MIKE’S NOTES

The 2010 Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Institute will focus on how to integrate oral history into the classroom in alignment with PA Academic standards. Attendees will learn how using oral history for classroom instruction enables students to improve Research, Analytical, Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking skills at all grade levels in all disciplines. Oral history can really liven up a learning environment and using it effectively meets the challenge of doing Project Based Learning in the classroom. Most importantly, attendees will find the Summer Institute fun and enjoyable. Time passes quickly and those who complete the Summer Institute will have all the instruction and resources necessary to guide students through an oral history project. The Summer Institute is offered in two workshop sessions: the first is on June 15, 16, and 17 and the second is on July 13 and 14. Contact Lynne Berdar, 724-938-6025.

ASK NIK

I’d like to finish what we started last month. That column was the 2nd in a ‘searching tutorial’ series for the Library of Congress’ American Memory (AM) Collection. I’ve put together a five minute online instructional video that walks educators through a proven search and retrieval method for accessing and retrieving AM primary sources. The video’s URL is http://tinyurl.com/LOCAMvid. If you are new to searching AM, start the video from the beginning by clicking on the above link, then pressing the play button (in the center of the screen). If you’ve read last month’s article, press play, then adjust the ‘position bar’ on the bottom of the page to 1:32. (The time can be viewed on the right-side of the position bar, opposite of the “pause” button). Next month, we’ll search the new Prints and Photographs Online Collection!

LYNNE SAYS

California University is proud to introduce Cal U’s Pre-College Honors Portal (PCHP). This program presents an outstanding opportunity to join a select class of high school students. Excellent high school students will earn college credits with a special honors designation through 100% online courses. To be eligible for these courses students must possess a GPA of A– or above, a SAT score of 1,100 in Critical Reading and Math, and an ACT composite score of 24 or above. Courses will be taught by world-renowned California University of Pennsylvania faculty. Tuition is based on the per-credit cost set by the State System of Higher Education. Students can take these special courses online from home during the summer or during the school year at their convenience. For more information follow this link: http://www.calu.edu/online-honors/ The following link will lead you to a YouTube video from Dean John Cencich on the honors portal http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwKd2xoUphg

TPS SERVICES/EVENTS

Last month’s newsletter reported on Cal U’s third annual Teaching with Primary Sources History Day competition. As follow-up, we are pleased to report that a number of students went on to compete at the regional National History Day competition at the John Heinz History Center. Of those entries, three were selected to move on to the state finals, which will be held at Millersville University in Millersville, PA on May 12 and 13. Following are the advancing entries:

Group Documentaries: Penn-Craft: Building the Future One Brick at a Time, Jena Christner and Megan Planey (Bellmar, R. Farmer)
Honorable Mention Junior Group Performance: Duct Tape, Brenna Orr, Katie Nicholson and Elyse Kaplan (AJ McMullen, Scully) Congratulations to the winners and the sponsor teachers. This is a fine achievement considering there were over 500 entries in the regional competition at the John Heinz History Center.
SOCIAL MEDIA AND EDUCATION by NIK

Last month, we listed some educational social media (SM) initiatives that are happening at the Library of Congress. This month, we will go more in-depth by featuring something that is present in many of those initiatives, namely, the “share” feature. I stumbled upon this feature after seeing that the LOC’s facebook page is featuring a new Prints and Photographs Online Catalog (PPOC) site, which has SM sharing capabilities. In this instance, to “share” means to place PPOC content on SM sites. (A web page with SM capabilities will have a “Share/Save” link that provides the means to post that content in places like facebook, del.icio.us, YouTube, and Twitter.) For example, let’s say that I wanted to share a PPOC Featured Collection on Herblock’s political cartoons on my del.icio.us account. After signing into del.icio.us, I would then: (1) click the “Share/Save” link on the Herblock PPOC Collection page; (2) select “delicious” from the pop-up menu; (3) enter the appropriate data into del.icio.us (see image). A video with more detail is provided here: tinyurl.com/sharePPOC. Now it’s your turn to share PPOC content on SM sites. Please email me with any questions that you may have (roberts_n@calu.edu).

RESEARCH AND CURRENT THINKING

Project Based learning (PBL) is an approach that has been picking up a lot of attention lately, but what is it? As it turns out, PBL has a number of definitions, and we’ll share one that is applicable for primary source educators: (1) PBL is a multi-goaled activity carried out over time, resulting in a product, presentation, or performance. PBL typically incorporates formative evaluation as the project proceeds; (2) PBL is learner-centered. Students have a significant voice in selecting the content area(s) and nature of the projects that they do. There is considerable focus on students understanding the project, why it is important, and how it will be assessed. Indeed, students may help in setting the goals by which they will be assessed. All of these learner-centered characteristics of PBL contribute to intrinsic motivation and active engagement, which are both essential to the success of a PBL lesson. Noteworthy is that PBL fits well into the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Standards Aligned System (SAS) and oral histories make great PBL’s.

CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY

Three oral histories were recorded this month and added to the Cal U’s Women of Accomplishment: An Oral History Project. The first oral history was with Annie Malkowiak, a Hall of Fame Cal U basketball player with a long list of accomplishments and firsts, including being the first female sports public announcer at Cal U. Her interview revealed the family values that guided her onto the path of achievement and the Cal U mentors who inspired her and encouraged her to live a fulfilling life. The second interview was conducted by Kay Dorrance, Interim Assistant Director—Women’s Center. She interviewed members of the first Delta Zeta sorority and learned the history of how the sorority was started and the obstacles the founding members overcame during a time when men had more privileges than women. Dr. David Lonich interviewed Colonel Patricia J. McDaniel, who was the first female ROTC candidate at Cal U. She completed 31 years of military service—15 active years, 16 reserve years. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cal U, three Master’s degrees from other schools and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Cal U alumna who have achieved notable accomplishments or know of a Cal alma that has should contact Nancy Skoebel or Donna Hoak at 724-938-5707 or email Donna at hoak@calu.edu.

COMMUNITY AND CLASSROOM

Last month, we reviewed Michael Brooks’ comments about using oral history in the classroom to connect students to community. This month, we get more specific about doing classroom oral history projects by examining the American Century Project. The project provided students the opportunity to interview community members who lived during the twentieth century. The project web site is rich enough in resources to guide educators through the process of using oral history in the classroom. Among the many resources are: Educa-


College of Education and Human Services
Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources
Keystone Room 112
Phone: 724-938-6025 Fax: 724-938-6024 E-mail: roberts_n@calu.edu
http://www.calu.edu/business-community/teaching-primary-sources/