

Forty Years of Environmentalism

Associates Lecture to Commemorate 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill

COMMEMORATING THE 40th anniversary of the oil spill that got it all started, the UCSB History Associates will present a program on the history of the modern environmental movement on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. in UCSB's McCune Conference Room on the 6th floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Josh Ashenmiller, who received his PhD from UCSB in 2004 with a dissertation on national environmental policy in "the green decade," 1969-81.

Entitled "From 'Get Oil Out' to 'Drill Baby Drill,'" Dr. Ashenmiller's talk will focus on the ups and downs of efforts to ban offshore drilling in the wake of a disastrous oil platform blowout in the Santa Barbara Channel on Jan. 29, 1969.

Ultimately, some 200,000 gallons of crude oil soiled beaches and coated waterfowl before the spill was capped 11 days later.

With energy independence back on the national agenda, experts are saying that the chances for replacing oil platforms with "green energy" are better than they have been in a long time.

Still, Dr. Ashenmiller notes, "almost half the country chanted 'drill, baby, drill' in the recent election.

Recipient of the Academic Senate's Outstanding Teaching Assistant award while a grad student here, Dr. Ashenmiller currently teaches history at Fullerton College.

His talk is being co-sponsored by the departments of History and Environmental Studies and the UCSB Environmental Studies Associates.

Although admission is free, reservations are advised. They may be made by phoning the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.

A UCSB campus map is available on the web at <http://www.aw.id.ucsb.edu/maps/>.



Dr. Josh Ashenmiller.



Lansing, Barbieri-Low Win Book Honors



Prof., Carol Lansing (L) and Tony Barbieri-Low.

TWO HISTORY FACULTY HAVE garnered major book awards in what is shaping up as a banner year for History publications.

Prof. Carol Lansing won the American Historical Association's Howard R. Marraro Prize in Italian history for *Passion and Order: Restraint of Grief in the Medieval Italian Communes* (Cornell, 2007).

Another AHA award went to Prof. Tony Barbieri-Low, whose *Artisans in Early Imperial China* (Washington, 2007) won the James Henry Breasted Prize for the best book in English on any subject of history prior to A.D. 1000.

Artisans also won The Charles Rufus Morey Book Award of the College Art Association, only the second book on China to win this award since it was established in 1953.

Two other new books have been the subject of recent History Associates lectures.

Last November, Prof. Pekka Hämäläinen spoke on *The Comanche Empire* (Yale, 2008), which offers a new model for understanding the "Westward expansion" of the United States.

And in October 2007, Prof. Patrick McCray spoke on the subject of his new book, *Keep Watching the Skies!: The Story of Operation Moonwatch and the Dawn of the Space Age* (Princeton, 2008), which was selected as "Book of the Week" by Publisher's Weekly last May.

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Pearl Chase Society Funds New Fellowship for Resource Website

BY RANDY BERGSTROM

THANKS TO THE foresight and generosity of Santa Barbara's Pearl Chase Society, doctoral students Peggy Beedle and Jill Dolan will be pursuing their Public History studies supported by a new fellowship.

The two scholar-professionals are the first recipients of the Pearl Chase Society Fellowship, an award that the Pearl Chase Society and the Public History faculty see advancing the Society's mission of protecting the unique cultural and architectural heritage of Santa Barbara while supporting the training and research of the profession's next generation of leaders in the field of historic preservation.

True to the spirit and practice of Public History at UCSB, the gains to the community will appear tangibly and quickly: the two recipients have already launched a collaborative project in conjunction with the Society.

The project, compiling and posting an inventory of local historic resources and repositories on the Pearl Chase Society's website, aims to make preservation source material more readily accessible to the public.



Prof. Randy Bergstrom (center) congratulates Peggy Beedle (l.) and Jill Dolan.

"The data will be readily available to the community," Society President Sue Adams noted.

"We are pleased that through Jill and Peggy's work, UCSB's Public History program, in partnership with the Society, will be providing a meaningful resource for local historic research."

In Peggy and Jill, the Society has awarded its Fellowship to quite an accomplished pair of recipients.

Peggy enters the doctoral program in Public History from professional work as architectural and landscape historian in California, the Midwest, and the Upland South.

She took her MA in cultural resources management and landscape History at the University of Wisconsin.

Peggy's work has garnered a Certificate of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architecture, and has

Prof. Randy Bergstrom is Director of the Public Historical Studies program.

included studies for the Amish Settlement Rural Historic District and the Amana Colonies in Iowa, on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and most recently on the cultural landscape of the Santa Margarita Ranch north of San Luis Obispo.

She presented a paper on this project in October at the annual conference of the California Council for the Promotion of History.

Jill also comes to her PhD studies (in the joint UCSB-CSUS program) with experience in historic preservation, though of a different kind.

She has been involved in historic preservation advocacy since the 1980s, first in Seymour Rosen's SPACES, the Watts Tower Committee, and Los Angeles Conservancy.

She is also a founding member of the Los Angeles Historic Theater Foundation, where she wrote and contributed to several successful local landmark nominations including the Cameo, Arcade, and Roxy Theaters downtown and the Egyptian Theater in

Hollywood.

Jill has also served as an Historic Preservation Commissioner for Ojai, participated on the building committee of the Santa Paula Theater Center, and has recently published an article in the Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly about the Oxnard Opera House.

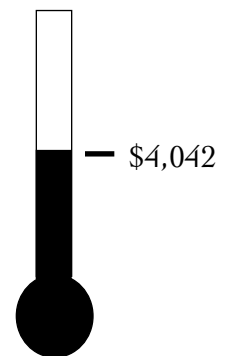
Her MA studies in Theater at Brown University included work in museum studies and urban archeology.

The Public History faculty share the Pearl Chase Society's excitement about the opportunity to get top doctoral students involved in Santa Barbara's rich heritage and preservation environment.

We applaud — and thank — the Society's Scholarships Committee, officers, and Board for their vision in creating this fellowship and look forward to a productive partnership!

The Return Of the Dreaded Thermometer!

\$10,000!!



FUND-RAISING to meet JoBeth Van Gelderen's annual \$10,000 challenge has not yet hit the halfway mark. So send your contribution today to: UCSB History Associates, Office of Community Relations, UCSB 93106-1136.

Historia

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Editor

Hal Drake

Undergrad Editor

Mike Uhl

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History Associates

Grads Keep Pace With Publishing, Awards, Jobs

ELLIE SHERMER (Lichtenstein) had an article on "Origins of the Conservative Ascendancy: Barry Goldwater's Early Senate Career and the De-legitimization of Organized Labor," in the December 2008 issue of the *Journal of American History*.

Mark Hendrickson (PhD 2004 Furner) has published "Gender Research as Labor Activism: The Women's Bureau in the New Era" in the *Journal of Policy History* (Fall 2008).

Leandra Zarnow (Boris) published "Braving Jim Crow to Save Willie McGee: Bella Abzug, the Legal Left, and Civil Rights Innovation, 1948-51," in *Law & Social Inquiry* (Fall 2008).

Tryntje Helfferich (PhD 2003 Sonnino) has published *Thirty Years War: An Anthology of Sources* with Hackett Publishing.

Erik Esselstrom (PhD 2004 Fogel) has published his first book, *Crossing Empire's Edge: Foreign Ministry Police and Japanese Expansionism in Northeast Asia* with University of Hawai'i

Press.

Bianca Murillo (Miescher) received a U.C. President's Fellowship to complete her dissertation on "The Politics of Consumption in Ghana, 1930-1980."

Dimitri Akulov (Hasegawa) has received a fellowship from the U.C. Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation to conduct research in Russia and Britain on Stalin's foreign policy from 1941-1943.

Legendary cyclist and History of Science grad student Don Burnette (Osborne), is teaching Latin American History at California State University-East Bay.

Douglas Dodd (PhD 2000 Bergstrom/Graham) has been promoted to associate professor with tenure in the History department at California State University, Bakersfield.

Sandra Dawson (PhD 2007 Rappaport) is teaching in the departments of History and Women's Studies at Northern Illinois University.

New Faculty Books

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Prof. Patricia Cohen's *The Flash Press: Sporting Male Weeklies in 1840s New York* (Chicago, 2008), co-authored with Timothy Gilfoyle and Helen Horowitz, was favorably reviewed in the June 1, 2008 issue of the *New York Times* Sunday Book Review.

Prof. Mary Hancock's *The Politics of Heritage from Madras to Chennai* (Indiana, 2008) explores the way the people in the southern Indian city of Chennai have gone about memorializing their past during a period of dramatic economic change.

Another book on memory is by Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa,

whose co-edited volume on *East Asia's Haunted Present: Historical Memories and the Resurgence of Nationalism* has been published by Praeger Security International.

Paul Sonnino's long-awaited *Mazarin's Quest: the Congress of Westphalia and the Coming of the Fronde* was published last month by Harvard.

Reconstructing events leading up to the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 from records scattered throughout five different countries, Prof. Sonnino shows how the French Cardinal's over-reaching ambition delayed the peace by several years.

From The Chair

Titanic Proportions

THE "BUBBLE" HAS burst, causing the economy to "crash and burn" and "sinking" the budget ever deeper "underwater": will the UC system "bounce back" after it "hits bottom," or have we gone so far "over a cliff" that only a "bailout" will get us out of the "quicksand?"

I was struck in my PhD research on economic policy during the Great Depression (which Great Depression, you may ask?) by the frequent use of metaphors to describe economic crises and remedies.

Most at that time were medical: money doctors fixed limping currencies and gold provided the lifeblood for international commerce. Today we have a wealth of metaphors, from cars and freeways to laws of gravity, natural disasters and meteorology.

Back in the real world, the UC system is facing an unprecedented budget crisis, with the certainty of severe cuts next year after six years of shrinking state funding.

The cuts next year will be painful, reducing the number of students we can teach and the support for our graduate students. Searches will be rare, salary cuts are possible, and funds for paying lecturers and teaching assistants may be cut by as much as 20 per cent.

The severity of this crisis should cause all of us—faculty, students, administrators, legislators, and the public at large—to reflect on the purpose of university education and the priority of public education in a democracy.

Let me pose a few questions, your answers to which have a bearing on what we do and how we do it.

Who benefits from university education? should it be treated as a private or a public good? How should it be paid for?

Should university education be (a) a right, (b) a privilege, (c) a necessity, (d) a luxury?

Do our values and our culture promote the development of not only higher education, but the skills and knowledge to make the most of the opportunities universities now offer?

Economic metaphors, no matter how mixed and mangled they might be, don't help us much in answering these questions. But they do provide some badly needed entertainment.

Given the budget crisis in California, it's clear we are in a deep hole, but we are well-educated and shovel-ready! Let's dig ourselves out, not in.

Edward John Smith

3 (who occupies the chair when Ken Mouré leaves his door open)



President's Corner

Three Challenges

HAPPY NEW YEAR, friends! It's amazing that we are a third of the way through the academic year. And if it's winter quarter, it means that we begin counting down to the awards ceremony in the Spring.

It also means that it is time that I remind you to help us meet several challenges.

The first challenge we face is our effort to match Jo Beth's generosity penny for penny! Her challenge grant has served as the foundation of fundraising efforts for many years.



Our second challenge is to continue to provide a substantial source of funding for graduate students in a time when all of our economic resources are stretched. The economic downturn has had a detrimental impact on the availability of funding for students at a time when their fees

are increasing. The cost of travel for research or attending conferences has increased. Other expenses such as photocopying and housing at research sites must also be covered. These are all essential toward completing the requirements of graduate school.

The third challenge is to contribute to the History Associates Fellowship fund when there are so many other demands on our finances.

I think the best way to communicate how important your generosity has been and continues to be is to allow last year's recipients to tell you themselves.

FROM NICOLE PACINO

"I used the money I received from History Associates to travel to Oaxaca this past summer and take part in the Oaxaca Summer Institute run by Bill Beezley and Bill French. As a Summer Institute Fellow I lived in Oaxaca for a month with a family and took part in daily seminars and field trips. Not only did I learn a ton about Mexican history, which as you know is central to my field, I was able to travel to important historical sites and learn about the culture and history of an exciting place. Most importantly, I spent the summer with ten other graduate students in Latin American history from all across North America (including Canada and Mexico) who will be my future colleagues, and met many recent PhDs as well as established scholars in the field that will be important resources for me as I continue in my career. This summer overall was an opportunity for network, travel, and education, thanks to the History Associates."

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Technical Matters



Historia photo by Mike Tucker

It hardly seems like five years, but after seeing the department through crises large and small for that long, computer specialist Dimitar ("Jimmy") Grablev (r.) has decided to go back to school and finish his degree. He is being replaced by Travis Anderson (l.), a computer science major at Santa Barbara City College. Jimmy isn't going that far: he will be studying computer science in UCSB's School of Engineering.

'Critical Issues' Forum Kicks Off on Feb. 22

A LEADING FIGURE in civil rights and anti-poverty struggles since the 1960s will be the keynote speaker for this year's Critical Issues in America series on "Economic Justice: Policy and the Political Imagination" on Monday, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Campbell Hall.

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, DC, is author of *The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation*.

She will be speaking as the Centennial Lecturer of the UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. The event is free and open to the public.

The Critical Issues program is sponsored by the Office of Student Life as a "catalyst for intellectual inquiry." The Economic Justice series is being organized by faculty in the Policy History Program and the Center for the Study of Work, Labor, and Democracy.

Future planned events include a policy forum on the Obama Administration's Anti-Poverty Agenda on March 5 starting at 4 p. m. The featured speaker will be Peter Edelman, Professor of Law at Georgetown Univ. and co-chair (with

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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

Riding the Rails with Spielberg

• Grad student Bonnie Harris Learns the Excitement (and Fatigue) of Research Abroad

A MORMON GRAD student, who is an archivist of Jewish history in San Diego, speaking on the Holocaust story of a German Cantor from Hamburg in the Catholic Church of Zbaszyn, Poland—it doesn't get more ecumenical than that!

Plus, a priest of the Catholic Church read the excerpts of Cantor Cysner's memoir that my interpreter had translated for the occasion.

After my presentation, a Jewish male solo vocalist performed traditional Jewish songs with a keyboard musician who could make his Yamaha sound like a full orchestra.

It was so fantastic hearing these wonderful, very pathos-filled Hebraic songs after having spoken about this German Jewish Cantor.

I found myself contemplating how many decades it had been since Zbaszyn had heard the voice of a Cantor—since Joseph had left—because there is no Jewish community in Zbaszyn anymore and has not been since the Nazi invasion, which happened only six months after Joseph left.

I had arrived in Zbaszyn, Poland on a very nice train trip from Berlin.

In fact, I actually arrived at Zbaszynek, one stop before Zbaszyn where an arrival party of three people from the exhibition event greeted me and took my bags and whisked me off to a nice quaint little hotel in Zbaszyn.

It rained that day so it was a good day for a train trip. During my journey the irony did not escape me that I was traveling on the actual 70th anniversary days of the



The Catholic Church in Zbaszyn, set up for Bonnie's lecture.

Polenaktion and deportations to Zbaszyn on the very tracks I traveled that day, literally following Cantor Cysner's forced deportation. Spielberg could not have created a better mood scene for such contemplation – gazing over the fall colored countryside through rain spattered windows.

I was greeted by three of the nicest people—a young woman named Agnieszka, a gentleman named Wojciech, and an older gentleman named Erwin – thank goodness for Erwin! I had no trouble with his name.

He kissed my hand when we parted. I wanted to cry.

As Wojciech drove us through the old streets of this even older township, I told them about my first visit to Zbaszyn two years ago,

being all alone with one taxi driver who spoke no English or German and I who spoke no Polish.

Now I had three people all interpreting me at the same time and then speaking very fast Polish between them—I think discussing who understood what part of what I said.

That movie “Everything is Illuminated” flashed in my mind and I smiled and thought about the similarities.

The next day I had my own personal interpreter who stayed with me all the rest of my days there.

My four days in Poland were whirlwinds as I attended memorial presentations during the days and made my own presentation in conjunction with one of the many concerts

in the evening. I also met with representatives from local historical societies and museums who are documenting the story of the Jews in the Poznan area. I told them that I was researching the story of the Labor Camp of Zbaszyn that brought young men from Pabianice Ghetto to work on the rail lines from 1941 to 1943 before they were all sent to Auschwitz. They were very surprised and excited to hear about this story and have promised to assist me.

This will be a very BIG accomplishment from this trip if I can glean more information on this part of the Zbaszyn story. NOTHING has been written on this at all anywhere by anyone, as far as I can tell.

What I know I have gathered from oral histories through the Shoah Foundation Archives at USHMM.

My days in Poland were some of the most memorable I have ever enjoyed, but even though I love doing this, as Dorothy says, “there's no place like home.”



Bonnie Harris.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Bonnie Harris is a doctoral student in the Public History program, studying with Profs. Marcuse and Bergstrom.. For a pictorial essay on Holocaust memorials in Poland, see her Public History webpage: <<http://www.bonniebiz.com/25001/36539.html>>

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
 \$ _____ 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.

☪
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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:

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University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1136
Questions? call (805) 893-4388

Forum Will Put Spotlight On 'Economic Justice' Issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Angela Glover Blackwell) of the Task Force on Poverty convened by the Center for American Progress last year.

Their report, "Half in Ten," which lays out an agenda for cutting poverty in half within a decade, was issued last spring before the depths of the economic crisis came to dominate the headlines.

His talk will be followed by a discussion panel featuring local community perspectives.

Other speakers in the series include journalists William Greider (April 2-3), and Steven Greenhouse (April 30-May 1). Further details to follow in a future *Historia*.

President's Column: Hearing from our awardees

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FROM JUSTIN BENGRY

"Owing to the fact that I specialize in modern British cultural history, archival research is particularly slow and arduous. There is no one particular archive that holds even a majority of my sources. Rather, I need to spend weeks going through multiple archives across the UK looking for small references to my subject. . . . The generous support of the History Associates has made it possible for me to stay in the United Kingdom where I can continue to consult these varied sources as I write up my findings. As most of us discover in the process of writing, there are unavoidable gaps and questions that remain which must be filled with additional research. From California, it would be impossible for me to address these small but significant omissions and produce a superior dissertation. Funding from sources like the History Associates makes the achievement of high level scholarship possible."

I hope we can count on your continued generosity to the History Associates Fellowship fund and any of the other associated funds we sponsor. I also hope you will be able to attend our next event with Josh Ashenmiller on offshore oil drilling. Thanks for your support!

Monica Orozco
President



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NEWSLETTER OF THE UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES
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