It's Randy!

Bergstrom Brings Dept Sixth Ploos Award

He is one of the Department's most popular teachers with both graduates and undergraduates.

His work on legal reform and civil rights activism is revolutionizing the study of American legal history.

Some say he is even a fair-to-middling player on the Department basketball team.

And now Randy Bergstrom is the winner of the Harold J. Ploos memorial award as the outstanding assistant professor for 1992-93.

Prof. Bergstrom's selection was announced at the December meeting of the Faculty Legislature.

"Randy's record of teaching here is so outstanding that it comes close to being

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Library Throws Open Treasures For History Associates' Visit

"Skeletons in the Closet" is the title of the next History Associates function, though some might instead want to call it "Pearls in the Attic."

Or maybe even "No Such Thing as a Free Lunch."

Departing from the usual luncheon-lecture fare, this first meeting of the New Year will bring Associates into the inner sanctum of the UCSB Library—the Department of Special Collections.

There, they will have a chance to see and touch some of UCSB's greatest treasures, everything from illuminated manuscripts to Civil War ma-
Remak Explains How to Fight 'A Very Civil War'

There are no precedents for the type of civil war that the Swiss cantons fought in 1847, nor did that war set a precedent for others. This is odd, Prof. Joachim Remak told the History Associates' last luncheon-lecture meeting, "because what the Swiss did makes so much sense."

Like the American Civil War that broke out about 15 years later, the Swiss war involved a constitutional issue of local rights versus the powers of a central government, and like that conflict the rebel states included some of the oldest in the federation.

But the resemblance ends when comparing the way the two wars were conducted, Prof. Remak said, and the effect they had on the nation.

The American conflict was fought for years, leaving devastating casualties and a legacy of bitterness on both sides. The Swiss war was over in three weeks, and the total casualties in two engagements were 100 dead and 250 wounded — the result, for the most part, of wild shooting, Prof. Remak said.

Another difference was the cause of war.

Whereas slavery was the issue in the United States, in Switzerland it was education. When the canton of Lucerne invited the Jesuits to run their education system, there was a vehement outcry from the more liberal cantons.

"The reality and image of the Jesuits have changed radically in the 20th century," Prof. Remak said. "It now takes an effort of imagination to see how in the 19th century they could have been a symbol of reaction and bigotry."

The dispute led to a raid on Lucerne that was followed by a decision of seven conservative cantons to form a protective alliance despite a ban on such combinations in the 1815 Treaty that had created the Swiss Federation.

"The treaty was so loose that it didn't even provide for an internal free-trade area or a common postal rate," he said. "In fact, it cost more to send a postcard from Geneva to Zurich than from Geneva to Constantinople."

"But the treaty did specifically forbid hostile combinations of cantons against cantons."

The war resulted in a new constitution that provided for certain common activities, such as a central currency and postal system, while still respecting the rights of individual cantons.

"The lasting effects were only the happy kind," Prof. Remak said.

These include a new constitution, produced in 1848, which he called "a brilliant document," and — indirectly — creation of the International Red Cross.

Much of the credit for these results, in Prof. Remak's opinion, is due to the federation commander, Guillaume Henri Dufour.

"His first order of the day was to direct his troops to emerge from battle not only victorious but without reproach," Prof. Remak said. "In his view, any soldier who was less than humane and generous at all times put a stain on the flag."

A statement by Dufour that Prof. Remak characterized as "charming and decisive" set the tone for the war and its aftermath:

"He said, 'I would like to avoid anything which would give this war the character of an act of force.'"

Instead, Dufour's strategy was to proceed against each rebel canton with an overwhelmingly large force, then to point out that yielding to such a force would not be a stain on their honor.

An engineer by training, Dufour was asked to preside over the conference that led to the founding of the International Red Cross, and subsequently became its first president. Dufour, who had a lifelong interest in national symbols, even designed the Red Cross flag by reversing the colors of the white-on-red Swiss flag.

Prof. Remak's book on the Swiss war, A Very Civil War, is due out this spring.

History Undergrads Win Campus Research Awards

Six history majors have received awards of $1,000 each to pursue research projects this year.

"These awards are a part of our effort to improve the quality of the undergraduate program," according to Prof. Lester P. Monts, who is dean of undergraduate affairs. He praised the students and their supervising faculty for "contributing immensely toward that goal."

Three of the students received a May Company Scholarship. These were Alison Aubry (Prof. Cohen), Daniel Dougherty (Prof. Humphreys), and Naomi Garcia (Prof. Vargas).

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The other three received President's Undergraduate Fellowships. These were Kecia McDonald (Profs. Brownlee and Lindemann), Diana Saso (Prof. Lindemann), and Kathryn Stadler (Profs. Kalman and Lindemann).

The students are members of this year's Senior Honors Thesis class.
From ‘Courting Danger’ to ‘Courting Equality’ and Now — Randy Bergstrom Courts Honor

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unique,” History Chair Sears McGee said. “In fact, he has compiled a record in teaching and service more extensive and impressive than that of any assistant professor I can remember in a similar period of time.”

Prof. McGee also pointed to the significance of Prof. Bergstrom receiving the Plous Award in the same year that Bob Kelley received the Faculty Research Lectureship.

“Randy’s record of teaching here is so outstanding that it comes close to being unique.”

“This is a real tribute to the Department, but also to the strength of our Public History program,” he said.

For Prof. Bergstrom the award comes on the heels of a President’s Research Fellowship in the Humanities that he was awarded last year for a project entitled “Courting Equality: Litigating Discrimination in New York, 1865-1915.”

Because of the award, he was not on hand to receive this new honor in person, since he is spending the year conducting research on his new project, in which he intends to study how state courts handled civil rights cases during a period when the federal government assumed no responsibility for doing so.

“The story I am after is the missing link in the saga of civil rights activism,” Prof. Bergstrom wrote in the October issue of Historia. “While the rights crusades of the pre-Civil War years have been gaining growing attention . . . there is an equally important history of litigation efforts using state law” in these postwar decades.

Applying methods developed for his first book, Courting Danger: The Evolution of Injury Liability in New York City, 1870-1910, published last year by Cornell University Press, Prof. Bergstrom is studying how civil rights cases were received by courts and juries during this period of growing discrimination.

He is finding that, “despite the racism, a legal system loaded with Democratic judges and all-white juries, and policy across the nation that accepted discrimination, those who sued won.”

Prof. Bergstrom came to UCSB from Columbia in 1987 as the finalist in an intensive search for a faculty member who would build up the Department’s new major in the History of Public Policy. While introducing eight new courses in that field, he has also served as Review Editor for The Public Historian, Secretary of the Santa Barbara Division of the Academic Senate, and as UCSB’s representative to the President’s Committee on Undergraduate Education.

His receipt of the Plous Award breaks a tie between the History and Political Science departments, both of which had had five faculty win the award since it was created 35 years ago.

Previous History winners have been Robert Kelley (1962-5), Felice Bonadio (1967-68), Hal Drake (1976-77), Pat Cohen (1981-82), and Sara Cline (1986-87).

Teaching the History Honors Seminar

BY ALBERT LINDEMANN

Ed. Note: The following article first appeared in the UCSB College of Letters and Science Honors Program newsletter. The Honors Seminar has been my most enjoyable — if also in some ways my most difficult — teaching experience.

It allows me to be certain that I am really teaching, for I see real progress in all of my seminar students, and I watch over that progress like the Angel of Death. When I have a great many students it is simply not possible to have the same certainty.

Similarly, at the end of the year, my Honors Seminar students have turned in, nearly without exception, simply first-rate papers — many that are publishable and most that would qualify for a high-grade in a graduate seminar in the best graduate schools in the country.

The Honors Program more generally allows me to make frequent contact with the best at UCSB (I teach honors sections when I teach the History 4 series); it also allows me to get to know those students quite well.

I especially enjoy working with highly motivated students, ones who can receive my style of no-nonsense, very rigorous critique. Many of them have been shocked when they get back their first drafts; most have felt at some point that I am a perfectionist gone wacko.

But most have — at least so far as I know — been finally grateful; they realize that they have not always been held to those kinds of standards in the past, and, once they swallow their wounded pride, have both the will and the ability to accept the criticism and start holding themselves to higher standards.
To the Editor:
I’ve been meaning to write since the very first issue of Historia to remark how very much I enjoy your articles and the updates on the lives of my favorite History professors. I have also been meaning to write a thank you to Hal Drake, Greg de Roulhac, et al., for their time and efforts in this very worthwhile endeavour.

But it took the interview with Alfred Gollin [Historia, Oct. ’92] to finally get me to my typewriter.

What a delight to be reminded of the wit and wisdom of Dr. Gollin by that interview. As one of his Ph.D. students, I was lucky to get plenty of such advice on a daily basis from 1968 to 1971. Indeed, when in a pinch, I’ve been known to make a rushed phone call even now.

It is heart-warming to see his great teaching abilities rewarded with the Academic Senate’s Distinguished Teaching Award, and to ponder again his insights. (One sidelight: Gollin is beatable at ping-pong, though I never managed it in my three years in the Ph.D. program.)

In short, keep up the wonderful work on Historia. Historia has served to remind me of how lucky I was to have the likes of Gollin, Remak, Bonadio, Graham, Brownlee, Kelley, Dangerfield, and Michael Gordon (Political Science) for my graduate and undergraduate work. And it has stimulated anew my pride in UCSB and its great History Department.

Richard Kesarian
Chair, History Dept.
Monterey Peninsula College

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‘Gollin is beatable at ping-pong.’

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To the Editor:
I will never be able to repay what UC Santa Barbara did for me. I still speak about my days there whenever I appear at a conference.

I worked as a teacher at all levels for 39 years. I was a high school principal, adult school principal, assistant professor of education, school board member, gang project director and pre-school director in South Central Los Angeles and Oakland.
My books on Gange and Schools is being well ac-

cepted. My next book on education should be out soon.

I wanted someone to know how much I appreciate what people did to help me. Chances are most are gone, because I graduated in 1963. I am a booster and a re-

ruiter.

Richard Arthur

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Associates to Feast Eyes On Treasures of the Library

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Materials from the William Wyles Collection, in the company of Curator David Tambo and Ms. Lori Ritchie, supervisor of the Department of Special Collections.

Also on display will be documents and photographs of California and local history and numerous rare books of both fiction and non-fiction.

Dr. Tambo will introduce the collection and explain some of its more significant pieces. Then Associates will be allowed to browse among the pieces on display before adjoining for a reception with light refreshments.

Which is where the “free lunch” comes in.

The collection tour and reception will be free of charge to Associates and their guests.

“We have just come off of a record year under Greg de Roulhac’s presidency, and we wanted to do something to show our appreciation to the membership,” President Dick Oglesby said.

“This just seemed the best way to do it, since the documents in this collection are the working tools of the historian.”

Members who feel so inclined, he said, are being asked to make a donation to the fellowship fund.

The special session will be held Sunday, February 7, at 3 p.m. in the Special Collections Department on the third floor of the University Library. Parking on campus will also be free because of the weekend date.

Because of limited space, admission will be by reservation only, on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservation forms have been mailed to members. These should be returned to the UCSB Office of Community Relations, which will also handle inquiries at 893-4388.
What It’s Like to Take the Honors Seminar From History’s Self-Styled ‘Angel of Death’

BY ALISON AUBRY

Reprinted from the Newsletter of the UCSB Letters and Science Honors Program.

Did anti-Jewish sentiment increase in the United States during World War II, and if so, why?

What really happened during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and how did it help form the post-Cold War world we live in today?

How does the early California theater shed light on the economic and social nature of 19th-century California?

If you were one of eight students participating in the History Senior Honors Seminar, you could be reading and researching about these and other fascinating topics.

The senior thesis is a year-long project in which students work both under the guidance of a mentor and with the help of the director and fellow classmates of History 195H to research and write an original 60-100 page paper.

To earn distinction in the History major, students need to take two lower-division history honors classes, such as History 4A or History 17H, or complete the Department’s lower-division historiography course, History 6.

The lower division classes are worth an extra unit, and are usually taught by top graduate students, although occasionally a professor will lead the honors section.

My experience with three history honors sections has been that they enriched the survey courses. We were able to examine primary documents and share ideas in a way that only a seminar format would allow.

After completion of the lower-division requirement, students are eligible to enroll in History 100H, which is an intermediate-level departmental seminar that focuses on history writing.

Every year the History Department invites all students who have completed the required classes and have maintained a 3.6 grade-point average in the major to join the Senior Honors Seminar directed by Prof. Albert S. Lindemann.

After receiving the invitation last spring, I attended an informational meeting led by Dr. Lindemann and the 1991-92 seminar students to let prospective students know exactly what type of commitment they would be making during their senior year.

From both my own perspective and that of other students in the seminar, the experience gained from writing a senior thesis is worth all the time and effort.

In addition to working on our own research, all members of the seminar read and critique everyone else’s papers, thus developing the skills to be critical and thoughtful editors of others’ work.

In the words of Kecia McDonald, a seminar student, “I enjoy the high level of interaction and participation, and look forward to hearing from my classmates as much, if not more so, as from the professor.”

‘The thesis is the ultimate challenge of our college careers’

“It’s quite the round table session. It’s tough to receive so much criticism, especially if you’re not used to hearing it, but it feels good to push.”

The thesis is the ultimate challenge of our college careers, for it draws upon all the research and writing skills we have been developing, and forces us to hone them further.

Knowing that the highest standards have been set for the seminar can be intimidating at times, yet I know that I have the support of the professors and other students involved in the thesis who will help me to improve my work with their ideas and constructive criticism.

For myself and others who are planning to attend graduate school, the senior thesis provides excellent preparation for conducting research and writing a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation.

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Graduate Roundup

Alan Beyerchen (PhD 1973), now professor of history at Ohio State University, has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Beyerchen’s works include Scientists Under Hitler: Politics and the Physical Community in the Third Reich (Yale, 1977).


Cotter, who has received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation for his research, is teaching in the History Department this term.

Karen Mead, who is working on women’s beneficent associations in Argentina with Prof. David Rock, has won one of the few Graduate Humanities Research Grants handed out by UCSB’s Graduate Division and has also been chosen in a national competition to receive a fellowship from the American Association of University Women.

Peter Neushul, who is completing his dissertation in History of Science, has also

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Graduate Studies
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found time to write four articles. "Howard Florey and Ernst Chain develop penicillin as an antibiotic in England" is now in print in F. Magill, ed., Great Events from History (1991). Three others, on topics ranging from synthetic rubber to marine plant resources are forthcoming in different edited collections.

Fernando Rocchi spent Fall quarter in London, Rome and Amsterdam collecting archival data for his mentor David Rock's study of late 19th-century Argentina and Uruguay. The collaborative project with Prof. Fernando Lopez-Alves is being funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Lane Simonian (PhD 1992) has received a contract from University of Texas Press to to publish a book based on his dissertation, "Defending the Land of the Jaguar: A History of Conservation in Mexico."

Zuoyue Wang won the "Student Award" for best presentation at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting last June. Working under Larry Badash, he recently completed a two-year fellowship from the U.C. Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation to work on his dissertation, "American Scientists, Science Policy, and the Nuclear Arms Race: A History of the President's Science Advisory Committee, 1957-1973."


Name ___________________________ ___________________________

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