



THE FACULTY CORNER

FROM THE ANACAPA SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT . . .

One of the best parts of my role as Anacapa's headmaster is teaching history to our students. They take this college preparatory class seriously and work very hard to do well on the varied types of assignments given throughout the year. One of our finest Anacapa history students of all time was Dillon Yuhasz (Class of 2009); he was one of a few students over the years who truly earned the "history buff" title. Dillon graduated from UCSB in 2013 in Theater Arts, and we were fortunate to have him join our faculty following his graduation. He currently teaches two elective classes (Improvisation and Basketball), co-teaches history with me, and has joined our admission team to help lead tours and recruit new students. Dillon also supervises Homework Club after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is a great opportunity for students needing extra help in history to get direct assistance. I greatly appreciate the contributions Dillon makes to our class. Our students have two very committed teachers of history to expand their knowledge of the forces of the past that have shaped our world and will shape our collective futures.

~ Gordon Sichi

U.S. History II

The U.S. History II class takes us from the years following the Civil War to the present day. This is an incredible period of history that's full of interesting personalities who left their marks on our Nation's history. One of the amazing things about teaching U.S. History is that it's *Our History*. Gordon and I both agreed at the beginning of the year that we'd like to focus especially on the role of women in our nation building. Far too often, women seem to be overlooked in the study of history, so emphasizing their stories will be an essential part of the curriculum this year. Other topics we're excited to cover in the coming months are World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, and the recent history of the Obama era.

This is the second year Gordon and I have co-taught the history class. It's been great to work together to shape assignments to make sure we're getting the most out of each chapter. It's also given us the opportunity to keep things fresh, as I've been able to bring classroom ideas from UCSB to Anacapa. Combining these with Gordon's years of experience has been beneficial. One of the new ideas we're bringing in this year is the "On-Call" system. If a student is "On-Call," then he or she will be expected to ask and answer questions about the assigned reading for that particular day. We believe this will be a great way to hear from all the students and make sure they are up to date on their readings.

This year's class is going to be fast paced, especially this semester, so we will have plenty of time to look at more recent history during the second semester. There's so much fascinating history in the past 150 years that we want to make sure we can cover as much as possible. One of the benefits of working together is that we can focus on the areas of history about which we are most passionate. With two teachers, we are able to go into more depth and split the class up at times to cover more information and to provide our students better attention.

I enjoy teaching history because of the stories—the stories of people, places, movements, and revolutions that have shaped the world we live in today. I love reliving the experiences and choices made by an amazing person like FDR or Martin Luther King. It's my hope that in class we're able to share these stories with our students and get them to be just as passionate as we are. It's going to be a fantastic year in the history classroom, and I look forward to sharing it with all of you.

~ Dillon Yuhasz