



## April 2019 Spring Has Sprung

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### Director's Column, April 2019

Documenting the history of the University of California is an endeavor that we take very seriously at the Oral History Center. As a result of our work over the past sixty-five years, we have conducted hundreds of in-depth interviews in which some key facet, influential individual, or impactful event of the university is narrated and explained.

The "Class of 1931" annual interview about university history is selected through a nomination process for those who don't have benefactors to underwrite their interviews.

This month, Martin Meeker discusses the importance of documenting university history, "Class of 1931" interviews, and the need to record their contributions.



Meet Rudy Mondragón,  
our 2019 UC Graduate Student of Color  
Fellow!

We are pleased to announce that Rudy Mondragón is our inaugural fellow for our new fellowship. Mondragón is a doctoral candidate at

UCLA working on a project that looks at the sport of boxing and the ways in which black and brown boxers politically and culturally express themselves via the famous ring entrance.

Learn more about Mondragón, his project, and his plans for the

interview he'll conduct this summer in our Q&A over on our blog.

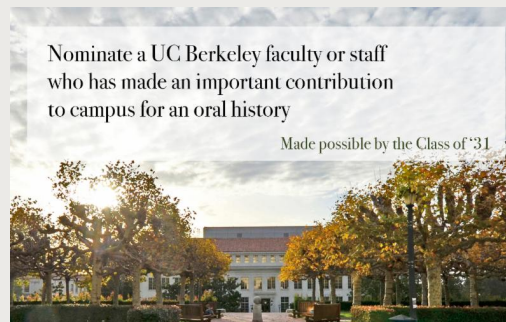
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## Nominations Open for Oral History Center's Class of '31 Narrators

These interviews are intended to document the life and contributions of a person who has participated in and contributed to UC Berkeley's campus life.

Nominations are due by May 1, 2019 for the annual "Class of 1931" interviewee; the 2019 interviewee will be announced in mid-May 2019. Direct any questions to Martin Meeker, Oral History Center director: [mmeecker@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:mmeecker@library.berkeley.edu)

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Applications are still open for our 2019 Advanced Oral History Summer Institute! Visit our website for more information and to apply!

Do you know someone who is working on an oral history project? Tell them about our Advanced Oral History Institute. The Oral History Center's faculty will provide individual attention in a small seminar setting on all aspects of oral history, including project planning, interviewing, and fundraising. Faculty, post docs, grad students, and independent, government, corporate, and museum scholars can all benefit from this institute.



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## In Memory of Willie C. Gordon

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Willie C. Gordon, lawyer, noir writer, and library supporter, passed away on March 17, 2019. We conducted an oral history interview with him in 2017 and 2018 about his early life growing up in Los Angeles, his affinity for libraries, education and career in the Bay Area, and becoming a writer in his retirement.



## WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO

Buried Truths  
Bag Man  
Gravy

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