It's Peter, Paul and Mary!

Even for a department used to garnering teaching awards it came as something of a surprise when three History faculty were announced as recipients of this year's Academic Senate Outstanding Teaching prizes.

The awards went to Profs. Peter Alagona, Paul Spickard and Mary Furner.

Colleagues immediately dubbed the trio "Peter, Paul and Mary" as soon as Prof. Erika Rappaport noticed the connection to the iconic Sixties folk group.

The Senate recognized "Peter" for his "interactive, student/professor collaborators-in-learning approach."

Prof. Alagona, who came to UCSB in 2008, "is a superb instructor, mentor and scholar," the award read. "He delivers exquisite classroom experiences to his students while maintaining a very active research program and while rising to be a campus leader in the environmental arena."

"Paul" won praise as an "amazing and engaging lecturer" whose students describe him as a teacher who "challenges us to think for ourselves" and "perhaps the most altruistic professor I have ever encountered."

"Mary" (who everybody knows was the brains behind the singing group) received the Senate’s Outstanding Graduate Mentor award for her "dedication, generosity, and astute intellectual capabilities."

The Senate statement pointed out that her students praised her as a model of high standards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Fracking Resources

The next History Associates event is that that could have been "ripped from the headlines."

With the environmental consequences of the fractured hydrolic ("fracking") method of gas and oil extraction under increasing scrutiny, History Prof. James Brooks will discuss an ongoing effort by residents of the Cebolla Mesa area in New Mexico to challenge Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to open the sensitive Rio Chama Basin for "mineral leasing with moderate constraints."

An award-winning scholar of the Indigenous and Colonial past, Prof. Brooks was serving as President of the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe when the BLM announced its plans in 2012.

He became involved in discussions with more than 100 residents concerned about effects on groundwater, grazing and cultural resources.

Prof. Brooks, who returned to UCSB this year, authored a study entitled Vital Threats: Community-Based Resistance to Fracking in the Chama River Basin that will be the basis for his talk, which is being co-sponsored by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

Prof. Brooks' lecture will be given on Thursday, May 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the Presidio Chapel on 123 E. Canon Perdido St. and followed by a wine-and-cheese reception.

Admission is free for History Associates members and their guests. There is a $5 price for non-members.

Even though the event is free, reservations are strongly advised. The may be made by phoning (805) 893-4588.
Cecilia Méndez Wins Peruvian Best Book Prize

Prof. Cecilia Méndez-Gastelumendi’s book on La República Plebeya: Huanta y la formación del Estado Peruano, 1820-1850 has been selected as the best book on Peruvian history published in 2014 in a survey of 35 international and Peruvian historians. More than 100 books published by academic presses in Peru, Spain, Britain and the U.S. An English version of Prof. Méndez’s book, published as The Plebeian Republic, has been selected as the best book on indigenous history in Latin America. Her book is the first in-depth analysis of the 1825 uprising against the new Peruvian republic.

Postings

Isaiah Walker Gets Prize for Book

Isaiah Walker (PhD Spickard 2006) has been awarded the Baldridge Prize for the best book in any field of history written by a resident of Hawai‘i. Isaiah’s book, Waves of Resistance: Surfing and History in Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i appeared in 2011. He is now professor and chair of the History department at BYU - Hawai‘i.

Jobs

Ryan Abrecht (PhD DePalma Digeser 2014) has accepted a tenure track position in Ancient History at the University of San Diego.

Scarlett Aldebot-Green (PhD Soto Laveaga 2014) has accepted a permanent position as a senior legislative analyst for the Metropolitan King County Council in Seattle, WA.

Nicole Archambau (PhD Farmer 2009) has accepted a tenure-track position at Colorado State University.

Moonsil Lee Kim (PhD Barbieri-Low 2014) has been appointed a tenure-track assistant professor in Asian history at Rhode Island College in Providence.

Andrew Magnusson (PhD Humphreys 2014) has accepted a tenure-track position in the History department of the University of Central Oklahoma.

Rachel Winslow (PhD Rappaport 2012) has accepted a tenure-track position in History at Westmont College, where she will also be director of their new Center for Social Entrepreneurship.

Fellowships

Brian Griffith (Fogu) has been awarded one of three Council for European Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowships for 2015-16 for archival research for his dissertation on the politics of consumption in Fascist Italy.

Faculty Research Awards Challenge Standard Ideas

Three History faculty have received major research awards for projects that will challenge standard thinking in their fields.

Prof. Terence Keel and Kate McDonald received U.C. President’s Faculty Research in the Humanities fellowships, and Prof. Gabriela Soto Laveaga received a fellowship from Germany’s Gerda Henkel Foundation.

Prof. Soto Laveaga’s project, “Scientific Agriculture and Knowledge Exchange In the Global South: Mexican Wheat Seeds in India, 1961-1991,” will re-examine a Rockefeller Foundation-sponsored agricultural program that came to be known as “the Green Revolution.”

She will spend time in New Delhi, Mexico and the Max Planck Institute in Berlin.

Prof. McDonald’s project, “Placing Empire: Travel and the Social Imagination in Imperial Japan,” challenges the idea that railways and telegraphs threatened the survival of local cultures.

Focusing on the history of travel and tourism in the Japanese empire, Prof. McDonald argues that Japanese settlers used local cultures “to promote a vision of Japan as a multicultural territory.”


His book challenges seminal works that portray the transformation of Western natural philosophy into “a distinctly modern secular activity.”

His aim is to show how Christian theology has continued to influence the question of human origins from the Enlightenment to contemporary genetic science.

McGee Pens Book On Puritan Baron

Prof. Sears McGee’s study of Sir Simonds D’Ewes (1602-1650), one of the primary sources of information about the English Civil War of the 17th century, has been published by Stanford University Press.

Entitled An Industrious Mind, Prof. McGee’s book is the first biography of D’Ewes to appear in print.

As members of the History Associates will recall from the talk Prof. McGee gave last Fall, his study is based on some 70 unpublished volumes of D’Ewes’ writings, including more than 1400 letters, that now are housed in the British Library.
ANCIENT HISTORIANS

UCSB to Host Ancient Historians

The UCSB History and Classics Departments will jointly host the 40th annual meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians (AAH), the premier professional organization of ancient historians in the U.S. and Canada, on May 7-9.

About 125 scholars and graduate students from North America and Europe will attend.

Prof. Robin Osborne of Cambridge University and Fellow of King's College will deliver the conference closing lecture on May 9 at 5 p.m. in the Corwin Pavilion. His topic will be "Re-reading the Revolution in ancient Greek history."

Prof. Osborne's lecture is also the 2015 Argyropoulos Hellenic Studies Endowed Lecture and is free and open to the public.

Attendance at all other conference sessions will be restricted to registered participants.

Paper sessions include: Greek & Roman Historiography; Empires, Identities, and Interactions; Roman Urban Cultures; Alexander the Great and his Successors; Writing in the Ancient World; Political Science and Ancient History: Formal Models and Quantification; and Religious Conflict and Violence.

UCSB will be the first UC campus to sponsor a complete meeting of the AAH.

Scholars and former students from across the country will descend on campus this weekend to celebrate the career of Prof. Pat Cohen with a conference devoted to themes and topics that she pioneered.

Titled "Women, Gender, Sex: Social and Cultural Histories of the Long Nineteenth Century," the three-day conference will open Friday with a keynote panel on the past, present and future of Women's/ Feminist Studies.

Two panels dealt with Prof. Cohen's detective-like study of the infamous prostitute Helen Jewett, whose murder created a sensation in New York of the 1830s.

In one panel, scholars will discuss the impact of the Jewett trial in venues as far away as Gold Rush San Francisco and the way Prof. Cohen's book on the subject enlivens women's history courses.

The other will be devoted to "the flash press," an early form of sensationalist journalism that Prof. Cohen encountered while writing the Jewett book.

A full program is available on the History dept. website.

During her career at UCSB, Prof. Cohen hooded 15 PhDs and mentored as many others. These now hold faculty positions at UC Berkeley, Loyola Marymount, Indiana, Georgia State, and Sam Houston State, among others.

Cohen, Farmer Students Land New Positions

As if to underscore the reach of Profs. Cohen and Farmer, each had a student accept a top position for next year.

April Hayes (PhD Cohen 2009) will move from the University of Oregon to the University of Wisconsin, where she will fill the position in North American Gender and Women's history that was inaugurated by the pioneering historian Gerda Lerner.

Abigail Dowling (PhD Farmer 2014) has accepted a tenure-track position at Mercer University in Georgia, a highly sought-after position.

Abby has been teaching this year at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, where another Farmer student, Jessica Elliott (also a 2014 PhD) has been teaching.

Farmer Elected Fellow Of Medieval Academy

Prof. Sharon Farmer was one of nine scholars elected this year to the Medieval Academy of America, the largest organization for medieval studies in the United States, with about 2,600 members (not counting students). It is publisher of the flagship journal *Speculum*.

Fellows of the Academy are elected by the membership upon nomination by at least three members of the Academy or a nominating committee. No more than 125 scholars may be Fellows at any given time.

Prof. Farmer is the first UCSB historian to be elected since Prof. Jeffrey Burton Russell in 1985. Warren Hollister had been elected in 1981.

Also one of this years Fellows is Prof. Robin Fleming of Boston College, a MacArthur Fellow who wrote her dissertation here in 1984.


She is also editor or co-editor of *Embodied Love: Sensuality and Relationship in Feminist Values* (1987); *Monks & Nuns, Saints & Outcasts: Essays in Honor of Lester K. Little* (2000), and *Gender and Difference in the Middle Ages* (2005).

Prof. Farmer has been awarded fellowships by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Guggenheim Foundation and the Institut d’études avancées in Paris. She has also been a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

During her career at UCSB, Prof. Farmer has hooded a dozen PhDs. Her students hold faculty positions at De Paul University, Cleveland State, UC Irvine, Trent University, Purdue, Southern Illinois, Emporia State and Grand Valley State University.

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Islam Analyzes Political Change

BY ERIC MASSIE

This year’s 4th Annual Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, titled “(Un)Civil Societies: Past and Present,” addressed recent political developments in the Middle East and wider Islamic World.

Presenters were asked to discuss historical and contemporary manifestations of civil society within Muslim contexts. The conference was held on April 4-5.

Twelve graduate students presented papers covering a number of themes related to civil society and social and political unrest.

Topics included papers on gender and political participation, the role of urban spaces in periods of political turmoil, Medieval religio-civil discourses and the changing role of the media in promoting civil discourse.

Other papers discussed the utility and shortcomings of using “civil society” as a framework with which to approach historical and contemporary Muslim societies.

Participants and commentators included Drs. Janet Afary (Religious Studies), Paul Amar (Global Studies), Stephen Humphreys (History), Adam Sabra (History), and Kathleen Moore (Religious Studies).

Gilbert Achcar from the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) delivered a keynote address focusing on the importance of labor unions as an often overlooked but critical component of the protest movements of the Arab Spring.

He reminded those present that labor unions are a critical component of any healthy civil society.

The 4th Annual Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference was sponsored by the Center for Middle East Studies, the College of Letters and Science, the Graduate Division, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Academic Policy, the Department of History, the Department of Religious Studies, the Hani Sadek Endowment and the Mellichamp Chair in Global Religion.

Continued from p. 2

PROMOTIONS, PUBLICATIONS

JASON DORMADY (PhD Cline 2007) has been promoted to associate professor with tenure at Central Washington University.

MARK HENDRICKSON (PhD Furner 2004) has been promoted to associate professor with tenure at UC San Diego.

Mark’s book on American Labor and Economic Citizenship: New Capitalism from World War I to the Great Depression was published by Cambridge in 2015.

PAUL HIRSCH (PhD Yaqub 2013) has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.


History Alum Pushes for Peace Prize

HISTORY ALUM Bill Watkins (BA 1994) has found a new way to use what he learned from his study of Latin American history.

After years as an investment banker and high school coach, Bill is trying to promote awareness of the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact that was meant to end the use of war “as an instrument of national policy.”

Bill submitted his ideas, which include dedicating Aug. 27 every year as a Peace Reflection Day, to the 2015 Peace Essay sponsored by the West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition in Chicago.

He recalls how Prof. David Rock “razzed me for selling out to the capitalist path” when he went into banking.

“Twenty-one years later, I appreciate his words,” Bill writes.

Bill has also written and starred in a play entitled “Love Without Alcohol” aimed at warning young people about underage drinking.

Postings

Continued from p. 2

“Furner’s service to the department and university is legendary and has helped normalize the idea that such work can be an opportunity, not simply a chore,” the award noted.

Historians have regularly received Senate teaching awards, the most recent being Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa in 2013-14, who also received the Faculty Research Lecturer Award for 2009-10.

Prof. Furner is the fourth historian to receive the Graduate Mentor Award since it was created in 2005-06.

Teaching

Continued from p. 1

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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
Where Your Fundraising Money Goes

What One Recipient Did With Our Support

BY TRAVIS SEIFMAN

In the summer of 2013, History Associates generously provided me with an award which helped fund my travel to Japan for about six weeks that summer.

I spent three weeks at an intensive summer course at the Inter-University Center (IUC) in Yokohama, studying kanbun—a method of reading classical Chinese documents as, or into, Japanese.

As most of the primary source documents for my research are written in this form, such training is invaluable.

The IUC is easily among the best intensive Japanese language programs in the world; I attended their 10-month program in modern Japanese in 2007-08, without which my language abilities would be nowhere near what they are today.

Following the IUC program, I spent the following three weeks (in August 2013) at the National Museum of Japanese History (Rekihaku) in Sakura City, Chiba, which had generously invited me to be a visiting researcher there for that brief period.

They provided me with a room in the visiting researchers’ dorm, a desk in the museum offices and access to their library, professors and research resources.

In addition to their extensive museum collections, and the expertise of the professorial or curatorial staff, Rekihaku’s library maintains one of the most comprehensive collections anywhere of museum exhibit catalogs published in Japan.

As my project draws heavily on local histories of ports and post-towns along the travel route of diplomatic missions from the Ryukyu Kingdom (today, Okinawa prefecture), access to these catalogs, many of them from tiny local history museums and historic houses, was a wonderful privilege.

Moving on to this past summer, in 2014, I received a generous award from the History Associates again, for which I am very grateful.

I traveled to Japan again, for the first time on my own, outside of any formal program, to do some further preliminary archival visits, and to present about my research at the East-West Center’s International Conference in Okinawa.

I spent two weeks in Tokyo, during which time I visited the National Archives and the University of Tokyo’s Historiographical Institute, one of the top historical research centers and archives in the country, as well as visiting for the first time the former site of the shogun’s castle, adjacent to which the Imperial Palace sits today.

Though the former site of the shogunal residences, audience halls, and administrative buildings are all just empty areas of grass in a public park today, still I found it quite useful to visit the site and get a sense of the size and of the space.

I am working on a first draft right now of a dissertation chapter which will examine Ryukyuan ambassadors’ audiences with the shogun; having visited the site, empty though it may be, I am now better able to visualize the paths taken by the Ryukyuans through the castle grounds, the relative locations of the audience halls, and so forth.

I then also spent a week in Kagoshima, a city in the far south of Japan which was formerly the seat of the third wealthiest samurai family in the realm, the Shimazu, who also claimed suzerainty over Ryukyu.

This is also the major city of the region where I believe Prof. McGee’s son lived and taught English for some time, some years ago.

This was my first time to Kagoshima, and though I was unable to get into the archives at that time, their local history museums and historical houses showed very different perspectives from the standard (Tokyo-centric) national narratives, and were quite thought-provoking for my project.

Being in Kagoshima also provided me with an opportunity to pick up many books of local Kagoshima history less easily available elsewhere in the country.

Walking around the city I was able to get a good sense of the layout and distances involved, in terms of the location of the castle relative to the sea, and to the hall where Ryukyuan ambassadors were lodged.

Finally, I went to Okinawa for a week.

Much of this time was occupied by the conference, but I also got to visit several museums and archives there, and made some great contacts with professors and others in Okinawa Studies circles.

I was also able to reconnect with many members of my networks from my time at the University of Hawaii and East-West Center (where I did my MA before coming to UCSB).

I will be attending another course in classical grammar and paleography this coming summer, at the University of Cambridge, in order to gain much-needed further training and practice in reading such documents.

I am now in the process of preparing for comprehensive exams, with the plan of advancing to candidacy by the end of Spring quarter.

The experiences, books, documents and networking contacts I have obtained these past two summers in Japan are only a start towards my dissertation project, but they are already proving invaluable towards the drafts I have begun to work on here in my research seminars and so forth.

I intend hopefully to go back for a full year at least of archival fieldwork — I cannot thank the History Associates enough.
back in the days when the telegraph was the fastest medium of communication, wire service operators developed a list of codes for commonly used phrases as a way of saving time and money. For instance, 27 meant “priority, very important”; 14, “what is the weather?” 88s meant “love and kisses,” and (a good one for Washington these days) 18 meant “what’s the trouble?”

30 stood for “no more, the end.” As anyone who has ever taken a beginning journalism class already knows, it is still used by journalists today to indicate the end of a story.

This particular story has had a very long run. It began 28 years ago, not exactly in the proverbial 40-kilowatt radio station in Peoria, but close to it. As with so many things to do with the History Associates, it was due to the constant pressure of the late Dick Cook. I was chairing the department, and it seems like every day I had a call from him. "Where's the newsletter? We've gotta have a newsletter!"

I wasn't the only one who got his arm twisted. The great Hollywood columnist Joe Finnegan, who had worked for Dick at TV Guide, got talked into writing stories about History Associates events for us. That was another piece of the Cook magic: I first met Joe when he ruled the roost at the UPI office in LA and I was a rookie reporter (before I decided to go to work for a living).

The first issue appeared in March, 1988. It looks awfully plain now, but I remember being inordinately proud of it at the time. I had a similar (and more deserved) burst of pride when going digital allowed us to start using color in Fall 2000. (You can see these, and all other back copies, on the Associates' web page: http://www.history.ucsb.edu/courses/tcourse.php?course_id=772.)

A few other favorite memories. When Jack Talbott got some big grants for his "Mind Wounds" project, I asked for more information. "I suppose you're going to run this back with the truss and corset ads," he responded. I trudged over to the library, found an old Sears catalogue and copied corset and truss ads to run with his story (May 1994).

Then there was the department baseball and hot dogs picnic that I headlined "Department Goes from Bat to Wurst." Oddly, nobody else liked that one. And the long-running "Where in the World Is Paul Sonnino?" contests, with prizes for identifying where the department's favorite misanthrope was that year. The best-ever answer: "Wherever it is, it's not far enough!" (January, 1999.)

But I think everybody's favorite issue has got to be November, 2010, when Excel-boy John Majewski crunched numbers from the National Research Council's survey of PhD programs and discovered our department ranked in the Top Ten nationally.

While gratifying, it was no surprise to anyone who has been following the steady growth in quality and prestige of our faculty and students that we've been able to chronicle in this newsletter. There may be another department on campus capable of filling a six-page newsletter with hit stories and features twice a quarter for almost 30 years, but there aren't many.

It's been a good run. But this issue shows that the story is far from over. As Paul Spickard likes to say, "The hits keep coming!" So stay tuned for the new incarnation of Historía next Fall.

Hal Drake, editor

P.S.: About that accent mark: it's historia in Spanish but historia in Greek, where the original meaning was "to investigate" or "conduct research." It was a temporary marker until somebody came up with a better title. My own, "The Loose Cannon," was roundly rejected.