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Women's Equality: Are we still fighting for it?

Brandy Ball

Abstract

Women began fighting for equality in 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention. Although women eventually won the right to vote, are we still fighting for equality 172 years later? Many women are still fighting to be taken seriously and refusing to let gender stand in the way to be heard, have opinions matter, and even fight for the same pay as men. There are many things that the world has advanced in yet it is in these areas that women are fighting everyday. It seems that the world is still trying to figure out that women are multi-taskers; we can be parents, maintain household, have careers, and still have ambitions that take us outside the home. Women are fully capable of doing everything that men do but somehow it is our genitals that exclude us from the same rights and privileges as men. We are women, and we never stop roaring for equality in all areas.

Proposed Title: Increasing Student Engagement through the Central Undergraduate Research Board

Michael Springer & Dana Jackson-Hardwick

Abstract

Participation in undergraduate research has many benefits for students and institutions, including deeper engagement in the discipline, enhanced cognitive and personal development, strengthening professional relationships between faculty and students, and improved graduation and retention rates (Bauer and Bennett 2003; Dean and Kaiser 2010; DeLoach et al. 2012; Kuh 2008; Lopatto 2010; Malachowski et al 2015; and Springer et al. 2018). Despite the known benefits, institutions can struggle to broaden participation in undergraduate research due to barriers including a limited undergraduate research culture, misunderstandings about what constitutes research, and student fears to reach out to faculty (Brew 2016; Gibbs, 2018; Malakowski 2017; Mathis et al. 2015; Morrison, 2017; Wayment and Dickson, 2008). In 2015, the University of Central Oklahoma created the Central Undergraduate Research Board, a student advisory board to address barriers to undergraduate research. The poster will examine some of the barriers identified and initiatives the students have created to increase participation in research opportunities. The poster will present both qualitative and quantitative data to measure the board's impact on broadening participation at Central Oklahoma.

Beijing's Shift to a Neoimperialist Approach in Tibet

Bailey Pope

Abstract

During the late 1980s, events concerning Tibet had caused the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to reconsider its moderate approach on the autonomous region. This somewhat liberal strategy failed to persuade the majority of Tibetans to officially become part of China. To amend this, Beijing decided it would assume more inflexible and direct control over the situation in Tibet. This presentation seeks to address this change in policy as well as demonstrate the similarities it shares with aspects of neoimperialism. Additionally, the implications of such a high-risk approach will be discussed in conjunction to the future of Tibet.

How Great Powers Adapt: The instability and Policy of Superpower Demise

Justin Olmstead

Abstract

The 1956 Suez crisis marked the end of the British Empire and the rise of the United States as the preeminent world power. But the events in the Egyptian desert were not the beginning of Britain's downfall or America's rise. The previous two decades had seen the leaders of both nations make choices intended to lead to peace and stability in the world. The defeat of the Axis and the creation of the liberal world order was supposed to be led by a resurgent British Empire supported by its former colony. The expense of two world wars had weakened Britain to the point that the war-time control lasted into the mid-1950s. Conversely, the United States had grown rich off of those same wars and was ready to flex its financial muscle to bring American style democracy and capitalism to the world.

While numerous dramatic events occurred from 1945 to 1955, the focus here will be on where British and US leaders consulted each other; where they were willing to work together, and where, as with Formosa and summits with Soviet leadership, they diverged. It will question whether or not their friendship was strong enough to bring Britain and the United States towards a common goal even if doing so superseded national interests.

Pads for Prisoners

Makayla McGuire

Abstract

The state prison systems, especially in the state of Oklahoma, consist of a large number of incarcerated women. Due to the financial constraints and unsanitary living conditions women often endure many challenges. One of those challenges being inadequate menstrual products. Across the United States women are allotted 12 pads per month on average. Women are sometimes required to show their used feminine products to guards in order to obtain more, should that even be an option. As of 2017 Federal prisons were required to provide free menstrual products that would adequately meet the needs of incarcerated women. While this is progress it does not affect majority of the female population in prison, as most are in state or county jails. The goal of this project is to determine whether or not Oklahoma is providing adequately. A survey is administered to willing participants at local re-entry programs. This survey consists of a series of questions in regard to the number of products they received each month and whether or not this allotment met their needs. In the future, we hope to incorporate interviews and tours of various jails into the study. Ultimately the goal is to ensure that women have adequate products to meet their most basic needs while in jail. The living conditions are already unsanitary and living without essential products, or surviving with few, creates an environment for illness.

Pass the Peace Pipe of Understanding and Knowledge to Future Generations

Lauren Tahbonemah-Trayler

Abstract

Regardless of having an overall negative history, all types of student perspectives played an important role in the history of Indian boarding schools. Despite continued government efforts to forcibly assimilate Native Americans into white American culture, some students utilized their boarding school experiences to empower themselves and their culture. Whether these encounters were inherently negative or positive, some students chose to use their knowledge in ways that bettered themselves in white America, without losing site of their tribal connections. These experiences played an important role in the history of Indian boarding schools, which led to the fundamental change of these boarding schools into what they are today, institutions focused on supporting Native American education in a non-militaristic atmosphere.

A Bunch of Steel Nerve and Muscle: Bonnie Gray as a Rodeo Icon

Amanda Barnette

Abstract

Amanda Barnette, Graduate Student in History, and Patti Loughlin, Professor of History, University of Central Oklahoma

Verna Smith created a charismatic persona beginning in the early 1920s under the name Bonnie Gray. She contributed to the inclusion of women in rodeo during her tenure as a recognizable figure for the sport. She participated in contracted and contested events including performing daring stunts, trick riding, and relay racing. Additionally, she performed in Western film as a stunt double and actor and provided opinions as the unofficial representative for rodeo in response to the Humane Society's criticisms of the sport and the treatment of animals. Throughout her career as an accomplished rodeo star, Bonnie presented herself as a cowgirl athlete and created a place for herself in the sport while challenging traditional gender roles. Based in Burbank, California, she traveled to compete in shows including Cheyenne Frontier Days and the Pendleton Roundup. Utilizing the Bonnie Gray Papers housed at the Dickinson Research Center at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the research addresses Gray's significance to the sport of rodeo in addition to determining the defiance of traditional gender roles for women during the early twentieth century. Bonnie pushed against social conventions by following her calling to be a rodeo athlete and performer. She lived a life in the spotlight and competed with steel nerve and muscle.

Investigating a Lost History and Fractured Collection: The Dutch Church, Austin Friars, Book Collection

Peter Kavourgias & Amena Butler

Abstract

During World War II, Lambeth Palace, home to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lambeth Palace Library in London, suffered significant damage during the German bombing raids, partially destroying its library that resulted in approximately a loss of a third of its collection. Following the war, a donation from the Dutch Church in London remained in the Lambeth Palace Library. Significant gaps exist in the historical records of both the Dutch Church and Lambeth Palace. By developing a historical record of the collection through the use of existing literature, archives, on-site examination of items, and interviews, an accurate account involving the circumstances surrounding the significant donation to Lambeth Palace can be created, along with discovering how books from the collection came to be located in other archives and institutions around London. This knowledge will assist with the interpretation, cataloging, and understanding of the collection and the history that surrounds it.

Contemporary Colonization: The Dutch Ankara Print Fabrics of the Kuba Kingdom

Amena Butler

Abstract

The history of Dutch Wax print fabrics associated with Central and West Africa is complex and unusual. These textiles sold globally by European and Asian companies in African markets does not make them authentically African. Rather, the commercialization demonstrates the contemporary form of colonization through the agency of global resources of countries outside of Africa. This examination utilizes research from the University of Central Oklahoma's African textile collection and communication with the curator of Dutch Language collections at The British Library, all of which helped identify Dutch sources, including European companies that market their African fabrics directly to Africa. This research broadens the study on contemporary colonization of African societies by providing provenance of African textile designs, authenticity of labels, and their country of origin. Textiles made by, manufactured and sold by African societies and the diaspora are considered authentically African and should be named as such.

Clara Luper, Dolores Huerta, and Wilma Mankiller: Gender and Civil Rights Activism in the North American West

Alexis Landeros & Patti Loughlin

Abstract

Being an American has no set look or gender. African American, Latina, and Native American women such as Clara Luper, Dolores Huerta, and Wilma Mankiller, respectively, have been leaders in the history of the United States. Clara Luper, a history teacher who worked with the NAACP Youth Council, organized sit ins in Oklahoma City beginning with Katz Drugstore in 1958. Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers Association in the 1960s, organized agricultural workers and used tactics such as strikes and boycotts to achieve safer working conditions and better wages in the 1960s and 1970s. During the early 1980s, Wilma Mankiller, a citizen of Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma, coordinated the Bell Waterline Project to bring water to the town of Bell and then became the first woman Principal Chief of Cherokee Nation in 1985. These three women were activists who led civil, social and labor movements during the second half of the twentieth century. A diversity of women's experiences must be included in our history books to inspire the next generation of women of color to continue to make America theirs. Research for this project includes primary sources such as oral history interviews and archival research at the Western History Collections and a review of the secondary literature.

Confucius Institutes in Oklahoma

Kui Zhuo

Abstract

This article takes the relevant facts of the Confucius Institute at OU and the Confucius Classroom at UCO as the main survey and interview objects and refers to the public data related to the Chinese Ministry of Education, Hanban, and universities and governments in the United States. It has played a positive role in promoting the cultural, educational and academic exchanges between China and the United States and enhancing the friendship between students of the two countries. On the other hand, scholars have written that CI have been criticized for impeding academic freedom and for their corruption-prone internal funding practices. Of course, part of these negative news may be caused by the cultural and social system differences between China and the United States, which reflects the discomfort and conflict between Confucius institutes' educational concepts, traditional Chinese concepts and American values and educational principles.

This paper holds that the positive and negative influences generally represent different views and interpretations of the status quo of CI and keep neutral position to look forward to the future prospects of CI. In addition, it is hoped that the CI will become a driving factor for enhancing the friendship between China and the United States in the future, rather than the other way around.

Key Words the Confucius Institutes (CI) Sino-America Relationship conflict

Not the American Cause

Kara Montgomery

Abstract

In 1789, the French revolutionaries used the American Revolution as a model for their uprising. Bolstered by the alliance between their countries, the French hoped the Americans would be a source of help during this crisis. However, to the surprise of the French, the American people were not as supportive as expected. Americans hesitated to support the war because the disorderly violence in France caused the American people to further view the French Revolutionary War as extremely brutal and not worthy of their support. Most notably, the brutal murders of the French royals sent shockwaves through America. In a letter to her daughter, Abigail Adams described how most of America felt about France by saying, "I wish, most ardently, that every arm extended against that unhappy country might be withdrawn." After seeing how unorganized the French people were during battles and how many lives they lost because of it, Americans decided to diplomatically separate themselves from France.

The Bolshevik Revolution: Defining Socialism Through the 20th Century

Dawson Holloway

Abstract

Only days after Petrograd fell to Lenin and his Bolshevik army, ‘Babushka’ Ekaterina Breshkov-Breshkovskaya, one of the leading socialist thinkers through the 19th century wrote: “Nothing in this world is so old as that which is now called ‘Bolshevism.’” After decades of commanding legions of populists that demanded personal justice and freedom in Russia, Babushka lived to see her country become the first major power to ever turn to a form of Socialism, and she detested it. Often in the study of history, both the capitalists who feared the Soviet Union and the communists who loved it interpret the Bolshevik Revolution as a victory of socialism over democracy. This view fails to explain why the people who most resented the Bolshevik victory were socialist. By evaluating what the leading socialist thinkers were writing during the Russian Revolution, and the following Civil War, it becomes clear that the conflict was about more than two clashing ideologies. The significance of the Bolshevik Revolution lies in Bolshevism’s victory over all other branches of socialism, defining socialism through the 20th century.

"Worshipping at the Cesspool and Flesh Pots of Iniquity:" The Criminalization of Homosexuality in the United States

Zane Baird

Abstract

In 1950s America, homosexuals were considered unsuitable, infected, and corrupt. While other minorities, like African Americans, were already challenging existing laws of discrimination through protests and lawsuits, homosexuals were only beginning to embark on their legal crusade for equality. The government defined homosexuality as a criminal act, considering them to be perverts, immoral, "sick", and indecent, which was consistent scientific conclusions. As a result, homosexuals lived in the shadows of society. It was the criminalization of homosexuality that drove homosexuals in the United States to fight for their right to legally exist. After years of discrimination and criminalization of homosexuality in the United States, homosexuals, culminating in the Stonewall Riots, declared they no longer accepted being second-class citizens.

"They fought for our language, they fought for our freedom": Native American Code Talkers and the Struggle for Cultural Reclamation

Ruth Anne Dunn

Abstract

Native American Code Talkers have, in recent decades, finally received recognition for their war efforts. These primarily Navajo men created and transmitted an unbreakable code that was key to winning World War II, which was possible due to the linguistic differences between Navajo and Japanese. Their contribution to the War in the Pacific marked a significant shift in US-Native American relations. The need for the code broke down barriers to learning tribal languages and helped end Dawes-Era policies of cultural destruction. Ultimately, the Navajo Code Talkers' legacy allowed them and countless other Native Americans to break free of societal pressure to assimilate and to publicly take pride in their heritage. One of the most important outcomes of this cultural restoration was reviving native languages that almost went extinct. This poster highlights the Navajo Code Talker's impact on the end of American policies of cultural destruction, specifically focusing on linguistic aspects on the Navajo Code and the revival of native languages following World War II.

How Harlem Set the Model for Broadway: The Significance of 1921s ‘Shuffle Along’

Cora Clegg

Abstract

Miller, Lyles, Sissle, and Blake’s 1921 ‘Shuffle Along’ was the first integrated, successful book musical performed on Broadway. The definition of a book musical is: characters, dialogue, form, placement of song and dance, tone, and theatrical values put at the service of an overarching story or concept. Musical theatre is a highly collaborative singular art form that blends dramatic literature, verse, music, design, voice, mime, and dance. It is the musical book that holds this all together bringing all parts into a seamless form and brings all the artists involved into a single creative production. “Shuffle Along’ meets all of these criteria. Using the critical theory of the culture industry by sociologists, Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, it proves that this stage production is particularly suited to take cultural mechanisms and incorporate them into a reproducible authentically American model. Furthermore were it not for racial tensions of the post-World War I era Jim Crow public sphere, this all-Black production and not Jerome Kern’s ‘Showboat’ (1927) would be credited with saving the Broadway theatre scene. ‘Shuffle Along’ was the catalyst and appropriated model that led to the successful transformation of American Musical Theatre into a serious and authentically American art form that was born from and features stories of racial and social tensions.

An Exploration of United States' Policy Decisions During the South Asia Crisis

Aaron Cornell

Abstract

From 1969 to 1971, the Indian subcontinent was enthralled by a tumultuous series of events known as the South Asia Crisis. The South Asia Crisis culminated with the states of India and Pakistan engaged in their third war since the 1947 Partition. During the South Asia Crisis, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) suffered over a million casualties. This crisis played out at the height of the Cold War as tensions ran high between the superpower states of the United States, Soviet Union, and China. These superpowers were engaged with proxy conflicts and internal turmoil, which distracted them from the developing situation in South Asia. During the South Asia Crisis, the United States supported the presidency of Pakistani General Yahya Khan, while the Soviet Union supported the Indian government under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Research examining the motivations and overarching effects of United States involvement during the crisis is scarce. This paper works to fill that gap, which is particularly important to the study of American foreign policy. The actions taken by the United States during the South Asia Crisis were the result of internal disagreement, misunderstanding and distraction stemming from the implementation of the détente policy with China. American policy decisions during the crisis allowed the Soviet Union to become a larger influence on the Indian Subcontinent.

Heathen Inheritance and Taming Femininity: The Role of Gender and Christianity in Colonial Mentality and the Imagery of Anglo-Algonquin Encounters

Tanner Luther

Abstract

Recent scholarship has begun critically examining the roles gender and religion played in the Virginia Colony, its formation, and how they affected the people who resided in or near it. Joining this trend, I examine in my research how English gender roles and religious ideals affected early English depictions of and interactions with Virginia Algonquins. In reading secondary sources, I became interested in the works of Kathleen M. Brown Rebeca Anne Goetz, and how their arguments could be practically applied to depictions of Virginia Algonquins in 17th century European art and imagery. I argue it is impossible to fully ascertain English colonization and interactions with the Virginia Algonquins in the 17th century without a understanding of English conceptualizations of gender and religion. Algonquin women in colonial Virginia challenged patriarchal hegemony. Using the life of Pocahontas (Matoaka) as a case study, I demonstrate how Algonquin women utilized extant social and religious institutions in both English and Algonquin cultures to define their own roles in colonial society. Among the primary sources consulted in this study were the works of English observers, such as those of Captain John Smith and Henry Spelman's Relation of Virginia, along with the contemporary engravings of Johann Theodor de Bry and Theodor Galle, which I argue depict the indigenous peoples of the Americas as what Rebecca Anne Goetz termed "hereditary heathens."