

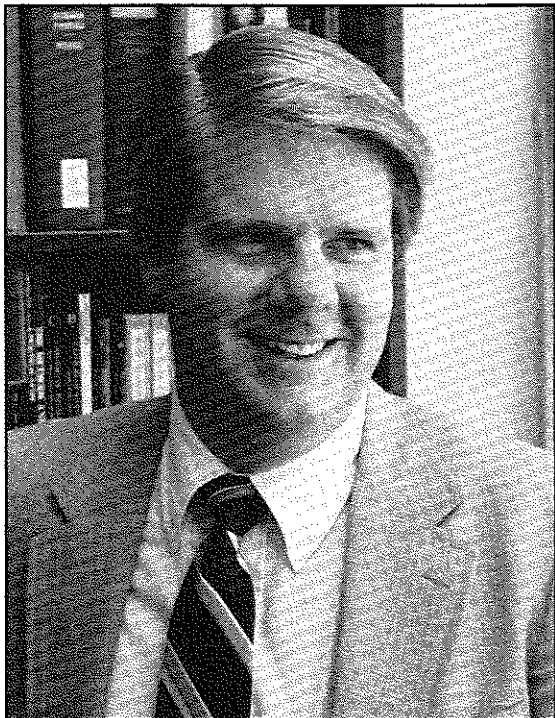
Historia

Vol 3, No. 3

Newsletter of the UCSB History Associates

January 1990

DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN CHOSEN FOR ISLAMIC CHAIR



PROF. STEPHEN HUMPHREYS
..Islamic Chair

Prof. R. Stephen Humphreys of the University of Wisconsin has been selected to fill the King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies.

A distinguished specialist in medieval Islamic history, Prof. Humphreys was particularly suitable for this position because of "the breadth of his interests and the high quality of his scholarship," according to Department Chair Hal Drake, who called Prof. Humphreys' work on the history of medieval Damascus "pathbreaking."

UCSB's first endowed chair, the Aziz Ibn Saud Chair is named after the founder of the modern kingdom of Saudi Arabia who died in 1953. It was created in 1984 by four of the King's grandsons who had attended UCSB to create "a central focus" for interdisciplinary teaching and research on the Muslim world.

In the fall of 1988, the Chair was awarded to the History Department on the basis of its long-standing interest in and commitment to instruction in Middle Eastern history. A search committee chaired by Prof. Warren Hollister considered candidates from throughout the world.

(Please See CHAIR, p. 4)

"Flying A Studios" To Be Topic of Associates Luncheon Lecture

By JOE FINNIGAN

The UCSB History Associates celebrates the New Year with a look back into the history of Santa Barbara's *Flying A Studio*, a company which began producing films years before Hollywood became synonymous with movie making around the world.

Dana Driskel, a lecturer in the Film Studies Department and an independent movie maker, will deliver this informative and entertaining lecture at the Associates' Jan. 17 luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel.

As a noted authority on the *Flying A* history, Driskel will trace the development and growth of the company starting in the early part of this century.

"Actually, the *Flying A* was a nickname," Driskel told us during a discussion of the subject. "The real name was The American Film Manufacturing Company.

"It was established in 1910 in Chicago and came to Santa Barbara in 1912. At first, they located downtown in an old warehouse. But it wasn't long before they moved to

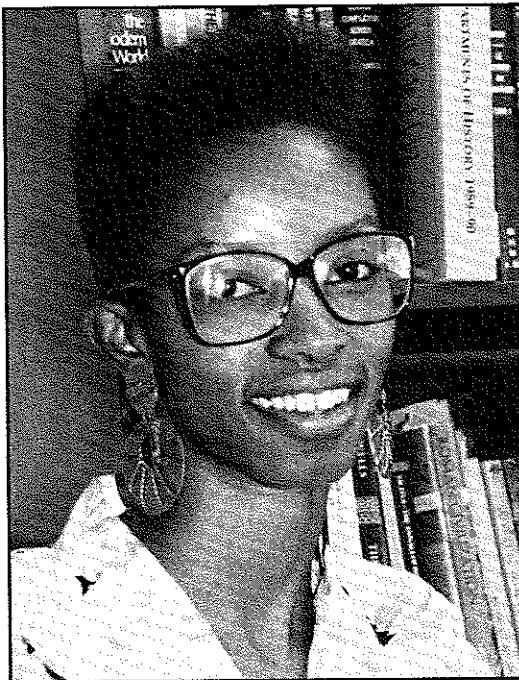
(Please See STUDIOS, p. 4)

Graduate Student to write Life of Amy Garvey

(Ed. Note: What makes a graduate student decide to write a doctoral dissertation, and how do they choose a topic? We asked Ula Taylor, one of four History grad students to receive Fellowships from the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, to discuss her topic for our readers.)

By ULA TAYLOR

As an African-American woman I struggle to understand the strategies and tactics used by my foremothers as a means to change and alter present-day oppressive conditions. What served as a catalyst for some women to become community and political activists? In grappling with this question I can better understand my own place in the historical process.



ULA TAYLOR
...IHC Fellow

This is what attracted me to Amy Jacques Garvey, whose biography I am writing for my dissertation. By doing so, I hope to add a significant dimension to the study of African women as political activists.

Amy Garvey (1895-1973) was the wife of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, leader of the largest worldwide mass movement of African people in the 20th century, the Universal Negro Improvement Association.

Marcus' goal was to gain self-determination for African people around the world through Nationhood in Africa, and Amy was very influential in the direction and strategies of the organization. But her impact on the UNIA and her pivotal role in Black feminist thought have never been the subject of a historical study.

While secondary literature on Amy Garvey is limited, I have been able to consult primary source materials that will enable me to write an intellectual-social biography. For my master's thesis, I used collections of her private papers at Fisk University in Nashville that include a scrapbook she kept of articles in newspapers and journals along with personal letters to her husband and children.

With this grant from the IHC, I will be able to travel to Jamaica, where Amy was from. Here there are not only more archives of her papers but also members of her family who I will be able to interview. I will also be able to meet with scholars who interviewed Amy for their own work on her husband.

Finally, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library located in Harlem, New York, holds the Marcus Garvey papers which also cite the activities of Amy Garvey.

I have already established Amy Garvey's links with the activists of the 1890s, and now I am trying to trace her influence on later generations.

The research has been exciting, but equally important is the support I have received from academic leaders in the area of "Garveyism," and from UCSB. I started out wanting to find out about something that was very important to me personally. This encouragement makes me feel that I am doing something that will be important to others, too.

Historia

Prepared for the UCSB History Associates

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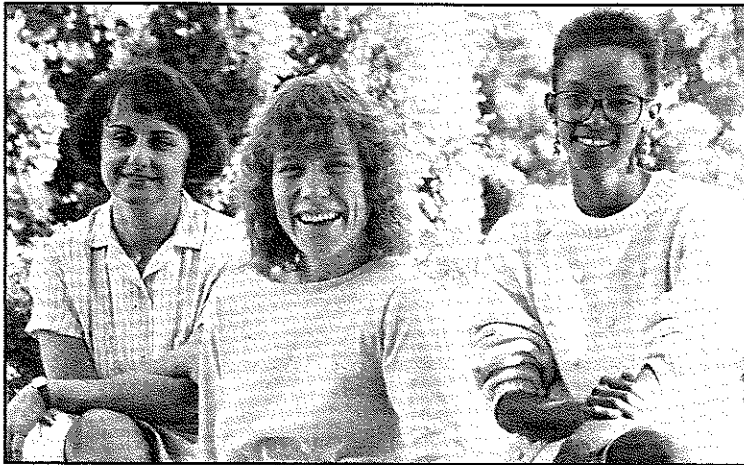
UNDERGRADUATE EDITOR.....Burris deBenning

Published by the UCSB Alumni Association

History Grads Awarded Fellowships

Historia

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IHC FELLOWS. Three of the four History graduate students to receive Fellowships from the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center take time out to enjoy the news. Pictured are (l. to r.) Nina Bakisian, Katie Siegel, and Ula Taylor. The fourth recipient was Linda Nelson, like Bakisian a student of Prof. Dimitrije Djordjevic.

Four History graduate students were awarded Fellowships by UCSB's Interdisciplinary Humanities Center last month.

Nina Bakisian, Linda Nelson, Katherine Sibley Siegel and Ula Taylor each received awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 to conduct research related to their doctoral dissertations.

Bakisian, a student of Prof. Dimitrije Djordjevic, is doing her dissertation on the topic of nationalism in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. She will use her award to visit archives in Vienna this summer.

Also a Djordjevic student is Nelson, whose dissertation deals with Bulgarian women in the National Revival period, a topic which has required her to master feminist and literary methodology as well as standard historiography. She, too, will use her funds to travel to Eastern Europe.

Siegel, who won the Department's Buchanan

(Please See GRADS, p. 5)

A Real Homecoming



It was a special moment of Homecoming last month when new and former friends joined the History Associates to welcome Prof. Otis L. Graham Jr. back to UCSB last month as part of Homecoming celebrations. Prof. Robert Kelley introduced Prof. Graham to the group, saying, "When Otis left a light went out; now it's back on. Where Otis is present, things happen." In a touching response, Prof. Graham talked about all that had changed since he left UCSB in 1978 to take a chair as Distinguished Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Pictured left to right are, Dick Cook, President History Associates, Prof. Robert Kelley, Prof. Otis Graham, and Department Chair Hal Drake.

Chair

(Continued from p. 1)

"We felt the holder of this chair should not just be an excellent historian, but also someone capable of leading a program," said Prof. Nancy Gallagher, the Department's modern Middle East historian and a member of the committee. "Steve Humphreys was thinking along those lines from the start, and that impressed us very much."

Prof. Humphreys has envisioned an "Islamic Mediterranean" focus to give UCSB's Islamic offerings a distinctive edge.

"A program of this kind would encourage a whole network of linkages between medieval European and Islamic studies, and thus allow the program to take advantage of existing strengths at UCSB," he said.

Humphreys' 1977 book, "From Saladin to the Mongols: the Ayyubids of Damascus, 1193-1260," immediately placed him among the first rank of American Islamicists and remains the standard work on the topic to this day.

More recently, he has published "Islamic History: A Framework for Inquiry" (1988), which is a magisterial study of major works on the political and social history of Islam from A.D. 600-1500. He has recently completed a translation and commentary on one of the works of the great 10th century Muslim historian al-Tabari for a series edited at Columbia University. It is due out this Winter.

Studios

(Continued from p. 1)

what was to become their long-time location at the corner of Mission and State Streets, which, until recently, was where McConnell's ice cream store was located.

"When *Flying A* matured to the point of being a true studio, it had numerous shooting stages at the site. They had a block of Mission Street between

(Please see STUDIOS, p. 5)

**SUPPORT THE HISTORY
ASSOCIATES FELLOWSHIP
FUND!**

SEE P. 6

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have commented on the past about how helpful and supportive the History faculty have been to our History Associates program. But other UCSB faculty work on historical issues, and every once in a while we reach out to them when we believe it is something that our members would like to hear about.

Two years ago, Paul Lazarus of the Film Studies Department told us about the history of the Hollywood studios, and last year Walter Capps of the Religious Studies Department talked about the Vietnam War

Flying A Studios

This year we have gone back to Film Studies because Dana Driskel has a topic that seems too good to pass up. Dana is an authority on the old Flying A Studios that made movies here in Santa Barbara for almost 10 years.

There is more about his talk in an article in this issue, but I had lunch with Dana recently, and I can tell you that he has a few gems you will all enjoy. He is even going to bring some slides and film clips for us.

Modern China

Our second speaker this quarter will be Prof. Immanuel Hsu. He is one of the most knowledgeable professors on the history of China in the world today, and he will talk to us about events leading up to the disaster in Tienenmen Square, and also about what is going on currently.

I recently audited Prof. Hsu's class, and was fascinated. This is another talk you do not want to miss.

Auditing classes has made me realize that all the professors are not only very talented, but also extremely committed to helping their students, holding special meetings with them out of class all the time.

When I see how busy they are, I am even more grateful for the readiness with which they have agreed to prepare special talks for our group.

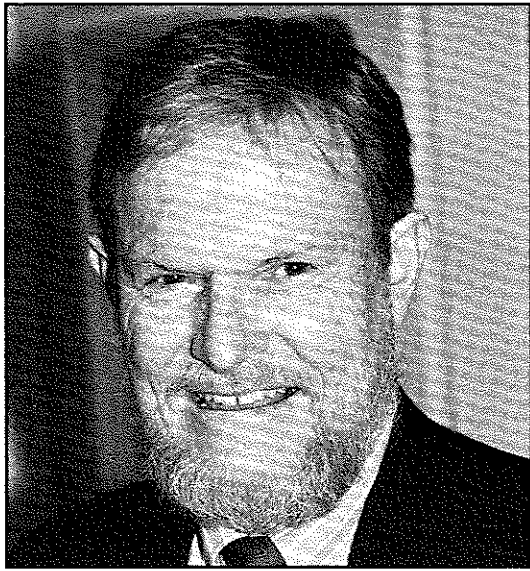
History Associates Fellowships

The best way we can show we appreciate what they are doing is to build up our History Associates Fellowship Fund as fast as possible. Everybody I have talked to has been delighted with the speed with which we got this program started, and with our first three Fellows this Fall.

Now it is up to us to keep this program going. If you haven't yet sent in a contribution, I hope you will consider doing so soon.

P.S. I will be away the month of February (I'm getting a guide dog!), so our Vice President, Greg de Roulhac, will be in charge. Greg is an alumnus of UCSB and has a Ph.D. in History; he's also a super guy.

Dick Cook
President



PROF. ROBERT KELLEY
...AHA Council

Prof. Kelley Elected to AHA Council

Prof. Robert Kelley has been elected to the Council of the American Historical Association, governing body of the nation's largest association of professional historians.

Prof. Kelley began a three-year term on the policy-making body at the AHA's annual convention last month. He is the third UCSB historian to win election to the Council, which consists of six elected members and six officers of the organization, including the president and president-elect. Previously, Profs. Otis Graham and Warren Hollister served terms on the Council, Prof. Hollister's occurring when he served as one of the AHA's three vice presidents.

The AHA was chartered by Congress in 1886 "for the promotion of historical studies, the collection and preservation of historical manuscripts, and for kindred purposes in the interest of American history, and of history in America." With more than 13,000 members, it is now not only the largest association of professional historians in the nation, but in the world as well.

In addition to supervising business and policy decisions for the Association, the Council nominates a five-member Board of Trustees and sets the agenda for the annual business meeting, held at the time of the convention.

Candidates for the Council are selected by the Association's nominating committee and elected by the members at large.

(Please see KELLEY, p. 6)

Studios

(Continued from p. 4)

State and Chapala. There is still standing one small portion of the studio, which is at the corner of Chapala and Mission. It served as the Green Room, actors' dressing rooms. Up until recently an elderly lady lived there who caned chairs for a living.,"

Flying A may not be remembered as a major production company, but it did turn out a large number of pictures.

"During its lifetime, from 1912 to 1921, it produced over 1200 films," Driskel says. "One of the interesting things about *Flying A* was that it was a proving ground for people who moved on to Hollywood. As an example, one of the people who came first to *Flying A* was the director Allen Dwan. He's most famous as the director of Douglas Fairbanks' action pictures, including 'Robin Hood.' Fairbanks loved Dwan because Allen knew how to do spectacles. Dwan got his training at *Flying A*."

The Santa Barbara company's pictures were appreciated by audiences, but Driskel believes that the *Flying A*'s fiscal policies contributed to its demise.

"They were always producing the second-best work through the teens," he says. "They made a profit. But they wouldn't spend money to get major stars or directors. So when people started to grow, they would defect to Hollywood. A good example of their business tactics was when they couldn't hire Mary Pickford; so they hired her sister, Lotte Pickford, instead. They capitalized on the Pickford name and paid Lotte a lot less."

One of the biggest stars to emerge from *Flying A* was Mary Miles Minter, who went on to fame in Hollywood.

Driskel's appearance is the third in the History Associates' series of six lectures during the 89-90 school year. Others scheduled are Prof. Robert Collins on the history of the Nile, Prof. Elliot Brownlee discussing the federal income tax, and Prof. Immanuel Hsu, who will examine developments in China.

Reservations for the luncheon can be made through the Alumni Association at 961-4388. Tickets are \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members.

Grads

(Continued from p. 3)

Award as the Outstanding Graduating Senior in 1987, is working with Prof. Alexander DeConde. Her dissertation, "Bolshevism and the Bottom Line," reevaluates business contacts between the United States and the Soviet Union between 1917 and 1921.

Taylor is a student of Prof. Patricia Cohen. She describes her project on Amy Garvey elsewhere in this issue.

Kelley

(Continued from p. 5)

A member of UCSB's faculty since 1955, Prof. Kelley is widely recognized as a leading authority in the fields of history of public policy and comparative political culture. His book, *The Transatlantic Persuasion*, originally published in 1969, is still regarded as a landmark study in Anglo-American comparative history. It is being reissued this year in Rutgers' Transaction Classics in the History of Ideas series.

In 1976, Prof. Kelley was one of six historians invited to address large special sessions of the AHA on the occasion of the Bicentennial, and one of only three whose papers were published in a special edition of

"The American Historical Review" (the other two were Arthur Schlesinger Jr. of Harvard and C. Vann Woodward of Yale).

Prof. Kelley founded the Department's Graduate Program in Public Historical Studies in the mid-1970s to train historians for roles in the private sector and government. Since that time, dozens of similar programs have been instituted at universities across the country.

His latest book, *Battling the Inland Sea: American Political Culture, Public Policy, and the Sacramento Valley, 1850-1986*, was published this year by University of California Press.

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