From all of us at the Oral History Center, we are wishing you our best in these challenging times. We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy.

From OHC Director
Martin Meeker

Every year as the semester comes to a close, the Oral History Center hosts a very special event. We call the event our annual Commencement celebrating the Oral History Class of that year. We invite campus friends, project partners, and everyone (and their families and friends) whose oral history we completed in the previous year.

Every year this has been a joyous and often moving event. This year, though, we were unable to gather our community together. So, like almost every other social gathering, we’ve decided to host our commencement virtually by devoting and dedicating this newsletter to the Oral History Class of 2020.

In articles within, you’ll be treated to thoughtful reviews by our interviewers on the past year’s oral histories. We’re also including a feature on a student produced podcast, which was originally planned to be a live performance at the event. We’re also announcing the first winner for the Carmel and Howard Friesen Prize in Undergraduate Oral History Research, which we had hoped to award at the commencement.

Presenting the Oral History Center Class of 2020

At the conclusion of every academic year, the Oral History Center staff takes a moment to pause, reflect on the interviews completed over the previous year, and offer gratitude to those individuals who volunteered to be interviewed. The names below constitute the Oral History Class of 2020.
Please join us in offering heartfelt thanks and congratulations for their contributions!

**Individual Interviews**
Robert L. Allen
Bruce Ames
Samuel Barondes
Alexis T. Bell
Robert Birgeneau
John Briscoe
Willie Brown
George Miller
Michael R. Peevey
Nancy Donnelly Praetzel
Robert Praetzel
John Prausnitz
Zack Wasserman

**Bay Area Women in Politics**
Mary Hughes

**California State Archives**
Jerry Brown

**Chicano/a Studies**
Vicki L. Ruiz

**East Bay Regional Park District**
Glenn Adams
Ron Batteate
Kathy Gleason
Raili Glenn
Brian Holt
Diane Lando
Mary Lentzner
John Lytle
Beverly Marshall
Rev. Diana McDaniel
Roy Peach
Janet Wright

**Economist Life Stories**
George Tolley

**Getty Trust**
Peter Bradley
Kathleen Dardes
David Driskell
Melvin Edwards
Charles Gaines
Kenneth Hamma
Thomas Kren
David Lamelas
Oral History Year in Review: Lessons I’ve Learned

Amanda Tewes focuses on her several interviews for the Getty Trust Oral History Project and reveals that conducting interviews — and setting the framework for conducting successful ones — has taught her a great deal about humility and how humility takes work and planning.
Expertise as a Social Endeavor: Learning from Oral History

Roger Eardley-Pryor contributed a thoughtful piece showing how oral histories uniquely show how expertise is rarely a solitary achievement but one that is possible because of mentorship, collaboration, and even rivalry.

The Value of Open Space

Shanna Farrell centers her many interviews for the East Bay Regional Park District project and highlights the many diverse people who need to work together to make something that we too often take for granted — in this case, open space and parklands.

The Meaning of Taking Responsibility

Paul Burnett reflects on narrators who took responsibility for institutional problems and struggled to find solutions, sometimes at some cost to themselves.

Special Episode of the Berkeley Remix Podcast: Rice All the Time?

Miranda Jiang, a history undergrad at UC Berkeley, created an oral history performance called “Rice All the Time?: Chinese-Americans in the Bay Area in the Early 20th Century.” Miranda originally intended for “Rice All the Time?” to be performed by a few of her fellow students in front of a live audience. But, of course, because of COVID-19 cancellations, we’re now bringing you this performance in an audio format.

“Rice All the Time?” presents perspectives of multiple Chinese people growing up in the Bay Area in the early 20th century. It places their words into conversation with each other, and it invites you, as listeners, to interpret them.

If you like our podcast, please rate us or leave a comment on our iTunes page!
Congratulations to Ricky Noel, Winner of the Carmel and Howard Friesen Prize in Oral History Research!

Real Voices in History by Ricky Noel

Our awardee, Ricky Noel, who is starting his final year at Berkeley and majoring in history with a Latin American concentration. Ricky shares how he found the oral histories he used, and his approach to incorporating them in his research paper. Read Oral History Center Director Martin Meeker’s award announcement.

Hats off to Ricky!

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Rudy Mondragón, our 2019 Graduate Student of Color Fellow, Releases His Interview with Boxing Champion Kali Reis

Rudy Mondragón, a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles, was our inaugural graduate student fellow. Rudy is 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.

For his fellowship, he interviewed World Champion Boxer Kali “K.O. Mequinonoag” Reis. His reflections of their interview can be found here.

We are pleased to announce the release of Reis’ interview, which can be found on our website.

Bravo, Rudy!

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