



Sac State Prof Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck

CHARLES MARTELL AUTHOR LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES IN-PERSON

**Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck -
*The Long Valley A Short
Documentary***

Our final speaker will be one of our own faculty members Asst. Professor Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck, who teaches *Narrative and Social Justice Filmmaking* in the Communication Studies Department. His film, *The Long Valley*, was one of only 50 short films selected for showing at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival. One reviewer described his short documentary *The Long Valley*, as using a "stripped-down, low-budget approach to filmmaking to immerse viewers into life in the Salinas Valley".

Due to the inclusion of his short film as part of his lecture, this presentation will be held in the Cottonwood Suite of the University Union with a reception to follow.

Be sure to register at the Friends of the University Library website: <https://csus.libcal.com/event/15463602>.
Free parking available, upon request.

This will be our only in-person presentation this year.
Please note: This lecture will not be offered on Zoom but will be recorded and made available on the Friends website.

**Mark your calendars for
Thursday, April 16 at 1:00 P.M.
Cottonwood Suite, University Union**

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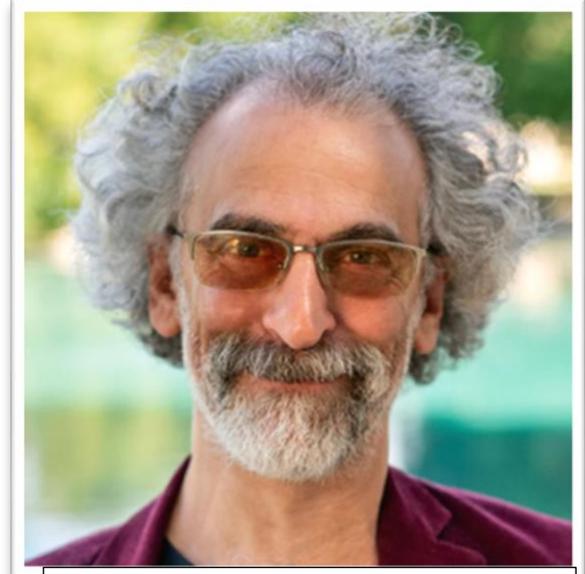
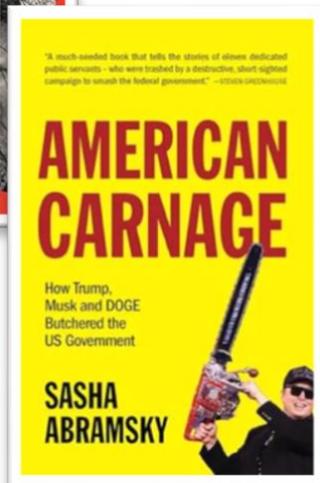
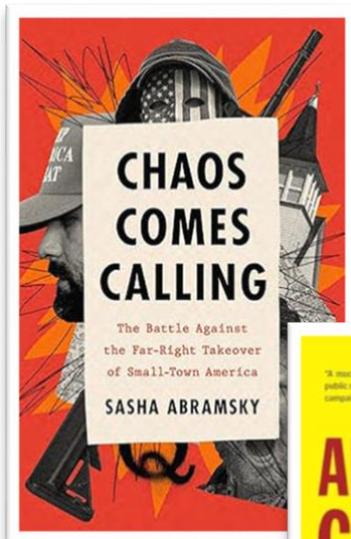
Aadil Bhat,
ASI Representative

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SASHA ABRAMSKY DELIVERS COMPELLING ANALYSIS IN AMERICAN CARNAGE AND CHAOS COMES CALLING

The March 12 Charles Martell Author Lecture Series brought back a FOL favorite, Sasha Abramsky who teaches in the Writing Program at U.C. Davis and writes a monthly column "Authoritarian Watch" in *The Nation*. Originally scheduled to explore his 2024 title, *Chaos Comes Calling: The Battle Against the Far-Right Takeover of Small-Town America*, but when we saw the startling title of his new January 2026 publication, *American Carnage How Trump, Musk and DOGE Butchered the U.S. Government* we asked Sasha to discuss both books and to reflect on their related themes.

The 2024 book, *Chaos Comes Calling*, explores the political divisions in two small American communities, Sequim, WA and Shasta Co. CA



Journalist and author Sasha Abramsky

There was a lively discussion after his presentation and as usual he had his fingers on the pulse of American politics.

American Carnage follows the experiences of 12 government employees during the DOGE efforts to reorganize and shrine various government agencies at the beginning of President Trump's second term.

Starting with our first Zoom session in 2020, the Lectures are archived on the Friends of the University Library website:

<https://library.csus.edu/friends-of-the-library>

This image on the *American Carnage* book cover brings back the four months in 2025 that Elon Musk ran the controversial Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), with chain saw in hand.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Friends of the University Library. At a time when the Library is facing an extremely challenging year, including a 33% budget reduction, the role of the Friends is more important than ever. Your generosity and engagement help ensure continued support for Library programs, collections, services and campus enrichment.

In the Fall semester, the Friends hosted two successful author lectures exploring timely and compelling topics, including the growth and perils of online gambling and the work and legacy of Joan Didion. We look forward to our two upcoming events this spring: a March 12 lecture by Sasha Abramsky featuring his newest book *American Carnage* and a special presentation on April 16 by Sac State's own Dr. Rodrigo Ojeda Beck on his Sundance-accepted documentary film, *The Long Valley*, which focuses on farmworkers in the Salinas Valley.

Our Book Bin continues to provide meaningful, steady support. During the fall sales period alone, book sales generated \$3,334, directly benefiting the Library. Thank you to everyone who donates books and supports this important effort.

We have just launched our 2026 Membership Drive, an especially meaningful milestone as we will soon celebrate the Friends' 35th anniversary. Since 1992, the Friends have provided nearly \$500,000 in direct support to the Library, and we hope to reach—and surpass—the half-million-dollar milestone by growing our membership and increasing donations in the year ahead.

Finally, we will soon issue our call for grant proposals for the 2026/2027 cycle, with plans to award \$15,000 or more to backfill existing needs of the University Library and to support innovative Library projects.

Thank you for being part of the Friends community. We invite you to stay engaged by attending our author lectures, volunteering in the Book Bin, donating, or considering the Friends of the University Library in your estate plans. Each of these actions helps strengthen the University Library during a critical time, and we are deeply grateful for your continued involvement and support.

With warm regards,

Michaeline Veden

President, Friends of the University Library
Sacramento State

Signs of Spring: Japanese miniature cherry trees at the Library South Entrance were donated by the JAAC to honor President Donald Gerth.



FRIENDS GRANTS UPDATE

The 2026-2027 Requests for Proposals went out and at press time the Grants Committee was reviewing 11 submissions from Librarians and Library Staff. Last year we awarded \$15,000, and we hope to award a similar amount this year.

NEW BOARD MEMBER LAURA ARCHBOLD



Our newest recruit for the FOL Board retired after more than 30 years in the Reference Department of the CSUS Library. Since she has been kept busy with the usual retirement pursuits of crafting, swimming, gardening, and grandkids...and reading, lots and lots of reading.

Laura is well known for having collected pop-up, moveable and toy books from the 1940s and 1950s for the past 40+ years,

We recruited Laura as she is a devoted reader of memoirs, environmental issues, current affairs, social inequality and history. She is now on the Board to recommend speakers for our Charles Martell Lecture series and volunteers regularly at the Book Bin.

DISCOVER TREASURE. SUPPORT THE LIBRARY.

One of the unexpected joys of the Friends' Book Bin is discovering the small “treasures” tucked inside donated books. Along with well-loved volumes, we often find glimpses into past lives — old receipts, handwritten letters, diaries and journals, pressed bookmarks, notes in the margins, and other traces of memory left behind.

These discoveries remind us that books are more than objects; they carry stories well beyond their pages. Each forgotten note or bookmark offers a quiet connection to the past — and a reminder of the enduring role libraries play in preserving knowledge, history, and shared experience.

When you shop or donate to the Book Bin, you are doing more than enjoying the pleasure of discovery. All proceeds directly support the University Library, helping fund collections, programs, and services at a time when support is needed more than ever. Every visit is a small adventure with a meaningful purpose. Come explore the Book Bin—you never know what treasures you might find, or how your purchase might help sustain the University Library.

Thank you so much for your support. - Sally Hitchcock, Book Bin Coordinator

BOOK BIN SPRING 2026 HOURS

1st and 3rd consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of each month
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Remaining Spring Book Bin Dates:

April 1-2 & 15-16

May 6-7 & 20-21

Check the website for specific dates and holiday hours before you come:

<https://library.csus.edu/friends-of-the-library>

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

We are small but mighty! Due to several generous donors and YOUR annual contributions, the recent 2026 membership drive raised an amazing \$14,830!

Working with Board member Steven Loya, University Executive Director of Gift Planning, we have been able to update our campus financial accounts. As part of that process, membership contributions (formerly called dues) are now classified as direct donations to the Friends of the University Library and are considered tax deductible gifts.

The main benefit of this effort is that we now have better access to our Membership Roll. To accomplish this, it was necessary to eliminate the limited borrowing privileges that were formerly available with membership. Most of our members are affiliated with the University and already had such borrowing privileges.

DISCOVER TREASURE PART TWO- HAVE YOU EVER HIDDEN ANYTHING IN A BOOK?

Be sure to check your donation pile carefully before giving it to the University Library!

All donations are examined in the Library Acquisitions Department and then the librarian subject specialists decide which items will be added to the collection. Many years ago, one of our librarians was going through a box of donated books. As she picked up a rather thick volume, she noticed it felt off-balance and made a "clunk" sound. She set the book down to open the cover and found it had been hollowed out and was hiding a small handgun which was still there!

The book was closed immediately, and Campus Police were called. Two officers responded due to the gravity of the situation.



You never know what you will find in a good book!