

HORNET HISTORY BUZZ

PEOPLE. PROJECTS. PROGRESS.

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WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

History Department Finally Has a Home

After years of borrowed conference rooms and hallway conversations, the History Department now has a space to call its own. The Peter H. Shattuck Green and Gold Room was formally dedicated on Monday, August 11th, creating what Mrs. Elisabeth Shattuck envisioned as "a place for students to gather."

The dedication ceremony in Library 65 brought together faculty, students, and university leadership to honor both Peter Shattuck's legacy and his widow's remarkable generosity. The formal program included opening remarks by Dr. Jeff Wilson, Chair of the Department of History, followed by a land acknowledgment from Dr. Mark Wheeler, Senior Advisor to the President.

Mr. Ajamu Lamumba, Advisor for the UNIQUE Program, delivered a dedication poem, while Dr. Antonio T. Bly, the Shattuck Endowed Chair in Colonial American History, offered the formal dedication, highlighting Peter H. Shattuck's work as a History Professor and mentor at Sac State. Amy Davey, Vice-President of the History Club and Shattuck Research Assistant, gave a student presentation before President Wood delivered closing remarks. Mrs. Shattuck and her son Art joined the ceremony, which concluded with a reception.

A Room That Reflects Its Namesake

The colonial-style meeting room pays tribute to Peter Shattuck's work. The furnishings and design echo the period he spent his career studying and teaching about. For faculty who remember Peter, the space feels like a natural extension of his scholarly presence.

History instruction was Peter's life work, and his impact on students extended far beyond graduation. The Shattuck family have supported the department for years through multiple scholarships, but this room represents something different. It addresses a practical need the department has faced for decades: a dedicated space for faculty meetings, student gatherings, study sessions, and small classes.

Additional pictures from the dedication located on page 4



Mrs. Elisabeth Shattuck was in attendance for the dedication
Photo Credit: Sacramento State/Andrea Price

Years in the Making

Dr. Bly led the effort to make the room a reality, with assistance from Dr. Wilson and crucial support from the President's office. Dr. Wood's personal attention to the project helped navigate the complex logistics of creating new academic space on campus.

But the driving force was Mrs. Shattuck's vision of giving history students what other departments take for granted: a home base. Her funding made the entire project possible, from renovations to furnishings that match the room's early American theme.

More Than Just Meeting Space

The Peter H. Shattuck Room serves multiple functions. Faculty can hold department meetings without hunting for available conference rooms. Students have a dedicated place to meet for study groups or informal discussions about their coursework. The space also works as a small classroom for seminars and specialized courses.

Most importantly, it gives the History Department something it has long needed: a physical identity on campus. Students and faculty now have a place that belongs specifically to them, where the department's intellectual community can gather and grow.

The dedication ceremony captured the warmth Mrs. Shattuck hoped to create. As faculty and students mingled in the new space, it was clear the room had already begun serving its intended purpose: bringing people together around their shared love of history.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

Department Events

- *Echoes of Justice - Law and Social Justice Concentration Launch Event*
 - Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025
 - 4:30-5:30 p.m. Panel (Hinde Auditorium)
 - 5:30-6:30 p.m. Reception (Union Lobby Suite)
- *Friday Green and Gold Room Salons*
 - Every Friday, 4:00-6:00 pm (Peter H. Shattuck Green and Gold Room)

University-Wide Events

- *Phlagelblast - Sep 3, 2025, University Union, All Day Event*
- *Sac State v. SD State (home) - Aug 30, 2025, 4:00PM*
- *Sac State v. Nevada (home) - Sep 6, 2025, 2:00PM*

Academic Calendar

- *Aug 25 - Fall Semester Begins*
- *Aug 25-Sep 5 - Late Registration*
- *Sep 6-22 - Late Reg (OnBase only)*
- *Sep 22 - Census Date*
- *Nov 14 - Final Day to Withdraw*
- *Dec 5 - Last Day of Instruction*
- *Dec 8-12 - Finals Week*
- *Jan 2, 2026 - Fall Grades Due*

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Faculty Spotlight - Where In the World Are the History Professors?

Dr. Nikolaos Lazaridis

From the ruins of Pompeii to the lecture halls of Rome, Dr. Nikolaos Lazaridis's summer blended hands-on teaching with international scholarship. He co-led a study abroad program to Italy with Professor Alba Boyer and Dr. Viola Ardeni from the Department of World Languages and Literatures, guiding students through iconic sites such as the Roman Forum and the museums of Rome, Naples, and Sorrento. The program was a resounding success, with plans already underway for next spring.

Immediately after, Dr. Lazaridis delivered a public lecture at La Sapienza University in Rome on his epigraphic fieldwork in Egypt's Western Desert. In June, he presented at the Women's Perspectives in the Nile Valley conference at the University of Warsaw, sharing his latest research on gender dynamics in ancient Egyptian storytelling.



Students and faculty during the 2024 Italy Study Abroad Program.
Photo courtesy of Nikolaos Lazaridis

Dr. Aaron Jackson

Who decides which veterans are "deserving" of government care? Why does the nation's largest fully subsidized healthcare network still leave gaps that thousands fall through? And how have shifting cultural and medical views redefined what it means to be "mad" in America? This summer, Sacramento State alumnus Dr. Aaron Jackson is chasing those answers as he advances his forthcoming book on the U.S. veterans' healthcare system. Between research sessions, he's teaching HIST 174B, The History of "Madness" in the United States, and gearing up for a fall semester that will take him from campus lecture halls to honors courses inside Folsom State Prison through the Transforming Outcomes Project at Sacramento State.



The Department of Veterans Affairs building in Washington, D.C.
Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock Images

Dr. Michael Vann

Six weeks in Central Java. One mandi. No English. This summer, *the very tall* Dr. Michael Vann represented Sacramento State on a prestigious Fulbright-Hays award for advanced Bahasa Indonesia language training at Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana in Salatiga. The program included living with a three-generation family who spoke only Indonesian and shared a single bucket-style toilet and shower.

"It was the most challenging thing I have done since grad school 30 years ago," Dr. Vann said. As the oldest participant in a group made up mostly of undergraduates and master's students, he brought decades of historical expertise to the experience while strengthening the department's commitment to international engagement and language learning. The result was better Indonesian, unforgettable cultural insights, and another step forward in expanding the department's global connections for students and faculty alike.



Female tourist at temple gates of heaven
Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock Images

History, Law, and Social Justice Concentration Now Open

How did the Fourteenth Amendment's original meaning shape today's immigration debates? Why do labor organizing strategies from the 1930s still influence modern workplace advocacy? The department's new History, Law, and Social Justice concentration teaches students to trace these connections between past and present.

What's Different

This is not just another pre-law track. The concentration treats history as a tool for understanding how legal systems actually work in practice. Students examine founding documents alongside civil rights cases, study labor movements next to immigration patterns, trace how past advocacy strategies shape current policy debates.

Core courses include:

- Founding Documents and Their Legacy
- Civil Rights Movement: Strategy and Impact
- American Legal History
- Labor History and Workers' Rights

Electives include African-American History, Mexican-American History, and comparative social movements. Students pick courses that match where they're headed, whether that's law school, policy work, or advocacy organizations.

Real Skills, Real Opportunities

The program emphasizes the skills that actually matter in legal and policy careers: research that holds up under scrutiny, writing that persuades skeptical audiences, analysis

that cuts through political rhetoric. Students get one-on-one advising to map internships and connect with practicing professionals.

Launch Event: Echoes of Justice

The concentration launches with a panel that shows exactly what we mean by applied historical thinking: Echoes of Justice: How History Shapes Today's Legal Struggles.

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025

- 4:30–5:30 p.m. Panel (Hinde Auditorium)
- 5:30–6:30 p.m. Reception (Union Lobby Suite)

(article continued on page 4)

Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future: Keeley O'Farrell's Remarkable Year

Keeley O'Farrell's first year as a Sacramento State alumna has been anything but quiet. In just a matter of months, she graduated in fall 2024 with a History degree, received the Dean's Award, presented her research at the Phi Alpha Theta conference in April 2025, and returned to campus that spring to deliver a commencement address. It was a full-circle moment that reflected both her achievements and her deep commitment to the field she loves.

O'Farrell describes herself as a "total archive nerd," and those who have worked with her would agree. Tenacious, goal-driven, and unafraid of challenges, she made her mark as an officer in the History Club, approaching every project with focus and initiative. Along the way, she discovered a passion for archival work, the kind of careful, behind-the-scenes preservation that she says will always guide her career.

For O'Farrell, success is something she shares with others. "None of this would have been possible without my grandfather," she explained, speaking about the man whose influence shaped her life and whose recent passing made her accomplishments especially meaningful. She also credits Sacramento State faculty for helping her see possibilities she had not imagined when she first arrived on campus.

Now pursuing her master's in Library and Information Science at San Jose State University, O'Farrell continues to work toward the same goal she set on her first day at Sac State: to preserve the past so others can learn from it.



Keeley O'Farrell

Photo Credit: Sacramento State/Andrea Price

Public History Grad Student Allison Isham Published in the AHA's *Perspectives* Magazine

Public History grad student Allison Isham talks about her work with a mix of excitement and purpose. It is clear she has thought deeply about why history matters and where she wants it to take her. That focus recently paid off when the American Historical Association's *Perspectives* magazine published her piece, *From Passion to Practice*, in which she shares how a curiosity about the past grew into a commitment to preserving it.

A Sacramento State alum, Allison earned her BA in History in spring 2024. Not one to sit on the sidelines, she stepped into graduate school ready to lead, serving as president of the History Club in her first year.

She organized events, built connections between students and faculty, and helped make the department feel more like a community. Balancing leadership with coursework was no small feat, but she made it work.

Now deep into her graduate studies, Allison continues to embrace Sac State's blend of research and public engagement. For her, history is not just something to study in books. It is something to share with the world.

You can read her full article on the AHA website: <https://www.historians.org/perspectives-article/from-passion-to-practice/>



Allison Isham

Photo courtesy of Allison Isham

CONGRATULATIONS 25-26 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Julian Shansky Quinn

Allison Isham

Drew Harris

Allison Isham

Ashlynn Deupree

Ashlynn Deupree

Amy Davey

Peter Vang

Angel Clement

Ricky Andrews

Tancredi Selvaggio

Christopher Garrison

George and Eleanor Craft Graduate Scholarship in History

George and Eleanor Craft Graduate Scholarship in History

George and Eleanor Craft Graduate Scholarship in History

Faculty Graduate Writing Prize in History

Faculty Graduate Writing Prize in History

Lawrence A. Brooks Graduate Conference Grant

Rose-Christensen History Research Travel Scholarship

Professor Thomas Swift History Scholarship

Undergraduate Scholarship in History

Peter H. Shattuck Undergraduate Scholarship

Peter H. Shattuck Undergraduate Scholarship

Peter H. Shattuck Undergraduate Scholarship

Shattuck Room Dedication Ceremony Gallery



(continued from page 2)

Tom Clark, Principal Counsel for the California Assembly Judiciary Committee and our adjunct Legal History professor, moderates a conversation with three practitioners who use historical knowledge daily:

- Gabriel "Jack" Chin (UC Davis School of Law) on criminal procedure and immigration
- Jeffrey Schwarzschild (California Conservation Corps) on environmental law
- Malina Walker (Senior Legal Services, El Dorado County) on civil law and elder advocacy

They'll discuss how historical patterns inform everything from constitutional interpretation to community organizing strategies.

For ASL/English interpretation, contact Dr. Mona Siegel at msiegel@csus.edu by Sept. 8.

The concentration gives students something law schools and employers consistently say they want: the ability to think beyond the immediate case or policy to understand the deeper forces at work.

Students Interested in joining the Law and Social Justice Concentration should meet with their major advisor as soon as possible as classroom space is limited and the program is filling up quickly!



Photo Credits: Sacramento State/Andrea Price