Greetings historians!

What a busy fall this has been! The students have been busy. Dr. Kinukawa’s Historical Imagination class is hard at work, the Capstoners are tearing their hair out in advance of December’s conference presentations, and Prof. Greg Rohlf’s East Asian Civ class has been to the Asian Art Museum and had a Tai Chi class. Check out the picture [web.pacific.edu/x8141.xml](web.pacific.edu/x8141.xml). To add to the activity, this year we introduced a new one unit seminar for freshmen, a chair’s seminar, in which they get to meet each other, acquire some basic skills, — no excuses now if they don’t know how to cite in the Chicago Manual of Style! - and get to know their way around the library and archives. One of our former students, Heather Mellon, class of ’06, now an archivist and researcher at the Hayward Area Historical Society, came to speak to that class about careers in museum work.

Faculty has been busy too. I have a new book out, The Fight to Survive: A Young Girl, Diabetes, and the Discovery of Insulin. Two of our former students, Heather Mellon and Jeanette Sandoval were both my research assistants on this project at some point so a big shout out to them. Ken Albala received the Alex and Faye Spanos Distinguished Teaching Award, which was exciting for him and us. Thanks to those present and former students who wrote letters of support for him. We are very excited that Ken’s teaching has been recognized and rewarded in this way. And Gesine Gerhard has introduced a new history course called History Goes to Hollywood, in which students learn pre-modern and modern European history through film. It’s a great addition to our roster of classes.

Best Wishes,
Caroline Cox

Meet Professor Alan Lenzi

I joined the department of Religious and Classical Studies in the Fall of 2006 after finishing my PhD at Brandeis. My role in the department is to bridge between our two parts. I’m essentially an ancient historian with philological skills who studies ancient religious and mythological materials in their original contexts. I teach several courses with a strong historical-orientation: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, Ancient Israel in its Historical Context, Ancient Judaism, and Ancient Egypt and the Near East. Although I’m not an archaeologist, these courses all touch on material culture—from clay tablets to the technology of archer’s shields. I’m currently reconstructing a poem from Mesopotamia called Ludlul bēl Nēmeqi or “The Babylonian Job.” Thematically, this poem is very similar to the biblical Job, but it also reveals aspects of Babylonian medicine, religion, and social practices. It’s a storehouse of social history.

Come and listen to this year’s Capstone Presentations

Seniors will present their original research on a wide variety of historical topics.

Tuesday, December 7, 3:30 – 5:30 & Thursday, December 9, 3:30 – 5:30
Taylor Room, Library

Come and cheer on your peers!

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fosters collaboration between Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies and the Humanities Center and facilitates programming. It is a cozy space inviting students to hang out between classes, grab a cup of coffee, browse the book shelves and finish their reading for the next class. Work study students hold the GHES Center open from 11-3 on Monday and Wednesday, from 12-3 on Tuesday and Thursday, and from 11-2 on Friday. Student clubs can use the space for their meetings, and Gender Studies holds its Faculty Research Talks in the GHES Center. For more information or to reserve the space, contact Professor Gesine Gerhard, Director of Gender Studies ggerhard@pacific.edu or call 946-2573.

Across the hall is the new location for the Muir Center. Stop by and check out the new spaces. WPC has gotten that much homier!!

~ MUIR CENTER HAS A NEW HOME ~
This fall the John Muir Center moved from its second-floor home since 1989 in Wendell Phillips Center to a new location at the entrance to WPC on Brubeck Way. The space is opposite the GHES Center and is bound to attract more visitors—students, staff, and alumni. Open 1:00PM-5PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 2:30-5:00 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays, all are welcome to stop by and meet Jaiya Ellis, Sustainability Coordinator and the director, Bill Swagerty. Muir Center’s large symposium for the academic year will be held from April 22-24, 2010 and features an all-day field trip to the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez on the 22nd, with papers and panels on “John Muir: Naturalist and Scientist” on April 23-24. For more information, contact wswagerty@pacific.edu or phone 209-946-2527.

GREETINGS FROM PHI ALPHA THETA PRESIDENT

Hello history aficionados! Phi Alpha Theta is a place where minds can meet and expand as many people with different interests and backgrounds come together over a common interest. History major or not everyone can experience the fun and excitement of being part of PAT. Meetings, conferences, and simply being part of a group are only the beginning of what Phi Alpha Theta has to offer.

In April 2010 Pacific students and staff will be attending the annual PAT conference. If you are up for a little competition than this is your event! Other chapters, including those from CSU Stanislaus, Chico, andSacramento, and our rival Santa Clara will also be in attendance. This is a great time to present a paper that you are proud of, get a little recognition for yourself and your school, buff up your resume, and flex those competitive muscles.

As I said before, anyone can join Phi Alpha Theta. Eligibility is not limited to History majors and minors, anyone who has completed 12 units of history courses with a GPA of 3.1 and a GPA of 3.0 overall can become a member. Applications can be found outside of the doors of many History professors in WPC!! And so, in the immortal words of those before me, "Let’s make history!"

Anna Accettola
Phi Alpha Theta President

DR. KEN ALBALA has received the Faye and Alex Spanos Distinguished Teaching Award 2009.
CONGRATULATIONS!!!
Support History at Pacific!

We invite you to become involved in the education of our current students. Underwriting opportunities exist for donors at all levels of support. Your gifts help support field trips, the Phi Alpha Theta chapter, and our student club, the Pacific Historical Society.

Contact Chair Caroline Cox, cccox@pacific.edu

The Asian Art Museum Field

**Students** in Professor Rohlf’s East Asian Civilizations class visited the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco on Saturday, October 24. They had two guided tours; “Buddhist Art: Sublime Message and Sacred Symbols” and “Along the Silk Road: Trade, Travel and Transformation.” In between their tours, many of the 35 students explored San Francisco’s Chinatown on their own. Everybody had a great time on the field trip. As one student concluded, “I really enjoyed the exhibits and the tours. Honestly, I don’t think I would have ever gone in my life but now I think I might go back someday in the future.” The museum is located in the Civic Center of San Francisco and houses one of the best collections of Asian art outside of Asia. Rohlf’s class makes the trip to the museum each fall.

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**HEATHER MELLON (’06)**
**CURATOR OF SHOW IN HAYWARD**

The story of the Hayward area’s suburban development was explored in the exhibition "Building the ‘Burbs: Constructing the Suburban Hayward Area”, guest curated by alum Heather Mellon in fulfillment of a Masters in Museum Studies degree. More than sixty years ago tomato fields and fruit tree orchards started to give way to ranch-style homes, winding streets, homeowners associations, community centers, and patio living. Newly affordable homes created a building and buying boom, transforming the Hayward area and setting the stage for the shape of today’s community. The exhibit was open May 14 – August 22, 2009 at the Hayward Area Historical Society.

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**ALUMNI NEWS**

Patrick Burdick (’08) had a son, Evan Burdick, born Dec. 30, 2008.

Heather Mellon (’06) received her MA in Museum Studies from San Francisco State University.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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**TILLIE LEWIS CONFERENCE**

On October 25th the Haggin Museum, Phi Beta Kappa and the Gender Studies Program hosted a conference on Tillie Lewis, local tomato canning magnate who owned and operated one of the largest processing facilities on the West coast from the 1930s to 1970s. Speakers included Ken Albala who gave a general introduction to Tillie’s life and her importance in food history. Carolyn de la Pena from UC Davis spoke about her artificially sweetened weight-loss products. Local Historian Kyle Tobin-Williams related the results of her oral history interviews over the years with workers and relatives of Tillie. Finally Associate Dean Edie Sparks presented on Tillie’s importance in the history of women in business. The event was attended by 80 people, who were also served a period 1953 lunch prepared directly out of Tillies own promotional material that featured fruit salad, spinach tarts, tomato aspic and fig cake all made from canned goods.

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Contact Chair Caroline Cox, cccox@pacific.edu
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