

October 2020

Dispatches from the New Normal

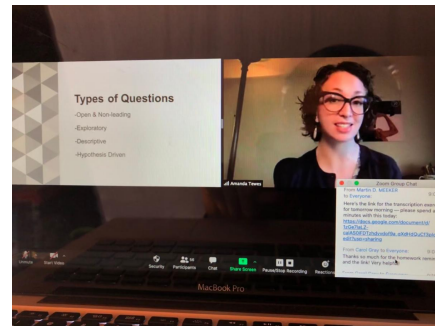
From all of us at the Oral History Center, we are wishing you our best in these challenging times.

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy.

Director's Column, October 2020

This month, OHC Director Martin Meeker discusses how we are doing in the time of remote work, from our interviews to our Advanced Summer Institute.

[Read his column here.](#)



Announcing the OHC Collection Guide: Women of the University of California

We have conducted **hundreds of oral history interviews with University of California women** — alumnae, faculty, staff, administrators, and philanthropists. In honor of the 150th anniversary of women at Berkeley, we have created a comprehensive collection guide to these oral histories — containing more than 260 interviews. Reaching back to the class of 1895, these women were influential as educators, labor organizers, suffragists, child advocates, community organizers, novelists, artists, and much more. The guide can be downloaded or copied, and is fully sortable.

Bay Area Political Women Leaders Panel: The Importance of Networks

This is an exciting moment in women's political history! Not only does August mark the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, the recent announcement of Senator Kamala Harris as Vice President Joe Biden's running mate on the Democratic ticket ensures that women's political work is at the front of our minds. And Harris's prospects on the national stage also highlight the Bay Area's outsized influence in fostering women political leaders. This makes for the perfect atmosphere to

celebrate the **Bay Area Women in Politics Oral History Project** from UC Berkeley's **Oral History Center**!

In the spirit of this celebration, on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, the Oral History Center hosted the Bay Area Political Women Leaders Panel with guests former San Francisco Supervisor Louise Renne, Pittsburg City Councilmember Shanelle Scales-Preston, and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. This all-star lineup of Bay Area politicians shared their personal journeys to elected office, as well as stories about local political women's challenges and achievements.

Read Amanda Tewes recap of the event on our blog.

Watch the event here.

Please consider supporting this project by donating here.

New OHC Curriculum Page

We're proud announce the launch of a **curriculum page** with all kinds of information for K-12 teachers about how to use our collection in the classroom, from teaching how to search for and in our oral histories to teaching students to do oral history to a model curriculum for grade 11 about AIDS & Epidemics, based on our **HIV/AIDS oral history collection** and **First Response podcast**. Explore content that can be used in middle schools and high schools!



Oral History Advanced Summer Institute Recap

Amanda Tewes reflects on our annual Advanced Institute, which we took online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She discusses how we adapted, what we gained, and lost, as well as what made her appreciate the constants of oral history.



Chicana/o Studies Oral History Project

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, it is worth reflecting on the scholars who documented that heritage and fought for its inclusion in American classrooms and textbooks. In 2017, the OHC initiated a project to do just that: The Chicana/o Studies Oral History Project. This project commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Chicana/o Studies and documents the formation of the field through in-depth interviews with the first generation of scholars who shaped it. Oral histories with the founding generation of scholars in the field of Chicana/o Studies document the formation of an academic field aimed at studying the

Mexican American experience was a rare and special opportunity all its own.

Read more about this project, led by Todd Holmes, on our blog.

The OHC at the Oral History Association Conference

Attending the **Oral History Association** conference the week of October 19th (virtually)? We are, too!

Check out these sessions featuring OHC staff:

- Monday, October 19:
 - **Amanda Tewes** leading "An Oral Historian's Guide to Public History" workshop from 11am - 2:30pm ET/8 - 11:30am PT
- Wednesday, October 21:
 - **Paul Burnett** will be on the "Educating in High School and University Involves Listening" panel talking about UC Berkeley OHC K16 Outreach Project: The HIV/AIDS Curriculum Pilot at 3:30pm ET/12:30 PT
 - **Shanna Farrell** will be chairing the "Oral History for an Audience: Podcasts, Performance, and Documentaries" session at 3:30pm ET/12:30 PT
- Thursday, October 22:
 - **Roger Eardley-Pryor** will be talking to OHC narrator Aaron Mair for the "Hitched to Everything: Aaron Mair, Environmental Justice, and the Sierra Club" session that will be chaired by **Shanna Farrell** at 3:30pm ET/12:30 PT

We hope to "see" you there!



Willie Brown Oral History now online

Willie Brown was the 41st Mayor San Francisco and longest-serving Speaker of the California State Assembly. During his four-decade political career, Brown was admired and despised, respected and feared by politicians statewide. His passion for politics and exuberant style of leadership attracted the attention of leaders and influencers nationwide. Together, two oral history

interviews from the UC Berkeley Oral History Center form a remarkable life story that began in the segregated town of Mineola, Texas, in 1934, and run through four decades in politics, law, and policy up to 2016. See videos, the oral histories, commentary, and excerpts of the new Willie Brown Oral History.

New Transcript Releases:

Michael R. Schilling: Chemical Analysis of Art at the Getty Conservation Institute

Roger Eardley-Pryor, who conducted this interview, **discusses the significance of Schilling's career**, background, and contributions to the Getty Trust Oral History Project.



John Prausnitz: Chemical Engineering at UC Berkeley, 1955–2020

Paul Burnett interviewed John M. Prausnitz, who has been a leading professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Cal since 1955. A graduate of Princeton University, Dr. Prausnitz is best known for his pioneering work in the field of molecular thermodynamics: the application of thermodynamics to the behavior and interactions of compounds of solids, fluids, and gases. Although he began research on applications to the petroleum industry, he has contributed to improvements in many manufacturing processes, including in the field of biotechnology and renewable energy.



James C. Scott: Agrarian Studies and Over 50 Years of Pioneering Work in the Social Sciences

We are pleased to announce the release of Part 1 of the Yale Agrarian Studies Oral History Project. James C. Scott is the Sterling Professor of Political Science at Yale University, with appointments in the Department of Anthropology and School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He is the author of over 9 books, most of which are not only widely read across the disciplines of the

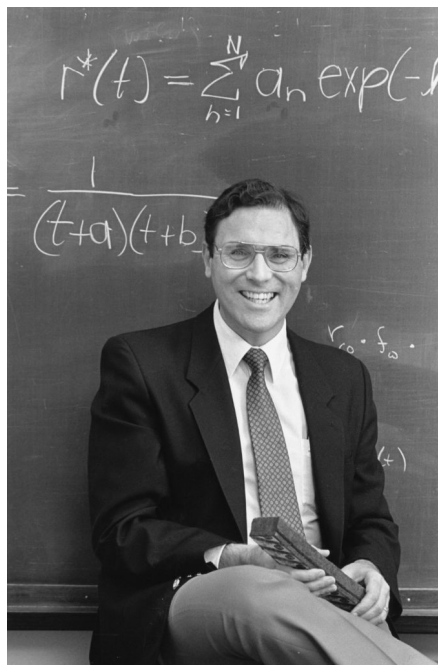


humanities and social sciences, but considered foundational works in those disciplines. **Todd Holmes, who interviewed Scott, discusses his oral history on our blog.**

Alexis T. Bell: A Career in Catalysis and University Administration at UC Berkeley

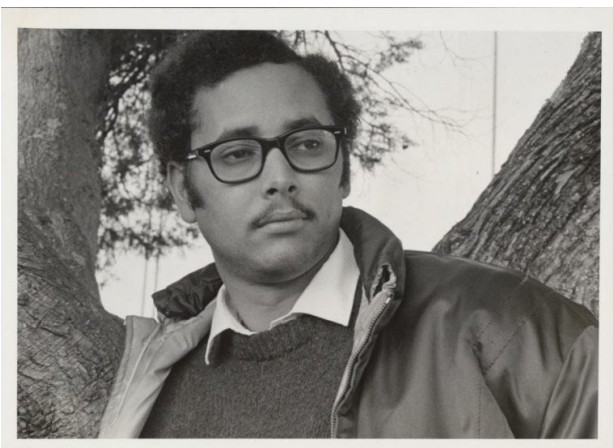
Alexis T. Bell is the **Dow Professor of Sustainable Chemistry** in the **Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering** in UC Berkeley's College of Chemistry. At Berkeley, Bell became an internationally recognized leader in **heterogeneous catalysis and chemical-reaction engineering** who helped pioneer the development and application of spectroscopic methods to elucidate catalytic processes, as well as the application of experimental methods in combination with theoretical methods.

Read about Roger Eardley-Pryor's experience interviewing Bell on our blog.



Robert Allen: From Segregated Atlanta to UC Berkeley, A Life of Activism and African American Scholarship

The Oral History Center is pleased to release the **oral history of Robert L. Allen**, award-winning journalist, author, and professor of African American Studies, whose 1989 book, *The Port Chicago Mutiny*, uncovered this untold story and helped lay the foundation for what became the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial. In addition, the Oral History Center has also released the newly-digitized **oral histories with Port**



Chicago survivors that Allen conducted for the seminal book.
Read Todd Holmes' piece on Allen's oral history interview on our blog.



The Fighting Spirit of Ida Louise Jackson

OHC undergraduate researcher Deborah Qu writes about Ida Louise Jackson, class of 1921, one of the first African American students at the University of California, the first black teacher in the Oakland public schools, and child health advocate.

Read Deborah's piece on Jackson's remarkable life over on our blog.

Intersectional Progress through Women in the Sierra Club

Ella Griffith, one of the OHC's Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program students, surveyed our collection of interviews with women who were involved in the Sierra Club.



Read her blog post about what inspired her research project and the things that she learned.

OHC in the News!

Amanda Tewes was interviewed by CBS about the suffrage movement and women in politics on the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.
Watch here.

New Special Season of the Berkeley Remix Podcast

Lately, things have been challenging and uncertain. We're enduring an order to shelter-in-place, trying to read the news, but not too much, and prioritize self-care. Like many of you, we, too, are in need of some relief.



So, we'd like to provide you with some, in the form of a podcast. Episodes in this series, which we're calling "Coronavirus Relief," may sound different from those we've produced in the past, that tell narrative stories drawing from our collection of oral histories. But like many of you, we, too, are in need of a break.

Seven episodes are now live.

Episode 1: Amanda Tewes on Interview Mishaps

Episode 2: Shanna Farrell Comments on Rebecca Solnit

Episode 3: Amanda Tewes Muses on Bowling Alone

Episode 4: Roger Eardley-Pryor on the First Earth Day

Episode 5: Shanna Farrell on the OHC June Book Club

Episode 6: Amanda Tewes Comments on Winds of Change Podcast

Episode 7: Miranda Jiang's Rice All the Time?

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