



The Santa Barbara County Courthouse, built in 1929.

They Don't Build 'em Like This Anymore!

IT IS ONE OF THE most photographed public buildings in the country, and thanks to its use as a backdrop for several television programs it is also one of the best known.

On Sunday, March 13, it will be the subject of a behind-the-scenes tour led by former Santa Barbara Mayor Sheila Lodge.

"It," of course, is the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, designed by architect William Mooser III to replace the building destroyed in the Santa Barbara earthquake of 1925.

Sponsored by the UCSB History Associates, the tour will begin at 3 p.m. in the Mural Room on the second floor of the Courthouse, 1100 Anacapa St.

The tour itself will be free, but attendees have the option of joining Mayor Lodge afterwards for a lavish high tea at Barcliff

and Bair on 1112 State St. (in La Arcada).

Price for the after-tour event is \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

History Associates Pres. Sears McGee said anyone who cannot stay for the tea but who wished to make a contribution anyway could make a donation to the History Associates scholarship fund, which is now underway.

"It's a great way to make \$1 count twice, because there is still Van Gelderen matching money available," Prof McGee said (see "Dreaded Thermometer," p. 3).

Reservations may be made with the UCSB Office of Community Affairs at (805) 893-4388. Donations may be sent to the same office, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1136.

Collins Paints Gloomy Picture Of Darfur Future

THE WORLD COMMUNITY has turned a blind eye to the mass killing going on in Darfur and there is no reasonable hope that the situation will improve, Prof. Robert O. Collins told the February meeting of UCSB's History Associates.

Warning at the outset that there would be nothing uplifting in his talk, Prof. Collins said that the frequently cited figure of 70,000 deaths in this region of western Sudan drastically understates the number of casualties because it only includes the number who have died in refugee camps, and even then only the number who have died since 2004.

"Any first year graduate student could show what was wrong with that figure," Prof. Collins, an internationally recognized expert in the history of Sudan, said.

He put the true total at higher than 300,000.

"The number of people who died and have been displaced because of this catastrophe is far greater than the number of those who died in the tsunami," he said.

At 1 million square miles, Sudan is the largest country in Africa and 2 per cent of all the land on the planet, he said. The Darfur region is the size of California.

Despite promises to rein in the militias that have been doing most of the killing,

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History Senior Wins UC-wide Undergraduate Paper Award

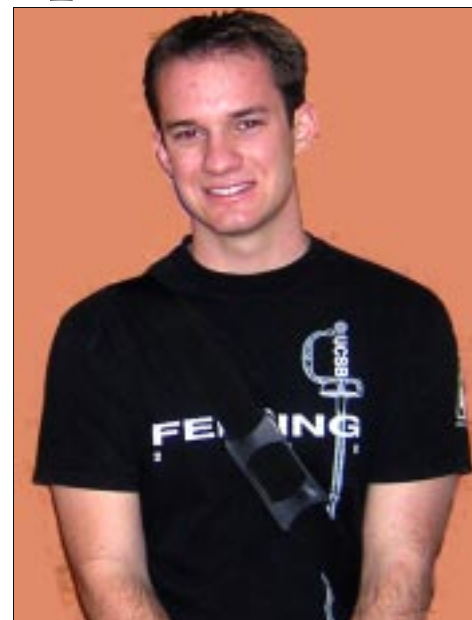
SENIOR HISTORY MAJOR Jason Shattuck has won the Undergraduate Essay Prize of the UC Multi-Campus Research Group in Late Antiquity for best paper in the UC system on the topic of Late Antique history and culture. He is the first UCSB student to win the award, which was established in 2001.

Jason's winning paper, "Smoking Altar, Burning Bull," explored a famous breakdown in relations between the Roman emperor Julian and the famous city of Antioch in the middle of the 4th century AD.

It was written for Prof. Drake's undergraduate research seminar in Winter 2004.

"Jason showed why the standard explanation of religious conflict doesn't work and then went on to explore economic reasons," Prof. Drake said.

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Jason Shattuck.

Historia photo by Mike Tucker

A Busy Year for Faculty, Grads

IT HAS BEEN a busy, but productive year for faculty and grad students.

Prof. **Douglas Daniels** (American and African American history). "Los Angeles's Jazz Roots: The Willis H. Young Family," appeared in *California History*, 42 (2004), and "North Side Jazz: Lester 'Pres' Young in Minneapolis," appeared in the Fall 2004 issue of *Minnesota History*.

On the last day of February, Prof. Daniels gave a lecture entitled "It's the Spirit that Moves Us," on African American music traditions at the final Black History Month event at SUNY, Fredonia, N.Y.

Prof. **Anita Guerrini** (early modern Europe, History of Science) has been named to the editorial board of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, published by the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Erik Esselstrom (PhD Fogel, 2004) has been appointed to a tenure-track position as assistant professor of East Asian history at the University of Vermont.

Matthew Sutton (PhD DeHart 2005) has signed a contract with Harvard University Press to publish *Hollywood Religion: Aimee Semple Mc-*

Pherson, Pentecostalism, and American Culture.

Travis Moger (Friesen & McGee) has been chosen to attend this year's German Historical Institute's (GHI) Summer Seminar in Paleography and Archival Studies in Washington, DC. He is one of only 10 North American graduate students selected for the pro-

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Darfur

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Prof. Collins said, 60 villages were destroyed in January alone. He predicted that another 35,000 natives would die every month.

"The Sudanese have become very adept at stonewalling," he said. "It has been the pattern of this government since 1989 to sign anything and then ignore it."

Oil politics has kept the United Nations from acting more forcefully, Prof. Collins said.

"The Chinese and the Russians have got large concessions in Sudan, which can increase oil production to 500 million barrels a year. None of that oil is in Darfur.

"The biggest crisis China faces is a shortage of oil," he said. "The Chinese and the Russians are not going to let the Security Council do anything that would alienate Khartoum."

The African Union is trying to build up its peacekeeping forces in Sudan to 10,000 from the present 1,500, Prof. Collins said, "but between now and then, lots of people will die."

Since speaking to the History Associates, Prof. Collins has been invited to speak on Darfur at Bryn Mawr and Washington University in St. Louis.



Historia photo by Prof. Jun Iwai, Shizuoka University

Prof. Paul Sonnino greets wellwishers at Het Loo Castle in Appeldoorn Gelderland.

Oh, No — There're TWO of Him!

Sonnino Foils 'Kidnappers'

BY RON MARTIN

FALLING BACK ON his skills learned in the U.S. Army, Paul Sonnino has managed to extricate himself from one more attempt to keep him from teaching our undergraduates about the pitfalls of studying history.

On Jan. 4 of this year, just after he had delivered his introductory lecture in History 4B on the evils of both the Whig and the Politically Correct in-

Ron Martin received his PhD from UCSB in 1972. He is a professor of History at Santa Ana College and a quondam Sonnino re-enactor.

terpretations of history, Prof. Sonnino found himself abducted by masked postmodernists identifying themselves as members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Historiography, who bound him, gagged him, drugged him, and shuffled him on board of KLM flight 602 bound for Amsterdam.

Two days later, a still unidentified impostor walked into the Isla Vista theater, and, claiming that he was the real Paul Sonnino, delivered the second lecture of the course, "Byzantium and its Neighbors,"

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From The Chair

Hidden Assets

The History Department not only has 48 professors on its faculty; it has 14 additional “hidden assets”: historians or history-leaning professors who have homes in other UCSB departments.

Each of the 14 has been formally admitted (by vote) to our department under the designation of “affiliated” faculty.

They have no rights—and, more enviably, no duties—in the governance of our little community, but they do have an enormous privilege. They can crosslist appropriate undergrad courses with History, they can teach our graduate students, and—and this is why most seek affiliated status—they can serve on and indeed direct doctoral committees in History.



In this column I'll describe the eight who have actual history PhDs, and save the rest—with degrees in fields such as classics, anthropology, ethnic studies, and

Japanese Studies—for another time.

Women's Studies boasts two senior historians.

Eileen Boris, holder of the Hull Chair in Women's Studies, works on 20th century US women in and out of the household. Her book *Home to Work: Motherhood and the Politics of Industrial Homework in the United States* will soon be followed by another book on mothers as workers in the late 20th century.

Leila Rupp came to UCSB three years ago from the Ohio State University, where she chaired the History Department.

Leila has produced books on transnational feminist organizations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, on the woman's movement, on the history of sexuality, and most recently, a coauthored book on drag queens.

Asian American Studies yields us **Xiaojian Zhao**, whose recent book, *Remaking Chinese America: Immigration, Family, and Community, 1940–1965*, won the History Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies last year.

Chicana/o Studies is home to another affiliate, **Gerardo Aldana**, an assistant professor whose Harvard PhD is in the History of Science. He is working on a book on Mayan and Mesoamerican astronomy both in the pre and post Conquest periods.

Global and International Studies in the new home of **Dominic M. Sachsenmaier**, who started a global history initiative at Harvard and MIT before coming

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The Good News: He Was Kidnapped; the Bad News...

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maintaining that Basil of Byzantium was a gay bashing Bulgarophobe, leading police to suspect that this was a well planned operation.

“By the time we got to Schiphol Airport, the effect of the sedative was wearing off, and my abductors untied my hands so I could give the immigration official my passport, but I was still gagged and my mouth filled with cotton, so that I could only gargle a cry for help,” Prof. Sonnino said.

“Unfortunately, the guy in the kiosk merely gave me back my passport and congratulated me on my excellent Dutch.”

“I was held captive for several days in the basement of a pornographic bookstore, where I was subjected to a day and

Prize

CONTINUED FROM P 1

“It was an exceptionally sophisticated study, and what makes it even more astonishing is that he did it all in the course of a single 10-week term.”

Last year, Jason's paper won the department's Dumas Prize for best undergraduate paper on a subject of Greek history or culture.

Jason is currently working in the Senior Honors Seminar on an expanded study of this problem that will also consider issues of civic identity and use of public space.

In announcing the award, the selection committee, made up of graduate students from all UC campuses, praised Jason's innovative approach and stylish prose.

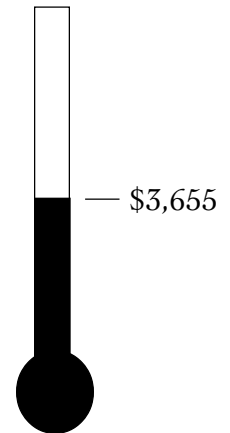
As recipient of the award, Jason will present his paper at the annual UCLA Graduate Students' Conference in Late Antiquity on April 30, where he will also be presented with a check for \$100.

night diet of x-rated Michel Foucault lectures.

“Finally, I chose a moment when my captors were busy arguing with each other as to which one of them was the most victimized and managed to crawl to freedom through a pile of completely unguarded Leopold von Ranke histories.”

The Return of the Dreaded Thermometer!

\$10,000!



ONLY TWO MONTHS to go in this year's campaign and more than half of JoBeth Van Gelderen's challenge is still unmet. Don't let her keep this money! Don't start having nightmares of The Dreaded Thermometer. Send your contribution today to:
UCSB History Associates
Office of Community Relations
UCSB 93106-1136.

President's Corner

Julia Child and 'Cosmic Soup'

In the January issue of *Historia* I wrote about our planned fundraiser celebrating the life and work of Julia Child, whose kitchen from her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts is now an exhibit in the Smithsonian Museum. She was awarded both the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the U.S. and the Légion d'Honneur from France. Many of us remember with delight her wonderful cooking programs on television. Our speaker was to be Stephanie Hersh, her



personal assistant for the past 16 years. Ms. Hersh, however, has had to withdraw because she has accepted a new job in New Zealand. Fortunately, we are going ahead with the reception as planned at the UCSB Faculty Club on April 29 (5:30-7:30 pm).

Our speaker will be Don Skipworth (aka Skip), a dear friend of Julia's and an extraordinary chef, bringing his intimate knowledge of Julia's work and personality as well as his own mastery of Asian cuisines. We will enjoy hors d'oeuvres made from Julia's recipes and learn more about Julia as a person and as a cook and teacher.

We will conclude the reception with a drawing, and the 20 lucky people will get to attend another splendid event on Sunday May 1 from noon to three p.m. at the stunning new home of Mary Ann and Kevin Contreras in Montecito (see the story on it in the Feb-March 2005 issue of *Santa Barbara Magazine*). Under Skip's tutelage they will help prepare – and eat – a beautiful meal beginning with Salade Chinois (mixed field greens, topped with roast duck shreds, oranges, and cherimoya, dressed with a Thai lime dressing) and followed by Chinese Roast Pork with Peanut Curry Sauce and Lotus Leaf Rice (a banquet dish of rice and assorted meats and vegetables wrapped in lotus leaves) accompanied by a Cranberry/Mandarin Fruit Relish. For dessert: Pecan Tartlets, Almond Cookies, and Banana Coconut Sorbet.

These are all dishes that Skip prepared for his friend Julia. She especially loved the almond cookies, and he made them for her often.

Skip graduated from Stanford University with a BA in Far Eastern History and American Studies. He taught for many years but retired early in order to pursue his life-long love of cooking. His fascination with Asian cuisine began in his youth; his first inspira-

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Affiliated Faculty Are 'Hidden Assets'

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here in 2003. Dominic has studied at universities in Germany, England, Taiwan, and China. His research looks at the global dimensions of local history, moving beyond the nation state and examining phenomena that transcend national boundaries

Religious Studies has two historians:

Catherine Albanese has written books on the American Revolution and the Transcendentalists, and is now writing a cultural history of metaphysical religion in America.

Richard Hecht is an historian of Judaism and the city of Jerusalem; he has coauthored a book called *To Rule Jerusalem*, and he is working on a sequel now, to be titled *Jerusalem: The Profane Politics of a Sacred Space*. He offers many courses both in Religious Studies and Global and International Studies on religion and politics.

And finally, **Robert Morstein-Marx** in Classics earned his degree in Ancient History at Berkeley. His most recent book appeared in 2004: *Mass Oratory and Political Power in the Late Roman Republic*. In addition to Roman Republican history, Bob offers training to students in Hellenistic history as well.

Listing their names as History faculty in the UCSB catalogue and on our website adds luster to our reputation; having them on board with us certainly adds depth and breadth to the graduate training we offer our history students.

Patricia Cohen
Chair

Busy Year

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gram.

Monique Vallance (Dutra) will present a paper a paper entitled, "D. Luisa de Gusmo and Her Personal Letters, 1662-1666" this month at the 36th annual Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies in Charleston, SC.

HGSA Events

THE HGSA PROVIDED bagels for the History Dept. on Mardi Gras and had its first movie and pizza night in February, showing "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." They also arranged a bowling party for prospective grad students.

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

Bellagio Memories: Getting There is Half the Fun

BY GEOFF SMITH

YES, BELLAGIO is gorgeous—a gemstone on the stubby finger of peninsula jutting northward into Lake Como. The gleaming bougainvillea and glistening wisteria induce in sun and mist a state of mind out of time. The crowds, schlock, and self-conscious decadence of Bellagio (of course the Duke and Duchess of Windsor loved the place!) do not detract from this Italian holiday site's charm and grace. It's been a magnet for visitors for centuries.

The problem with Bellagio is how best to get there. The question provides the context of one of the most exquisite experiences encountered during a May tour of Europe. That longer journey, initiated by train through the magic Chunnel from London to Brussels, was not the author's first wheel ordeal in Europe.

A sturdy VW "Golf" was hired in Brussels. Then southern France beckoned—an invitation from friends in Pau, which took us through the



Wildflowers in Dordogne. To see them in color, go to our webpage: www.history.ucsb.edu/history/associates/baindex.htm

Dordogne and Perigord regions, with spectacular stopoffs at Brantome, Fountain de Vouclous, Sarlat, and the old hill towns of Gordes and Domme, from whence we enjoyed a superb view of the river valley to the west.

Two weeks later, we headed into Northwest Italy, amazed at the tunnels and high-vaulted bridges that ensured smooth

passage through towering mountains and across deep valleys toward the Italian Riviera towns of San Remo and Santa Margherita di Ligure. We should not have been so awestruck—the Romans, after all, left their indelible imprimatur upon all modern civil engineering.

But if the ancient Roman roads still deserve their fame, the same cannot be said for the routes one takes upon leaving the Italian Autostrada. For driving in Italy provides the ultimate reality check—an experience where knuckles actually fuse with the steering wheel. The other fit—more problematic—is between human and machine (no matter how able) and roads upon which no car ever expected to traverse.

On the Autostrada, the easy part, most notably the stretch between Parma and Milan (which recalls in its agricultural beauty old Highway 99 which once bisected central California), average speed is around 140 kmh.

The Autostrada experience did not come unexpectedly. When I rented my "Golf" in

Brussels and told the agent that I planned to drive in Italy, he began to cry. Then he indicated that it would be a good idea for me to purchase extra insurance. "We have had bad luck in Italy," he intoned. "One man always comes back having had a wreck, been vandalized, in a mess. . ." I took this as a sales pitch and declined the extra coverage, believing that midwinter experiences on the 401 back home would prepare me. My lapsed Catholicism might also help.

So it is northward, to Como. Following several comic-opera attempts to find the route from Milan to Como (Italian road signs off the Autostrada are *very* small and jammed together—up to a dozen with a mere few seconds for drivers to make choices), we arrived at a strip-front motel two miles east of Como, to avoid having to drive into the city, and also to pay its celestial lodging prices.

The following day, against my partner's (and our *Fodor's*) advice, we began our drive northward long the east shore of Lake Como, toward Bellagio. "Take the ferry! Take the ferry!" all entreated. "Don't drive!" I soon saw why. For the road to Bellagio, for all its grace and spectacular views, held its share of terror. For one thing, the road is very narrow, and as the song goes, has many a winding turn.

Bellagio itself proved magnificent—as we relished a lakefront luncheon, hard by a pier where two little boys played with toy boats, birds swooped, and our waiter spilled water on my companion, accidentally, perhaps, but more likely because she did not "order up". Italian tourists confront two main courses for each meal, *primi*, consisting of a pasta

About the Author

GEOFF SMITH (BA 1963, PhD DeConde 1969), is now a Professor of History and of Physical and Health Education at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, where he was recognized last year with two top teaching awards, the Frank Knox Excellence in Teaching and PHED Class of '88 Excellence in Teaching.

"Your faculty taught me that teaching was important," he writes, "and TAing for Bob Kelley was the absolute best training one could have." He sends "a special hello to Jo Beth, whom I knew long ago as Will Jacobs' wife, especially at the Lair of the Bear."



Prof. Geoff Smith

These excerpts are from a longer piece he sent in response to Paul Spickard's memoir on Bellagio in the previous issue. To read more of Geoff's writing, go to www.geoffsmith.org.

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 \$ _____

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In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is:

- \$25 to obtain a UCSB Library card
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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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The Road to Bellagio

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5
variant, followed by meat or fish. For my partner, who does not eat much but must eat often, these repasts constituted ordeals, as they did for me—for I eat much, and *too* often. Italians themselves, we learned, settle for one dish or the other, with no guilt.

Strolling through Bellagio takes little time (far less than finding a parking place)—up the main steps of the town, past the shops (where I had the best meringue ever), to the sixteenth-century church, where—wonder of wonders—we sat and listened as a group of tourists sang Medieval madrigals in breath-taking harmony. The church also provided welcome respite from the heat of day. Afterwards we walked

past several grand estates and flower gardens and—feeling like total interlopers—paid a visit to the five-star Grand Hotel Villa Sorboni.

Soon, before my partner and I knew it, it was dusk and we were back in Como, then at our strip motel—exhausted, yes, but delighted with relief. The next morning, in very halting Italian, we explained to the papa and son who run the motel, where we had gone and how we got there.

“But that’s a mule road!” Papa roared, looking at his son and shaking his head. “You should have taken the ferry.”

Yes, yes, next time, yes—we’ll take that ferry. And we shall go back to Italy and to Bellagio.

And, yes, if you do go, drive slowly.

Julia Child Event

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

tion and teacher was Wong You Hai, the mother of a boyhood friend. After retirement, he resumed his studies with passion and a passport, traveling widely to study with great chefs all over Asia, including Taipei, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Soochow, Bangkok, Singapore, and Beijing. Though Skip, like Julia herself, is an eternal student, he is now the teacher. In 2004, he was selected to present a master class for the International Association of Culinary Professionals at its annual meeting in Baltimore. He is in great demand all over the US as a teaching chef. His talks and demonstrations draw eager audiences. Chef Skip is putting the finishing touches on a book that will be entitled *COSMIC SOUP, Food Tales from Global Trails*.

And if all this were not enough, at least \$50 of the \$100 tickets will be tax deductible and a tremendous boon to our scholarships and fellowships for outstanding UCSB history students. Space will be limited, so please book your place soon.

J. Sears McGee

President

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