

6 Generation 200 Years Later Bios

Kristina Foss has taught Native American Studies at Santa Barbara City College for 48 years. This work was an extension of her deep commitment to the Native Chumash Community in Santa Barbara (while her own native background is from Alabama, not California.) She spent 18 years as the Secretary of the Quabajai Chumash Indian Association working on a variety of causes and projects including the first Tomol (sea going canoe) built in 100 years, children's cultural education projects and the protection of burial and cultural resource sites. She served as a Native Advisor for the Santa Barbara County Schools and the California State Department of Employment.

She has also become involved with Mission Studies as part of her academic work and first worked in Mission collections at La Purisima State Historic Park assisting in Archival set up and garden documentation. She later spent 25 years as the Museum Director at Santa Barbara Mission. The work of decolonizing museums was supported by the Mission. During this time, she established the outdoor section of the Mission Museum, La Huerta which collected documented heritage plants of the Mission era that established agriculture in California. This garden was engaged in sharing documentation and plantings with other historic sites. Ms. Foss also spent 10 years as the Vice President and Funding Chair of the California Missions Foundation. In the latter capacity she was charged with numerous visits to every Mission and prepared studies documenting art and restoration needs as well as horticultural collections for the office of Senator Barbara Boxer and other governmental agencies, working on several National Historic Landmark Designations as well as helping gain and administrated Save America's Treasures Grants.

Now Emeritus, and doing research both independently and for OMSB, she is still involved in Native community activities, La Huerta support and is teaching at SBCC while engaged in publishing and film projects relating to Native California history. She has published articles on California History and has in progress a book on Native American Art in the California Missions. She sits on the Boards of the Pearl Chase Society (Preservation) and the Mission Heritage Trail Association and serves as an advisor to numerous Native organizations. She has worked on the production of films on the 6 Generations of the Ygnacio family and on the Lone Woman of San Nicholas Island. Kristina is the recipient of the CMSA Edna Kimbro Award, the CPF Preservation Award and the SBCC Faculty Excellence Award among others.

Ernestine Ygnacio De-Soto kaswa' (Barbareño) Chumash elder has become an authority not only through her study of archaeological and written historical evidence, but through the history of her family and Chumash oral traditions. Ernestine is the daughter of Mary Yee, the last native speaker of the Chumash language and is the illustrator of the children's book *The Sugar Bear Story*, which was one of her mother's cultural stories. She is active in documenting and revitalizing the Native language as well as all aspects of Chumash culture with her cultural group: hi ho' stoqošlóq' hi xus in Santa Barbara and Ventura County.