



Prof. Gabriella Soto Laveaga

Lecture to Show Mexico's Role In Pharmacy

NOBODY KNEW HOW valuable wild yams that grew in Mexico's Yucatan were.

Nobody, that is, until researchers in Mexico discovered that the yams could be used to make an entirely new kind of drug — the steroids that now treat everything from itchy skin to rheumatoid arthritis.

The story of this discovery, and its impact on the Mexican peasants who harvested them, will be the topic of the next event sponsored by the UCSB History Associates.

History Prof. Gabriela Soto Laveaga's talk — "The Pill Comes from Mexico?" — will be History's featured event for this year's All-Gaucha Reunion on Saturday, April 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the History Conference Room, 4020 HSSB.

The talk will be based on Prof. Laveaga's forthcoming book, *Jungle Laboratories: Mexican Peasants, National Projects and the Making of Steroid Hormones*, to be published by Duke University Press.

An article she wrote on Mexico and steroids recently won a prize from the Latin American Studies Assn.

In keeping with the purpose of All-Gaucha Reunion, the event will be free and open to the public. Parking at UCSB will also be free.

Refreshments will be served.



History Grads Score Big

UCSB HISTORY GRAD students have been scoring where it counts this year, landing tenure track appointments in the annual job market.

Jessica Chapman (PhD 2006 Logevall) has accepted a position at Williams College in Massachusetts. For the past two years, Jess has been serving as executive director of UCSB's Center for Cold War Studies.

Chip Dewell (Fogel) will start at Hiram College in Ohio. His dissertation is a transnational history focusing on Japanese involvement in the Beijing Police Academy in the early 20th century.

Eric Fournier (Digeser/Drake) will go to West Chester University in Pennsylvania. He is completing a dissertation on the Vandal persecution of Christians in the fifth century.

Carolyn Lewis (Rupp) will start at Louisiana State University.

Elizabeth Pryor (Cohen) is going to Smith College, but will delay for one

year in order to take up a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship which she was awarded earlier.

John Sbardellati (PhD 2006 Logevall) will start at the University of Waterloo in Canada. He has been teaching in History and Film Studies at UCSB.

Toshihiko Aono (PhD 2007 Hasegawa) has been appointed to the Law Faculty of Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo.

David Torres-Rouff (PhD 2006 Spickard) will take up a fulltime position at Colorado College, where he has been a visiting assistant professor.

Other grads are moving to new positions.

Mike Proulx (PhD 2007 Drake) is going to North Georgia College and State University from SUNY Queensborough.

Justin Stephens (PhD 2001 Drake) is moving to the Metropolitan State College

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What's Going On? (see story p. 5)





Laborites celebrate: back, l. to r., Oliver Rosales, Prof. Nelson Lichtenstein; middle, Leah Fernandez, Andrea Gill, Ellie Shermer, Jill Jensen; front, Charles Delgadillo, Cassandra Engeman.

Grad Students Do Well In Labor Research Funding

ELEVEN HISTORY graduate students have been awarded a total of \$124,820 from the University of California's Labor and Employment Research Fund (LERF).

Administered by the Office of Research at the UC Office of the President, the LERF is an affiliate of the Miguel Contreras Labor Program, a multi-campus initiative that supports faculty and graduate student work on labor and employment issues relevant to California and the nation.

Dissertation fellowships of \$30,000 each were awarded to Elizabeth Shermer, for "Creating the Sunbelt: Conservatism, Anti-Unionism, and the Transformation of Phoenix, Arizona"; Jill Jensen for "International

Labor Standards in the Building of Two Postwar Orders, 1916-1949"; and Elizabeth Lamoree for "Agribusiness Against the State: California Growers Challenge Agricultural Labor Relations Legislation, 1930 - 1980."

In addition, Steven Attwell won a \$7,500 masters-level thesis grant and mini-grants of about \$4,000 each were awarded to Oliver Rosales, Leah Fernandez, Megan Barber, Charles Delgadillo, Jean Smith, Andrea Gill, and J. Alan Mason.

These grants are designed to facilitate ongoing research, such as travel to archives.

Overall, UCSB History grad students won more than a fifth of the \$576,000 in funds awarded in all disciplines at all 10 campuses in the UC system in 2007.

According to Prof. Nelson Lichtenstein, who serves on the LERF steering committee, "The success of our students is a testimony not only to the quality of their work but also to the breath of the research, historical as well as contemporary, that the LERF is prepared to support."

New Gift Will Support Grad Student Travel

THERE WILL BE a new source of travel funds for History graduate students this Spring, thanks to a gift from Howard and Trudy Cooperman.

The Coopermans have pledged to provide \$1000 a year for the next five years to create a Stuart Bernath Fellowship for research travel to archives.

"The Coopermans are keen travelers and easily understand the importance of travel to research," said History Prof. Sears McGee, who helped arrange the gift. They are close friends of the Bernath family, and wanted to do something to

honor Stuart's memory.

Stuart Bernath, whose name already stands over the department's undergraduate paper prize, earned his BA and PhD degrees from UCSB and was teaching history at Cal State Long Beach when he fell ill and died.

His book, *Squall Across the Atlantic: American Civil War Prize Cases and Diplomacy*, was published by University of California Press in 1970.

The first Bernath Fellow is expected to be announced in June, at the department's annual awards ceremony.

History Alums Win, Too

AARON LAYCOOK, winner of last year's Buchanan Award as the outstanding graduating senior in History, has learned that his Senior Honors thesis has won the UC Undergraduate Essay Prize sponsored by the Multi-Campus Research Group in Late Antiquity.

Aaron's thesis, written for Prof. Drake, studied religious violence in the 4th century.

Prof. Claudia Rapp of UCLA said Aaron's paper was "impressive for its range and sophistication."

Matt Rindge (BA History 1995) has accepted a tenure-track position in New Testament Studies at Gonzaga University in Washington. He will defend his doctoral dissertation at Emory University this month.

Grad Achievement

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of Denver from the University of West Georgia.

Other grads continued on a publishing streak.

Jake Hamblin (PhD 2001 Badash), has just published *Poison in the Well: Radioactive Waste in the Oceans at the Dawn of the Nuclear Age* with Rutgers University Press.

Kathryn C. Statler (PhD 1999 Logevall) has published *Replacing France: The Origins of American Intervention in Vietnam* with University Press of Kentucky.

Paul Hirsch (Yaqub) has

been awarded a Tamiment Library fellowship at NYU for next year. He will pursue research for his dissertation on comics and foreign policy.

Isaiah Walker (PhD 2006 Spickard) has article "Hui Nalu, Beachboys, and the Surfing Boarder-lands of Hawai'i" in the Spring 2008 issue of *The Contemporary Pacific*.

Matt Kester (Spickard) has had an article on "Race, Religion, and Citizenship in Mormon Country: Native Hawaiian Memories in Salt Lake City" accepted for the Fall issue of *Western Historical Quarterly*.

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History Associates

How the Web Was Won

History Prof. Harold Marcuse Spearheads Webpage Redesign

BY HAROLD MARCUSE

*Editor's Note: After a year of trial and study, the department launched its new webpage last October. Usage has steadily climbed since and is now close to 45,000 hits per month. Prof. Harold Marcuse chaired a committee that included Profs. Lisa Jacobson, John Lee and Patrick McCray. In response to queries, **Historia** asked Prof. Marcuse to explain what the changes mean.*

NOT ONLY IS the new site easier to navigate and more informative, it is also up to current technology standards on the inside, or "back end" in web lingo.

What does that mean, you ask? Think of the good old VW bug: today's version may look rather like the one from the 1930s on the outside, but very different on the inside. The internet equivalents of computerized fuel injection and electronic ignition are called "dynamic, database-driven" web pages in "PHP." Still none the wiser? Let's take a trip down memory lane to clarify things.

The department website dates back to around 1996, when there was still only one web server for the entire humanities division at UCSB, namely "humanitas." Back then we were a mere appendage of our English department colleague Alan Liu's Voice of the Shuttle site, at humanitas.ucsb.edu/history.

That site, replete with banner calligraphy by Al Lindemann and a set of gargoyles from Chartres cathedral as its link buttons, is now lost to the sands of time, probably only archived on decaying magnetic tapes unreadable by most computers today.

In 1997 we moved up a

notch, becoming www.history.ucsb.edu, and abandoning the thumbnail images for a more straightforward design. The internet archive, a public service at www.archive.org, retains a copy of that site from October 1998.

Under the simple headings "Who, What, Where, When, Why, How" we offered our core information, with a stack of campus links at the bottom. The only remnant from the previous site was the department's banner logo at the top, designed by an art student to match the Chartres thumbnails. Announcements and additions to the site were laboriously hand-coded into the homepage. Still, we already offered individual faculty homepages, and each quarter Catherine Salzgeber laboriously updated the course schedule and office hour listings.

In the Spring of 2002 we entered the graphical age, with a new site designed by history grad student Jason Kelly. Clothed in shades of green and spiced up with drop-down menus and rotating images, it looked nicer but was more difficult to navigate.

In January 2005 that homep-



Prof. Harold Marcuse

age got a facelift, with some new direct links to navigate quickly to the most frequently requested information. Still, the links were small, the drop-down menus awkward, and keeping the many hand-coded pages up to date was becoming unmanageable, never mind the need to maintain a text-only ADA-compliant parallel site.

In 2006, about 83,000 people viewed our homepage. 20,000 of them went on to the listing of course syllabi, 17,000 each to the faculty directory and office hours listings, 10,000 to the quarterly schedules of classes (2,500-3,500 each quarter), and 9,000 to the graduate (TA) directory and office hours. Several of our faculty member's pages were garnering thousands of viewers over the course of the year.

By early 2007, with our

"Events" page more than three years out of date, it was high time for a major overhaul. The web site committee decided on a revolutionary new principle to keep our site current: there would no longer be just one webmaster hand-editing each change in the arcane language of "html." Instead, each staff and faculty member could update parts of the site from their own web browser. That's where the "dynamic, database-driven, server-side PHP" comes in.

The site is dynamic in two ways. First, some people are given access to edit their own and various other pages on the site, much in the same way that you enter information into e-commerce sites when you shop on the internet.

But dynamic also means that the web server—the computer in North Hall that is attached to a node on the World Wide Web—pulls together most pages on our site from various collections of information: databases. Our site has databases of People, Courses, Fields, News, Events, and Scheduled Classes. Thus each faculty member's page draws information not only from their entry in the People database, but from the Fields and Scheduled Classes databases as well.

The computer language that does this is called "PHP," an acronym that contains its own

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Earlier incarnations of the History website. On the left, the homepage in 1997; on the right, its redesign in 2002.

And All that Jazz!

SOMETIMES, Prof. Douglas Daniels told a sellout audience at the History Associates' 20th anniversary celebration, the real story winds up being right under your nose.

After doing research in east Africa, Manhattan and Texas, the noted jazz historian explained, he learned from a local newspaper that the Santa Barbara Blues Society was the oldest such organization in the country and had twice won the national Keeping Blues Alive award.

"It struck me: something is going on right here," Prof. Daniels said.

Santa Barbara's Blues Society has become the model for other societies on the West Coast, Prof. Daniels said.

"This one is the mother ship."

One name kept coming up as he dug into the origins of the Society, Prof. Daniels said—John Breckow.

"Everyone remembered that he had started the Society, but nobody knew where he was," Prof. Daniels said.

"Some people thought he was in Milwaukee, other people thought he was dead."

When the name of a record store in Los Angeles surfaced, Prof. Daniels said, he suddenly



Prof. Douglas Daniels

remembered meeting a man by that name when he first came to Santa Barbara.

Retracing his steps, Prof. Daniels tracked Breckow to a record store in Glendale and has since turned his life story into a chapter for his current book project, which he read for the remainder of his lecture.

The book will be a study of the roots of jazz in blues.

"People always ask if jazz and blues have anything in common," he said.

"The best answer I ever heard came from a musician in Japan: 'Jazz minus blues equals zero.'"

Prof. Daniels spent the Fall as a Fulbright lecturer in Japan.

Following Prof. Daniels'



Emeritus Prof. Frank Frost

lecture, the Frank Frost trio entertained the sellout audience with assists from vocalist Pauline Thurston, who came up for the day from Los Angeles.

Jazz pianist Al Reese, who Prof. Frost introduced as a friend since the early '50s, played a rendition of Ray Charles' "Georgia" that brought the house down, then joined in a duet with Thurston.

This was a repeat pairing for Profs. Daniels and Frost. They also teamed up to celebrate the Associates' 10th anniversary in 1997.

The best question from the audience: "Are we going to have to wait 20 years for another performance?"



Jazz pianist Al Reese



Bassist Hank Allen and blues vocalist Pauline Thurston

Associates Delighted With "Idiots"

MEETING WITH THE director and set designer definitely added to their enjoyment of "Idiot's Delight," UCSB History Associates agreed after the performance.

To give but one example, set designer Tai Sanders talked about completely redoing the set after he discovered a reference to "dynamic symmetry" in an old version of the play.

"I found that this phrase referred to a movement in the 1920s to find mathematical principles in nature and apply them to architecture.

So I rebuilt the set that way."

Guest director Ira Levin talked about the challenges of stepping into a play after the original director, Irwin Appel, fell ill.

The play had already been cast, he said, and the actors were interpreting their parts on the basis of Appel's interpretation.

Nevertheless, Levin said, it turned into "one of the best experiences of my career."

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



2007-8 Honors class. Seated (l. to r.): Prof. Adrienne Edgar, Angela Prattas, Gregory Brown, Tiffany Dimaggio; standing: Scott McDonald, Evan Raleigh, Mallory Furnier, Claire Marblestone, Faith Reynaldo, Bryant Gebring, Robin Portune, Evan Ingardia, Corey Ubalde. Not pictured: Alex Hoffman.

Honors Students Brace for Showtime

BY GREGORY BROWN

AFTER TWO QUARTERS of frantic preparation, the group of amateur scholars in the Senior Honors seminar are now preparing to present the results of their labors in a History Colloquium on Friday, May 16.

Thirteen would-be historians who survived the selection process last Spring agreed to embark on this toilsome endeavor.

As one writer once said, "writing gives you the illusion of control, and then you realize it's just an illusion."

With the summer and Fall devoted to research, many of the students were lucky enough to secure Undergraduate Research funding to go on trips to far away places on the East Coast and even to metropolitan Arkansas.

Regardless of the topic, all the participants have found out why writing is such an arduous process. The more and more they read, the less and less they found they actually knew. Once seemingly simple

topics, became a tangled mire of historiography and complexity. Yet in the face of this situation, this group of historians has succeeded in part at making their control of the subjects' more than just mere illusion.

With topics ranging from Hellenistic garrison soldiers to Depression Era college football, Prof. Adrienne Edgar, our thesis advisor, has had her hands full.

In the field of race and the Civil War, we have "Bloodlines, Black Indians and the Numerology of Race," by Tiffany DiMaggio (Spickard); and "Images of Identity: Confederate Currency and Nationalism in the Civil War South" by Angela Prattas (Majewski).

Also "Stranger than Fiction: Antebellum Southern literature and the minds of Secession" by Bryant Gehring (Majewski); and "Differing Conceptions of Race: The Divergent Identity of Western Virginia in the Antebellum Period" by Greg Brown (Harris).

In much more dusty fashion there is "The Good the Bad and Garrisoned: An Examination of the Social Lives of Hellenistic Garrison Soldiers"

by Evan Raleigh (Lee); "The Role of Armenia in Roman and Persian Foreign Policy" by Scott McDonald (Digeser), and "Deceptive Relationships: Men and Women in Renaissance Italy" by Robin Portune (Blumenthal).

In more contemporary terms there is "Between Dreams and Domesticity: Careers, Community and Consumerism in

American Film Magazines of the 1930s" by Mallory Furnier (Jacobson) and "Third and Long: The Allure of College Football in the Great Depression" by Faith Reynaldo (Spickard).

Also "Behind the Eucalyptus Curtain: A History of Isla Vista Housing" by Evan Ingardia (Bergstrom) and "The Lady That Made the Clothes: Another look at Lucile, or the Lady Duff Gordon" by Alex Hoffman (Rappaport).

Despite all the difficulties, everyone in the group will tell you that it has been most certainly a worthwhile experience.

The joy and pride one has in seeing such an in-depth project to term alone has made the process fulfilling.

And of course, just as no man is an island, no honor's thesis student would have been able to complete the work without the help of others.

A special thanks goes out to all the mentors and Prof. Edgar in particular for her guidance and patience. The members of the Honor's Thesis look forward to seeing you at the Colloquium.

A Day for History



History's annual graduate recruitment day brought 50 prospective new students to campus on Friday, March 7. In addition to panels and workshops spotlighting various fields of history, the recruits were treated to guest lectures by Prof. Cjrosta Bisojendprf from Goethe University in Germany (left, with Prof. Mary Furner on right) and Scott McGill of Rice (right, with Prof. Elizabeth Digeser). Prof. Odd Arne Westad of the London School of Economics also spoke at a special session hosted by Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa and the Center for Cold War Studies and International History..

Gregory Brown is a senior History major and member of the Honors Seminar.

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 \$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 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: _____

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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:

UCSB Office of Community Relations
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1136
Questions? call (805) 893-4388

New Webpage

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acronym, namely: Php: Hypertext Preprocessor. That means simply that the North Hall computer generates the hypertext (html) code for each webpage anew before it sends it across the web to your computer, where your browser turns it into the web page that you see.

This new principle allows us to maintain many more web pages: not just for faculty and staff, but for graduate students as well. And we no longer merely list the quarterly class schedule, but each class has its own dynamically generated web page, to which faculty can add syllabi and documents with a few mouseclicks.

Already in Fall quarter about 50 percent of the classes had syllabi available. Launching the new website also required all faculty and graduate students to enter into their own dynamic relationship with their page and add information. Recent grad David Wight, a Bernath prizewinner, was hired to facilitate the process, and now about 250 people have pages on the site. Undergrad Secretary Mike Tucker can easily import and edit the spreadsheets of Scheduled Classes he maintains, so that those pages are always up to date.

Unfortunately, we ran out of money in the current budget before all of our desired features could be implemented. Until we develop a simpler interface for posting News and Events, the web committee has taken on that task. We want to have a course importer for the discussion section data from the registrar, so that each TA can have a section page with uploaded syllabi and documents. Dynamic interfaces for



History's new homepage.

various departmental programs, such as the Cold War Study Center and the Center for Work, Labor and Democracy are also on our wishlist.

The History Associates also have a new page, with listings of events and all award recipients, past and present. It also has a complete archive of *Historia* going back to the first issue in March 1988, and color versions of the latest issues are posted as they appear. Links have been added for joining and donating. The Associates' page is at http://www.history.ucsb.edu/people/tpererson.php?account_id=260.

Those strange URLs — web addresses — are another item high on our wish list for this budget cycle: URLs that don't look like the database they come from, but include the name of the person, event or course on that page. Hopefully sometime soon you'll find the History Associates at www.history.ucsb.edu/associates.

Stay tuned!



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