Grad Secretary Darcy Ritzau

Grad Secretary Sets Up Award For Students

As History’s Graduate Secretary for the past 28 years, Darcy Ritzau has seen at first hand how much a few hundred dollars can mean to graduate students on a shoestring budget.

This year, she decided to do something about it.

After talking things over with History Associates President Sears McGee and Nichole Klanfer in the Development Office, Darcy decided to leave a $10,000 endowment in her will to establish a fund for deserving grad students, especially first year students who enter the program with no departmental funding.

Once she got the idea, Darcy figured there was no sense waiting until she died to make this happen. So she also decided to provide $500 a year for the fund (approximately what interest on the endowment would generate), starting this year.

The History Associates were so pleased with her decision that JoBeth Van Gelderen immediately promised to match Darcy’s generosity dollar for dollar, meaning the fund (which the Associates insisted be named the Darcy Ruth Ritzau Graduate Student Award) will have $1,000 to award every year.

“Working with grad students has meant so much to me all these years,” Darcy said.

“And I know the History Associates was started to help deserving students whose needs somehow fall through the cracks.

“I’m just thrilled by how quickly this has

2006 Commencement festivities began in earnest on May 17 with the History Department’s annual Awards Ceremony, which recognized more than 200 graduating seniors and graduate students.

Events will conclude with Commencement on Sunday, June 19 at 1 p.m. on the Faculty Club green, preceded by a departmental reception for graduates and their families from 11:15 to 12:15 in the History Conference Room, 4020 HSSB.

Leading the list of graduating seniors will be Juan Carlos Ibarra, selected to receive the annual Buchanan Award, presented to the outstanding graduating senior (see story p. 3).

Close behind will be 15 students who completed the Senior Honors Thesis program (see p. 5) and seven History majors selected for membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor society.

The new Phi Betes are Phoebe Catherine Boone, Edouard Clement De Courreges, Thomas Flowers, Lauren Rose Anna Leyva, Rebecca Beth Lockitch Loman, Shawn Aleksander Moura and Benjamin Sheldon-Tarzynski.

Other undergraduate prizes presented at the Awards ceremony:

The Stuart L. Bernath Prize for best undergraduate proseminar paper went to Rachael Lilly Binning for “I Remember: The Shoah Foundation’s Attempt to Address Poland’s Complicated Past” (H. Marcuse).

History Associates’ Board Prize for best paper in the Senior Honors seminar went to Thomas John Flowers for “The International Catholic Conspiracy: Catholic Politics in Elizabethan England and the 1580 Arrival of the Jesuits” (McGee).

Evan Paul Raleigh won the Marion Ramstad scholarship to study European or Asian history. He was nominated by Profs. Lee and Hasegawa.

Two students split the Dumas Essay Award for best paper on a subject of Greek history or culture. Laurent Cases was recognized for his paper on “Eusebius and Reccared: The Use of Christian Philosophy at the Third Council of Toledo” (Digeser) and Colin Whiting for “Strabo and Arrian on India: A Land Like Any Other” (Lee).

Kristiana Rose Kocis, who has been
History Associates Fellows Lead Grad Awards

Nine graduate students are the newest History Associates Fellows, sharing more than $38,000 raised by the department support group this year.

The Fellows, their mentors and research topics were:

Michael Blodgett (Drake), “Attila the Roman: Identity and Security Along the Roman Frontier.”

Chrissy Yee Lau (Spickard), the history and social relationships of Chinese Americans.


Kristen Shedd (Lichtenstein), labor organizations and radical political movements in the Western U.S.

Lily Yumi Welty (Spickard), identity formation of multiracial Japanese immigrant populations in Latin America.


Receiving the Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Award, designated for a student who has entered graduate school after pursuing career or family interests was Sandra Dawson (Rappaport) for her paper “Islands of Leisure: British Holiday Camp Culture in War and Peace.”

The Ellison Prize for the best graduate seminar paper went to Lee Goodvin (Mendez) for “Contestation of Power in a Northern Frontier Province of New Spain: Texas, 1807 to 1812.”

The Wilbur Jacobs Prize for outstanding work in color.

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Ritzau Award

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all happened.”

History Chair Ken Mouré said the whole department could take pride in Darcy’s gift.

“Our staff have always shown enormous dedication to the department and its student,” he noted. “Darcy’s gift exemplifies that dedication and commitment.”

Two MA students were selected by the History Associates Board to be the first recipients. They are Chrissy Yee Lau and Lily Anne Yumi Welty, both working with Prof. Paul Spickard. Lau is concentrating her research on the history and social relationships of Chinese Americans, while Welty is working on identity and other issues experienced by multiracial people.

DaVinci Panel to Analyze Best Seller

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Also speaking will be Prof. Robert Williams, a specialist in art of the Italian Renaissance who teaches an undergraduate course on Leonardo DaVinci in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture.

History’s Hal Drake, whose specialty is the Age of Constantine, will round out the panel.

The program is the brainchild of History PhD candidate Jon Lemmond, a member of the History Associates Board who will serve as moderator.

Refreshments will be served.

Reservations, at $10 for members of the History Associates and $12 for non-members, may be made by phoning the UCSB Community Relations office, (805) 893-4388.
From The Chair

The History of the Present

Walter Benjamin describes the angel of history (in Paul Klee’s “Angelus Novus”) as turned to face the past: “Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet.” A storm from Paradise has filled his wings so violently that he cannot close them; “The storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward.”

Why study history? What could be less relevant to the world we live in and the serious problems we face in the present than immersion in a world that is past, over, wreckage left behind? Isn’t it more important to know where we’re going and what lies ahead than to rummage through debris? What fool would drive his car facing backwards, steering according to the road behind him?

As our graduating seniors know, learning to recognize bad analogies is one reason to study history, particularly bad historical analogies; recognizing inaccurate descriptions is another. History helps us understand where we are and how we got here; it can teach us to assess critically the origins and development of our own perceptions of place and purpose and appreciate how these differ in other cultures.

It can also teach us how badly wrong good intentions and lofty claims can lead the unwary; it can inspire us with the remarkable record of human resiliency and resourcefulness under even the most challenging circumstances. History broadens our knowledge of human experience and helps us learn to think for ourselves in gathering evidence, comparing points of view, analyzing data, reasoning out our own conclusions from conflicting claims.

With these ideas in mind, the Department of History is developing a new lower division course, “The History of the Present,” to provide students with historical context for topics of current interest ranging from politics in the Middle East to dealing with pandemics to globalization. Faculty will give lectures and provide relevant readings on topics relating to their own research fields; students will learn historical context for the state of the world today. History 5. Coming soon (2007-08) to a lecture hall near you. The angel of history will be there.

Ken Mouré
Chair

Immigrant Son Becomes 32nd Buchanan Winner

This year’s A. Russell Buchanan Alumni Award recipient is a History of Public Policy major who traces his love of history to the example set by his parents.

“My father came from Mexico as a child, illegal immigrant to East Los Angeles, and my mother grew up as a farmworker in Dixon (CA),” says Juan Carlos Ibarra, who is the 32nd recipient of the department’s highest undergraduate honor.

“Both loved learning, worked hard, and became physicians. Both have nurtured my love of learning, sensitivity to social and racial justice, and instilled a strong work ethic.”

Currently in Washington on the UC/DC program, Juan was unable to attend the Awards ceremony.

His acceptance speech was read by Prof. Alice O’Connor, one of several faculty who nominated him for the award.

In accepting the award, Prof. O’Connor said, "Juan Carlos represents all that’s best about our department."

Juan plans to work at a labor union in South San Francisco this summer, then study for a certificate in International Trade and Legal Transaction in Mexico in the Fall. In the 2007-08 academic year, he plans to enter a joint JD/PhD program in History.

Stumped?

New lead TAs Andrea Thabet (Jacobson) and Joe Campo (Marcuse) seem to have temporarily stumped Prof. John Lee, the department’s TA training coordinator, as they prepare for next year’s teaching assistant training sessions.
From Amazons to Zapatistas

I taught the 2005-06 Senior Honors Seminar, and I frequently felt as though I was caught up in a whirlwind.

On the basis of superior grades and writing samples, 15 seniors were admitted into the seminar, a two-quarter course in which each writes a big research paper based on primary sources under the direction of a faculty member as mentor.

They all applied for and got research funding from URCA (the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Office in UCSB’s College of Letters and Science).

This year’s seminarians worked on a bewilderingly broad array of topics and produced ambitious and impressive papers ranging from 50 to 120 pages. For example, Brittany Berriz wrote on the transformation that occurred in 6th and 5th centuries B.C.E. Athenians’ conception of the Amazons from “man-like” female warriors to women feared more for their sexuality than their battlefield prowess (mentor, John Lee).

Alicia Woempner studied the reaction of indigenous Mayas to the policies of the Mexican government in the 19th century, policies which many of them saw as aimed at destroying their way of life (mentor Sarah Cline). Her paper concluded with an epilogue on the Zapatistas she met during her visit to the region in 2005.

Evelyn Abe’s paper on the development of the nursing profession in Ghana (1920-1970) drew in part from interviews she conducted with nurses while an EAP student in Ghana (Stephan Miescher).

Jeff Farrington’s study of the Carter administration’s policy towards Cambodia (not its finest moment so far as its emphasis on human rights was concerned) was buttressed by letters and memos he found in the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta (Salim Yaqub).

Bryan Knapp journeyed to the American Antiquarian Society library in Worcester, Massachusetts in pursuit of sources for his examination of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s initially halting but ultimately fervent support for the abolition of slavery in the 1840s and 1850s (Jonathan Glickstein).

Mentored by Randy Bergstrom, Kristen Richer pursued the efforts of the Students for a Democratic Society to communicate its ideas through the media in the 1960s, and she did it from documents she found in the Hoover Library at Stanford, the Bancroft Library at Berkeley, and the Tani ment Library at NYU).

Not all the students had to travel so far for their sources, but all of them worked effectively and imaginatively, and the results justify our pride in the high quality of both our students and our undergraduate teaching at UCSB. I’m sorry I lack the space to mention all the topics, but I take pleasure in listing the remaining members of the group: Laurent Cases, Jordan Downs, Thomas Flowers, Megan Fowler, Justin Nix, Tiffany Hindman, Rebecca Loman and Kristiana Kocis.

Their final task was to present the results of their study to a faculty and student audience, an all-day forum slated for

New Associates Award

Remembers John Coleman

Toshihiko Aono, a student of Prof. Toshi Hasegawa, was selected to be the first recipient of the John Coleman Award for the best paper in the fields of Cold War, international or military history.

These are the subjects that were dearest to John Coleman, whose promising graduate career was cut short by cancer in 2003.

Aono was recognized for his paper, “Twin Crises in the Cold War: the Berlin-Cuban Crisis and Anglo-American Relations, 1961-1963.”

A former journalist, Coleman completed a BA in 1998, Associates

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nial, Native American, or frontier studies went to Travis Smith (Spickard) for “Confluent Communities, Contested Community: Race Relations in Butte County, CA, 1840s-1890s.”

The Robert Kelley Fellowship for the outstanding graduate student in the fields of U.S. intellectual history, public history, or the history of public policy went to Rose Hayden-Smith (Bergstrom) for “Sowing the Seeds of Victory: National Gardening Programs During World War I.”

The Philip W. and Maria Powell Prize for distinguished contribution to Latin American and Iberian studies at UCSB went to Hugo Her-nandez (Rock) for his research on “Migration in the River Plate.”

The Lawrence Badash Prize, created in 2002 to recognize the outstanding graduate student essay in history of science and arms control went to Paul Hirsch (Hasegawa) for “Weird Science: Uncensored Representations of the Atomic Bomb in American Comics, 1945-1954.”

Grads Line Up Extra-Mural Fellowships

History grad students have been garnering prestigious extra-mural fellowships for next year.

Bianca Murillo (Miescher) and Heidi Morrison (Gallagher) both received Fulbright-Hays fellowships. Bianca will do doctoral research in Ghana and in the UK, while Heidi will spend her year in Cairo,

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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
or email:
drake@history.ucsb.edu
Chapman Wins Top Grad Prize

The Richard K. Mayberry Award for the outstanding graduate student in any field of history was won by Jessica Chapman (Logevall) for her dissertation on “Propaganda and the Public Debate over Nationalism, Unification, and Modernization in South Vietnam: 1954-1960.”

The De Conde/Burns Prize for outstanding accomplishment in foreign relations went to John Shardellati (Logevall) for “Celluloid Fears: The FBI, OWI, HUAC, and the Origins of Hollywood’s Cold War.”

The Jane S. De Hart Prize for the best graduate student working on historical questions of gender and/or sexuality went to Carolyn Lewis (Rupp) for her dissertation research on the medicalization of heterosexuality in the Cold War.

Megan Bowman (Cohen) won the William E. Nida Scholarship which is used to attract and encourage high quality graduate students. Her research is on 19th Century U.S. history.

Extra-Mural

Continued from p. 4 studying the evolving concept of childhood in nineteenth-and early twentieth-century Egypt.

Karen Frank (Lansing) received a Fulbright Fellowship to study family records in Perugia.

Joseph Bassi (McCray) received a Frank Guggenheim Pre-Doctoral Fellowship to do research at the National Air and Space Museum.

Department Awards Prizes, Fellowships

Conti...
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
- $____ to the History Associates Graduate Fellowship Fund.
- $____ to the History Associates Dick Cook Fund.
- $____ to the History Associates [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 LAST WORD

Ho-Hum

A traditional measure of a department’s quality is the number of its faculty who have won prestigious national awards. We all took pride, therefore, when Pat Cohen received a distinguished Guggenheim Fellowship this year—one of only 187 awarded in North America.

Pat is the kind of colleague it is easy to be proud of. Whether it’s tracking down the murderers of a Victorian hooker or (her current project) piecing together the lives of a pair of mid-19th century free love advocates, she is a relentless researcher who combines what she has learned with a deep understanding of historical context that takes her reader to a new level of insight and understanding.

She is also an outstanding administrator—one in a string of excellent chairs that our department has been blessed with, but also an Acting Dean of Humanities who brought a combination of acumen and rigor to the whole division. (I was chair at that time, and I can tell you she was a tough taskmaster, and not easy to bamboozle.)

There’s a less obvious reason for celebrating Pat’s award. She is the third History faculty in the past six years to become a Guggenheimer, joining Carol Lansing (1999-2000) and Sharon Farmer (2005-06).

These are not the only Guggenheimers in the department, but as you may have noticed our three most recent are all women.

One of the first things visitors looking at old department photos in our conference room notice is that all the early faculty were men. Pat was the first woman to get tenure in our department, followed closely by Nancy Gallagher (no slouch, either, when it comes to academic distinction). Now, without counting, I would guess that we are close to 50-50 in gender balance.

For years I’ve said that we have become a post-Affirmative Action department, at least with regard to women. What I mean by that is that we all want the best we can get for the department. In job searches, it is not unusual for female faculty to advocate hiring the male candidate, and males to support the female one. Which is exactly as it should be.

We have a long way to go yet when it comes to people of color, but if the past really is prelude, then three things are certain: 1) we will get there; 2) all of our hires will be outstanding; 3) we will be an even better department than we are now.

H.A.D.

P.S.: After the fifth person asked me why I used a picture of my grandson in the last column, I got the hint. This one is a bit more current.