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THE GAIL PROJECT: "An Okinawan-American Dialogue"

is a collaborative, international public history project that explores the founding years of the American military occupation of Okinawa. The project is inspired by a collection of photos taken in Okinawa in 1952-53 by an American Army Captain: Charles Eugene Gail. The photos were generously donated to Special Collections at McHenry Library by Charles' daughter, Geri Gail, and have since been made available for student research.

Our team of faculty, staff and undergraduate students at the University of California, Santa Cruz, are developing a traveling exhibition of Gail's photographs with an accompanying digital archive that is comprised of the photos, key texts and documents, oral histories from both American and Okinawan voices, as well as undergraduate student research and writing. We believe that using the photographs as a lens through which to view this crucial time is

relevant to populations throughout Okinawa, Japan, the United States and the entire Pacific region.

This project emphasizes hands-on research by undergraduate students and serves as an innovative platform for new educational methods that encourage the use of multimedia, social media, archival research and travel.

The Gail Project is co-directed by Professor Alan Christy of the Department of History at UC Santa Cruz and Dustin Wright; curated by Shelby Graham, Director of the Mary Porter Sesnon Gallery; with media direction from Tosh Tanaka; and research by UCSC students: Nick Bass, Nirupama Chandrasekhar, Jasmine Chang, Brandon Cho, Cameron Gao, Thomas Herz, Teodor Jaich, Julia Jen, Alexys McClellan, Robert Potmesil, Yoshimi Suda, Shanley Sullivan, Evan Terris, and many others along with alumni: Rei Coleman, Stella Fronius, Conner Lowe, Natanel Miller, Helen Porter, Madeline Thompson, and Cameron Vanderscoff.



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