This Lecture Is Child's Play

WHAT DO TOYS AND children's games have to do with running the world's largest economy?

That question will be on the table Monday, February 3, as Asst. Prof. of History Lisa J. Jacobson discusses "Children's Play and the Changing World of American Childhood" at the first UCSB History Associates event of the New Year.

The noon luncheon-lecture will be held at the Elephant Bar in Goleta, 521 Firs tone Road (across Hollister Ave. from the Cinema Twin theaters).

A specialist in the cultural role of consumerism, Prof. Jacobson will talk about the way advertisers at the turn of the 20th century learned to market toys and other commodities to children.

"Children's toys and children's play-things are keys to understanding how American childhoods were shaped and defined by social and economic change," Prof. Jacobson said.

In her talk, which will be illustrated with slides from contemporary advertisements and posters, Prof. Jacobson will describe "a kind of cultural tug of war" waged between children, parents and advertisers over the meaning and purpose of children's toys.

*Parents encouraged children to play in...
**CH-SSP Mentor Gets Top 5 California Teacher Award**

By Ann Plane

UCSB's pioneering Public History Program has scheduled a busy series of events for this term.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, 4-5 p.m. we welcome Ann Huston, who is Chief of Cultural Resources at Channel Islands National Park. She will speak about her public history work and potential internships at the Channel Islands National Park, which comprises the five northern Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura: Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara islands.

There are approximately 2000 recorded archeological sites on the islands, and Santa Rosa Island yielded the oldest human remains yet identified in North America. The islands also include a variety of historic buildings and landscape features associated with their.

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**Child's Play**

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Socially prescribed ways, but children endowed playthings with meanings that often diverged from adult expectations,” she said.

Prof. J. acobson joined the UCSB department this year. She received her Ph.D. from UCLA in 1997 and is currently completing revisions on a book entitled, Raising Consumers: Children, Childrearing, and the American Mass Market in the Early Twentieth Century.

Cost of the event is $15 for members and $17 for nonmembers. Telephone reservations may be made with the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.

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**Santa Ynez High School**

teacher Chris Mullin, who has served for the past two years as one of the teacher-facilitators in UCSB’s summer institute for history teachers, was named one of five finalists for the State of California Teacher of the Year award last fall.

The selection came as no surprise to Margaret Rose, co-director of the California History-Social Science Project.

“Even as a beginning teacher, Chris impressed his K-12 colleagues and UCSB faculty with his quick wit and leadership skills when he attended the first summer institute at UCSB in 1997,” M. argaret said.

The project, which offers an intensive, three-week course to K-12 teachers from central California, immediately recruited Chris as a teacher-facilitator when a position opened in 2000, M. argaret said.

“Chris is an imaginative and creative leader, steeped in the historical discipline, possessed with superb interpersonal skills, and universally admired by his peers and UCSB institute faculty,” noted Prof. J. Sears McGee, co-director of the UCSB program.

Chris was selected as Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year last Spring.

As a facilitator, he helps plan the summer program, leads mixed grade level discussion groups, mentors his colleagues through the program, and researches and demonstrates a model lesson.

“My most personally challenging project,” he reported, “was my presentation, ‘Light and Shade: Baroque Art of the Counter Reformation.’”

Chris brought a wealth of historical knowledge and understanding to illuminate this complex historical era. It received an overwhelmingly enthusiastic reception from the CH-SSP K-12 institute’s participants.

Chris has enjoyed his four-year association with the CH-SSP project, which features presentations by about a dozen UCSB History faculty each year.

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A strong advocate for professional development for the K-12 community, Chris sees the CH-SSP institute as “an opportunity for teachers to function as a collegial team.”

He points particularly to the strong participation by UCSB history faculty, about a dozen of whom make special presentations each year showing how their specialty relates to the year’s theme.


The theme for this summer’s institute is “Making History: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Choices.”

What he likes about the institute, Chris says, is the creative give-and-take that it produces.

“Professors are willing to take risks and adopt a variety of activities rather than just lecture,” Chris said.

“It is so rare in this profession to find time or interest to share and educate in such a collegial atmosphere.”

Mullin grew up in Santa Barbara and attended local area schools. He received a B.A. degree in Greek and Latin from UC Berkeley in 1987 and traveled to Europe before returning to Santa Barbara.

He earned his teaching credential and an M.A. in education at UCSB and has taught at Santa Ynez High School for seven years, offering courses in world history, U.S. history, government, economics, and geography. He is also in charge of the Latin program.
Sun to Sun or Never D One?

As I move into the second quarter of my first year as Chair of the History Department, I encounter the same basic question repeatedly from all quarters: “How’s the chairing going—are you finding it a huge burden?” Anyone in a new job gets asked this, but there’s a twist in this situation: when you take on chairing a department, it doesn’t actually replace your professorial job, it is added on top of it. You teach less—three courses instead of five per year—but nothing else is subtracted.

Usually I answer these well-meaning questions with a breezy “Fine!” But I’ll confess here that it is sometimes a challenge, for one key reason: there are so many different things to attend to! The job description includes the scores of things you have all seen chairs do, plus all the invisible things that no one is aware of until they don’t get done. (An apt comparison is housework: it is only when it is not done that it is apparent that the work exists.)

I offer these observations about chairing to help inform our grad students and junior faculty about a job they may well take on themselves some day. (At the present, three of my own past grad students—Stacey Robertson, Ruth Alexander, and Angela Woollacott—have been director, chair, or associate dean at other institutions, and no doubt there are many more among our alumni.) No one in our program gets explicit training for this work, and the usual smart-aleck observation has some merit: that academics thrive on solitary work and rarely are “management material.”

After one quarter in the job, I can tell you three essential things it takes to do it successfully. First, you need a great staff, and UCSB’s History Department is blessed with an exceptional one. Everyone in our main office is expert at what they do, and they keep our ship afloat almost without any help from the chair at all. Maria Perez, our MSO (management services officer), gently reminds me of tasks and deadlines and feeds me the relevant documents on file to help me make decisions with attention to historical context. If you land a job chairing at another institution someday, your first task should be to cultivate and grow the best staff you can get.

Second, an effective chair needs to delegate and orchestrate. Again, our History Department has a tenacious tradition of shared governance, with a well-developed committee structure that takes on the major tasks. The conference grew out of a desire to offer students in the West a local opportunity to present their work. The conference will also showcase UCSB’s wealth of women’s and gender history resources.

The History Department has a large faculty with interests in women’s and/or gender history, and continually attracts a sizable number of students. So far the conference organizers have received inquiries from California, Canada, Britain, and as far as Israel.

The gathering will provide a networking forum for current women’s history graduate students. A further goal is to help establish a historical consciousness in women’s history graduate students in the department.

Thus UCSB alumni will provide, along with current faculty, comment for each paper, and will chair each panel. A number of alumni/ae have already volunteered to join us next fall, including Angela Woollacott, professor of history at Case Western Reserve University (PhD, Gollin/Cohen, 1988) who will deliver the keynote.

The gathering will also include a “job panel” and an alumni/faculty/graduate student dinner at the Faculty Club.

The committee is interested in hearing from other UCSB women’s history alumni who would like to be part of this endeavor.
I grew up in a family that loves movies. Frequently my parents would pack up the car and we would all head out to the Airport Drive-In Theatre to watch the latest release. Often my sisters and I would spend Saturday afternoons viewing a matinee at the Arlington Theatre. At home the television was tuned to a classic film.

But my family also has a passion for good books. We would devour pages and pages of literature. It wasn’t rare that a film would inspire me to pick up the book upon which it was based, and I would be introduced to a new world and new author. But I soon learned that films were easily overshadowed by a good book. I learned that the film industry was not adverse to plot and dialogue changes rather than staying true to the text.

As an undergraduate I took a film course in which we read a well-known work and then viewed a filmmaker’s effort to transfer it to the screen. I found that in time I could appreciate a movie staying true to the spirit of the text rather than the letter. At one point in the course the instructor asked me for the title of my favorite film and without hesitation I stated “To Kill a Mockingbird.” The disappointment on his face was obvious. He had expected me to name a foreign film, preferably one with Marcello Mastroianni.

What my instructor had failed to appreciate was that “To Kill a Mockingbird” had made an impression on me as a child that only grew when I read the book of the same title. It was about a young girl growing up and trying to understand the world around her. And like Scout, every year I grew older I understood her world better and my own as well.

Scout’s father Atticus, a lawyer in a southern town, guided her through these tough lessons. It was Atticus who taught Scout to walk around in a person’s skin for a while before passing judgement on who they are and what they do. This advice was not just meant for understanding Boo Radley and his family, but also a town that convicted a black man for a crime he obviously did not commit. The simplicity of the language in the book belies the depth of the stories within it. The film succeeded in capturing the spirit of the book.

On Friday March 7 the History Associates will be holding an event at Santa Barbara City College that includes a gourmet dinner, a talk on race, violence, and Scout’s Honor

Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa

Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa gave a preview of his current book, Race to the Finish: Stalin, Truman and Japan’s Surrender in the Pacific War (Harvard University Press, forthcoming) in a closely argued and fascinating lecture to the History Associates on Dec. 5.

In a reinterpretation that promises to be controversial, Prof. Hasegawa maintains that the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima brought a speedy end to World War II, but not for the reasons Americans have long believed.

The explosion of the bomb hastened the Soviet declaration of war by a week. It was the entrance of the Soviet Union into the war (they attacked Manchuria at midnight, Aug. 9) rather than the devastation from the bombs that pushed the Japanese to the final surrender.

The Japanese feared a harsher peace from the Soviets than from the Americans.

Current debates over President Truman’s decision to drop the bomb focus on the United States, but Prof. Hasegawa asserts that this is like one hand clapping. The Soviet Union’s role must also be fully considered.

Prof. Hasegawa explained the conflicting goals of the principal actors. Premier Stalin wanted the war in Asia to be prolonged until the Soviet Union was ready to enter, so that they could make territorial claims in the peace settlement. President Truman hoped to end the war before the Soviet Union could enter and sought the best means to minimize U.S. casualties, while insisting on unconditional surrender.

The Japanese leadership sought to preserve the emperor system however that could be achieved—by prolonging the war or by an earlier surrender.

Using recently available documents from Russian archives, Prof. H Hasegawa showed
History Undergraduate Secretary Mike Tucker always says he treats students as if they were his own children. Now we have a chance to find out. Meet all 6 pounds of Ryan Wesley Tucker, born December 30. Mother Shilo has convinced Mike that counseling sessions can wait a year or two.

Sponsors for the event include: Prof. Eileen Boris, Hull Chair in Women's Studies and Affiliate Faculty member, History; The UCSB Libraries; the History Department; the Religious Studies Department; the Medieval Studies Program; the Journal of Women's History, and the History Department Colloquium Committee.

The Call For Papers and contact information can be found on the web at: http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/%7Eae0/conf.html.

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Elums to Return for Conference

On Women’s Studies at UCSB

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Other Women’s History alumni/ae who will be participating are:

Barbara S. Lindemann (Ph.D. Borden, 1972), Professor and Chair, Santa Barbara City College.

Ruth M. Alexander (M.A. Cohen, 1983), Professor and Chair, Colorado State University.

Cara Anzilotti (Ph.D. Cohen, 1994), Assistant Professor, Loyola Marymount University.

Stacy Robertson (Ph.D. Cohen, 1994), Associate Professor, Loyola Marymount University.


Fiona Harris Stoertz (Ph.D. Farmer, 1999), Associate Professor, Trent University.

Susan Snyder (Ph.D. Lansing, 2002), Loyola Marymount University.

Lois Honeycutt (Ph.D. Farmer, 1992), Associate Professor, University of Missouri.

New Ending

For an Old Conflict

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that Stalin, on his return from the Potsdam Conference, speeded up the preparations for his attack on Japan, convinced that the U.S. was working for an early end to the war.

An examination of Japanese government records reveals that the Japanese leadership responded “sluggishly” to the devastation of Hiroshima, but held an urgent meeting of top officials after the Soviet invasion.

The United States also was dismayed by the Soviet declaration of war. President Truman held the “shortest news conference in history,” and Secretary of State James Byrnes in a separate news conference asserted that the Allies had not asked the Soviet Union to enter the war.

The audience was edified not only by the lecture, but also by the fine lunch supplied by the Elephant Bar & Restaurant in a quiet and comfortable room. Look for future History Associates lectures in this convenient location.

Barbara S. Lindemann is Professor of History and Ethnic Studies at Santa Barbara City College and Vice President of the UCSB History Associates.
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.

Gifts of $1,000 or more qualify for membership in the Chancellor’s Council.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City/Zip/State: _____________________

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

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 93106-2100

From the Chair

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tasks of planning, curriculum development, scheduling, and the like. A chair’s work here is so greatly facilitated as to appear to shrink to invisibility. But remember the hidden power here—the chair appoints all the committee members, consults with the committee chairs frequently, and even attends a fair number of the meetings to see that things are on track.

Third, a chair needs to have good organizational skills, just to stay on top of the skatey-eight different issues one is bombarded with weekly. This is the part of the job I am still struggling with. You might think that being an historian would be especially helpful here. We can organize multi-year research projects, usually with elaborate filing systems (on computer, on notecards in shoeboxes, in notebooks—in my case, all three). But I find there is no real similarity in organizing the paperwork of an administrative job. My research filing system is generally place-based (where did I find the document) and chronological; the system is designed to help me be able to put my hands fast on material that I principally carry in my head. The paperwork of administration is quite different: it consists of things done and dealt with (easy to file away) and the ever-growing stack of things not yet dealt with, things that prove to be very hard to carry in your head, because they don’t all interrelate, as do the items in my historical research. Try as I might, my chair’s desk is messy, and my computer is covered with little green stickies reminding me of pending tasks. It is my great pleasure now, to ship this essay off to Hal Drake, our valiant editor of Historia, who has given me two deadlines I have missed for getting this column in but is accepting it—I hope!—this morning, my third and final deadline.

Pat Cohen
Chair

Red Scare

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It was Prodded by Prof. Lichtenstein, Roger began to question the whole notion of a “scare,” and thus began his project, which focuses on the way left-wing writers characterize right-wing issues.

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Another Monterey native got hooked on the study of history during a lecture on the Depression-era Bonus Marchers at Monterey Peninsula College that made him wonder why veterans were treated the way they were, and why they were dismissed as “Communists.”

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