History Teacher Program Wins Award from AHA

The California History-Social Science Project, which includes the CH-SSP site based at UCSB as well as nine others around the state, was awarded the 1999 Beveridge Family Teaching Prize for Excellence and Innovation in K-12 History Teaching at the American Historical Association annual meeting in Chicago.

The award was established by the AHA in 1995 to “recognize excellence and innovation in elementary, middle, and secondary school history teaching.” The AHA’s Committee on Teaching wrote that “The California History-Social Science Project is recognized as a unique statewide collaboration between university historians and teachers to improve historical learning as a central discipline in the schools.”

CH-SSP provides professional development for K-12 teachers. The UCSB site was established in 1997 as the result of winning a grant proposal submitted by Prof. Sears McGee and Dr. Margaret Rose. It provides an intensive three-week summer institute for teachers in six counties, including Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Kings and Tulare.

Each year’s program is organized around a particular theme.

The first institute was devoted to the theme of “Civic Values, Rights and Responsibilities from Ancient Times to the Present.” In 1998, the program was “Heretics and Rebels,” and last year’s program was “Visionaries and Innovators: The Nature

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O’Connor Talk Will Analyze Government Welfare Policy

The tortured history of welfare policy in the United States will be the subject of April’s luncheon-lecture meeting of the UCSB History Associates as Asst. Prof. Alice O’Connor speaks on “Poverty Research and Policy in the Post-Welfare Era.”


In this book, Prof. O’Connor shows how welfare policy has been shaped by academic trends. For instance, Lyndon Johnson’s “War on Poverty” drew on prevailing liberal ideas about a “culture of poverty” that defined the problem as predominantly one of social psychology and culture.

Underlying current welfare policy is an approach taken by economists rather than sociologists.

Less interested in how wealth is distributed, she says, these economists have argued that economic growth will be sufficient to reduce the number of the poor to the point where the only ones left will be those who do not want to work.

Prof. O’Connor’s work has been supported by fellowships from the National Science Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation.

Prof. O’Connor is currently vice-chair of the History department. She joined the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Logevall Study Gets SHAFAFR Prize

Fred Logevall’s revisionist study of American policy in the Vietnam war, Choosing War: The Long 1964 and American Intervention in Vietnam, has been awarded the Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR).

Awarded to the best first book in the field, the Bernath Prize will be presented at the meeting of the Organization of American Historians in St. Louis.

In Choosing War, Prof. Logevall argues against the prevailing view that, by late

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Cohen, Humphreys Bag Prestigious UC Fellowships

PROFS. PATRICIA COHEN and Stephen Humphreys have each been awarded a coveted University of California President’s Research Fellowship in the Humanities for the academic year 2000-2001.

Prof. Cohen will use her fellowship year to work on a study of “Gender and Travel in the Early United States, 1760-1860.”

During the century covered by her study a transportation revolution occurred in the United States with the advent of regularly scheduled stage coach lines in the 1790s, followed by canal boats at the turn of the century, steamboats in the 1820s and short-line railroads in the 1850s.

“Prior to this time,” Prof. Cohen says, “travel was infrequent and restricted to the few who could afford to own or rent private conveyances.”

While these new opportunities for travel gave women unprecedented liberty and mobility, they also created new challenges and risks.

Using voluminous records preserved in letters, diaries and travel journals, Prof. Cohen will analyze how women coped with issues of safety and danger in this new environment.

Prof. Humphreys’ project focuses on events more than a millennium earlier and half a world away.

Entitled “The Rise of Arab-Muslim Society in Damascus and Aleppo, 655-809,” Prof. Humphreys’ study aims to discover the makeup of the Arab-Muslim communities in these two Syrian cities during the first two centuries of Islamic rule.

“This period presents a major problem,” Prof. Humphreys explained. “How did the inchoate religion and culture of a few barbarians supplant long-established Roman institutions and deep-rooted Christian identities in these two centers?”

By analyzing hundreds of biographies of 7th and 8th century Syrian Muslims, Prof. Humphreys intends to trace the origins of the families that assumed leadership positions in these new communities.

O’Connor Talk

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

UCSB faculty in 1995 and teaches courses on 20th-century U.S. history, urban history, and the history of social policy.

Previously, she worked in New York as a program officer at the Ford Foundation and the Social Science Research Council, dealing with issues of social welfare policy, urban poverty, and immigration.

The luncheon-lecture will be held on Friday, April 7 at the Goleta Holiday Inn, 5650 Calle Real. Reservations, at $18 for members and $20 for non-members, can be made with the UCSB Office of Community Relations, (805) 893-4388.

The Return of the Dreaded Thermometer!

$8,000!

$5,900

That’s right, folks. Jo-Beth and Don Van Gelderen (bless them) have renewed their offer to match contributions to the History Associates fellowship fund dollar-for-dollar up to $8,000. Contributions are running ahead of last year at this time, so why not send something today to put us over the top? Send your contribution to: UCSB History Associates Office of Community Relations.

Logevall

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

1963, an excalaation of American involvement in Vietnam was a foregone conclusion.

Instead, he concludes from an analysis of foreign as well as U.S. diplomatic archives that a negotiated withdrawal was still a very live option.

The problem was with top policymakers in Washington, who were asking “not whether, but how, to commit U.S. resources.”

Published in 1999 by University of California Press, Prof. Logevall’s book has drawn widespread attention. A “Logevall Roundtable” has even been launched on the H-Diplo list server, drawing essays from some of the biggest names in Vietnam war

In Opera, Music Must Come Before The Words

THE DIFFERENCE between directing opera and directing drama, Simon Williams says, is that in opera “the music must come first.”

Williams, who directed the Music department’s production of Massenet’s “Werther,” made this observation during an informal luncheon briefing with History Associates prior to the Feb. 27 matinee.

"In drama," Williams explained, "your ideas about movement and character come from the dialogue. But in opera the music is all-important.”

Asked if it was difficult to direct when he didn't have complete control, Williams said everything was fine—once he learned not to position the actors in a way that blocked them from seeing the conductor.

Also, he said, he learned that singers have to be coached differently from actors.

"You can't expect them to recite lines word-for-word," he explained. "Lines have to be broken to allow for breathing.'"

Massenet’s opera, based on Goethe’s Sorrows of Young Werther, debuted in Vienna in

Historia

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Editor

Hal Drake

Graduate Editor

Tom Sizgorich

Published by the UCSB History Associates
Latin Americanists Lead Grad Honors

Students (and former students) in the department’s Latin American program captured the lion’s share of honors this month.

The list begins with Kevin Chambers (Rock), who has accepted a tenure-track position at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

Matt Racine (Dutra) has had an article accepted for publication in The Sixteenth-Century Journal. The title is: “Service and Honor in Sixteenth-Century Portuguese North Africa: Yahya-u-Ta’uf and Portuguese Noble Culture.”

Department Captures Nine Fellowships in Competition

Prospective History grad students won nine multi-year fellowships in campus-wide competition, according to Prof. Larry Badash, Director of Graduate Studies.

Four candidates submitted by the department received Regents’ Special Fellowships, two others received Chancellor’s Fellowships and three received diversity fellowships.

Chancellor’s Fellowships provide three years of fellowship support at $14,000 a year plus fees and health insurance and one year of non-resident tuition, if needed. They also guarantee the recipient access to university housing in the first year.

In return, the department guarantees an additional two or three years of teaching assistantship, with reappointment contingent on satisfactory performance.

This award went to prospective students in modern Chinese and medieval European history.

Finally, Monica Orozco (Cline), who received her PhD last June, has been named the new project director for the Goleta Valley Historical Society’s Goleta Community Heritage Project. This is a year-long project of public programs, funded in part by the California Council for the Humanities.

Monica succeeds Bev Schwartzberg (Cohen) who hosted this academic year’s History Associates kickoff program at Stow House last September. Bev resigned in order to work on her doctoral dissertation.

Regents’ Fellows receive the same package as Chancellor’s Fellows except for two years of fellowship stipend instead of three.

Regents’ Fellowships were awarded to prospective students in modern British, Women’s, Islamic and Chicano history.

Diversity fellowships went to prospective students in medieval European, Asian-American and Chicano history.

There are three different diversity fellowships.

The Doctoral Scholar’s Fellowship provides the same package as the Regents’ Fellowship. This was awarded to a potential student in Chicano history.

The Dean’s Fellowship and the Graduate Opportunity Fellowship provide one-year of stipend at $12,000 plus fees and health insurance. Recipients of these fellowships may also be provided either a teaching assistantship or non-resident tuition by the department.

A prospective student in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

President's Corner

Time for a tête-à-tête

Dear Fellow UCSB History Associates:

Thank you for being a member of the History Associates. You can be proud of what we are accomplishing.

Today, I seek a little tête-à-tête with you. I want your help in steering the Associates to an even better future. Listen closely.

Larry Badash, Professor of the History of Science, informs me that the Associates are in the top-five campus support groups. That is very good. You know our goals. First and foremost, is helping history graduate students finance their superb education in a very expensive Santa Barbara. Second, we seek opportunities to make the community aware of significant research by the history faculty. And lastly, but maybe most importantly, we simply gather to enjoy one another in order to learn and discuss important issues on topics as wide ranging as Egypt, or pirates in Santa Barbara, or our upcoming talk with Professor Alice O’Connor on the realities of welfare reform.

You know, we come up with these ideas for talks or other significant experiences in our Board meetings by imagining what you want. Currently the Board meets every six weeks or so and besides taking care of our business, they plot and plan what events they think you would find exciting.

So that brings me to the subject of my tête-à-tête with you. I am sure those of us on the Board could do a better job if we really knew what YOU think is a good thing to do. Therefore, I am asking today that you send me some feedback. What would you like to see happen at the Associates? Do you like our talk and lunch format? Do you like the special performance events (Operas, Plays etc.)? Would you like to hear more from the graduate students we are supporting? Or would you like more faculty lectures? Is Santa Barbara History something you want to hear more about? Or maybe you have a completely different idea of what we need to do? But please, take a little time right now and let me hear from you!

Write or call me:

Patrick O’Dowd
Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
123 E. Canon Perdido St
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
(805) 966-5073
E Mail: King-JQA@aol.com
To the Editor:
I was amused to read Otis Graham’s memories of the department and astonished that the subject would be of interest to anyone.

From your comment the readers of Historia find the History Department’s past fascinating. Otis gives the spirit of the times (he and I are good friends and we have discussed this so I am not being perverse), but he gets it wrong or rather (surprisingly for an American historian) does not appreciate the dynamics of the department in 1965, a year before Otis came.

In 1965 the department roster was eight. In that year (Warren Hollister was acting chair) the department hired 18 historians, half of whom were tenured.

Those who came (most at least) were from the best institutions, published, and experienced in how a history department should function.

They transformed (as indeed they were hired to do) how the department would be administered where Otis, Rod Nash, Lynn Marshall, John New and others were junior.

Their political activity, whether Viet Nam or the Environment, had little impact on how the department was reconstructed to structure the map room, pass out financial aid, or decide promotions.

In defense of the old guard (all six of them—Adams, Powell, Dozer, Kinnaird, Buchanan, Jacobs), they accepted the new regime with resignation for they were outmanned and outgunned.

I do not remember these valiant battles to which Otis refers. There was discussion and decisions and some assistant professors were let go (which does not seem to happen in this day and age).

Otis misses the very important point. Those who came (particularly with tenure) were attracted to UCSB because it was building a new university from the bean fields and eucalyptus trees.

This meant buildings, library, and a department from the old collegial Riviera campus. Coming from the Ivy covered walls, this was exhilarating stuff despite the fact that it was nothing but sun and surf.

It had little to do with political activism, women, minorities. It was the creation of an instant university from sun and surf. There is no question that one could have remained in the center of the universe at Columbia on the 7th Avenue subway, but you only get the chance to build a new university once every century. That is what it was all about, and from Otis’ perspective as an assistant professor it only took meaning after the revolution and things settled down with his tenure in the seventies.

Russ Buchanan once told me a bit of wisdom. “There is nothing more exhilarating than building a new university with ample money. There is nothing more depressing than maintaining one when there is none.”

I doubt if this is of much interest, but I feel an obligation as an historian to readjust the record. I could elaborate. I would have to check the accuracy of my figures, but they would only be off by a digit or two.

Robert O. Collins
Professor Emeritus

LET US HEAR FROM
**How Many Historians?**

Our historian of science Larry Badash recently learned that Taiwan boasts one historian for every 4,300 Taiwanese. Using the Taiwanese definition of historian as someone who teaches at the college level, Larry made some quick back-of-the-envelope calculations to estimate how many historians per capita the United States can claim. The figure at which he arrived is one per 6,250 people, a significantly lower ratio of historians to civilians than Taiwan can muster.

Should we be alarmed by this? Perhaps not. All those Taiwanese historians would probably be less helpful in defending their island from attack by the People’s Republic of China than one American aircraft carrier cruising in the South China Sea. Here at home, our ratio of one historian to 6,250 Americans is far lower than the 1:1,000 often put forward as an adequate proportion of police officers to citizens or physicians to patients. We know that we historians are far fewer in number than lawyers, relative to the population at large. Is that a good thing or a bad thing? You decide.

How many historians are enough? Must our definition conform to the Taiwanese standard: i.e., those who make their living teaching history in college? Why not include elementary, junior high, and high school teachers, some of whom were among the best history teachers I ever had?

Why not include Americans who pursue research into the history of their own families? On any summer day you can find hundreds of them in the vast microfilm reading room of the National Archives, cranking away in search of an ancestor in the pension records of the Civil War. And what about all those Civil War re-enactors? Do they count as historians, or in their recreations (pronouncing this word different ways yields different meanings), is something more complicated going on?

Suppose we restrict the label “historian” to a person who spends a career writing scholarly articles and books. The ratio of historians to Americans plummets. The American Historical Association once found that 10 percent of its membership accounted for 90 percent of published historical scholarship.

This definition is no doubt far too narrow, if only because the AHA would be forced out of business were such requirements for membership in the guild to be enforced. Perhaps we should more generously define ourselves, welcoming to the ranks of historian even the gentleman who had printed on his business card “Member, National Geographic Society.”

Here at UCSB we think we know a historian when we see one. You will see elsewhere in these pages how well we have done in the stiff intracampus competition for graduate fellowships. Graduate study is the fountain of youth of our ancient discipline and at this time of year we are gratified by the promise of replenishment.

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**Students ‘Drug’ Rivers, Use ‘Lazy Fare’ in New Bloopers**

Midterm exams produced a plethora of bloopers, but the judges awarded this month’s prize to Mike Proulx for a belated entry from last Fall’s History 4A.

As the identification for a slide of Poussin’s “Rape of the Sabine Women” (just picture a Bacchanalian orgy), one student wrote, “this shows the training of knights under Charlemagne.” Mike also submitted an answer that, while not quite a blooper, nevertheless has a certain charm. Reflecting on what he had learned about Western Civilization, this student wrote, “I believe that Western Civilization is like a snowball that has been building since its conception and Gilgamesh is like the first snowflake.”

Close behind was Laura Nezni with a spate of answers from History 4B, including, “History goes from Jurassic to classical, medieval, and modern.” To which Laura responded, “Spielberg 101, 4A, 4B, 4C.”

Also from Laura, “The teachings of Martian Luther destroyed the Church of Rome.” Her response, “Mars attacks!”

Erin Edmonds submitted the following from a History 17B paper: “Andrew Jackson approached new businessmen with lazy fare.” To which Erin responded, “Not exactly a power lunch, I take it.”

Josh Fogel led the faculty submissions with the following from on a recent History 189A exam: “He helped agriculture by drugging the rivers.”

From his History 4B exams, Paul Sonnino came up with; “According to Thomas Aquinas, both Aristotle and the Bible agreed that fornication was only permissible after marriage.”

Then there was the student who wrote for Toshi Hasegawa about Chiang Kai-shek’s attempt in 1949 “to make one last attempt at a peace settlement through meditation.”

To which Toshi responded, “You can just see Chiang going ‘Aoummmmm. Aoummmmm.’”

In a student paper, Sarah Cline read, “Even with economic prosperity Mexico was an unstable colony, like a time bomb that builds enough pressure till it finally explodes.” From which Sarah concluded, “This guy is probably not a chem major.”

Finally, just to prove that bloopers are not limited to the young, Sears McGee returned from a visit to the Civil War battle site of Vicksburg with the following story:

“Our host told the story of an elderly couple who had been driving around to see a large number of Civil War battlefields. Over breakfast, they were talking about the different battlefields they’d seen, and the woman said there was one thing that simply amazed her about the battles. "The host asked her what it was. She responded that she was astonished that ‘all those battles were fought in national parks!’”

**National Parks Have Their Own Bloopers**

Speaking of national parks, the following is a list of actual comments left on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips, courtesy of Larry Badash:

“A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call.”

“Escalators would help on steep uphill sections.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
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

Ready to

Membership in the UCSB History Associates entitles you to member prices at all special events and includes a subscription to Historía—a great way to keep posted about events in the History Department. 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).

Fellowships

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.

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