



Sander Vanocur

## Newsman Vanocur Joins History for Regents' Lectures

VETERAN NEWSMAN Sander Vanocur took up residence in the department in January as a Regents' Lecturer in History.

As part of his duties, Vanocur delivered two public lectures on "News and Punditry: Less is More" and "History, Reality and Journalism."

He is also scheduled to speak to the History Associates in March.

While in the department, Vanocur visited a wide array of history classes in periods from ancient Rome to modern US and covering topics from public policy to history of science.

"There are few public figures who could have something useful to contribute to such a broad array of subjects," said Prof. Fredrik Logevall, who coordinated Vanocur's activities.

"As far as our Cold War History Group is concerned, he is a living resource because of all the key events that he covered."

During a career of more than 40 years  
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# Oglesby Digs For California's 'Real Gold'

THE REASON CALIFORNIA'S Sesequicentennial Celebration of the 1849 Gold Rush never got off the ground is that the planners forgot that the real wealth of that event consisted not in the nuggets found by John Sutter, but in the individuals who brought their dreams and talents to the state in unprecedented numbers.

So says Prof. Richard Oglesby, who will explore the subject of the Forty-Niners at the next UCSB History Associates lecture on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 12 noon in the Covarrubias Adobe of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, 136 E. De La Guerra.

Tickets, at \$14 for members and \$16 for non-members, may be reserved by calling the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.

Entitled "The Real Gold," Prof.

Oglesby's talk will include the stories of a number of individuals who left behind vivid records of their experiences. Among these is Margaret Frank, who opened a hotel in Sacramento with her husband and kept a journal that covers the entire period.

People like the Franks are "the real gold," according to Prof. Oglesby. Unlike the ore, most of which immediately left the state, the people stayed in such numbers that just one year later, in 1850, California qualified for statehood.

A former chair of the Department of History and Dean of Instructional Development at UCSB, Prof. Oglesby taught the history of California and the American West from 1965 until his retirement in 1993.

## Sometimes, for Historians, All The World Is Indeed a Stage

BY HAL DRAKE

IF YOU VISIT the History department some day and see Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa walking around in knee breeches and powdered wig, or grad student José Valente in chain mail, it doesn't mean we have flipped our collective wigs.

And if you see Paul Sonnino in a monk's habit, it doesn't mean (unfortunately) that he has forsaken History for the cloister.

It's just one more way that UCSB historians try to bring their subjects to life for the students.

Prof. Hasegawa's History 4C lectures have become famous for the days he shows

up dressed as a Soviet border guard or an 18th-century philosopher.

"I want to convey the flavor of the time," he explains. "It helps students, first, to wake up; second, to see how crazy the prof is, and third, hopefully, to connect themselves with history."

Not to be outdone, José Valente, who is writing his dissertation on medieval Portugal for Prof. Frank Dutra, decided to play the part when assigned to lecture on feudalism in a History 4A class last Fall.

Striding onto stage with helmet, broadsword and armor, he launched into a first-

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# Meet Mike Tucker

BY TOM SIZGORICH

INTO EVERY undergraduate's life a little rain must fall, but now undergrads have a new ally in the History department to see that the usual drizzle doesn't become a deluge.

Mike Tucker, the department's new undergraduate advisor, says the main focus of his new job, shepherding students toward earning a degree, is also its most rewarding.

"There's a sense of accomplishment in helping to get students to graduation, helping them toward their degree," he says. "It's a good feeling."

Tucker, who has worked on the UCSB campus for the past ten years, most of which was spent in the Math department and the Registrar's office, assumed his new responsibilities on October 19, replacing the preternaturally efficient Christian Villaseñor, who took a position in the Office of Relations with Schools.

While the transition has been relatively smooth, Tucker says, there have been a few rough spots.

"There have been few days that were kind of like riding a bucking bronco," he admits. "Those days I just tried not to panic."



Undergraduate Secretary Mike Tucker

Away from work, Tucker is a devotee of Pencak Silat, a defense-oriented Indonesian martial art, of which he is a certified instructor. Over the course of 18 years, Tucker has also mastered Kung Fu and four other fighting styles.

Pencak Silat, however, has become his discipline of choice, in part, he says, because of its elegant simplicity, survivability and spartan defensive philosophy.

"The whole idea with Pencak Silat is, 'If you're selling, I'm buying,'" he says. "It's much more defense-oriented than Kung Fu or any of the other styles I've studied, and so you have a much better chance with it of walking away from a confrontation, even with multiple attackers, unhurt."

Last June, Tucker traveled to Indonesia to work with the discipline's grand master, Herman Suwanda, and is in the process of opening a school to teach Pencak Silat here in the U.S.

Meanwhile, Tucker says he looks forward to a long tenure at UCSB. "My goal is to retire from from this campus at the end of a long career, as close to the chancellor's position as possible," he says, laughing.

# As Conferences Go, Things are 'Looking Up'

JANUARY WAS A busy month for conferences in the History department.

First there was a special Interdisciplinary conference on the topic of "Looking Up," the brainchild of History graduate student Jason Kelly (Guerrini). On the same weekend, the Cold War History Group sponsored a symposium on the Vietnam War.

Both conferences lasted two days and drew an international list of participants.

"Looking Up" was designed to address the multitude of meanings associated with this phrase, "from observing the heavens to paging through an encyclopedia." Kelly says he got the idea one day last year as he was walking to look something up in the library and happened to "look up" to the sky.

"I thought nothing could be more interdisciplinary than the way people have used these words," he says. So he approached the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center with the idea for a conference.

Speakers from as far away as Bulgaria presented eleven papers over two days, on topics ranging from astronomy to art. The conference also included a live art performance on "Science, Information, and the Human Predicament."

The Vietnam Symposium, centered on the theme of creating "an international history" of the war, featured six papers devoted to topics of culture and race, the aftermath of the Geneva conference, and diplomatic efforts in Europe and Asia.

Kathryn Statler (Logevall) was one of the participants. She presented a paper on "The North, the South, and the Non-Election of 1956: The Democratic Process, Vietnam, and the Western Alliance During the Cold War."

Other speakers came from Yale, Chicago, King's College, London, George Washington University, the London School of Economics and the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC.

## When It Comes to Bloopers, Always Trust the Pros

STUDENTS JUST CAN'T hope to compete with the pros when it comes to bloopers.

All of the student entries this time came from History 4A and include the following:

"With knowledge, you can lead a country, ridicule one another and make important decisions." (Amy Caldwell)

"Beowulf was the story of a great worrier." (Rick Fogarty)


They all pale, however, beside a list of professional bloopers submitted by bloopmeister Al Lindemann, including:

"This flood was the worst disaster in California since I became governor." (Pat Brown)

"I believe that the country's policies should be heavily biased in favor of non-discrimination." (Bill Clinton)

"If we don't make changes, the status quo will remain the same." (A Clinton aide)

"Those who survived the San Francisco earthquake said, 'Thank God I'm still alive.' But, of course, those who died, their lives will never be the same again." (Barbara Boxer)



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# History PhD Katie Sibley Wins PAT First Book Award

UCSB PHD Katherine Sibley has been awarded the 1997 Phi Alpha Theta Book Award for *Loans and Legitimacy: The Evolution of Soviet-American Relations, 1919-1933*, published by University of Kentucky Press. The award is for the best first book.

An outgrowth of her doctoral dissertation, which she wrote for Prof. Alex De Conde in 1991, *Loans and Legitimacy* argues that Soviet purchases of American goods in the 1920s helped moderate U.S. policies toward the new Bolshevik regime, which had initially been denied credit and other financing arrangements by Washington, owing to the Wilsonian view that Lenin's government was an illegitimate one.

Dr. Sibley is currently Associate Professor of History at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

Other news from grads and alums:

Mike Whitacre (MA medieval, 1986) is now teaching at Lycee International in Paris.

Amy Nelson has completed her PhD in Russian history at

the University of Michigan and is now teaching at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. A member of one of the department's first Senior Honors seminars, Amy is working on a book on Soviet musicians of the 1920s tentatively entitled *Music for the Revolution*.

Andy Johns and Ken Osgood (Logevall) have written an article on Cold War history at UCSB that will appear in the newsletter of SHAFR (the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations). It is entitled "Not Dead Yet: Cold War History at UCSB."

James Burns (Collins) filed his dissertation on *Cinema and*

*Empire in colonial Zimbabwe* in December. He is teaching this year at Colby College in Maine.

Dennis Ventry (Brownlee) will deliver papers at the Journal of Policy History Conference in May and the American Society for Legal Historians Conference in October.

Theresa Neumann (McGee/Guerrini) delivered a paper on "History Looking Up from Adam's Fall: The New Astronomy and the Quest for a New Eden in the Writings of the English Scientific Promoter John Wilkins" at the IHC "Looking Up" Conference Jan. 16.



*Emeritus Prof. Otey Scruggs*

## The History Of History At UCSB

BILL BULLOUGH'S reminiscences about the early years of the UCSB History department in the last issue of *Historia* put us back in touch with one of the founding members of the department, and also set off a scramble to recover the memory of those early days.

Prof. Otey Scruggs, who left UCSB for the University of Syracuse, writes that the issue, with a picture of the department in 1959 "brought back a flood of memories."

Unfortunately, one of those memories was that History separated from the old Social Science department in 1958, not 1959!

A quick trip to the library archives resolved that point—the photo from the 1959 yearbook is indeed the first of History as a separate department, but the department itself came into being on July 1, 1958. Henceforth, we will fudge the question by referring to "the 1958-59 academic year."

On a more personal note, Prof. Scruggs modestly declined to be remembered as "the only surviving member" of the founding faculty.

"There are two people missing here," he writes. "Henry

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## History As Theater



*Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa relives the Soviet era, while José Valente launches a one-man crusade.*



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person explanation of knightly training.

"For several years, people hit me with sticks," he said. "That gave me the urge and the courage to beat the crap out of anybody in front of me."

History as Theater is not without its problems, however, as José learned when he tried to pin a wireless microphone onto his chain mail.

"Since I'm wearing a lot of metal, I'm afraid of turning the

switch on," he muttered. "I'll put this here and hope I don't get electrocuted."

And Prof. Hasegawa will be happy to tell you about the intricacies of 18th-century apparel.

"When I first put on those culottes," he said, "I realized the immense significance of the invention of zippers in Western civilization."

As for Prof. Sonnino and why he wears a monk's habit—well, who knows?



*Friar Paul Sonnino*

## From The Chair

### Father Tom

LONG REGARDED AS one of the fathers of his country, Thomas Jefferson has long been rumored to have fathered at least one of the children of Sally Hemings, whom he owned. DNA tests disclose that "The American Sphinx," to borrow the title of Joseph Ellis's prize-winning biography of that great but enigmatic man, was almost certainly the parent of Eston Hemings—a different child than some historians had thought.



Will proof of Jefferson's illicit relationship with his mulatto slave put an end to the longest-running story of a presidential sex scandal (the relationship was first alleged in the press in 1802) in U.S. history? It's too soon to tell. But substituting findings from the Y chromosome for inference, speculation, assumption, and rumor, does add a new tool and new

chains of reasoning to historical scholarship.

Historians are usually quick to seize on new tools. In the 1960s the new tool was the computer, whose power over numbers promised to spare us such imprecisions as "a lot," or "not too many."

In France, for instance, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, a leader of the once-more-famous-than-it-is-now *Annales* school, led the quantifying brigade with a huge study of military conscription records. Infatuation with the computer did not last long. Indeed, Le Roy Ladurie also led the retreat from it. Turning to the squishier comforts of cultural anthropology, he zeroed in on heresy and achieved best-sellerdom with a study of the medieval village of Montaillou.

Countless other historians took up disciplinary border-raiding. Then sometime in the 1980s Michael Geyer, Lynn Hunt, and others urged a "linguistic turn" away from the social sciences and toward the even squishier realms of literary theory, where all was text and context.

If much is to be read from DNA, its value as a historical tool derives from its precision, its offering of near-dead certainties rooted in a decidedly non-postmodernist science. Historians are here following the lead of forensic pathologists seeking the identity of an unknown soldier or of attorneys defending celebrated or not-so-famous clients. All seek to establish (or sometimes to discredit) matters of fact. In this corner of their discipline, at least, historians have once again donned the lab-coats they were eager to doff not so long ago.

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## Individuals Made Difference in Civil War, Majewski Reports

"I HAVE A confession to make," Asst. Prof. John Majewski told a gathering of the UCSB History Associates last November.

"I am an economic historian, but I have come to believe that contingency and individual decisions had more to do with the North's victory in the Civil War than its economic strength."

Economic strength, of course, is what textbooks say tipped the balance for the North.

"The North had a 5-to-2 advantage in population, a 3-to-1 advantage in railroad lineage, and a 9-to-1 advantage in industrial production," Prof. Majewski said. "So from this perspective, the reason the North won the war seems self-evident."

What concern for such larger forces leaves out is the advantage the South held because of its size and advances in military technology.

"European newspapers were predicting a Southern victory because the South did not have to win—it only had to avoid losing long enough for the North to tire," he explained.

A Northern victory, on the other hand, required conquering a territory as large as Russia west of Moscow and twice the size of the Colonies at the time of the Revolution.

The rifle, which was introduced at this time, increased the range and accuracy of firearms from 80 yards to 400 yards, and thereby strengthened the ability of entrenched troops to defend their positions.

"This is one reason the war was so bloody," Prof. Majewski explained. Some 620,000 men lost their lives during the war, including 23,000 on one day at

the battle of Antietam in 1862—"the bloodiest day in US history."

In a detailed reconstruction of the events of the battle of Gettysburg, Prof. Majewski called attention to the actions of Joseph Chamberlain, a Bowdoin College professor who wound up in charge of the extreme left of the Union line.

Because of Chamberlain's spirited defense, Robert E. Lee was forced to attack the center of the Union line instead, leading to horrendous casualties.

He also pointed to the role played by African-Americans in the victory, from the half-to-three-quarter million whose flight to the North crippled the Southern economy to the 180,000 who were serving in the Union army by 1864-65.

These troops fought bravely despite lower pay and harsher working conditions, he reported.

They had the highest mortality rate of all troops, and they risked torture and death if captured.

# 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

# All in a Day's Work for History's Busy Faculty

FOR MOST FACULTY, being vice chair and chair-elect of one of the most important and hard-working committees on the campus would be sufficient service to the University.

But for Steve Humphreys, the Committee for Educational Policy and Academic Planning (CEPAP) is just the beginning.

Holder of the King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies, Prof. Humphreys is also editor of one of the most important journals in his field, the *International Journal on Middle East Studies*.

And even though he does not relinquish that post until June, he already has taken up a new position on the Board of Editors of the *American Historical Review*.

In his spare time, Prof.

Humphreys has continued to explore Islamic studies in East Asia, travelling to northwest China in September to acquaint himself with the large and distinctive Muslim population in that region, which consists of both Turkic and Chinese-speaking peoples.

Last November, Prof. Humphreys spent two weeks as Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Arabic Studies of the American University in Cairo where, in addition to classroom lectures, he gave public lectures on 12th-century Syria and the study of Islamic history.

Other faculty in the news: Congratulations to Asst. Prof. Erika Rappaport (modern Britain) and spouse Jordan Witt on the birth of their

first baby, Andrew, on Dec. 29.

A revised edition of emeritus Prof. Frank Frost's *Plutarch's Themistocles—a Historical Commentary* (originally published by Princeton in 1980) has just been published by Ares Publishers, with 20 pages of new notes and a new article, "Aristodemos," as an appendix. His "Ominous birth of Peisistratos" will appear next month in a Festschrift for Peter Green being published by UC Press, and his novel,

*Dead Philadelphians*, will be published this spring by Capra Press/ Consortium. Frank also writes a monthly column on food and wine for *Food and Home* magazine.

Speaking of active emeriti, Robert O. Collins' essay on "Gambella: an Imperial Anachronism" will appear in *Personality And Political Culture In Modern Africa* (Boston University Press, 1998). "Fortunately," Bob writes, "no one knows where Gambella is except me and the Ethiopians." Another article, entitled "The Blood of Experience: The Conflict in the Southern Sudan: A Search for Common Ground," appears in the latest issue of *Northeast African Studies*.

## 'Father Tom'

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In his 1997 book Joseph Ellis joined many previous Jefferson biographers in doubting the Sally Hemings relationship. In November 1998 he co-authored a news story accompanying the announcement of the DNA findings in the journal *Nature*. Such compelling evidence for Jefferson's paternity, Ellis said, required him to change his mind.

Why had several generations of historians been so certain of the contrary? In the absence of evidence, they based their conviction that Thomas Jefferson had fathered no child of Sally Hemings on their assumptions. Their key assumption, based on a lot of other assumptions, was that no gentleman would have done what the gentlemanly Jefferson was said to have done.

A few years ago a prominent historian dismissed as "mere facticity" what he regarded as an over-reliance on facts in the critical assessment of historical scholarship. Yet evidence from the Y chromosome may be a fact of a different order. Its use as a historical tool goes to the most profound moral, political, and cultural issues in the American experience. Among other things the case of the Hemings children, as Brent Staples recently pointed out, "shows us that Americans are more entangled in blood and aspiration than we generally care to acknowledge."

Jack Talbott  
Chair

## The Return Of the Dreaded Thermometer!

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ONCE AGAIN, JoBeth and Don Van Gelderen have challenged History Associates to "put their money where their mouth is," this time to the tune of \$8,000. That means every dollar you give adds two to the Associates Fellowship Fund. So send your contribution today to: UCSB History Associates, Office of Community Relations, UCSB 93106.

## Vanocur

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that began on the the *Manchester Guardian* in the 1950s, Vanocur reported extensively on the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam and Watergate. He gained national prominence as White House correspondent and national political correspondent for NBC News, where he worked for 14 years.

Vanocur recently completed a video series on the post-war Congress and the media. Another series, on television and the presidency, is widely used in journalism schools and political science departments.

He remains a familiar face to viewers of the History Channel, where he hosts the program, "Movies in Time," featuring interviews with scholars and participants in featured events.

The Regents' Lectureship Program was begun in 1962 "to encourage rare and valuable interaction between gifted non-academics and the university community."

# Time to Re-Up

Another great year of UCSB History Associates' events is beginning. 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  
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Membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Gifts to the scholarship fund are considered a charitable donation.

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

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University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2100

## Otey Scruggs

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Adams (who incidentally was a teacher of mine when I was an undergraduate, as were Bob Kelley and Phil Powell) and Carl Shuler."

Prof. Shuler retired from Western Washington University some years ago, but is still very much alive.

"He and I played on the Santa Barbara City Championship fast pitch softball team for at least one year," Prof. Scruggs recalls. "Loving every moment of it, Carl managed the team. I strongly suspect he regarded his managerial skills at least on a par with those of, say, Joe Torre."

So the moral is, then as now not all faculty showed up for the department picture.

Undeterred by this news, the History Associates Board of Directors voted unanimously to make Prof. Scruggs the group's first honorary lifetime member.

"We will do the same for Prof. Shuler, as soon as we can get in touch with him," President Karen Anderson said.

Also moved by the Bullough piece was a more recent retiree, Prof. Otis Graham, who wrote to lament the lack of memory in the department that launched the first Public History graduate program in the country.

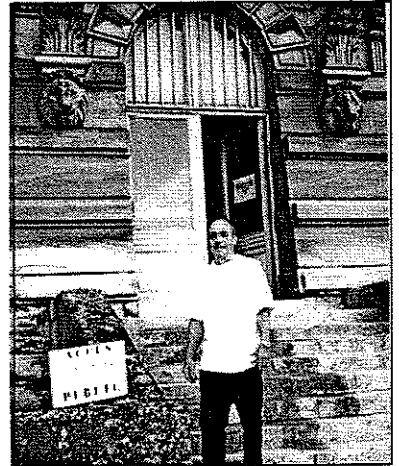
To help supply the loss, Prof. Graham has promised to provide *Historia* with periodic columns, telling "the larger story of how we threw off Santa Barbara's parochial past and became a world-class department."



# Historia

NEWSLETTER OF THE UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106

## So THAT's Where!



ONCE AGAIN, PROF. Paul Sonnino stumped the experts. A special Editor's Award to the respondent who wrote, "Wherever it is, it's not far enough!" The answer? This time, Prof. Sonnino's travels took him to the steps of the Chateau of Chantilly, outside of Paris, location of the Musée Condé seen in the James Bond movie, "A View to Kill," at the site where Bond shoots an attempted assassin out of a tree on the grounds. Prof. Sonnino assures readers that "both the tree and the cadaver are still there."

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