

April 2021

News from the OHC

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.

April Director's Column

With Mother's Day fast approaching, Director Martin Meeker has been thinking a lot about his mother, and motherhood. In his April column, he reflects on his relationship with his mother and mothers' relationships with their children.

In honor of Mother's Day, he explores the OHC's vast collect of oral histories, highlight a few interviews about motherhood – the trials, meanings, and joys.

Read Martin Meeker's column here.



The Advanced Summer Institute

The OHC is offering an online version of our one-week **advanced institute** on the methodology, theory, and practice of oral history. This will take place August 9-13, 2021. Applications will be accepted through July 16, 2021. **Apply now!**



The cost of the Advanced Institute has been adjusted to reflect the online nature of this year's program. This year's cost has been adjusted to \$550. See below for details about this year's institute.

The institute is designed for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, university faculty, independent scholars, and museum and community-based historians who are engaged in oral history work. The goal of the institute is to strengthen the ability of its participants to conduct research-focused interviews and to consider special characteristics of interviews as historical evidence in a rigorous academic environment.

We will devote particular attention to how oral history interviews can broaden and deepen historical interpretation situated within

contemporary discussions of history, subjectivity, memory, and memoir.

Instruction will take place online from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pacific Time, with breaks woven in. There will be three sessions a day: two seminar sessions and a workshop. Seminars will cover oral history theory, legal and ethical issues, project planning, oral history and the audience, anatomy of an interview, editing, fundraising, and analysis and presentation. During workshops, participants will work throughout the week in small groups, led by faculty, to develop and refine their projects.

Applications are now open!

Bancroft Roundtable about Aaron Mair and the Sierra Club Oral History Project



On April 15, 2021, Roger Eardley-Pryor presented at The Bancroft Roundtable series on his **interview with Aaron Mair**, the Sierra Club's 57th president. Mair's interview was a part of the renewed **Sierra Club Oral History Project**, a collaboration now a half-century old that arose between the Sierra Club and the OHC. Over the past fifty years, this ongoing collaboration has produced an unprecedented testimony of engagement in and on behalf of the environment as experienced by individual members and leaders of Sierra Club.

Read more about the roundtable here and **watch Roger's presentation here**.

In Memory of David C. Driskell (1931-2020)

David C. Driskell was an artist and professor of art. He was born in Georgia in 1931, but mainly grew up in North Carolina. Driskell graduated from Howard University with a degree in painting and art history in 1955, attended the



Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 1953, and earned an MFA from Catholic University in 1962, as well as a study certificate in art history from Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie in 1964. Beginning in 1955, he taught at several colleges, including Talladega College; Howard University; Fisk University; and the University of Maryland, College Park. His influential artwork includes *Young Pines Growing*, *Behold Thy Son*, *Of Thee I Weep*, and *Ghetto Wall #2*. Driskell has curated important shows highlighting African American art history, including *Two Centuries of Black American Art* and *Hidden Heritage: Afro-American Art, 1800-1950*. He also helped establish The David C. Driskell Center for the Study of Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2001.

For more about David Driskell, read Amanda Tewes's blog post about the interview she and Bridget Cooks conducted with him in 2019.

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