CBS Mission and History

The Center for Basque Studies’ mission is to further Basque-related study by conducting, facilitating, and disseminating original Basque-related research in the humanities and social sciences, in cooperation with appropriate academic departments at UNR, as well as at other American and foreign universities, by the creation of undergraduate and graduate curricula at the University of Nevada, Reno (including the creation of distance education courses) and by collaboration with the University Studies Abroad Consortium to provide a quality educational experience for students desirous of studying and living in the Basque Country of Europe.

In 1967 a small Basque Studies program was established within the social sciences division of the Desert Research Institute. Originally established to study the Basques as an integral part of the sheep industry that had so influenced the development of the Intermountain West, over time (and since incorporated officially into the University of Nevada, Reno), the Center for Basque Studies has become the leading research and educational institute of its kind outside the European Basque homeland.

CBS Mission and History

An annual publication of the Center for Basque Studies
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-2322

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Center’s inception in 1967. In our last issue of this newsletter, we traced the history of Basque Studies at UNR and focused on the pivotal role Bill Douglass played in the creation and development of the Center across nearly forty years. Bill is still very much a familiar face around the Center that bears his name; and he continues to look ahead with us as we forge new collaborative paths both within and outside the university’s walls. The Center remains dedicated, first and foremost, to research and publications about the Basques; and we continue to raise the international profile of both Center and University as we form new relationships with Basque institutions in Europe and South America and run a wide range of conferences in international venues. Our publishing agenda remains highly ambitious with an average of ten books per year.

During the past year we have welcomed one more new faculty member, Dr. Mariann Vaczi, to the Center. Dr. Vaczi specializes in sports, gender and identity formation in the Basque Country and Catalonia. We also welcomed a new doctoral student, Marsha Hunter, who came to us from Boise State University. Our Advisory Board also has some new faces, including Michon Martin (vice president and national strategic advisor of R&R Partners), Jane Tors (Research Communications Director at UNR), and Pete Etchart (Chief Operations Officer, Washoe County School District). With the assistance of the Government of Bizkaia, the Center, and the Nevada Governor’s Office of Economic Development, Board members and other friends of the Center are forging links between CEOs of Bizkaian energy companies and Nevada-based corporations. Such ventures into the business world not only foster better communication between “town and gown” but also across transnational borders.
It is a great pleasure to extend my best wishes to the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies on its fiftieth anniversary. I wish to pay tribute to the many accomplishments of its faculty (current and emeritus) and staff. Their collective energy, scholarship, service to the global Basque community, and steadfast commitment to Basque Studies have made the Center a “jewel in the crown” at UNR. I am proud of the Center’s productivity and international reputation.

During the past few years I have had numerous opportunities to become well acquainted with colleagues at the Center, with their Advisory Board members and colleagues in the Basque Country. The Center’s Advisory Board members are deeply committed to their Basque heritage and have long provided the Center with strong leadership. Thanks to certain Board members and to the Center, I have also been privileged to meet a wide range of people in the Basque Country who are engaged not only in academia but also in commerce and industry. The Basques have an admirable record as entrepreneurs and innovators. During one trip to the Basque Country, organized by the Center, I visited three Basque innovation centers from which I drew inspiration when we designed UNR’s own “InNevation” Center in downtown Reno. The Center has also fostered relations with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and facilitated collaboration between the GOED, government officers in Bizkaia, and the CEOs of Basque corporations keen to do business in Nevada. I congratulate the Center for its ability to bring culturally diverse individuals and institutions together.

The University of Nevada, Reno, has changed dramatically since the Center’s founding as part of the Desert Research Institute in 1967. The Center, too, has changed enormously during that time. Once confined to one room in the basement of the former Getchell Library, the Center occupies not only an impressive wing of the Mathewson IGT Knowledge Center, but also a prominent place in the global Basque community. As our University moves ever closer to achieving a top research rating— as measured by Carnegie—the Center helps us in our efforts to meet that goal, making substantial contributions to UNR’s international outreach and to our research profile.

Congratulations to the Center.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Johnson

Marc Johnson

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Welcome New Doctoral Student Marsha Hunter

In 2012, while working on an IT Management degree from Boise State University, student Marsha Hunter saw listed on the schedule a weekend seminar on Basque Law. With a MS Criminal Justice, Marsha was immediately intrigued. And, after two thousand years of Basque history packed into a single weekend, she was Basquezalea. There were so many avenues to explore, but she wanted to approach this field from a historical perspective and spent the next several years enrolled in undergraduate history courses to obtain the foundation needed for an MA in history. Accepted into the master’s program at Boise State University, she shifted historical focus to different eras of Basque history several times. During the course of this Basque history medley, she attended a weekend seminar on genocide by Dr. Xabier Irujo and read several works by Dr. Sandra Ott and Dr. Joseba Zulaika. She mentioned to her advisor, Dr. John Bieter, that it would be a dream to attend their classes at the University of Nevada Reno. After graduation from Boise State University, the dream came true. As a Ph.D student in the Basque Studies program she intends to expand her research on Basque nationalist activity in Idaho during the first half of the twentieth century. She said that the faculty and staff have been extremely supportive of her goals and provide the proper amount of guidance required. She has found the Basque community in Reno very welcoming and plans to volunteer for as many Basque-orientated activities as possible. Welcome Marsha!

Welcome New Faculty Dr. Mariann Vaczi!

Mariann was born and raised in Hungary, and first came to the United States with an athletic scholarship. Her academic specialization is cultural anthropology, sociology, sport, physical culture, and cultural performance genres. She has published widely about the social, cultural, political and gender dimensions of sport. Her geographical focus includes the Basque Country and Catalonia. She earned a BA in Anthropology at Saint Vincent College, Pennsylvania (2004), an MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology at Central European University, Budapest (2005), and a PhD in Basque Studies and Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno (2013). Her main work is titled Soccer, Culture and Society in Spain: An Ethnography of Basque Fandom (Routledge, 2015), which is based on a year and a half of ethnographic research in Bilbao, and an ensuing PhD dissertation. After her PhD at UNR, she spent nearly two years in Catalonia to diversify her research interest in sport and politics. Mariann has published research articles in, among other journals, American Ethnologist, the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Ethnos, and the International Review for the Sociology of Sport. She is editor of the CBS publication Playing Fields: Power, Practice and Passion in Sport, and the special issue Sport, Identity and Nationalism in the Hispanic World in the Journal of Iberian and South American Literary and Cultural Studies. Mariann has also worked as a translator of several CBS book publications. She is currently working on a book manuscript about how modern and traditional sports engage subnational politics, secessionism, and sovereignty processes in Europe. Mariann will teach topics in Basque transnationalism, culture and sport at the Center for Basque Studies. Welcome back, Mariann!
The annual CBS conference was entitled “The Nazis in Catalonia and in Euskal Herria”. The first part of the conference took place on June 3–4 in the Benedictine monastery of Lazkao. Scholars discussed topics of great interest for this stage of Basque, such as “The Gestapo in the Basque Country” (Ingo Niebel), “Basque refugee children” (Susana Sabin), “The Luftwaffe and the terror bombing campaign in the Basque Country” (Xabier Irujo), “The Basque-American secret services agreement” (Iñaki Goiogana), “The Basque Jews during the German occupation” (Mixel Esteban), “Basque refugees in the Northern Basque Country” (Josu Chueca) and “The Basques and the Liberation of Europe: The Gernika Battalion” (Iñaki Fernández). Attendees had the opportunity to visit the archives of the monastery guided by Miren Barandiaran, Etchaun, and the librarian of the abbey, Juan Jose Agirre, who in the early 1970s started to organize and expand the monastery’s library that today holds bibliographical jewels like medieval manuscripts of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, incunables, rare copies of Basque literature, and the most complete newspaper and journal archive in the Basque Country.

The second part of the conference took place on June 20–22 at the Benedictine monastery of Montserrat, where the head of the SS, Heinrich Himmler, came in search of the Holy Grail in October 1940, believing that he would find the source of eternal youth, and a weapon with which to seal the war. Topics of great interest were discussed, such as “The Nazis in Catalonia (1936–1945)” (Josep Maria Solé i Sabaté), “The Catalan Exiles under the Nazi Rule” (Antoni Segura), “Nazi fascist aviation and the bombing of terror in Catalonia” (Joan Villarroya), “Traces of the aerial bombings in Barcelona” (Queralt Solé and Laia Gallego), “The bombing of the port of Barcelona” (Oriol Dueñas) and, “Vichy in Northern Catalonia” (Daniel Roig). Finally, Hilari Raguer, the greatest expert in the history of the Catholic Church in the Spanish war, spoke about “Terror bombings and the Vatican.” Hilari Raguer, himself a Benedictine monk of Montserrat, showed the monastery’s magnificent library to the speakers. This conference was unique as it was the first one to deal with the subject of the activities of the Nazi administration in the Basque Country and in Catalonia. It was also the first conference to have taken place in these two monasteries, which are an intimate part of the history of these two nations. The proceedings will be published by the Center in 2018.

Amaia Iraizoz, Recipient of the Campos Grant

I was born and raised in Aritzu, a small rural town in northern Navarre. My family household’s history and personal experiences of migration led me to apply to the Ph.D. program in Basque Studies here at UNR, an institution that is pivotal in the study of Basque migration. I am part of the fifth generation of my household to come to the Americas, and because of this long-standing trajectory of migration, I came with a clear intention of what to study: the influences of migration in my homeland, a topic in Basque migration literature which had yet to be studied.

I was raised listening to the stories of my ancestors’ migratory experiences: uncles, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, and so on. My family spread throughout the Americas, from Cuba to Argentina, Mexico and in-between. Many of them ended up returning to their native household after long periods overseas. Therefore, I turned my focus to the influences of these departures, the prolonged absences of family members and their eventual return, along with the effects these situations had on local rural communities.

Emigration, characterized by transnational encounters and interactions between different cultures and practices, has produced both changes in destination societies as well as in the homeland. My dissertation addresses the influences that these transnational encounters produced in Navarre, concretely in Aezkoa Valley and the surrounding areas. In this context, both emigration and return changed the everyday lives of the people in these rural communities. In that regard, new social realities emerged as a consequence of both emigrants and returnees. The society in the northern Navarrese valleys had to confront new problems, for example the adaptation to the relative’s absences and returns, which not only affected the social relationships inside households but also these communities as a whole.

This research also highlights the relationships among the returnees and the development and modernization of the area. The economic circumstances before mass migration, as well as what happened when
those emigrants returned to their hometowns provides a context for the study. I analyze the ideas that they brought from the Americas and how these in turn influenced the economy of their hometowns, through the projects they carried out, such as renovating and improving infrastructure such as transportation (roads, etc.), education (schools), and industrializing the area by creating business that brought wealth to the inhabitants of the area. Returnees should no longer be seen as failed migrants but instead as leading figures of the revitalization and transformation of their rural birthplaces, as pioneers in the industrialization and modernization of Navarre.

None of my research would have been possible without the generous donation to the Center for Basque Studies by Tony and Juliet Campos, establishing a graduate student assistantship for the study of Navarrese migration. I want to give special thanks to them for making this project possible, not only academically, but also by giving me the chance to experience the absence and separation from my family and hometown, which drew me closer to the experiences that many of these emigrants and my relatives faced and lived through. Esker mile aunitz Tony eta Juliet!

Graduate Student News

Ziertza Gandarais Beldarrain arrived from Galdakao, Bizkaia and is in her last year of the PhD program. She is currently writing her dissertation, focused on the analysis of the Basque cultural magazine Euzko-Gogoa, the emblematic leader of the history of the press in Basque language. As a student, she has presented her papers in numerous conferences in the US and Europe and will be presenting this November on a panel for the 45th Annual Conference of Western Society for French History.

Horohito Norhatan is a graduate student at the Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno. Throughout his research, he had the opportunity to investigate the impact of the cooperative business model on poverty eradication and job creation in the Basque region. During the academic year 2016 and 2017, he taught PSC 211 Introduction to Comparative Politics. He plans to teach courses including International Relations, Basque Political System, and Basque Cooperativism during the upcoming academic year 2017 and 2018.

This year, Amaia Iraizoz has been writing her dissertation, which will be defended this December. She has also participated in several conferences. In March 2017, she attended the Southern American Studies Association’s biennial conference Migrations and Circulations in Williamsburg, Virginia. There, she presented the paper “Bringing Modernity to the Homeland: The Hybridization Process in Aezkoa Valley’s Socioeconomic Practices.” That same month, she participated in the Northern Nevada Diversity Summit, presenting a paper on a Basque studies panel.

Last spring, Edurne Arostegui presented at the SASA conference, also visiting diaspora Basques in Washington, D.C. and New York City. She was on a panel at the Northern Nevada Diversity Summit and gave a speech on Basque identity for UNR’s Unity in Diversity event. Her article “Memoirs of Mobility and Place” will be published at the end of October by Euskoko Ikaskuntza. Edurne spent the summer working for the Center for Basque Studies Books, translating new entries for Basques in the United States.

Kerri Lesh is currently in the Basque Country, investigating how various components of Basque gastronomy promote cultural and linguistic maintenance. She will be presenting a portion of her research at the Food Studies conference in Italy this October. Kerri chaired and coorganized a panel to be featured this November at the annual American Anthropological Association in Washington, D.C.

45th Annual Conference of the Western Society for French History

Sandy Ott is the local organizer of the 45th annual conference of the Western Society for French History. The theme is “Diaporas, Displacements, and Migrations.” Although the focus is on French history, the conference program includes a book display by the CBS Press, posters featuring Basques in the American West, and a Basque-themed business lunch to reflect the important role Basques have played in Nevada and the Great Basin region. One conference panel will also focus on the Basques. The conference takes place November 2–4 and will be based at the Whitney Peak Hotel in downtown Reno. President Marc Johnson will welcome participants and keynote speaker, Professor Tyler Stovall (Distinguished Professor of History, Dean of Humanities at the University of California, Santa Cruz and President of the American Historical Association), at the plenary lecture and reception to be held in the Joe Crowley Student Union on November 3rd. Around 160 historians of France are expected to attend the conference.
Another Banner Year for Basque Books!

Wow, where has 2017 gone? I can’t believe it’s already newsletter time and time to review another year of exciting and breakneck publishing here at the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies! Seems like it was just a blink of an eye ago that it was January and the year was beginning.

The first book published this year was The Basque Moment: Egalitarianism and Traditional Basque Society, edited by UK-based Andreas Hess and Basque Country–based Xabier Arregi. The book brings together a collection of articles on the powerful idea of Basque egalitarianism from a variety of different perspectives including sociology, history, gender studies, philosophy, and more.

This was followed a few months later by the results of an international conference that took place in 2016, The International Legacy of Lehenakari Jose A. Agirre’s Government, edited by our own Xabier Irujo and Viola Miglio of UC Santa Barbara. The book treat many different aspects of the legacy of the famous Basque patriot and the only lehendakari of an independent, albeit short-lived government.

This was followed by the issue of A Man Called Aita, by Joan Errea. A vivid, loving, and honest tribute to her father, Arnaud Paris, that is completely written in Bertsoian, the journey becomes a meditation on spirituality and Basque mysticism, the exploration of the mysteries of life, following the death of the author’s mentor, Angeles Arrien. In the course of this journey she explores seven pathways to the Basque Country and to life in its broadest sense. This book will appeal to anyone who values Basqueness as a way of life and their own Basque identity.

The fall brings a return to more strictly academic fair, and we announced the publication of Bitter Justice: The Penitentiary of El Puerto de Santa María and Its Basque Dimensions, 1936–1949, by UK-based scholar David Lyon. With years of painstaking research into archives and countless interviews with survivors and the families of survivors, this brings together the story of the repression in the years after the Civil War, which was especially severe for the Basques.

Now, with winter beginning to approach, it’s time to turn toward Christmas and the Basque books that will delight your family this season. First, The Sheep Walker’s Daughter, by Sydney Avey, a novel about family relationships and discovering family secrets, it paints a colorful Basque immigrant history of loss, survival, and tough choices. In the words of one reviewer, “explores complex relationships between richly developed characters. I love the bits of wisdom, poetic analogies, and unexpected twists.”

Taking as a cue the Basque Country from a very different direction, Denise Orpustan–Love’s The Mill House Speaks: Seven Pathways to the Ancestral Basque Homeland tells the story a trip that she made to her family home in the Basque Country to restore the mill house, which belonged to her father. The journey is both interior and exterior, and is used to explore spirituality and Basque mysticism, the exploration of the mysteries of life, following the death of the author’s mentor, Angeles Arrien. In the course of this journey she explores seven pathways to the Basque Country and to life in its broadest sense. This book will appeal to anyone who values Basqueness as a way of life and their own Basque identity.

Finally, by the end of the year we will have other books appearing as well, especially Gretchen Skivington’s masterful novel on Elko and love, Echevarria. There will also be others, so please check back to our webstore often www.basquebooks.myshopify.com.

In addition to our busy publishing schedule, we’ve also attended events in Winnemucca, Reno, Gardnerville, Genoa, and Bufalo, Wyoming. Never a dull moment. Happy holidays to you and yours, and, as always, read Basque books!
Walking in the Footprints of our Ancestors
Bart Mowry, Member of the CBS Advisory Board

This past summer, several members of the CBS Advisory Board, along with their families, friends, and faculty members, journeyed to Euskadi. The Advisory Board members from the United States were Dale Erquiaga, Sam Zengotitabengoa, Annette Bidart, Anita Anacabe, Philippe Acheritogaray, and Bart Mowry. Longtime friend of the Center, Diane Root, also took part. They were joined by Advisory Board members in Euskadi: Koldo San Sebastián, Sixto Jimenez and Pello Salaburu. CBS faculty members on the trip included Xabier Irujo, Joseba Zumalakarregi, and Sandy Ott, and Professor Emeritus William A. Douglass. The University of Nevada, Reno’s President Marc Johnson, his wife Dr. Karen Penner-Johnson, and Board of Regents’ member Rick Trachok and his wife Cathy also joined the group.

During the first part of the trip, we stayed in Bilbao, where we experienced the history, food, and culture of our ancestors. During our first evening, we drank txakolina wine and ate pintxos at Café Iruña, reportedly the oldest bar in Bilbao, built in 1903. It is located across the street from the headquarters of PNV, the Basque Nationalist Party, and the former home of Sabino Arana, the founder of the Basque Nationalist Party and the former street from the headquarters of PNV, the Bilbao, built in 1903. It is located across the street from the headquarters of PNV, the Basque Nationalist Party, and the former home of Sabino Arana, the founder of the Basque Nationalist Party and the former house known affectionately as the “Oregon and Nevada houses.” Both houses were built by emigrant Basques returning from America. While in Lekeito, its mayor joined us for lunch at the Erkiaga restaurant. We are most grateful to Board member Koldo San Sebastián and to Bizkaian government official Koldo Atxutegi for having made these arrangements.

On Wednesday, July 5, we traveled to Elciego to tour one of the oldest wineries in the Basque Rioja, the Bodega Marqués de Riscal. From there we headed north to the walled city of Laguardia. Its castle and city served as a defensive fortress on the southwestern boundary of Alava from the tenth century. That night we enjoyed a fabulous dinner held in a restored sixteenth-century Basque farmhouse, Restaurant Aspalikasa, on the outskirts of Bilbao. We thank Nieves Pereda, a Bizkaian government official in the tax office who recently was a visiting scholar in the Center, for having organized this part of our trip.

Leaving Pamplona-Iruña, we visited a beautiful natural park in Aralar, Navarre, to visit the Romanesque Sanctuary of San Miguel. A local bertolari made an impromptu performance before we traveled onward to Baraibar, a hamlet of approximately fifteen families where CBS faculty member, Xabier Irujo and his family, have a home. The citizens of the community own the restaurant and provided entertainment with music and jota dancing. Lunch was scrumptious. The food was plentiful, each course prepared in the spirit of San Miguel. A local performance before we traveled onward to Baraibar, a hamlet of approximately fifteen families where CBS faculty member, Xabier Irujo and his family, have a home. The citizens of the community own the restaurant and provided entertainment with music and jota dancing. Lunch was scrumptious. The food was plentiful, each course prepared and served as a defensive fortress on the southwestern boundary of Alava from the tenth century. That night we enjoyed a fabulous dinner held in a restored sixteenth-century Basque farmhouse, Restaurant Aspalikasa, on the outskirts of Bilbao. We thank Nieves Pereda, a Bizkaian government official in the tax office who recently was a visiting scholar in the Center, for having organized this part of our trip.

On the following day, Saturday, July 8, the Advisory Board held its meeting at the Etxepea Institute with various representatives in attendance from the University of the Basque Country, the Autonomous Government of the Basque Country, the Autonomous Government of Navarre, and the Government of Bizkaia. Collectively we discussed and explored collaborative projects and ideas. Our group concluded the day and this trip with a fabulous luncheon at a gastronomic society, Cofradía Gastronomía in the Old Town.

Our many thanks to all those who made this trip so memorable!
CBS 2017

The running of the bulls in Pamplona

Angel Viñas, George Steer, Xabier Irujo and Paul Preston

PHOTO GALLERY

This and facing page, images from the 2017 Buffalo, Wyoming Basque festival and the Reno, Nevada Basque festival.
Joan Errea
Family Stories and Much More

It has been a great honor to publish the books of Joan Errea. A native of Nevada, both of her parents immigrated to the United States, and specifically Nevada, from the Basque Country. They met in now defunct “town” of Currie Nevada, on the eastern side of the Ruby Mountains, and their marriage took them from sheep camps in the Rubies to eastern Nevada, to Pleasant Valley south of Winnemucca. Joan was inspired by her father, Arnaud Paris, who was a bertsolari, to begin to record her own musings and they have led to two beautiful books: My Mama Marie, the story of Joan’s mother, and A Man Called Aita, the story of her father. While her story is interesting, I would highly encourage you to pick up one or both of these books, and instead of writing more about Joan, I want to let her own words speak for themselves. So here is a selection from the title poem of A Man Called Aita:

A Man Called Aita

With a brand new dream, a clarinet,
and his suitcase in his hand.
The young Basque came to write his name in the history of this land.
Perhaps he was never famous but
the world was a better place.
For the Basque who came and brought
with him the faith of his proud race.
In the mountains of Wyoming
where he first came to herd sheep,
How bitter were his lessons,
how lonely was his sleep?
How many times he lay awake
and looked up at starry skies,
Unable to see their beauty for
the tears that filled his eyes.
How unbearably cold and lonely
it must have been at times,
As he sat upon some windswept hill
and wrote his songs and rhymes.
For the young man was a poet,
a Basque “Bertzolari”;
And in later years he’d sing his
songs to my brothers and to me!
On February 8 and 9, 2017, William Douglass presented public lectures in Boise, Idaho. The first day he gave a seminar on the Basques in Cuba & Beyond in a Basque Culture Class at Boise State University and that afternoon he addressed a university-wide audience on the subject of “Migration and Identity.” The following evening his talk at the Boise Basque Museum was entitled “A Basque Author’s Reflections.” All three events were well attended and were followed by lively public discussion. Before returning to Reno Douglass enjoyed a lunch with the Goitandias—his Boise Basque “family.” All are descendants of the baserri Goitiandia of Aulestia, Bizkaia, where Bill and his family lived for about a year (1964) while he conducted his anthropological field research for his doctoral dissertation. He subsequently presented his Cuba lecture at the Center for Basque Studies and his “Migration and Identity” one in a seminar at the University of Nevada-Reno Knowledge Center.

Basque Library Exhibits

The Jon Bilbao Basque Library is more than a library. Besides the collections we host, we proudly serve our researchers and help visitor scholars find the right piece of information for their next publication. We are also engaged in outreach activities, especially exhibits. These activities help us approach the campus and the broader community more easily than purely academic events.

During 2016–2017 we displayed three main exhibits. From October 2016 to April 2017, we displayed a selection of pictures about Bertsmolaritza and Bertsmolariak on our exhibit window. We have a short video and explanatory texts to contextualize these photographs. On April 26, 2017, we held the exhibit Gernika: Voices after the Bombs with the collaboration of Professor Xabier Irujo. The bombing of Gernika was one of the first actions of the Condor Legion, a real-life training for the Nazi’s Blitzkrieg. The methods developed by this unit served as a model for the bombings by the Luftwaffe during the Second World War. The 80th anniversary of the bombing served as an opportunity to raise awareness about what happened there, and tell the story of why this historical event matters today. Our goal was to transmit the Gernika experience to visitors: we translated testimonials to English, and recorded them to give a voice to the survivors. A digital version of this touching exhibit is available at http://bit.ly/gernikaunr. And, finally, during the summer of 2017, The Comforts of Home: A Basque Sheep Camp exhibit was on display at the Sparks Museum & Cultural Center to showcase the life of Basque shepherders. The exhibition displays Dominique Laxalt’s sheep camp from Marlette Lake, Nevada. Laxalt purchased more than one hundred acres of grazing lands high in the Sierra. He herded sheep in the mountains above Carson City for decades, operating out of this base camp. He took his sons with him, and this made an incredible impression especially on Robert Laxalt, who later wrote of these experiences in his book Sweet Promised Land.

Besides these exhibits, we collaborated with the Graduate Students Association of UNR and the Renown healthcare network, providing artifacts and documents from our collection for their own diversity day events.

All these exhibits and actions have the primary goal of helping visitors better understand Basque culture and history, both in the Americas and in the Basque Country. Furthermore, working with other institutions of historical memory around Nevada is always fulfilling.

Looking ahead into 2018, we are partnering with the Western Folklife Center of Elko for an exhibit that will be held together with the International Conference on Bertsmolaritza and the Cowboy Poetry Gathering. You will have the opportunity to visit it until September 2018. Hope to see you there!
It was our great pleasure to represent the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies at the annual Buffalo, Wyoming Basque festival and this year’s national NABO convention held in beautiful Buffalo, Wyoming. It was personally my first chance to visit Buffalo and I was absolutely in awe of the natural beauty of northeastern Wyoming and the Big Horn Mountains in particular. Over the course of four days we sold books, engaged with our readers and friends, participated in much dancing and merry making, and generally lived the good life like a good Basque! Highlights abounded, but it was especially exciting to get to see the parade featuring family sheep wagons and families of the original Basque settlers in the region. The families take great pride in re-storing the sheep wagons and they are a treat to behold. The great Basque musicians and dance instigators, Errabal, were also great fun to see and dance along with (although being a book editor, of course I have two left feet). And I was lucky enough to participate in the festival’s final event, the Basque Sheepherders Picnic, held in the Big Horn Mountains, and which featured delicious, freshly and deep-fried trout caught that very morning by the picnic attendees! Until next time Buffalo! If you ever have a chance to attend this Basque festival, take it! You won’t be disappointed. And also, while I was there, when I was not working, I was live FaceBook broadcasting many events, videos of which can still be found on Center’s FaceBook page, if you use that platform.

The NABO in Buffalo

This year’s North American Basque Organizations annual festival/convention took place in Buffalo, Wyoming, hosted by the local Big Horn Basque Club July 21–24. Congratulations to the club, presided by Jason Camino, and the entire community, for successfully hosting this year’s event. Although Buffalo is a small town, it has a big Basque heart.

This was the fifth time that Buffalo has hosted the convention since 1988. Always a popular destination among Basque-Americans, this year did not disappoint. The event was made even more special by all of the entertainment including four music groups, two from the Basque Country, and two local groups; six NABO club dance groups; Bertsolaris (improvisers of Basque verse); aizkolariak (woodchoppers) and harrijasotzaileak (weightlifters); as well as a number of local artists.

The festivities began with the NABO business meeting on Friday held at the historic TA Ranch. The meeting was followed by lunch and a wonderful presentation by Jean Urruty, a sort of Chautauqua of his father’s, Martin Urruty’s, experience as a young Basque immigrant to the area. Friday evening included the auction of sheepwagon stoves, painted by local artists that raised some $60,000 for the local food pantry. NABO’s Txerriki, or sausage contest (chorizo, tripota & lukainka) also took place at this time, and the evening concluded with a public dance to the sounds of Ospatu, and Xabi Aburruzaga’s group, all taking place right on Main Street. Saturday began with a parade through downtown Buffalo that featured many of the local families’ sheepwagons. The parade led everyone to the local park for a day full of dancing, music, food, and vendors. Saturday night’s dance was to the sounds of the Jean Flesher Band and Errebal. Sunday began with mass concelebrated by Aita Mike Lastiri and Aita Antton Egiguren, followed by NABO’s Bizi Emankorra Lifetime Achievement awards, and more events in the park including wood chopping and weightlifting.

For many, the best part of the event was on Monday with a mountain fishing trip, and fish fry at the cabin of Helen and Tom Jones. Also, a historic spot for local Basques in the Big Horn Mountains, the Jones’ welcomed over 100 Basques who fished, ate, sang and danced the day away.

Zorionak to everyone involved!
The CBS blog, which goes by the motto “Basques Books and More,” debuted in March 2015 with the goal of keeping old and new friends informed about interesting Basque-related stories, as well as events going on here at the Center, with a special emphasis on promoting the books we publish. Since then, it has gone from strength to strength, with an increasing number of people viewing the posts and interacting with the Center. Special features have included the series of posts we ran in the summer of 2016 to coincide with the launch of Basques in the United States that focused on many interesting and unusual stories connected with individual Basques who settled in the US. These stories were sometimes funny and sometimes more poignant, but whatever the case they never failed to stimulate great feedback from readers. What’s more, in March 2017 we featured a collection of posts to coincide with women’s history month that dealt with women from the Basque Country or of Basque descent that really left their mark on society. Of the many interesting individual posts we have included, a couple stand out: in December 2016 we posted on native Basque breeds of animals in a direct response to one reader’s query. And in August 2017 we were delighted to include a guest post by a friend of many at the Center, Iñaki Azkarraga, on the fascinating story behind the name of the Mrs. Leah Manning Gardens in Bilbao. As of late September 2017, our most viewed post was on the well-known Basque song “Txoria txori.” The blog receives around 100 views a day on average, with an all-time record high of 698 views for one post in one day. There have been over 87,000 views in total since we began and we look forward to breaking the 100,000 mark!

Carmelo Urza Retires as New USAC Building is Inaugurated

After thirty-five years at the helm, Carmelo Urza, founder and president of the highly successful University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), retired on August 31, 2017. Carmelo was part of a program that brought students to the Basque Country in 1974. That program served as a springboard for USAC’s first study abroad program in Donostia-San Sebastian in 1983. “My goal was to create a viable, ongoing program in the Basque Country,” says Carmelo in an interview at Nevada Today. “So although there were moments when I would fantasize (about growing the program), for the most part it was a struggle to survive. It took me about a year to realize that organizing one program was not likely to survive.” That realization led Carmelo to create programs in Pau and Getxo/Bilbao and inspired him to build the USAC empire. His “can do” approach to study abroad enabled USAC to become a global initiative that now provides programs for more than 4,000 students annually in nearly thirty countries.

The USAC programs in Donosti and Getxo/Bilbao have played a special role in educating generations of students about the Basques and their homeland. USAC students of Basque descent typically return to the United States more energized and enthusiastic about their Basque heritage, and their experiences have enriched the Basque American community over the years. Thanks to USAC and to Carmelo Urza, many non-Basque students have also discovered Euskal-Herria and its rich culture.

Carmelo’s lifetime achievements culminated in the inauguration of the new USAC Annex building on Virginia Street. The building’s Basque themes pay homage to the program’s Basque beginnings. On behalf of everyone at the CBS, we would like to congratulate Carmelo on his well-earned retirement and wish him all the best in the future! Zorionak, Carmelo!
Encourage Your Students to Discover Their Heritage
Study Abroad - Basque Country

For over 35 years, USAC has offered programs in Euskal Herria. Since our inception in Donostia-San Sebastián, USAC has grown into a global consortium with programs all over the world, yet our roots remain firmly in the Basque country. Over the years we've grown our programs in the Basque region and each have summer, fall, spring, and yearlong options. While abroad, students have the opportunity to study—among other material—the Basque language, participate in cultural traditions, live with a local family, and discover the unique identity of their Basque heritage.

Learn more at usac.edu or contact USAC at studyabroad@usac.unr.edu 1.866.404.USAC (8722)

USAC's mission is for students to gain international experience, become immersed in other cultures, and grow into engaged citizens of the world. We strive to provide authentic, academic programs that facilitate cross-cultural learning, not only in the classroom but also through fieldtrips, internships, homestays, and volunteer opportunities.

Scholarships
In addition to maintaining affordable fees, USAC awards over $1.5 million in scholarships and discounts thanks to generous donors. There are several scholarships available for students specifically interested in the Basque country or Basque topics.

**Félix Menchacatorre Memorial Scholarship**
San Sebastián or Bilbao - $500

**Kody Bressman Memorial Scholarship**
San Sebastián - $500-$2,000

**R.J. Simcoe Memorial Scholarship**
San Sebastián or Bilbao - $500

**Frank and Thu Triplett Scholarship**
Pau - $500-$2,000

For a full list of USAC scholarships, visit: usac.edu/scholarships

Learn more at usac.edu or contact USAC at studyabroad@usac.unr.edu 1.866.404.USAC (8722)
USAC also offers programs in Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and Turkey.

Program Locations
Basque Country

**Donostia/San Sebastián**
Basque and Spanish Language, European Studies, and Psychology
Students live in an exquisite urban-beach city only 20 minutes from the border. In addition to their academic classes, they have the opportunity to take part in Basque cultural events, festivals, and field trips. In their freetime they can discover the area through hiking and surfing, improve their language skills with a local conversation partner, or earn money teaching English in local schools.

**Bilbao/Getxo**
International Business and Spanish Language Studies
Students enjoy living close to the beach in Getxo while studying in the heart of Bilbao, a vibrant city praised for being a very lively and safe place to live. Bilbao has become an advanced business community granting students the opportunity to participate in business visits and internships. Students can also practice their teaching skills and earn money by teaching English in local schools. Beyond their academics, students can explore the Basque cuisine and participate in cultural activities.

**Pau**
French Language and European Studies
Students live in the beautiful city of Pau with its vibrant historical center and stunning views of the Pyrenees. Beyond campus, Pau is small enough to offer everything within walking distance, yet large enough to offer many cultural and social activities. While not actually in the Basque Country, Pau is the capital of the Basque administrative province. Students take field trips to the nearby north and south Basque regions during the program.
Visit our website at www.basque.unr.edu