Senior Honors Projects Span All Ages, Cultures

BY LEAH ETLING

For more than two quarters, a contingent of dedicated History majors has been working on honors thesis projects within the department.

The twelve seniors, who are advised by faculty mentors on the topics of their choice, will finish the 60- to 80-page papers this quarter.

The honors thesis seminar is directed by Prof. Jonathon Glickstein. In June, the students will present their work at four panels open to the public.

Jade Hoffman, Jim Dankiewicz, and Sherrilynn Theiss will present papers on medieval history and the early modern period.

Hoffman is investigating the language used to describe Empress Matilda with Prof. Sharon Farmer. Dankiewicz is writing on Thomas Modyford’s colonial governorship of Jamaica with Prof. Dutra. Theiss’s project discusses 17th century relationships between the English monarchy and the Scottish church. She is advised by Profs. J. Sears McGee and Hilary Bernstein.

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Bawdy Tales of Old New York

Prof. Patricia Cohen will serve up a slice of the seamy underside of life in The Big Apple a century and a half ago at the next luncheon-lecture of the UCSB History Associates series on Wednesday, May 17 at Andria’s Harborside restaurant, 336 W. Cabrillo Blvd.

Entitled “Rakes, Libertines, and the Underground Press in 1842 New York City,” Prof. Cohen’s talk will deal with Playboy’s Victorian ancestors—newspapers with such titles as The Rake and The Libertine.

This “flash” press, as it was called, was filled with racy cartoons and reports on the city’s various brothels and also featured reports from a wide network of correspondents on sexual opportunities outside Manhattan.

“These papers are invaluable for the information they provide about a side of urban life that didn’t make it into the respectable press,” Prof. Cohen said.

A longtime member of the History department, Prof. Cohen is no stranger to such stories. Her book on The Murder of Helen Jewett (subject of one of the first History Associates lectures) deals with the sensational murder of a New York prostitute in the 1850s. It was published to rave reviews last year by Alfred A. Knopf and is being considered for a motion picture.

It was during research for that book that she came across these long-forgotten

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☆☆Save the Date☆☆

Awards Ceremony Set For May 31

The annual History Awards Ceremony, featuring winners of J. Russell Buchanan Award for outstanding graduating senior in History and UCSB History Associates Fellowships will be held Wednesday, May 31, at 4 p.m. in the IHC Conference Room on the sixth floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building.

Associates Pres. Patrick O’Dowd urged all members to attend.

“This is the day we’ve been collecting money for all year,” he said. "Now we have the fun of giving it all away."
Springtime Means Awards And Papers

Spring is the time for awards and honors, and History grads past and present were reaping them by the bushelful.

Laura Nenzi (Roberts) was awarded a Japan Foundation Fellowship for study at Tokyo University in Japan in 2001.

John Baranski (Furner) received a dissertation research grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for his research on “Public Housing in San Francisco.”

Heather Keaney (Humphreys) received a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship and a grant from the American Research Center in Egypt to conduct research in that country.

Dennis Ventry (Brownlee) has received a research fellowship in the Brookings Institution’s Governmental Studies Program in Washington, D.C.

Mike Connally (Farmer) has been awarded the Bourse Chateaubriand Fellowship to continue research in Paris next year on his dissertation, a study of shelters for poor widows and other unattached women in 13th and 14th century Paris.

Black Studies Center Fellow Gaye Johnson (Daniels) has been awarded a Presidential Fellowship for 2000-2001.

Andy Johns (Logevall) received a Hoover Scholar Research Grant from the Hoover Presidential Library Association.

Conference Papers

If having papers accepted for delivery at conferences is another sign of distinction, then History grads have been rolling in it lately.

Tom Sizgorich (Drake) has three presentations this Spring. In March, Tom presented “The Myth of the Misbehaving Monk: Elite Unease and Discourse of Pious Unreason,” at the 35th Annual Comparative Literature Conference at CSU Long Beach. Then in April he spoke on “The Rebel Has Evaded Me and Carried off The Palm: Martyrs, Monks and Discourses of Pious Unreason,” at a symposium on Revolutions and Revolutionary Literature at CSU Fresno.

This month, Tom travels to Northwestern to deliver “Emergences of the Demonic and ‘Frenzies of the Visible:’ Martyrs, Ascetics and the Late Antique Elite Dread of Unreason” at a conference on Semiotics of the Body.

Nancy McLoughlin (Farmer) has had two papers accepted. This month she speaks on “Authority Gained by Sleight of Hand: John Gerson’s Strategies for Recreating the Identity of the University-trained Theologian” to Northwestern to deliver "Emergences of the Demonic and ‘Frenzies of the Visible:’ Martyrs, Ascetics and the Late Antique Elite Dread of Unreason” at a conference on Semiotics of the Body.

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O’Connor Calls for New Debate on Poverty in U.S.

A “national obsession” with welfare and welfare reform has obscured the broader issue of poverty in America, but could lead to a much-needed broad reform, Asst. Prof. Alice O’Connor told the April meeting of the UCSB History Associates.

Calling for a new dialogue on poverty, Prof. O’Connor explained how reform efforts of the 1980s and 90s linked poverty with welfare and “focused on poor people instead of the broader issue of poverty.”

The result, she said, is that the celebrated end of “welfare as we know it” in 1996 had little to do with ending poverty.

“All of the celebration has been about reducing the welfare rolls, not about ending poverty,” she pointed out.

In fact, the historian of public policy said, by emphasizing “work first” instead of longer-term education and training, it might actually have negative long-term effects on poverty.

“The reality is that there is no safety net for people with low-wage jobs and little or no benefits.

“What happens when the next recession hits?” she asked.

Ironically, Prof. O’Connor said, the result of growing wealth and the “end of welfare” policy is that “a great opportunity now exists to underwrite broad-gauged poverty reform.”

For this to happen, she said, the nation needs to “resume a conversation we have not had in a very long time—what to do about poverty.”

Historians have an important role to play in this resumed dialogue.

“At the turn of the last century a reformulation occurred under economic changes similar to those we are now going through,” she said.

At that time, she said, “social scientists and reformers recast the problem of poverty in terms of inequalities created by the
Communism May Be Gone, But Hasegawa Remains Haunted by Spectre of Sovietism

By Toshi Hasegawa

I still have not received permission to work in the foreign ministry archives, at least not yet. They are still waiting, they say, for the deputy foreign minister’s signature. Call us sometime at the end of the week—this has continued for three weeks.

In other words, the new Russia is very quickly reverting to the old Soviet Union. Or should I say that this is Russia. As the Minister of Internal Affairs, I have the luxury of working on my second book—on poverty. The book is in Moscow this year.

And will be published later this year.

Princeton University Press

Poverty

Continued from p. 2

fairs, Makarov once said about the Lena Massacre in 1912, “Such was the case, such is, and such will be the case.”

So I have not done anything for which I have come to this place in the first place. But in Russia one cannot be single-minded. You must come here with many purposes, since Rule Number One in this country is that you cannot get what you want.

And Rule Number Two is that you must be satisfied with whatever you get. So I immediately switched gears and decided to work on my secondary project—an investigation of everyday life in Petrograd during the Russian Revolution.

In the middle of Tverskaya Street—a major thoroughfare in Moscow—near Pushkin Square, there is a red building. Under the old regime, this aristocratic house was the prestigious English Club, a club reserved only for the privileged nobility.

After the Revolution, the Bolshevik regime expropriated it and turned it into the Museum of Revolution and used it to legitimate its revolutionary tradition and perpetuate the myth of their heroic revolution.

Under the Soviet regime, the Museum was lavishly funded by the Communist Party and the state, and protected by the regime. Its massive collection—ranging from the Bolshevik pamphlets, contemporary newspapers, and all kinds of journals—were closed to the general public, since the regime’s legitimacy was closely tied to the secrecy of its illegitimate birth.

In fact, the idea of the museum was to protect its prized possessions from the eyes of the public. Needless to say, there was absolutely no possibility for foreign scholars to get access to its collection.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Museum lost its protector. Their lavish government subsidies were cut off. The museum barely survives with meager financial support from the Ministry of Culture. Employees receive a $30-a-month salary, off and on, with the emphasis on the former.

Moreover, they lost the primary mission of the museum. They changed its name to the Notorious Museum of Contemporary History of Russia. They began displaying the secret possessions that they had spent all their energy to conceal from the public.

In other words, they have refashioned themselves to show that at heart they were also anti-Communist.

But the decline of the museum is visible everywhere. The building itself desperately needs repair. At the entrance of the library, there is a marble stand on which presumably Lenin’s statue used to be displayed, but Lenin’s head is now removed—or should I say, decapitated. On the stand there is nothing—a symbolic statement of the state of the museum.

And the toilet! Whoever has ever been in Russia before knows the importance of toilets. Before you can say, good morning and thank you, you must learn a few words: “Gde towalet?”

Honors Students

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Danielle Corey, Brian Bobb and Shannon Hayes are all writing on gender-related topics of historical implication. Corey’s paper focuses on Japanese feminism in the pre-war period. Bobb’s is on inter-group relationships in apartheid South Africa and Hayes’ on international socialist leader Rosa Luxemburg. The three are advised by Prof. Luke Roberts, Stephan Miescher, and Albert Lindemann, respectively.

David Ginsberg, Steven Williams and Ashlee Logan make up the third panel. Ginsberg and Williams are both advised by Prof. Frederick Logevall and are writing on Vietnam war issues, Ginsberg focusing on the Project One Hundred Thousand and Williams on Ambassador Maxwell Taylor. Logan is writing on changes in Robert F. Kennedy’s liberalism. She is advised by Prof. Alice O’Connor.

The fourth panel deals with three varied topics. Mindy Simonson, working with Prof. Lawrence Badash, is studying the nuclear waste disposal crisis with a case study of the Yucca Mountain site. Colleen Egan is studying cultural identification by Irish-Americans with Prof. Alice O’Connor. Leah Etling is studying Thomas Storke’s use of public journalism theory at the Santa Barbara News-Press. She is advised by Prof. Pat Cohen.

Leah Etling, a member of the Senior Honors Seminar, has been admitted to the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley.

Russian History Prof. Toshi Hasegawa, well known to History Associates for his analysis of the fall of Communism, is in Moscow this term on an IREX Fellowship.
President's Corner

What a Week!

I am constantly amazed at our community’s intense love of history.

Wednesday night at the Natural History Museum, I saw a wild and passionate university historian transform himself into the American naturalist and bird-painter extraordinaire, John James Audubon.

While in character and speaking only in the first person, Audubon, I mean the historian, mentioned an encounter with Charles Darwin, a connection that was unknown to me.

As if by magic, the very next day, I attended an overflowing Darwin seminar in Montecito organized by Vistas Lifelong Learning Experiences, and while there I met in person Alfred Russel Wallace and Thomas R. Malthus.

There is no doubt about it, for people interested in history we live in remarkable times. Students and researchers have become so interested in history that they are actually becoming people from the past.

I must admit that on occasion I have been known to do this act of becoming someone from the past.

On April 21, at the beginning of my remarkable week, I was Jean François de Galaup de La Perouse on the occasion of Santa Barbara’s founding birthday celebration at the Presidio.

But my week didn’t stop with just these historical moments. Thursday night, I had an encounter with the Russians at the Casa de la Guerra where Count Nikolai Rezanov’s long lost love, Conception Arguello, wasted away her life in an enormous and moving act of fidelity that has inspired countless romances and a Russian opera. This time the Russians were re-enacting an A. S. Pushkin poetry reading of 1833.

I can report still another night of new insights from re-enacting history. Just imagine thirty eloquent toasts over good Russian vodka and you can see how living history can shape new dimensions and insights in historical understanding in any historical gathering.

And still my amazing week continues. As I write this, I have just returned from a gathering of scholars and Indians at Serra Hall organized by the Mission Archive Library (where thanks to the History Associates all of you have been). The topic was the Chumash in early Spanish Santa Barbara. And tomorrow I am to attend the conclusion of the Interdisciplinary Humanity Center’s long-running and popular Enlightenment series, which this time features the UCSB History Department’s own Leonard Marsak who was a much-loved member of my very own doctoral committee.

God, what a feast of history this week has been!

I know some of you have had just as exciting a week of go back to the Pioneer camp and sing a song praising you, Thank God.”

One day after I finished my work at the library, I went to the toilet to prepare for my long trek across town to another library—this one is still called the Lenin Library.

When I came out of the storage room, a woman in her 40s that I had never seen before was standing in the hallway, obviously waiting for me—just waiting to give me a hostile, penetrating stare.

I knew instinctively that she was a Bolshevik incarnated. She had that distinct Bolshevik look—steely, cold-blooded, a fanatic. She could kill people for her belief.

She must be the ghost of Bolshevism I have been bad-mouthing for my entire life, an apparition that came to haunt me. I am serious. After all, this is a country where Gogol’s Akaki Akakievich haunts the passers-by to retrieve his lost overcoat.

I left in a hurry. I have not seen her since.

Bolshevik Spectre Haunts Hasegawa

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—Where is toilet?”

“Where is the toilet,” I asked the librarian on the first day. She showed me the way through a labyrinth. We went out of the library, went down one floor and went into a storage that looked like the backstage of a theater, went to one end of the storage, turned left and went to the other end, went out into the corridor, at the end of the long corridor, went up two floors on the stairway, went into another complex of offices, turned right, and turned left—I le voilà—the toilet.

You can imagine that I try not to drink too much water before I go to work in this library.

And things you find in the storage! Amidst discarded displays, there is a cannon used during the October Revolution, fallen emblems of the Soviet regime, wrapped up heads of statues, etc., scattering all around.

In other words, it is a graveyard for the Soviet regime.

I particularly like the statue of Lenin, carefully wrapped up with wrapping materials, like a mummy, but it is clear from the austere look on the face that it is unmistakably a statue of Lenin.

It is interesting to note that the museum authority decided to protect the statue, and tucked it away in a hidden place, as if to say that one-day they expect to display it again openly.

Every time I go to the toilet I greet him and carry on my one-sided conversation with Vladimir Ilich, making snide comments about Communism, like: “Hey, old man, I saw this young girl walking in Tverskaya today with exposed belly, and on her belly button she had an enormous silver ring. I suppose she will never
Springtime Honors

CONTINUED FROM P. 2

competitor list. I can inform you that this year’s list of win-
ners is very impressive.

Springtime Honors was published by John Douglass (PhD Brownlee, 1992).

Meanwhile, Having mastered every facet of the print medium, Bob Collins is now branching out into cyberspace. See The Collins Collection at the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at Bergen University at http://www.hf.uib.no/i/ smi/bib/collins/html http://www.hf.uib.no/i/ smi/bib/collins.html.

Speaking of publishing, Fred Logevall, whose book Choosing War was published last year, participated in a roundtable discussion on the Vietnam war at the recent Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. Other panelists were Jonathan Schell, Frances Fitzgerald, and Robert Scheer.

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President’s Col-

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It is the moment when we give back and help the future. So if you want a really exceptional and defining historical experience, you should participate in the History Associates’ experience from all the other history offerings in the community, then you must attend the Department of History and History Associates Scholarship Awards ceremony at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, at the McCune Conference Room on the Sixth floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences building at UCSB.

It is the moment when we give back and help the future. This is truly the most moving moment of the year for those of us that love history. I will be there. Please join us. Let your heart swell! You deserve it.

Patrick O’Dowd
President

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paign nearing an end, there’s still $1,000 needed to match JoBeth and Don Van Gelderen’s challenge. DON’T LET THEM KEEP THIS MONEY! So send your contribution today to: UCSB History Associates, Office of Community Relations, UCSB 93106.

Don’t Let Them Keep

$7,000!
Another great year of UCSB History Associates’ events is beginning. 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).

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Grad student David Torres-Rouff (Bergstrom) correctly identified the site on the cover of Education Abroad’s pamphlet for study in Chile (inset) as the famous Inca site of Machu Picchu in Peru.

"It looks like the graphic artists over there need to spend more time talking to the Center directors," said Prof. Paul Sonnino, whose "Where in the World" teasers have been a popular feature in Historia.

Appearing in his alter-ego as the Marquis of Carpenteria, Prof. Sonnino presented David with a basket of oranges, as promised in the March issue.

The reward, he said, was for services performed in the name of humanity and cartography.