



Buchanan Award winner Rennie Morgan Burke.

Morgan Burke Takes Top Prize For '08 Grads

THIS YEAR'S WINNER of the of the Buchanan Award as the outstanding graduating senior in History is a student who loves the "thrill of the chase."

That's the way Prof. Mary Furner, one of several faculty who nominated Rennie Morgan Burke for the prize, described him.

"Morgan never takes the easy way," Prof Furner said. "He has a passion for history

commencement 2008

- awards ceremony, June 4, 4 p.m. HSSB 6020
- Senior reception, June 15 11-12 HSSB 4020
- History commencement June 15, 1 p.m. Faculty Club Green

that makes him aspire to perfection."

Dr. Jessica Chapman, another nominator, echoed these words, adding, "He's a vibrant, sophisticated thinker who I've come to think of more as a colleague than a student."

The recipient of all this praise describes himself as someone who "fell into" history as an "idealistic young radical" who took "pornographic glee" in disputing historical source material.

After taking a year off to study languages, Morgan plans to apply to graduate school, probably to pursue Cold War studies.

He will describe his plans at the History department's annual awards ceremony on

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Historians Score Teaching Trifecta

Digester, Spickard, Welty Get Senate Prizes for Undergrad, Grad Teaching

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT continued its dominance of Academic Senate teaching awards this year with a complete sweep of prizes for outstanding teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Prof. Elizabeth DePalma Digester won the Senate's award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching, and Prof. Paul Spickard the award for Outstanding Graduate Mentor.

Grad student Lily Welty (Spickard) won the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

An ancient Mediterranean historian specializing in the period of Late Antiquity, Prof. Digester learned she had won the award at a surprise presentation before her undergraduate class in Roman history.

Dr. Ralph Gallucci of the Classics department, a former recipient of the award, made the announcement. He was joined by Prof. John W. I. Lee, also an ancient Mediterranean historian (his specialty is ancient Greece), who was the last historian to win the prize, in 2004.

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Associates to End Year With Santa Barbara in Literature

RICHARD HENRY DANA sailed to it. Ross MacDonald called it "Santa Theresa," as does Sue Grafton, in homage to the master.

"It," of course, is Santa Barbara, the literary setting employed by numerous authors for more than a century and a half.

The appeal of this locale will be the subject of the next UCSB History Associates event when a panel of literary authorities discusses "Writers in Our Midst: Santa Barbara Literature, Past and Present."

The special event will take place Tuesday, June 3, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Founder's Room of the newly remodeled

Granada Theater, 1214 State St.

Moderated by local author and History Associates Board member Susan Gulbransen, the panel will be composed of Fred Klein, a former Bantam Books executive and author of *The Film Encyclopedia*; Marcia Meier, director of the Santa Barbara Writers Conference, and Steve Gilbar, founder of "Speaking of Stories" and editor of *Tales of Santa Barbara* and *Santa Barbara Stories*.

Admission price, which includes refreshments, is \$15. For reservations, phone the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.

Smiles Through the Tears

History Associates Create Collins Prize for Best First Publication

TO HONOR THE memory of the late Robert O. Collins, the UCSB History Associates will establish a new award for best first publication by a UCSB History grad student, President Barbara Lindemann announced.

Prof. Collins, who died April 11 at the age of 75, was an avid advocate of research and publication in all fields of history. He was the author of more than 30 books, at least six of them published since his retirement in 1994—a research pace that made him the first UCSB faculty ever to win the UC's Constantine Panunzio Prize for outstanding scholarly activity by an emeritus faculty.

At a celebration of that accomplishment in Spring, 2007, Prof. Collins spoke feelingly of the early days of the History department, which he joined in 1965.

Though only a handful of faculty at the time, he said, they all shared a vision of building a nationally known department through active research and publication.

"Bob was a member of the History Associates Board for

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Prof. Robert O. Collins (L.) and Stephan Miescher in May, 2007.

Robert O. Collins (1933-2008) — In Remembrance and Appreciation

ED. NOTE: Prof. Stephan Miescher, who succeeded Bob Collins as the department's African historian in 1998, sent these thoughts from a village in Ghana where he is conducting research for his next book.

THE NEWS OF Robert O. Collins's passing reached me in Ghana, where I am in the pursuit of what Collins did so well: exploring Africa's complex and fascinating past and thereby producing knowledge about a part of the world which until not too long ago was dismissed as the continent without history.

When Bob Collins received his Ph.D. in 1959, African history as a field of enquiry did not exist at universities in North America. Bob Collins became one of the founding figures of African history within the Anglophone academy.

Over his long and extremely productive career, Prof. Collins wrote numerous books on the history of the Sudan and the Nile River, as well as on contemporary political issues, such as his controversial monograph *Alms for Jibad: Charity and Terrorism in the Islamic World*.

His talents as a storyteller not only guaranteed that his books remained accessible to a large audience but also made him an effective lecturer.

Yet as a teacher Bob Collins was influential beyond his own classroom. His textbooks have shaped the presentation of African history since the 1960s. His collections of sources assisted generations of novice teachers in coping with the daunting task of covering thousands of years of African history.

The volumes *Problems in African History* introduced students to debates within African historiography, including the contested African origins of the ancient Egyptians; the Bantu migrations; the Atlantic slave trade and forms of African slavery; the European scramble for Africa; the programs of education in colonial Africa; and more recent concerns, such as the position of women in Africa history.

This problem-oriented approach became popular in teaching African history. When

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Associates Cap 20th With \$54K In Awards

THE UCSB HISTORY Associates capped their 20th anniversary celebration by raising more than \$54,000 that will be given out at this year's History Awards ceremony on June 4.

Sixteen graduate students received the lion's share of the funding in History Associates fellowships, while another 16 were named to receive various prizes.

Leading this year's fellowship recipients was Monica Garcia (Vargas), who was awarded the Donald Van Gelderen Memorial Fellowship for graduate students who returned to school after pursuing another career.

The other fellowships went to Nicole Archambeau (Farmer), Justin Bengry (Rappaport), Megan Bowman (Cohen), Jan Britton (Plane), Vanessa Crispin-Peralta (Plane), Jeffrey Dinkler (Guerrini), Sarah Griffith (Spickard), Patrick Ludolph (McGee), Heidi Mark-Wolf (Digeser/Drake), Anil Mukerjee (Dutra), Nadia Nader (Humphreys), Nicole Pacino (Soto Laveaga), Jessica Weiss (Lansing), Lily Welty (Spickard) and Leandra Zarnow (Boris).

In addition, Dimitri Akulov (Hasegawa) and David Reeves (Edgar) were awarded fellowships for teaching in the UC/DC program, and two incoming students were selected to receive a new History Associates Recruitment fellowship that will be awarded in the Fall.

AWARDS & PRIZES

THE WILLIAM H. ELLISON Prize for best seminar paper was split between two O'Connor students—Andrea Gill for

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 *historia*

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Editor

Hal Drake

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History Associates

Pat Cohen's On the Case

ED. NOTE: All historians are detectives of sorts, but Prof. Patricia Cline Cohen took her skills to a new level when she became intrigued by the unsolved murder of a New York prostitute named Helen Jewitt in 1856. Last year, Harold Schechter, writing in the *Wall Street Journal* (Nov. 10, 2007), listed *The Murder of Helen Jewitt*, published by Knopf in 1998, first on his list of the "Five Best Killer Stories" ever written. The *Village Voice* recently hailed her latest book, *The Flash Press: Sporting Male Weeklies of 1840s New York* (Chicago), as a story of "the Dead Sea Scrolls of sleaze."

She has uncovered another mystery with her current project, which we asked her to discuss below.

WHILE WORKING ON a joint biography of antebellum U.S. marriage reformers Mary Gove Nichols and Thomas L. Nichols, I stumbled across an interesting branch of their story involving Edgar Allan Poe in the 1840s.

Mary Gove knew Poe in New York and visited with him often in 1846 at his cottage in Fordham, just north of the city. When Virginia Poe's health deteriorated, Gove introduced Mrs. Marie Louise Shew into Poe's household to care for the dying young wife.

Mrs. Shew, married to Dr. Joel Shew, the first water-cure doctor in practice in New York City, continued to visit Poe's cottage after Virginia's death to provide nursing care to Poe, and the two became very close for the next eighteen months.

(Thanks to the wonders of digital resources, I learned that Joel Shew was in Europe for five of those months; his departure was noted in the *Water-Cure Journal* and his return date documented by passenger arrival lists in a New York newspaper.)

Poe dedicated three poems to her, the last "so like a lover," as

Department sleuth honed her skills on a 19th-century murder; now she's on the trail of the mysterious Mrs. Shew

Mrs. Shew later wrote, that she paid him not to publish it.

Poe scholars have known relatively little about Mrs. Shew, but through patient genealogical research, I've managed to uncover a great deal about her complicated and troubled life.

Barely older than Virginia Poe, Marie Louise fraternized with freethinkers like Gove, Marx Edgeworth Lazarus, and other followers of the French utopian socialist Charles Fourier.

I learned that she divorced Joel Shew and married another water-cure doctor named Roland Houghton in 1850. I was very eager to locate depositions filed in that divorce, to see if Marie Louise Shew might be an example of what Mary Gove advocated: an emancipated woman who could assert her own choices in love and sex.

A stroke of luck brought me in touch with a Shew family descendant, Pete Shew of Ohio, who contacted me on the advice of an east-coast historian who knew my predilection for doing deep background research on all the characters in my books.

An avid genealogist, Pete provided crucial vital data, including the news that Marie Louise had a baby in mid 1849, a baby eventually known as Henry Chapin Houghton.

A quick check of NYC directories for the late 1840s revealed that Joel Shew and Roland Houghton (and presumably Marie Louise) shared the same residence in 1849. The name "Chapin" proved significant, and soon I learned

that an older and wealthy man, Henry Chapin, also resided at that same Greenwich Village townhouse.

In fact, Chapin had lived with the Shews since 1846. A decade later, he was living with the Houghtons, in a large mansion in Flushing, a Manhattan suburb, which he sold to them in 1860.

My sense that Marie Louise was capable of unconventional living arrangements seemed to be panning out.

My next major find was the lurid story of a coroner's inquest in Flushing in 1876, investigating possible murder charges against Marie Louise. The *Brooklyn Eagle*, a free online newspaper, yielded a week's worth of long reportage about a suspicious death in the Flushing mansion of the paramour of Henry Chapin Houghton.

The woman died soon after giving birth to her second illegitimate child by young Henry. Henry and this married woman became lovers in Denver and served time in jail there for adultery and swindling.

Flushing neighbors testified about strange doings at the Houghton house, and letters from the dead woman to those neighbors spoke of alleged baby skeletons in the basement and of corpses of young women being removed at night. Marie Louise was not indicted, however, and the death was ruled due to natural causes.

I've not reached closure on this story, but I expect I will have a compelling and interesting tale soon. I am awaiting the arrival of the divorce records, at last located in a Connecticut



Prof. Patricia Cline Cohen.

jurisdiction; I've combed the Queens County land conveyance records and found multiple deals on the Flushing property that support the adage "follow the money" to learn what is really going on.

I've found three more Shew/Houghton descendants via reverse genealogy, and one, a grand-daughter of Henry Chapin Houghton, has shared her photographs and letters with me.

She has a beautiful portrait of Marie Louise Shew Houghton in her living room, and she has been remarkably entertained to learn that her great-grandfather is probably not Houghton.

On my trip to visit her and to work in the Queens County Courthouse, I scored another research advance: I managed to rent for ten days an apartment in the very townhouse on Bond Street where the Shews and Mr. Chapin lived in 1846-1848.

Will this story change Poe scholarship? Poe is not a possible father for baby Henry, since he was in Richmond throughout the month of conception. But it will be significant news to Poe scholars, I believe, that the poet had among his close friends this unconventional set of reformers.

Associates Awards

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"Moving to Integration? The Origins and Limits of Chicago's Gautreaux Assisted Housing Program," and Rachel Winslow for "Immigration, Improvised Policy, and Race in the Making of International Adoption, 1948-1961."

The Lawrence Badash Prize for best paper in the History of Science went to Jill Briggs (Osborne) for "An Agreed-on Program: Eugenics and Public Discourse in the Late 1930s."

The John Coleman Award for best paper in Cold War, international or military history went to Dimitri Akulov (Hasegawa) for "Soviet Bid for the Second Front and Territorial Security, 1941-1942."

Chrissy Lau (Spickard) won the graduate Dick Cook Memorial Award for outstanding service.

The Stephen Hay Award for study of Muslim culture and religion went to Elizabeth Brownson (Gallagher).

The Wilbur R. Jacobs Prize for study of U.S. colonial or native American history went to Vanessa Crispin-Peralta (Plane).

Bonnie Harris (Marcuse) was awarded the Robert L. Kelley Fellowship for study of U.S. intellectual/public history.

The Philip W. and Maria Powell Prize went to Ricardo Caton (Cline).

Three students received Darcy Ruth Ritzau Graduate Student Awards ("the Darcys"), endowed by History's longtime graduate program assistant to recognize outstanding students with special needs. This year's recipients are Eric Fenrich (Yaqub), Janiene Langford (Cohen) and Andrew Magnusson (Humphreys).

Awards Ceremony to Honor Seniors

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June 4, when he will be the featured speaker.

Morgan is one of 212 students who will graduate with a major in History on Sunday, June 18. Another 126 students will graduate with a History minor.

Other undergraduates who will be recognized at the awards ceremony are:

Agnieszka Matysiak will receive the Stuart L. Bernath Prize for best undergraduate paper for "Rabi'a Through the Eyes of Scholars," written for Prof. Gallagher.

Scott MacDonald will receive the History Associates Board

Prize for best paper in the Senior Honors seminar. He wrote "Working Hard for the Sovereignty: An Examination of the Role Played by Armenia in the Balance of Power System Between Rome and Persia" for Prof. Digeser.

The Nicholas and Lena Dumas award for best essay on a topic of Greek history or culture will go to Allison Kubota for "A Historiographical Account of the Peloponnesia War: Does History Repeat Itself?" written for Prof. Lee.

Scott MacDonald will receive the undergraduate Dick Cook Memorial Award for outstanding service to the de-

partment.

The Marion Ramstad scholarship for study of Asian or European history will go to Emily Law (Prof. Roberts) and Mathew Hamula (Prof. McGee).

Maria Silva will receive the Margaret Straight Daughters of the American Revolution scholarship for study of U.S. history. She is a student of Prof. Cohen.

Eight students will be recognized for their selection to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious liberal arts society. They are Tiffany Dimaggio, Caroline Smith, Alison Connell, Angela Prattas, Mathew Hamula, Mallory Furnier, Damien Mimnaugh and Evan Raleigh.

Eleven students who completed the department's Senior Honors seminar will be recognized with Distinction in the Major. They are Gregory Brown, Tiffany Dimaggio, Mallory Furnier, Bryant Gehring, Evan Ingardia, Claire Marblestone, Scott MacDonald, Angela Prattas, Evan Raleigh, Faith Reynado and Cameron Uhalde.

Top Grads Win Department Prizes

TEN AWARDS FOR outstanding performance in graduate teaching and scholarship will be presented at the department's Awards Ceremony on June 4.

Eric Fournier (Digeser/Drake) will receive the Rick Mayberry award for overall scholarly excellence.

The J. Bruce Anderson award for teaching excellence goes to Ingrid Page (Spickard).

The Esmé Frost Award for research in pre-modern European history was won by Lindsey Scholl (Digeser).

The Richard and Jeanne Williams Endowed Graduate Fellowship to support outstanding scholarship in any field of history goes to Nadia Nader (Humphreys)

The C. Warren Hollister Fellowship for support of graduate study of medieval European history will be presented to Jessica Weiss (Lansing)

George Fujii (Yaqub) will again receive the DeConde/Burns Prize for outstanding accomplishment in foreign rela-

tions. (He also won the award last year.)

The Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship, established in 2004 to support study of the history of the American West will go to Vanessa Crispin-Peralta (Plane).

The William E. Nida Scholarship for recruiting outstanding graduate students in U.S. history will be given to two entering students.

Henry Maar will study Labor history with Prof. Nelson Lichtenstein, and Jackson Warkentin will study Native American history with Profs. Plane and Hämäläinen.

Two new awards will be given out for the first time this year.

The Joseph E. and Gina Luca Janotta Foundation award to support research in East Asian history will go to Kirsten Ziomek (Frühstück).

The Stuart Bernath Research Prize for travel related to dissertation research is being presented to Leandra Zarnow (Boris).

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

Adieu to 'ROC 33' – The Famous Yellow Beetle

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my Africanist friends learned about my UCSB appointment in 1998, I frequently heard the comment: "Santa Barbara— isn't that the place of Robert Collins?"

Indeed, Bob Collins carried UCSB's academic reputation far, making Santa Barbara a well-known place within African studies. As a senior colleague, Bob Collins was

Collins Prize

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many years, and always willing to pitch in for whatever was needed," President Lindemann said.

"Happily, we were able to discuss this award with Bob before he died. He was very excited by the idea and approved it enthusiastically."

Contributions to the Robert O. Collins Prize can be sent to the Office of Community Affairs, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1136. Checks should be made payable to the UCSB History Associates.

very generous and supportive, even though he was at times skeptical about the field's latest directions.

Over the last decade, on mornings when I reached campus early, a yellow Volkswagen Beetle with the blue license plate *ROC 33* was already sitting in the parking lot closest to HSSB.

Once, after I had commented on his impressive work ethic, Collins replied in his self-deprecating fashion that his long hours in the office were more an expression of habit than of virtue.

In one of our final encounters over a glass of Chardonnay at his watering hole, Goleta's Beachside Café, Collins spun a colorful tale about his journey to North Africa. He reminded me that despite the seriousness and importance of academic research, we should never forget the sheer fun of it.

In this spirit I raise my glass and pour a libation to Bob's memory. I will miss his wisdom.

*Stephan F. Miescher
Accra, April 2008*

Comanche Book Ignites Prairie Fire

HISTORY PROF. PEKKA Hämäläinen's new book on *The Comanche Empire*, published last month by Yale University Press, has started a prairie fire in the field of Western history.

Using a borderlands approach, Prof. Hämäläinen challenges the conventional view that the Comanches, like other Native Americans, were overwhelmed by superior European neighbors—the French, the Spanish, and the British.

Instead, he argues, the Comanches controlled a vast area of the American Southwest

so effectively that they were able to call the tune for these colonial powers.

Writing in the current *New York Review of Books*, novelist Larry McMurtry, author of the Pulitzer-prize winning *Lonesome Dove*, called *The Comanche Empire* a "brilliant restatement of Comanche history" and "cutting-edge revisionist western history in every way."

"Little about Comanche history is generally known," McMurtry writes, "mainly because there aren't many people who want to know it."



Celebrating their Senate teaching awards are Prof. Beth Digeiser (L) and Paul Spickard, and graduate teaching assistant Lily Welty.

Teaching Trifecta

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Dr. Gallucci said Prof. Digeiser was being recognized for her superior achievement in and out of the classroom.

He called particular attention to her willingness to supervise senior honors thesis papers and her instrumental role in creating a new interdepartmental program in Ancient Mediterranean studies.

Prof. Spickard, a specialist in Asian-American and immigra-

tion issues, was cited by Music Prof. Geoffrey Rutkowski who announced his selection for the Outstanding Graduate Mentor award as "clearly an outstanding mentor" who is "fulfilling the teaching excellence of UCSB's mission statement."

Prof. Spickard's file particularly stood out for the letters it contained from students in other departments who credited him with more effective mentoring that their own dissertation supervisors.

He is the second historian to win this award since it was created three years ago. Prof. Hal Drake won it last year.

Lily Welty is the 11th History grad student to win an Outstanding Teaching Assistant award in the past 10 years.

The Senate committee was particularly impressed by the range of her teaching, which includes courses in biology, environmental studies, and Black studies, as well as service as a summer mentor of high school students.

An Environmental Studies student who recommended her for the award referred to her weekly discussion section as "power hour with Lily."

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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
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(Available to residents outside of Santa Barbara County only)



In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is:

- \$25 to obtain a UCSB Library card
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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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Grad Students Garner Jobs, Extra-Mural Fellowships

HISTORY GRAD STUDENTS and recent PhDs have continued to garner fellowships and jobs.

Rafaela Acevedo-Field (Cline) has won a James R. Scobie Fellowship of the Conference on Latin American History to conduct research for her dissertation on converted Jews and the Mexican Inquisition.

John Scoll (Lansing) has won a Fulbright predoctoral fellowship to Italy to conduct research for his dissertation on religious life in the medieval Piedmont.

Tim Daniels (McGee) has received a Kanner Predoctoral Fellowship to conduct research at UCLA's William Andrews Clark Library on the officers and sailors of the Parliamentary navy during the British civil wars of the 1640s.

Kirsten Ziomek (Frühstück) has been awarded a Japan Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for 2008-9 to conduct research in Tokyo on the cultural and social dimensions of the display of colonized subjects in 20th-century Japan.

Rudy Guevarra (PhD 2007 Spickard), who currently holds a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship at UC Berkeley, has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship in Asian and Pacific American Studies at Arizona State University.

Jason Kelly (PhD 2004 Guerrini) has had his book manuscript on London's

Society of the Dilettanti and 18th-century archaeology accepted for publication by Yale University Press. Jason is currently an assistant professor of modern British history at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

Maria Logrono (PhD 2007 Gallagher) has accepted a tenure-track position in Middle Eastern history at Florida International University. She has been teaching this year at Appalachian State University.

Comanches

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peoples, in the sense that Americans were interested in trade rather than conquest. The Comanches soon learned to exploit this difference.

The Comanche Empire has been selected as an alternate selection of the History Book Club, the Military Book Club, and the Book-of-the-Month Club.

Prof. Hämäläinen joined the UCSB History faculty in 2005, after teaching at Texas A & M. He received his PhD in American history at the University of Helsinki.

Asked how he got interested in Borderlands studies, Prof. Hämäläinen replied, "Well, Finland is pretty much a borderland, if you think about it."



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