Historians Take to Airwaves

Interviews with two UCSB historians have made their way onto the airwaves — to the great surprise of one of them. Two other historians appear in an animated documentary.

Prof. Mhoze Chikowero was interviewed on Public Radio International about legendary Zimbabwean musician Thomas Mapfumo and its longtime president, Robert Mugabe.

Known as "The Lion of Zimbabwe," Mapfumo performed at UCSB in 2010.

Prof. Chikowero teaches African cultural, social and economic history, with a specialization in Southern Africa and Zimbabwe.

He has written on Zimbabwean urban musicians and has a forthcoming work CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ONE OF THE MOST memorable songs the late Warren Hollister wrote for his Western Civ class was a ditty about the 14th century Avignon Papacy—a split in the leadership of the Catholic church that wound up spawning a host of popes and anti-popes.

He set it to the tune of "Old MacDonald" (Opening phrase: "There was a pope in Avignon, e-i, e-i, o") and for the refrain sang, "Here a pope, there a pope, everywhere a pope, pope." That schism was finally ended in 1415 when Gregory XII stepped down, becoming the last pope to retire until the surprise announcement this month by Benedict XVI, almost 600 years later.

Now everybody is wondering what it will be like to have two living popes.

Four History faculty whose fields cover the history of Christianity in various periods will try to shed light on this question on Tuesday, March 5, in a panel discussion at University Club of Santa Barbara, 1332 Santa Barbara St.

The four panelists will be:

- History Chair Elizabeth DePalma Digeser, who studies religion and philosophy in Late Antiquity. Her books include The Making of a Christian Empire.
- Edward D. English, executive director of UCSB’s Medieval Studies Program and co-editor of A Companion to the Medieval World. He also co-edited Christians, Muslims and Jews in Medieval and Early Modern Spain.
- Carol Lansing, professor of medieval-European history who specializes in the study of late medieval Italian towns. Her works include Power and Purity: Cathar Heresy in Medieval Italy and, most recently, Passion and Order: Restraint of Grief in the Medieval Italian Communes.
- Stefania Tutino, professor of Reforma­tion European history who specializes in intellectual history. Her works include Law and Conscience, Catholicism in early modern England and, most recently, a study of the role of Robert Bellarmine in post-Roman Catholicism.

A price of $8 for members and guests and $10 non-members will include light refreshments of coffee and cookies.

Reservations may be made by phoning (805) 893-4388.

Panel of Historians Will Weigh In On The Meaning of Benedict's Resignation

Prof. Beth Digeser, Ed English, Carol Lansing and Stefania Tutino.

Prof. Mhoze Chikowero.
Len Marsak (1924-2013): A Remembrance

BY J. SEARS McGEE

A former member of this department, Leonard M. Marsak, died in Santa Barbara Feb. 5 at age 89.

Len completed his B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Cornell, and he retired from UCSB in 1986.

He was the first Jewish graduate student to be accepted for history at Cornell, where he worked under the tutelage of Henry Guerlac.

Len taught at MIT, Wellesley, Reed and Rice before coming to UCSB in 1966.

While an instructor at Reed in the mid-1950s, he was accused of being one of several “communists” on the faculty and called to testify before the House Un-American activities Committee.

He declined to testify and was dismissed from his position at Reed.

While at Rice in 1964, he wrote letters of recommendation to grad school for me. Thanks to his support, I was admitted to Yale and then joined my former mentor on the faculty at UCSB in 1969.

Len Marsak’s field was modern European intellectual history, and he defined it very broadly. His first publication was an oft-quoted monograph entitled Bernard de Fontenelle: the Idea of Science in the French Enlightenment (1959).

Science in the French Enlightenment was both his home turf and his starting point. Next came a large anthology he created, French Philosophers from Descartes to Sartre (1961).

In addition to various articles, it was followed by three books he compiled and edited: The Nature of Historical Inquiry (1970); The Enlightenment (1972); and The Rise of Science in Relation to Society (1974).

These titles underline his deep interest in the relationship between science, thought, and modernity and the breadth of his understanding of European thought since 1500.

Lennie was a patient, inventive and thoughtful teacher and a master of the investigation of the relationship between science, politics, and society in early modern Europe.

My recollection of my time in his class during my senior year is vivid and inspiring. He opened each session seated at a table in the front of a room of twenty or so of us.

We were too many for a proper seminar, but he insisted on proceeding as if we were involved in a discussion rather than the targets of a lecture.

Most of us had grown up in south Texas and did not know the French Enlightenment from a kookaburra, but he insisted on treating us as intelligent participants rather than subjects of indoctrination.

Since most of us were bright enough but hopelessly uninformed, his technique (if that’s what it was) actually worked.

Actually, I think now that it was a less a technique than an expression of who he was and how his capacious mind worked.

He, of course, had an agenda for each day, but when one of us tentatively ventured a question from our reading of Bacon or Descartes (among the many others he assigned us to read), he took the question seriously and wove it seamlessly into his remarks on that day.

When is a lecture not a lecture? It’s when Len Marsak was in charge.

We, meanwhile, went away thinking we were smarter than we thought. Talk about confidence building! I will remember our many discussions over the years here in Santa Barbara, usually over cheese, crackers and a small glass of Pinot Grigio in his living room, with great fondness.

His students here, many of whom I have enjoyed meeting, will doubtless remember him as happily as I do.

JAH Prize Goes To Matt Sutton


Airwaves continued from p.1


His interview can be listened to at: https://soundcloud.com/afropop-worldwide


And, unbeknownst to himself, Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa appeared in a program on “Nagasaki: the Forgotten Bomb” that aired on the BBC’s National Geographic channel.

“I remember the producer came to my house two years ago,” Prof. Hasegawa said, but he heard nothing further until friends told him about it.

A clip from the interview may be watched on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IURAcFlmZn8

Meanwhile, Profs. Sharon Farmer and Adam Sabra show up in an hour-long, partially animated documentary on the history of poverty.

“Poor Us,” a global overview of the history of poor people from 10,000 BC to the present, has played on the BBC and in various countries in Europe.

Prof. Farmer is the author of Surviving Poverty in Medieval Paris: Gender, Ideology and the Daily Lives of the Poor (Cornell).

Prof. Sabra, who will arrive in the Fall to replace Prof. Stephen Humphreys as King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies, is the author of Poverty and Charity in Medieval Islam: Mamuluk Egypt, 1250-1517 (Cambridge).

The film will be featured at the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival in the Fall. You can watch it now at: http://www.benlewis.tv/films/poor-animated-history-4/
Humphreys Honored By Mid-East Association

Prof. R. Stephen Humphreys received a lifetime achievement award for his contributions to the study of medieval Middle Eastern history at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Assn. last November.

Prof. Humphreys previously edited MESA's journal, IJMES, and in January he served as chair of the international jury for the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for contributions to Arab culture.

Last year, he chaired the Executive Committee of Delegates and was an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Learned Societies, the country's second-largest funding agency for research fellowships in the humanities.

Prof. Humphreys retired last spring as the first holder of UCSB's King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies, which he has held since 1990.

CCWS Hosts Grad Conference

The Center for Cold War Studies and International History (CCWS) hosted its first-ever Student Symposium on the Cold War this month.

Organized by Ken Hough (with an assist by Prof. Salim Yaquib), the all-day event featured papers by graduate students and commentators from across the campus.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Dimitri Aklutov (PhD 2012 Hasegawa), who spoke about Soviet foreign policy during World War II and the difficulty of conducting research in former Soviet archives.

History grad students Eric Fenrich, Henry Maar and Jason Saltoun-Ebin presented papers on topics ranging from Sputnik and the Civil Rights movement to grassroots protests against the MX missile and the end of the Cold War under Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Kristen Shedd and Cody Stephens, as well as Religious Studies grad Steve Hu presented papers on the Cold War dimensions of church and state court cases, Andre Gunter Frank's influence on dependency theory and Cold War-era propaganda and religious radio broadcasting in Asia.

Given the success of this first outing, CCWS plans to make the symposium an annual event.

The Return of the Dreaded Thermometer

$10,000! $4,000

Fundraising to meet Jo Beth Van Gelderen's annual challenge is off to a slow start this year, and she's already planning how to spend her money. Don't let her do this! Send your contribution today to: UCSB History Associates, Office of Community Relations, UCSB 93106-1136.

Former Buchanan Recipient Shows Students Path to Success

The best advice you could give to History undergraduates would be to follow the example set by their new advisor, Dr. Monica Garcia.

For one thing, Monica knows what she's talking about. As an undergraduate in the department, Monica received the A. Russell Buchanan Award as the outstanding graduating senior of 2004.

For another, she is extremely goal oriented. When she graduated, she told Historia she wanted to go to graduate school to “fill a gap in the historical record and write about women in mining.”

Eight years later, she successfully defended a dissertation entitled, “A History of Mexican and Mexican American Women in the Mining Regions of the Rocky Mountain West, 1890-1930,” which she wrote for Profs. Paul Spickard and Zaragosa Vargas.

And she loves nothing more than helping students get the most out of their education. “I have experienced the same enjoyment, concerns, and issues that History undergraduates experience today,” she says. “I can relate to them on a personal level because I have been where they are now.

“I understand the importance of providing the best guidance and most correct information,” she adds.

While a grad student, Monica served as a teaching assistant, and she find that the experience now helps her inform students about what to expect from their courses and how to get the most out of them.

“I encourage them to communicate with their professors and TAs and take advantage of the numerous opportunities available to them,” she says.

Monica replaces Mike Tucker, who was long expected to fill the office of department Attack Secretary, vacated by Carol Pfeil on her retirement. He even earned the title of Attack Secretary in waiting.

“We had high hopes for Mike but he just didn’t live up to his potential,” said Historia editor Hal Drake.

“The best he could ever do was reduce me to a quivering heap of self-loathing.”
President's Corner

History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.
—Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC), Pro Publio Sestio

Dear History Associates Members and Aficionados,

In January there was much hoopla over the Academy Awards and Steven Spielberg’s film, “Lincoln,” along with celebrating President Lincoln having signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863—150 years ago. To commemorate this momentous occasion, the History Associates held an informative and entertaining seminar at the University Club on January 10. Our speaker was Professor of History John Majewski.

Dr. Majewski pointed out that Lincoln was a pragmatist, who avoided taking a firm position against slavery early in his political career. Although he opposed slavery in many ways, Lincoln was not an abolitionist. He was never against slavery where it already existed; he only wanted to prevent its expansion into the new territories. He proceeded with great caution, since he believe that slavery was supported by the Constitution and the Fugitive Slave Act, which allowed the federal government to hunt down fugitive slaves and return them to their “owners.”

In September 1862 (in the midst of the Civil War), Lincoln offered to allow the slave states to keep their slaves—but only if they would rejoin the union and end the bloody fighting. However, Southerners viewed slavery as essential to their very livelihood. In fact, slavery was a huge business then, bigger than all the factories and railroads put together. They envisioned the South as a separate slave-holding nation with a bright economic outlook—and they were willing to fight fiercely to preserve their economic, social and political future.

When the South was unwilling to capitulate, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation as a presidential directive in order to hasten the conclusion of the war. He had personally witnessed the war’s carnage and desperately wanted to bring the devastating conflict to an end—but only if the nation as a whole remained intact. Preserving the union was essential to him and it was the basis for most Northerners to join in the fight. Slavery took center stage long into the conflict. By then, Lincoln felt that being Commander in Chief entitled him to take this measure. Thus, he signed the document to abolish slavery throughout the country, including areas of the South where he actually had no power to do so. Nonetheless, it became law and Lincoln became known as “The Great Emancipator.”

Did he accomplish this momentous feat all on his own? No, not really. Others played important roles. In fact, the abolishment of slavery had long been part of a social movement led by northerners who wanted Americans to confront its evils. They saw slavery as a moral injustice that must be brought to an end.

The abolitionist movement was founded by William Lloyd Garrison in 1832. He was apprenticed to a printer when he was 12 where he learned the art of typesetting and writing. He became a “moral perfectionist” and doing away with slavery became a career. Although he opposed slavery in many ways, Lincoln was never against slavery where it already existed; he only wanted to prevent its expansion into the new territories. He proceeded with great caution, since he believed that slavery was supported by the Constitution and the Fugitive Slave Act, which allowed the federal government to hunt down fugitive slaves and return them to their “owners.”

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Curating the Emancipation Proclamation

Civil War Scholars Find ‘Teachable Moment’ in Spielberg Film

FOR CIVIL WAR historian John Majewski, business could not be better. The confluence of two events—the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the success of the blockbuster film “Lincoln”—has created a national conversation about the war.

As part of that conversation, Prof. Majewski and graduate student Maria Fedorova have curated an exhibit in Special Collections at Davidson Library entitled “Who Freed the Slaves?”

The exhibit will be running until the end of April. Davidson Library, it turns out, is the perfect place for such an exhibit.

The Wyles collection—one of the largest Civil War archives west of the Mississippi—contains a treasure trove of Civil War materials, including original letters, diaries, newspapers, broadsides, photographs, and even Confederate currency.

Fedorova, who selected all of the exhibit items, recalled seeing the full scope of the collection for the first time. “It is very impressive—just box after box,” she said.

Prof. Majewski and Fedorova decided on the theme of “Who Freed the Slaves?” to present emancipation in the broadest possible context. “While Lincoln was obviously very important, Emancipation was the result of many different groups—radical abolitionists, free blacks in the North, and ex-slaves who served in the Union army. Emancipation was partially the result of self-liberation.”

Prof. Majewski sees the exhibit as providing the longer context of the movie “Lincoln,” which has generated strong reviews and several Academy Award nominations. “The movie does a great job in portraying the one month that resulted in the passage of the 15th Amendment,” he said. “We like to give people the background to understand how the issue of slavery evolved over a thirty-year window.”

Prof. Majewski credits the movie with creating great interest in the Civil War. “I’ve given several talks in the past few months about emancipation, and in each one it is clear that the audience has seen the movie and wants to learn more.”

Letters

CONTINUED FROM P. 4

chrissy Lau (Spickard) is serving as the Goldman Sachs Multicultural Junior Fellow and Intern at the National Museum of American History with the Smithsonian, where she is working on an exhibit entitled “Sweet & Sour: A Look at History of Chinese Food in the United States.” Chrissy served as an intern with the Chinese American Museum of Los Angeles during 2011-2012.

Matt Kester (PhD 2008 Spickard) has published Remembering Iosepa: History, Place, and Religion in the American West (Oxford). Matt currently teaches at BYU-Hawai‘i.

David Schuster (PhD 2006 Furner) has published Neurotechnic Nation: America’s Search for Health, Happiness, and Comfort, 1869-1920 (Rutgers).

Colleen Ho (Lansing) has published “Thirteenth and Fourteenth Century European-Mongol Relations” in History Compass 10, no. 12 (2012): 946-968.

Henry Maar (Lichtenstein) has received a grant from the Cushwa Center at Notre Dame for dissertation related research in the Notre Dame archives.

Nicole Pacino (Soto Latevega) has accepted a tenure-track position in Latin American history at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. She is currently completing a dissertation on public health in post-revolutionary Bolivia, 1952-1964.
The Last Word
What's in a Seal?

The camel, it is said, is a horse designed by a committee. So I figure the new UC logo that was introduced last Fall must also have been designed by a committee (it’s on the right, above, in case you’ve forgotten what it looked like). No sense trying to figure out what they were thinking; it was more fun to get people’s reaction to it. Then it became sort of like a Rorschach test.

Most people I talked to thought it looked like a toilet, which, considering the state of the UC’s finances in recent years, wasn’t entirely inappropriate. Personally, I saw a colonoscopy—also oddly appropriate, if you think about it.

What almost nobody saw was what the designers evidently intended—a trendy and simplified yellow C encased in a kind of U. They were mystified by the outcry that greeted their labors. For reasons that escaped them, people still preferred the stodgy and decidedly untrendy seal on the left above, which seemed to have done just fine for 154 years. After some typical UC-speak, the powers that be caved and I’m happy to say the old seal is here to stay, at least for now.

Still, it got me thinking, and now I have my own candidate for a replacement seal, which is the center photo above. Some of you may recognize it; it’s the ubiquitous sign used at traffic roundabouts in the south of France. A good translation would read, “You do not have the right of way.” (An excellent translation would be, “Yield.”) But if you take the words literally, they say, “You do not have priority.”

Think about this: that phrase, underneath a sign showing arrows going in a circle. If you care about truth in advertising, I’d say that pretty much sums up the University of California.

Hal Drake

From the Chair
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

lifelong cause.

Without doubt, many citizens and statesmen contributed to the eventual freeing of the slaves. However, history shows that Lincoln advocated for—and made the extremely difficult decision to sign—the Emancipation Proclamation. He has since been revered for his courage and leadership in what was a turbulent, divisive and painful period in American history.

If presentations such as “Who Freed the Slaves?” interest and/or intrigue you, I hope you will consider becoming a member of the History Associates. Membership has numerous benefits, not least of which is helping to raise money for the annual financial awards we give to deserving students who are pursuing their graduate degrees in history. In addition, you will receive discounts to attend all our exciting events.

Upcoming events include the panel discussion “When Popes Resign” on March 5, the details for which are on the front page of this issue.

Prof. James Brooks will talk with us about the Hopi Indians on April 25, and on May 11 we are co-sponsoring an event at the Mission to celebrate Father Junipero Serra’s birth in 1715. Our special Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 4, and later that month we are going to have a presentation on Santa Barbara’s once-vibrant Chinatown. I hope you will both join our illustrious group and also attend one or more of the events we have scheduled for the months to come. I look forward to seeing you there!

Ann Moore, President