Prof. Anita Guerrini

HOW DID A HISTORIAN of early modern science end up writing about socialites in 1920s Goleta?

“I just fell into this by chance,” says Anita Guerrini, professor of History of Science and Environmental Studies.

Jenny Dugan, an ecologist with the Marine Science Institute, sought a historian to help her establish historic status for the “red barn” on the edge of UCSB’s West Campus.

The oldest structure on the UCSB campus, it was threatened with demolition.

“It sounded interesting and since I live in West Campus Faculty Housing, it was right in my backyard,” so Guerrini signed on.

Prof. Guerrini soon discovered that she and Dugan shared many ideas about ecological restoration and history, and they began thinking about a bigger project on the history of West Campus.

They applied for and received a Pearl Chase Grant from the UCSB Academic Senate, and then a Research Across Disciplines Grant, which enabled them to start looking into the history of the site.

The team, which now included Public History Prof. Randy Bergstrom and postdocs Bev Schwartzberg and Peter Neushul, applied for a Collaborative Pro-
Hasegawa Book Races to Foreign Relations Prize


The prize of $2,500 is awarded annually in honor of Robert H. Ferrell, professor of diplomatic history at Indiana University, and was presented at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Washington D.C. on April 21.

Prof. Hasegawa’s study of the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan at the end of WWII has been translated and published in Japan and has received glowing reviews in the international press, including the New York Times, the Times Literary Supplement, the Guardian, Le Nouvel Observateur, The Seoul Observer, La Gazette du Monde, El País, Le Monde Diplomatique, and The Guardian.

Daniel Presents Papers
At Two Conferences
Douglas Daniels presented the paper “One o’clock Jump and the Oklahoma City Blue Devils” at the Harriet Tubman Resource Center at York University in Toronto on February 23 as part of the conference: “Black Music and the Underground.” He also presented the paper, “Crossroads and Music Performances in Oklahoma and Kansas Cities” at the Congress of Santa Barbara (KOSANBA)-Haitian Studies Conference in Detroit on March 30-31.

Dutra Book Published

Guerrini Presents Paper
Anita Guerrini presented the paper “The Value of a Dead Body: William Hunter’s Anatomy Lectures” at UCLA’s Clark Library on March 10. She also presented the paper “Writing Ecological History” at the annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Humphreys to Oxford
Stephen Humphreys has been awarded a two-quarter appointment as visiting fellow at All Souls College, Oxford to study Muslim-Christian relations in early Islamic Syria. His book on the caliph Mu‘awiya (661-680) is now in press with OneWorld, Oxford University Press and is due out in fall 2006.

Nano Launch Set
Patrick McCray, co-director of the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at UCSB, reports that the public launch for the CNS-UCSB will take place May 4. The festivities will feature Richard Harris (NPR reporter) as the guest speaker.

Goleta's Campbell Family Mingled With Aristocracy

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grams grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and received a three-year grant from the highly competitive program in the summer of 2003.

Since then, they have assembled a team of graduate and post-graduate researchers in History, Anthropology, and Public History to look at the “deep history” of West Campus, going back to the Chumash (carbon dating shows that the area has been inhabited for at least 8000 years) and forward to UCSB’s acquisition of the property in 1967.

The red barn was part of a fabulous estate built on the site in the 1920s by Colin and Nancy Campbell, the subject of Guerrini’s History Associates talk on April 25.

Nancy Campbell was the second of three daughters of Levi Leiter, a founding partner of Marshall Field’s in Chicago in the 1860s and later owner of a large portion of Chicago’s commercial real estate. Nancy’s older sister, Mary, married Lord Curzon in 1895 and followed him to India where he became viceroy in 1898.

Mary’s sisters both married Curzon’s aides-de-camp: Nancy married the dashing Colonel Colin Campbell, and Daisy, the family beauty, snagged the Earl of Suffolk.

Nancy and Colin moved to

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We Need
Three Large!

$10,000!

C’mon people! Only one month to go and $5,000 still needs to be collected in this year’s drive to match JoBeth Van Gelderen’s challenge. If you haven’t contributed yet, send your contribution today to: UCSB History Associates, Office of Community Relations, UCSB 93106-1156.
Mid East Peace Needs Comprehensive Plan, Yaqub Tells Associates

The path to a resolution of troubles in the Middle East may run through Damascus and Tehran, Associate Prof. Salim Yaqub told the UCSB History Associates last month.

This is so, he said, because the only way for a relatively swift resolution of the Iraq war is to involve the neighboring states of Syria and Iran.

But inducements will be necessary to get these states to cooperate, he added.

This, in turn, makes Israel essential to the process as well.

“Creating a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East might be an inducement for Iran,” Prof. Yaqub said, “though this would require Israel to give up its own nuclear arsenal.

“The incentive for Syria would probably mean return of the Golan Heights,” which were taken by Israel in the 1967 war.

“These might seem like impossibly large changes,” he said. “But it is often the case in the Middle East that you can’t even make modest steps without being able to make big ones.”

Analyzing the causes for Arab resentment of the United States, Prof. Yaqub dismissed the “clash of civilizations” theory that explains this anger as the product of a millennium-old hatred of Western values. He argued instead for a closer examination of developments in the region over the past century.

“That theory holds that Islam rejects liberalism, modernity and secularism,” Prof. Yaqub said. “But American ideas about democracy get more support in Lebanon than in Britain, and American business ideas score higher in Jordan than in France.”

The real basis for the resurgence of calls for a global Islamic state lies in the failure of secular Arab states in the Middle East, he said.

“By the early 1970s, there was a sense that these states had failed. They had improved living standards, but not by much, and they were just as dictatorial as their predecessors.

“Most of all,” he added, “they failed to stand up to Zionism, especially in the 1967 war.

“The feeling of impotence and humiliation that followed is what accounts for the emergence of religious parties that blame these failures on the abandonment of Islam.”

A specialist in U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, Prof. Yaqub came to UCSB this year from the University of Chicago. He is the author of Containing Arab Nationalism: the Eisenhower Doctrine and the Middle East, published by University of North Carolina Press in 2004.

Thriller

News flash: planning events can be scary! We have long had good attendance at our events when we could manage a tie-in with a major movie. Some will remember Bob Collins’s fascinating talk on The English Patient, and my own presentation on Elizabeth I of England as portrayed in Shakespeare in Love (with Judi Dench) and Elizabeth (with Cate Blanchett in the title role) drew a sizeable audience early in 1999. At our History Associates’ board meeting in February, Jon Lemmond (our treasurer and grad student member) suggested what we all agreed was a great idea for a program.

He mentioned that the movie (starring Tom Hanks) of Dan Brown’s thriller, The Da Vinci Code, is due for release in April. So we set to work creating a panel discussion about the book and the film featuring experts highly qualified to talk about issues raised in The Da Vinci Code.

Our panel will consist of: Bob Williams (History of Art), a specialist in Italian Renaissance art who teaches an undergraduate course on Leonardo da Vinci; Christine Thomas (Religious Studies), a scholar of early Christianity whose undergraduate courses include one on The Teachings of Jesus (and who has appeared on programs on the History Channel and the Discovery Channel that dealt with early Christianity, the apostles and the apocrypha); and Hal Drake (History), who teaches Roman history and knows a thing or two about this stuff (or, if you take him at his word, three or four things).

Then potential catastrophe loomed. Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh, the authors of a 1982 book entitled Holy Blood Holy Grail, sued Random House, Dan Brown’s publisher, claiming that he had plagiarized their nonfiction work in producing his book. One newspaper story suggested that the release of the film version might have to be delayed if the plaintiffs won their case. Since The Da Vinci Code has been a runaway bestseller simply as a novel, we probably would have had a good response even if the movie’s release had been delayed.

Published in 2003, it has sold over 40 million copies in hard cover. Recently, it stood at #2 on the NY Times bestseller list in hardcover and #1 in paperback (the first book ever to be on both lists at the same time). Still, we really wanted the movie to be out so people could see it before our event. For once, the law was not slow; on April 7, the High Court in London bailed us out by ruling in favor of Random House. I
Grad Students Make Headlines
On Job, Research Fronts

Newly-minted PhDs


Nancy McLoughlin (Farmer) successfully defended her dissertation “For the Sake of the University of Paris: Jean Gerson, Theological Reform and Secular-Mendicant Conflict (1384-1429).” She also won a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of New Mexico starting in 2006.

Academic appointments

Mike Proulx (Drake) has accepted a tenure-track position at City University of New York, Queensborough, starting Fall 2006. He expects to file his dissertation, “Speculum Episcopis: History, Hagiology and Episcopal Competition in the Works of Sulpicius Severus and Paulinus of Milan” this summer.

Chris Wright (Humphreys) has accepted a tenure-track position at the Citadel, starting fall 2006. His thesis, in progress, deals with Ibn Abd al-Hakam and the Arab conquest of Egypt.

Presentations and Awards:

Joe Bassi (McCray) has been awarded a Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Research Fellowship to consult the collections at the National Air and Space Museum this summer.

Justin Bengry (Rappaport) and Bianca Murillo (Miescher) have been awarded the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Graduate Collaborative Award for their project “Edible Empire” which will explore the role of global capitalism, colonialism, advertising and consumer culture in shaping food choices in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They will examine the history of chocolate, the West African cocoa industry, and the extent to which ideologies of imperialism have fueled food production and consumption around the world.

Yuriy Malikov (Edgar) won the prize for the best graduate student essay on Central Asia for his paper, “Northern Kazakhstani Frontier: A Borderland or a Borderline.” The award was presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Nationalities which was held at Columbia University March 24-26.

Ellie Shermer (Lichtenstein) has been awarded a grant from the UC Labor and Employment Research Fund to teach a proseminar that will place up to seventeen advanced undergraduate students in internships with unions, state agencies and other community groups.

Monique Vallance (Dutra) presented the paper, “The Count of Ericeira’s História de Portugal Restaurado Revisited,” at the annual meeting of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies in Lexington, KY on April 8. She has also been awarded a grant by the Fundações Luso-Americana to fund a two-month research trip to the National Archives in Lisbon in August and September 2006.

A Tea Party

The History staff celebrated Carol Pfeil’s retirement this month with a party of their own—a traditional English tea, fine china and all. That’s Carol, grinning like a Cheshire cat in the foreground. With her are Public Historian Managing Editor Lindsey Reed, center, and Graduate Admissions Secretary Carolyn Lomo-Grapard.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

If you are a grad trying to get in touch with an old classmate, or a community member or alum with an article or story, why not drop us a line?

Send your letters to:
Editor, Historia
Department of History
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410
or email:
drake@history.ucsb.edu

Historia photo by Mike Tucker
Ghosts

Maybe it was hearing Carol Pfeil’s delightful talk about her 40 years in the department, or maybe I have just reached the age where memories of department colleagues come easily to mind. In any case, I have been thinking lately of two in particular—Joe Remak and Freddie Gollin. Two very different men, but both of them spellbinding lecturers with a charisma that made them the stuff of legend.

I remember my first year here how grad students asserted that Freddie, who had written on British military history, spoke in that hoarse whisper of his because he had been exposed to mustard gas in WW I. Chronologically impossible (he wasn’t even born until 1926), but believed as gospel nonetheless. That same year, Al Beyerchen, now a distinguished historian in his own right, told me what it was like to be a TA for Freddie. His “Battle of Britain” lecture was especially memorable, ending with Freddie reading Churchill’s famous speech and coming to the words, “This was their finest hour!” just as the chimes in Storke Tower signalled the end of class.

The students, Al told me, went wild, shouting and clapping with joy as Freddie gathered his notes and strode majestically from the room.

Years later, when I had gotten to know him, and had also learned a few things myself about teaching, I asked Freddie if, perchance, he had that lecture timed to end when the bells sang.

He fixed me for a few seconds with that famous Gollin glare, then an impish grin grew across his face. Poking me in the chest, he whispered, “To the second!”

Joe Remak was especially famous for a lecture he would give in Western Civ on the fatal motorcade that ended in the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, triggering WW I. I went one year to hear it myself. 800 students sat completely rapt in Campbell Hall as Joe traced the actions of the young assassins, who had positioned themselves in all the wrong places. Then the Duke’s chauffeur made a wrong turn. Realizing his mistake, he was turning the open touring car around when it stalled—right beside one of the bombers, who had been standing on the wrong side of the wrong street.

Joe ended that lecture by telling the students about an interview he conducted decades later with one of that group, who subsequently became a distinguished professor at the University of Belgrade (and mentor to our own Dimitrije Djordjevic).

“I asked him if they had any idea of what their plot was going to lead to,” Joe recalled. “He shrugged and said, ‘We were 19 years old.’”

A lot of historical insight in that answer.

Hal Drake
Another great year of UCSB History Associates' events is under way. You'll want to keep posted about events in the History Department as well. To renew your membership or join for the first time, just fill out this form and mail it with your check or money order (payable to UCSB History Associates).

Enclosed are my annual membership dues of $______

- Active $30
- Corresponding 15

(Available to residents outside of Santa Barbara County only)

In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is:

- $25 to obtain a UCSB Library card
- $____ gift to the History Associates Graduate Fellowship Fund.
- $____ gift to the History Associates Dick Cook Fund.
- $____ gift to the History Associates _____________ Fund.

(specify other scholarship fund)

Note: Gifts of $1,000 or more qualify for one-year membership in the Chancellor's Council.

Name: __________________________

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Membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Gifts to the scholarship fund are considered charitable donations.

Please make your check payable to the UCSB History Associates and return it to:

UCSB Office of Community Relations
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1136

Questions? call (805) 893-4388

Ready to Join?

Get It?

As everyone knows, History Undergraduate Secretary Mike Tucker is patience personified. But even he gets tired of some questions.

Above is his solution for "Where do I leave a paper for Prof. X?" Now a puzzle for Paul Sonnino, who is so good at setting them for everybody else: for a bag of your own avocados, Paul, how did Mike manage to take this photo of himself?

President's Corner

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write this, mightily relieved, on April 10. Please keep an eye out for our forthcoming flyer and join us on the evening of Friday June 2 at 7pm in Trinity Episcopal Church on State Street. And also please join us on Sunday April 23 for Anita Guerrini’s talk on high times, hi-jinks among super-rich Brits and Americans on the Devereux Ranch in Goleta. Both will be really interesting and enjoyable.

Sears McGee, President