my fundraising work for the 6th floor renovation is not complete! We still have to raise an additional \$2 million to cover the construction costs on top of the \$2 million we've already raised to pay for the space. There are still some significant naming opportunities available – from the archives to reception area to the student collaborative work room. Please contact me (nfousekis@fullerton.edu) or Alina Mircea-Trotz (amircea-trotz@fullerton.edu) if you or someone you know might have an interest in a naming or making a donation to what will be THE research and public history space in the region.

I just completed my term as President of the Oral History Association, the largest membership organization that supports oral history practitioners, both inside and outside academia. In my capacity as President, I attended a leadership training workshop with other leaders of national learned societies hosted by the American Council of Learned Societies. Over the past few years as part of the organization's leadership, I have worked with oral historians from around the country to promote and support oral history work, helped launch the organization's strategic plan, and transition the executive office to its new location at Middle Tennessee State University.

We are also thrilled to announce that CSUF alum and retired U.S. Representative, Ed Royce '77 (B.A. Business Administration), donated his congressional papers to COPH. Included in the Royce Papers are records from his long-time work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and his role as Chair of the committee from 2013 to his retirement in 2018 as well as his correspondence on critical issues during his time representing the 39th and 40th Congressional districts from 1993-2019. We plan to work with Congressman Royce to coordinate an oral history interview with him and long-time members of his staff in the next couple years, which will enrich this collection.

COPH continues to expand and cultivate regional, national, and international partners. Cora Granata continues to work with the Lange Tafel organization in Germany to make sure students on the Fullerton campus and in our study abroad program learn about this unique public history project. I have partnered



Outgoing OHA president and COPH director, Natalie Fousekis, with incoming OHA president Allison Tracy-Taylor at the OHA annual meeting in Salt Lake City, October 2019.

with CSU Trustee Jean Firstenberg and the CSU Board of Trustees on the CSU Women Presidents Oral History Project. Ben Cawthra has partnered with the Long Beach community engagement organization, We are the Next, to get his students involved in their “For the Record” project, which documented the shifts in the North Long Beach community. He also revived our connection and collaboration with the Orange County Great Park. Margie Brown-Coronel and I, in anticipation of our 2020 *Visions of Justice* exhibition, created relationships and partnerships with the California State Library, the California Legislative Women’s Caucus, the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture, and Los Angeles Public Library’s Central Library.

Finally, we continue to be grateful for the community members, students, and scholars who share our passion for recording the region’s diverse stories and sharing them with the public. We’d like to give additional thanks to those of you who have already supported our Center’s new space through a gift, provided funds to sustain one of our oral or public history projects, or made a donation at our Celebrating Orange County’s Political Legacy event. Without passionate, hard-working students and supportive members of the campus and community, we would not be able to carry out our critical oral and public history work.

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**THE LAWRENCE DE GRAAF
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON
P.O. BOX 6846
FULLERTON CA 92834-6846

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Visions of Justice, Voices of Change

Exhibition to Showcase Oral Histories and Women's Political Activism

BY DR. MARGIE BROWN-CORONEL | PROFESSOR, HISTORY



With the centennial of universal suffrage coming up in 2020, the experiences of the women leaders and activists recorded in the Women, Politics, and Activism (WPA) project take on particular significance. This collection has captured scores of women's political leadership, involvement, and influence on regional and national issues from environmental justice, to human trafficking, to gun violence. To share these rich oral histories, the exhibition *Visions of Justice, Voices of Change* charts women's political participation and their impact in Southern California. The exhibition will open at the O.C. Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum, located at the CSUF Arboretum, in August/September 2020. The exhibition seeks to demonstrate how women envisioned more just and equitable realities, voiced their ideas and strategies, and took action to attain social change.

Four key themes tie together the diverse array of women's "visions" and "voices": Visions of Safety; Visions of Equality; Visions of Inclusion; and Visions of Service. Through these themes the exhibition shows the range and scope of women's intentions and approaches in the political movements they participated in. The women profiled in the exhibition exemplify the remarkable legacies of women in politics. The exhibition content and design offer a narrative that goes beyond a commemorative look at the "firsts" and "only's" stories, that is so often the formula in displaying women's political work. Instead, *Visions* shows the everyday efforts and the depth of political organizing of ordinary women. Such efforts have resulted in extraordinary achievements. To bring their stories into sharp focus text panels, accompanied by photographs and artifacts, will tell the story of women's activism. To further enhance the experience, visitors will use

an audio app to hear oral history clips and learn more about the COPH's WPA project. A few examples from the first section, "Visions of Safety", give a sense of the stories and ideas of *Visions*:

"The issue was so important to me...I wasn't concerned about myself or how I was perceived. I felt a responsibility."

– Mary Leigh Blek, interview, 2018

"I do this, like I said, for my son. I do it for his sons, for my grandsons, for the future of all of our sons and daughters because, in activism, there is no gender, race, religion. We're all one human race."

– Theresa Smith, interview, 2015

"Visions of Safety" features a diverse group of mothers who have lost children to gun violence, including middle class resident of suburban Orange County, Mary Leigh Blek. Blek saw herself as a unique (and necessary) spokesperson on gun violence and control. After her son Matthew was shot and killed, she took a stand and called for the issue of gun control to be brought to republican circles. Also profiled is Genevieve Huizar of Santa Ana. Her memorial alters raise awareness about the impact of police shootings on families and communities. Theresa Smith's lobbying efforts in the state legislature highlight the networks she has established across the state on the issue of law enforcement's excessive use of force.

“At first when I started protesting, it was kind of like that was my outlet...it was every weekend. And then I started thinking, Okay, you can only do so much. You can only make so much noise and hold the sign for so long, but it’s not making a change. I mean, to me, I wanted to see something change.”

– Donna Acevedo, interview, 2013



Theresa Smith (center w/ microphone) with Genevieve Huizar and Donna Acevedo, all mothers of sons who were killed in officer-involved shootings.

As in the tradition of public history projects coming out of the History Department and the Center for Oral and Public History, *Visions* will also be a student-centered project. Led by Dr. Margie Brown-Coronel of the History Department, students enrolled in Public History Practicum will work on researching exhibition content, curating photographs and artifacts, and crafting exhibit labels. The project will provide students with hands-on experience in the field of Public History. Students will take charge of responsibilities, from preparing for opening reception to writing press releases and doing community outreach. Students will also be involved in the project plan to include secondary education teachers. Training materials and lesson plans will be developed for local teachers to use in the classroom in conjunction with visits to the exhibition.



Theresa Smith, in Sacramento, urging the passing of Assembly Bill 953, the Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015.

This past summer, Dr. Brown-Coronel and Dr. Natalie Fousekis submitted a public history project proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities. The proposal outlines an ambitious plan to travel *Visions* to three other locations. Partnerships were established with the California State Library in Sacramento, the Women’s Political Committee of Santa Barbara, and the Los Angeles Central Library. All of these locations committed to hosting the exhibition. These partnerships will not only make possible more exposure to the women’s lives, but also makes possible the inclusion of additional experiences of political activism.

Public History Students Interpret the Great Park

BY DR. BENJAMIN CAWTHRA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Kevin Staniec of the City of Irvine introduces CSUF public history students to the Orange County Great Park in September 2018.

The Orange County Great Park has a brief history, as parks go, but the land has a much deeper past, best known as the site of the Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, a significant military aviation base that began in the midst of World War II and finally closed in the 1990s. Students in my Fall 2018 Introduction to Public History class took on the challenge of researching the history of the site in order to develop an interpretive plan that, if fully implemented, would highlight the Great Park's historical roots for visitors who might not know much about that past.

The students took a field trip to the Great Park in September, meeting with Kevin Staniec of the City of Irvine, which administers the park, and wandered

the grounds looking for history and imagining ways to emphasize it for unsuspecting visitors who come to the park for a soccer match or other recreation. Back on campus, they spent the rest of the semester divided into three teams with the ultimate goal of developing a comprehensive plan they could present to the Great Park at semester's end.

Three graduate students led teams of undergraduates. Cynthia Castaneda led the exhibition development team, a group whose research in archives and among artifacts led to an exhibition proposal that would tell the story of everyday life on the El Toro base. Scotty Coyne's oral history team, tasked with developing scripts for three potential films on differing themes, combed through the massive archive of the

“That was my main goal, the personal connection, because that really—in most circumstances and topics in history—that’s the way that you could make someone interested, or at least give them some type of insight into what has happened and what is happening.” – Public History student, Scotty Coyne

de Graaf Center’s MCAS El Toro Oral History Project. The team based their scripts on themes such as the experience of combat and race, society, and El Toro. Finally, the education and programming team led by Shannon Landreth developed public programming ideas, children’s activities, and ways to better brand history on the site through signage, brochures, and web activity.



Graduate students and team leaders Scotty Coyne, Shannon Landreth, and Cynthia Castaneda with the Orange County Great Park Interpretive Plan, December 2018.

“...what we wound up deciding is, let’s go beyond the military history, let’s go to the personal. They know they are in a military facility if they have the hangars and the planes there; let’s talk about ways that they can connect with the public today.” – Public History student, Cynthia Castaneda



Lionel Arellano (center) and other students describe elements of the interpretive plan, December 2018.

By December, the scramble to complete team tasks and develop their comprehensive document was over, and the students made their pitch to Staniec in the final meeting of the semester, walking through their plans and suggestions in an audio-visual presentation before presenting him with a copy of the full Interpretive Plan. No one expected the Great Park to immediately implement the ideas, but going through the experience of acting as public history consultants and creating a professional document for potential use by the Park exposed students to what it is like to build a cultural institution around interpreting the past.

The Interpretive Plan has already born fruit. After continuing her work at the Great Park as an intern, assisting in the development of an exhibition on the annual El Toro Air Shows, Castaneda will be curating a version of her team’s exhibition at the Great Park as her master’s project in public history.

Long Table Comes to Fullerton

CSUF Community History Class Organizes Event Celebrating Stories of Immigration

BY DR. CORA GRANATA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Dr. Granata with her Community History class for this spring's Long Table oral history event.

On April 24, 2019, my Community History class and I organized the third Long Table oral history festival in the United States. In 2016, I brought this long-standing Berlin-tradition to the United States for the first time. This has now developed into a long-standing, international partnership between myself --along with the de Graaf Center--and the Berlin-based non-profit organization Lange Tafel.

Students in my Spring 2019 Community History class learned about oral history methods and best practices before conducting an oral history interview. The theme of this Long Table event was “Freedom not Walls,” and focused on celebrating immigration stories. Students interviewed family members, co-workers, and community members who shared their stories of immigrating to Southern California. The project captured a wide-range of immigration experiences—from Mexico, Guatemala and Ecuador to Cambodia, Japan, Germany and Finland.

Students were also responsible for organizing the Long Table event itself, providing them important professional development in public history event planning. They conducted community outreach, designed the flyers and website, found sponsors, promoted the event on social media, researched vendors for food, entertainment, and equipment, documented our activities on film, and much more.



Oral histories on display at CSUF's Long Table event



Students share stories during the oral history performance.

Over 100 people from on and off campus joined us on campus on the beautiful Engineering lawn just across from Pollak library to break bread, sit face-to-face, and honor the immigration stories that bring our community together. All agreed that the highlight was the student oral history performance that drew from a range of immigration stories housed in the de Graaf Center's archives.



Students and community members gather around the Long Table.

Then, in the summer of 2019, I brought another team of Cal State Fullerton students to Berlin for a 5-week study abroad program. As part of their service learning, our students assisted with a Lange Tafel festival in the Berlin neighborhood of Kreuzberg, a district with a large Turkish-German immigrant population. Some of the same students who experienced the Long Table event at CSUF in April were able to see how the Berliners do it. Students mingled with



Member of German Parliament, Cansel Kizeltepe, and Dr. Granata at the Lange Tafel festival in Berlin.

Berliners at the Long Table, shared stories and experiences, and even meet with a Member of the German Parliament, Cansel Kizeltepe who attended the event held in her Berlin district.

In summer 2020 I will bring another team of students to work on a Lange Tafel installation in Berlin and continue what has now become a rewarding, long-standing partnership that helps extend the de Graaf Center's reach around the globe.



Dr. Granata with CSUF Study Abroad students in Berlin this summer.

Center Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Preserving Oral History for Future Generations



BY VALERIE ORLEANS | This article was originally published by CSUF News Service, May 30, 2019.

“We treasure stories. They create community. They help us develop legacies. This center is the pinnacle that students strive for in their work.” – CSUF President, Fram Virjee



Guests gather outside the Golleher House to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Center.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, Cal State Fullerton’s Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) recently invited many of its students, founders and supporters to campus for a day of lectures, programs and a celebratory reception. The afternoon of speakers and panels included center founders and directors, students and alumni, campus history faculty and oral history narrators who have had their stories recorded by COPH and reflected on the experience.

Panelists spoke of past projects that included curating museum exhibits at the Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum, recording interviews with nine Latina community activists and preserving oral histories of some of Orange County’s elected officials.

“The Center for Oral and Public History is one of the highest steeples of excellence on campus,” said

President Fram Virjee as he addressed the audience at an early evening reception. “We treasure stories. They create community. They help us develop legacies. This center is the pinnacle that students strive for in their work. Through the center, thousands of people have had their stories preserved for future generations.”



CSU Fullerton President Fram Virjee

Natalie Fousekis, center director, took time to thank founders Lawrence de Graaf, Art Hansen and Gary Shumway. “These three history professors fought to make this a center, and as a result of their work, I knew I wanted to work here,” she said. “Hearing the stories of our community is touching and moving. If it hadn’t been for what they did, we wouldn’t be here today.”

Established as the Oral History Program, the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History maintains the largest regionally focused oral history archive in California, with 6,000 recorded interviews, related transcripts, photographs and other materials.



Previous COPH directors, Dr. Arthur Hansen and Dr. Lawrence de Graaf with current director, Dr. Natalie Fousekis.

U.S. Representative Gil Cisneros (39th district) and California Assembly member Sharon Quirk-Silva (65th Assembly District), were on hand to offer their congratulations, as were representatives from the offices of U.S. Representative Lou Correa (46th district) and California Assembly member Phillip Chen (55th Assembly District).



Assembly member Sharon Quirk-Silva, Dr. Natalie Fousekis, and U.S. Representative Gil Cisneros.

Quirk-Silva, who has been interviewed by the center, joked about hearing herself later. “I’m going to have to work on the ‘ums’ and ‘yeahs,’” she laughed. “But seriously, it takes a vision to create a place like the Center for Oral and Public History, and CSUF always takes on the opportunities placed before it. We all have stories to tell and they connect us to one another.”



Oral history performance by CSUF history graduates Kira Gentry, Bethany Girod, Brian Mashburn, and Janet Tanner.

The reception also featured an oral history performance in which students shared excerpts from the center’s vast collection. In this case, recordings from soldiers and family members who lived on the El Toro Marine Base were read to the crowd.



Attendees enjoy an evening of presentations and performances to celebrate the last 50 years of the Center.

In 2020, the center is scheduled to move into a new state-of-the-art facility in the Pollak Library.

Orange County Politics Project Celebrates 5 Years

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

“The reason you are there is to help people, and that guided me through everything... you have to have the core heart.” –Brad Gates



2019 marked the 5th anniversary of the Orange County Politics Project. From left are HS&S Dean Dr. Sheryl Fontaine, Gary Hausdorfer (accepting for 2019 honoree Brad Gates), Sandra Hutchens (2019 honoree), COPH Director, Dr. Natalie Fousekis, CSUF President Fram Virjee, and Tony Moiso (accepting for 2019 honoree Richard J. “Dick” O’Neill, posthumous).

The Orange County Politics Project began in 2013 and this year we signified our fifth anniversary by honoring a Democratic pioneer, Richard J. “Dick” O’Neill (posthumous) and two notable county sheriffs, Brad Gates and Sandra Hutchens. At the evening’s celebratory dinner, the energy from guests felt more like a family reunion rather than a gathering of bipartisan politicians, where hugs and laughter overtook the usual handshakes and cordialities. In fact it took Dick Ackerman, the event’s master of ceremonies, several minutes to quiet the jubilant crowd so the program could begin. Reasons for this can be attributed to limitless connections shared among the three honorees, evidence of a cohesive and proud Orange County community.

Retired sheriff Brad Gates came from humble beginnings in San Juan Capistrano, riding horses and herding cattle. Dick O’Neill, co-founder of The Democratic Foundation, was originally from Los Angeles but his family owned the sprawling O’Neill Ranch and what later developed into Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita. Despite their disparate upbringings, O’Neill and Gates became close friends and allies in the community. As O’Neill’s nephew, Tony Moiso, espoused in his oral history recalling memories of his uncle, “Uncle Richard and Brad really were great pals. There were political differences, yes, they were acknowledged, but Uncle Richard was a big supporter of Brad.” The same sentiment was echoed by Gates when asked about O’Neill, “He was a wonderful man...a respectable guy, somebody I loved to be around and talk to. You listened to him because

he had a wealth of knowledge about politics and stuff. I learned a lot from Richard.” O’Neill passed away in 2008, but he left an indelible mark in terms of Democratic activism and fundraising. Many argue, as evidenced in the oral histories that discuss his life, without O’Neill there would be no Democratic Party in Orange County.

“He believed there had to be a two-party system. He put his money where his mouth was. He contributed and spent a lot of money to ensure that there was a Democratic Party in Orange County.”

– Tony Moiso on his uncle, Richard J. “Dick” O’Neill

Like O’Neill, newly retired Sandra Hutchens was also born in Los Angeles and later migrated to Orange County. As she recalled, it was probably her history as an outsider that made her a formidable candidate when she was appointed sheriff in 2008 (and later elected in 2010). Hutchens also became the first woman sheriff in the county’s history. Faced with restoring honor and integrity to a scandal-

plagued department, she sought counsel from Brad Gates, who, despite retirement in 1999, remained prominent and revered in the community. She recalled, “He was a very, very good sheriff...very solid, you knew what to expect from him, a very fair man.” In her acceptance speech at the O.C. Politics Dinner, Hutchens emphasized the magnitude of contributions from both Gates and O’Neill to the county, and she was extremely proud to share the honor alongside them.

“Focus on public safety, don’t get diverted into other political issues. Honor the office, and honor your people.” –Sandra Hutchens

Highlights from these as well as past honorees can be found on our Vimeo site: <https://vimeo.com/coph> The complete audio, video, and transcription can be found in our archive. Please contact archivist Natalie Navar for more information: nnavar@fullerton.edu

2018’s Celebrating Orange County’s Political Legacy event



From left are Jolene Fuentes, Wylie Aitken (2018 honoree), CPH Director, Dr. Natalie Fousekis, Dick Ackerman (2018 honoree), CSUF President Fram Virjee, T.J. Fuentes (accepting for 2018 honoree Tom Fuentes, posthumous), and Joey Fuentes



Guests gathered at the Summit House in Fullerton for the 2018 OC Politics event

CSUF President Fram Virjee



Emcee and La Habra City Councilmember, Rose Espinoza

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CSU Women Presidents Oral History Project

BY DR. NATALIE FOUSEKIS | DIRECTOR



During the 2018-2019, the CSU system landed in a unique position with 12 women Presidents on its 23 campuses (52.2 percent), which put it at more than double the national average for universities led by women. Given this moment in the CSU system's history, CSU Trustee Jean Firstenberg and I began discussions on how to memorialize this moment in the university system's history, especially since CSU San Marcos President, Karen Haynes, and Humboldt State President, Lisa Rossbacher, would step down at the end of the 2019 academic year. Our conversations led to the CSU Women Presidents Oral History Project, and in March of this year the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) received an \$11,000 grant from Visionary Women for the first six of these oral history interviews. We will raise the additional funds to support interviews with the remaining six presidents as well as the two new women Presidents who assumed CSU leadership in summer 2019.



Newly appointed CSU Presidents, Ellen Neufeldt (San Marcos) and Lynn Mahoney (San Francisco)

While each President's individual experiences and stories will be critical for understanding the unique leadership contributions of the Cal State system's 12 women presidents, we also want to learn about what

it is like to be a woman President in a university system that has more women than men leading its campuses. With the appointment of President Lynn Mahoney at San Francisco State University and Ellen Neufeldt at Cal State San Marcos in spring 2019, the CSU system continues to stand out nationwide for its women leaders.

The CSU Women Presidents Oral History Project will look at this unique cohort of female presidents at a moment in time when the state and the nation has turned its focus on women's leadership and women's efforts to continue shattering the glass ceiling in higher education, business, and politics. In May and June of 2019 we completed interviews with Presidents Rossbacher and Haynes. This fall we will continue our interviews and will complete the first six by the end of January 2020. This oral history project will explore the unique contributions women make to higher education as leaders and administrators, as well as record the individual lives, careers, and achievements of each CSU woman president.

These interviews will be available via a special page on the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History's website. Each narrator page will contain an abstract of the interview, full audio, video excerpts, photographs, and the transcript of the interview. Not only will local students, community members, and educators be able to learn about the countless ways women presidents have contributed and shaped university life across the state, but a global audience will also have access to the historical memories and reflections shared by the CSU Women Presidents.



Dr. Natalie Fousekis interviews Humboldt State University's first woman president, Lisa Rossbacher (above) and Jane Close Conoley, President of Cal State Long Beach (left), during the first phase of our CSU Women Presidents Oral History Project.

“Between collaboration, women seem to naturally come to the understanding that in many places and spaces there can literally be win-wins and not just win-losses. That you can find those places where everybody gets something so that nobody feels a loser for it.” - Karen Haynes



Back row, from left: Judy K. Sakaki (Sonoma), Soraya M. Coley (Pomona), Erika D. Beck (Channel Islands), Adela De La Torre (San Diego), Gayle E. Hutchinson (Chico), Mary A. Papazian (San José), Ellen N. Junn (Stanislaus). Front row, from left: Dianne F. Harrison (Northridge), Jane Close Conoley (Long Beach), Karen S. Haynes (San Marcos), Lisa A. Rossbacher (Humboldt), Lynnette Zelezny (Bakersfield)

Unexpected Discoveries in the Archives

BY CARL PRIVETTE | M.A. HISTORY STUDENT



Southern California experienced a 6.4 magnitude earthquake in 1933, with the epicenter just offshore near Long Beach, CA. The region saw buildings such as Haley's Garage, at the intersection of 5th and Spurgeon in Santa Ana damaged as a consequence of the earthquake. (From the Catherine Heard file in the Irvine Project)

What exactly is the purpose of an archive? Since my first days as an intern with the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH), my response to that question has changed. At the beginning of my tenure, my initial thoughts included the most standard—not to mention bland—answer: it is a place where historical records are kept and preserved. Archivists maintain written, visual, and audio files so researchers can access, study, analyze, and use them for particular projects. This definition of an archive is not necessarily wrong, but very one-dimensional.

If working at the Center for Oral and Public History has taught me one thing over the past year, it is that an archive acts as more than just an institution for maintaining historical records. An archive acts as a gateway—if not *the* gateway—to limitless historical

inquiries and more importantly, stories. Each audio file, photograph, and document contains an individual's or a group of people's memories. Those stories are waiting to be discovered in order to contribute to historical contexts. The general public, in turn, want to experience these memories, hidden within the archive stacks, to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the past.

COPH has over 6,000 audio files for people to physically hear stories regarding a wide array of historical events and significant figures. Yet they also have a variety of visual material, newspaper clippings, transcripts, and other ephemera to supplement most narrator's story. The Center arguably has a greater number of photographs scattered across the 6,000 plus oral histories within scores of oral history projects.

One of my first big projects at COPH was to organize hundreds of miscellaneous photographs that either had temporary homes (meaning an accompanying oral history and accompanying number) or that were completely displaced. There were photographs in black-and-white and color, negatives, and photocopies of originals. The photographs ranged from various oral history projects related to cities in Orange County, California; to the Richard Nixon project; to Orange County politicians; to individual family histories; to places as specific as Coney Island in New York; and even photographs related to COPH events. These were only some of the oral history projects represented in the four boxes of “random” photographs. I should mention that I use random loosely to describe the photographs, because each visual print is more than just random in the COPH library.

Each photograph possessed its own level of historical significance in relation to its respective oral history project. However, as I processed and cataloged each photograph, I could not ignore the historical magnitude the images carried, even without accompanying oral

transcripts to supplement their meaning. I would not have thought twice about the photographs if I did not take the time to carefully study each one and process it for future use. The experience proved to me that archives carry historical gems that have yet to be cataloged and made available for the general public to experience for themselves. Historical records, original photographs, oral histories, and other ephemera housed in archives want to be discovered and utilized in order to better understand the past.

So, what is the purpose of an archive? The answer: To hold stories and memories for those who wait to experience them.



In late 1972 or early 1973, the Santa Ana City Council greets President Richard Nixon at El Toro Marine Base at the foot of Air Force One. Councilman and eventual Congressman Jerry Patterson is pictured on the far right. (From the Congressman Jerry Patterson file in the O.C. Politicians Project)

Resistance and the Japanese American Oral History Project

BY HELEN YOSHIDA | M.A. GRADUATE HISTORY, 2019

“I traveled 3,000 miles only to discover that a great resource was in my own backyard.”



I first read about the Japanese American Oral History Project when I was conducting research on World War II Japanese American incarceration at the Library of Congress. After graduating from U.C. Irvine with my Bachelor's in English in 2011, I took a cross-country road trip with my friend to Washington D.C. Along the way we stopped in Wyoming to attend the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. Heart Mountain was where my grandparents were incarcerated during World War II. When I saw my grandfather in a photograph of the Heart Mountain Camera Club, I was inspired to learn more about this period in American history. While living and working in Washington D.C. I visited the Library of Congress's Main Reading Room, where I read books about the Japanese American incarceration experience at the concentric wooden tables. When I saw that the Japanese American Oral History Project was referenced frequently, I laughed to myself. I traveled 3,000 miles only to discover that a great resource was in my own backyard. I moved back to California six years later to start my Master's program, where I inventoried that project as the Graduate Archival Assistant at the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH).

During my time at COPH, I edited the projects' abstracts and took stock of its digital and archival materials. While working in the archives I recognized names like Heart Mountain resister Frank Emi, Manzanar Committee Chair and activist Sue Kunitomi Embrey, and former U.S. Congressman Norman Mineta. I knew that these were prominent leaders in the Japanese American community through my previous

work with the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) in Washington D.C. The Foundation preserves the stories of Heart Mountain internees through their annual Pilgrimage, Interpretive Center, educational programs, and outreach. However, I did not know that Emi, Kunitomi, or Mineta were interviewed for this project. In addition to that surprise, I learned about differing perspectives between the soldiers and resisters who fought for their country and found a great friend and mentor in the project's creator and principle interviewer, Dr. Arthur A. Hansen.

When Henry Yoshitake, 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran, discussed his friendship with Emi and other Heart Mountain resisters he asked, “What if we all refused to go into the service? You think that our kids would have the opportunity that they have today? I would have to say no. I respect the decisions that they made, but they also have to understand that sometimes fighting for principle has got to be secondary.” Unlike Yoshitake, many veterans did not talk to the resisters, who refused to serve in the military until their civil rights were restored. Many of these young men were initially imprisoned at Heart Mountain. They stood trial at the federal courthouse in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and were sentenced to prison terms at McNeil Island in Washington and Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

Although President Truman pardoned them in 1943, their resistance cast a long shadow of stigma and ostracism from the Japanese American community.



The first day of the trial of the 63 Heart Mountain draft resisters in Federal District Court, Cheyenne, Wyoming, June 12, 1944. Helen Yoshida's great uncle is seated in the front row, eighth from the left. Photo courtesy of Frank Abe via *Densho Encyclopedia*.

When Emi discussed his newspaper correspondence with 442nd veteran and Rafu Shimpo columnist George Yoshinaga years later, Emi described him as “one of the few holdovers from that period [World War II Japanese American Evacuation] who constantly makes disparaging remarks about the resisters. He always elevates the veterans and contrasts them with the resisters and downgrades the resisters.” For many years after the war, these men were ostracized from the Japanese American community. Their actions were not only interpreted as demonstrations of disloyalty against the United States but also brought shame to the family name.

My great-uncles were resisters. My grandmother's eldest brother, Kazuo Kuwada, sits in the front row, eighth from the left, in the photograph of the resisters in the Cheyenne courtroom. He wears a black sweater and has his arms crossed against his chest. His younger brother Makoto is there too, his face is hidden from the camera lens. This past summer, I returned to Heart Mountain for the 2019 Pilgrimage to see that same photograph at the Interpretive Center. I also listened to the “Resisters and Their Legacy” panel discussion with Heart Mountain resister Takashi Hoshizaki, *Conscience and the Constitution* filmmaker Frank Abe, and Dr. Art Hansen, who discussed his latest book *Nisei Naysayer: The Memoir of Militant Japanese American Journalist Jimmie Omura*. It was

wonderful to have Art on my M.A. committee, talk about my project and post-graduation goals with him, and see him present his own work at Heart Mountain. His generosity, advice, kindness, and time spent with me embodies Norman Mineta's closing remarks at the Pilgrimage: Everyone has two arms. Use your right arm to climb the ladder of success as you pursue your career and professional goals. Use your left arm to reach down, pick someone else, and pull them up behind you.



Dr. Art Hansen and Helen Yoshida at the 2019 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage.

COPH Reaches Higher

The Lawrence de Graaf Center Becomes Reality

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



Moving to Pollak Library's sixth floor has always been a distant vision for all affiliated with COPH. I remember when I first started in 2015, listening to Director Fousekis discuss her ceaseless fundraising efforts. Together we envisioned a modern, state-of-the-art oral history center deserving of our materials. Our dream is soon becoming a reality, and as excitement fills me, so does fear.

It is a major undertaking to move an entire center—especially an archive that has over 300 projects, 6,000 oral histories, thousands of photographs, and numerous 3D objects. When our move dawned on the horizon, I was working on completing my MMLIS degree. For my final project, I thought the most logical decision was to create a comprehensive moving guide for COPH. Now, with that scheme in place, I am well prepared to oversee this venture.

First and foremost is the creation of a project team and a complete overview of our archival records. For purposes of modern privacy and organization, we will segregate oral histories from administrative paperwork, as well as distinguish non-oral history items. (My predecessors already started this process, so now it is up to us to finish it.) Additionally, COPH will perform quality control of our inventory: recycling materials we do not need and re-boxing materials that may have deteriorated.

Assessing the building's logistics is also important, as we need to know the travel routes our materials will take. A conservation plan is also critical, as is assess-

ment of cleaning costs. When preparation of boxes is upon us, we will be color coding and matching inventory at both ends of the move. Security of our materials remains a primary concern, from the moment they leave the old archive and arrive at the new they must be protected. Communication will be key and the project manager will provide expected updates. Lastly, before we take the big leap, it is imperative to map out final destinations for all materials. This requires careful schematics from both archivist and project manager.

Currently, our Graduate Assistant, Carl Privette, is completing a detailed box inventory of the entire archive. When he is finished, we will know our archive in a way that we've never before seen: knowing with absolute certainty what exists and what has gone missing. From there, we can decide what to weed out, what to combine, and what to retain.

A large part of my preparation has been organizing and reacquainting myself with every project created at COPH. Some of these projects were originally classified as "collections" when in fact they were rather minute in size. This has led me to a de-accessioning and re-classifying process which will make COPH a much more complete and effective archive, worthy of its new and modernized home.

We are well on track to move into the new Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History. As the date approaches, we will take every step to ensure our move is a success. We look forward to welcoming our campus and general community into our long-awaited home!

Center Hosts 2018 SOHA Conference

BY DR. CORA GRANATA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



On April 27-29, 2018 the de Graaf Center was pleased to host the Southwest Oral History Association's (SOHA) annual conference right here on campus. Students, oral historians, activists, artists, and community members traveled from across the country to attend the conference. Focusing on the theme of "Elevating Voices," the conference offered a wonderful array of workshops and panels that ranged from such topics as oral history theory to highlighting the stories of diverse communities across the country and the world. We were especially thrilled that so many of our CSUF students took advantage of the professional opportunity of having a major academic conference on campus to attend, and several also presented papers.



Attendees mingle at the 2018 SOHA conference.

It was our pleasure to work together with the SOHA board and its leadership, in particular SOHA Co-Presidents Marcia Gallo and Juan Coronado, as well as Conference Chair and SOHA First Vice President Jennifer Keil, in organizing the conference. As the institution that first introduced Jennifer Keil to oral history when she was a student at Cal State Fullerton, we are so proud to see her rise to leadership in



SOHA Vice President Jennifer Keil and Co-President Marcia Gallo, with Dr. Cora Granata

SOHA. We also wish to thank graduate assistants Franklin Howard (UNLV) and Sierra Sampson (CSUF) for their hard work in making the conference run smoothly.

There were many highlights at the conference, but the de Graaf Center was especially pleased to host an introductory workshop on oral history methods to kick off the conference on Friday. I was delighted to lead the workshop and enjoyed meeting scholars, students, activists, and community members who traveled long distances to attend. And lastly, but certainly not least, CPH Director Natalie Fousekis was honored with SOHA's James V. Mink Award and gave a well-attended luncheon keynote address.



From left: CSU History Professor, Dr. Allison Varzally, Dr. Cora Granata, Dr. Natalie Fousekis (with SOHA's James V. Mink Award), and Dr. Benjamin Cawthra

We were honored to host this conference and look forward to many more fruitful collaborations with the Southwest Oral History Association.

CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY 29, 2020

CAPTURING THE SPOKEN WORD: AN INTRODUCTORY ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

COPH Associate Director, Cora Granata, will teach this four-hour workshop that is ideal for students, independent researchers, and community members seeking to learn about the methodology, preparation, recording, and transcription of oral histories. For more information or to RSVP, please call (657) 278-3580.

MARCH 5, 2020

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 2020.

FALL 2020

VISIONS OF JUSTICE, VOICES OF CHANGE: WOMEN AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN CALIFORNIA

In commemoration and observance of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment that resulted in universal suffrage, this historical exhibition explores how women's political work extended and expanded understanding of rights and citizenship through their actions for social change and justice. Coming to the Fullerton Arboretum in fall 2020 and to other venues across the state (contingent on funding).

Image: Exhibit at Manzanar, 1987. Photograph by Art Hansen. From COPH's Japanese American Collection.

