20 Receive Fellowships At Awards

Almost $60,000 was handed out in Fellowships and prizes at the annual History department Awards Ceremony on May 25.

The amount included some $43,000 raised by the UCSB History Associates and another $17,000 from funds and endowments set up by the History department and History Associates.

"There is no doubt that the generous support of the History Associates played an important part in helping the department achieve the high standing it was awarded in recent surveys" said History Chair John Majewski.

He was alluding to rankings released last fall by the National Research Council that placed UCSB’s department in the top tier of 139 History departments nationally.

The bulk of the History Associates funding went to 20 graduate students who received History Associates fellowships.

Susan Falck received the Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Fellowship, which goes to an outstanding graduate student who has returned to study after taking time off to pursue career and family interests.

Nineteen other grad students received History Associates fellowships.

They are Megan Barber, Peggy Beedle, Daniel Bergstrom, Margaret Boeser, Susan Falck, John Fourt, Jo Beth Van Gelderen, Charles Johnson, Sami Kivela, Rachel Kowalski, Anna Lammers, Lian Lippincott, Susan Lucco, Nadine Martin, Emily Murrin, Brian O’Keeffe, April O’Toole, Whitney Pullen, and Brian Sheppard.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

258 Majors Complete Degrees in 2010-11

A total of 155 History majors will go through Commencement exercises on June 12, bringing the number of majors receiving degrees in 2010-11 to 258.

Of these, 43 took degrees at the end of Summer session in 2010, and another 20 completed their degree requirements at the end of Fall quarter. Forty more majors graduated at the end of last quarter.

Prior to Commencement exercises that begin at 1 p.m. on the Faculty Green, the History department will host a reception for graduating seniors and their families in HSSB 4041. The reception will begin at 11 a.m.

Leading the 2011 class will be 19 majors who completed this year's Senior Honors seminar, qualifying for graduation with Distinction in the major.

They are Ian Anderson, Emmett Bloom, Jonathan Bronstein, Ariana Dumpis, Rebekah Dunn, Mattias Fibiger, Miles Freeman, Lindsay Gaudinier, Alexandra Greco, Cheyanne Gustason, Benjamin Lopez, Charles Lucero, Christos Potamianos, Eric Rogers, Andrew Sequin, Evan Sherwood, Travis Van Ligten, Doug Wagoner and Gregory Wilner.

Two members of the seminar—Jonathan Bronstein and Mattias Fibiger—were selected to receive this year's Buchanan Award, which goes to the outstanding graduating senior in History.

The award was created by the UCSB Alumni Association in 1974 to honor Prof. A. Russell Buchanan, professor of History from 1936 to 1973, who also served as vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Jonathan has just finished a six-month stint as an intern in the Obama White House, and Mattias is one of only two students selected to receive this year's Buchanan Award, which goes to the outstanding graduating senior in History.

The award was created by the UCSB Alumni Association in 1974 to honor Prof. A. Russell Buchanan, professor of History from 1936 to 1973, who also served as vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Jonathan has just finished a six-month stint as an intern in the Obama White House, and Mattias is one of only two students selected to receive the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research.

Another eight majors were selected for admission to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious scholastic honor society, founded in 1776. Of approximately 3500 students graduating this year, only 126 were selected for this honor. The average GPA of those selected was 3.75.

The new fellows are Celina Jay Candrella, Ariana Finstad Dumpis, Meredith Elise Eckard, Andrew James Kirst, Alisa Christine Miller, Evan Yerson Sherwood, Leonard Thomas Shonka and Jacqueline Louise Tolson.

History Associates raise More than $100,000

The UCSB History Associates passed another milestone this year, raising more than $100,000 for the first time in 24-year history.

The History Associates’ annual fundraising campaign, spurred once again by a $10,000 challenge grant from Dr. Jo Beth Van Gelderen, brought in almost $43,000. In addition, the History Associates received almost $60,000 in contributions to new and existing funds and endowments.

"Considering how bad the economy has been, this show of support for the History department is extremely gratifying," said President Mary Louise Days.

Susan Falck and Jo Beth Van Gelderen.
Students Receive Prizes for Best Papers In Broad Cross-Section of History Fields

Eight students were recognized at the History department Awards ceremony May 25 for outstanding research and writing.

The Stuart L. Bernath Prize for the best undergraduate paper in a one-quarter seminar went to Jacquelin Tolson (Yaqub) for “Don’t Cry for Me, Henry Kissinger: The United States’ Role in Argentina’s Dirty War.”

The History Associates Board Prize for best paper produced in this year’s Senior Honors Seminar went to Christos Potamianos (Thomas, DePalma Digeser) for “The Function of the Roman Spectacle in Ephesos.”

Two students shared the William H. Ellison Prize for the best graduate seminar paper.

Nikki Goodrick (Lansing) was recognized for “Buzurg and the Dragons: the Lost Semiotics of the Sea.”

Eric Massie (Humphreys) wrote “Europe and the Safavid Empire: Cultural Interaction and Diplomacy in the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries.”

Nikki also received the Richard and Jeanne Williams Endowed Graduate Fellowship to support her dissertation on piracy in the 12th-century.

The Lawrence Badash Prize for best paper in the history of science, technology or medicine went to Roger Eardley-Pryor (McCray) for “Better to Cry than Die?: the Paradoxes of Tear Gas in the Vietnam Era and Today.”

Roger also received the Dick Cook Award for outstanding service to the department.

A new prize for best History of Public Policy Senior Thesis went to Kaitlyn Cherry (Furner) for “Detroit: a Laboratory for American Policing.”

The Nicholas and Lena Dumas Award for best paper on the history and culture of the Greek people in pre-modern times went to James Davies (Lee) for “The History of Athenian Democracy as told by Arkantos, son of Isocrates of Alopeke.”

The Ellison Graduate Paper Prize was shared by Nikki Goodrick (l.) and Eric Massie.

Briggs, Jensen Share Best First Publication Prize

Two students were selected this year to receive the Robert O. Collins award for best first publication.

Jill Briggs’ (Osborne) article, “As fool-proof as possible: Overpopulation, Colonial Demography, and the Jamaica Birth Control League,” appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of Global South.


The award was created upon Prof. Collins’ death in 2008.

Former Students Honor Cline

This year’s Powell Award in Latin American history was funded by a special donation from former PhD students of Sarah Cline, professor of the history of Mexico.

The donation was made to recognize Prof. Cline’s receipt of the Academic Senate’s Graduate Mentor Award.

The students dedicated the gift to “Sarah Cline—teacher, advisor, mentor and friend.”

The Ellison Graduate Paper Prize was shared by Nikki Goodrick (l.) and Eric Massie.
Outstanding in Their Fields

Six graduate students were recognized for outstanding accomplishment in their fields.

Zamira Yusfjonova (Edgar) received the Stephen Hay Award in Islamic history for her work on female identity in Tajikistan.

The Wilbur Jacobs Prize in colonial, native American or frontier studies went to Monica Garcia (Spickard), who is writing her dissertation on Mexican and Mexican-American Women in the Rocky Mountain mining regions, 1890-1930.

Tory Inloes (Plane) and Dustin Walker (Furner) shared the Robert L. Kelley Fellowship in U.S. intellectual history, public history or public policy. Tory studies the representation of children and childhood in California. Dustin is working on the deregulation of the savings and loan industry in the 1980s.

The Philip W. and Maria Powell Prize in Latin American history went to Damian Nemirovsky (Rock), who is writing a dissertation on student movements in Argentina between 1955-1973.

Tracey Watts (Lee) received the Esmé Frost Fellowship in pre-modern European history. She is studying urban agriculture in the ancient Mediterranean.

Curiously Appropriate

When I arrived at UCSB more than 15 years ago, I was somewhat befuddled by the department’s annual awards ceremony. Coming straight from graduate school at UCLA—a department so big it was unclear if all the faculty members knew each other—the idea of bringing together professors, graduate students, undergraduates, and members of the community was a strange concept. The blizzard of names, awards and prizes overwhelmed me—how could anyone keep it all straight?

I’ve since learned that there was a good reason for outsiders to find the annual awards ceremony an unusual, even overwhelming experience. Few departments and programs on this campus—or any campus—balance teaching, research, and community outreach as does the History department.

That sense of balance is the calling card of the department. This year’s ceremony honored 37 outstanding graduate students and nearly 33 outstanding undergraduates—an evenness that shows how we value the creation of new knowledge via our graduate program and the on-going strength of the History major.

The awards ceremony also highlights the generosity and energy of the UCSB History Associates, our community support group. This year History Associates raised more than $100,000 in prize money and endowments, which is a record.

That money is even more significant because Graduate Division matches $20,000 of that total, resulting in even more support for our students. The array of awards and prizes may be confusing at first, but it reflects the multiple fields and endeavors that the department and the community want to foster.

Our students and faculty are deeply appreciative of that support. Indeed, a great vibe permeates the awards ceremony—faculty beaming with pride, students thrilled to have their work honored and supported, and community members gratified that their contributions of time and money has been spent on a great cause.

The awards ceremony embodies a sense of connectedness and togetherness—something that is indeed strange and unusual in the academic world.

John Majewski
Chair, History department
Elena Olivera Gets 1st Bransfield Prize

The new Bransfield prize in Public History went to Elena Olivera (PhD 2010 Plane), who wrote her dissertation on the “lone woman of San Nicholas Island,” who was found on the island in the 1850s, taken to Santa Barbara and rechristened Juana Maria.

The prize for the best paper or project by a graduate or undergraduate student was created in the memory of Michael Bransfield, who died in 1983.

Grad Students Garner Research Awards

Five students received named awards in support of their graduate research projects.

Jean Smith (Rappaport) received the Ken Mouré and Sara Norquay Award, created by the former History department chair to support research in European archives and libraries. Jean, who also shared the Dick Cook Award for outstanding service, is writing her dissertation on 1.5 million Britons who emigrated to Southern Rhodesia and South Africa after World War II.

The Stuart Bernath Research Prize for dissertation-related travel went to Sarah Watkins (Miescher), who is writing her dissertation on the gendered dynamics of power in 19th-century Rwanda.

Chrissy Lau (Spickard), who also received a History Associates Fellowship, was given the Joseph E. and Gina Laun Jannotta Foundation Research Prize for her study of Japanese-American families in the 1920s.

Nicole Coggins (Spickard) received the Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship to study the U.S. military’s influence on race, class, gender and sexuality in the territorial period of Hawaiian history.

The C. Warren Hollister Memorial Fellowship in medieval European history went to Colleen Ho (Lansing). Colleen, who is currently in Rome on a Fulbright fellowship, is writing her dissertation on interactions between Europe and the Mongols in the 13th and 14th centuries.

HA Fellows

Continued from p. 1

Stacy Blackburn, Jill Briggs, Bianca Brigidi, Jan Britton, Steve Campbell, Abigail Dowling, Veronica Ehrenreich.

Eric Fenrich, Leah Fernandez, Paul Hirsh, Ken Hough, Wendy Hurford, Chrissy Lau, Alicia Rivera, Nicole Sater, Jay Stemmle, Jason Stohler and Tracy Watts.

Mayberry, Anderson Awards

Two students were selected to receive the Mayberry Award for overall excellence in their graduate program.

Jessica Elliot (Farmer) who is currently in Paris on a Chateaubriand Fellowship from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is completing the research for her dissertation on the conversion of Jews to Christianity in northern France in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Anil Mukerjee (Dutra) wrote his dissertation on the fiscal administration of colonial Brazil from 1609-1705. He is currently serving as a visiting assistant professor of history at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The award is named after Richard K. Mayberry, a graduate student in medieval European history who died prematurely in 1980.

The J. Bruce Anderson Memorial Fellowship went to Nicole Pacino (Soto Laveaga) who is writing her dissertation on the topic of “Prescription for a Nation: Public Health in Post-Revolutionary Bolivia, 1952-1964.”

The award, named after a History grad student who died in 1976, recognizes outstanding work as a teaching assistant in the History department.

Scholarships Recognize Undergrad Excellence

This year’s Marion Ramstad scholarship went to Francis Marino, nominated by Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa for outstanding work in European and Asian history.

Paul Thies received the Margaret Straight Scholarship of the Mission Canyon chapter of the Daughters of the America Revolution for study of U.S. history.

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What Can You Do With a History Major?
Two Grads Give Their Own Answers

It’s the question every History major hears sooner or later: “Great major, but what can you do with it?”

Historia recently heard from two alums with very different career paths but the same answer: research and writing skills.

Laurie Castro left UCSB in 1984 to begin a career in the armed forces that lasted 22 years. For the bulk of that time she was a member of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, but she also served on active duty before leaving the service in 2007.

During that time, she earned the Meritorious Service Medal and the State of New Mexico Distinguished Service Medal.

And now she has written a book about her experiences. A Duffel Bag of Army Stories is divided into four parts: “At Ease, Soldier” (humor), “Deal With it Soldier” (“this is the rough stuff,” she writes), “Make it Work” (hardship), and “Understanding Army Uniforms and Army Vocabulary: Words for Civilians.”

At present, the book is for sale on the Lulu.com website for self-published authors, but Laurie is hoping it will be picked up by a commercial publisher.

“Getting to the production phase was kind of a rush for me,” she says.

In the meantime, she is planning to make use of an MA in Special Education that she received from the University of New Mexico.

A more recent graduate, Adam Verdon, found work as a freelance writer for the Patch in San Juan Capistrano, for which he writes a weekly column on local history.

He cites one story from last March as an example of what he got out of his major at UCSB. In March, he wrote an article on the coming of the railroad to San Juan Capistrano and, because he read Frank Norris’s The Octopus in Prof. Furner’s “Wealth and Poverty” course, he was able to include details about the seamier side of California’s railroad history.

To read the story, go to http://sanjuancapistrano.patch.com/articles/the-iron-horse-comes-to-san-juan.)

That connection is typical of what he got out of his History major, Adam says.

Because History exams place a premium of significance, Adam says, he learned “to think deeply about the consequences of each term.

“That is such an important life skill, thinking critically.”

Adam says he found all of his history professors equally fascinating, but it was Prof. Graves’ California History course in the fall of his sophomore year that convinced him to major in History.

“Before that I was shifting around between English, psychology and film, but I guess it was learning about the history of my home state, drawing a deeper connection to and appreciation for it, that made me want to continue on as a history major.”

“Now,” Adam adds, “I write local history columns about Orange County, so its kind of neat how it has come full circle.”

Farmer Class Helps Spread the Word

Students in undergraduate seminars rarely have the opportunity to feel their work has made an impact, but that was not the case for the students in Prof. Sharon Farmer’s History 117/dr course last Winter.

The class was focused on “the Medieval and Early Modern Bible,” and the six students in it didn’t just study major changes that occurred in Bible production during that period. They also helped Prof. Farmer curate a major exhibit of UCSB’s 27 medieval and early modern Bibles that opened May 15 and will run until July 15.

The exhibit highlights five major changes that took place between roughly 1250 and 1611, the year in which the King James version was published in England.

The first major change was the “invention” of the single-volume Bible, first produced in Northern France.

“This is the stage that gave the Bible the order of books that is still standard in Catholic and Protestant Bibles,” Prof. Farmer says. “It endowed Bibles with chapter numbers that are still followed today.”

Other changes include the invention of moveable type in the 15th century and a “philological revolution” in the 16th century that resulted in new editions based on Greek and Hebrew texts.

Finally, the Protestant Reformation led to the first vernacular translations based on...
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 $35
☐ 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: __________________________
City/State/Zip: _______________________
Phone: ____________________________
E-mail: ____________________________

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:

History Associates
Department of History
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410

Questions? call (805) 893-2991

BY NELSON LICHTENSTEIN

BALANCING A JOB with family obligations is a never-ending juggling act for millions of America's working parents.

Molly Frandsen, who is a graduating this month with a minor in Labor Studies (and majors in Feminist Studies and Spanish), helped a couple thousand South Coast public employees make that task a little easier.

As a Labor Studies intern with the Service Employees International Union Local 620, which represents workers in Santa Barbara City and County, Frandsen co-produced a five-minute video that was shown to the Santa Barbara City Council.

Workers told about what they did and how difficult it was to make ends meet. These testimonies helped convince the City Council to institute a furlough plan rather than layoffs, preventing the elimination of 21 jobs and saving the city $1 million.

In talking with these public employees, Frandsen learned that there was a silver lining in the furloughs: many said that they finally had the time to take children to doctors, look after elders and meet their own personal needs. In short, more job flexibility enabled them to combine work and family better.

Frandsen’s Labor Studies internship formed the basis for her honors thesis in Feminist Studies directed by Hull Professor and History Affiliate Eileen Boris.

Frandsen posited that if workers see their own work-family conflict as a collective social issue rather than an individual one, the union can become a place to fight for such structural changes in the daily life routine.

SEIU Local 620 promoted flextime and lobbied for more family and medical leave, but Frandsen’s work, praised by Boris as well as local union leaders, put such issues higher on the union bargaining agenda.

She interviewed union leaders, city staff, the mayor and city councilmen. She surveyed the entire local union membership on their knowledge of work and family issues and conducted focus groups in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria.

These workshops generated new ideas on how to make breadwinning and care giving more compatible for the librarians, courthouse staff, parking attendants, public health personnel, and others who make our city work.

After graduation, Molly will take up an internship at UC Berkeley’s Labor Center where she will work with the Laborers’ International Union.