History Grads Sweep Prizes

History grad students continued their dominance of campus competitions this year, walking off with top honors in research and teaching.

Tom Sizgorich (Drake) won the campus Lancaster Prize, awarded to the best dissertation in the Humanities and Fine Arts, for his study of “Martyrs, Monks and Mujahidun: Militant Piety in Late Antiquity and Early Islam,” a study of the role of ascetic warriors in the formation of religious identity in Late Antiquity.

"The committee noted that all of the nominated dissertations were exceptional," said Lynn Wilcoxson of Graduate Division.

"But there was unanimous agreement that this dissertation merited the award."

Chris Wright (Humphreys) won the Academic Senate prize for Outstanding Teaching Assistant in the Humanities. He has been a TA in the entire History 4ABC series (Western Civilization) and the entire World History series (History 2ABC).

The Academic Senate praised Wright for his ability to hold his students to high standards without making them feel intimidated.

"The student response that Chris’ teaching elicits is remarkable,” they reported. “Chris’ students are eager to contribute to classroom discussions, look forward to engaging in more complex material over the course of the quarter, and nearly uniformly give him excellent teaching evaluations."

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A FUNDRAISER DEVOTED to the late Julia Child helped the UCSB History Associates cook up $45,000 this year, all of which they gave away at the History department’s annual awards ceremony on May 18.

Featured speaker at the fundraiser was chef Don “Skip” Skipworth, a longtime friend of the famous French chef, who regaled a sold-out audience with reminiscences about her life and reflections on her impact on the American diet.

“Without her,” he said, “haute cuisine for us would still be molded Jello salad and sour cream mixed with onion soup mix.”

The private Julia Child was exactly the same as the public one, he said, as he repeated such classic Child lines as “I don’t think it’s a dessert unless it has chocolate in it.”

But the highlight of the evening was a drawing that selected 20 of the people present for a cooking class at the Montecito home of Mary-anne and Keven Contreras, where chef Skip taught them to prepare (and eat) a gourmet menu.

The bulk of the funds raised went to 15 graduate students selected to be History Associates Fellows on the basis of their high achievement and special needs.

Nine special prizes were also awarded (see story, this page.)

THREE NEW PRIZES were introduced at this year’s History Department Awards ceremony on May 18.

In addition to the Burns-DeConde Prize (see photo story, p. 3), the Jane S. De Hart Award for best graduate student studying issues of gender and sexuality, and the William E. Nida Scholarship to attract and encourage high quality graduate students also were presented for the first time.

April Haynes (Cohen) won the De Hart Award and Monica Sanchez (Vargas), last year’s Buchanan Award winner, received the Nida Scholarship.

In addition, the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which has previously provided an award for students studying American history, this year revamped the prize to go to a student eligible to study U.S. history in next year’s Senior Honors Seminar. Maureen Chen was the recipient.

Josh Birk (Lansing) and Matt Sutton (De Hart) split the Richard Mayberry Award for the outstanding graduate student.

The William H. Ellison Prize continued on page 3
Department Reception Slated for 186 Graduates

The History department’s annual reception for graduating seniors and their families will be held on Sunday, May 12, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the History Conference Room, HSSB 4020.

186 students are scheduled to receive degrees in History this year, including nine students taking their degrees in the History of Public Policy and two in Medieval Studies.

Of this number, 26 completed all requirements in Fall 2004 and 31 more at the end of Winter quarter. Another 27 are expected to finish after taking courses in Summer Session.

The bulk of the graduates (102) are finishing their degrees this term.

The commencement ceremony will take place immediately following the department reception, at 1 p.m.

Awards

CONTINUED FROM P 2

for best graduate paper of 2003-04 went to Leandra Zarnow (Lichtenstein).

The Stuart L. Bernath Prize for best undergraduate paper of 2004-05 went to Alexandra Beaton (Cohen) and Jason Shattuck (Drake).

The History Associates Board Prize for best Senior Honors Seminar thesis of 2004-05 went to Lauren Rushton (Soto Laveaga) and Natalie Xifo (Cohen).

Marc O’Tool (Farmer) won the C. Warren Hollister Memorial Fellowship for outstanding work in Medieval European history.

The Marion Ramstad Endowed Scholarship for outstanding undergraduates studying either Asian or European history went to Thomas Flowers (McGee).

The Lawrence Badash Prize for best paper in History of Science went to Don Burnette (Osborne).

Janet Britton the Wilbur Jacobs Prize for the best graduate student in U.S. Colonial, Native American or Frontier history.

Another Plane student, Michelle Ferry, won the Robert Kelley Fellowship for work...
Winning Ways

Profs. John Lee, Sarah Chine, and I made a surprise visit to Christopher Wright’s 5 p.m. discussion section for History 2C recently. Chris looked like he thought he was getting sacked when we all walked in, but we were there to inform him that he was the lucky and talented winner of one of the Academic Senate’s four Distinguished Teaching Assistant awards.

I know that quite a few of our talented TAs were nominated for this honor this year; no doubt we make it really hard for that senate committee to choose which History grad student will get it. But choose they must, and they chose Christopher, who is indeed an outstanding teacher. Chris works with Steve Humphreys and Nancy Gallagher, and he has been teaching the entire 2ABC series this year.

The History department has a very high success rate in winning these awards year after year. We have won 15 times in the 27 years since 1978. For a time there were just two winners, campuswide, and History monopolized the competition, winning one in every year but one between 1982-1990; soon after they increased it to four TA prizes, probably just to give other departments a chance to compete.

Congratulations to Chris! and also to the whole department, for our great track record of outstanding teaching. Thanks to John Lee (himself a winner of the senate’s distinguished teaching award in 2004) who has run our TA training program for several years now. (Other faculty winners have been John Majewski in ’05, Mario Garcia in ’02, Randy Bergstrom in ’99, Fred Logevall in ’98, Al Lindemann in ’94, Alfred Gollin in ’91, Sears McGee in ’89, and Warren Hollister in ’83.)

Teaching is not our only strength. U.S. News and World Report recently released its first ranking of History departments since 2001. Out of 95 PhD programs, ours ranked 32nd, tied with schools like UC Irvine and UC San Diego.

The survey gives the top 20 schools in six different subject areas as well, and in two of them we scored decently well: for US 20th-century historians, we are ranked 19th, and for women’s history, we are ranked 17th.

For what opinion is worth (opinion of department chairs and directors of graduate study, who were the respondents in this survey), that’s the opinion about us!

Patricia Cohen
Chair

Holy Neutrinos, Batman: CCWS Explores the Comics

BY GEORGE FUJII

“CAPTAIN MARVEL Battles the Dread ATOMIC WAR!”

No, this is not from a press release announcing a new collaboration between the History department and Marvel Comics but rather an excerpt from one of the papers at the “Cold War and its Contexts” conference held at UCSB on April 29-30.

UCSB graduate student Paul Hirsch (Hasegawa) captivated conference attendees as he explained how comic books served a remarkably subversive purpose in educating American kids in the late ’40s and early ’50s.

He was one of two UCSB presenters at this event, along with Krister Swanson (Lichtenstein) who detailed the origins of President Carter’s 1980 Olympic boycott.

Eighteen graduate students from as far away as Finland presented at this year’s conference on topics ranging from the ultimate diplomatic hardship post of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (average temperature a balmy 0˚C) to anticommunist repression in the US and Canada to the foreign policy of a newly independent Algeria.

The conference, an annual event sponsored by the Center for Cold War Studies, the George Washington Cold War Group, and the LSE Cold War Studies Centre, also featured a keynote address by David Holloway of Stanford University on bridging international history and international relations theory, and a roundtable on job market strategies.

The three sponsoring organizations plan on holding next year’s conference in London.

George Fujii is a grad student in History, working on a study of the Marshall Plan.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

If you are a grad trying to get in touch with an old classmate, or a community member 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
or email:
Grads Sweep Fellowships

POWERED BY EIGHT Fulbright and Fulbright-Hays fellowship winners, History grad students garnered a record 13 national awards and fellowships for next year.

The eight Fulbrighters and the countries they will be working in next year are:

Elizabeth Brownson (Gallagher) Israel; Chip Dewell (Fogel) Japan; Josh Hoffman (Gallagher) Egypt; Travis Moger (Friesen/McGee) Germany; Anil Mukerjee (Dutra) Brazil; David Reeves (Edgar) Azerbaijan; Leslie Sargent (Edgar) Azerbaijan; Corinne Wieben (Lansing) Italy.

Other national awards went to:

Eric Boyle (Osborne): the American Philosophical Society, Massachusetts Historical Society and Bakken Museum and Library.

Jessica Chapman (Logevall): Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation.

Rudy Guerra Jr. (Vargas) Ford Foundation Fellowship.

Katrin Sjursen (Farmer) the Society for French Historical Studies.

Grad students also did well in competition for UC campus fellowships.

Jessica Elliott (Farmer) and Emily Skidmore (Lichtenstein) won Regents Special Fellowships.

Maria Ponomarenko (De Hart/Hasegawa): Humanities Special Fellowship.

Maria Romero (Cline) and Abigail Rosas (Garcia/Vargas) won Doctoral Scholar Fellowships.

Joseph Duong (Daniels) won a Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship.

Ryan Shapiro (Guerrini) won a Dean’s Fellowship.

UCSB’s Phi Alpha Theta Chapter Shines at Regional Conference

UCSB’s History department was well represented by a contingent of undergraduate researchers and illustrious alumni at April’s Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference in Pomona.

Undergraduates Paulette Bartels, Graham Bishop, Kristiana Kocis, Adam Poe, Anna Sabalone, and Madeline Zamoyski gave papers spanning time and space from Roman and Chinese antiquity through the Medieval and Romantic era European past, to the 19th century U.S. on topics equally diverse: women’s political action, education, travel, the Romantic aesthetic, and presidential succession policy.

Paulette Bartels carried away a prize for Best Paper for her presentation “Can Christians Be Teachers? Emperor Julian and Roman Education.”

UCSB professorial progeny could be seen in almost every session of the conference, too. Zuoyue Wang (Badash) and Dan Lewis (Rock) were host-organizers on their Cal Poly Pomona campus, where Lewis is department chair.

Faculty Work to Keep Up

CONTINUED FROM P 3 that her article on “The Bombay Debt: Letter Writing, Domestic Economies and Family Conflict in Colonial India,” published last summer in Gender and History won the Best Article prize of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies.

Douglas Daniels gave a presentation on “Visual Documents and Race Relations” in the Asian- American Studies department lecture series.

Paul Sonnino gave a lecture on “La date de composition du Testament politique de Richelieu” at the Sorbonne, then spoke a month later on “Dieu et La Diplomatie dans le Re- seau de Mazarin” at the Institut d’Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine.

Miriam Vivian (Drake) of CSU Bakersfield, Rick Kennedy (Kirker) of Point Loma University, John Wilson (BA History, UCSB) of Vanguard University, and Randy Bergstrom of UCSB chaired and commented at sessions.

Earlier in the month, the department’s Gamma Iota chapter of the national history honor association initiated 17 new members at its annual dinner ceremony. Over the year, the chapter has enjoyed history-cinema evenings with Prof. Cecilia Mendez, Carl Harris, and John Lee (appearing on-screen and in person, no less), and sent a contingent of volunteer participants to the Presidio’s living history days.

The group looks forward to another eventful year in 2005-06, and invites all history students to join Phi Alpha Theta local club events, and encourages those who meet the national eligibility standards of a 3.0 gpa through 18 credit hours of history coursework to become members of the society.
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: __________________________
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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:

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