FROM THE CHAIR

New Faculty Give Department Depth
In U.S., European and Ancient History

BY J. SEARS MCGEE

Much of my summer has been spent in successive rounds of budget wrestling, a subject so depressing that I will say nothing else about it in this column. It is much more pleasant to use my space to tell you about the new faculty members who will begin teaching at UCSB during 1992-93.

The Americanists (Jane DeHart and Fredrik Logevall) will take their turns in teaching in the introductory U.S. survey, as will the Europeanists (Lisa Kallet-Marx, Ann Moyer, Harold Marcuse), who will do the same in our Western Civilization course.

Two of these five—Jane DeHart and Lisa Kallet-Marx—were hired last year but spent the year on leave.

Prof. DeHart (Ph.D., Duke), is a senior faculty member who has taught at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro and Rutgers. Her most recent book is Sex, Gender and the Politics of ERA: a State and the Nation (with Donald G. Mathews, Oxford University Press, 1990). It has won the Victoria Schuck Award of the American Political Science Association.

Prof. DeHart is initiating courses in the history of women and public policy in the United States, and she is currently researching government patronage of the arts, artistic freedom and public accountability.


CONTINUED ON P. 2

Mario Garcia Returns to UCSB After 2-Year Absence

UCSB 1, YALE 0. That’s the score History faculty chalked up this term on learning that their longtime colleague Mario Garcia had returned after a two-year stint as professor of History and American Studies and director of Ethnic Studies in New Haven.

A member of the UCSB Department since 1965, Prof. Garcia gained national recognition with the publication of Desert Immigrants: The Mexicans of El Paso, 1880-1920 in 1981.

This was followed by Americans All: The Mexican-American

CONTINUED ON P. 3

Prof. Harris Kicks Off Noon Series

The History Associates’ sixth year of luncheon lectures opens this month with Prof. Carl Harris, a specialist in the American South and race relations, speaking on “The End of Racism? An Historical Critique of Black Conservatism.”

“According to black conservatives, racism no longer holds blacks back,” Prof. Harris explains. “According to this school, blacks need self-help, not affirmative action.”

A leading proponent of this view is Prof. Shelby Steele of San Jose State University. But, Prof. Harris says,
and at Swarthmore. She will teach history of ancient Greece and a course in the Classics department. Her research centers on Athens of the fifth century B.C. and particularly on the work of the great Athenian historian of that period, Thucydides.

Her book on Money, Expense, and Naval Power in Thucydides’ History 1.1-5.24 is being published by University of California Press.

Lisa’s husband, Robert Kallet-Marx, previously teaching at the University of Toronto, has been hired by the Classics department, with affiliated status in History. He is a specialist in Roman Republican history.

Asst. Prof. Ann Moyer (Ph.D, Michigan), who has taught at the universities of Chicago and Oregon, joins us to teach the history of the Italian Renaissance. She held a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship for three years at Chicago. Her book, Musica Scientia: Musical Scholarship in the Italian Renaissance (recently published by Cornell), analyzes the way that music ceased to be a mathematical subject and became an aesthetic and humanistic one during the 16th century. Her next project focuses on scholarship and politics in court culture in ducal Florence.

Fred Logevall and Harold Marcuse have been finishing their dissertations at Yale and Michigan respectively during the summer, and both begin teaching as assistant professors this term.


A native of Sweden (where he enjoyed tennis and served as a ball-boy for Bjorn Borg), Fred studied at Simon Fraser University (Canada) and the University of Oregon before going to Yale.

Harold Marcuse will teach modern German history, a subject that he arrived at in a slightly roundabout fashion. A physics major at Wesleyan, he completed an MA in the history of art at Hamburg in Germany before going to Michigan in history. His dissertation deals with the image of the Dachau concentration camp in Germany from 1945 to the present, i.e., the ways that the memory of Dachau has been manipulated by various and sometimes hostile groups in postwar Germany.

Besides welcoming our new colleagues, I am pleased to report that the lure of Santa Barbara has proved to be stronger than that of New Haven for Mario Garcia. After two years as Professor of American Studies at Yale he is back (with a Guggenheim Fellowship, no less!) as Professor of History and Chicano Studies at UCSB.

Welcome back, Mario, and welcome to Santa Barbara to Jane DeHart, Lisa Kallet-Marx, Robert Kallet-Marx, Ann Moyer, Fred Logevall and Harold Marcuse.

Harris
CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Steele’s twin brother, Claude, a professor at Stanford does not share that view.

“Claude Steele’s view is that blacks continue to bear a stigma, even among people who try not to be prejudiced,” Prof. Harris reports. “For this reason, he believes self-help, while fine, will not be enough to remove the stigma by itself.”

In his lecture, Prof. Harris will attempt to place these opposing views in an historical context by showing how both correspond to long-standing positions in the American black community.

Prof. Harris’s interest in race relations is an outgrowth of his specialized studies of government and community relations in the South, a topic on which he is a nationally recognized authority. His article on “Section-Party Alignments of Southern Democrats in Congress, 1873-1897,” published in 1976 in the Journal of Southern History won the Southern Historical Association’s Charles W. Ramsdell Award for best article published in that journal during the two-year period 1975-76.

His book on Political Power in Birmingham, 1871-1921 won the Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award of the University of Wisconsin.

Prof. Harris’s current project is a two-volume study of The Black Community and Public Education in Birmingham, 1871-1931. He has been teaching at UCSB since 1968.

Tickets for Prof. Harris’s talk—$13 for History Associates members and $15 for non-members, can be reserved by phoning the UCSB Office of Community Relations, 893-4388.

The luncheon meeting will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, October 21, at the Sheraton Hotel, 1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd.
Garcia CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Generation and the Struggle for Civil Rights and Identity, 1930-1960, which appeared in 1989. Both books were published by Yale University Press.

Prof. Garcia brings with him to Santa Barbara a Guggenheim Fellowship, which was awarded for work on his current project, a study of The Chicano Generation in Los Angeles, 1965-1975.

"I think of this book as the last installment of a trilogy on Chicano history," Prof. Garcia says. "Each volume deals with the way a generation identified itself."

"First there were the immigrants at the turn of the century," he explains. "Their children, the generation of the 1930s through the 1950s, saw themselves as 'Mexican-Americans.'"

"The next big change occurred in the 1960s, with the emergence of what I call 'the political generation.' That generation is the subject of the third book."

Although the generation that came of political age in those years—the first to identify itself as "Chicanos"—felt alienated from what it saw as the political passivism of the earlier generation, Prof. Garcia sees many lines of continuity.

Like the earlier generation, he says, the Chicano generation seeks to maintain its ethnic identity without denying its American heritage.

"Committed to ethnic rebirth, the Chicano Generation... participated in the construction of new and alternative political, cultural, and intellectual strategies," he writes. "Hence out of the Chicano Movement came such efforts as Chicano Studies, La Raza Unida Party, and concern for the undocumented immigrant workers from Mexico, as well as the Chicano literary and artistic 'renaissance.'"

Prof. Garcia also brings with him to UCSB his spouse, Prof. Ellen McCracken, who has accepted a joint appointment in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Comparative Literature Program. She taught previously at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Interview with a Master Teacher

Ed note: to a generation of students, British history at UCSB has meant History 141AB with Alfred Gollin, a series of spellbinding lectures, all of which begin with his trademark phrase, "Let me go on with my story."

Prof. Gollin has long been recognized as one of the world's premier scholars of 20th century British political and military history. He was chosen not once but on three separate occasions to receive the cherished Guggenheim fellowship, and he is also the recipient of multiple awards from the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1986, the British Royal Society of Literature recognized his gift for combining impeccable scholarship with literary flair by electing him a Fellow—an honor it has extended to a handful of Americans.

In 1991, UCSB recognized Prof. Gollin's long-standing excellence in teaching by selecting him to receive the Academic Senate's Distinguished Teaching Award. Historia used the occasion to ask Prof. Gollin about his teaching and research interests.

Q. How about starting with the obvious question: to what do you attribute your success in winning the award?

I had some wonderful letters from colleagues in my support. But I was told the key to my selection was the written student evaluations of my courses. A lot of them say, "I love this professor" or "This is the best history class I've ever taken." I get a lot of those. But here's one I really like. All it says is, "He's real good."

Q. Why do you put so much time into your teaching?

The great love of my life here at UCSB is my undergraduate teaching. I consider it a responsibility and a high privilege to be allowed to contribute to the education of my youthful fellow Americans. I know I have thousands of friends out there in this state because of these courses.

Q. So what makes your classes so different?

Enthusiasm. Pure enthusiasm. I tell my students, "I'm dumb, but I'm enthusiastic."

Q. Doesn't it get in the way of your research?

I've never bought the argument that good teaching and serious research are mutually exclusive endeavors. In my experience, the exact opposite is the case. I have to stand up in front of hundreds of very bright young people every year. I wouldn't have the courage to do it if I didn't know my historical judgments were largely acceptable in the world outside. I tell my students with confidence—and it's a large claim—that after they take my courses they will be less uncivilized than when they came in.

CONTINUED ON P. 4
Master Teacher
CONTINUED FROM P.3

Q. Why do you say that?
The world has changed so much; we now have to compete technically, and students have to learn and understand those subjects. But unless they know history, there can be no appreciation of what those who went before us won for us. We have to know the dangers, and history can teach us that better than any other discipline.

Q. Are you saying it's more important to study history than to build computers?
It's not the same thing. Of course we have to have technocrats if we're going to compete. But technocrats are still citizens, and they have to know history or they won't know their obligations in a free society. That's the point of studying history.

Q. Do you think computers will ever teach history?
They've got to feel it. They've got to love it. Show me a computer that can make them do that.

Q. How do you do it?
I use each lecture to illustrate some larger aspect of life. The topic is British history, but the bigger topic is democracy. We're a democracy. I use British history to teach students that democracy is something you have to fight to keep.

Q. Your first book was in 1960.

Q. You wrote several more on basically political topics. But now you're writing about British air power, which is more like military history. Why the change?
My work on newspapers caught the attention of Beaverbrook, the great press lord. He sent me a cable after my first book, and eventually invited me to his country house.

Q. Beaverbrook was in charge of aircraft production in Britain in World War II. Is that what got you started on air power?
No. Actually, I got the idea when I was doing research for a life of Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister before the war. I kept seeing the words "air defense of Great Britain" in his papers, and I realized that they were terrified of Hitler's air force in the 1930s. I thought I could write a quick little book about it.

Q. A quick little book? What is it now — three volumes?
I'm finishing the third volume now.

Q. What happened?
I found these papers that showed how interested the British were in what the Wright brothers were doing. Long before anybody else. They were the first government to approach the Wrights about their invention. It made me realize what a revolution air power was for them.

Q. In what way?
For centuries, they had used the Royal Navy to protect their island. It was the key to their life. Now an American invention allowed something to go over the Navy. It changed the world for them. That's why I called it No Longer an Island.

Q. Why the other volumes?
The Wright book was so well received, I had to continue the story. I've got stuff no one has seen before.

Q. From the Public Record Office?
The Public Record Office, the Imperial War Museum, the Royal Archives. U.S. Naval Intelligence even declassified some documents so I could use them.

Q. Volume 2 went up to World War I, and volume 3 doesn't even finish World War I. How long are you going to keep writing on this?
Until I croak.

Q. Does that go for teaching, too?
My only complaint about the job is the fact they don't pay you enough. Otherwise, I love it. If it was just me and the students, I'd do it for free.

The Maria Era Opens!

AFTER A LONG AND DIFFICULT search, the History Department has found a replacement for longtime administrative assistant Helen Nordhoff, who retired in June after 33 years of running the Department office.

She is Maria Perez, who comes to History after serving in both the Art Studio and Geological Sciences departments.

"Replacement isn't quite the right word," History Chair Sears McGee said. "When Helen Nordhoff came here we were a Department of maybe five faculty. She really raised us — from infancy to maturity — and nobody can fill that role."

"But with Maria we can all feel sure that what Helen left will be in good hands."

"I know I have big shoes to fill," Maria said. "It's a wonderful Department, and everybody is being extremely helpful. You've all made me feel very welcome."

A Goleta native, Maria attended both San Marcos and Dos Pueblos high schools. She has been at UCSB since 1975.
Finding UCSB in London Town

By Bob Mueller

In April of this year I began a five-month research trip in Great Britain. Like many graduate students in my situation, I was rather anxious about moving to a foreign country where I knew no one, but I screwed up my courage and prepared myself for some inevitable bouts of loneliness. Imagine my surprise then when UCSB people kept popping up in London throughout my stay.

Graduate student Heather Tanner appeared first. Since January she had been combing the archives of London and northern France for documents pertinent to her dissertation on the 10th- to 12th-century counts of Boulogne. In May she resurfaced in London and kindly showed me the ropes at the Institute of Historical Research, a wonderful resource of which all historians who visit London should be aware.

The Institute is an immense reference library/seminar center/social club for historians located in the University of London. Its Common Room also serves the cheapest cup of coffee in town—no mean trick in one of the most expensive cities in the world.

Stephanie Christelowe, who received her Ph.D. in medieval history under the tutelage of Dr. Hollister and now teaches in Idaho, also turned up during the summer with her whole family. She was examining royal charters in the British Library and at Cambridge in preparation for a book she is writing.

Stephanie and her husband introduced me to a truly fine Indian restaurant off Russell Square which had the finest Irish coffee I had ever tasted.

In July I unexpectedly got a phone call from Kathleen Noonan, an old friend and UCSB colleague who is now an assistant professor at Mills College. She had received funding from Mills to do research for a book on Irish immigrants to London in the 17th century.

From Kathleen I received intensive instruction in the study of English pubs. The coffee in all of them was sub-standard, but the cider was a true marvel, and almost made up for the lack of caffeine.

During my tenure in London I stayed at London House, a residence hall which exclusively caters to graduate students and researchers. It is a tremendous bargain which ought to be considered by anyone doing research in the city.

I was joined there in August by Ken Mouré, assistant professor of European economic history from our department. Ken, who is currently on a fellowship at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study, was completing research for his next book on the Bank of France during the inter-war years.

In between his visits to the archives of the Bank of England and the Public Record Office the two of us embarked on a quest throughout London for the perfect cup of coffee. In this we suffered an almost complete defeat. The British seem primarily to imbibe an arcane beverage called "tea." However, a fairly decent cappuccino is served at Ponti's in Covent Garden, so the search was not a total loss.

UCSB historians distinguished themselves in London this year by their presence. My British friends mentioned to me that they had been impressed by the number of UCSB people who had been engaged in research over the summer. Great Britain is a wonderful place to do research, and I'm proud that our department has made a good name for itself with the scholars there.

But if you go for a visit, let me make a suggestion—bring your own French Roast and filters.

Bob Mueller is a PhD candidate in the History Department. When not looking for the perfect cup of coffee, he is writing a dissertation on Elizabethan government.
TIME TO RENEW!

If you have not yet sent in your membership renewal for 1992-93, or if you wish to join the UCSB History Associates for the first time, please fill out the form below and mail it with your check or money order (payable to UCSB History Associates) to: UCSB History Associates, Office of Community Relations, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

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❑ In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is a gift of $______________________ to the UCSB History Associates Scholarship Fund.

*All funds contributed above the “Active” membership will be used to support UCSB History Associates Scholarships.

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Bergstrom
CONTINUED FROM P. 5

innocent New Yorkers.
Yet throughout this—"the Nadir" of the nation's race relations, according to historian Rayford Logan—there were many who refused to accept the situation. A generation before the NAACP's courtroom campaign for civil rights, they sought recourse against racism in New York City's justice system.

And despite the racism, a legal system loaded with Democratic judges and all-white juries, and policy across the nation that accepted discrimination, those who sued won.

T. Thomas Fortune, for instance, born a slave and in 1890 the militant editor of The New York Age, won $825 in his suit against a posh midtown saloon that had denied him service and thrown him out the door.

Albert Miller, a Congregational Church minister from New Haven, had the same experience. The state court in Manhattan awarded him $500 against the steamship company that refused to give him better berths.

Why the apparent anomaly of success in court amid national legal decline and racism's increase? How often did it occur—that is, how often did victims of discrimination use the courts and how often did they prevail? In what sorts of patterns over time? And what, ultimately, were the effects of such suits?

By looking at the legal system in action, I hope to answer these questions and provide some historical insight into contemporary rights struggles.

What I have found so far is that litigation, though successful, apparently was not enough to vanquish discrimination from New York. All victims did not sue their discriminators. And losses in court did not prevent the same offenders from discriminating again.

Since the trends then were so similar to some we have today, finding that "missing link" might help us better understand what civil rights laws can—and cannot—accomplish.