Update: 2013 Envisioning California Conference
Food For Thought: Current Food Trends and Policies in the Golden State

This year’s annual Envisioning California Conference, held on Friday, October 11th, examined California’s food products and practices. 230 attendees from universities, state government, nonprofits, the farm industry, and local foodies enjoyed the day, and for the first time, the conference was held in downtown Sacramento at the Library Tsakopoulos Galleria.

Panel titles included: Stewardship of the Land that Sustains Us: The Future of Farming in California; California’s Farm Labor Shortages and the Impact of Immigration Reform; Food Poverty in an Agriculturally Rich State: How to Address Food Access Inequalities Across California; and Farm to Fork: Future or Fad? Twenty diverse panelists spoke on their topics of expertise and included Secretary Karen Ross of the Department of Food and Agriculture; Genevieve Shiroma, Chairwoman of the California Agriculture Labor Relations Board; Keri Askew Bailey, California Grocers Association; and Rodney Taylor, Nutritional Services Director at the Riverside Unified School District.

Lunch included a delicious buffet provided by El Dorado County caterer Beth Sogaard; California Journalism Awards presentation; and keynote address by renowned author and organic farmer David Mas Masumoto. Mas told the tale of two perfect peaches, one a blemish-free, cheap food with good looks produced through the highly successful production part of California’s ag industry; the second, organic, juicy and sustainable, produced by small farmers and only a small percent of California’s sales. He also noted that we have to remember what’s behind the scenes: the hands of food - farmworkers and farmers; the politics of immigration reform and food safety; and of course, water. These concepts illustrate the complex tale of two kinds of agriculture in California, big and small; production agriculture alongside artisan farming, and how they coexist.

The day concluded with food vendor and organization tables as well as a cooking demonstration. Video of each of the panels and the keynote address produced by the California Channel can be found here.

(Photos from top to bottom: Winner, California Journalism Awards Excellence in Photo Journalism, Chris Riley, Vallejo Times Herald; Envisioning California Conference luncheon, photo credit: Lori Phillips; Keynote speaker Mas Masumoto addresses the crowd, photo credit: Lori Phillips.)
Executive Director Message

We had a busy Fall at the Center: Our 2014-15 Fellows have been through orientation and are now in their placements. Our LegiSchool Project has been holding its town hall meetings and various contests. We put on another successful Envisioning California conference with attendance that significantly exceeded our expectations. We published a new edition of a book, Preserving California’s Treasures, on historic preservation projects in California, hosted a number of symposia and other events, have resurrected the Center’s oral history program, and worked in various other ways to promote California studies and strengthen democratic governance in the state.

As a small organization of a dozen individuals, we rely on partnerships with many other individuals and organizations to carry out our mission. I’m grateful for those partnerships and new opportunities which are constantly coming our way. I welcome your continued ideas and suggestions about our programs, and wish you all a happy and prosperous new year. ~ Steve Boilard

For more information on the Center for California Studies please visit: csus.edu/calst.html

Former Fellow Profile: Matt Haney, Senate Fellow 2005-06

Matt Haney, a 2005-06 California Senate Fellow, was elected to the San Francisco Board of Education on November 6, 2012. With more than 100,000 votes cast for him, Matt became one of the only members of an urban school board under the age of 35. Matt was recently the executive director of the University of California Student Association (UCSA), representing more than 250,000 students in the U.C. system. At UCSA, Matt helped lead the California student movement through a difficult time for public higher education.

Matt grew up in California public schools, graduating from U.C. Berkeley in 2005. After graduation, Matt served as a California Senate Fellow assigned to state Senator Joe Simitian (D-11) and was instrumental in the passage of the state’s first laws prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving. After the fellowship, Matt studied abroad under a Mitchel Scholar Fellowship and earned a Master’s in Law in International Human Rights from the National University Ireland (Galway). Upon his return stateside, Matt joined the 2008 Obama presidential campaign as a field organizer and youth-vote director, trekking through California, Iowa, Texas and New Mexico. After the campaign, Matt came home to California and founded a non-profit, Citizen Hope, organized to empower people to bring about change through community action and social networking. He went on to earn a law degree and a master’s degree in education from Stanford University. A year into his four-year term as a school board member, Matt left the UCSA and is now a Fellow at Stanford’s School of Design (design thinking). He dedicates his time as a fellow to designing an educational experience around students’ voices, needs, experiences to improve overall retention and engagement. According to Matt, when one student disengages due to a lack of agency, “we all lose out.”

AVAILABLE NOW! Preserving California’s Treasures

Learn more about our state’s rich cultural heritage and multi-faceted development through this dynamic publication!

• Highlights historical preservation projects from all 12 regions of California.
• An inspiration and a guide to learning more about California!

Purchase your copy here: https://commerce.cashnet.com/csusacevent
Capital Fellows Program Among Nation’s Best for a 4th year

For the 4th year the Capitol Fellows Programs have been named as one of the best internships in the nation by Vault.com, keeping company with some of the largest, most prestigious organizations in the country such as BP America and The Boston Consulting Group. The Center for California Studies is honored to have the recognition of our Capital Fellows Programs and thank you to our partners, alumni and current fellows for helping to maintain our excellence. For additional information check out the article HERE!

2014-15 Outreach Update

It’s that time of year again to apply for the Capital Fellows Programs! The application deadline for the 2014-15 fellowship year is February 10, 2014 and the online application link can be found on the Center’s website at www.csus.edu/calst/programs. The fellowships truly do launch careers. Of the 64 2012-13 fellows that ended their fellowship year in late summer and fall of 2013, 34 have stayed on to work in California state government. Share your knowledge of the Capital Fellows Programs and the four fellowship programs (Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship, Executive Fellowship Program, Judicial Administration Fellowship, and California Senate Fellows) with those you know and encourage them to apply.

The LegiSchool Project: Winter Writeup

The fall was quite successful for the LegiSchool Project. At our October Town Hall Meeting, students from around California voted on spending and revenue options to create their very own state budget. The energy was abundant at this very interactive Town Hall and students ended up with about $4 billion surplus! A special thank you to Next 10 for facilitating the meeting. In addition, our art contest has concluded, and we are so impressed with the caliber of submissions. The theme was California Agriculture and all finalists and winners are receiving certificates signed by Secretary Karen Ross.

The December Town Hall in Los Angeles was also a success. Students had the chance to discuss online education with lawmakers and policymakers. We are also accepting applications for our 2014 essay contest. The topic is gun control vs. gun rights. The essay contest provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage with a policy topic of great importance to Californians. Please encourage students to submit an essay by January 17, 2014.

For more information on the LegiSchool Project please visit: csus.edu/calst/legischool_project.html

2013 California Journalism Award Winners

For Excellence in Print Reporting

For Excellence in Blog Reporting
Clare Leschin-Hoar, TakePark.com, TakePart.com, a Participant Media website that draws 4+ million visitors a month

For Excellence in Radio Reporting
Sasha Khokha & Grace Rubenstein, KQED and the Center for Investigative Reporting, “Farmworkers Face Rape”

For Excellence in TV Reporting
David Bienick & Mike Carroll, KCRA TV 3, “Hops Make a Comeback”

For Excellence in Photo Journalism
Chris Riley, Vallejo Times Herald, “Food for Thought”

Katharine M. Macdonald Student Award
Samantha Lynn, The Stanford Daily, “New mobile food vendor policy drives Net Appetit off campus”