Daniels, Frost Re-Unite To Sing the Blues (Society)

To celebrate their 10th anniversary in 1997, the UCSB History Associates put on a jazz program featuring a talk by Prof. Douglas Daniels and a performance by the department’s favorite pianist, emeritus Prof. Frank Frost and his popular jazz trio.

The program was a sellout, and 10 years later members still call it their all-time favorite event.

So when the time came to plan a program to celebrate the Associates’ 20th anniversary this year, the decision was truly a “no-brainer.”

It seemed impossible to re-create the chemistry of that first celebration: Prof. Daniels was in Japan as a Fulbright lecturer, and Prof. Frost now spends half his year in Provence.

But by a happy alignment of the stars, both were going to be in Santa Barbara this month, and both were available on Sunday, Jan. 27.

The focus for this get-together will be on the Santa Barbara Blues Society, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Prof. Daniels, whose current book project is a study of the role this Society played in “the resurgence of Blues” that began in the 1960s, says it is the oldest one of its kind.

Basing his talk on interviews with founding members of the Society, Prof. Daniels will show how their passion for blues led white fans to undertake systematic study of Black history and culture.

Following his lecture, guest vocalist Perline Thurston will join in song with the Frost trio, composed of Hank Allen, bass, Tom Devaney, drums, and Prof. Frost at the piano.

SoHo jazz restaurant at 1221 State Street, which was also the venue for the 10th anniversary event, will be closed to the public for this program, which begins at 1 p.m. and will go until 4.

Cost, including lunch but not beverage, is $20 for members and $25 for non-members. Reservations, strongly advised because of limited capacity, may be made through the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.

ABC-Clio Founder Pledges $25,000 To Grad Program

History Associates Board member Eric Boehm is someone who knows how to say “Season’s Greetings.”

As 2007 was drawing to a close, he presented History department chair Ken Mouré with a check for $12,500 to use for graduate student support.

Dr. Boehm also pledged to provide a check for a like amount this year.

“Eric Boehm’s gift comes from someone who knows history and historical research very well and has long provided support through the History Associates,” Prof. Mouré said. “We’re delighted to have this new assistance for our graduate students.”

Dr. Boehm placed no restrictions on the gift, saying that he wanted the department to use the money where it would do the most good.

Prof. Mouré noted that there is a great need “to support dissertation fellowships for our most advanced students,” but added that he would consult with the department’s Financial Aid committee before making any decision.

The founder and longtime president of Santa Barbara-based ABC-Clio, a major publisher of educational and reference products, Dr. Boehm now heads a new company, BoehmGroup, which specializes in helping individuals and companies prepare their histories and create “ethical wills.”

“We will help a company organize its
Two Winners!

Prof. Adrienne Edgar

Two important awards came to UCSB faculty last month.


The Cline Prize is a biennial award that goes to the book or article in English, German, or a Romance language judged to make the most significant contribution to the history of Indians in Latin America, referring to any time before the immediate present.

Prof. Edgar’s Berkshire prize is awarded for any article published by a female scholar "normally resident in North America."

In their citation, the award committee singled out Prof. Edgar’s article for showing how "Central Asian Muslims under Soviet rule came to regard their family and religious traditions as central to their cultural and national identities in the face of the Soviet onslaught."

In contrast to independent Muslim regimes in Turkey and Iran that were able “to develop policies that emancipated women in ways that the populace of these countries could accept and embrace,” Soviet rule caused "female emancipation and nationalism in Central Asia ... to be seen as opposed to each other."

CCWS Changes

To CCWSIH

UCSB’s Center for Cold War Studies has undergone a name change. Instead of CCWS it is now CCWSIH—the Center for Cold War Studies and International History.

“This change reflects our position at the forefront of international history and related fields at UCSB, and our desire..." CONTINUED ON P. 4

Nobody Messes With This Public History Grad!

2007 was a banner year for grad student Rose Haydn-Smith (Bergstrom), and 2008 is looking even better.

In June, the Public History student had the lead article in Applied Environmental Education and Communication, and international journal. Her article was on “Soldiers of the Soil: The Work of the United States School Garden Army during World War I.

Then, in July, she was plenary speaker at the annual conference of the Society of Nutrition Education in Chicago, where she lectured on the history of school gardening and how it could inform current public policy.

Finally, just as the year was ending, she learned that she had been named a “Food and Society Policy Fellow” by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She is one of two historians among the 15 fellows selected in the national competition.

Which is why 2008 is looking so good. The Kellogg fellowship that began on Jan. 1 is a two-year program that provides travel and conference support plus training with a national marketing communications firm and a healthy stipend to collect oral histories from people who kept victory gardens during World War II.

CONTINUED ON P. 6

Arthritis Foundation Honors Karen Anderson

History Associates Board member and former President Karen Anderson was honored by the Southern California chapter of the Arthritis Foundation last month for her volunteer advocacy efforts on behalf of people living with arthritis.

Anderson received the Foundation’s Progress in Policy award, which recognizes individual effort “on behalf of the 7 million people in Southern California, Southern Nevada and Hawaii who have some form of arthritis.”

Citing her "tireless efforts" on both the local and national level, Jeanne David, executive director of the Foundation’s Santa Barbara branch, said, "Karen Anderson has been an exceptional leader for people with arthritis.

Continued on P. 6

Karen Anderson with Dick Cook plaque

"She has tirelessly fought for positive change through government action and the Arthritis Foundation is thrilled to be able to honor her with this award."

Anderson, who was President of the History Associates from 1995-1997, received the award at a luncheon at the Beverly Hilton hotel.
She's Chasing Her Dream

Prof. Ann Plane Learns New Career
To Study 17th Century New England

BY ANN MARIE PLANE

Ed. Note: As every history faculty will tell you, the research road is seldom as broad and straight as it appeared in graduate school. Ann Plane’s road took a particularly unexpected detour when she decided she needed to learn modern methods of psychotherapy to pursue her book project, “When I Awoke”—a study of the cultural understandings of dreaming among English colonists and Algonquian Indians of New England in the 17th century. Almost finished with a second doctorate in psychoanalysis, she won a Mellon Fellowship and spent last term at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, where she learned once again how much can be gained even from well-worked material. History asked her to share some of the results with our readers.

“A Dream is a close covered Dish brought in by night for the Soul to feed on; And is it not meet upon what Meat he hath eaten?”


Generally, the first thing that everyone wants to know when I tell them I am working on dreams in the seventeenth century is, how do I find my sources?

This is especially pressing for a project that works with Native American materials. It seems it was not enough of a challenge to write a first book on Native American marital, sexual, and household relations—itself involving a challenging search for sources. Now I had set myself to hunt for even more of a needle in the proverbial haystack.

However, as with any new project, I found myself engaged in an exercise of trust—trust that if you are interested in it, others will be as well; trust that you will find your way to the appropriate method, sources, and mode of presentation for the topic.

The first task, I thought, was to take the pressure off. While I wanted to—and will—write a book with a rich vein of textual material behind it, I was not always confident that this would be possible. My nerves about this seemed to be getting in the way.

So I sat down and outlined a book that would rely only on six dream texts, all of them previously known to me from my earlier research, that would, if necessary, form the core for each of six chapters, to be surrounded by materials based in illuminating the contexts relevant to each dream. (Just a few weeks into my leave, I had over fifty dream reports, and the number continues to grow daily).

Thus reassured that I could indeed write a book, I headed off to the Huntington. With the help of the reference librarian, I decided to launch myself in three directions simultaneously:

First, I sought to make a survey of as many of the New England diaries as I could possibly find, beginning with those in print and working to at least locate the important manuscript diaries in various collections that I would visit later on.

In the course of this, I located many previously unincited reports of dreams and visions, never before used in the New England literature.

Second, I decided to do a comprehensive search for materials in the Huntington’s very extensive on-line catalog (http://catalog.huntington.org) under the Library of Congress search headings available to me.

I had done a more scattershot survey in the press of preparing my grant application the previous Fall. Now I took my time cycling through the (mostly brief) lists of entries under “Dreams—early works to 1800,” “Sleep—early works to 1800,” and so forth, including mental illness, visions, insomnia, etc. to cast as wide a net as possible.

This turned up a series of relevant books, tracts, and period-specific guides, including the Philip Goodwin work quoted in the epigram.

Finally, I took an even less glamorous approach. I decided to comb through the footnotes of that great compendium of wonders—and a tremendously intimidating work of scholarship—Keith Thomas’s Religion and the Decline of Magic (1970).

I knew that despite its 668-page length, dreams made up only a tiny part of the whole book, ostensibly constituting no more than 3-4 pages buried within a chapter on the larger topic of prayer and prophecy, and focusing mainly on the continued presence of predictive dreams and visions in post-Reformation England (pp. 128-50, 148). It felt a little like cheating—several times I was forcibly reminded of a long-ago Easter egg hunt where, when out-gunned by the older cousins, my Uncle Alfred took my sister and me by the hand and led us—by mere “coincidence”, mind you—to within a few feet of the first prize “golden” egg that we could exchange for a special toy.

Every day for a week I dragged Thomas’s sources—usually in the same edition and pagination as he had used—up from the bowels of the leaky, crumbling rabbit-warren of the Huntington’s basement to the gleaming wooden tables of the new Ahmanson reading room.

I was expecting that this might prove a fruitless exercise—in which I found only that, yes indeed, Thomas had correctly summarized the treatment of predictive dreams in this or that author’s hands.

What I was not expecting were the untold “first prize eggs” that had never made their way into print! It seems that, had Thomas been able to include all the details from his footnoted materials, Religion and the Decline of Magic would have been at least twice the size!

Look, for example, at Thomas’s rendering of Gervase Holles’ autobiography from the mid-seventeenth century: “Holestells us in a revealing anecdote how in 1635 he dreamed, correctly as it turned out, that he would lose his wife and infant in childbirth; but when he told his parents-in-law, ‘they, being rigid Puritans, made light of it.” (p. 128). That’s all Thomas could include. But when you go to the actual autobiography, the text of this predictive dream...
Late Antiquity Group Wins Professional Outreach Prize

The University of California Multi-Campus Research Group in Late Antiquity received the 2007 Outreach Prize of the American Philological Association earlier this month.

The group, which includes UCSB’s Hal Drake, was cited for the program of day-long presentations it has crafted for California K-12 teachers.

“The Outreach Prize Committee was especially impressed by the novelty of this project, its importance to the California school system, the exceptionally high but accessible quality of its curricular materials, and the thorough documentation of teacher responses,” APA Executive Director Adam Blistein said.

A ceremony to present the award was held at the APA convention in Chicago Jan. 5.

Boehm Gift

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

archives and show them what kinds of documents they will want to preserve,” he explained. “If they wish, we will also arrange to have their history written for them.”

Information about the range of services can be found on the company website, http://www.boehmgroup.com/.

Dr. Boehm received his PhD from Yale University. He is the author of We Survived, oral histories of fourteen individuals who successfully evaded the Gestapo in World War II.


History PhD Barbara Oberg Named Huntington Fellow

DR. BARBARA OBERG (PhD Marsak, 1973) has been appointed R. Stanton Avery Distinguished Fellow at the Huntington Library in Pasadena for 2008-09.

A specialist in early American intellectual history, Dr. Oberg will work on a book tentatively entitled Constructing the Nation: America, 1754-1815.

Using the Huntington’s world-famous collection of early American research materials, Dr. Oberg plans to tell the story of the founding of the Republic through the autobiographical narratives not only of major intellectual figures like Franklin and Jefferson but also such less voluminous figures as Ethan Allen, Benjamin Rush and Alexander Graydon.

All of these individuals, she says, left "life writings" as well as "private" letters that were really intended for circulation.

"The approach I take is that of a historian who was originally trained in the cultural and literary history of the 18th and 19th centuries, and in the intellectual history of the European and American 'Enlightenments,’ she reports.

Dr. Oberg is arguably the best qualified person in the country to write a narrative that includes "public and private texts" of these individuals.

After serving as associate editor of the papers of Philip Mazzei, she was selected to edit the papers first of Albert Gallatin and then of Benjamin Franklin at Yale.

She currently is serving as general editor of the papers of Thomas Jefferson at Princeton University.

In addition to, Prof. Marsak, Dr. Oberg worked with Profs. Morton Borden, Alex DeConde and Alfred Gollin at UCSB.

UCSB PhD & Friend

History PhD Larry Schweikart (PhD Brownlee, 1983) landed a meeting with President Bush last year. Dr. Schweikart credits the success of his book, A Patriot’s History of the United States (2007) with paving the way to his meeting. The book became a best-selling paperback and also was sold as an audiocassette. It is the fourth book for Dr. Schweikart, who currently is a professor of history at the University of Dayton.

Cold War Center Announces New Name for Program

CONTINUED FROM P. 2

to broaden the scope of our activities beyond Cold War Studies, narrowly defined,” said Dr. Jessica Chapman, executive director of the Center.

The new name will also make clear that the Center’s mission extends to “all aspects of international history, regardless of time and region.”

Founded in 1994 as a means of broadening the discussion of international history to include topics and fields both history and from other disciplines, the Center is currently co-directed by Profs. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa and Salim Yaqub.

In 2003, the initiated an exchange program with the London School of Economics and Political Science.

"The hallmark of our success has always been the interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on the Cold War," Dr. Chapman said. Last year’s conference focused on Historical Memories and Resurgence of Nationalism in Asia.

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
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or email: drake@history.ucsb.edu
Prof. Ann Plane Sends
‘Notes from the Archives’

CONTINUED FROM P. 3

is infinitely fuller and more affecting:

“I dreamt my wife was brought to bed of a daughter and that shee and the childe were both dead, and that I (in a great deale of affliction) walking under the north wall of the close in the Friers Minorites at Grimesby (the place where I was borne), my owne mother walked on the other side his hand continually touching mine on the top of the wall; and so (my heart beating violently within me) I awakened.”

The dream reveals a story of the lost connection to a beloved mother, dead in his infancy, as reawakened in the adult Holles by this fresh bereavement. It gives us a rare glimpse of vulnerability and intimacy in an otherwise distant account of an early modern family.

Never mind that the staunchly Royalist Holles would have been despised by the New England reformers of my study. He, with they, shared some common bonds, including the common heritage of folk belief about predictive dreams. His experiences were not at all dissimilar to those of others, for example, the struggles of that great scion of Boston’s Puritan community, Cotton Mather.

Mather, an insufferable prig throughout most of his diary, nevertheless won my sympathy by the end, having been widowed twice and the third time yoked to a woman plagued by periods of “distraction” (insanity).

This seemed like more than any man should have to bear, and yet, with each fresh disappointment, Mather gamely tried to search for the “awakening providence of God” embedded within.

Like Holles, Mather noted predictive dreams; others were just remarkable visitations. His wife, Abigail Phillips, experienced one of these just before her death. In her sleep, she was visited by a “grave” man and his female companion. These two gave her instructions about how to relieve her symptoms. For the “intolerable Pain in her Breast,” he ordered, “let them cut the warm Wool from a living Sheep, and apply it warm unto the grieved Pain.”

And for the difficulties in “her Salivation,” he offered a recipe: “take a Tankard of Spring-Water, and therein over the Fire dissolve an agreeable Quantity of Mastic’s, and of Gum Icinglass: Drink of this Liquor now and then, to strengthen the Glands, which ought to have been done a great while ago.”

When the Mathers informed her physician, he “mightily encouraged our trying the Experiments,” and “unto our Astonishment,” she “revived at a most unexpected Rate.” Sadly, her improvement would prove temporary, and Abigail died less than a month after.

There are a number of notable things here, including both the sobering pun about “the grave,” and the fitting detail that Abigail Mather’s night life would be, as the daytime, dominated by a housewife’s concerns with household recipes.

I will save discussion of my findings about the gendered nature of dream reporting for another day. Suffice it to say that there are many other hidden gems that have emerged from the library’s depths.

And none of this speaks to the other marvels of the Huntington—not just the gardens, which rival even Santa Barbara for an earthly paradise, but the invigorating presence of its scholarly community, which for me includes old friends as well as new contacts, especially among the graduate students who are using the collections.

Historia’s editor asked me one final question, which was, ‘what is it that motivated you to take on the topic of dreams in the first place? Why THIS project?’ For that, perhaps you can see some of the answer in the brief examples that I have given here.

There is a lengthy distance that separates our twenty-first century world from that of the early modern era. Yet the success of any historian lies in finding the similarities within those differences, for without that, there can be no empathic connection to the people and events of the past.

Seventeenth-century English colonists saw dreams as tricky things. Dreams were potentially the conduit for divine messages, and, as such, were worthy of note, especially when they were extraordinarily “startling” or occurred in conjunction with other notable events.

However, they might also divert the mind into lesser “vain” and “idle” fantasies, and, at their most dangerous, they might bring “deluding” thoughts, cast into the mind by Satan and his allies.

Truly, as Philip Goodwin wrote, they were “a close covered Dish” that must be inquired into with care.

Yet so much of this unfamiliar world retains traces of the very familiar.

There is an immediacy of connection for us in the New England farmer, who, trying to strike a dog in his dream, slapped his wife instead: the puzzled woman shook him awake and, he wrote, “asked me ‘what I did doe?’”

There is something very human in the sense of loss felt by Gervase Holles, who, even as an adult, could, for a few moments, feel once again the comfort of his mother’s hand “continually touching mine,” though over a wall—the wall of mortality that had divided them for more than thirty years.

And there is a fresh sadness in the efforts of the priggish Mather to procure warm wool, freshly sheared from a living sheep, in the hope that it would ease his beloved wife’s suffering.

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

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Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1136
Questions? call (805) 893-4388

So THAT's Why!

Former grad student Bill Loomis correctly identified the reason for Prof. Jack Talbott's presence outside the Afghan Snooker Club to solve the "Where's Jacko?" puzzler in the previous Historia, but he will not be receiving a bag of Sonnino avocados.

Loomis wrote that Prof. Talbott was really in Kabul last Fall to buy an Afghan carpet from one Ali Cogia. But Historia's team of crack investigative reporters, suspicious as to how Loomis came by such arcane knowledge, soon learned that he had inside information: Loomis accompanied Prof. Talbott on the trip, and indeed took the picture himself.

Our source, who requested anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the press on sensitive issues, further revealed that, prior to this event, the intrepid pair had toured Pakistan, and had even come close to arrest outside Islamabad for attempting to penetrate a sensitive military camp on the pretense of visiting a museum on the site.

Their passports temporarily confiscated, the duo were subjected to intense interrogation that included such questions as, "What are you doing here?"

When Historia subsequently learned that Loomis is an avid reader of Islamic literature, the final piece of the puzzle emerged, for as every schoolboy knows, Ali Cogia is the central figure in the Arabian Nights tale of a Baghdad merchant swindled out of 1,000 gold pieces who receives justice from the famed caliph Harun al-Rashid.

As Paul Sonnino says, "You've got to get up pretty early in the morning to trick me!"

Haydn-Smith

But Rose's most memorable moment in 2007 was not related to scholarship. While dining with her young daughter after her Chicago talk, Rose's purse was snatched, but she proved to be more than a match for the assailant, who she chased for almost three blocks before getting him to drop the purse.

As good friend Maeve Devoy (Kalman) remarked, "It's not often we read about one of our own taking on the bad guys on the mean streets of Chicago!"

Plane

simultaneously respecting and exploring the gulfs of difference between that world and our own, is, perhaps, the most important motivation that keeps me coming back, afresh, to my work in the archives.