Two Seniors Share 2014 Buchanan Prize

Kelsey O’Hagan and Eden Slone have two things in common. For one, they both fell in love with the study of history at an early age. For another, both were selected to receive the 31st annual A. Russell Buchanan Alumni Award as the department’s outstanding graduating senior.

Kelsey says she actually hated history “with a passion” before encountering an inspiring teacher in high school who was “the first teacher I had had who made history interesting.” She became a double major in Chinese and spent an Education Abroad year in China.

Eden vividly remembers staring up at the "Apotheosis of Washington" mural in the dome of the Capitol building and being "amazed at the information provided by our rather eccentric tour guide.”

“I have been hooked on the subject ever since,” she says.

Prof. Sears McGee, who chaired the selection committee this year, said both students overwhelmed the committee with their ability to articulate the significance of

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Awards Ceremony Kicks Off 2014 Commencement

At what UCSB History Associates like to call “the happiest day of the year,” the department handed out more than $65,000 in fellowships and awards during the annual History Awards Ceremony on June 5.

The ceremony is the final event of the year before commencement, which will take place on the Faculty Club Green Sunday, June 15, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Prior to commencement, the department will host a reception for graduating seniors and their families from 10 a.m. to noon in the History Conference Room, HSSB 4020. A total of 154 students have met all degree requirements for the History and History of Public Policy majors in 2013-14, the bulk of them this quarter.

Nine of their number were selected for admission to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest scholastic honor society, founded in 1776. Those selected were Rehan Bholat, Kevin Dibb, Meredith Inman, Chelsea Simpson, Katherine Thompson, Emily Windham and Jonathan Yam.

Chelsea was also selected by the local chapter to be first recipient of a new Hal Drake honor key, created to recognize the highest achieving History major selected for admission each year.

Eighteen grad students were selected to receive History Associates fellowships this year—double the number awarded last year and the second highest number ever, exceeded only by the 20 fellowships awarded in 2011.

In addition, Stephanie Seketa (Rappaport) was selected to receive the Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Award for students who have returned to academia after pursuing other interests.

Awards were made for a variety of purposes, including travel to archives, language study and dissertation writing.

The recipients, with their mentors’ names in parentheses, were:

Paul Baltimore (Yaqub), Francisco Beltran (Castillo-Muñoz), James Conrad (Digeser), Cheryl Frei (Bergstrom/Cline, Abigail Dowling (Farmer), Brian Griffith (Marcuse), Christopher Kegerreis (Lee), Henry Maar (Lichtenstein), Ross Melczer (Chikowero).

Ryan Minor (Miescher), Damian Nemirovsky (Rock), Joshua Rocha (Talbott), Kristoffer Smemo (Lichtenstein), Cody Stephens (Lichtenstein), William Thompson (Bernstein), Jackson Warkentin (Plane), Peninah Wolpo (Digeser) and Jason Zeledon (Cohen).
Policy Historians Launch New Undergrad Symposium

From local policy history to global affairs, faculty and students were treated to an impressive array of undergraduate research at the inaugural Undergraduate Policy History Symposium on May 30.

Papers ranged from a study of the policy for building a stadium in San Diego to the way multi-national corporations avoid responsibility for workplace danger.

History of Public Policy seniors presented theses on the historical policy roots of such pressing current issues as gas fracking, medical stem cell research, national responses to genocide and new slavery, and education policy in the "schools to prison pipeline," as well as urban redevelopment.

Labor Studies internship projects guided by TA Kit Smemo examined the recent policy attack on unionization in Wisconsin as well as the "Wal-martization" of global corporate responsibility.

Prof. Mary Furner’s Wealth and Poverty proseminar students probed the histories of policies affecting inequality, including land reform in post-WW II Japan, the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, federal contracting, tax and housing mortgage policies and Great Society Civil Rights and immigration policies.

And students working with Prof. Alice O’Connor presented the collaborative "Great Society at Fifty" website timeline that they are constructing.

"With so much interesting student research going on around the "Great Society at Fifty" Critical Issues Series and in our policy history senior theses, we decided it was time to showcase some of it," said Prof. Randy Bergstrom, who serves as History of Public Policy advisor.

"The Senior Honors colloquium gave us a great model to follow."

"This is terrific research," Prof. Mary Furner observed, expressing the sense of all in attendance.

Samir Sonti Nabs First Frost Prize

Samir Sonti was awarded the first annual Frost Prize at the department’s Awards Ceremony.

Established this year by emeritus Prof. Frank J. Frost and his wife, Amanda, the new prize is designed to encourage study of historically significant issues of political economy in any period of history.

Seminar papers, dissertation chapters or even entire dissertations may be considered for the prize, which is awarded for "substantial research and rigorous reasoning."

Samir was recognized for his paper on “Pricing Power and the Public Interest: Steel, the Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly, and the Class Politics of Inflation, 1957-59.”

According to his advisor, Prof. Nelson Lichtenstein, Samir’s paper focuses on a pivotal moment in the history of American industry.

“Samir Sonti’s research on the politics of the American steel industry—in the early postwar years the most 'basic' of all industries—offers new insights into how the U.S. economy moved from relative stability in the 1950s and 1960s to instability and financialization in later decades,” he said.

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Nine Students to Graduate With Honors in History

This year’s Senior Honors seminar produced a broad range of papers but a single standard of excellence.

Papers by the nine students in the seminar, who will be graduating with honors in History, ranged in time from ancient Persia to mid-20th century America, and in topic from railways in Africa to Jewish intermarriage in the U.S.

Meredith Inman’s paper entitled “‘And What a Place for a Shopman!’ Liberty’s, Regent Street, and the Intersection of Empire and Commercialism, 1875 – 1927,” written for Prof. Erika Rappaport, was selected to receive the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research.

Her paper was also selected to receive the History Associates Board Prize for best paper in this year’s class, which was supervised by Prof. Stephan Miescher.

The others students, their topics and mentors are:

- Roxanne Houman, “‘Sorry, Mom’: A History of Jewish Intermarriage in the United States since 1880” (Spickard).
- Dominic Moretto, “There Are Few Heroes Here: Understanding the Devastation of the Paraguayan War” (Méndez).
- Paul Pham, “Assured Commitment: Ngo Dinh Diem’s Official State Visit, 1957” (Kalman).

Abigail Dowling (Farmer) was awarded the C. Warren Hollister Memorial Fellowship to complete her study of natural resource management on the estate of Countess Mahaut in the northern French county of Artois in the early decades of the 14th century. The Hollister fellowship was created in 2002 to honor a founding member of the History department.

Support from the Harold and Kathleen Drake Fund went to two students: Chris Kegerreis (Lee) and James White (Lee). The fund supports students studying the history of the ancient Mediterranean and ancient China.

DAR Award Goes to History Junior

Matthew Broad was selected to receive the Margaret Straight Scholarship in American History funded by the Mission Canyon chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The award goes to a junior History major with a demonstrated interest in American history and, preferably, an interest in teaching. He was nominated by Prof. Laura Kalman.

Abigail Dowling.

Matthew Broad.
Four students received top honors for undergraduate papers at the History Awards Ceremony.

Matthew McDonald (Yaq–ub) received the Stuart L. Bernath Prize for best paper in a one-quarter undergraduate seminar for “Communist Paranoia and the American Public’s Effect on the Thermonuclear Debate.”

Meredith Inman (Rapport) received the History Associates Board Prize for best paper in the Senior Honors Seminar for “And What a Place for a Shopman’ Liberty’s Regent Street and the Intersection of Empire and Commercialism, 1875-1927.” Her paper also received the UCSB Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research.

Anna Plankey (Bergstrom), received the History of Public Policy Senior Thesis Prize for “Tantamount to Genocide: Defining the Bosnian Violence in the Bush and Clinton Administrations.”

Katherine Thompson (Lee) received the Nicholas and Lena Dumas Award for best paper on Greek history or culture for “Cultural Autonomy and Provincial Rebellion in the Achaemenid Empire: Comparing Anatolia, Judaea, and Egypt.”

Best Undergrad Papers

EDEN SLOAN and Ken Hough were chosen to receive this year’s Dick Cook Award for outstanding service to the department and their fellow students.

The award was created by the History Associates Board in 1992 to honor the memory of the organization’s founding President.

A former advertising executive, Dick Cook began auditing classes at UCSB after he retired here, and started the History Associates with the twin goals of sponsoring an annual lecture series on historical topics for the greater Santa Barbara community and raising money to support History students.

Eden, who also shared this year’s Buchanan Award (see story, p. 1), was recognized for the time she has put in working with student and community groups.

Ken, who is writing his dissertation on "Rising Sun Over America: Friendship, Fascination and Fear in American Cultural Encounters with Japan, 1900-1945" for Prof. Paul Spickard, has served as a Lead TA, a leader in the HGSA and as a member of the History Grad Studies Committee.

“Ken has done a tremendous amount of service work for the department,” said fellow Lead TA Melissa Barthelemy.

In presenting the awards, President Sears McGee reported that the Associates had raised almost half a million dollars since it began.

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
Five Gain Prizes for Best Graduate Papers

Four Get Awards in History of Americas

Four grad students were recognized for outstanding work in the history of the Americas. Jason Zeledon (Cohen/Majewski) received the Wilbur Jacobs Prize in early U.S. history. His dissertation deals with perceptions of the “Barbary Pirates” in the newly established United States.

The Robert L. Kelley fellowship for research in U.S. intellectual history, public history or the history of public policy went to Jill Dolan (Bergstrom), who is working on historical interpretation of urban renewal in the mid-20th century.

Cheryl Frei (Cline) received the Philip and Maria Powell Prize for outstanding work in Latin American and Iberian Studies.

Profs. Jacobs, Kelley and Powell were founding members of the History department.

Francisco Beltran (Castillo-Muñoz) received the Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship to support his research on the Chicano student movement in 1970s San Diego.

The Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship was established in 2008 by longtime History benefactor JoBeth Van Gelderen and her late husband, Don, to support graduate students in American history, preferably students of the American West.

Abrecht Chosen for Anderson Award

Ryan Abrecht (Digeser) was selected to receive the J. Bruce Anderson Memorial Award for outstanding teaching.

Profs. Sears McGee and Paul Spickard, who nominated Ryan, cited his careful preparation and engaging manner in the classroom.

“He is one of the top two or three TAs I have ever seen at work in nearly 40 years in the academy,” Prof. Spickard wrote.
Another great year of UCSB History Associates' events is under way. You'll want to keep posted about events in the History Department as well. To renew your membership or join for the first time, just fill out this form and mail it with your check or money order (payable to UCSB History Associates).

Enclosed are my annual membership dues of $____

☐ Active $35
☐ Corresponding $15

(Available to residents outside of Santa Barbara County only)

In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is:

☐ $25 to obtain a UCSB Library card
☐ $____ gift to the History Associates Graduate Fellowship Fund.
☐ $____ gift to the History Associates Dick Cook Fund.
☐ $____ gift to the History Associates ___________ Fund.

(specify other scholarship fund)

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

Name: _____________________________
Address: ___________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________
Phone: _____________________________
E-mail: _____________________________

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

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

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

History grads (l. to r.) Danielle Swiontek (PhD 2005, DeHart), Warren Wool (PhD 2011, Cohen), Andrea Tahbiet Waldman (PhD 2013, O’Connor), Vanessa Crispin-Peralta (PhD 2015, Plane) sent this “selfie” (technically, Historia has learned, a “groupie”) from the Western Association of Women Historians conference.

MOONSEL KIM (PhD 2014, Barbieri-Low) has received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Smithsonian Institution for next year. Her dissertation was on “Food Redistribution during China’s Qin and Han Periods.”

Chris Ziegler-McPherson (PhD 2000, Bergstrom) has received a Fulbright fellowship to Germany to conduct research for a book on German immigrants and to teach a course on the history of German immigration to the U.S.

Drew Miller (PhD 2003, Farmer) was one of two faculty at DePaul University to receive an Excellence in Teaching award for 2014.

Ingrid Dineen-Wimberly (PhD 2009, Spickard), was awarded the 2014 Spirit of La Verne Diversity and Inclusivity Award for her service to students from non-traditional backgrounds, including first-generation college students and especially military veterans.

Sarah Hanson (Farmer) was named first runner-up for the Medieval Association of the Pacific’s Founders Prize for her paper on “Gender, Work, and Coming of Age in Late Medieval Douai.”

Munther Al-Sabbagh (Humphreys) received the Dean’s Advancement Fellowship to work on his dissertation study of the merchant class in medieval Egypt and Syria.

Special Awards

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The William E. Nida Scholarship was presented to Emily Windham, who was nominated by Profs. Hilary Bernstein and Pat Cohen. The award goes to students who have an interest in U.S. history, high academic achievement, and a desire to pursue a career in teaching.

Buchanan Award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their studies.

"Kelsey spoke very impressively about her EAP year in China, and Eden’s work with local museums and at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. fascinated us," he said.

Prof. A. Russell Buchanan taught diplomatic history at UCSB from 1936 to 1973. He also served as the first dean of the College of Letters and Science and as Academic Vice Chancellor.

To see a list of all recipients, go to http://www.history.ucsb.edu/awards/awards.php?award_id=116