



Prof. Robin Fleming.

History PhD Earns MacArthur Grant

BOSTON COLLEGE PROF. Robin Fleming, who took both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in History from UCSB, has been named one of this year's recipients of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship.

Popularly known as "genius" grants, the fellowships are bestowed on individuals in recognition of their creativity and pioneering scholarship.

Prof. Fleming was one of 24 such individuals selected this year. Each Fellow will receive a stipend of \$625,000 over the course of five years to devote full-time to research and creative activity.

A medieval European historian, Prof. Fleming studied with the late Warren Hollister, taking her PhD in 1984.

While here, she and Prof. Hollister collaborated on a pioneering, multi-year project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize England's Domesday Book.

Compiled in 1086 as a survey of the kingdom's taxable wealth, Domesday Book is a treasure trove of information for medieval historian.

In recent years, Prof. Fleming has pioneered the study of medieval cemeteries as a means of recovering information about the daily lives of peasants and sub-elites who have left little mark on written records.



Beer and Skittles

Lisa Jacobson to Kick Off Year With the Story of Beer in the U.S.

NOT TOO SURE about the "skittles," but the beer will definitely be flowing at the UCSB Faculty Club at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24 as History Prof. Lisa Jacobson kicks off the 2013-14 History Associates program with a talk on the way Americans fell in and out of love with the popular beverage in the 20th century.

A specialist in consumption and U.S. consumer habits, Prof. Jacobson will show how a brew that was outlawed during Prohibition became an emblem of "the good life" after World War II.

The phrase "beer and skittles" (as in, "Life's not all beer and skittles") comes from an earlier era and means, basically, "fun and games."

The "skittles" in question refers not to the popular Wrigley's confection but to the game of ninepins, a predecessor of modern bowling.

It is a reminder that beer has been a staple in most cultures since ancient times (traces of brewmaking have been found in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia).

In the U.S., beer was synonymous with the corner saloon at the turn of the 20th century, but it fell victim to the efforts of the Anti-Saloon League that resulted in a ban on the production and consumption of alcohol in the U.S. from 1920 to 1933.

Popularly known as "Prohibition," the ban led to widespread lawbreaking and the rise of criminal syndicates.

Although beer production resumed in



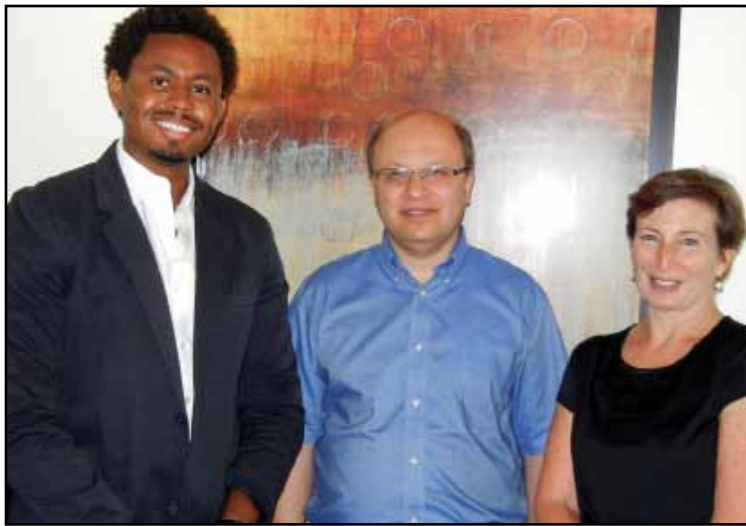
Prof. Lisa Jacobson.

the 1930s, Prof. Jacobson will show how the beverage only began to grow in popular esteem in the aftermath of the war.

Prof. Jacobson teaches courses in U.S. cultural history at UCSB. She has written on the history of advertising and the rise of consumer culture. Her current project is a study of "Alcohol's Quest for Legitimacy after Prohibition."

Reservations for the event, at \$25 for members and guests and \$30 for non-members, may be made through the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.

Also planned for this term is a bus trip to the Getty Malibu museum to view the "Cyrus Cylinder" exhibit (story on p. 2).



History Chair Elizabeth DePalma Digeiser (r.) greets Profs. Terence Keel (l.) and Adam Sabra.

Department Welcomes Two Newest Members

TWO NEW FACULTY joined the History department this year, bringing strength in Islamic history and the history of science.

Prof. Adam Sabra was appointed in 2012 to succeed Prof. R. Stephen Humphreys as holder of the King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies. He spent last year on a fellowship to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

A specialist in medieval and early modern Middle Eastern history, Prof. Sabra studies poverty and charity, legal history, family history and Islamic mysticism.

His book on the medieval Islamic scholar 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Sha'rani and the political role of Sufi shaykhs was published in Cairo in April by the Institut français d'archéologie orientale.

Prof. Terence Keel spent last

year as a visiting assistant professor at UCSB. He now holds a joint appointment in History and Black Studies.

Prof. Keel's research focuses on the relationship between religion and modern science and the study of race within the history of science and medicine.

In History, he will teach course on the History of Science and Religion in the West and a pair of new special topics seminars.

Prof. Keel completed his PhD at Harvard in 2012. He currently is working on a book entitled *The Religious Pursuit of Race: How Christianity Shaped Modern Scientific Ideas about Human Difference*.

Prof. Sabra's earlier publication, *Poverty and Charity in Medieval Islam: Mamluk Egypt, 1250-1517* was reissued by Cambridge in paperback in 2006.

At the Institute last year he worked on his new book, *Aristocracy and Empire: A Family History of Ottoman Egypt (1517-1800)*, a study of the influential Ottoman Egyptian al-Sada al-Bakriya family.

In addition to an anthology of texts on Ottoman Egyptian Sufism, Prof. Sabra has edited a volume of essays on Middle Eastern society and another on Sufism in Egypt.

Getty Exhibit Beckons To History Associates

IT DOESN'T LOOK like much: a spindly baked clay object about the size of a football, crowded with a bunch of marks that look like chicken scratchings.

But the "Cyrus Cylinder" has often been called the oldest record of human rights in the world.

It is an account, in cuneiform, of the conquest of Babylon by the Persian king Cyrus in 539 B.C.

According to the Book of Ezra in the Hebrew Bible, after his victory Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to their homeland, thereby ending the period of "Babylonian captivity."

Members of the UCSB History Associates will have an opportunity to view this historic artifact on Nov. 16, when History Prof. John Lee will lead a bus trip to the Getty Malibu museum, where it is currently on exhibit.

"The Cyrus Cylinder is a document of immense significance for understanding the history of the ancient world, the Persian Empire and the Jewish people," Prof. Lee says.

In addition to the Cylinder, the exhibit includes seals, coins, inscriptions, and gold vessels



Prof. John W.I. Lee.

from the Achaemenid Persian Empire (559-330 BC) that Cyrus founded.

This is the first time the Cylinder has been on view in the U.S. The Getty is the last stop on a five-city tour that began in Washington, D.C., last March.

The Cylinder will only be on view at the Getty until Dec. 2.

A specialist in the history of ancient Greece and west Asia, Prof. Lee received the Academic Senate's Distinguished Teaching award in 2003 and Harold J. Plous Award as outstanding assistant professor of the year in 2005.

He recently taped a series of 24 lectures on the Persian Empire for The Teaching Company's "Great Courses" series.

Chinatown Memories



UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES were treated to a walking tour and lecture on Santa Barbara's once thriving Chinatown last June. Dr. Ann Peterson (above, left), associate director for historical resources at the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation led off with a walking tour, during which she played excerpts from oral histories at each site. Then Prof. Xiaojian Zhao gave a spirited lecture in the Presidio Chapel on the historically strong relations between Chinese- and Japanese-Americans in the Santa Barbara community.

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Editor

Hal Drake

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O'Connor Gets Nod To Lead Issues Study



Prof. Alice O'Connor

Grads Flex Publishing Muscles

TOSHI AONO (PhD 2007 Hasegawa) has been awarded the Shimizu Hiroshi Prize of the Japanese Association for American Studies for best first book for *The Cold War and the Western Alliance during the Crisis Years, Berlin, Cuba and Detente, 1961-1963* (in Japanese). Toshi is now associate professor of history at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo.

David Torres-Rouff (PhD 2006 Spickard) has published *Before L.A.: Race, Space, and Municipal Power in Los Angeles, 1781-1894* with Yale. David currently teaches in the History department at UC Merced.

An article by **Jason Linn** (Lee) on "The Roman Grain Supply, 442-455" has appeared in the current issue of the *Journal of Late Antiquity* (vol. 10, pp. 298-321).

Sarah Griffith (PhD 2010 Spickard) has published "Where We Can Battle for the Lord and Japan: The Development of Liberal Protestant Antiracism before World War II" in the *Journal of American History* (vol. 100, pp. 429-53). Sarah currently is assistant professor of history at Queens University of Charlotte.

THE COUNCIL OF Deans of the College of L&S has selected a program spearheaded by History Prof. Alice O'Connor for the 2013-14 Critical Issues in America series.

Choosing the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" speech as its peg, the year-long series of lectures, seminars and conferences will focus on evaluating the sweeping array of legislative and administrative action and social policy innovation launched at that time.

The series of initiatives on all fronts "made this an extraordinarily expansive moment in the history of American democracy," Prof. O'Connor said.

"And now, 50 years after its legislative launch, major components of the Great Society era's expansion of political, economic, social, and citizenship rights are once again at the center of political controversy and debate."

It all adds up to a "teachable moment," she said.

The program will feature a combination of specially-themed coursework, public lectures/symposia and campus/community collaborations spread across a number of departments.

The overarching aim will be "to frame a more accurate narrative of what the Great Society actually was," Prof. O'Connor said.

Public events planned for Fall quarter include a panel discussion on Friday Nov. 15, from 1-3 p.m. entitled "Fifty Years after the March: Civil Rights in Historical Memory."

The panel will meet in the UCSB Museum of Art and Architecture, which is mounting an exhibition titled "Freedom Now! Forgotten Photographs of the Civil Rights Struggle,"

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From The Chair

Changes

Welcome to the start of a brand new year! For me, the past couple of weeks have been full of good beginnings: lunch with new faculty, welcome meetings with new graduate students, and most recently the news that one of our former graduate students, Robin Fleming, won a prestigious MacArthur "Genius" award. I would say that we're off to a very good start.

After several very lean and difficult years, our department is enjoying a season of regeneration. Last year we said farewell to our retiring colleagues Frank



Dutra (Early Modern Portugal, Brazil) and Nancy Gallagher (Modern Middle East). This year we welcome two new colleagues, Terence Keel (Race and Science) and Adam Sabra (medieval Islam). Terence spent last year with us as a Visiting Professor, and we are delighted to build stronger

ties with the Department of Black Studies through his joint appointment.

Adam, the new King Abdul Aziz ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies, joins us after a research year at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study. He replaces Prof. Stephen Humphreys, who inaugurated the Chair in 1990.

Colleagues and graduate students alike are looking forward to working and learning with both new faculty into the future.

We are also fortunate to have permission to hire two more new colleagues this year, one in History of Biological Sciences, the other in the History of the Modern Middle East. Stay tuned for what promises to be an exciting year listening to bright young scholars present their research in these areas!

I'm also delighted to welcome our new crop of nine graduate students—every single one of them with funding—whose interests span time and the globe, from ancient Greece and Iran through the contemporary US.

Finally, I can't let the moment pass without reflecting for a few lines on Robin Fleming's MacArthur award. When I was a graduate student here in the early '90s hanging out with the medievalists, Robin (Ph.D. 1984) was the legendary predecessor we all wanted to emulate: great TA, exciting research—and a job at Boston College! Her successes buoyed us all—as they continue to do!

Elizabeth DePalma Digeser, chair

President's Corner

Big Shoes, Big Year

Last spring I was asked to serve as president of the UCSB History Associates. I agreed, but as I thought it over, I had two worries. One was that I would be succeeding Ann Moore. Ann has done a terrific job as our president in recent years and thereby set the bar in the stratosphere. Time will tell whether I can reach her level. The other problem was that Marni and I were committed to spending the summer in London so I could finish the book I have been working on since Noah's flood. Summer is critical for the History Associates board because its high point is the luncheon meeting for planning the coming academic year's events at the home of Kathy and Hal Drake. Their superb hospitality and culinary ingenuity make it a pleasure to attend and undoubtedly contribute



to the good attendance and consistent success of the meeting. This summer I had to miss it, but the notes Hal sent me about the meeting demonstrated that the annual "brainstorming" session went very well.

You have already heard about our first event—a trip to the Huntington Library on Tuesday, October 22, in association with the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation and the Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library, to see the new exhibit on Junipero Serra. Prof. Steve Hackel of UC Riverside will be present to welcome us and talk about the exhibit (which he co-curated) and his new book on Father Serra.

Up next (on October 24) will be Lisa Jacobson to talk about the history of beer as we observe the 70th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition in the U.S. We hit the road again on November 16, this time to the Getty Museum in Malibu to see their new exhibit on ancient Persia. Our speaker and guide to the exhibit will be John Lee. Not bad for one quarter! And I can assure you that the plans for events in the winter and spring quarters are equally fascinating.

This is an exciting time for the UCSB History department, and I look forward to continuing the work of many board members and officers of the History Associates as we try to sustain and enhance the excellence of its programs by supporting its students, both graduate and undergraduate. Just last week, we got new evidence of the extraordinary achievement of one of our former students, Robin Fleming. Robin earned her BA (1977) and Ph.D. (1984) at UCSB, and her men-

Now THAT's a Blooper!



NOT MUCH ROOM lately for running bloopers—those slips of the pen that infect student papers and exams.

This early in the year, the only ones to report, alas, occurred in the pages of *Historia*.

In the March issue, the photo caption on p. 2 of UCLA Prof. Teofilo Ruiz and President Obama said he was receiving a "National Meal for the Humanities," which prompted Jerry Jackman (PhD Kirker 1977) to write, "I assume that is another one of those government handouts."

In the same issue, the caption on the photo of Harold Kirker on p. 6 said it was taken "in 1889," instead of 1999.

Wrote Miriam Vivian (PhD

Drake, 1987), "Glad to know Kirker is still going strong at 90! I loved the class I took with him (Gilded Age) as a freshman. Re the caption under his picture (which is a GREAT picture!), I'm glad, then, to know that he's NOT a Methuselah."

Here's a plea to faculty and TAs to send contributions for the next issue that will take the spotlight away your favorite whipping boy.

Perhaps something to rival classics from other universities, such as the famous "In 1522, Magellan circumcized the globe with a 40-foot clipper."

Or the above photo, which (hopefully) was a joke rather than a blooper.

History Grads Make News

KASHIA ARNOLD (Furner/O'Connor) presented a paper on "China, the Silver Question and the Rise of the American West" at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association this past August.

Kristen Shedd (PhD 2013 Lichtenstein) is serving as visiting assistant professor of History at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. Her dissertation is entitled "The Decline of Moral and Political Authority: Mainstream Protestants in McCarthyite America."

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 2013-14 entering class of grad students: standing (l. to r.), Kashia Arnold (US), Ibrahim Mansour (Middle East), Patricia Morland (Ancient), Sasha Coles (US), Director of Graduate Studies Alice O'Connor, Ryan Minor (Africa). Seated (l. to r.): Caitlin Koford (Medieval), Lisa Meyers (Ancient), Mariel Aquino (US), Graduate Secretary Darcy Ritzau. Not pictured: James White (Ancient).

Critical Issues

CONTINUED FROM P. 3
based on Martin Berger's 2011 book, *Seeing Through Race: A Reinterpretation of Civil Rights Photography*.

Panelists will include faculty from the departments of Black Studies and Asian American Studies.

On Nov. 21, Prof. Peter Edeman, a legislative aide to both Robert and Edward Kennedy who currently teaches in Georgetown's Law School, will speak on "Why It's So Hard to End Poverty in America" at 8 p.m. in the McCune Conference Room, 6020 HSSB.

The annual "Critical Issues" programs are funded by an endowment aimed at bringing together scholars, public officials and the general community.

Last year's series focused on "Figuring Sea Level Rise."

Prof. O'Connor teaches courses on U.S. Public Policy and specializes in the study of poverty and philanthropy.

In 2000, she was selected to receive the Academic Senate's Harold J. Plous award, which goes to the outstanding assistant professor of the year.

Small Is Beautiful for New Grads

NINE STUDENTS joined the History graduate program this term.

For the first time since the graduate program began in 1960, the U.S. and ancient Mediterranean fields tied for the largest number of new students.

Kashia Arnold, Sasha Coles, and Mariel Aquino will pursue degrees in U.S. history, and Patricia Morland, Lisa Meyers, and James White will emphasize antiquity.

Caitlin Koford (medieval Europe), Ibrahim Mansour (Middle East) and Ryan Minor (Africa) complete the new contingent.

"We're thrilled to welcome such a diverse and wide-ranging class of entering graduate students," said Prof. Alice O'Connor, who is serving as director of graduate students.

These students, she said, "come to us from across the globe and throughout the U.S.

"Collectively, they span department strengths from the ancient world to the 20th

century U.S."

O'Connor noted that, in line with the efforts of other departments at peer institutions, History has started admitting classes that are "somewhat smaller in number but equally strong in qualifications compared to earlier years."

Partially fuelling the effort, she said, was an aim "to keep

class sizes to numbers we can realistically expect to support through fellowships and TA positions."

All of the new students were admitted with funding.

History awarded the first PhD in the College of Letters and Science.

Time to Renew

WITH MEMBERSHIP renewal notices about to go in the mail, the History Associates Board wants to remind members that all memberships are now renewed in the Fall.

For many years, the History Associates sent one set of renewals to members who joined in the Fall and another set to those who joined in the Spring.

Two years ago, the Board decided to simplify the process by continuing memberships for those who joined in Winter or Spring until the next renewal cycle. So now everybody renews at once.

McGee Column: Going Strong

CONTINUED FROM P. 4

tor was the late Warren Hollister. I directed her MA thesis and remember her as an extraordinarily effective teaching assistant in the History 4B course that Warren and I team taught, as well as an imaginative and diligent researcher. She has long taught at Boston College, where she is now chairing the History department. We just learned that she is one of 24 winners of a MacArthur Foundation "genius award" for her research into the lives of ordinary people in early medieval Britain. Because textual evidence is slender, she draws upon archaeological findings and argues, as she puts it, that "people make things but things also make people." For more on her and her project, see the link on our website about the award. The Getty and Huntington exhibits we will be seeing confirm the link between history and archeology that Robin is exploiting so well.

Sears McGee, President

Ready to Join?

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.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Gifts to the scholarship fund are considered charitable donations.

Please make your check payable to the UCSB History Associates and return it to:

History Associates
Department of History
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410
Questions? call (805) 893-2991

The Last Word

Touched By Greatness

During a period of turmoil in the 1980s, when the faculty were up in arms, trying to get our then-Chancellor removed, I heard a rumor that he had been threatening David Gardner, the then-President of UC, a Mormon (the significance of this will become clear in a moment).

The campus was awash in such stories, and being young and naive (as opposed to old and naive, as I am now), I immediately went to tell Robin Fleming.

Robin was a teaching assistant for me, but by then she had also become a dear friend and a trusted advisor—someone I knew could keep her head in a crisis.

So I sat in a chair next to her desk, looking every bit like an undergraduate seeking an extension on an assignment. I can still see Robin, sitting back in her chair, one arm draped over its back and eyeing me with that amused, skeptical expression that anyone who has known her for five minutes knows so well.

When I finished repeating what I had heard and saying how worried I was that the threat might work, Robin looked at me and said, "What's he gonna do—make him drink coffee?"

Oddly, that was the first thing that popped into my head when I learned that Robin had become one of 24 individuals selected this year to receive the coveted MacArthur Fellowship, freeing her to pursue her muse for the next five years.

And Robin has a very busy muse. Pat Cohen is one of our faculty who still remembers Robin as a teaching assistant in her lower-division survey of U.S. history. Pat specifically recalls the cheerfulness and versatility with which this medieval European grad student shouldered the task of teaching a subject so distant from her own.

Prof. Anita Guerrini, now Horning Professor of the Humanities at Oregon State, is one of many who have been influenced by Robin's pioneering scholarship. "As a historian of science, I've written a lot about things (particularly animals) via texts, but her work has pushed me to look at the things themselves, so much so that I'm now working on the topic of the skeleton as a scientific object," Anita writes.

Hindsight is always 20/20. So you might be inclined to take these reminiscences with a hefty grain of salt. In this case, however, I have proof. In my files is a letter of recommendation I wrote for Robin in 1984.

The first sentence reads, "I must confess that I have looked forward to writing this letter since Robin first served as a teaching assistant for me some five years ago, when her brilliance already was apparent." I go on to talk about Robin's brilliant record in research and teaching. In all, I used the word "brilliant" so often that I was embarrassed. By the end, I felt compelled to say, "I do not usually gush this way over a candidate."

Well, I'm not apologizing any more!



Robin Fleming in 1984.

Hal Drake, editor