



Prof. Pekka Hämäläinen.

Comanche Book Wins Two Top History Prizes

PROF. PEKKA HÄMÄLÄINEN'S *The Imperial Comanches: How the Rise and Fall of an Indigenous Empire Shaped the Course of American History* has been awarded two distinguished prizes for History books.

The Organization of American Historians gave it the 2009 Merle Curti Award for the best book in social and/or intellectual history, and the Texas State Historical Association chose it for the 2008 Kate Brooks Bates Award for the book representing the most significant historical research dealing with any phase of Texas history before 1900.

In this book, Prof. Hämäläinen reinterprets the standard textbook narrative of American history, which portrays the progressive conquest and subjugation of Native American peoples by European invaders.

Instead, he argues that the Comanches built a durable empire that lasted well into the 19th century.

"It is a story that reverses the roles of the traditional narrative," Prof. Hämäläinen told the UCSB History Associates in No-

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Local History on Tap For Associates in March

MARCH IS GOING to be local history month for the UCSB History Associates.

On Sunday, March 8, emeritus Prof. Richard Oglesby will be featured speaker in a program devoted to this history of stone architecture in Santa Barbara.

And on Sunday, March 29, Associates President Monica Orozco and archivist Lynn Bremer will take Associates into the archives of the Santa Barbara Mission, which has been the repository for the Franciscan Order in California since 1833.

Prof. Oglesby's lecture will deal with a tradition of building with local sandstone that began in 1870 and brought stonemasons from all over the world to Santa Barbara.

The results of those labors have now been documented by the Santa Barbara Conservancy with a book to be published in April.

Prof. Oglesby will speak in the Comedor Room of Casa de la Guerra on 15 E. de la Guerra St. at 2 p.m. His talk will be followed by a special exhibit of photographs of historic stonework set up in the Casa by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

At the end of the month, History Associates will be given access to archives that were begun by Fr. Junipero Serro in 1769. The records and documents cover two and a half centuries of California history.

They include the Junipero Serra Collection (1713-1947), the California Mission Documents (1640-1853), and the Apostolic College Collection (1853-1885).

All of these records came to reside in Santa Barbara when all other California

missions were either secularized on confiscated (the Santa Barbara Mission is the only one still operated by Franciscans).

Local records include the collection of the de la Guerra family, which traces back to José de la Guerra, who first came to Santa Barbara in 1804 and settled here permanently in 1815. He served as Comandant of the Presidio from 1827 to 1842.

This program will also begin at 2 p.m. Both programs will be followed by a reception.

Reservations for either event may be made through the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members and \$5 for students.

Is There an Award In Your Future?

EVER WONDERED WHO the first Buchanan Award winner was? Or what the Esmé Frost Award is for?

Now you can find the answer to all of your questions on the History Department's new Awards page, which lists all graduate and undergraduate awards, along with present and previous recipients and a brief description of each category.

There's also a link to a downloadable pdf form for contributing to the prize you want to support.

Just go to the department home page, <http://www.history.ucsb.edu/> and click on "Awards Page" (underneath the photo of an astronaut, on the upper right hand side).



Goleta Mayor Roger Aceves (r) greets Dr. Josh Ashenmiller.

Ashenmiller Warns Against Complacency

THE BIGGEST THREAT to the environmental movement touched off by the Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969 is complacency, Dr. Josh Ashenmiller told the UCSB History Associates.

Speaking on the 40th anniversary of spill — technically, he explained, a “blowout” — Dr. Ashenmiller said retrospectives of that event have tended to focus on the positive developments that came out of it, rather than the problems that remain to be solved.

Pointing to a report on PBS’s News Hour, Dr. Ashenmiller

noted that the tone was “entirely upbeat and positive.”

The program concentrated on “the regulations that now protect us,” and talked about how the platforms are now run by smaller companies that use better techniques.

“The overall tone was one of complacency,” he said. “The oil boys have been chastised and are now tightly controlled.”

Things have gotten better, he acknowledged.

“In the 1920s, natural gas wells just burned off at the well-head because the companies didn’t know what to do with it,” he said, “and houses built when fossil fuel was cheap wasted far more energy than ones built now.”

However, he said, complacency is the last lesson to be learned from the 1969 blowout.

Comparing the movement that grew out of that event to the civil rights movement of the 1950s, Dr. Ashenmiller said the real lesson environmentalists learned was the value of activism.

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Issues Series Focuses On Anti-Poverty Policy

A LECTURE AND panel discussion on anti-poverty policy will conclude the Critical Issues in America program on Thursday March 5 at 4 p.m. in the Multicultural Center Theater.

Prof. Peter B. Edelman of Georgetown University’s Law Center will speak on “Anti-Poverty Policy in the Obama Administration.”

Fellowship Recipients Prosper

RECIPIENTS OF support from the UCSB History Associates are putting that support to good use.

April Hayes (Cohen) has been awarded the Mellon Post-doctoral Fellowship of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, as well as a six-month postdoctoral fellowship from the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston.

Nicole Pacino (Soto La-veaga) has won a Rockefeller Foundation grant to conduct research at the Rockefeller Archive Center N. Y., for her dissertation on public health and nation formation in Bolivia from 1952-1964.

Bonnie Harris (Marcuse/Bergstrom) has had an article on “From German Jews to Polish Refugees: Germany’s Polenaktion and the Zbaszyn Deportations of October 1938” accepted for publication in the *Jewish Historical Journal of Warsaw, Poland*.

Mateo Farzaneh’s (Gallagher) article, “Inter-regional Rivalry Cloaked in Iraqi Arab Nationalism and Iranian Secular Nationalism and Shi’ite Ideology,” has appeared in the *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*.

Following the lecture, a panel discussion will feature comments by Belen Seara, executive director of the Santa Barbara economic justice organization PUEBLO; Marcos Vargas, Executive Director of CAUSE, and Professor Clyde Woods of UCSB’s Black Studies department.

Prof. Edelman is also co-chair of the Task Force on Poverty for the Center for American Progress. A report by the task force, “From Poverty to Prosperity,” lays out an agenda for cutting poverty in half within a decade.

His will be the third talk in a series on the theme of “Economic Justice: Policy and the Political Imagination,” which was developed by U.S. and Policy history faculty, led by Prof. Alice O’Connor.

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund, kicked off the series on Feb. 23 with a lecture in Campbell Hall. Her latest book is *The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small*, published last year by Hyperion Press.

Historian Barbara Ransby followed on Feb. 25 with “The Radical Legacy of Civil Rights and Feminist Movements For Contemporary Progressive Politics,” a reflection on the 2008 Presidential election and what it tells us about the evolution, current state and future prospects for civil rights, feminist politics, and movements for race and gender equity.

Her talk was also the 2009 Hull Chair lecture of UCSB’s Center for Research on Women and Social Justice.

Each year, the Critical Issues in America program chooses a theme for a year-long series of lectures, panels and other events.



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A Good Year To Be Named 'Heidi'

WE MIGHT CALL this "A Tale of Two Heidis."

It's unusual enough for a department to have two grad students with this name at the same time. Even more unusual for both of them to be finishing their dissertations in the same year.

Most unusual of all, both Heidis have landed jobs despite the most sour economy in recent memory.

Heidi Marx-Wolf (Digeser/Drake) has accepted appointment as an assistant professor in the department of Religion at the University of Manitoba.

Heidi Morrison (Gallagher) has accepted a tenure track position at University of Wisconsin La Crosse.

Morrison's dissertation, "Changing Concepts of Childhood in Egypt, 1900-1950," shows how the meaning of childhood evolved in response to and as part of the nationalist movement, the development of new social classes and the expansion of state control over the family, as well as in reaction to a new sense of individual rights.

Marx-Wolf's dissertation is titled "Inverse Registers: Daemonological Discourse and the Christianization of the Mediterranean World in Late Antiquity."

Drawing on sources as varied as ancient curse tablets, theological discourses and philosophical tomes, Marx-Wolf argues that the way different groups used the concept of demons helps us chart changes in Christian and "Hellenic" identity.

Honors Students Thrive on Topics from Surfing to Civil War

BY MIKE UHL

THIS YEAR 10 students are braving the History department's two-quarter senior honors seminar in which they research and write their own undergraduate theses under the direction of a faculty mentor.

Prof. Lisa Jacobson, who is leading the course seminar this year, is focusing on peer workshops that allow students to review and comment on each other's progress in groups of three or four.

In order to finish in two quarters instead of three (a change that was implemented a few years ago), each student must leap headlong into a project immediately after summer break with a topic already in mind and a mentor already signed on.

From there they go straight to work, familiarizing them-

selves with existing scholarship and then delving into primary sources concerning their topics. By the end of this quarter, the ten students will submit final drafts of papers up to 60 pages in length.

As the students explore sources and synthesize new ideas, they meet once a week with their advisors in addition to their weekly peer group sessions.

These projects often are like "baptisms by fire" for the students, said Prof. Jacobson, because they face the challenge of taking on a task of this size for the first time.

But the students are eager and determined, she said.

In Spring, the honors students will make oral presentations of their papers at the History Honors Colloquium on May 15. Those who received Undergraduate Research and

Creative Activities grants through the College of Letters and Science will also present their work at a UCSB Undergraduate Research Colloquium on May 14.

The 10 students, their mentors and projects are:

Katyn Evenson (Woods, Black Studies): the achievement gap debate and charter school reform in post-Katrina New Orleans

Allison Fischer (Jacobson): the Vietnam War in historical memory and the postwar experiences of Vietnam veterans

Michael Hale (Lee): warfare and selective city destruction in the Ancient World

Mathew Hamula (McGee): interconnections between the medical marketplace and political and religious reform during the English Civil War.

Risa Katzen (Harris, Miescher): transnational comparison of the role of racism in the U.S. and South African suffrage movements

Christopher Kindell (Tutino): representations of Queen Elizabeth I and English virtue before and after the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

Damien Minnaugh (O'Connor): controversies surrounding the creation of Catholic parochial schools in New York during the 1840s.

Adrienne Minor (Daniels): the Oakland Community School run by the Black Panthers

Craig Nelson (Westwick): the development of environmental activism among California surfers after the Santa Barbara oil spill.

Celine Purcell (Bergstrom): the creation, implementation and consequences of California's Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act (1988).

La plus ça change . . .

SOME THINGS NEVER change. One of those things is the Italian postal system.

Laura Nenzi (PhD 2004), recently contacted her mentor, Prof. Luke Roberts, to let him know that a letter he sent to her in Italy had finally arrived.

Two things puzzled Luke.

First, he didn't remember sending Laura a letter anytime recently.

Second, he had no idea why he would have sent it to Italy, since Laura has been teaching at Florida International University in Miami for several years.

The mystery was solved when Laura told him the letter was dated March 3, 1997.

"My sister called me from Italy to tell me that the letter

arrived," she said. "So efficiency reigns supreme.

"I am still laughing," she added. "This is a new 'high' for the Italian postal system,"

Fortunately, the letter contained nothing urgent. Laura had just applied to UCSB, and Luke sent her a copy of his CV and an offprint of an article he had written.

Laura's book, *Excursions in Identity: Travel and the Intersection of Place, Gender, and Status in Edo Japan*, was published last year by University of Hawai'i Press.

She is moving from Florida to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Fortunately, none of that move depended on the Italian postal system.

President's Corner

Our Own Backyard

I suppose it's human nature to overlook what's in front of us or to take it for granted. We think nothing of traveling to other cities or countries in order to explore museums, archives, or historical sites. But we often neglect to realize that there is so much history in our own communities.

On my first visit to San Francisco to see a childhood friend years ago, she took the opportunity to take me to



several "tourist" sites that locals often ignored. Even though she had lived in the city for years she had never visited them before. With my arrival came the perfect opportunity for her to rectify that. She enjoyed herself as much as I did discovering the local history.

Similarly, like most native Santa Barbarans/Goleatans, I often overlook the history, attractions, and local treasures within our own community, even though my teachers in elementary school made an effort to connect us to local historical sites with visits to the courthouse, art museum, and several missions.

Fortunately, scheduling events for the History Associates offers an opportunity to highlight our community. In the past we have toured Stow House and learned about Santa Barbara's historical Chinatown.

Two upcoming events may just give you a view of Santa Barbara that you may not have had before. A talk by Dick Oglesby and an exhibit at Casa de la Guerra mounted by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation will put the spotlight on the magnificent historical legacy of stone architecture in Santa Barbara. This event will help us appreciate the contribution of so many stonemasons to our community, something that has given Santa Barbara its unique character.

The follow-up event is a tour of the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library. While the mission itself is often the center of many local events and a destination for many tourists, many locals don't realize that it houses an important archive. This non-profit research center dates back to the founding of the mission on December 4, 1786 and houses a variety of historical material, some of which may surprise you. You will have access to some items which are not normally on display. The last time History Associates was given access to these materials was in 1999. It was an extremely popular event with one of the highest number of attendees ever.

But of course, I would be remiss if I didn't remind

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Comanche Study Rewrites History of the Southwest

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vember.

"In this story, the Indians command and prosper, and the Europeans struggle to survive."

From their arrival in the Southwest from the Great Plains in the 1700s in search of horses, the Comanches engaged in a "sweeping colonizing project" that lasted a century and a half, Prof. Hämäläinen said.

The Comanches made Spanish settlers into effective vassals and their war bands were powerful enough to cut off communication between Mexico City and the frontier, he said.

But what made the Comancheria an empire was its ability to transform military power into cultural power.

"This power shows in the adoption of Comanche clothing and hair styles," he noted. "Their language became a lingua franca for the region.

"But the best indicator is

Oil Spill

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"Prof. [Randy] Bergstrom said the oil spill was the Montgomery bus boycott of the environmental movement, and he was exactly right," Dr. Ashenmiller said.

"Neither movement began at that point, but both events galvanized opinion, generated constant pressure and led to landmark legislation."

This included the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act, creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air Act of 1970 (amended in 1977 and 1990).

Dr. Ashenmiller's talk drew listeners who had been on both sides in 1969. Goleta Mayor Roger Aceves was also present.

the eagerness with which large numbers immigrated into Comanche territory for security.

"The Comancheria was by far the largest indigenous domain in North America," he said, one that was sustained by diplomacy and commerce.

This trading empire was the basis of Comanche power, giving them access to technology, food and a balanced diet, and ability to control events far beyond their borders.

"By 1800, Comanches boasted that they allowed Texas to exist only because it raised horses for them," he said.

The Comanche empire eventually became a victim of its own success, he said, decimating the bison herds that served as its economic base.

The final collapse came in 1875, following a concerted campaign by the American military, he said, but decline had already set in by the 1850s.

"By then, buffalo herds had declined by half and the Comanches were starving," he said. "Their organization crumbled."

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

'kumo o tsukamu yona banashi'

How the determination of two Santa Barbara parents to "grab for a cloud" lays a WW II ghost to rest

BY HAL DRAKE

IT'S A VERY Santa Barbara story, one that starts with a chance meeting and ends halfway around the world, bringing rest to two World War II combatants and their families.

The story begins in 2007, when History Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa's son, Kenneth, asks Katherine Perry to the homecoming prom at San Marcos High School.

The parents of the young couple meet for dinner, during which Bob Perry, a medical products executive, tells Prof. Hasegawa about an artifact that has been in his family for decades.

It is a Japanese flag, covered with writing, that his father brought back from the Pacific war. Knowing that Prof. Hasegawa has just written a book about that war (*Racing the Enemy*, Harvard, 2005) that had won several awards (the Robert Ferrell Award of the Society of Historians on American Foreign Relations and, in Japan, the Yoshino Sakuzo-Yomiuri Prize and the Shiba Ryotaro Prize, two of that country's most prestigious literary hon-

ors), Perry asks the historian if he can help him find the family of the soldier who carried that flag to his death.

"That was, to use the Japanese expression, *kumo o tsukamu yona banashi*," Prof. Hasegawa recalls. "That is to say, it was so vague that it was like 'something akin to grabbing for a cloud.'"

Bob Perry knew his father had fought in the Battle of Leyte and the Battle of Okinawa, but little else.

Even narrowing down the search to just those two battles would mean sifting through the records of 170,000 Japanese soldiers who died in them.

But Prof. Hasegawa was intrigued. Research, after all, is what historians are trained to do, Fluent in both English and Japanese, and born in Tokyo shortly before the end of the war, he felt a special obligation.

"I have repeatedly told my undergraduate classes that the historian's job is to spotlight a fragment of the past, rescue it from the darkness of oblivion and resurrect it to the present," he says.

His first view of the flag both



Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa (l.), Bob Perry, Kuriyama's youngest sister and his best friend.

encouraged and intensified his interest.

"On white silk cloth only slightly yellowed with age at the folding creases, there was the red rising sun," Prof. Hasegawa recalls. "On the right four kanji letters, *Jinchu Hokoku*, which means "Completing faithfulness, serve the country," had been written in the traditional Karakusa style of calligraphy."

Next to this phrase were two lines, *Otsu Shogyo Gakko* and *Tanteibu*, that told Prof. Hasegawa the owner had attended Otsu Commercial School and belonged to its rowing club.

"It made sense," Prof. Hasegawa says, "since Otsu was the city lying right on Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan."

But the real payoff was on the left side, where smaller kanji letter read *Zo, Kuriyama Takeo kun* — "Presented to Mr. Kuriyama Takeo." Also on the flag were seventeen signatures — Kuriyama's teammates, wishing him good luck as he goes off to war.

Then there was the flag itself.

"Usually the rising sun in the Japanese flag is a bright radiant red that invokes liveliness and virility," Prof. Hasegawa

"The red on this flag was more subdued and poignant — I felt it was more like the color of blood. I was stunned and moved by the color, as if Kuriyama's spirit was crying out to me. I felt: 'I must return this flag to his family.'"

It took four months and a few more remarkable coincidences, but Prof. Hasegawa eventually tracked down surviving members of the Kuriyama family.

"I tried to contact the school, only to discover it no longer existed," Prof. Hasegawa recalls.

"Then I sent a letter to the Cultural Exchange Office of the Otsu City government."

An official in that office, Ms. Inoue Yoshiko, replied that, although Otsu Commercial had ceased to exist shortly after the war, the school had been taken over by the city and now was named Otsu Prefectural Commercial High School.

A check with the school's alumni office seemingly snuffed out this lead.

"A school official in charge of the alumni found Kuriyama's name in the class of 1942, but the record just noted "deceased" in the entry for his address," Prof. Hasegawa reported.

But Ms. Inoue's interest



Takeo Kuriyama's flag.

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).

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Historian's Research Lays to Rest Ghosts of a 65-Year-Old Mystery

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had been piqued. After studying photographs of the flag, she located one of the signatories who was able to fill in blanks in the story.

Using these leads, Prof. Hasegawa found what the Kuriyama family and Bob Perry did not know: he discovered the precise date and the place in the Leyte island where Mr. Kuriyama was killed.

Perry wrote a letter to the school, telling the story of the flag and expressing a wish to present it to the family.

"I am certain that my father and Kuriyama-san would be happy that this flag is home with you," he wrote.

"I hope that it might somehow serve as a small token of the peace that now exists between our countries."

On Nov. 9, 2007, with the family's blessing, the flag was officially installed in

Otsu Commercial's new centennial memorial hall.

The ceremony was covered by local media and picked up by the Japanese Broadcasting Company.

In a photo taken at the time, Perry holds a portrait of his father, and Takeo Kuriyama's younger sister and best friend hold a picture of the Kuriyama family.

Prof. Hasegawa is now engaged in writing a book about the experience, tentatively entitled "Chasing a Cloud," to serve as a case study in the process of historical reconciliation.

"My job as a historian was not merely to return the flag to the proper owner, but to explore the hidden meaning of the exchange of the flag in the battlefield, and place its significance in a larger issue of the relationship between the Americans and the Japanese" he said.

President's Column

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you of another important local treasure of historical value—the graduate students of the History Department of UCSB. Your support is especially critical in helping them to complete their research and degrees in these economically difficult times. In fact, Anne Petersen, a graduate of the department and a past recipient of several History Associates-funded awards, is currently the Associate Director for Historical Resources for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Please help us meet and exceed the Van Gelderen challenge by making a gift to the History Associates Fellowship fund. I look forward to seeing you!

Monica Orizco
President



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