



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER CSUC PROFESSOR ADMITS TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORN

The Butte County District Attorney's Office announced a former CSUC professor charged with possessing approximately a hundred images of child porn has plead no contest to the possession charge.

Laird Easton, 64, then a professor of history at CSUC was arrested on January 21, 2021 after a search and arrest warrant was issued by a local judge based on a Butte County Sheriff's Office investigation. The investigation had revealed a person tied to Laird's personal and university email accounts had downloaded and uploaded child porn images from/to the internet. During the service of the search warrant at his home, sheriff's detectives contacted Easton and determined he was actively viewing child porn on his cell phone as those detectives were knocking at his door.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said a subsequent extensive forensic download of Easton's electronic devices seized during the search warrants revealed more child porn images. Easton was charged in March 2021.

Ramsey said Easton plead today admitting that he was in possession of child pornography from August 28, 2020 through January 21, 2021. Easton, who remains out on bail pending sentencing, is set for sentencing on October 6, 2021. He faces a maximum of three years in state prison and will be required to register as a sex offender.