FOR THE 11TH straight year, JoBeth and Don Van Gelderen have challenged the UCSB History Associates to raise as much money as they are willing to give.

Persuaded by then-President Greg de Roulhac, the Van Gelderens first offered in 1992 to match up to $4000 in donations to the graduate scholarship fund dollar-for-dollar.

Buoyed by a positive response, the Van Gelderens increased the amount every year until it reached the current total of $8,000.

To qualify for matching dollars, send your contribution to the UCSB History Associates scholarship fund to: Office of Community Relations, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1136.

Can the U. S. Go It Alone?
Logevall Talk Will Assess Bush Foreign Policy

The Bush Administration’s preference for a “go it alone” approach to international problems will be the subject of the next luncheon-lecture of the UCSB History Associates on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Fredrik Logevall, associate professor of History and co-director of UCSB’s Center for Cold War Studies, will speak on “Implications of the Current Unilateralism” following a noon luncheon at the Goleta Holiday Inn, 5650 Calle Real.

A specialist in the history of U. S. foreign relations, Prof. Logevall will put the current administration’s policy in the context of a disagreement going back to the foundations of the Republic over the proper role the United States should play internationally.

Most famously, George Washington warned against “foreign entanglements” in his Farewell Address of 1796.

After involvement in two World Wars, however, international alliances became a hallmark of American foreign policy in the 20th century.

Alliances such as NATO became the cornerstone of U.S. policy to contain the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

From the rejection of the Kyoto Treaty to the invasion of Iraq, by contrast, the Bush Administration has shown a marked tendency to act independently, even in the face of opposition from NATO allies and the United Nations.

Critics charge that such unilateralism has weakened alliances and increased hostility toward the U.S. worldwide, while supporters claim it is both sound and necessary.

By putting this policy into a historical context, Prof. Logevall will evaluate both sides of the argument.


Two graduates of the department’s History of Science program have won the Price-Webster prize of the History of Science Society for best article published in the society’s journal in the past three years.

Meanwhile, Asst. Prof. Patrick McCray, who joined the department this Fall, received a double-barrel of good news.

First, his new book, Giant Telescopes: Astronomical Ambition and the Promise of Technology, was published by Harvard University Press.

Then he learned that the National Science Foundation had awarded him more than $90,000 to conduct research on his next project, “Astronomy during the Cold War.”

Peter Neushul (PhD Badash, 1993) and Zuoyue Wang (PhD Badash, 1994) received the Price-Weber prize for “Between the Devil and the Deep Sea: C. K. Tseng, Mariculture, and the Politics of Science in Modern China,” which they co-authored.

The article appeared in the March 2000 issue of the journal Isis.

“This award has a nice symmetry to it,” said Prof. Michael Osborne. “Larry Badash led the dissertations of Neushul and Wang, and at Yale he was the first graduate PhD of Derek de Sola Price, one of the two scholars after whom this award is named.”

Prof. Osborne said this article accounts for three “firsts”:

“This is the first time this prize has been won by a graduate or faculty member of UCSB, the first time it was given for a jointly authored article, and the first time the History of Science Society has honored the topic of science in Asia.”

Dr. Neushul is currently a research associate in the UCSB Program in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine. Dr. Wang is an assistant professor of History at Cal Poly, Pomona.

Prof. McCray’s new project, which is also being funded by a UCSB Faculty Research Incentive Award, will focus on
Science Historians Show They Have the ‘Right Stuff’

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examine the extent to which the SAO’s activities and institutional development were products of Cold War interests and pressures,” Prof. McCray said.

David DeVorkin of the National Air and Space Museum is co-directing the project with Prof. McCray.

De Hart Students Strive To Keep Up With Mentor

JANE DE HART’S graduate students have been leading active lives.

Carolyn Lewis presented a paper on “Physicians, the Pelvic Exam and the Cold War” at a conference on Women’s Sexualities: Historical, Interdisciplinary and International Perspectives at Indiana University.

Danielle Swiontek will present a paper on “‘Buy California’: Women’s Consumption as Grassroots Political Activism in 1920s California” at the 2004 Organization of American Historians annual meeting in March.


Also presenting in St. Louis will be Leandra Zarnow, whose paper is entitled “Securing Liberal Policies in a Conservative Political Climate: Public Benefits Protections for Battered Immigrant Women, 1990-2000.”

Meanwhile, Matt Sutton will present “Sex and God in the City of Angels: The Kidnapping of Aimee Semple McPherson and Conservative Religion in Los Angeles” at the annual meeting of the Western History Association in Las Vegas.

Matt has just had an article on McPherson accepted by the Journal of Policy History.
A Daughter’s Tribute Led to Book, De Hart Tells Rapt Audience

BY BARBARA LINDEMANN

Prof. Jane De Hart gave a moving account of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s childhood and education to an appreciative luncheon audience at the Elephant Bar on Nov. 20.

The audience was so fascinated by Prof. De Hart’s story, illustrated by slides from the Justice’s personal albums, that they tuned out the helicopters circling overhead waiting for the arrival of Michael Jackson’s jet and his expected arrest.

From initial contacts with Justice Ginsburg, made while De Hart was working in the ACLU archives of the Women’s Rights Project that Ginsburg founded in 1971, Prof. De Hart became interested in writing a biography of the Justice.

She was particularly intrigued by the tribute Justice Ginsburg paid to her mother when she accepted President Clinton’s nomination to the Supreme Court.

“I pray,” she said, “that I may be all that she would have been had she lived in an age when women could aspire and achieve, and daughters are cherished as much as sons.”

The result is the first chapter of Prof. De Hart’s Litigating Equality: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Feminist Lawyers, and the Courts, to be published by Alfred A. Knopf at the end of next year.

Justice Ginsburg was reluctant to discuss her childhood in Flatbush, Brooklyn. But Prof. De Hart found that if she sent exploratory drafts of the biography to the Justice, Ginsburg would want to clarify a passage or respond to false suppositions.

Through many exchanges of this kind the historian was able to piece together the details of an intense mother-daughter relationship.

The justice’s mother, Celia Bader, like many daughters of Jewish immigrants, dropped out of school as a young teenager to work so that her brother could go to Cornell and professional school.

Celia made sure that Ruth, her only surviving child, had all the advantages she herself had missed. An avid reader, Celia taught Ruth to read by the age of three. Although the family lived on a very modest income, Celia provided her daughter with every cultural advantage and managed to save $8,000 from her household allowance for Ruth’s college education.

Tragically, Celia was diagnosed with cancer while Ruth was in high school, and died the day before Ruth graduated with honors.

Ginsburg graduated from Cornell (which her mother wanted her to attend), married, and went on to Harvard Law School.

One of only nine women among 500 men, and the only woman with a child, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and one other woman served on the Law Review. Her husband, also a Harvard Law student, survived treatment for a life-threatening cancer during their law school years.

It was because of her mother’s expectations for her, De Hart maintains, that the future Justice had the will and discipline to keep her place on the law review while sustaining her husband and child.

The memory of her mother also explains the fortitude, determination, and stamina that carried Justice Ginsburg through the rest of her demanding career, which was not delayed by the birth of a son when her daughter was already a teenager. Significantly, Ginsburg has a photo of her mother in her Supreme Court office.

While working on this important biography, Prof.

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Events That Matter

I am pleased to report that our fall quarter events were well attended and successful. The tour of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, led by David Bisol in a most knowledgeable and engaging fashion, was fascinating, and the ensuing reception, generously provided by the society’s affable director, George Anderjack, was a feast.

Our next event had an unexpected backdrop. What, you may well wonder, would be exciting about the Elephant Bar restaurant? The answer: the event occurred at the same time that the news media had the airport fully “staked out” (including numerous helicopters hovering) awaiting the arrival of Michael Jackson for his arraignment.

Standing around the airport must have been terribly boring for the cameramen and photographers. Doubtless, they would have found Jane De Hart’s talk on Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg a much more interesting way to spend their time on legal matters had they only known she was speaking.

You will by now have received the flyer for Fred Logevall’s talk next month on the Bush administration’s foreign policy, obviously about as topical a presentation as we could have in this election year.

I returned just days ago from the American Historical Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C. One day I had lunch with Jason Kelly (who finished his dissertation last summer under Anita Guerrini’s direction) and Laura Wertheimer (one of the late Warren Hollister’s former students, now teaching at Cleveland State). And I ran into a number of our PhDs besides Jason who were there interviewing for jobs.

The atmosphere for job seekers at the AHA meeting swings back and forth between elation and anguish. There is elation at reaching the point of being selected out of a crowded field of candidates for an interview. And there is anguish in the awareness that only one interviewee will get each job.

Still, it was good to see so many of our students “in the hunt” for the jobs that are out there. Our students are highly competitive in this difficult market, and as a member of the UCSB History Associates you have helped make it possible for them to be there by contributing to our scholarship funds. Please keep it up!

J. Sears McGee
President

‘His House Was as Dirty As My TA’s Apartment’

What would the end of a term be without bloopers?

Michael Blodgett’s responses can be funnier than the bloopers.

Consider, for instance, his response to the comment that “Catherine of Sienna was a Benedictine and a mystic to boot.” Michael wrote, “I guess it would have helped if she had gotten out more often.”

Or the following: “Martin Luther left the Catholic church and became a protestant pastur.” To which Michael replied, “No wonder he was so popular with his flock.”

But even Michael was left speechless by this answer to a question on a famous Greek philosopher: “Diogenes was a cynic which meant that he lived in a barrel kind of like how my TA describes his apartment. I don’t think that Diogenes complained as much about his ex-wife as my TA does, though.”

Similarly speechless was Eric Fournier when he came across the following: “’when the people of Rome learned that their city was sacked, they were shocked for they thought it was an invisible city.”

No loss of words for Stuart Richardson, though. Replying to a student who claimed that “Qin Shi Huangdi, the first Emperor of China, laid train tracks in 221 B.C.” Stuart wrote, “I guess the Chinese were further ahead of their time then we first realized.”

Ditto for Joe Campo when he read, “’Stalin’s use of terror was hardly revolutionary... Once [someone was] declared guilty, everyone that knew them disappeared. This functioned to keep dissenting opinion to a minimum.”

“This person is a born bureaucrat,” Joe commented.

And to the student who hedged his bets by writing, “Bloody Sunday occurred between 1905 – 1917,” Joe replied, “Why not just say ‘sometime after Jesus Christ’s death’ just to be safe?”

Bloopmeister Al Linde- mann, who is never at a loss for words, submits the following (with his comments in parentheses):

In a review of A Farewell to Arms: “A man lost and serving for a foreign army... Frederic Henry is a wondering sole, represented by his touring Europe while on winter leave.” (Sounds fishy to me.)

“Naval expansion was a big problem for Wilhelm II” (But an even bigger one for Ariel Sharon.)

Ann Plane, on the other hand, attributes the following bloop to over-reliance on spell-checkers: “It is unfortunate that nothing remains of the old wailing station at Goleta Beach.”

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
Medievalists in Paris
Or, ‘Why Do You Think We Have These Outrageous French Accents?’

BY DREW MILLER

THE MEDIEVALISTS at UCSB have long been known to travel in packs. Such behavior remains true even while in foreign lands, for Katie Sjursen, her husband Chip (honorary medievalist), Mark O’Tool, Tanya Stabler and I are spending the year living in Gay Paris.

Katie and Chip live near Tanya and me on the Right Bank, near Place de la Republique, while Mark lives on the Left Bank, not far from Saint Germain des Pres.

Katie, Mark and Tanya are all conducting research at the Institut de Recherche et d’Histoire des Textes (IRHT). They have been invited to participate in a variety of seminars, including a series devoted to the history of Medieval Paris.

Mark has also been a keen researcher of Parisian Jazz Clubs and other hot spots, while Tanya and I have been doing our best to repair strained Franco-American relations by singing Simon and Garfunkel songs into the wee hours with French and Algerian patrons at our local bistro-bar.

We believe we are making progress, as every third drink is on the house.

Likewise, Katie and Chip are doing their part, and are on a first-name basis with their local baker. Mmmm, baguettes.

We have all joined a new community for medieval scholars called the International Medieval Society, Paris.

I was invited to present a synopsis of my dissertation and thereby came to be the first person to present at this society.

Katie, Chip and Tanya also helped me make a video presentation, on the banks of the Seine with Notre Dame as a backdrop, in hopes of earning a spot as a presenter on the Crusades for Lion TV. They said, “Don’t call us, we’ll call you.”

We are all enjoying Paris very much, Autumn was beautiful, and we had a great time eating duck and drinking wine with our mentor, Sharon Farmer, when she came to town a couple of months ago.

If any UCSB historians are planning on being in the neighborhood, please give us a shout!

Grad Notes

JOSH ASHENMILLER (Furner) is teaching a course on “Major Works in U.S. Environmental History” this term at Scripps College in Claremont, CA.

Two Humphreys students—Heather Keane and Rachel Howes—have completed their PhDs.

Heather filed her dissertation on “Remembering Rebellion: Uthman ibn Affan in Islamic Historiography” last August.

Rachel’s dissertation, “Al-Shirazi and the Politics of the Fatimid Imamate,” was filed in December.

“Keaney significantly revises our understanding of Islamic historical writing between ca. 900 and 1400, and has put into play a number of important but heretofore overlooked texts,” Prof. Humphreys said.

“Howes has neatly demystified the internal politics of the most ideological of medieval Muslim empires at a critical phase of its existence, as it inexorably slid from the charismatic grace of a theocracy into a sordid military dictatorship.”

Award-Winning Style

When he is not winning prizes for his books or teaching, Prof. Fred Logevall (l) finds time to demonstrate his intense table tennis style, as he did to John Shardellati (r) at a recent picnic that he and wife Danyel hosted for Cold War Studies Center students and faculty.

Familiar Face

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process used by Civil War photographers.

The photograph, Mark writes, "shows what the well-traveled living historian looks like doing field research."

"Note the writing case and haversack close to hand, as well as my pacifier, useful for escaping argumentative subjects and dreary meetings."

Mingling with thousands of heavily armed reenactors, Mark asked how these "mostly amateur historians construct their interpretations of the past."

Mark’s research is being supervised by Prof. Ann Plane, who recused herself from the contest.
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: __________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
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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

The Irrepressible Paul Sonnino

For Paul Sonnino, it isn't enough merely to present a paper at a professional conference. After speaking on "The Dating of Richelieu's Testament politique" at the annual meeting of the Western Society for French History in Newport Beach, Prof. Sonnino wheeled his vintage red Pinto into the local Vons market to show solidarity with striking employees.

He was accompanied by Tryntje Helfferich (PhD Sonnino, 2003), who also spoke at the conference on "A Levy in Liège for Mazarin's army."

"We were really glad to be able to demonstrate our solidarity with the strikers," Sonnino reported, "and they seemed to be very appreciative for it. Some of them even offered to trade the cars in which they had come to picket for my Pinto."

"It's not that we have anything against Vons management" added Tryntje. "We think they are wonderful people and would have enjoyed making them listen to our papers."

Logevall Talk

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In 1998, he received the Outstanding Teacher in Humanities prize from the UCSB Academic Senate.

Tickets for the program, which includes a buffet lunch, are $20 for members and $22 for non-members. Reservations can be made by phoning UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.

De Hart Talk

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DeHart found the small justice in the large glasses to be a very private woman, not only brilliant, disciplined, and hard working, but also generous with her time, an accomplished equestrienne, and an avid water skier even at the age of 70.