From the Director

From the Director: Celebrating the Oral History Class of 2016

The 2015-2016 school year recently wrapped up at the Oral History Center with what has become a new and thriving tradition: the annual Oral History Graduation! In late April or early May over the past four years, we have hosted our very commencement ceremony in which we celebrate the oral histories completed over the past year. This special event gives us an opportunity to thank our interviewees for the often considerable time they give to our projects and to the sponsors who make those projects possible. This year we were especially honored to have many of our interviewees in attendance... [Read more]
Welcome to Todd Holmes, Our Newest Historian / Interviewer

We are proud to announce the arrival of a new interviewer at the Oral History Center, Todd Holmes. Todd is joining us from the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University, where he was a researcher and Affiliated Scholar. Todd completed his PhD from Yale University, where he studied the political history of California and its impact on national politics in the late-20th century. [Read more]

Exploring Law and Educational Finance Reform: Jack Coons and Stephen Sugarman

Few intellectual partnerships have been as durable and productive as the one forged between Berkeley Law professors Jack Coons and Stephen Sugarman over the past half century. Coons was born in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1929. He received his B.A. in history at the University of Minnesota, Duluth and graduated from Northwestern Law School [Read more]

New Oral Histories in the Global Mining and Materials Research Project

We are proud to announce eleven new interviews for the Global Mining and Materials Research Project, which focuses on key transitions in technology, policy, and geopolitics that have brought mining to its current state worldwide. These eleven new interviews feature leading metallurgists, software engineers, experts in mine health and safety, executives in the fields of industrial minerals, coal mining, and hard-rock mining, and an executive director of a mining association. [Read More]

From the Archives: March Fong Eu, Pioneering Woman in California Politics

It almost goes without saying that 2016 may prove to be another historic, breakthrough year for women in politics. In recognition of this, the Oral History Center has initiated a new project to highlight the rare and
important interviews in our collection of women who, against tremendous odds, broke through glass ceilings and forged their own path in the political arena. Over the next few months, we will feature several of these noteworthy pioneers in our newsletter. Also be on the lookout for a new audio series we are putting together on this very important subject. This month we pay tribute to March Fong Eu, former Secretary of State and member of the State Assembly in California. [Read more]

News About OHC

In recent months...

The Oral History Center has completed several fascinating interviews that you might have missed. So, we'd like to help you catch up on our latest releases: David Sickler, labor leader; Cornelius Hopper, Emeritus Vice President for Health Affairs for the UC System; Cruz Reynoso, former Associate Justice of the California State Supreme Court; Jennifer Colliau, bartender, bar owner, and founder of Small Hand Foods; Bob Gibson, UCSF Pharmacy Professor; and Jorg Rupf, founder of St. George Spirits.

Coming Up

And stay tuned for...

In the coming months, check back to the Oral History Center website for the release of our highly-anticipated interviews, including with:

- Renowned economists trained at the University of Chicago, including George P. Shultz and Arnold Harberger;
- The first group of interviews from the Freedom to Marry Oral History Project;
- Several more interviews with women and men who worked on the home front in World War II as part of our long-running Rosie the Riveter Oral History Project;
- The University of California Athletics Oral History Project, which features interviews with 70 experts on the issues of university sports programs;
- George Halvorson, recently retired as CEO of Kaiser Permanente, one of the largest providers of health care in the United States;
- Keith Yamamoto, Professor of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, and campus leader, at UC San Francisco
- Former San Francisco mayor, Willie Brown
The Oral History Center (OHC), a research division of The Bancroft Library, documents the history of California, the nation, and the interconnected global arena. OHC produces carefully researched, audio/video-recorded and transcribed oral histories and interpretative historical materials for the widest possible use.