

Historia



Vol. 1, No. 3

Newsletter of the UCSB History Associates

May 1988



Prof. WILBUR JACOBS

Pioneer Historian Prof. Wilbur Jacobs To Retire This Year

An era at UCSB will come to an end this year with the retirement of Prof. Wilbur Jacobs after almost 40 years at UCSB.

A noted historian of the Colonial period of American history, Prof. Jacobs came to UCSB in 1949. During his career, he has served as Dean of Men and Chairman of the Department. He was Faculty Research Lecturer in 1955, and he supervised UCSB's first PhD candidate in 1963.

Prof. Jacobs gained national distinction for his studies of famous American historians, including Frederick Jackson Turner and Francis Parkman, and he pioneered the study of Native American history at the University level.

He served as President of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association in 1976-77 and of the American Society for Ethnohistory in 1979-80.

His colleagues have scheduled a retirement dinner on May 20 to honor Prof. Jacobs' service to UCSB.

15th ANNUAL

Ceremony to Recognize Buchanan Winner, Grads

Graduating seniors and students who have earned special distinctions will be honored at the History Department's 15th annual Buchanan Award ceremony and Senior Convocation May 19.

New members of Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honor society, will receive their membership certificates at the event, which is co-sponsored by the Alumni Association and the History Associates.

Best Papers

Winners of the Bernath Prize for best undergraduate paper in History and the Ellison Prize for best graduate paper in History will be announced, as well as the winner of the History Scholarship conferred by the Mission Canyon chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Buchanan Award, named after Emeritus Professor of History A. Russell Buchanan, is presented to the year's outstanding graduating senior. Created by the Alumni Association to recognize Professor Buchanan's many contributions to UCSB, the Award carries a cash stipend. The name of the winner, selected by the Department's Prize Committee, is engraved on a perpetual trophy that hangs in the History Office.

The reception for graduating seniors will follow the awards presentation. Approximately 100 students will graduate with degrees in History this year.

Fifteen Chosen

Fifteen students have been selected for admission into Phi Alpha Theta this year. The honorary requires a minimum grade point average of 3.4 in History and completion of at least five History classes.

Selected this year were N. L. Rafferty Atha, Andrea Lee Blumberg, Clifton Michael Chow, Burris F. DeBenning Jr., Shirley Bianca Dobbs, David Gentile, and Philip John Jones.

Also selected were Derek Lohuis, Linda Martinez, Amy Messinger, Kevin Nibbe, Meagan Theresa Olds, Patricia Steen Rexrode, David Tipton and Tom Zimmerman.

The Gamma-Iota Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta was established at UCSB in 1956.

The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. in Pavilion Rooms B and C of the UCen.

A DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON

By KATHY RUDOLPH

History Associates and their guests enjoyed a full afternoon among the many treasures of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery April 9 in the History Associates first field trip, which was led by History Prof. Wilbur Jacobs, a veteran of many years' research in the Huntington's world-famous collection.

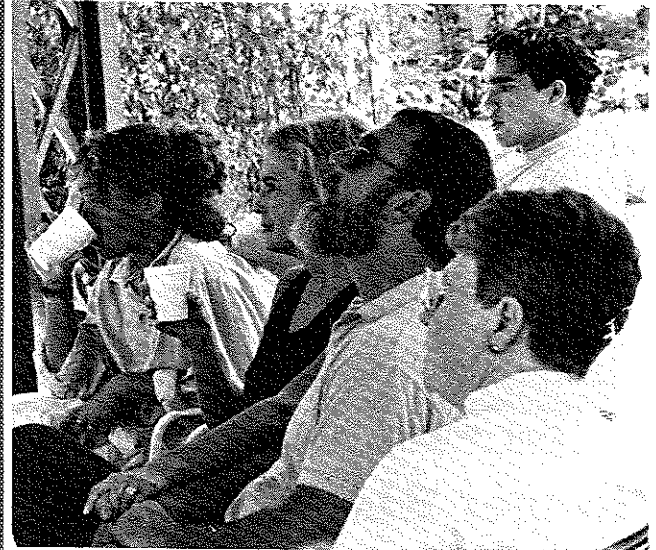
Leaving Santa Barbara in dense, cold fog, the group arrived by bus and private car to a very warm and humid San Marino around noon.

Following a behind-the-scenes look at the Library's extensive research facilities, led by Dr. Jacobs, the group was welcomed by Mrs. Lee Devereaux, Director of Education. Then followed lively presentations by Dr. Ed Carpenter on the history of the institution and its founder, and by Dr. Paul Zall on the original manuscript of Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography — just one of the treasures in the library's collection.

After lunch, the afternoon was spent in self-guided tours through the extensive gardens and exhibit rooms, and in the Art Gallery (housed in the magnificent original Huntington home) and the new Gallery of American Art.

(Please See HUNTINGTON TOUR, p. 3)

A Family Affair!



The History Associates' Huntington Library trip on April 9 was a family affair for the Majors family, pictured above (on the right) as they listened to Professor Jacobs in the Huntington gardens. Mike (with the beard) and Sharon are both UCSB alums, and they brought with them their children Graham and Solomon. The entire family had a wonderful time.



Jeanne DeConde (left) and Maria Powell examine the Huntington's manuscript treasures.

Historia

Prepared for the UCSB History Associates
by the members of the
Gamma Iota Chapter
of Phi Alpha Theta

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Published by the UCSB Alumni Association

FROM THE CHAIR

An Ode to the Lowly Teaching Assistant

If I may do so without sounding overly indulgent, I'd like to say a word about the unsung heroes of higher education, the graduate assistants.

Students and their parents think of them as "not Professors" (as in, "How come this class is not taught by a Professor?"); faculty think of them as the last true form of indentured servitude in the world today.

In fact, these are highly skilled apprentices, the cream of a group that is very select to begin with, our graduate students. (The Department selects about one out of every three students who apply for admission to graduate study in History, and only a fraction of these as Teaching Assistants: right now there are over 40 applicants for some 15 vacant positions.)

A simpler fact is that the University simply could not operate without them—at any rate, nowhere near as cheaply as it does now.

Ever wondered why students can be educated at the University of California for a few thousand dollars a year, compared to costs of five to ten times that amount elsewhere?

The answer is teaching assistants. In those high-ticket schools, professors teach classes that rarely enroll more than 25 students, and usually significantly fewer. At UCSB, faculty lecture to classes that can run to several hundred at the freshman level, with teaching assistants providing the closer training and supervision of small-group discussion sessions.

In our Department we are fortunate to have teaching assistants of exceptionally high quality, with an enthusiasm for History and a joy in teaching worth far more than the pittance we pay them.

I think of Eric Hansen the first year I was here, who gave a brilliant demonstration of why Napoleon had to have won the Battle of Waterloo, or Lois Huneycutt, whose students this year took up a collection in her honor to feed Santa Barbara Zoo's barracuda.

A list of similar anecdotes could fill this whole newsletter. Maybe someday it should.

* * * * *

A footnote for those of you waiting eagerly for results of the "Name this Thing" contest. So far about half a dozen suggestions: two or three for "The Loose Cannon" (thank you, iconoclasm fans). One from Joe Leedom (PhD '79) that cannot be printed in a family newsletter. Rebecca Conard (PhD '84) offers "Paseo Tiempo" ("Pathway of Time"); and one of our current TAs, Katie Sibley suggests "Mnemosyne" (after the goddess of memory). Now that's a great one! We could give away the newsletter and charge people \$20 to learn how to pronounce it (Say the "Mn" as if your tongue were glued to your upper lip, "emo" with a long "e," and "syne" like the New York state college system).

H.A. Drake
Chair

PEER ADVISERS READY TO HELP

Picture this situation:

You are trying to figure out your schedule for next quarter, and you can't decide which History course you want to take.

You know you are more interested in military history than cultural history, but how can you tell from one line in the Schedule of Classes what approach the professor will take?

To help you with problems of this sort, Phi Alpha Theta has set up a Peer Advising Office in Ellison 4835 (right across from the History Department Office).

The Peer Adviser this year is Andrea Blumberg. She is keeping office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Andrea has been collecting copies of recent syllabi from History faculty and also interviewing them about their course requirements and philosophy of teaching.

She also has collected information from various sources about job opportunities for History majors.

HUNTINGTON TOUR

(Continued from p. 2)

A profusion of roses in full bloom, the Gutenberg Bible, original documents written by many of the most important men in U.S. history, "Pinkie" and "Blue Boy," and American art from the primitive portraiture of Colonial times to the advent of abstract art in the 20th Century were just a few of the delights sampled by the visitors before they climbed back aboard the bus for the return trip home.

All who attended agreed that it was a lovely, albeit too brief, respite from the workaday world, and that Dr. Jacobs' tour allowed them to see things that they never would have had they gone on their own.

The excursion was so successful that the Associates Board is already working on another behind-the-scenes tour for the fall—this one to the Hearst Castle in San Simeon!

Department Ball Game, BBQ Slated

To celebrate the arrival of Spring, the approach of finals, the end of one more year and—oh, hell, just to have a good time—Phi Alpha Theta and the History Graduate Student Association have scheduled a History Department softball game and barbecue for Saturday, May 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Tucker's Grove Park.

No Contest

Phi Alpha Theta Vice President Gordon Homann, who has been coordinating the event, says that the softball game will pit Europeanists against Americanists in a battle for the Department championship.

"We thought of making it faculty against students or grad students against undergrads, but that wouldn't have been any contest," Homann sneered.

Victory for Whom?

The last contest between the two power blocs proved surprisingly close, with Europeanists holding a commanding lead until the final inning, when nobody quite remembers what happened.

Early betting favors the Americanists this year, but chapter President David Tipton hints at surprises from the European side.

"Remember Sarajevo!" he muttered.

(Please See PICNIC, p. 5)

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Have you got news to relate, or things you would like to hear about? Ideas for courses or classmates you want to get in touch with? Drop a line to:

EDITOR, História
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Santa Barbara, CA 93106

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Several of you have asked me how I came to be involved in the History Associates.

The truth is, because I was bored. I had looked forward to retirement for years, but when it came I was depressed and frustrated. After a year, my company called me back to work, but it only took six months to realize I had had enough of that, too.

So what to do? I have always been a history buff, and I decided since I was living in the neighborhood of a great University I would try auditing some of its history classes.

That was five years ago, and I can truly say it has been one of the most rewarding experiences I could have. I have now attended over 20 classes—more than most students who major in History have—and I still can't get enough. I look forward to the new schedule every term, just to see what I can still take.

During this time, I have become acquainted with most of the professors in the department. But what has really added to my enjoyment is talking to the students. It always starts the same way: after a few classes, some student will come up to me before or after class and ask why I don't take any notes.

"Because I have such a good memory," I say. "Like hell," they say. And the next thing you know, we are exchanging life stories.

These young people have a perspective on life that is thoroughly refreshing. They are open and excited and determined to do well. I can't tell you the times a student has told me he or she got "only a B" on the midterm, then promised to do better on the final. (They usually do!)

Something I can't describe is how pleasant it has been for me to walk across the beautiful UCSB campus. There is just a great atmosphere, and I always look forward to my days when I have a class or meeting there. I can never repay UCSB for what it's given me, but History Associates is a way to try.

So why this big spiel? I figure some of you reading this are interested, as I was, in auditing classes, but don't know how to start. I suggest the following procedure.

Go to the Bookstore on campus, and buy a Schedule of Classes (they come out before every quarter). Pick one or two that look interesting, and go to class on the first day—the time and place are in the schedule. Introduce yourself to the professor, and tell her or him that you are a member of the History Associates and would like to audit the class.

I've always been surprised at how happy the professors I've asked are to welcome me. But if the class is overcrowded, be prepared to hear a "no." Students come first, and that's the way it should be.

At our last meeting, the Associates Board created a Class Audit Committee to make it even easier for you. Mary Louise Days and Barbara Lindemann have both taken a lot of classes here, and they will be happy to talk to you about your choices, and even run interference for you with the profs, if you'd like. You can call Mary Louise at 687-2857 and Barbara at 682-4949. And you can always call me, too, at 684-6500.

The schedule for Fall should be out about the time you get this newsletter, so now is the right time. If you're like me, I know you'll never regret it!

Dick Cook
President

From Budapest to UCSB

(Editor's Note: Prof. Tibor Frank arrived at UCSB in January as a Visiting Fulbright Lecturer from Eötvös University in Budapest. Author of several works on English and American Culture, he has taught courses in Modern European history since arriving, and this summer will offer a new course, "Hungary: 1000 Years on the Crossroads of Europe" (Hist. 124L). We asked him to compare students at UCSB with those in Hungary, and to comment on his current research.)

By TIBOR FRANK

How does the American student compare to the Hungarian? The educational systems are different in the two countries. Generally speaking, Hungarian education is more demanding at the primary and secondary level, and students only get to the universities through tough competition.

At the college level, however, we have more problems. Higher education is not particularly well endowed, and is entirely state run. The competitive spirit dies away as a consequence, partly due to the fact that would-be employers are not interested in college achievements in most of the cases.

By contrast, the average student in the U.S. is less well educated when coming to the university, but catches up by the end of his/her undergraduate studies.

The general image of the American student in Europe is one of profound ignorance, particularly in anything non-American.

This is one of those sweeping generalizations which we should avoid. There is a spirit of curiosity, a search for new things that makes

American students so vastly different from the bulk of Hungarians.

Graduate Study

And one more point. The graduate education in this country is not very well known in Europe, though graduate students—at least, the ones I have met so far—may boast of a mastery of their fields.

Our graduate education is different, mainly because it is not attached to the universities but to the Hungarian Academy of Letters and Science instead, with all the ensuing problems that go with such a system, detached from higher education and focusing around research institutions of a different brand.

Research Interests

As for my research, I have always been concerned with the problems of migration. Hungary is a country which has been subjected to migrations, in and out, throughout its entire history. At the turn of the century alone, between 1880-1920, some 1.5 million people left for the United States, three-quarters of them never to return.

In my present research, I am mainly concerned with Hungarian emigration between the two World Wars and after, when a group of people who came to this country with a thorough European education and often intellectual or artistic excellence and came to dominate certain fields in the U.S.

Science is probably the best known, with Edward Teller, Leo Szilard, John von Neumann, Theodore von Kármán, Georg von Békesy and George de Hevesy.

Other Fields

But in music there were Fritz Reiner, George Szell, Eugene Ormandy, Sir Georg Solti, Antal Doráti and Joseph Szigeti; in film, Adolph Zukor, Sir Alexander Korda, Michael Curtiz, Joe Pasternak, André de Tóth and Béla Lugosi; in medicine, Albert Szent-Györgyi and Hans Selye.

Indeed, it is difficult to stop recalling the names that make up a dazzling array of genius of the first order.

How these people and thousands of others with perhaps less compelling achievement transmitted their Hungarian, or in some cases Austro-Hungarian, intellectual background to their new environment and contributed to the culture and civilization of the United States, to become finally *American* scientists, scholars or artists—this is the focus of my present studies, based upon archival research, interviews and hitherto untouched periodical material.

PICNIC (Continued from p. 4)

There are reports of heavy lobbying of Third World countries by both sides, with speculation particularly strong about which bloc the Latin Americanists will join.

Food and beverages are being provided by the two associations and the History Department, and softball equipment (except gloves) by the Rec Department.

Tucker's Grove Park is located at 805 San Antonio Creek Road, at the intersection of Turnpike and Cathedral Oaks. From UCSB, take U.S. 101 South to the "Turnpike" exit, turn left, and follow Turnpike straight to the Park, where it dead-ends (about 1 mile).

This Month in *HISTORY*

May 4 (Wednesday)

Prof. Randy Bergstrom, "The Trials and Tribulations of Writing a Dissertation." Sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta. 4:30 p.m. History Lounge, 4824 Ellison Hall. Free.

May 6 (Friday)

"Worlds of Learning: Education and Research in the Soviet Union and European Socialist Countries." International Conference, co-sponsored by the College of L & S, the CIES Fulbright Scholars Program, and the UCSB Interdisciplinary Human-

Association. Tucker's Grove Park, 11 a.m.

May 19 (Thursday)

15th Annual Buchanan Award Ceremony and Senior Reception. 3-5 p.m. Pavilion Rooms B and C, University Center.

May 25 (Wednesday)

Phi Alpha Theta: election of new officers. 4:30 p.m., History Lounge (4834 Ellison).

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Published by the Alumni Association
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ties Center. Four panels on "Educational Philosophies" (9:30 a.m.), "Teaching and Research" (11:10 a.m.), "The Computer" (2 p.m.) and "Education Abroad" (3:40 p.m.). All sessions in the 8th floor Conference Room, UCSB Library. Free.

May 9 (Monday)

"The Policy Sciences: The Next Decade." Prof. Garry D. Brewer, Yale University. Co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Ocean and Coastal Policy Center. 4 p.m., Hutchins Center Conference Room. Free.

May 14 (Saturday)

Softball game and barbecue picnic. Sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta and the History Graduate Students

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