Since we last spoke...

We are very proud to announce that Dr. Mohamed Yamba is now a member of the Steering Committee of the Researchers Alliance for Development, which is a key committee of the World Bank. He will, as part of this committee, critique and advise the World Bank to help the World Bank understand the social consequences of its decisions. Dr. Andrae Marak’s book, *From Many, One: Indians, Peasants, Borders and Education in Callesa, Mexico 1924-1935* is now officially out. The publisher’s website describes it as “*From Many, One* looks at the educational policies and practices of the presidency of Plutarco El’as Calles in post-revolutionary Mexico. Author Andrae Marak examines the Calles government’s attempts to centralize control over education in the U.S.-Mexican borderlands region and to transform its rural and indigenous inhabitants into more "mainstream" Mexicans.”

Political Science Major and Departmental Work-study Stephanie Guglielmi has been accepted to the Doctoral Program at Kent State. Alumni Charles Holman was also accepted into this program, as well as to the University of New Orleans.

We’d like to take this moment to thank Ms. Guglielmi and Yin Han Zhang for their hard work in this office, and wish them the best. Keep in touch!

This Spring, alumnus Ebony Bates will receive her M.P.A. from Howard University. Several of our faculty were elected to positions within APSCUF, the Faculty Union. Dr. Marak has been elected as a delegate, Dr. Crawford to the Grievance Committee, and Dr. Blumberg to the Tenure Committee.

Shendy Hershfield has been awarded an internship with Fox News in New York this summer. She will be working for Sean Hannity.

James Martin Coode ’88 sent us an update: “My Son Connor Demetrius Coode born 1:16 pm March 18, 2009 22 inches long 9 pounds 2 ounces. Parents are James Martin Coode (Marty), 46 and Tia Brooke Davis Coode, 33, of Martinsburg WV. Marty was on the Rugby Team, in the Veterans Club, literally lived at McMonagle’s (upstairs-very convenient) and all in all had a great time at Cal undergrad. Both he and his wife Tia are 2007 law school graduates, he at WVU and she at Thomas Cooley in Lansing, Michigan. Tia is a public defender and Marty is in private practice. Marty’s father, Dr. Thomas H. Coode, is professor emeritus at Cal and was published extensively while at his post there.”

Glen Stolberg also let us know what’s going on: “I am working with AFGE (American Federation of Government Employees) AFL-CIO as a National Organizer. We are a union that represents 600,000 federal government workers. We are working on organizing TSA workers nationwide. I currently residing in Gastonia, North Carolina with my Wife Dominika and my 2 year old son Charlie.”

Ed Eagle (’94, ’96) and his wife, Christine, welcomed Marcus Edward Eagle into the world on Sept. 15, 2008. Marcus is the couple’s first child.

Elizabeth (Libby) Link was just accepted for the GPSIA grad program, and will be specializing in Security and Intelligence.

Dr. Melanie J. Blumberg continues to be a powerhouse. She delivered several papers, including “Deliberative Polling®: Fostering an Informed and Engaged Public” with Dave Argent, Susan Jasko, Elizabeth Jones, & Mary O’Connor at the 2009 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association, “Deliberative Polling®: The Art of Responsible Thinking” with Dave Argent, Susan Jasko, Elizabeth Jones, & Mary O’Connor at the 2009 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, and will be presenting “Ba’Rock the Vote: Cal U Student Turnout Makes National News” with B. Kirk Holman, Charles Holman, Shiness Chowdhury & Stephen Laskaris at the 2009 Meeting of the American Democracy Project. She also took park in the program review at the Department of Political Science at John Carroll University. Finally, she and William Binning, and John Green are writing the fifth paper in their series on presidential campaigns. It will be presented at the State of the Parties conference and published in *The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Parties* 6th ed. Finally, B. Kirk Holman, Thomas Sutton, and she are co-authoring a paper on party integration in the 2008 presidential election.

In this issue:

Since Last We Spoke 1
Spotlight: Dr. Laura Tuenneman 2
Black History Month and the Hip-Hop 3
Masthead 4
Scholarships 4

Special points of interest:

- Early October: Beyond Feathers and Arrows, Cal U’s first American Indian Culture Awareness Day.
- Diane Wilson, an environmental activist who took on the big corporations, will be here November 19th. She will have her Keynote in Steele.
- Kelly DeVries, a world expert on medieval military history, will come and speak on his specialty next semester.
Born in the great state of Ohio, Dr. Laura Tuennerman has established herself as one of the most fascinating professors here at Cal U. Before pursuing her undergrad in History at the College of Wooster, Certification in Museum Studies from the University of Delaware MA, and her Ph.D from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Tuennerman has always possessed a thriving love of history. However, at one point during her youth in middle school, Laura realized that being a librarian/historian may not be as desirable a profession when compared to race car drivers or movie stars. So she pondered… and pondered… until one day, while reading through a small article on museums, it came to her. She decided to steer her love towards the fascinating world of being a Museum Curator. And so the journey began.

Laura mentioned during her interview that although she never dreamed of becoming a teacher, her personality has always been one of guidance and direction (she loves telling people what to do). Laura’s hobbies and activities (other than her beautiful children) include volunteering at a local animal shelter where her affinity for animals shines bright. This love for animals may also account for her favorite color green, which reminds her of Kermit the frog, a childhood companion lost to the soup bowls of France. Dr. Tuennerman recalls having the same reoccurring Birthday wish every year, World Peace (which never happened because Laura told her wish to someone once, and we all know wishes told never come true). Although she may have blown this one for all of us, if given the opportunity again, she would choose “Increased Tolerance” over World Peace.

As fun an Interview as Dr Tuennerman was, I had to get to the topics people really want to know. I asked Laura if she were having a dinner party and were able to invite any three people from history, who would attend? It would be the who’s who of history dinner parties with Jesus Christ, Woodrow Wilson, and Eleanor Roosevelt joining her to break bread, grilled cheese (Laura’s favorite) and wine. When asked why she felt manhole covers are round, she simply replied, “one can’t go wrong with round”. I tend to agree. Laura was a fabulous interview and a pleasure to work with.

Updates Continued...

Alumni Brad Geyer was re-elected in 2007 as a Councilman in Connells-ville. He currently serves as President of the Board of the Performing Arts Center in Scottsdale, and will be the President of the local chapter of the Lion’s Club in July.

Another Alum, Ian Tate will be pursuing his M.P.A. At Penn State Harrisburg.

The Civil War Roundtable hosted Alumni Kris White ’05 recently. He recently finished his Master’s Degree in Military History, and has a book deal with the University of Tennessee Press as well as articles in America’s Civil War, Civil War Times, and Blue and Grey Magazine.

As seen on the previous page, our GA’s aren’t afraid to wear high heels to show support by “Walking a Mile in Her Shoes”, and event run by the Peace Project to bring awareness to domestic violence. Jim Bagnell and Tim Williams, as well as work study Josh Minyon, all took part.

The Fencing Club also showed a dedication to service within the California Community. Recently a monthly food pantry opened, feeding many in our area in need. The Fencing Club has volunteered time in sorting and passing out food. If you are interested in donating time or food, they can always use it…contact Cindy Speer, and she’ll put you in touch with Galvie Gardner, who runs the pantry.

The History Club has been extremely active in helping bring about some awesome events this semester. They held a Holocaust Commemoration Day, where actual survivors came and told their stories. There was also music provided by the Ortner-Roberts duo. They assisted the Music Department, the
Black History Month and The Hip-hop Forum

article by Timothy Williams

Spring was an eventful semester for the Frederick Douglass Institute. In February 2009, California University celebrated African-American history month. This year’s centered on the theme: “From the 13th Amendment to the Presidency”. Also, on April 16th and 17th the annual hip-hop conference was held.

African-American History Month was kicked off this year at Jozart’s Studio. Jozart’s played host to the annual Soul Food Dinner. The event featured free food and live music from a student formed blues band. Over 200 people packed into Jozart for the annual event, which seems to grow each year.

This year’s programming expanded from last year’s, making it impossible to list all the events in such a confined space. Some of the noteworthy speakers and crowd favorites included Dr. Stephen Bradly’s presentation on the impact of student activism on society and Dr. Obermiller’s presentation on Japanese internment camps during World War II.

The Cal U Community was honored to have acclaimed author and education activist Jonathan Kozol as the keynote speaker for this year’s celebration.

Kozol is perhaps best known for his book Savage Inequalities, which examined the disparities in the education system caused by race and class. His speaking engagement quickly filled Steele auditorium and proved to be a thought provoking evening.

This year’s Hip-hop Conference included group discussions, a student debate, the highlight of which was the keynote panel, which featured artists Common, Chuck D, and Ursula Rucker and scholar Dr. Tricia Rose. The keynote panel proved to be an empowering evening as the panelist urged students to become more involved with the communities around them. After the panel discussion, the panelists were nice enough to sign autographs and talk to Cal U students.

Office of Liberal Arts and our department in bringing down Salsamba, who did a demonstration of African roots in Latin American Music. They also held a brown bag about modern slavery, Rebekah Gamble presenting on the topic. They also invited Dr. Tuennerman to speak on field matrons and Native American women. Camilo Mejia spoke about being a conscientious objector in Iraq, Matthew Restall spoke on the history of Africans in Mexico.

Students also presented papers at the Academic Excellence Days held in April. Political Science Majors Andrew Perring, Gerald Morris and Nicholas Clark presented their papers, as did History Majors Jessica Lane, Rebecca Bradley, Jesse Wiser, Kristen Orett and Justin Grimm. During Black History Month, Jesse Wiser presented a paper on Adam Clayton Powell while, during the Hip-hop Conference, Lawrence Murphy presented a paper called “The United Eras of Hip-hop.”

The Fencing Club was also very involved in bringing speakers to campus. They brought members of the Society of Creative Anachronism to discuss needlework and embroidery, calligraphy, illumination, spinning and other arts. Next semester they plan to have speakers on wood working, the bardic arts and archery.

The fencing Club also hosted fencers, Joel Gruenke, who teaches the historical fencing lessons on Thursday nights (pictured, page 2, watching Adam Hampton and Emily Davis doing drills) came one day, John Lennox and Stephen Huff came and did demonstrations sword fighting and tomahawks.

By next semester Cal U will house a college of the Society for Creative Anachronism. If the name passes, it will be called Vulcan’s Forge, and allow students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the community, the ability to attend medieval themed events and explore and study all aspects of culture pre-1601. Internships are one of the key elements to a successful degree. Justin Piper served as this semester’s Harrisburg intern, while Ashley Altemare (pictured) will serve as the fall Harrisburg intern. Other interns include Stacey Smith and Kim Bosetti, who worked at the Hines History Center. Eugene Axton took part in the Washington internship.

In the picture below we have three alumni who are serving our country in Afghanistan, Political Science alumni Captain Jordan Settle, Colonel Jay Peterson, and Lieutenant Colonel Eugene Shearer.

Dr. Joseph Heim will be presented an award for Research at the Gala Awards this June.
Interested in Donating?

The Department of History and Political Science funds several scholarships every year. The system is simple...so much money is placed into the account, and the scholarship funds that are given away are from the interest accrued from the funds. The more money in the account, the more we can help students.

**The Audrey Beth Fitch Scholarship:** Benefits students who would like to go and present papers at conferences.

**The Deborah and Joe Hardy Scholarship:** Given to Political Science Students who are either a Junior or Senior, with a 3.0 grade point average and a demonstrable financial need. Yearly.

**The Edna B. McKenzie Prize:** Created by June Dowdy in memory of her mother, this prize goes to a history major who has earned at least 60 credits and have a GPA of at least 3.0. Yearly.

**The McNall Burns Scholarship:** Can go to a History, Political Science, economics or social science major, and must have a 3.0. Yearly.

Every cent donated will go directly into the account. Please, if you can, consider helping our students. If you are interested, please fill out the card at the side. You can also email the secretary, Cindy Speer, at speer@cup.edu for more information.

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**The Edna B. McKenzie Prize:**

The Edna B. McKenzie Prize was the recipient of the Outstanding History Major award, and Gerald Morris was the recipient of the George S. Hart award.

The department is proud to welcome **Lawrence Markowitz**, our new political scientist, to the department!

**Dr. Clarissa Confer** is the recipient of the Faculty Professional Development Research Award, an award with will help her continue her excellent work.

Next semester, **Sean Madden** will return to the department full time, while **Dr. Laura Tuennerman** will use her well earned sabbatical to work on her book.

**Students need your help...**

The Department of History and Political Science’s newsletter is published twice a year. It is intended to highlight happenings in the department and in the lives of our Emeriti and Alumni. Any content for future editions may be submitted to speer@cup.edu. You can also use that email if you want to be removed from the list, or know someone who would like to be added. For the latest information, remember to keep an eye on HTTP://WWW.CUP.EDU/LIBERALARTS/HISTORY/INDEX.JSP.

Editor: Cindy Speer/ Copy Editor: Contributors: James Bagnell, Melanie J. Blumberg, Emily Davis, Adam Hampton, Tim Williams, special thanks to SAI for some great photos.