Van Gelderen Starts New Grad Endowment

History Associates Board member JoBeth Van Gelderen has created a new permanent endowment to provide resources for graduate students who return to school after pursuing a career outside of academia.

Entitled the UCSB History Associates Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Fund, the new endowment eventually will replace the annual grant Ms. Van Gelderen has made for the past 18 years.

In announcing her decision at a Board meeting last summer, Ms. Van Gelderen presented History Associates President Barbara Lindemann with an initial check for $30,000.

She has pledged to add another $70,000 to the endowment over the next several years, to bring the total gift to $100,000.

The new endowment follows on the heels of another graduate endowment that Ms. Van Gelderen started last year with an initial gift of $10,000.

That fund will be used for general graduate student support. The new fund will be earmarked specifically for re-entry students—a group close to her heart.

Ms. Van Gelderen herself earned a PhD in History after a career as a housewife and businesswoman.

"I just figured it was time to put this on a permanent basis," Ms. Van Gelderen said.

She said she was particularly moved by a thank you note sent by this year’s winner, Warren Wood (Cohen), who wrote about how much her support meant for him and his family.

"We are extremely grateful to JoBeth," Lindemann said. "The $10,000 challenge that she makes every year has been key to our fundraising efforts, and these two endowments on top of that are a great vote of confidence from a wonderful lady."

History Chair Ken Mouré said the gift was especially welcome this year because the Office of the President has created a new program to match department fundraising efforts.

Associates Kick Off 20th Anniversary Year With Talk on Sputnik and the Space Age

This year is the 20th anniversary of the UCSB History Associates, and the group has planned a series of events featuring famous anniversaries to commemorate the landmark.

Starting things off will be a talk to mark the 50th anniversary of the Soviet satellite Sputnik, which was launched in October, 1957.


The event will be held at the Karpeles Manuscript Library, 21 W. Anapamu St., on Monday, Oct. 15, beginning with refreshments at 5 p.m.

The Library plans to put on special display a number of artifacts from their large collection of Space Age memorabilia.

Prof. McCray’s talk will focus on the worldwide network of amateur satellite spotters that grew up in the wake of Sputnik’s launch.

These dedicated astronomers became the basis for Operation Moonwatch, a program run by the Smithsonian for 20 years.

"Sputnik started the Space Age," Prof. McCray said. "But this was the height of the Cold War and there was widespread fear of a possible Soviet attack.

"The role of these 'citizen-scientists' is largely forgotten, but at the time they were crucial."

To celebrate their 20th anniversary, the History Associates are hosting the reception free of charge. To reserve a seat, phone the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.
Barbieri-Low Adds Strength In Ancient Chinese History

After being decimated by the departure of its two Chinese historians, Asian history came roaring back this year with the appointment of Prof. Anthony Barbieri-Low to teach the history of ancient China.

An archaeologist as well as a historian, Prof. Barbieri-Low received his PhD from Princeton in 2001 and has previously taught in the History department at the University of Pittsburgh.

Shortly after being appointed, Prof. Barbieri-Low learned that he had been awarded a major Collaborative Projects grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Under the terms of the two-year grant, Prof. Barbieri-Low will team with Prof. R.D.S. Yates of McGill University to prepare for publication recently discovered texts date from the Qin and Han empires (late 3rd-early 2nd centuries B.C.).

The project will lead to a book on Law, State, and Society in Early China.

“These are highly detailed documents,” Prof. Barbieri-Low said recently. “They show how Han rulers adopted and adapted Qin legal, bureaucratic, social and economic precedents, and used the law to dominate and exploit local populations.”

This process was crucial to forging a common “Chinese” identity, he said.

Archaeology in China has been turning up vast amounts of detailed records from the earliest periods of Qin history, he said.

A single well yielded some 36,000 records dating to about 200 B.C., and others hold many more (apparently, the first thing peasants did during a revolt was throw all official records down the deepest well they could find).

“It will take decades for all of these to be published,” Prof. Barbieri-Low said.

As one of the leaders in this new scholarship, Prof. Barbieri-Low has been working to reconstruct a picture of life at the lower levels of Chinese civilization.

His book on Artisans in Early Imperial China will be published later this year by the University of Washington Press.

“We are delighted to have Tony join our department,” said History Chair Ken Mouré. “His combined expertise in Chinese history, archaeology, law and labor history make him an outstanding fit with the interests and expertise of faculty in other fields.”

Prof. Barbieri-Low’s appointment also opens up avenues for collaborative work with the department’s ancient Mediterranean historians, since his interests also run to early Chinese contacts with the West.

Prof. Mouré noted that Prof. Barbieri-Low will be a great asset in this year's search for a historian of modern China.

The two vacancies occurred when Profs. Josh Fogel and Joan Judge moved to York University in Toronto.

Soto Laveaga Wins Prize For Best Science Article

Prof. Gabriela Soto Laveaga won the prize for Best Article in Health, Science, and Society at the 2007 Latin American Studies Association meetings in Montreal last month.


Friends and colleagues mourned the passing of emeritus Prof. Morton Borden, who died on June 21 at the age of 81.

Born Nov. 23, 1925, Prof. Borden joined the UCSB History department in 1965, bringing with him an established reputation as a premier scholar of Jeffersonian America.

He was author of more than a dozen books, including Parties and Politics in the Early Republic, 1789-1815 (1967) and the massive Political Parties in American History (1974), a massive three-volume work on which he served as general editor.

Late in his career, Prof. Borden’s interests shifted to questions of Church and State in American history.

His last book, Jews, Turks, and Infidels (1984) was prescient in its attention to ambiguities in U.S. laws and the thinking of the Founding Fathers.

"Mort was a superb teacher, always engaging and challenging, frequently irreverent and funny," acting History Chair Sears McGee said.

He is survived by his widow, Penn, and three daughters.
From The Chair

When “stuff happens,” it does so in ways and for reasons that can be understood and explained.

In the interest of helping students understand the world we live in and major issues in public discussion, the Department of History will begin offering a new course this Fall to which many of our faculty are contributing their expertise. The course, which I had described in its planning stages in a previous column, is History 5, “The History of the Present.” Its purpose is to provide students with historical context and a global perspective on current issues, as well as to teach skills in how to inform themselves on issues of interest to them.

Prof. Alice O’Connor is offering the course this Fall, serving as instructor and as coordinator for the faculty who will participate in the class by giving guest lectures.

She has organized the course to cover three themes: the relationship between war and democracy (the domestic impact of war waged by democracies and the use of war to spread democracy), faith and modernity (the place of religious belief in modern states and conflict between scientific and religious beliefs), and whether in the United States we are living in a new “Gilded Age.”

Participating faculty will contribute expertise in the history of religion, state formation, science, the Middle East, Europe, and U.S. political, social and intellectual history.

The class has generated great interest and enthusiasm on the part of students and faculty. The course filled rapidly during students’ first pass at registration last May.

So many faculty have expressed interest and suggested topics that Prof. O’Connor’s great difficulty, after deciding the themes for the course this Fall, has been in selecting topics without needing to add extra weeks to the quarter.

It will be an exciting class, and I will report back to you on its “history” in Winter quarter.

Ken Mouré
Chair
Grad Students Snare Teaching Awards from Dean, GSA

History grad students continued to show their teaching strength with new awards announced at the end of Spring quarter.

Joe Campo (Marcuse), who along with Ingrid Page (Spickard) won the Academic Senate’s Outstanding TA award earlier in the year, was selected to receive the Dean’s Prize Teaching Fellowship for 2007-2008.

“The selection committee was very impressed by his course proposal, ’The Second World War 1937 to 1945: A Global Perspective,’ and his record as an excellent teacher,” said Kim Coonen, executive assistant to Dean David Marshall.

Joe is the third History grad to win this highly competitive prize, which was only created four years ago, with a gift to the Division of Humanities from Steven and Barbara Mendell.

Its aim is to “reward excellence in teaching and to encourage curricular design and pedagogical practices that integrate scholarly research into undergraduate teaching,” according to the College.

The 2004-05 prize went to Maeve Devoy (Kalman), and Eric Boyle (Osborne) won it in 2006-07.

The good news did not stop there.

Andrea Thabet (Jacobson) won the Graduate Student Association’s Outstanding Teaching Assistant in the Humanities and Fine Arts award for 2006-2007 and Ellie Shermer (Lichtenstein) shared the GSA’s award for Best Teaching Associate in 2006-2007.

Teaching Associates differ from TAs in that they are put in charge of their own courses.

“Of course, History TAs are all, like Lake Wobegon’s kids, well ‘above average,’ but these are two of our very best,” said Prof. Ann Plane, who has worked with both students.

History PhDs Osgood, Sutton Win Outstanding Book Prizes

Two History PhDs have received best book prizes for the published versions of their dissertations.

Ken Osgood (PhD 2001, Logevall) won the 2006 Herbert Hoover Book Award for the best scholarly work on any aspect of American history between 1914 and 1964 (the years of Hoover’s public life) for Total Cold War: Eisenhower’s Secret Propaganda Battle at Home and Abroad.

The award is sponsored by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association in West Branch, Iowa.


Osgood’s book tells the story of a secret psychological warfare programs launched in the 1950s and aimed at presenting everyday life in the U.S. as a classless society where all shared in economic wealth.

Sutton’s book argues that the controversial evangelist set the stage for the political role played in American politics by evangelical Christianity. He was featured in an “American Experience” segment on PBS last Spring that focused on “Sister Aimee.”

Both Osgood and Sutton won the Academic Senate’s Outstanding Teaching Assis-tant award while in the graduate program. Osgood won in 1999, and Sutton in 2005.

Osgood is currently assistant professor of History at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, where he has also won teaching awards.

In 2006-07 he held the Mary Ball Washington Chair in American history at University College, Dublin.

Sutton is currently assistant professor of History at Oakland University in Rochester, NY.

History Grads Take Lead in Job Market

With the 2007-08 job market just starting up, UCSB History grads have already landed some plum positions.

Maeve Devoy (Kalman) has been appointed acting associate director of the Institute for Constitutional Studies at George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C.

Tanya Stabler (Farmer) accepted a tenure-track position in medieval European history at Purdue University, Calumet.

She has just completed a dissertation entitled Now She is Mary, Now She is Martha: the Beguines of Paris in Medieval Society and Clerical Imagination.

Nazir Atassi (Humphreys) has accepted a tenure-track position in the History department of Louisiana Tech University, Ruston.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

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
The Many Faces of Catherine Salzgeber

BY HAL DRAKE

Above are two of the many faces of Catherine Salzgeber, who retired last month as History’s personnel secretary.

On the left is the face with which she greeted outsiders—service people, itinerant peddlers, visiting professors, the odd dean or two, and new students completely bewildered by the intricacies of HSSB.

That’s the warm, maternal, invariably friendly Catherine who can put the most timid freshmen at their ease.

On the right is the face we faculty know: personal, mildly skeptical, and deeply engaged in whatever she is doing.

There is another face that we also know all too well, the “If-you-don’t-get-that-in-here-in-five-minutes-I-will-hunt-you-down-and-kill-you” face that Catherine only puts on after weeks of nagging messages have gone unheeded.

It was a little too scary to put in a family newsletter.

All of these Catherines have been such a fixture around the department for 20 years that it’s hard to imagine what things are going to be like without her.

As department chair Ken Mouré said at Catherine’s retirement party, “She always had interesting news, on everything from the latest UC policy to the Tour de France.”

The party itself was something special. Knowing Catherine’s love for tea, personnel secretary Loretta Arrellanes transformed our sterile conference room into a cozy tea parlor, replete with chintz tablecloths and English tea service.

Catherine loves more than tea. In her spare moments, she designs and makes intricately beautiful necklaces and earrings.

But her real passion has always been history. Any kind of history, but especially family and California history. She is a tireless researcher.

That’s what can’t be replaced. Mornings without Catherine’s joy at discovering something about her whaling grandfather or a new piece of folklore just aren’t going to be the same.

Two retirements have led to the loss of some old friends and the arrival of some new faces in the History department office.

Carolyn Isono Grapard retired last Spring after serving 10 years as Admissions Secretary for the graduate program and Program assistant for Public History.

Then last month Personnel secretary Catherine Salzgeber retired almost 20 years to the day from when she first came to the department.

Deborah Johnson has taken over Carolyn’s tasks, and Killarney Suniga is stepping in for Catherine.

“Deborah has worked many years on campus in the Registrar’s Office, French and Italian, Philosophy and now we’re happy she’s a member of the History staff,” said History MSO Maria Perez.

Killarney, who previously worked in Chemical Engineering and Extension, faces the daunting task of preparing faculty cases for promotion and merit increases, and keeping curricula vitae up to date.

“They both have some very large shoes to fill,” Perez observed. “But so far they have taken everything in stride.”

With her usual careful planning, Carolyn has seen to it that she won’t lose contact with her many friends in the department.

She and spouse Alan Grapard, an emeritus professor of Asian Studies, are building their dream home in Hilo, Hawai‘i, and she has invited friends to come visit.

“We all need to be sure and make our vacation reservations well in advance,” Perez joked.

Carolyn Isono-Grapard

Deborah Johnson

Killarney Suniga

Historia photos by Mike Tucker

Historia photos by Jimmy Grablev
The Last Word

Oh, That JoBeth!

As you have already read elsewhere in this newsletter, JoBeth Van Gelderen has done it again. Last year, she decided the History Associates needed an endowed fund for grad student support, so she started one with a $10,000 donation. We really did need it. Every year, the Associates give away every penny that they raise (about $50,000 these days). It’s a hard task to fail when the need is so great, but it means we have to start off every year with our coffers empty. JoBeth rightly thought it was time to start putting aside funds for a permanent award.

I was so inspired by her generosity that I blew the cobwebs off my own coin purse (at the insistence of my wife, Kathy, who is far more generous than I am) and started my Poor Boy Challenge with an offer to match the first $1,000 in contributions to the new fund every year for the next five years.

Bob Collins immediately responded with a $1,000 gift of his own. Now, everyone knows Bob is generous to a fault. But I suspect he also wanted to make sure I paid every penny that I promised.

Well, soon the estate of one of our alumni kicked in $20,000, which thrilled JoBeth so much that she matched it with another $10,000 of her own. There were many other donations from all of you, and I am happy to report that, in its first year of existence, the new graduate endowment already has well over $50,000 in its kitty.

Now JoBeth tops that with a $30,000 gift that will permanently endow the fellowship she started (on Greg DeRoulhac’s inspired nudging) for returning students—and a pledge of $70,000 more to the endowment over the next few years.

I enjoy ribbing JoBeth. When she presented her initial $30,000 check at the annual planning meeting of the History Associates Board last summer, I referred to her as a “pushover.”

Anybody who really thinks JoBeth is a pushover is destined to a lifetime of disappointment. This is one tough lady. She is a shrewd investor, and she doesn’t let sentiment or favor get in the way of a business decision. Which makes her decision to invest in the future of the UCSB History Department all the sweeter.

Hal Drake