

The Happiest Day – History’s Fellowships and Prizes

On the first day of last June at 4pm in the McCune Conference Room, the History Department’s Awards Ceremony initiated the commencement season that culminated two weeks later on the Faculty Club Green. For the 2014-15 academic year, 135 students graduated with degrees in history, the history of public policy, or medieval studies. Five of them – Matthew Corb, Audrey Dalton, Richard Ibarra, Tiana Miller-Leonard and Saba Sadri – were chosen members of Phi Beta Kappa, the US’s oldest scholastic honor society (founded in 1776). Richard Ibarra and Kevin Dibb were co-winners of the Hal Drake honor key as the highest achieving history majors to enter Phi Beta Kappa. The Stuart L. Bernath Prize for the best seminar paper in an undergraduate course went to Geneva Douma for “The Executive and Employment Opportunity: the Reagan Administration’s Battle of 1986” (Furner).

Fourteen graduate students received History Associates Fellowships. These fellowships support such purposes as travel to archives, language study, and dissertation writing, and the winners were Paul Barba (Spickard), Niccole Coggins (Spickard), Sasha Coles (Cohen, Jacobson), Thomas Franke (Blumenthal), Brian Griffith (Fogu), Laura Hooton (Spickard), Caitlin Koford (Farmer), Angélica Márquez-Osuna (Soto Laveaga), Holly Roose (Spickard), Kit Smemo (Lichtenstein), Samir Sonti (Lichtenstein), Cody Stephens (Lichtenstein), and Bryan Tyrrell (Alagona).

In addition, named fellowships funded through the History Associates were handed out. Jess Halvorsen (Lichtenstein) won the Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Award for students who returned to academia after pursuing other endeavors. Caitlin Rathe (O’Connor) got the Robert L. Kelley Fellowship for the excellence of her work in policy history. The Frank and Amanda Clark Frost Prize for the best paper in the history of political economy (“When Food Is a Weapon: World War I, Glycerine Production, and the Global Demand for Fats and Oils” went to Kasha Arnold (Furner). Brian also got the William H. Ellison Prize for the best graduate seminar paper (“Bringing Bacchus to the People: Viticulture, National Identity, and the Politics of Consumption in Fascist Italy, 1922-45”).

Paul Barba (Spickard) took the Wilbur Jacobs Prize for excellence in American colonial history. Sasha Coles and Brian Griffith were co-winners of the Dick Cook Memorial Award for service to fellow students and the department, and Chris Kegerreis (Lee) and James White (Lee) shared the Harold and Kathleen Drake Award. James also received the Lawrence Badash Prize in the history of science and medicine. The Michael Bransfield Prize for the best paper or project in Public History went to Melissa Barthelmy, who did extraordinary service to the campus and community by serving as the project manager for massive Memorial Preservation Project that grew out of the tragic Isla Vista shootings last year. The Stephen and Eloise Hay Award for study of Islamic thought and culture went to Munther Al-Sabagh.

The History Department’s makes four awards to undergraduates. Joseph Shui’s essay won the

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NEWSLETTER OF THE UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES

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V O L . 29, NO. 1 • OCTOBER 2015



Some of the fellowships and prize winners. (BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) Cody Stephens, Tim Paulson, Thomas Frankie, Brian Griffith, Samir Sonti. (FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT) Angélica Márquez-Osuna, Sasha Coles, Laura Hooton, Caitlin Koford

The Senior Honors Thesis Class of 2014-15

Professor Harold Marcuse taught the two-quarter senior honors course (History 194AH & BH), a class open only to senior history majors who had a 3.5 or better GPA at the end of their junior year, submitted a sufficient writing sample, identified a topic for the (minimum 60 pages) paper they would write, and obtained a faculty mentor with the relevant expertise. In 2014-15, 10 students completed their ambitious projects and therefore graduated with “Distinction in the Major.” The topics ranged from late Roman Alexandria to Usama Bin Laden. On Friday May 15 from 9:15 to 3:30, they each presented their work and heard commentary from either faculty members or advanced graduate students in the Senior Honors Colloquium.

The History Associates Board Prize goes to the writer/s of the best paper/s in this course. This year, we had co-winners who happened to be the first speaker in the Colloquium, Zachary Alpert, and the last, Richard Ibarra (who also won the Buchanan Prize). Zac’s paper, mentored by Salim Yaqub, showed why the U.S. failed to bring Usama bin Laden to justice by means of diplomatic and covert action prior to September 11, 2001. Richard, whose mentor was Debra Blumenthal, examined local power

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The Legend of “Pope Joan”?

The first Pope Francis is the 264th man to occupy of the chair of St. Peter according to the *Pontifical Yearbook* and thus the holder of the oldest office on our planet. Even if we exclude the 32 “antipopes” (meaning men elected as the result of contested elections and various forms of chicanery such as those during the “Great Schism” from 1378-1418 when there were “popes” in both Rome and Avignon), the total is still impressive. Beginning around 1250 and for at least six centuries after that, many believed that either early in the tenth century or the twelfth, a woman who had posed as a man was elected pope and presided for 2 ½ years until, during a procession, she gave birth to her lover’s child and thereby revealed her secret. The propaganda value of a “Pope Joan” for Protestants after 1517 is obvious, but why had it gained traction much earlier among some Roman Catholics?

Join us in the Guild Hall of Trinity Episcopal Church (1500 State Street) for the first UCSB History Associates event of the academic year. It will be on Sunday October 18 at 4pm, and we will hear Professor Carol Lansing, a specialist in the history of medieval Italy and the winner of the American Historical Association’s Marraro Prize for the best book on Italian culture, unravel this particular fascinating story. History Associates pay \$10 and others \$12 (\$5 for students). Please book at drake@history.ucsb.edu so we can plan for the reception. And please mark your calendars for our second event on Nov. 8 (Prof. Sherene Seikaly on a topic in the modern Middle East – details to be announced.)

The Chair's Column

I am writing this column on the day before my first department meeting as chair of UCSB's History Department -- so my words are colored by the neophyte's optimism and sense of the unknown. Here's hoping that I will prove to be, to borrow an expression from Bruno Bettelheim, a "good enough chair"!

One thing that I do know, as I embark on this journey, is that viewing things from "the top" has only strengthened my sense of enormous gratitude that I teach and do research in one of the best History Departments at one of the best public universities in the country. Looking over the recent publications by my colleagues, compiling titles of about-to-be-published books for the HFA on-line bookshelf (keep an eye out for the updated version!), and reading over the career review files of my colleagues reminds me once again that I am surrounded by some of the most creative, innovative, and intellectually engaged people whom I have ever known, or would ever hope to know.

And virtually to a person, each of these amazing scholars is also a committed and incredibly creative teacher and mentor. Last summer in his lower division World History course Tony Barbieri-Low took his students to

the beach in order to test Karl Wittfogel's theory that the need to organize labor to build and maintain large-scale irrigation works leads to hierarchical power structures, as seen in the early states of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China. Dividing the students into 2 teams of 30 students, and providing each team with 5 buckets and 5 shovels, he told each team to dig a pit either 6, 9, or 12 feet in diameter, fifteen feet from the water, and then to figure out the fastest way to fill up that pit. Low and behold, the winning team ended up with strong hierarchical leadership -- and managed, in a bucket brigade, to move 6475 lbs. of water in less than an hour! Consider, too, our creative new "History 9 Courses" (one offering per semester), in which freshmen get hands on experience in "creating" rather than simply "consuming" historical knowledge! Take a look as well at the syllabus for Alice O'Connor's "History of the Present," which by necessity has to change every year as events and crises unfold!

I am looking forward myself to adding a "medievalist's perspective," in that course, on Pope Francis' recent encyclical on the environment! Take a look, if you haven't already done so, at the video-taped testimonies of last year's graduating senior history majors ("Ask a Student" -- on the History Department's Website): those students spoke with passion about their own research projects, their inspiring relationships with faculty, and their sense of camaraderie with other history majors.

And if that is not already enough, members of our department regularly go out into the world to add needed perspective on world events. Such will be the case on October 16 when Professors Sabra, Yaqub, Castillo-Muñoz, and Marcuse will present a panel on "Historical Perspectives on Current Immigration Crises



Department Chair, Sharon Farmer

and Debates" at Parents' and Family Weekend.

I have always loved my job at UCSB. Chairing the department (for 2 1/2 months now) has only worked to strengthen that love.

- Sharon Farmer

A Big Boost for the Study of Japan

Erich Schlaikjer has donated to the Department of History \$100,000 to support programming and fellowships for graduate students in Japanese history. After graduating in Classics from Harvard University, Erich went to Tokyo to teach English in the early 1980s and has held an interest in Japan and its culture ever since. Erich met his wife Patricia McIntyre in Tokyo, and they now live in England, where Erich is part owner of Cantab Capital Partners, a hedge fund. Erich and Luke Roberts became friends back in Tokyo, and he

kindly responded to Luke's suggestion that funds to support graduate students would be very useful. His generosity enabled the department to announce the first two Schlaikjer-McIntyre Family Fellows on June 1 at the annual award ceremony.

The beneficiaries are Viktor Shmagin and Travis Seifman. Viktor is an advanced Ph.D. student who returned to the U.S. in January 2015 after spending two years in Tokyo on a Fulbright and other fellowships that supported his research. His work is about Russo-Japanese relations from

1780-1870. The new funding will mean that Viktor will be able to write full time in the winter quarter and finish by June. Travis, is beginning his 4th year and researching the relations between the Ryukyu Kingdom (Okinawa) and Tokugawa Japan from the 17th through the 19th centuries. He will use his fellowship next winter to complete a chapter and continue reading Edo period documents. Professors McDonald and Roberts are delighted with the prospect of having this splendid gift available to support their graduate students for years to come.



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Editor

Sears McGee

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Ken Hough Wins Lancaster Dissertation Prize

Ken Hough (Ph.D. 2014, Spickard) won the UCSB Grad Division's Winifred and Louis Lancaster Award for 2015's best dissertation in the Humanities and Fine Arts. He was honored at the commencement ceremony, and his dissertation will be eligible to compete for the National Council of Graduate Schools award. In the 29 years since the award began, historians have won it 9 times. Three of them went on to win the national competition (Bev Schwartzberg in 2004, Tom Sizgorich in 2005, April Haynes in 2009), and Elizabeth Shermer was the "immediate runner up" in 2011.

Titled "Rising Sun Over America: Imagining a Japanese Conquest of the United States, 1900-1945," Ken's dissertation examines history and popular culture in the first half of the twentieth century. It relies on films and other popular media in addition to more traditional historical sources. He posits that there grew in the shared subconscious of the American public a "Japanese Invasion Sublime," a cultural-political archetype that engendered unreasoning fear and elicited irrational responses. He traces the

origins of this underlying fear, its evolution, and its consequences over more than a half century, from before the Russo-Japanese War to the end of World War II. As Paul Spickard puts it, Ken "marshals a huge array of sources to weave a convincing narrative of the origins, rise, and ultimately the decline of this theme that once dwelt deep in the collective American psyche. And he writes with clarity and grace. One day soon, *Rising Sun Over America* is going to be a great book."

Ken has also finished an article that is now under consideration on "Santa Barbara is in flames": The Shelling of Ellwood and the Battle of Los Angeles as the Culmination of a Half-Century of Japanese War Scars." He is already at work on his next project, a cultural history of unmanned drones, hot-air balloons, and other pilotless vehicles used in warfare. The idea that wars might be fought using unmanned air craft fascinated scientists, military tacticians, and the public from the 1780s onward to our own generation, and Ken will examine this thread in our understanding of warfare.

Thoughts on Chairing from Beth Digeser

On Monday, 1 June, the department hosted our 2015 awards ceremony. Sears and I presided over the disbursement of tens of thousands of dollars in awards that went directly into the hands of our students. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of the History Associates and the department's other donors, my colleagues and I know that our intelligent, aspiring, disciplined and determined students—both graduates and undergraduates—received in some part due recognition and encouragement for their intellectual and practical engagement with the discipline of history. What fun! It has been an honor and a privilege to help preside over that event four years in succession.

Being department chair too has been equally a privilege and honor. It has been an overwhelmingly positive experience, not just because it brings the opportunity to get to know and work closely with so many wonderful colleagues, but also because it carries the privilege of representing our department to the broader community. I've very much enjoyed making the acquaintance of the History



Former Department Chair,
Elizabeth DePalma Digeser

Associates over the past three plus years and facilitating your engagement with us. We have a lot to learn from and appreciate in one another, and I look forward to becoming even more involved with the Associates now that I'm stepping down as chair.

It is no secret that graduate training in the Humanities is in a state of transition as we find ourselves repeatedly explaining how the skills that we embody and teach prepare our students for their lives as human beings as well as their roles in the workplace and the community. We are so blessed as an academic community to have the support of the Associates in these endeavors, not just in our subject areas, but also toward Public History—a program always vital here, which is going to play an increasingly important role for us all in the future. I look forward to working and learning shoulder to shoulder with you all in the days and years to come.

Faculty Publications

Otis Graham, Jr. (prof. emeritus) published *Presidents and the American Environment* (University of Kansas Press, 2015—<https://kuecprd.ku.edu/~upress/cgi-bin/978-0-7006-2098-2.html>).

Former faculty members Anita Guerrini and Mike Osborne (now

at Oregon State University where Anita is the Horning Professor in the Humanities) have published books with the University of Chicago Press. Anita's is *The Courtiers' Anatomists: Animals and Humans in Louis XIV's Paris* (2015 — <http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/C/bo19986198.html>). Mike's book is *The Emergence of Tropical Medicine in France* (2014 -- <http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/E/bo17300089.html>).

A Day in the Life of Senate Historian Betty Koed



Betty K. Koed, Assistant Historian, Senate Historical Office

On May 7, 2015, Betty K. Koed (PhD, 1999) was named the new Historian of the U. S. Senate. Her mentors here at UCSB were Otis Graham and the late Bob Kelley. She joined the Senate Historical Office in June 1998. What, you may be wondering, does her job entail? When I asked her this question, she responded with the following account of her activities on Friday, September 11, 2015. She will be back in Santa Barbara in the spring to accept a Distinguished Alumni Award.

8:00 a.m.: Meet with the “Redcoats”—the trained corps of tour guides who lead Capitol visitors through the historic rooms. For many visitors, this will be their only visit to the U.S. Capitol, so the quality of the tour is very important. I regularly meet with the guides, give a brief presentation, and answer questions. Today’s topic, part of a series on the “Senate’s Forgotten Figures,” is the role of Senator Henry Wilson in emancipation and civil rights legislation.

8:46 a.m.: Join colleagues in Capitol to observe a “Moment of Silence” in memory of events of September 11, 2001.

9:15 a.m.: Meet with Senate colleague to discuss plans for a possible closed session of the Senate, to be held in the Capitol’s historic Old Senate Chamber.

10:00 a.m.: Conduct oral history interview with a long-time Senate staff member who was part of the leadership negotiation team during the “fiscal cliff” debates of 2011 and debt ceiling debates of 2013.

11:40 a.m.: Draft 500-word “historical minute” for presentation at the Republican policy luncheon on Tuesday. The challenge of this weekly duty is to tell a great, informative story in about 500 words, then stand ready to answer questions on the topic. Tuesday’s topic is Senator William Proxmire and the 1986 Genocide Treaty. (The Senate Historical Office is, of course, nonpartisan, and my associate historian

Kate Scott meets every Tuesday with the Democrats.)

12:30 p.m.: Lunch.

12:45 p.m.: Meet with staff to begin planning for the 2017 inauguration ceremony. Long before the election—before we even know the nominees for president—we begin planning the inaugural ceremony. Every inauguration has a historical theme, and today we discussed our proposed themes for 2017. Next week, I will discuss this with the Rules Committee, since the chair of the Senate Rules Committee leads the inaugural planning committee. Throughout 2016, my colleagues and I will be writing historical narratives for programs, booklets, and websites, selecting images and artifacts for inaugural-related exhibits, and providing historical reference on the traditions and precedents of past inaugural ceremonies for senators, staff, and the press.

1:30 p.m.: Respond to press calls.

2:15 p.m.: At my desk enjoying some cherished time to work on a long-term project, *A Documentary History of Senate Impeachment Trials*. Currently, I’m writing a case study of the 1933 impeachment trial of Judge Harold Louderback, a precedent-setting trial that still influences modern impeachment proceedings.

3:15 p.m.: Meet with Historical Office staff to finalize plans for Constitution Day 2015. Each year, on or near September 17, we provide a presentation for senators, staff, school groups, and the public on a Senate-related constitutional topic. This year’s topic, “The Constitutional Crises of the Civil War Senate,” serves a dual purpose, since we are also completing our projects related to the Civil War sesquicentennial.

3:30 p.m.: Respond to an ASAP request from Senate Budget Committee for a brief written

report on the history of the General Accounting Act of 1921 and early presidential use of the Bureau of the Budget. (I now know more than I ever wanted to know about Calvin Coolidge!)

5:30 p.m.: Meet with a senator’s speechwriter.

6:00 p.m.: Office closes for the day! Quiet! One last hour at my desk, finishing up tasks from today and preparing for next week.

7:10 p.m.: Bring on the weekend!

**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:

jsmcgee@history.ucsb.edu

POSTINGS

JOBS

Sarah Watkins (Ph.D. 2014, Miescher) has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in World History (Specialization Africa) at Colby College in Maine.

Tim Daniels (Ph.D. 2013, McGee), who spent last year as a postdoctoral fellow at Utah State University, has moved to a position as assistant professor of history at Ferrum College in Ferrum, Virginia (just 15 minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway). Thing lots of beautiful green trees as far as you can see in every direction!

Patrick Ludolph (Ph. D., 2014, McGee), has accepted a visiting assistant professorship at Georgia Gwinnett College beginning this fall. His article, "An Anatomy of the London Agent" appeared in *Parliamentary History* in 2013 won the journal's prize for best article of that year.

FELLOWSHIPS

Last year, Samir Sonti was chosen by the department Prize Committee to be the winner of the first Frank and Amanda Clark Frost Prize. The ever generous Frosts created this \$15,000 grant to run for three years and reward the best paper written by a graduate



Samir Sonti, recipient of the first Frank and Amanda Clark Frost Prize

student "that explores a highly significant episode in the history of political economy." This June, Samir received another major new award when the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, announced the results of its first round of competition for grants totaling \$610,000 for research on public policy questions the collect data and/or study the effects of inequality on individual behavior. Samir's project, "The Evolution of the Federal Reserve's Inflation Target," caught their eye and won him a \$15,000 grant. Can he top this during the coming year? Stay tuned...

PUBLICATIONS

Will Thompson (Tutino) published an article in the Spring 2015 issue of the *Tufts Historical Review*. It's called "From Bread and Wine to Body and Blood . . . and back again: the Significance of Changes Made to the Eucharist under Henry VIII and Edward VI.

Joe Bassi (PhD, 2009, McCray) is an assistant professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. His book – *A Scientific Peak: the Development of Boulder as a World Center for Space and Atmospheric Science* – is scheduled for publication in November by the American Meteorological Society (<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/S/bo22341241.html>).

Nancy McLoughlin (Farmer) recently received tenure at UC-Irvine. Her book, *Jean Gerson and Gender: Rhetoric and Politics in Fifteenth-century France* was published earlier this year by Palgrave MacMillan (<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/Jean-Gerson-and-Gender/?K=9781137488831>).

Happiest Day - cont. from page 1

Nicholas and Lena Dumas Essay Award in ancient history, and Tiana Miller-Leonard got the William Nida Scholarship for the outstanding graduate headed for school teaching. She also received the Margaret Straight Scholarship in American history (funded by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Remy Bogna received the Marion Ramstad Scholarship for undergraduates interested in European or Asian history.

Turning to graduate awards by the department, Holly Roose (Spickard) got the J. Bruce Anderson Memorial Fellowship for the outstanding Teaching Assistant. The Richard Mayberry Award for overall scholarly excellence went to Samir Sonti, and Esmé Frost Fellowship for pre-modern European studies went to Will Thompson (Tutino, Bernstein). The Richard and Jeanne Williams Graduate Fellowship went to Cody Stephens and the C. Warren Hollister Memorial Fellowship for medieval Europeanists to Sarah Hanson (Farmer). Laura Hooton took the Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship in the history of the American West and Fang He (Zhao) the Joseph and Gina Jannota Foundation Research Prize. The Ken Mouré and Sara Norquay Award was won by Maria Fedorova (Lichtenstein).

Finally, Rocio Torres of the Alumni Association presented the A. Russell Buchanan Alumni Award to the outstanding undergraduate of the year, Richard Ibarra. Nominated by Carol Lansing and Ed English, Richard's remarks brought the ceremony to a close and a lively reception provided by the Alumni Association followed. Richard, who is now beginning graduate study at UCLA, wrote a superb Senior Honors Research paper set in medieval Spain that is described elsewhere in this issue.

Thesis Class of 2014-15 - cont. from page 1

struggles in Spain's western province of Extremadura between a corporation of shepherds and the local monastery (struggles in which the Spanish kings were deeply involved).

The presentations were grouped into four panels. The first three, under the heading "Contemporary Issues around the World," were Zachary Alpert; Andrew Farkash (Spickard) on "If Not Now, When?: The Histories and Legacies of Jewish Dissent from Zionism"; and Alan

Chuang (Applebaum), "The Rise of the Chinese Economy: Policy, Innovation and Technology." Panel II on "Ideas about Slavery in the 19th-century United States" featured papers by Grant Stanton (Majewski) on "The Doctrine of the Declaration: Lincoln, Douglass, and The Battle Rhetorical" and Anne Osborn (Majewski) on "De Bow's South: How One Periodical Reflected Education Reform in the Antebellum South."

Panel III ("Media and Policy") featured the work of Geneva Douma (Rappaport) on "The Gendered History of Informed Consent: The Lunacy Commission and the "Treatment" of Female Mental Illness in Mid-Victorian England"; Evan Liddle (Edgar) on "A 'Media Campaign'? The German Press and the Early Yugoslav Crisis (1989-1992): A Comparative Case Study of Neues Deutschland, Die Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Der Spiegel, and Die Süddeutsche Zeitung"; and Adela Contreras (Chavez-Garcia), "The Salvadoran Revolution in the U.S.: Rufina Amaya's Testimonies, January 1982" Panel IV ("Ancient and Early Modern Borderlands" consisted of Brittany White (Digeser) on "Late Roman Alexandria: A Hot Mess of Identity From the Emperor to the Common Alexandrian"; and Richard Ibarra.

Coincidentally, as the instructor of the 2006 senior honors course, I recently received an e-mail from Bryan Knapp, one of the students in that class. Mentored by Jon Glickstein, Bryan wrote a terrific 118-page paper on "Emerson's Agitation: the American Literary Renaissance and the Formation of Northern Antislavery Ideology." After graduating here, he went to Washington University in St. Louis for his M.A. His next stop was Brown, where he completed another M.A. and a Ph.D. He has won a W. M. Keck Fellowship at the Huntington Library and is Visiting Assistant Connecticut College where he teaches courses in history and American studies. His dissertation – "The Biggest Business in the World" – is about the politics of baby feeding from the Nestlé Company's invention of powdered infant formula in the late nineteenth century through the international boycott of Nestlé in the 1970s and 1980s. It is under consideration for publication at a major university press.

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 \$ _____

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In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is:

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- \$ _____ gift to the History Associates Dick Cook Fund.
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(specify other scholarship fund)

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



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Questions? call (805) 893-2991

The Last Word

I have always thought the best moment to take over a challenging task such as chairing an academic department or editing a newsletter such as this one would be to do it when one's predecessor had worn out his or her welcome by making a

terrible hash of the job. Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to test this strategy. I began what turned out to be a 5-year stint as department chair in 1990. I followed Hal Drake, who had been a superb chairman.

Now I find myself following Hal once again. Hal edited *Historia* from its inception and did it so well that when he stepped down last June he was presented with a plaque from his grateful colleagues at the annual award ceremony on June 1. It read: "UCSB Department of History / H.A. Drake / Professor Emeritus / Recognizing 28 years as editor of *Historia* / 2015 / "Historia magistra vitae est." / Cicero, *De oratore* II, 36." Usually translated as "history is life's teacher," the idea became part of conventional wisdom not only in Cicero's era but during the European Renaissance too. The study of history as a source of examples of virtuous and admirable behavior to be emulated in order to become the broadly educated and widely skilled "Renaissance man" (*uomo universale* in Italian) is thus both very old and very modern. It underlies the rationale for a "liberal education" that is still pervasive. So once again I will be trying to see if I can do something as well as he has already done it. I am certain of one thing; I won't be doing it for 28 years. Here goes! Wish me luck!



Historia Editor, Sears McGee

- Sears McGee

Historia on the Web

Missing an issue?

All issues of *Historia*, from v. 1, no. 1 (March, 1988) can be found online:

www.history.ucsb.edu/centers-and-programs/history-associates/historia