To: Teachers @ Downtown, Civic Center & Hilltop

From: KE Hones, Librarian

RE: ORIAS Speakers Bureau

**I attended a preview of these speakers last Thursday. Please read the descriptions as many of these presentations would enrich & support high school curriculum. I can recommend specific speakers for various classes. I could also host presentations in the library, upon request.**

[**http://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/orias-speakers-bureau**](http://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/orias-speakers-bureau)

1. “The ORIAS Speakers Bureau is a cohort of graduate students who offer 45-minute presentations specifically geared to students from middle school to community college. Each talk models important Common Core Social Studies skills, such as analysis of texts and use of evidence to build an argument. Many talks include content that dovetails with History Social-Science Content Standards, while all talks offer opportunities for inquiry-based student engagement, as outlined in the new History-Social Science Framework. Most presentations are also appropriate for more than one grade level or subject, because they address broad questions while focusing on specific events and topics. Graduate student speakers underwent a multi-step process in designing their talks. Presentations are **currently free to schools**, though speakers are paid for each engagement. The ORIAS Speakers Bureau is generously funded by UC Berkeley's eight area studies centers and institutes. “

2. **To request a speaker? Each presentation description includes a "Book This Speaker" link.** Your request will be sent to the speaker(s) you request via email and scheduling will be dependent upon speakers' personal availability and transportation. Submit a separate request for each individual speaker.

**3. ORIAS asks three things of teachers who engage speakers.**

(1) Work with each speaker to prepare them to work with your class. Give the speaker a sense of class size, composition, and atmosphere. Let speakers know about presentation-related technology and be ready to copy paper materials ahead of time, if applicable to the presentation. If your class period is longer or shorter than 50 minutes, let speakers know so that they can adjust accordingly. Last, please work as partners with them, remaining in the room at all times and helping with classroom management as appropriate. (2) Prepare your class to engage with the speaker. Some talks require a bit of pre-teaching of vocabulary or concepts, while others simply require guidance about behavioral expectations. All talks include some element of student engagement, so please let your class know that speakers will appreciate positive participation. If you feel a talk will be challenging for your students, please help set their expectations appropriately. (3) Complete the short post-presentation review. After a speaker comes to your classroom, you will be asked to complete a short review. This review will help individual speakers improve and will enable ORIAS to improve the Speakers Bureau as a whole. Your review is *very important*.