



Villa Serbelloni on Lake Como

# Idylls of the Thinking Historian

BY PAUL SPICKARD

I AWAKE IN A SILENT apartment full of antique furniture and Renaissance art. Walk to the window and drink from the view that never fails to satisfy. A sculptured garden, a cobbled village, long blue lake, steep green mountains, snowy peaks, and a brilliant sky. I climb the hill to the villa. Eat spinach and eggs on the veranda overlooking the lake. Drink steaming cappuccino served by kind, attentive people. Another day in paradise.

This past Fall, I had the good fortune to spend a month in Bellagio, a storybook town on Lake Como in the Italian Alps. I was the guest of the Rockefeller Foundation, at their study center in the Villa Serbelloni, an estate that once belonged to the princes of Lombardy. Academic life may not bring much fame or fortune, but it does have a few really sweet perks. This is one.

Villa Serbelloni plays host to two score brief international conferences each year, on topics as diverse as international patent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



## Disaster at Darfur Tops Associates' Agenda

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT'S most eloquent speaker returns to the UCSB History Associates on Thursday, Feb. 3 for a briefing on the historical roots of the current crisis in Darfur.

Emeritus Prof. Robert O. Collins, whose previous talk on *The English Patient* left listeners with "the sound of camel bells jingling in their ears" (in the words of then-President Karen Anderson), has long been considered one of this country's leading experts on the Sudan, which he first visited one month after it declared its independence in 1956.

"It is quite impossible to understand the crisis in Darfur unless you know your geography," Prof. Collins says.

"No government of the Sudan in the last two hundred years—Turks, British, and most certainly the Sudanese—has been able to administer, let alone govern, much beyond a 300-mile radius of Khartoum."

Those Sudanese who live along the Nile and around Khartoum have always had nothing but contempt for the people who live around Darfur in western Sudan, Prof. Collins explains.

Moreover, except for a brief period of less than 25 years in the late 19th century, Darfur has been an independent Sultanate since 1650.

Add to this the ideological bent of the present regime in Khartoum, and the reason for the bloodiness of the current civil war is clear.

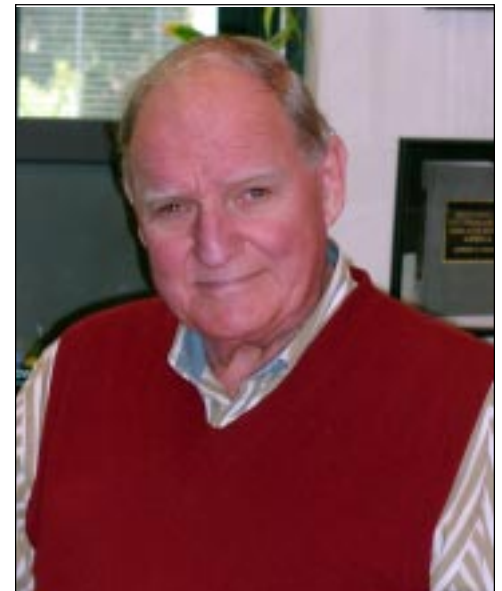
"It is the fundamental ideology of the Islamist State in the Sudan to make all Muslims conform to puritanical Islam," Prof. Collins says. "That more than justifies

those African heretical Muslims of Darfur being driven off their lands to make way for more proper Arabs."

Prof. Collins is the author of seven books on the history of the region, with two slated to appear this Spring: *Alms for Jihad: Charities and Terrorism in the Islamic World* (Cambridge) and a collection of essays, some never before published, entitled *Revolution and Civil Wars in the Sudan, Southern Sudan and Darfur, 1962-2004* (Tschai).

Tickets for the luncheon-lecture, which will be held at noon in Vista Room 3 of the Radisson Hotel, 1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd., are \$20 for members and \$22 for non-members.

Reservations may be made through the UCSB Office of Community Relations, (805) 893-4388.



Prof. Robert O. Collins

# Graduate Class Leads Farmer to NEH Grant

PROF. SHARON FARMER has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for 2005-07 to work on her project, "From Saracen Work to Oeuvre de Paris: Oriental Luxuries, Parisian Crafts, and the Making of Europe's Fashion Capital."

The project grew out one of Prof. Farmer's graduate seminars, where both she and her students concluded that recent work on cultural "transfers" during the Crusades "missed the opportunity to look at ways in which the cultural centers of European culture were transformed by the colonizing encounters with other cultures," Prof. Farmer said..

"I suddenly realized that while writing my last book (*Surviving Poverty in Medieval Paris*) I had run into several references to 'Saracens' in Paris or to 'Saracen work' that was being done in Paris."

That realization, combined with a growing discomfort over the way current scholarship only emphasizes differences between the Christian west and the Muslim east, led Prof. Farmer to rethink another tendency of current scholarship, which is to stress the role of Italy and the Low Countries in



Prof. Sharon Farmer

the development of European industry and crafts while ignoring the importance of Paris.

"I will argue that luxury tastes, which were first stimulated by eastern imports, gave rise, in the age of the crusades, to new industries such as the weaving of silk cloth and the making of tapestries," Prof. Farmer said.

First associated with the Muslim east, the products of these industries originally were known as work made in "the Saracen fashion," Prof. Farmer said.

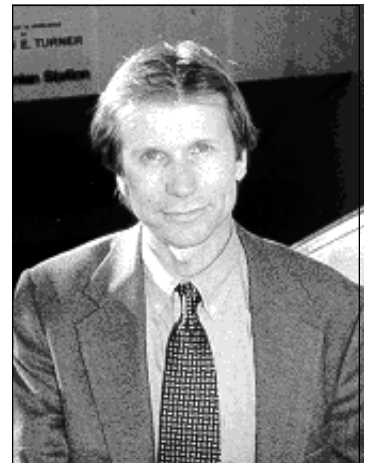
But increasingly they became known instead as "oeuvres de Paris" and made the French capital the most prestigious center of the luxury trade.

"In the years just before and after 1300 agents of the English royal court regularly shopped in Paris for gold work, textiles, furs, gloves, and ivories," she said.

As part of her fellowship, Prof. Farmer will make trips to England, Belgium and France in search of evidence books for the market for luxury goods produced in Paris in royal and aristocratic household accounts.



Dr. Barbara Oberg



Dr. Jeffrey Stine

## History Grads Honored

TWO GRADUATES OF the History PhD program won significant honors last Fall.

Dr. Barbara Oberg (PhD Marsak, 1973), who has spent the past 26 years editing the papers of various Founding Fathers, received the Julian P. Boyd Award of the Association for Documentary Editing, the Association's highest award.

Dr. Jeffrey K. Stine (PhD

Pursell, 1984) was promoted to chair of the Smithsonian's Division of Science and Medicine, which oversees the work of one of the largest assemblages of historians of science in the world.

Oberg's award puts her in the company of such distinguished editors as Arthur Link (the Wilson papers) and Louis

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Done to a Turn!



Historia photo by Mike Tucker

As anyone who's ever been on the receiving end of one of Carol Pfeil's barbs can tell you, the Attack Secretary knows how to start a fire. Last month she showed that she also knows how to put one out. Noticing smoke coming out of the staff room, she went in and saw their toaster oven in flames. Without hesitation, Carol grabbed a fire extinguisher and thereby prevented any major damage. Turns out that computer guru Jimmy Grablev had forgotten about a bagel. "We're calling the room 'Chef Jimmy's Bistro' now," reported Attack Secretary-in-training Mike Tucker.



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# To Love, or Not to Love?

WOULD RADICAL “free love” advocates of the 1850s have embraced today’s permissive sexual culture?

That was the question History professor and chair Pat Cohen put to her audience at the conclusion of November’s meeting of the UCSB History Associates.

After listening to her lecture, there was every indication that the answer would be, “No.”

Prof. Cohen told the story of mid-19th century reformers Mary Gove and Thomas Low Nichols, whose views on marriage and “free love” were so extreme that they were shunned by other activists, and Mary herself virtually written out of history of the period.

The pair must be seen in the context of “an epidemic of social movements” that began in the 1830s, Prof. Cohen said. These included religious revivals and the temperance and anti-slavery movements.

In the 1840s, a number of women’s rights movements began, leading to a radical rethinking of the way society operated.

“In the 1850s, the Nichols went farther than these other movements and argued that marriage was a bad institution that enslaved both men and women,” Prof. Cohen said.

The term “free love” was coined by their enemies, but the Nichols embraced it, arguing that free love meant love that was not being coerced.

But the aim of their program was to *prevent* lust and licentiousness,” Prof. Cohen said. Hence the implication that they would not be in favor of “free love” as it is under-



*Historia* photo by Mike Tucker

*The 2004-05 Senior Honors Seminar. Top (l. to r.): Juan Carlos Ibarra, Anthony Rios, Debbie Bahn, Lauren Rushton, Monique Proteasa, Abbey Chamberlain, Karen Steward, Jason Shattuck, Prof. Carol Lansing; seated (l. to r.): Elizabeth Malcolm, Annie MacDonald, Joanna Funke, Emily Flores, Megbann Williams. Not present (due to mudslides): Florentina Craciun, Brittany Dethlefsen, Robert Harkins.*

## Senior Seminar Topics Cover the Globe

ONE OF THE LARGEST Senior Honors Seminars in years is also turning out to be one of the liveliest.

Sixteen students qualified for admission this year (minimum requirements include a 3.5 GPA and recommendation by a faculty member who is willing to mentor the project). Since last Fall, they have been at work on papers ranging geographically from Africa to Oakland and chronologically from ancient Rome to the U. S. in the 21st century.

The students are now working on drafts of their papers, which will run 50-60 pages when completed. In the Spring, they will present their results at a colloquium where faculty and graduate students will critique their work.

Presiding over this creative mayhem this year is Prof. Carol Lansing, who says "This is the most fun class I have ever taught.

"They are very bright and engaged students discovering

the joys and horrors of independent research for the first time."

As testimony to the quality of this year's class, every one of them received an Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (UCRA) award from the College of Letters & Science.

Applicants must submit a precise budget and research statement for awards, which range up to \$1,000. They are then competitively judged by a faculty panel.

This year's students (in alphabetical order), with the names of their projects and mentors, are:

**Debbie Bahn**, "A California-Nevada Border Dispute in the 1860s" (Majewski).

**Abbey Chamberlain**, "Patriotism in Children's Magazines during WWII" (Jacobson).

**Florentina Craciun**, "The Romanian Revolution" (Hasegawa).

**Brittany Dethlefsen**, "Rea-

gan Era Cuts to the Food Stamp Program" (Kalman).

**Emily Flores**, "Masculinity in the Liberation Movement in Ghana" (Miescher).

**Joanna Funke**, "Shifting Attitudes to the Death Penalty" (O'Connor).

**Robert Harkins**, "Medicine and Humanism In Sixteenth-Century England" (Bernstein).

**Juan Carlos Ibarra**, "California Small Claims Court and Court Legitimacy" (Kalman).

**Annie MacDonald**, "Franco-American Relations during the Vietnam Crisis" (Moore).

**Elizabeth Malcolm**, "Black Power in Oakland" (O'Connor).

**Monique Proteasa**, "The Diem Coup and U. S. Debates over Vietnam Policy" (Hasegawa).

**Anthony Rios**, "Late Sixteenth-Century English Privateers on the Brazilian Coast" (Dutra).

**Lauren Rushton**, "CIA In-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# President's Corner

## The Lady Who Cooked History

Not only Santa Barbarans but people the world over were saddened to learn of the death of Julia Child last August. Julia – as everyone seemed to call her – was an extraordinary person who lived an extraordinary life. Her mother's family came to California by Conestoga wagon, and she grew up in Pasadena. During World War II she served in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in the Office of Strategic Services (the forerunner of the CIA). Fortunately for the history of good food, after the war she and her husband moved to France. Although she had done little cooking, she fell in love with French cuisine and threw herself into learning how to prepare it. She mastered the art. Through her books and her TV series on cooking, she introduced Americans to the art of French cooking and did it with tremendous energy and wit.



Julia's contributions, enhanced by her undeniable charm, earned honors from both sides of the Atlantic. She was awarded both the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the U.S. and the Légion d'Honneur from France. She changed culinary history, having fun while she did it, and encouraged her readers and viewers to join in the fun. She told us that if our soufflés fell, just serve them as puddings. She liked to massage a chicken with butter before roasting it because, as she put it, "I think the chicken likes it." As the citation on her honorary doctorate from Harvard opined, she "filled the air with common sense and uncommon scent." The kitchen from her house in Cambridge, Massachusetts is now an exhibit in the Smithsonian.

If you would like to learn more about Julia Child and celebrate her legacy, please mark your calendars for Friday, April 29 and keep your eyes peeled for more information about a very special fund-raising event for the UCSB History Associates. At a reception at the Faculty Club, our speaker will be Stephanie Hersh, who served as Julia Child's personal assistant for the last sixteen years of her life. "I never thought of her as my boss," Stephanie has said. "I always felt as if I were just helping Grandma. When I joined her in 1989, she warned me that she had given up books and television. After that, she did four more TV series and wrote five more books. She lived right until she died." Stephanie is herself an expert chef who has taught pastry-making at Santa Barbara City College. She will regale us with stories about Julia, weaving these tales into a presentation of her employer and friend as an American icon and a maker of history.

On Friday evening, we will enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres made from Julia's own recipes. The climax of the evening will be the drawing of 20 names. These lucky people will gather on Sunday, May 1 at the magnificent Montecito home of Mary Ann and Kevin Contreras to participate in Part Two of this fundraiser. On this day, Stephanie will lead a 2-hour cook-and-eat class entitled "Fun with Filo," where she will demonstrate filo techniques with appetizers, main courses, and desserts.

All proceeds from this event will go to the Fellowship Fund of the UCSB History Associates.

J. Sears McGee  
President

## New Book Chronicles Japan's WW II 'Gap'

*SECRET WEAPONS AND World War II: Japan in the Shadow of Big Science* by Walter Grunden (PhD Roberts, 1998) will be published in June by University of Kansas Press.

According to the publisher, *Secret Weapons* is the first book to focus on Japan's failure to develop effective programs for such "secret weapons" as jet propulsion, rockets and radar, arguing that technological dis-

parities ultimately led to its defeat by more advanced enemies in World War II.

Based on wide array of sources in both Japanese and English, Grunden's book is being hailed as "A strikingly original, very insightful, and highly stimulating work" and "a path-breaking tour de force."

He is currently assistant professor of history at Bowling Green State University.

## Alums Make Headlines

CONTINUED FROM P. 2  
Harlan (the Booker T. Washington papers).

Currently president of the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, Oberg is also general editor of "The Papers of Thomas Jefferson" project at Princeton University.

Program to Tell About Top-Secret WW II Unit  
THREE SURVIVING members of the World War II Alamo Scouts will participate in a program designed to tell the story of their top-secret activities Feb. 25 in Campbell Hall.

Recognized today as the fore-runners of the modern Army Special Forces, the Alamo Scouts were so little known during WW II that veterans of the Pacific Theater were not even aware of their existence, said Patrick Coffield, a member of the UCSB ROTC staff that is sponsoring the event.

Of their 120 missions, the most famous is their part in rescuing survivors of the Bataan Death March, subject of a motion picture entitled "The Great Raid" to be released in February.

Further information about the event may be obtained from the UCSB department of Military Science at (805) 893-3042.

Stine has been curator of technology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Stine has published widely on American science and technology policy.

## Chapman Thesis Gets SHAFR, IHC Support

JESSICA CHAPMAN (Logevall) has received grants from the Society for the History of American Foreign Relations and the IHC to complete her dissertation on *Debating the Will of Heaven: South Vietnamese Politics and Nationalism in International Perspective, 1954-1956*.

# 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



Historia photo by Mike Tucker

After several leaderless years, the History Graduate Student Association elected a full slate of officers last Fall. Planning events for the New Year are (l. to r.): Laura Izuel (Jacobson), president; Heidi Marx-Wolf (Drake), secretary; Bethanie Petersen (Farmer), treasurer; and Kristen Shedd (Lichtenstein), vice president. The HGSA represents History grad students at meetings of the Graduate Students Association, from which it received funding to promote social and academic events in the History department.

## Alum Sets Up New Prize For Foreign Relations

A PRIZE FOR THE best graduate student in the history of foreign relations has been established by Dr. Andrew Farrand, who took his PhD here in 1979.

The prize will be called “the DeConde-Burns Prize,” in honor of Dr. Farrand’s MA supervisor, Prof. Richard Dean Burns of Cal State Los Angeles, and his PhD mentor, emeritus Prof. Alex DeConde.

### Burnette Funded For Ecology Study

DON BURNETTE (Osborne) has won a Mathias grant from the UC Natural Reserve System to conduct research on his dissertation topic, “Frederic E. Clements: The Evolution of American Ecology.”

The project reframes cultural and biological heritage issues and is the first examination of experimental work conducted at Devereaux Slough by Clements, the founder of American plant ecology.

Initially funded for a period of five years, the prize will go to the graduate student judged to have made the most outstanding accomplishment in foreign relations generally, with a preference for students in U. S. foreign relations.

Dr. Farrand’s doctoral dissertation was on *Cultural Dissonance in Mexican-American Relations: Ethnic, Racial and Cultural Images and the Coming of War, 1846*.

### Travis Smith Gets Job At Yuba College

TRAVIS SMITH (Spickard) has been appointed to a tenure track position at Yuba Community College in Marysville, Calif.

He will be teaching American history and race relations while he completes his dissertation on the making of a racial system in northern California in the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.

### Historian of Science Wins Book Prize

DR. PETER J. WESTWICK, as associate in the History of Science program, won the Forum for the History of American Science book prize for 2004.

The prize was awarded for Westwick’s first book, *The National Labs: Science In An American System, 1947-1974* (Harvard, 2003). Westwick has also authored a study of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, to be published by Yale University Press. He is currently working on recent aerospace history and labor in Southern California.

### Honors Seminar

CONTINUED FROM P. 3  
fluence in Chile under Allende” (Soto-Laveaga).

**Jason Shattuck**, “Blood Sacrifice and Public Space in Late Antique Antioch” (Drake).

**Karen Steward**, “The Development of Protestant Liturgy in England” (McGee).

**Meghann Williams**, “Irish Attitudes towards the Outbreak of WWI” (Moure).

# Idyllic Bellagio

CONTINUED FROM P. 1  
law and the environmental effects of globalization on ethnic minorities along the Mekong River. A few hundred scholars, artists, and officials from all over the globe attend such gatherings every year.

In addition to the conferences, about 80 artists and scholars come for longer residencies of a month each. At any given time, seven or eight are in residence, working on their current intellectual or artistic projects. The residents are selected with no apparent attention to their fields of expertise. In the time I was in Bellagio, I overlapped with one each of these: physicist, painter, journalist, social worker, playwright, photographer, linguist, economist, composer, architect, sociologist, novelist, critic, medical doctor, and education professor. Plus two poets, two political scientists, two anthropologists, and two choreographers.

The only thing constant among all of them (with present company obviously excepted) is that they all are scary smart and hugely accomplished. I had read books by or about several of them, or had read their work in *The New Yorker* or *The New York Review*, even though none of them is in an area with which I have any connection. Conversations ranged from politics to poetry to theoretical physics to grandchildren. It was like summer camp for aging über-geeks.

After breakfast and the morning paper, I hike over the mountain and down to the beach for a freezing swim. I come back to my apartment for two hours of work on my novel. Then it’s time for drinks and then lunch. Two more hours of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

# 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Active \$30  
 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  
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*(specify other scholarship fund)*

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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:

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University of California, Santa Barbara  
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Questions? call (805) 893-4388

# Ladder to Success?



*Historia photo by David Schuster*

People should know better than to leave things lying around where academics can reach them. A stepladder appeared at the lagoon end of the third floor in late summer. After a couple of months, a sign reading "Ladder Faculty Only" (a reference to the phrase used to distinguish tenure-track faculty from part-time lecturers and instructors) appeared. A few days later, it was followed by another that read "And Upwardly Mobile Students." The ladder disappeared as mysteriously as it had arrived.



## Historia

NEWSLETTER OF THE UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106-9410

# 'Free Love'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

stood today.

Prof. Cohen said she came across the Nichols while doing research on New York's "flash" press, brothel journals published in the 1840s. She found she could not reconcile Mary Gove's austere personal life with the life style she was advocating until she learned to read her words in the context of the day.

"I couldn't understand her writings by using today's meanings," she said. "That should always be the first clue for a historian."

# Bellaqio

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

writing, then a walk down to the village and a ferry boat ride across to the picturesque town square where they executed Mussolini in the waning months of World War II. Back to write again. Then the debut of a new concerto by the composer in our group. More drinks, an exquisite grouse dinner, and drinks again. A walk in the garden. A full moon reflects off the lake and the tile roofs of the town below. A couple of hours of reading and it's time for bed.

It's a great gig. Academic life is good.

*A professor of Asian-American history, Paul Spickard novel is the story of two families, set in the Pacific Northwest in the early 1950s and the early 1990s*

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