

Alexandra von Meier, a professor in the Environmental Studies and Planning department recently co-authored a chapter with colleague Kathryn Jandain from Oberlin College. It's a comparison of green educational buildings – the Environmental Technology Center and the Adam Joseph Lewis Center at Oberlin—and their performance in both quantitative and qualitative terms as demonstration projects, teaching laboratories and workspaces. By way of this comparison, we call attention to the inherent difficulties in evaluating green buildings and the problem of what constitutes "success".



Environmental Technology Center (ETC) at Sonoma State University

"The Role of Quantitative Data in Assessing Sustainable Architecture – Theory Practice, and Proof: Learning from 'Buildings that Teach'," in Sustainable Architectures (Simon Guy and Steven A. Moore, eds.). Routledge Publishers, 2004.

Barbara Bloom's Continuing Work with Women Offenders



Dr. Barbara Bloom

Beginning July 1, 2005 Dr. Barbara Bloom, an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Administration will be working with the California Department of Corrections (CDC) on a project that is designed to reduce the women's prison population and expand community-based program options for women offenders.

The overall goal of this yearlong project is the development of a strategic plan and implementation strategy, which would reduce the female offender recidivism rate by expanding the capacity and range of community-based correctional programs. This work will be accomplished by examining the existing classification system, reviewing eligibility criteria for community-based program participation, coordinating and /or interviewing Institutional, Office of Substance Abuse Programs (OSAP), and Parole & Community Services staff, incarcerated women and parolees, and community-based providers.

Dr. Bloom is the past President of the Western Society of Criminology (WSC) and a recipient of the 2003 WSC Fellow Award for important contributions to the field of Criminology. She is currently completing a five year outcome evaluation of a program for pregnant and parenting women incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail and conducting strategic planning for the state of Connecticut regarding gender-responsive programming and treatment.

Researching Mexican Family History



Stephen Gomez, Adam Wallace and Dr. Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp.

On Saturday, April 16, 2005 at the MEChA de Sonoma 6th Annual Raza Youth Conference, History students Miguel Gil, Stephen Gomez and Adam Wallace shared their research on their Mexican heritage with junior-high and high school students. As part of their Senior Seminar project with History Professor Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp, Miguel, Stephen and Adam, have interviewed family members, consulted archival documents, and read secondary sources to learn about their family's past and present. Their panel was entitled, "Reclaiming Mexican History: Students Presentations on Family History".

The following faculty received Summer Fellowship checks from the Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Program:

*Carolyn Epple from the Anthropology Department and her project, "Survey on Housing Needs for Persons with HIV/AIDS".

*Geri Olson from the Psychology Department and her project, "From Bambini to Barbie: A Historical Study of Dolls".

*Cindy Stearns from the Women and Gender Studies Department and her project, "Women's Experiences of Breastfeeding and Weaning".

*Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp from the History Department and her project, "Bending Border and Bodies".

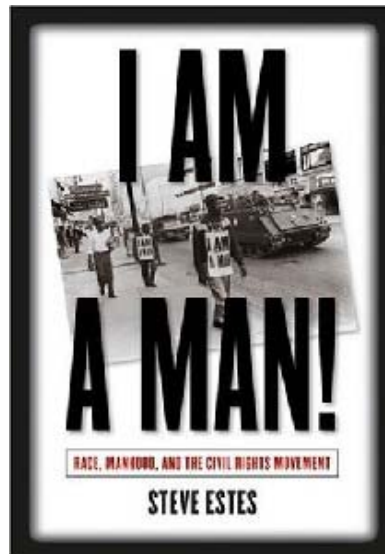


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The Black Man and the Vision of America

Steve Estes, Assistant Professor of History at SSU, has just published a book entitled *I Am A Man!: Race, Manhood, and the Civil Rights Movement*.

The book explores key groups, leaders, and events in the movement to understand how activists used race and manhood to articulate their visions of what American society should be.

I Am A Man! Begins with an analysis of the role of black men in World War II and then examines the ways that southern segregationists demonized black male sexuality when returning veterans began to push for integration. Estes then explores the militant models of manhood espoused by civil rights activists such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, and groups such as the nation of Islam, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Black Panther Party.

Criminal Justice Students and the Criminal Justice System



In this photo taken at the court, Chief Justice Ronald George responds to questions about the role of the California Supreme Court with SSU's senior seminar class in criminal justice.

On March 8 thirty-one students from the 2005 graduating class of Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice took a field trip to the California Supreme Court in San Francisco. The purpose was to experience the law in action and gain a deeper understanding of how the Supreme Court both selects and decides cases. According to the instructor and department chair, Pat Jackson, the purpose of the trip was to deepen student appreciation of the way the criminal justice system actually works – the law in action- compared to the law on the books. In the periods before and after the trip the class read about, briefed and had class presentations on the two criminal law cases scheduled to be heard the day of the visit. After the hearing, and immediately before the Justices met to discuss the cases they had just heard, students from the class met privately with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Ronald M. George, who discussed the various reasons the court selects a little over a hundred cases to hear from the thousands appealed each year, the tremendous amount of work involved dealing with capital cases, and responses to various questions from the students. Students learned an enormous amount about the inner workings of one of the busiest Supreme Courts in the country; some had their interest in a legal career enlarged; and everyone realized how easy it is to become more involved in learning about the California Supreme Court.