Chinatown Beckons To History Associates

The UCSB History Associates will conclude this year’s season of events with a special program on Thursday, June 13 evoking the history of Santa Barbara’s once vibrant Chinatown.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a brief walking tour of the "New Chinatown" that grew up on E. Canon Perdido St. after the 1925 earthquake.

Led by Dr. Anne Peterson, associate director for historical resources at the Santa Barbara Trust for Historical Preservation, the tour will begin at the Chapel of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, on the corner of Canon Perdido and Santa Barbara Streets.

The tour will conclude at the bar of the former Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, which was purchased by the Trust in 2007 and is now being restored.

A popular watering hole for 60 years, Jimmy’s was closed in 2006 when the last member of the Chung family retired.

The group will then return to the chapel for a lecture by UCSB Prof. Xiaojian Zhao, a specialist on Asian American history and author of the critically acclaimed *Remaking Chinese America: Immigration, Family, and Community, 1940-1965*, a critical but little-studied period in the immigration story.

The evening will conclude with coffee and cookies in the Chapel courtyard.

Reservations, at $5 for members and $10 for non-members, may be made by phoning the Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4588.

Honors for Cline, Spickard

Two UCSB historians received special awards this month.

Prof. Sarah Cline received the first Sarah Cline Lifetime Achievement Award, created by the Latin American and Iberian Studies Program. Prof. Cline was the first director of LAIS after it was established in the late 1980s, and served a second time from 2003-2006.

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Nicole Pacino Carries on History Tradition With Senate TA Award

Nicole Pacino (Soto Laveaga) brought the UCSB Senate’s Outstanding Teaching Assistant award back to the History department this month.

Announcing the award for Best TA in the Humanities, the Senate Prize Committee called attention to Nicole’s ability to bring new insights to material and "ask profound questions" in her discussion sections.

The committee quoted one student who wrote that Nicole’s sections "generated meaningful discussions over difficult and often controversial topics without losing control of the classroom," adding that "Our section learned how to analyze history in a way that enabled us to think critically about current events.

"This skill has had a lasting impact on my understanding of both history and the world."

When not teaching, Nicole is working on a doctoral dissertation that examines the overlap between politics and public health in Bolivia subsequent to the national revolution of 1952.

"Few scholars have examined the cultural politics embedded in these larger political and economic processes," she writes.

"My research shows that public health was the foundation for the revolutionary government’s plan for political, economic, and cultural consolidation."

History grad students have long-dominated these awards.

Nicole Pacino.

Abrecht, Quezada Share Cook Award for Service

Grad student Ryan Abrecht (DePalma Digeser) and graduating senior Ricardo Quezada were named to receive the History Associates’ Dick Cook Memorial Award.

Named in honor of their founding president, the Cook Award recognizes outstanding students who make the extra effort to contribute to the department and the needs of their fellow students.

Ryan was cited for his service as program coordinator for both Ancient Mediterranean Studies and the California Consortium in Late Antiquity, and Ricardo for serving as a tutor and mentor at local schools.

Ernst Chosen for Dineen-Wimberly Award

Brian Ernst (Marcuse) was selected to receive the second annual Ingrid Dineen-Wimberly award, established to support grad students who are raising families.

Ingrid established the award in gratitude for the help she received as a single parent while working on her own 2009 PhD, which she wrote for Prof. Paul Spickard.

Buchanan Award

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History, Jacob cited the way Adolph Hitler used a perverted interpretation of German history to appeal to nationalist sentiment.

He also pointed to the rise of ultra-nationalism movements in Greece and France as evidence of a similar danger today.

The Buchanan Award was created by the UCSB Alumni Association in 1974 to honor Prof. A. Russell Buchanan, who taught diplomatic history here from 1936 to 1973. He also served as the first dean of the College of Letters and Science and as Academic Vice Chancellor.

Recipients are selected on the basis of superior scholarship and potential for continued success in the field.

Jacob plans to enter law school in the Fall.
Eight Students Pick Up Prizes for Best Seminar Papers

Eight students received "best paper" prizes at the History Awards ceremony.

Four of this year's paper awards went to undergraduates.

The Stuart L. Bernath Prize for the best undergraduate paper in a one-quarter seminar went to Jacob Owens for "The Conscience of a Communist: Imre Nagy's Revolutionary Policy of 1956," which he wrote for Prof. Hasegawa.

Jacob also received this year's Buchanan Award (see p. 1).

The History Associates Board Prize for best paper produced in this year's Senior Honors Seminar went to Elaine MacPherson for "Relief Without a Roof: The Emergence of a Policy Discussion on American Homelessness, 1980-1996," which she wrote for Prof. O'Connor.


J.P. Chamness was awarded the Nicholas and Lena Dumas Essay Award for best paper on Greek history or culture for "The Constitution of the Athenians as a Political Treatise," which he wrote for Prof. Lee.

Graduate students received the other four prizes.


The Lawrence Badash Prize for best paper in the history of science, technology or medicine went to Henry Maar for "Three Megatons of 'Peace': the Revolutionary MX Missile and the Meaning of Survival in the Atomic Age," also written for Prof. Lichtenstein.

The John Coleman Award for best graduate paper on Cold War history, international history or military history went to Ken Hough for "Demon Courage and Dread Engine: America's Reaction to the Russo-Japanese War and the Genesis of the Japanese Invasion Sublime," written for Prof. Spickard.

Stacy Blackburn (not pictured) received the Michael Bransfield Prize for best paper or project in Public History for her dissertation on "Museums Present: Websites as a Medium to Interpret and to Engage," written for Prof. Plane.

Established three years ago, The Bransfield Prize commemorates the memory of a member of one of the department's first Public History classes, who died prematurely in 1983.

Cheryl Frei Receives Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Fellowship

This year's Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Award went to Cheryl Frei (Cline), who is writing her dissertation on the shaping of Argentine identity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The award, known as the Van Gelderen Re-entry Student Fellowship until 2006, supports a student who returned to graduate study after pursuing a career outside of academia.

A Michigan native, Cheryl graduated from Northern Michigan University 10 years ago, and worked as a journalist in rural California and a grant writer at Ventura College before coming to UCSB in 2010 to pursue a graduate degree.

She completed an MA in Latin American and Iberian Studies before entering History's PhD program last Fall.

Ho Garners Mayberry Award

This year's Richard Mayberry Award for overall scholarly excellence went to Colleen Ho (Lansing), whose dissertation on interaction between medieval Europeans and the Mongols employs archaeology and material culture.
A Bumper Crop of Phi Betes

A record number of History majors were selected this year for admission into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor society. In recognition of their achievement, the History Associates awarded the initiates funds to purchase their Phi Beta Kappa keys. Celebrating at the department Awards Ceremony were (l. to r.) Ricardo Quezado, Heidi Graves, Alexa Cover, Christine Forbes, Caitlin Lawson, Paul Pham and Daniel Russell. Emily Lomax and Serene Skiffington (not pictured) were also selected. The History majors constitute almost 8 per cent of the 127 students selected (out of a graduating class of about 3,500). The average GPA of this year’s PBK selectees is 3.77.

Trio Get Field Awards in U.S. History

Three awards that recognize graduate student work in American history were presented at the department Awards Ceremony on June 4.

Jackson Warkentin (Plane/Hämäläinen) received the Wilbur Jacobs Prize to support his dissertation on "The Iroquois Century," which studies the Five Nations' warfare and diplomacy in the 17th century.

Jackson was also awarded a History Associates fellowship.

Alison Jefferson (Bergstrom) was awarded the Robert Kelley fellowship in support of her dissertation on "The Iroquois Race Power and Place: the Recreation and Remembrance of African Americans in the California Dream."

Profs. Jacobs and Kelley were both founding members of the History department. Prof. Jacobs specialized in Colonial U.S. and native American history.

Prof. Kelley worked on intellectual history and the history of public policy. He established UCSB’s pioneering program in Public History in 1976.

Jason Stohler (Zhao) received the Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship to support his research on Chinese immigration to America between 1830 and 1930.

The Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship was established in 2008 by longtime History benefactor JoBeth Van Gelderen and her late husband, Don, to support graduate students in American history, preferably students of the American West.

Trio Get Field Awards in U.S. History

The C. Warren Hollister Memorial Fellowship, created in 2002 to honor a founding member of the department, went to Joe Figliulo-Rosswurm (Lansing) to support his research on 14th century Florence. Joe also received a Fulbright Fellowship (see April Historia).

Support from the Harold and Kathleen Drake Fund went to two students: Tracey Watts (Lee) and Sean Harrington (Zheng). The fund supports students studying the history of the ancient Mediterranean and ancient China.

Last month, Tracey received the American Academy’s Rome Prize for study in 2013-14.
Nine Grads Receive Fellowships From Associates for 2013-2014

Nine graduate students were selected to receive History Associates Fellowships.

These are the students who are the primary object of our fundraising efforts,” HA President Ann Moore said when announcing the recipients at the department's annual Awards Ceremony.

Our fellowships are used for a wide variety of purposes, from providing funds for research travel to giving advanced students a term of support to focus solely on the writing of their dissertations,” she said.

This year's recipients and their projects are:

Elijah Bender (Roberts). His dissertation, entitled “Wind, Forest, Fire and Mountain” is an environmental history of Kai province in late medieval Japan.

James Conrad (DePalma Digeser) is studying the problem of Italian identity in the late Republic and early Imperial periods.

Jill Dolan (Bergstrom) is researching the formation and historical conceptions presented at the nexus of professional and popular public representation of the history of Los Angeles.

Brian Ernst (Marcuse) is writing a dissertation entitled "Remembering the Danube Swabians: Politics, Acculturation and Memorialization in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1944-2010."

Sarah Hanson (Farmer) is studying medieval European women and municipal administration in northern France.

Travis Seifman (Roberts) is researching Japan and the Ryukue Kingdom (Okinawa) in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Cody Stephens (Lichtenstein) studies US labor and political economy.

Jackson Warkentin (Plane/ Hämäläinen) is working on the motivations and consequences of the Iroquois Five Nations’ wars in the 17th century.

Zamira Yusufjonova (Edgar) is writing about the Bolshevik campaign that began in 1924 to forcibly emancipate the women of Tajikistan.

DAR Award Goes to History Junior

Signe Wilson of the Mission Canyon chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presents the Margaret J. Straight scholarship in American history to junior Andrew Haney, who was nominated by Prof. Majewski. The scholarship, named after a 75-year member and past Regent of the DAR, is presented to an undergraduate major with a demonstrated interest in American history and preferably an interest in teaching. Andrew is a double major in History and English. He will write a senior honors thesis next year on the U.S. Civil War.

History Grads Continue To Achieve

Just in case you were wondering, this month's Awards Ceremony did not stop History grad students from achieving in other venues.

Nikki Goodrick Malain (Lansing) received the Founders Dissertation Fellowship from the Western Association of Women Historians to support her study entitled "The Pope and the Pirates: Genoese Piracy, Diplomacy, and Crusade in the High Middle Ages."

Chrissy Lau (Spickard), who completed her PhD in March, will spend next year as visiting assistant professor of Asian American history at Cornell University while working on turning her dissertation into a book, Loving Luxury: The Cultural Economy of the Japanese American Home.

Dustin Walker (Furner) was selected in a national competition to attend a History of Capitalism Summer Camp at Cornell University in July. The camp will focus on developing skills in economic theory, quantitative methods and corporate archives.

For his dissertation, Dustin is working on economic regulation and deregulation in the Reagan administration.

Jessica Elliott (Farmer) has been offered a postdoctoral research position in Nantes, France for next spring, to work on the "RELMIN" project, which is a large collaborative project headed by medievalist John Tolan on the legal status of religious minorities in the Euro-Mediterranean world (5th-16th centuries).

Jess's dissertation deals with interactions between Jews and Christians in medieval France.
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 $35
☐ 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
☐ $___ gift to the History Associates Graduate Fellowship Fund.
☐ $___ gift to the History Associates Dick Cook Fund.
☐ $___ gift to the History Associates ______________ Fund.

(specify other scholarship fund)

Note: Gifts of $1,000 or more qualify for one-year membership in the Chancellor’s Council.

Stellar Teacher Earns Anderson Award

This year's J. Bruce Anderson award for outstanding teaching went to Jason Linn (Lee), who received the Academic Senate's Outstanding TA award in 2011.

Jason, who is writing an innovative dissertation on the social history of nighttime in ancient Rome, was praised by Prof. Lee as "an utterly superb teacher" who "connects with every student in the classroom and challenges all to do their best."

The Anderson award was created in 1980. As a graduate student from 1969-1976, Bruce developed a reputation as an outstanding TA who was particularly interested in bringing new technologies into the classroom.

Japan Grad Student Selected for Williams Endowed Fellowship

Elijah Bender (Roberts) received the Richard and Jeane Williams Endowed Graduate Fellowship to pursue his study of the environmental history of late medieval Japan, which he argues will help scholars understand "the progression from an era of stability, to prolonged civil war, to reconstituted stability."

Elijah, who also received a History Associates Fellowship (see p. 5), will participate in a workshop in reading medieval Japanese documents that will be run this summer at USC by two leading scholars in the field.

The Williams Fellowship was created in 2003 by the former chair of the UCSB Foundation to recruit and support History graduate students of the highest caliber.

Honors for Cline, Spickard

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Prof. Paul Spickard was selected by the American Studies Assn. to receive its Richard A. Yarborough Mentoring Award for 2013.

This is a national award, bestowed by the Association's Minority Scholars' Committee.

In its letter, the selection committee wrote: "We were impressed with the description of your prolific and innovative interdisciplinary scholarship in American studies.

"It is evident to the committee that you are a productive historian and sociologist who deeply values your commitment to mentoring a variety of constituencies, not only at your home institution, but across the profession."

Prof. Spickard teaches U.S. social and cultural history, with an emphasis on ethnic questions. He is the author or co-author of 10 books, including Almost All Aliens (2007) and Race and Nation: Ethnic Systems in the Modern World (2005).

Prof. Cline specializes in the history of Mexico and the Atlantic World, as well as issues of globalization, race and religion. She is co-author of The Early History of Greater Mexico (2003) and Colonial Culhua- can, 1580-1600: The Social History of an Aztec Town (1986).

Both professors are previous recipients of the UCSB Academic Senate's Outstanding Graduate Mentor award. Prof. Spickard received it in 2008 and Prof. Cline in 2010.