



Prof. Erika Rappaport

Beware the Perils Of Writing Bio, Kalman Warns

"MOMMAS, DON'T LET your babies grow up to be biographers" was the refrain at the March meeting of the UCSB History Associates as Prof. Laura Kalman detailed a litany of problems she encountered writing the story of Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas.

Writing biography is a thankless task, Prof. Kalman told the group.

"It's no way to get a job," she explained, "because it's not regarded as 'cutting edge.'"

Moreover, the subject overshadows the biographer, to the point where readers just assume the story wrote itself.

"My mother wanted to know why his picture was on the cover of the book instead of mine!" she said.

But the biggest problem, she warned, is the closeness that inevitably grows up between the subject and the biographer.

"I worried about my instinct to shield Fortas, and even more his wife who, unlike Fortas, is still alive. We grew very close as I worked on his papers," she said.

Around her household, she said, the working title of the book became "White-wash: The Story of Abe Fortas."

(The actual title of the book is *Abe Fortas: A Biography*. It was published by Yale Uni-

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The Joy Of Saks!

SHOPPING WILL BE on the menu of the UCSB History Associates' luncheon lecture at noon on Wednesday, April 29, as Asst. Prof. Erika Rappaport discusses the introduction of American-style department stores in London at the turn of this century.

A specialist in the social history of modern Britain, Prof. Rappaport contends that the opening of Selfridges, London's first store built specifically as a department store, changed much more than the way the English shopped.

It also brought respectable women for the first time into a previously male preserve, and changed shopping into an occasion for a night on the town, as well as to see and be seen.

Hence the title of her talk, "Theater of Desire: Selling an American Department Store in Early Twentieth Century London."

For the occasion, the Associates have arranged to use the private lunch room in Santa Barbara's Nordstrom department store, 17 W. Canon Perdido. Reservations at a cost of \$14 for members and \$16 for non-members may be made through the UCSB Office of Community Relations, (805) 893-4388.

Because seating in the Nordstrom room is limited, early reservations are advised.

Prof. Rappaport joined the UCSB History Department this year from Florida

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Department Gets Top Marks In Extra-Mural Report Card

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT received the long-awaited report from its team of extra-mural reviewers at the end of Winter Quarter.

The evaluators gave the department high marks for an "exceptional" record in teaching and interdisciplinary activities, and concluded that it "fully deserves its high rank among programs nationally."

- The three-person panel was composed of William Chafe of Duke University, Patricia O'Brien of UC Irvine and Leila Fawaz of Tufts, who chaired the committee.

They based their report on a self-assessment prepared by the Department last Spring and a massive notebook of data assembled by the Program Review Panel, a faculty board which oversees the review process, and on-site interviews with faculty and staff conducted last January.

All three evaluators, in addition to being History professors themselves, have had extensive administrative experience. Profs. Chafe and Fawaz are both deans, and Prof. O'Brien is director of the UC Humanities Institute.

In their report, the extra-mural team praised the department for "a superb job of recruiting faculty" and urged the administration to provide it with a three-year recruitment plan for completing its renewal program.

"The faculty has set high scholarly standards for itself," the report stated. "It has used every recruiting opportunity to improve the research component of its faculty, and its commitment to intellectual quality has helped the department acquire a national reputation."

The evaluators were particularly im-

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UCSB Hosts China Confab

UCSB WAS HOST to an international symposium on Non-Chinese Sources for Late Imperial Chinese History from March 19-21.

The symposium was organized jointly by Prof. Mark Elliott and Prof. Naoto Kato, IHC Visiting Fellow in 1997-98 and Visiting Scholar in the History Department.

Among the 18 participants in the symposium were scholars from UCSB, Berkeley, Indiana, Hawai'i, Georgetown, Harvard and MIT, as well as scholars from universities and research institutes in Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, Venice, and St. Petersburg.

Symposium members faced linguistic challenges of their own during the three-day meeting, as papers and discussions were offered in English, Japanese, and Chinese.

With interpreting help from Profs. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa and Joshua Fogel, however, participants found it possible to carry the dialogue reasonably smoothly.

"As with our Qing sources, we shall perhaps find out later what was lost in translation," Prof. Elliott quipped.

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Emeriti Show the New Kids How It Used To Be Done



Prof. Robert O. Collins

Kalman's Fortas Bio

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versity Press in 1990 and was awarded the Littleton-Griswold Prize of the American Historical Association for the best book that year on the history of American law and society.)

Another problem the biographer faces, she said, is the issue of invasion of privacy.

For this reason, Prof. Kalman added, she came to see herself in a dual role as "a personal friend and also a voyeur, or even a burglar."

And, in the case of a Supreme Court Justice, there is also the problem of the amount of materials in the archives.

"I love archives," she confessed, "for the same reason I love reading other people's mail."

But the archives of a Supreme Court Justice "are both endless and dull," with countless drafts of each decision that have to be combed for clues to the Justice's state of mind.

"It takes the skill of a literary biographer with none of the joy," she explained. "These are not literary masterpieces."

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RETIREMENT DOES NOT necessarily mean an end to headlines, as two of the History Department's own *emeritus* professors can testify.

Prof. Robert O. Collins will return to the History Channel this month with his long-awaited special on Dr. Livingstone, which debuts April 16 at 8 p.m. The program is a sequel to one on the journalist Stanley, whose search for the missing Dr. Livingstone was avidly followed by Victorian readers.

Also making headlines is Prof. Joachim Remak, whose book on the Swiss Civil War has now appeared in a German edition that is being widely reviewed throughout Switzerland.

The Swiss war preceded the American Civil War by some 15 years, and like that war was also sparked by an issue of "states' rights," in this case the rights of the individual Swiss cantons as opposed to the Federation.

Unlike the American war,

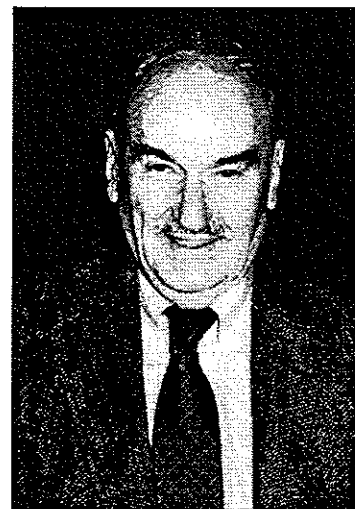
Shopping

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

International University, where she was an assistant professor. She received her BA from Berkeley, an MA from Columbia and, in 1993, a PhD from Rutgers.

She is the author of several articles on department stores, the theater and the finances of women in Victorian and Edwardian England.

Her book, *Shopping for Pleasure: Gender, Commerce and Public Life in London's West End, 1860-1914*, is slated for publication next year by Princeton University Press.



Prof. Joachim Remak

however, the Swiss war resulted in very few casualties and was settled amicably. For this reason, Prof. Remak entitled his book *A Very Civil War*.

The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* hailed the German edition as "the only available history . . . that is both easily readable and factually sound, of the turbulent months of 1847," and *Sarganserländer Magazin* called it both "instructive" and "suspenseful."

Swiss experts, who tend to scorn work on their history by foreign scholars, have praised the book for its accuracy and style.

"History is presented not as a catalogue of facts, but gracefully and readably," wrote a reviewer in *Walliser Bote*. "Thanks to the contemporary observations of bystanders and participants, as well as to its bold organization, the book reads easily and enjoyably, like a summer novel."

Schweizer Soldat, a publication of the Swiss Army, recommended the book as indispensable reading," and *Blick* called it "masterful, light-hearted, suspenseful."

Prof. Remak's book was also serialized in a Berlin newspaper, *Der Bund*.

President's Corner

Happy Days!

My calendars at home and work are starred and highlighted for Wednesday, May 20 at 4 p.m. for the UCSB History Department Awards Ceremony in the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Conference Room on the sixth floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building (HSSB).



This event competes with Disneyland for the reputation of "the happiest place on earth"! It is the culmination of the efforts of so many; the persevering students who are honored that day and their professors who have guided and mentored them.

As members of the History Associates who have contributed to the awards being presented, it is exciting and affirming to see how enthusiastically our efforts are received, and how well-deserving the recipients are.

The process of screening students both for financial need and academic excellence has already begun. There is representation from the History Associates Board as well as from the faculty on the selection committee for the awards we sponsor. As many deserving students as possible are selected.

As members of the History Associates, you are invited to join me and other Board members in attending this event. Please call 893-4388 for parking information.

It is gratifying for the recipients to meet and talk with members of the group that raises funds on their behalf. The opportunity for us to hear from and about these students, both formally and in conversation completes the circle of faculty, students and community working together to support the UCSB History Department and enabling young scholars to achieve their goals.

It is by no means a dry, dull occasion. The list of graduate student dissertations reads like a list of books on a "must read" list. The undergraduates who speak are bright and energetic, and give one absolute confidence in the quality of their education as well as the future. A reception following the awards affords the opportunity to meet the recipients personally.

In addition to our "shop 'til you drop" event this month, we are looking forward to the long-awaited wine country talk and tour.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 30. Final arrangements for this day are in progress and we will be mailing flyers as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you at all three of our Spring events.

Karen Anderson
President

Evaluators Praise Dept. But Warn of Shortages

CONTINUED FROM P. 1
pressed by the fact that "the tenured faculty members are thoroughly involved in undergraduate as well as graduate teaching and that they do not delegate teaching chores to non-tenure-track faculty."

Equally strong approval was given to the department's commitment to maintain itself as a general History department while also building "clusters of excellence" in key areas.

"While the department continues to provide political history which other programs have sometimes sacrificed, they also offer social, economic, cultural, and intellectual history," the report observed. "The department's course offerings also contribute to interdisciplinary programs campus-wide."

However, in an era of shrinking resources, the evaluators warned that "decisions will have to be made about how to balance undergraduate interest in history with limited funds and space," especially with regard to the workload of graduate teaching assistants.

Department Vice Chair of Curriculum Jack Talbott said that changes in departmental programs are being implemented as a result of the report.

An ad hoc committee will be appointed "to bring our requirements into closer alignment with all our current research strengths," he reported.

"The report has shown how a guaranteed commitment of faculty positions over the next three years can benefit the campus as well as the department."

History Chair Hal Drake said that efforts were also underway to reduce the workload for teaching assistants.

"In the early 90s, the College increased the size of discussion sections in order to meet

budget shortfalls," he said. "A TA with fully enrolled sections now teaches the equivalent of a fifth section in terms of number of students."

He said that the department's budget request for next year asked the College either to reduce the number of sections from four per TA to three or to reduce the number of students in each section.

"We are proud of the quality of instruction that our teaching assistants give us, and we believe the training they receive benefits them when they go on the job market," he said. "But this is only supposed to be a part-time job."

"I recently surveyed our TAs, and it is clear that the great majority of them now must spend more than the 20 hours a week that is the official maximum."

Prof. Drake pointed out that History courses are writing-intensive, and this makes it unfair to give them the same workload as TAs for classes that have machine-scored examinations.

Biography

CONTINUED FROM P. 2

Would she ever consider doing a biography again?

"Like the dog who responds to the fire bell, I still think about it," she confessed. "But I have told my family and friends, if I ever say I'm contemplating it, they should take me out and shoot me."

Prof. Kalman's current project is a book on recent American history, tentatively entitled *Years of Disenchantment: The United States from Ford through Bush*. She is President of the American Society for Legal History.

From The Chair

Crunching Numbers

UCSB seems to have somebody for crunching data on any topic you can imagine.

Recently, I received from the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Programs data crunched from a survey of first-year students in which they were asked to name the high school teachers who had had the greatest impact on their academic development.

Frankly, I did not expect to see too many History teachers on the list, since very few students enter the University as History majors.



So I was not too surprised to see that the list ended after a dozen names. But there was a fistful of other pages, and I was curious to see what was on them.

My mouth dropped. They were History teachers. Pages and pages of History teachers.

There was Eric Burrows of our own San Marcos High, cheek by jowl with D. Sigelauis of Brooklyn Tech High in New York, Mr. Brody of Evanston Township High in Illinois and Mrs. Abdallah of Tokay High School in Lodi.

Large high schools, one-room high schools. Page after page of names. More than 100 in all.

The first page, which I hadn't looked at carefully, was Government teachers—sent to me, presumably, because none of the crunchers in the Vice Chancellor's office knew what else to do with them.

What is it, I wondered, that makes students remember their History teachers?

At first I thought maybe it's because History teaches so much about life that these students had come to value the life lessons they learned from these teachers.

But I know academics tend to over-intellectualize questions like that. It could just be that these were their easiest teachers. Or maybe they were just nice, caring people.

But I don't think that's it.

Students know the difference between easy teachers and academically important teachers. The important influences often aren't even very nice—though I'm sure all of these are.

Most of our majors come from converts who decide they like History after taking one or more of our survey courses—and nobody has every called those courses easy.

Too bad the survey didn't ask for reasons. Hard to crunch, but I'd like to know.

True Commitment Lies Behind Van Gelderen Student Award

BY SARAH CLINE

DR. JOBETH VAN Gelderen is 80 years old and, while enjoying her retirement from teaching, this keenly intelligent woman has certainly kept involved in academic life.

Over the years, she has contributed both great material and moral support to the History Associates, and especially to the history graduate program at UCSB.

She created the "Re-entry Woman Prize", generally known in the History Department as the Van Gelderen Prize, for women re-entering graduate school after a period of time away from school due to work or raising a family or both.

When the award had to be redrawn this year as the Van Gelderen Re-Entry Student Prize in order to conform to current Regental policy, JoBeth didn't bat an eye, despite her deep commitment to the needs of re-entry women.

JoBeth's interest in the problems of re-entering women grow out of personal experience.

As she said in a recent interview, "I went to college and got a teaching credential, and my father said, 'You've got enough education, it's time to go to work.'"

And work she did, five years in advertising at The Broadway department store.

During that time, she used savings to invest in an income property, and she became a landlady.

Many of her renters were single mothers with children on welfare, often divorcees of professional men.

The plight these young mothers faced made a deep impression on JoBeth. At the time married to a history professor who did not want two

PhDs in the family, JoBeth moved on, becoming one of the first women PhDs in history from UCLA.

Retired after a long career teaching at Santa Barbara City College, JoBeth remains active in Santa Barbara civic activities.

And we in the UCSB History Department are delighted that she and her husband, Don VanGelderen, have given the funds for the Re-entry Student Prize.

The Van Gelderens started the award with a \$600 donation in 1989-90 and made it a dollar-for-dollar challenge the subsequent year, doubling the amount to \$1200.

They have raised the amount of their challenge every year since. The challenge for the current year is \$8000.

"It is impossible to place a value on what the Van Gelderen award has meant to the History Associates," President Karen Anderson said. "By raising the amount of money each year, they have constantly pushed us to do better than the year before."

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

Grad Students Triumph!

UCSB's HISTORY Department was well-represented at the Third Annual Graduate Student Conference on Late Antiquity, held at UCLA on April 4.

Along with students from Michigan, Princeton and UC Berkeley, four UCSB grad students presented papers—the most from any single university.

Laura Wertheimer spoke on "Clerical Celibacy, Christian Marriage and Illegitimacy in Late Antiquity."

David Tipton presented a paper on "Fourth and Fifth Century Christian Views of Julian."

Mike Proulx's paper was entitled "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Another Look at Ambrose of Milan in the Court of Magnus Maximus."

Justin Stephens spoke on

"Who Saved Antioch? The Role of Oratory in the Aftermath of the 387 Riot of the Statues."

Betty Koed was one of three finalists selected out of a national competition to interview for the position of Assistant Senate Historian in the Senate Historical Office in Washington, D. C.

Two graduate students have won Fulbright Fellowships for study abroad in the next academic year.

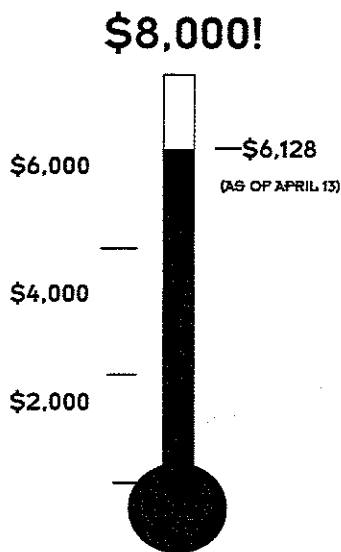
Nancy L. Stockdale will go to Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and Kimber Quinney will study in Italy.

Valery Garrett will be participating in June in a month-long NEH-sponsored Summer Institute at Columbia University on "The History of Death."

Last Chance to Bust JoBeth and Don!

THE HISTORY Associates' fund-raising thermometer shot past the \$6,000 mark last month, breaking last year's record. But since JoBeth and Don Van Gelderen raised the amount of their challenge grant this year, that leaves almost \$2,000 still to be raised before the annual awards ceremony in May. Every dollar you contribute to the History Associates Graduate Fund or the Dick Cook Fund makes two that go to support History students. You don't want JoBeth and Don to keep that money, do you? Send your check (made out to appropriate fund) to:

Office of Community Relations
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106



VAN GELDEREN CHALLENGE CHART

Sexual 'Immorality' Competes With Real Library Questions

NOT MUCH IN the way of bloopers this month, with the Spring term barely under way.

Prof. Sears McGee was taken with the following, from a student paper in his History 140B class: "The church not only punished the actual offenders, but also punished anyone who aided and abetted sexual immortality. . . . A bawd was an individual of either sex who procured or pandered to immortality."

In lieu of others, we present the following, culled from a list of questions asked of reference librarians, discovered by Prof. Sarah Cline:

"Do you have a list of all the books written in the English language?"

+

"Do you have a list of all the books I've ever read?"

+

I'm looking for Robert James Waller's book, *Waltzing through Grand Rapids*. (Actual title wanted: "Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend.")

+

"Do you have that book by Rushdie: 'Satanic Nurses'?" (Actual title: "Satanic Verses")

+

"I was here about three weeks ago looking at a cookbook that cost \$39.95. Do you know which one it is?"

+

"Which outlets in the library are appropriate for my hair-dryer?"

+

"Is the basement upstairs?"

+

"Why don't you have any books by *Ibid*? He's written a lot of important stuff."

+

"I am looking for a list of laws that I can break that would send me back to jail for a couple

of months."

♦

Part 2: Actual Reference Interviews reported by American and Canadian library reference desk workers of various levels.

Patron: "I'm looking for a book."

Mental answer 1: "Well, you're in the right place." Mental answer 2: "Here's one." (Hand over nearest volume.)

Audible answer: "Can you be a little more specific?"

+

Patron: "I got a quote from a book I turned in last week but I forgot to write down the author and title. It's big and red and I found it on the top shelf. Can you find it for me?"

Mental answer: "Books classified by color are shelved downstairs in the [non-existent] third sub-basement."

Audible answer: "What were you looking for when you found the book the first time?"

+

In an art library:

Patron: Do you have any books on Art?

Ref: Yes. Did you have a certain artist in mind, or a period or style in mind?

Patron: No.

Ref: I guess you'll have to look through our 120,000 books and see if you find anything.

Patron: OK.

+

Patron: "Do you have anything good to read?" Reference person getting her audible and mental answers mixed up: "No, ma'am. I'm afraid we have 75,000 books, and they're all duds."

+

Telephone patron: Do you have books on leaves? Library worker: Nope, we keep them on shelves. (She then hung up.

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Don't Miss Out

YOU'LL WANT TO KEEP informed as the UCSB History Associates begin a new year. To renew your membership or to 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 \$30
 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 Scholarship Fund.

Gifts of \$1,000 or more qualify for membership in the Chancellor's Council.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip/State: _____

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

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

UCSB Office of Community Relations
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2100

Library Reference Questions

CONTINUED FROM P. 5

Can you tell she's not too fond of Reference duty?)

Caller: "I have a painting by Vincent Van Gogh. It's all blue with swirly stars on it. Can you tell me where I can get it appraised?"

Ref.: "Sir, does it say 'Metropolitan Museum of Art' on the bottom? It does? Well, what you have there is a poster that they sell in the gift shop. I think they're about \$10."

Patron: "I have to write a two-page paper on the Civil War, can you help?"

Ref: "What aspect of the war interests you?" Patron: "What aspect? You mean I have to choose something in particular about it? I thought I'd just write about the whole thing"

Patron: "I am looking for a globe of the earth. Ref: "We have a table-top model over here." Patron: "No, that's not good enough. Don't you have a life size?" Ref (after a short pause): "Yes, but it's in use right now!"

From the Chair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

I've been doing some crunching of my own recently, with the help of Luke Roberts and our Department MSO, Maria Perez.

What we figured is that the Department costs the University \$3.25 million a year to operate, and brings in \$7.8 million a year in student revenues.

(In case you're wondering how we got that latter figure, we added the total hours of student enrollment for 1996-97, divided that by three for a three-quarter average, and then divided that number by 15, which is the total hours for a "Full Time Enrolled" student, or Student FTE in UC-speak. Then we multiplied that number by \$7,300, which is the amount the State gives the University for every Student FTE.)

In the business world, that would be called a tidy profit. It sure makes you think twice about the departments that go around thumping their chests because they bring in a million or two in government grants.

*Hal Drake
Chair*



Historia

NEWSLETTER OF THE UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES
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