Summer break on a university campus usually provides quiet time for reflection and catching up on projects. Writing from my vantage point at the Center for California Studies at the close of summer, it feels like we’ve never slowed down!

In June the Center hosted a symposium on the topic of civic engagement at the local level, that was well attended by local officials, legislative and executive staff, researchers, and others. At the symposium we presented survey data commissioned from Sacramento State’s Institute for Social Research (ISR). A video of the conference and related materials are available here. Also in June, we convened a group of executive and legislative officials from California and other western states to discuss the funding of state infrastructure projects.

In July we and our partners at USC’s Sacramento campus held the annual Legislative Staff Management Institute for legislative staff from around the country. We have been putting on this week-long Institute every year since 2005. This year’s program was attended by 37 participants representing 21 states. In July we also helped host high school students at Way Up Sacramento’s Youth Leadership program at Sacramento State, and provided seminars for fellows with the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project. At the end of the month the Center and ISR jointly released the annual update of the California Elections Data Archive, which is available here.

Now it’s September and we have two major projects going on: First, we’re working on publishing a second edition of Preserving California’s Treasures, which details over 140 historic preservation projects in California. Grants for these projects were administered by the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE), who published the first edition of the book. With CCHE’s work winding down, they have graciously passed stewardship of the volume on to us. I’m pleased to have the Center produce and publish this second edition, which promotes a greater understanding of our state and our people. We expect the second edition of the book to be available this fall. Excerpts from the first edition are available here.

A second major project we’re working on is our annual Envisioning California conference. This year’s theme is “Food Trends and Policies in the Golden State,” which promises to be an engaging and informative program. We’ll have panels, food tastings, cooking demonstrations, awards for journalism that relates to the food theme, and other programming. The all-day conference will be at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria in Sacramento on October 11th.

I’m grateful for all the opportunities the Center has had and continues to have in order to do its good work. In a few short weeks our 2013-14 Fellows will be arriving in Sacramento, which is always an exciting and rewarding time for us. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the coming academic year.

~ Steve Boilard

The LegiSchool Project: Fall Preview

The LegiSchool Project had an exciting year in 2012-13. The three Town Hall Meetings and the Legislative Summit provided a great platform for students to discuss real issues with policymakers at the Capitol. The Real World Civics Summer Internship was expanded to include a week long exploration of the judicial branch, where students had the opportunity to visit the state trial court, appellate court and the federal court in Sacramento.

In the 2013-14 school year, LegiSchool will continue to engage students in matters of public policy and state government. In October, students will learn about the state budget by participating in an interactive exercise with Next 10, a nonpartisan organization geared at promoting a deeper understanding of critical issues affecting Californians. In December, students will gather in Los Angeles to discuss online education with policy makers from around the state.

For more information on the LegiSchool Project please visit csus.edu/calst/legischool_project.html
**Center Update:** New Directors appointed to the Judicial Administration Fellowship Program and the LegiSchool Project

The Center for California Studies at Sacramento State has appointed new directors for two of its flagship programs. Megan Thorall has been appointed director of the award-winning Judicial Administration Fellowship Program. Thorall replaces Donna Hoenig-Couch, who retired after 20 years of service to the Center. Thorall has spent the past five years directing the Center’s LegiSchool Project. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and is currently studying for her Master’s Degree in Criminology, Law and Society at University California, Irvine. In her new position, Thorall will be responsible for the highly competitive Judicial Administration Fellowship Program, which annually provides 10 college graduates from around the country with a 10-month program of direct work experience in California’s court system, as well as academic seminars and other programming. “I can’t think of anyone better suited than Megan to assume responsibility for this program,” said the Center’s executive director, Steve Boilard. “Her dedication and commitment to experiential learning makes her ideal for this crucial position.” In addition to the Judicial Fellows program, Thorall manages the Center’s publications and media relations.

Terra Townsend is replacing Thorall as the director of the LegiSchool Project. Townsend, a former Capital Fellow, has been with the Center since 2011, having worked as program assistant for the LegiSchool program. Before coming to the Center, she worked with AmeriCorps and various nonprofit organizations. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and Forensic Psychology from Seattle University, and is currently enrolled in Sacramento State’s graduate program in Public Policy and Administration. In her new position, Townsend takes leadership over LegiSchool, which engages young people in matters of public policy and state government by creating opportunities for students and state leaders to meet and share ideas on the problems affecting Californians. “Terra has shown a remarkable capacity for finding new ways to better advance the Center’s mission, and brings an energy and enthusiasm to everything she does,” said Boilard. “I am pleased to have her join our management team.” In addition to the LegiSchool Project, Townsend will be taking lead responsibility for the Center’s journalism awards, among other programs.

For more information on the Judicial Administration Fellowship Program or LegiSchool Project please visit [csus.edu/calst.html](http://csus.edu/calst.html)

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**Former Fellow Profile:** Sulma Guzman, Executive Fellow 2006-07

Originally from Patterson, CA, Ms. Guzman is the oldest of three siblings and the first person in her family to go to college. After completing her B.A. in Political Science at CSU Stanislaus, she was accepted to the Executive Fellowship Program for the class of 2006-2007. She served her placement at the Labor and Workforce Development Agency under then Secretary Victoria Bradshaw, where she worked with the enforcement and legislative divisions. After her fellowship year, she worked as a coordinator/liaison for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Western Regional Office, and enrolled in law school at UC Hastings College of Law. As a law student she interned with the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office under then D.A. Kamala Harris, and upon graduation and passing the California Bar Exam, became an attorney for the Legal Services of Northern California (Sacramento). She is the current staff attorney for a statewide pilot program called the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Project, where she represents traditionally low-income and underrepresented litigants in housing issues such as eviction defense and other tenant issues.

Ms. Guzman looks back at her fellowship experience very fondly. “It was my first professional experience after college,” she says, “and was a big reason I decided to go to law school.” As someone who’s passions and interests were in advocating for underserved populations, her experience in labor code enforcement at the Agency during her fellowship year helped her to see the impact an advocate could have with a law degree, and how change could be implemented through policy making.

Ms. Guzman’s advice for soon-to-be fellows is “learn as much as you can during the fellowship. The fellowship is an opportunity to be mentored by professionals with decades of experiences. Ask them how did they get there, what did they do, and what drives them on a daily basis.” She cites the network of fellows from her year and other classes as invaluable, and still keeps in touch with mentors and professionals from her time in the Agency. To this point she stresses to fellows to always “maintain a good reputation because it’s a small world.”
Wishing you the best of luck
Capital Fellows class of 2012-13!

Welcome 2013-14 Class of Capital Fellows!

Assembly Fellows
Ian Adams
Kimberly Angulo
Kylie Baranowski
Rylan Gervase
Matthew Hamlett
Kevin Hefner
Jonathan Hughes
Eleni Lewis
Tyrone McGraw
Gregory Melkonian
Elissa Ouchida
Sarah Palacios
Danielle Parsons
Addison Peterson
Freddie Quintana
Mayte Sanchez
Suman Tatapudy
Gonzalo Villegas

Executive Fellows
Jaycob Bytel
Yan Yin Choy
Alison Dinmore
Lauren Greenwood
Natalie Hernandez
Taylor Jones
Devon King
Nikita Koraddi
Kofi Kouassi
Elizabeth Marsolais
Elena Murphy
Angelica Quirarte
Taylor Roschen
Oliver Rosenbloom
Andrew Santana
Garrett Toy
Jannelle Watson
Ross Zelen

Judicial Fellows
Alex Carvajal
Emily Chirk
Sharif Elmallah
Christina
Jackson-Davis
Shelby King
Suzanne Lawson
Corina McIntyre
Diane Ramirez
Judith Ramos
Nina Tantraphol

Senate Fellows
Nwadiuto Amajoyi
Viviana Becerra
Briana Calleros
Rogelio Caudillo
Tempestt Edward
Justin Freitas
Toni Gomez
Jasmine Gordon
Christina Hulick
Shawn Lewis
Amy Li
Hannah Marrs
Teodoro Martinez
Mark Mendoza
Yaroslav Pavlov
Jose Torres
Maritza Urquiza
Phillip Vander Klay

The Center for California Studies is a public service and research unit of California State University, Sacramento. Founded in 1982, the Center is dedicated to strengthening democratic governance in California through multidisciplinary education, preparing people for public service and leadership, and helping to solve problems of public policy.

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Deputy Director and Director, Executive Fellowship Program

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Director, Judicial Administration Fellowship Program

Pam Chueh
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