

Newsletter to provide open forum

By Michael J. Fitzgerald, Newsletter Editor
The Center for California Studies at CSU, Sacramento launched this newsletter to provide a provocative, statewide open forum and resource for the expression of ideas about the state, particularly those ideas and themes identified (and debated!) at the annual conferences.

The key operational words here are, of course, *provocative, forum* and *resource*.

Articles and ideas published in this newsletter will avoid the pompous, punctilious prose of too many academic-based newsletters which find their final resting places in campus recycling bins — without ever having been read. It is a tall claim and promise to avoid the tender trap of tedium, but now that it's been made, consider it a contract.

Avoiding that trap will be easy, however, if readers pay attention to the second operational word: *forum*.

If you received a copy of this first newsletter, then you are somehow tied in with the California Studies loop that believes what's going on in this state (at any

level and in any field) is not only fascinating, but something we all need to know about.

But the newsletter needs to hear from you, about your ideas, your studies, your classes, your areas of expertise and interest. And it also needs your questions. The newsletter can only be a forum if you choose to use it.

The resource notion is tied closely to the fact that the Center for California Studies is a clearinghouse for all kinds of California information. In upcoming editions, the newsletter will mirror that by featuring the names and specialities of persons across the state in the hopes of linking scholars and others who, for a variety of reasons, haven't made contact.

Several theme editions are planned, too. (Yes, the next newsletter will likely be full of information about the February conference, but there will be a lot more in it, also.)

Please direct any correspondence to the newsletter to Michael Fitzgerald, newsletter editor.

Or call the Center directly at 916-278-6906.

Curriculum

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establishing itself as a clearinghouse for the following services.

— The Center collects syllabi in the different fields of California study for reference and information for faculty designing new courses.

— It is preparing a roster of faculty, writers and commentators in the different regions of the state and on different topics for guest lectures or consultations.

— The Center is developing bibliographies, compiled from sub-

mitted syllabi, in the main fields of concern to California Studies teachers and scholars. (The Center already has a California Literature bibliography and will send a draft copy to persons wishing to contribute to it.)

The Center for California Studies is thus building up extensive teaching resources and is also seeking information on current California Studies programs and projects.

The prospect of creating academic courses about the state's regions and peoples (both established and new-flowering) is an

exciting one. But it is also sometimes daunting. Neither established professions nor university procedures are set up for such things as California-oriented classes, interdisciplinary teaching, team teaching, and new methods of experiential learning.

The Center for California Studies seeks to provide help in overcoming these obstacles and introducing students and future researchers to the wealth of material about the historical legacies, communities and institutions which shape their lives.

Interest in California studies

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Historian Lawrence Wechsler reports a Zulu belief that "You have to fetch the future; it's not coming toward you, it's running away." Wechsler adds, "History isn't the past; it's a posture in the present toward the future. It exists to the extent that a community — as a polity, as a community — sees its future as up for grabs, as in contest, as something that has to be fetched." Before people can understand

themselves historically, they must first exist as a community and polity.

In these terms, the Center for California Studies seeks to help Californians understand their abilities to make history, by first helping, out of the many strands and regions of state life, to weave an intellectual community, an understanding of the state as a polity and as united by a common sense of place.

CENTER FOR CALIFORNIA STUDIES

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Quarterly Newsletter

New interest in California Studies

By Jeff Lustig, Director
Center for California Studies

The recent history of the Center for California Studies, like that of California itself, according to McWilliams, has been "one long series of booms, punctuated periodically by explosions."

The Center was propelled into existence by the rigors of running three government fellows programs and fueled by new interest in California Studies. Since then the Center's role has grown quickly until it comprises not only these original programs but other projects and statewide programs as well.

These "booms" have been punctuated by exciting California Studies conferences, a co-edited volume of *California History* and plans for a promising Growth Management Project.

The Center is becoming a comprehensive institute of California public affairs on the capital campus

of the world's largest university system. (If you can't speak in hyperbole in California, where can you?)

CSU, Sacramento has joined a number of other capital universities in the country along the path blazed by LaFollette's "Wisconsin Idea" during the Progressive era — creating a link between university and government, providing practical opportunities to the former and scholarly breadth to the latter.

Since the birth of the Center for California Studies in 1984, the Center has contributed to the state's policy-making process, developed educational opportunities in state government and sponsored numerous "civic literacy" programs.

We've got our eyes on additional programs as well.

The Center is committed to encouraging the development of the important interdisciplinary field of California Studies. And through the annual conference and public colloquia, the Center will continue to

contribute to the state's intellectual life by bringing together different outlooks, different disciplinary and cultural sensibilities to forge a new understanding of this dauntingly diverse and fast-moving state.

Our efforts and initiatives are impelled by a sense shared with many of you that this Pacific commonwealth has to be understood better than in the past.

The mental maps that formerly charted the state and its future no longer work. New maps have yet to be drawn. Where California once looked like a frontier, it has now become the focus of national attention and the lens through which the whole country glimpses its future.

Where it once seemed a terminus, it now stands revealed as an intersection — with all the vitality and contradiction inherent in such global meeting grounds. Where it once claimed to have the questions, it has now become the source of insis-

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"Charting Uncommon Ground", Feb. 7-9

The 1991 California Studies upcoming conference in Sacramento, "Charting Uncommon Ground," will bring together for three days a critical mass of scholars, legislators, writers and others to look at issues as diverse as literature and land use, high technology, and family life and music.

Scheduled for February 7-9 at the Hotel El Rancho in West Sacramento, the conference will begin with a keynote panel the evening of Feb. 7 at CSU, Sacramento.

Among the panel members will be:

— Kevin Starr, a California

literature historian and critic.

— Jack Forbes, chair of Native American studies at U.C., Davis.

— Erika Huggins, Oakland Educator and former Black Panther.

— Jackie Goldberg, president of the Los Angeles School Board.

— Dan Walters, journalist and columnist for the Sacramento Bee.

The following day, Jorge Castaneda, a leading economic analyst in Mexico and a syndicated columnist in the U.S., will be the luncheon speaker, addressing the topic "Mexico and California: Common Origin, Common Destiny?"

"We hope to chart the main contours and faultlines of the world's leading uncommonwealth," Jeff Lustig, director of the Center for California said.

Each day's panels are divided into three major areas: *Land and Peoples*, *The Political Landscape*, and *California and the World*.

Saturday will also feature a meeting of the California Studies Association.

Information about reservations for the conference can be obtained by calling the Center at 916-278-6906.

The newsletter of the Center for California Studies is published four times per year at California State University, Sacramento. Additional copies of the newsletter are available on request. Inquiries and letters should be directed to:
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"California entered the union on a bet. The bet was that the country would eventually be called California and not America." (Will Rogers)

New attention to California region

Conferences focus on range of voices, visions

The idea for California Studies conferences emerged naturally out of the increased interest in California cultures, regions, economy and politics, apparent throughout the classrooms, journals and offices of the state.

Universities across the state have seen a flourishing of new interdisciplinary courses on topics about California. Business and economic journals reveal a new attentiveness to the details of a region which fuels the world's sixth largest economy, spawns powerful technologies, and becomes more tightly integrated itself as financial institutions draw it closely into the world economy.

A rich and diverse ethnic literature over the past decade has given a voice to a new range of California voices and visions.

The enthusiasm with which the idea of the conference has been greeted, and zeal with which admonitions have been offered, indicate the existence of a strong — though inchoate — community of interest and inquiry.

These conferences have been the first convocations of such scope and character in the state's history. They have drawn together scholars, officials, business people, writers, artists, and community leaders to examine the historical shaping of policy and issues facing the state.

Envisioning California I

The first conference, *Envisioning California*, drew more than 300 people to hear Luis Valdez of El Teatro Campesino deliver a powerful and evocative keynote address. Maxine Hong Kingston read from her novels and ex-speaker Robert Monagan and Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (among many others) addressed a wide range of topics.

State land use, the arts, the economy and, of course, the importance of the state in the "Pacific Rim," were all discussed in the first

conference.

The conference itself was dedicated to the legacy and memory of Carey McWilliams, California's great writer, lawyer and investigative journalist. Selected presentations have since been published in a handsome special issue of *California History*, edited by Dick Orsi of CSU, Hayward. (The Special issue was guest edited by Jeff Lustig, director of the Center for California Studies.)

Envisioning California II

The second conference proved to be equally auspicious, with part of the proceedings presented in the state Capitol building. Los Angeles City Councilman and historian Patricia Limerick (author of *Legacy of Conquest*) delivered the keynote.

Among the many participants in the various panels were authors James Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki and Gary Soto as well as historian Jim Halliday. There were also analysts from the state's banking and policy making communities, artists and focal figures from California history, as Fred Korematsu plaintiff in the famous lawsuit challenging internment.

Frank LaPena and William Miesse presented the evening program at the handsome facilities of the Crocker Art Museum.

Conference attendees finished the weekend with dinner on the Delta Queen riverboat, enlightened and entertained with a stage re-enactment of the famed 1910 Carmel meeting of George Sterling, Mary Austin and Ambrose Bierce.

In just a few years, the conferences have become accepted as the natural meeting place of a diverse and developing intellectual community in the state. They have also developed a method and form all their own.

Less displays of academic specializations than calls to common

inquiry, panels encourage debate, and common inquiry.

Half lecture hall, half public laboratory — while simultaneously seeking to impart information and express divergent sensibilities — these conferences work in collaborative ways. The format and atmosphere invite the contributions of newcomers. Everyone who considers themselves part of the California Studies community should attend.

The 1991 conference.

The 1991 conference, entitled "Charting Uncommon Ground," will be held in the spacious facilities of the Hotel El Rancho in West Sacramento February 7-9. It is described on page 1.

Where to Meet in 1992

One of the topics we will discuss at the California Studies Association meeting February 9 is the location of next year's conference.

Some association members want to meet in the Los Angeles area. Others (including many of the southern California brethren) don't.

What do you think? Come to the meeting and let us know.

Center seeks Occasional Papers

The Center for California Studies recently launched its Occasional Paper Series with CSUS Professor Robert Curry's "What Californians Might Learn from Asian Productivity Movements."

These papers will feature the most cogent and significant pieces of research by CA. faculty addressing crucial policy issues facing the state of California.

If you have a 20-30 page article on a topic of concern to public policy makers, please submit it to the Center.

Conference Program

The Center for California Studies
Third Annual

CALIFORNIA STUDIES CONFERENCE: CHARTING UNCOMMON GROUND

Join California historians, geographers, writers, artists, geologists, economists, ethnic studies scholars, political scientists, environmentalists, & anthropologists and representatives from state and local government, business, ethnic groups, labor, news media, & public organizations in a three-day inquiry into the key policy issues, shaping historical legacies, & alternative futures for California.

- ◆ Ethnic Diversity & Immigration
- ◆ Growth, Traffic & the Cities
- ◆ Initiatives, Taxes, & Reapportionment
- ◆ Environment, Farms & Rural California
- ◆ The California Child
- ◆ The Pacific Rim
- ◆ Business & Technology
- ◆ Writing & Poetry
- ◆ Hollywood & the Media
- ◆ California History

February 7-9, 1991 at The Hotel El Rancho
1029 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, California

Conference Program

"When you have no place else to go to and you have to leave where you are, where else would you go but to California?" (Victoria Booth)

FINAL PROGRAM

THURSDAY

February 7, 1991 Hotel El Rancho

LAND AND PEOPLES	THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE	CALIFORNIA & THE WORLD
2:00-3:45 pm The Child in Crisis: Coming of Age in California	Farms into Cities: The Politics of Land Preservation	1492-1992: California and the Quincentennial
4:00-5:45 pm What's A Family? Shadows From a Different Hearth	Forgotten California The Rural Political Economy	New Eldorado: the Gold Rush Revisited

THURSDAY

February 7, 1991 CSU Sacramento

7:30-9:15 pm
Keynote Panel: "Charting Uncommon Ground"
• Jack Forbes, Chair, Native American Studies, UC Davis
• Jackie Goldberg, President, Los Angeles School Board
• Erika Huggins, Oakland educator
• Kevin Starr, Historian of California Literature, University of Southern California
• Dan Walters, Author, columnist Sacramento Bee

9:30-10:30 pm
Campus Reception: Sierra Room, Administration Building

FRIDAY

February 8, 1991 Hotel El Rancho

LAND AND PEOPLES	THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE	CALIFORNIA & THE WORLD
8:30-10:15 am As You Sow: Agribusiness & Community	Divided Ground: California as a Two-Tier Society	Eye of the Storm: The World Press Looks at California
10:30-12:15 pm The Melody Lingers on: LA Blues in the Forties	Who Governs? Crisis of Leadership in California	Is the Golden Age Over? The California Economy
12:30-2:00 pm Lunch	Jorge Castañeda, "Mexico and California: Common Origin, Common Destiny?"	

LAND AND PEOPLES	THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE	CALIFORNIA & THE WORLD
2:15-4:00 pm Images and Prose of the California Wilderness	Dissenting Voices: Calarza, Magon, and LeGuin	Six Frontiers: Immigration and Immigration Policy

4:00-5:30 pm
Crocker Art Museum Tour (optional)

4:15-5:45 pm
Contested Ground: Report from Native California

6:30-8:30 pm
Dinner: SACRAMENTO HISTORY MUSEUM
California on Stage "Jaime Wandering" by Bill Broeder
Based on the writings of Jaime De Angulo.

SATURDAY

February 9, 1991 Hotel El Rancho

LAND AND PEOPLES	THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE	CALIFORNIA & THE WORLD
8:30-10:15 pm Environment and Ethics: The Pacific Vision	Eloquent Multitudes: Literature of the Californias	Regional Governance and Growth
10:30-12:15 pm Voices of Place: California's Regional Poetry	Youth On the Street: Voices of the New California	California's Changing Workplace
12:15-2:00 pm Lunch	California Studies Association Business Meeting	
2:00-3:30 pm From Outside In: California's Domestic Architecture	Community & Politics: Charting California's New Agenda?	High Tech and Post-Industrial Society in California
3:45-4:15 pm Concluding Session	Report on next year's conference planning and announcements	

Courtesy of the California State Archives, "The Legacy of Progressivism" exhibit will be on display during the conference at the Hotel El Rancho.

CSA business meeting at conference

The statewide California Studies Association will hold an important business session Saturday, Feb. 9 as part of the 1991 California Studies Conference, "Charting Uncommon Ground."

The association was officially founded during the 1990 conference at a meeting attended by representatives from schools, writers, state officials and representatives from private groups and businesses.

The CSA is open to members both public and private, professional and non-professional, local and statewide in orientation.

The first 100 persons to join the CSA this past year received a free issue of *California History*, the

magazine of the California Historical Society. A limited number of these magazines are still available to new members.

Annual dues are \$20 for general members, \$10 for students and senior citizens.

For more information, either contact the Center for California Studies at CSU, Sacramento (916-278-7896) or one of the following members of the steering committee:

- Susan Anderson, 1607 Shenandoah St. Los Angeles.
- Rodger Birt, San Francisco State University.
- Robert Cherny, San Francisco State University.

Isao Fujimoto, U.C. Davis.
Gerald Haslam, Sonoma State University.

Craig Hendricks, 1857 Iroquis Ave. Long Beach.

R. Jeffrey Lustig, chair, CSU, Sacramento.

Glenna Matthews, 2112 McKinley St. #C Berkeley.

Richard Orsi, CSU, Hayward.

Jackie Reinier, CSU, Sacramento.

Federico Sanchez, CSU Long Beach.

Ron Schmidt, CSU, Long Beach.

John Syer, CSU, Sacramento.

Martha Winnacker, 2017 Francisco St., Berkeley.

Richard Walker, U.C. Berkeley.
Jim Williams, California History Center, Cupertino.

California courses flourish in state

Center offers clearinghouse for curriculum

Course development in California Studies topics has burgeoned in the last 10 years.

Classes in California literature, economics, ethnic groups and comparative ethnic studies, politics and Pacific Rim subjects have appeared in university and college catalogs. What makes this sudden flowering especially exciting is the number of interdisciplinary offerings (e.g., California Politics and Literature, the Social History of California Agriculture and the Psychology of the Ghetto/Barrio, to name just a few.)

The Center for California Studies draws much of its inspiration from these innovations by statewide faculty. It seeks, in turn, to strengthen the California Studies movement and the deeper intellectual and social reorientation that the movement reveals. The Center offers major instructional resources for California-directed faculty

throughout the state — in private as well as public institutions.

The basis for this support was laid by the 1988 report to the CSU, Chancellor's office tracing the sources, identifying the content, recommending the optimal forms and explaining the legitimacy of the emerging field of study and research.

Following extensive discussions with faculty and students and consultations with administrators and legislators, the report identified seven concerns underlying recent curriculum innovations:

- 1. Public policy concern.** Increasingly compacted cities, deteriorating infrastructure, and polarizing demographics "demand more detailed and contextually informed understanding" than previously available.
- 2. Civic education concerns** for the different societies of the California commonwealth as well as the general public.
- 3. Career concerns.**
- 4. Liberal arts concerns** providing for an understanding of "the roots of identity in culture and his-

tory," and for "the cultivation of the ability to see general themes, overviews, master trends — the wholes beyond the parts."

5. Multicultural concerns. California "now faces the full challenge of creating a true multi-ethnic society. California Studies could seek in the diverse communities of the state avenues toward the larger world..."

6. Political concerns making the university more accessible to the peoples of the state, and more attentive to their problems and communities.

7. Pedagogical concerns following from the new insights about how people learn and "a belief that they truly learn only when their knowledge is rooted in the structures and textures of their experience."

This report concluded, however, that unfortunately, "education of the state's students about their past, present and futures is still rudimentary and haphazard." The Center for California Studies seeks to help faculty remedy this situation by

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"California...is a world of extraordinary...maddening diversity. It is a free fire zone, the launch pad, the social laboratory." (James Houston)