

UCSB History Makes the Top 10!

USING NEW CRITERIA, the National Research Council (NRC) has for the first time put UCSB's History department in the top ranks of its influential survey of PhD programs.

In previous surveys, the NRC relied on so-called "reputational" factors that favored large, well-established programs at famous universities. UCSB's program regularly fell in the mid-twenties by that standard, out of some 139 departments measured. This is where UCSB History also ranked this time.

As Prof. Stephen Humphreys, a former chair of UCSB's Planning and Budget Committee who currently chairs its subcommittee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, pointed out, "that is not bad company—it puts us in the same group with such schools as Northwestern, UW-Madison, Duke, Cornell, Brown and Notre Dame."

But the new survey—the first in almost 15 years—also measured departments by more "objective" criteria, including how much faculty published and how often their work was cited by others, interdisciplinary collaboration, diversity of faculty and students, awards and honors and placement rates of its PhDs.

"All together, the NRC analyzed a quarter million data points," said History Chair John Majewski.

Because of this complexity, Prof. Majewski noted, the new survey does not give specific numerical ranks to departments, but instead groups them in a numerical range.

The UCSB range of 6-18, "which puts it solidly in the Top 10 when compared to the ranges of all the other departments," Prof. Majewski said, noting that the top-rated department, Harvard, had a range of 1-7.

"To get a sense of just how well the department performed," Prof. Majewski noted, "consider that UCSB was the top performing department in the UC system."

"Indeed," he added, "UCSB was the top history department of all public schools, with UNC Chapel Hill coming in second."

"UCSB ranked ahead of traditional powerhouses such as Columbia, Yale and Stanford, despite the superior resources such private institutions provide faculty members and graduate students."

Doing some fine-tuning, Prof. Hum-

phreys calculated that the department placed 9th overall in the NRC rankings, meaning "we are in the super-elite, the Pleiades."

This was not the only survey this year in which UCSB stood out.

The *US News & World Report* survey, which uses more traditional criteria such as size of endowment that favor private universities, placed UCSB 39th among national universities, but 9th in public universities.

National Monthly, which uses social responsibility criteria such as how many grads go into public service, ranked UCSB 11th nationwide, and the London *Times* Higher Education Survey of 2,000 universities, which uses a combination of research out-

put and teaching resources, ranked UCSB 29th worldwide.

Prof. Humphreys noted that the new NRC ranking was based on data collected in 2005-06, and expressed concern that cutbacks in recent years may affect the department's achievement in the future.

Chair Majewski, on the other hand, took a more optimistic approach.

"Given the large number of high profile book awards and major fellowships that our faculty has won over the last five years, it is likely that our rank would be even higher now," he said.

There is always room for disagreement over rankings, he added, "but no matter how you analyze the data, UCSB ranks as a rising star."



Whose Fault Is It?

• Associates Will Learn How To Deal with San Andreas

LIVING IN CALIFORNIA means living with "the Big One," the massive shock that someday will tear apart the San Andreas Fault that runs almost the entire length of the state.

When will it happen, and what will its effect actually be?

These are the questions that Prof. Tanya Atwater will address at the next meeting of the UCSB History Associates, scheduled for Tuesday Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, 23 E. Constance Ave.

A member of UCSB's Earth Sciences department from 1980 until her recent retirement, Prof. Atwater is an internationally recognized expert on plate tectonics, the forces that cause earthquakes.

"The San Andreas fault system is the primary boundary between the Pacific and North American tectonic plates." Prof.



Atwater explained recently. "The interiors of these huge plates move steadily across the face of the earth, but along the plate boundaries, most of the edges are stuck most of the time."

"These plate edges move past each other only when the ground breaks during an

U.S. Must Take Lead in Nuclear Disarmament, Hasegawa Argues in Faculty Research Lecture

AS THE ONLY NATION ever to have deployed nuclear weapons in wartime, the United States bears a special responsibility to lead the effort to “seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.”

That was the dramatic conclusion reached by Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa of his Oct. 29 Faculty Research Lecture.

In a wide-ranging talk on “Lessons of Hiroshima: Past and Present,” Prof. Hasegawa charted the progress of his own understanding of the U.S. decision to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

When he began research on his award-winning book, *Racing the Enemy* (Harvard, 2005), Prof. Hasegawa told an overflow audience, he had no intention of being a revisionist. It was simply that he was surprised to find little written about the Soviet role in ending the war.

As a Japanese-born specialist teaching Russian history in an American university, he said, he found himself in a unique position to pursue this question.

But, he said, initially he intentionally avoided the moral questions involved.

9/11 and the “War on Terror” changed his thinking, he said, because the moral issues raised

by those events have prompted comparison with Pearl Harbor and dropping of the bomb, “sometimes wrongly.”

“The conclusion,” he said, “is clear: transgressions of justice in warfare do not advance the cause of righteousness in just war. On the contrary, they diminish and compromise it.”

“The best way to fight evil, whether it is Japanese militarism or Al Qaeda, is to uphold our values, our own standards, our commitment and tradition to honor the rule of law—in other words, to hold high our ideals as a great humanitarian nation.”

After reviewing evidence showing that the decision to drop the bomb was not taken, as claimed, to save American lives but to forestall Soviet intervention, Prof. Hasegawa concluded by saying he wanted to take the opportunity of the Research Lectureship “to say something I have never said or written before.”

In order, he said, “to truly restore America’s humanitarian tradition, and indeed, to reestablish the shining city on the hill so that again all the eyes of the world will be upon us, we, as

Blumenthal's *Enemies* Wins Book Prize

PROF. DEBRA BLUMENTHAL has been named to receive the American Historical Assn.'s Premio del Rey Prize for *Enemies and Familiars: Slavery and Mastery in Fifteenth-Century Valencia* (Cornell, 2009).

The Premio del Rey Prize is awarded biennially to the best book on medieval Spanish history and culture.

Using archival sources such as wills and contracts and court cases, Prof. Blumenthal's book draws a richly textured picture of the varied experiences of Muslim, eastern and black Af-



Dilling Yang congratulates Prof. Tsuyoshi Hasegawa after his speech. (Chancellor Henry Yang, who introduced the lecture, had to leave to teach a class.)

Americans, must frankly admit that the use of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a mistake.”

That, he said to sustained applause, “is the lesson of Hiroshima then and now.”

Prof. Hasegawa is the eighth historian to be accorded this honor since it was created in 1955, making History the department to garner the greatest number of recipients, unless the

various incarnations of Biology over the years (Botany, Zoology, Immunology) were to count as one.

Previous historians include Wilbur Jacobs, the second recipient in 1956, William H. Ellison (1958), C. Warren Hollister (1965), Alexander DeConde (1967), Immanuel C.Y. Hsu (1971), Jeffrey Burton Russell (1991) and Robert Kelley (1993).




Prof. Debra Blumenthal.

rican men, women and children sold in Valencia's marketplace,

and shows how the dynamics of master-slave relations played a central role in the development of medieval Iberian identity.

A specialist in cross-cultural interaction in the medieval Mediterranean, Prof. Blumenthal took her PhD from the University of Toronto in 2000 and came to UCSB in 2003 after teaching at Rice.

In her current project, Prof. Blumenthal is studying the role of midwives and wetnurses in the construction of “maternity” in medieval and early modern Spain.



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McCray Team Bags \$6 Million NSF Grant

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY team co-led by History Prof. Patrick McCray has received a \$6 million renewal grant from the National Science Foundation to continue its study of the implications of nanotechnology on society.

The use of nanotechnology for creation of materials and devices at the atomic or molecular level has opened dramatic possibilities for improvements in fields as diverse as medicine, electronics and energy production.

But it has also generated a wide range of concerns about impact on health and the environment.

To meet these challenges, UCSB established the Center for Nanotechnology in Society (CNS) with an initial NSF grant in 2005. The new grant increases support and extends it through 2015.

UCSB's CNS takes an interdisciplinary approach that brings scholars in the social sciences and humanities into collaboration with natural and physical scientists.

Prof. McCray leads a research group of historians from Rice, NYU, the University of

South Carolina and the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia.

Since 2005 they have worked on the historical context for the emergence of nanotechnology as a research field and a component of U.S. science policy as well as the way it has established itself in the popular imagination.

The group will now focus on the institutions and communities from which scientists, business people and policy makers emerged and a comparative study of the effect of industrial research policies developed by Pacific Rim nations.

"I like to see the work we are doing as applied history of science," Prof. McCray says.

In addition to presenting more than 75 scholarly papers and talks, he points out, "We have made efforts, through op-ed pieces and presentations to connect our research with policy makers as well as people from the science and engineering communities."

The Center's unique interdisciplinary graduate fellowship program has also become an important source of funding for graduate students in the humanities and social sciences.

It also has partnered with the California Nanosystems Institute at UCSB to provide summer research internships for undergraduate students at UCSB and area community colleges.

Other members of the CNS executive committee are Prof. Barbara Herr Harthorn of Anthropology, who serves as center director; Prof. Richard Appelbaum of Sociology and Prof. Craig Hawker, director of the Materials Research Laboratory.



Prof. Patrick McCray.



Daniel Ketchell (right) with Gov. Schwarzenegger in the Moscow subway.

History Grad Globe Trots With California Governor

SINCE HE GRADUATED in 2006, Daniel Ketchell has been living a political junkie's dream.

A History of Public Policy major as a student, Ketchell landed a job with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Constituent Affairs unit.

Six months later, he started helping the governor with his private correspondence, and before he knew it he became the governor's personal aide, with the title of Special Assistant to the Governor. He's been in that position for the past three years.

"It has been an amazing experience," Daniel writes. "I always planned on going to law school after working for a year or two.

"But when I got this opportunity to be the governor's

'body guy' (that's what my job is called in the political world) after my first year in the office, there was no way I could turn it down."

Most recently, Daniel travelled with the governor on his trade mission to Russia.

"We ended the trip on a great note, having lunch with Gorbachev," Daniel writes.

"It was fantastic to sit with him for a couple of hours with the governor and listen to him talk about things most people just get to read about."

With Schwarzenegger's term ending, Daniel plans to leave government, but doesn't know about law school.

"I've gotten good at improvising," he writes. "So I will finish strong and then start thinking about the future."



Daniel (lower left) sits next to U.S. Ambassador John Beyrle in meeting with former Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev (third from left) during Governor's trade mission.

Kalman Pens New Study Of Conservative Politics

THE MOVEMENT that led to the Reagan Revolution in the 1980s and politicians like George W. Bush and Sarah Palin owes less to the conservative movement begun by Barry Goldwater in the 1960s than to the ineffectual presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter in the 1970s.

So concludes History Prof. Laura Kalman in her new book, *Right Star Rising—A New Politics, 1974-1980* (Norton, 2010).

Although it is common to see the Reagan presidency as the inevitable result of Goldwaterism, Prof. Kalman argues that the tide did not really turn until the 1970s, when the “New Right” pulled together evangelical Christians, proponents of market de-regulation and traditionally anti-Communist conservatives.



Photo by Rod Rolle

Prof. Laura Kalman.

“What really surprised me about conservatism was that [the movement] was so fragmented and there were so many different strains of it,” she says.

“They might not have been able to unite around Reagan had stronger leaders been president” in the 1970s.

Bassi Lands Job at Aeronautical U.

JOSEPH BASSI (PHD 2009 McCray) is serving as an assistant professor in the Arts & Sciences department at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, which focuses on training in all aspects of aviation and aerospace (two of its graduates are astronauts

on the final mission of the space shuttle Discovery). A meteorologist with the U.S. Air Force before returning to academia, Joe wrote his dissertation on the making of Boulder into a world center for space and atmospheric science.

Atwater on Shaky Ground



Prof. Tanya Atwater

CONTINUED FROM P. 1 earthquake.”

In her lecture, Prof. Atwater will report on the latest efforts to predict such earthquakes and also use animations, simulations, maps and images to explore “earthquake country.”

Prof. Atwater was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1997 and has created animations that are used in classrooms and teaching laboratories around the world.

Reservations, at \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members may be made by phoning (805) 617-0998.

Grin and Bear It!



Visitors to the fourth floor of HSSB have been surprised to see an elaborate system of strings and paper cups connecting faculty offices. What gives? It's the department's latest response to the cancellation of office telephones due to the budget crisis. Or, as Chair John Majewski explained it in an email to faculty: "I'm pleased to report that over the weekend an ingenious communication system has been set up among some of the faculty offices in HSSB. This system is still experimental and the range is somewhat limited (about the same as most cell phones), but it promises to be a very low cost and environmentally sensitive solution to our lack of faculty phones. If it works as planned, the dept. will be applying to HEA and the College of LeSS for money to install this system throughout HSSB." As he walked by, Prof. Luke Roberts commented, "We're hoping to have enough money to upgrade to 12-oz cup technology."

UCSB Undergrad Publishes Dissertation

DR. MATT RINDGE, who completed a PhD at Emory after taking his BA from UCSB in 1995, will have a revised version of his dissertation on *Illustrating Wisdom: Luke 12:16-21 and the Interplay of Death*



and *Possessions in Sapiential Literature* published by the Society for Biblical Literature. Matt now serves as an assistant professor of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University, where he teaches courses on the Bible and early Christianity.

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*
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or email:
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In At the Foundation

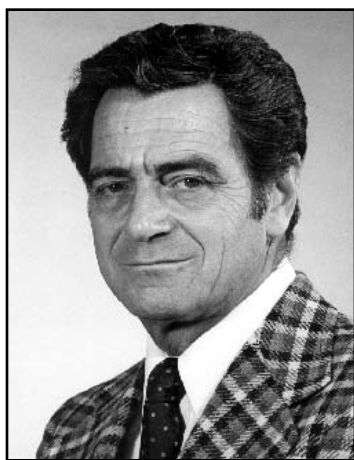
Ed. Note: One of the prime movers in the History department's steady rise in national rankings was Prof. Alexander DeConde. A distinguished student of American diplomatic history, Prof. DeConde was brought to UCSB in 1960 from the University of Michigan. As department chair from 1964-1967, he set high standards and lofty goals. Historia asked him to reflect on his years at UCSB.

BY ALEXANDER DECONDE

WHEN I JOINED this department in the summer of 1960, it had a fine faculty that taught courses through the master's level. It had planned a PhD program which recently had been approved by the statewide system. Since I had experience with such programs at other institutions, I was permitted considerable leeway in helping to launch PhD instruction.

Several years later when I served as chairman enrollments were rising everywhere on campus, but especially in History. One out of every ten students was a History major.

In recognition of this en-



Prof. Alexander DeConde in 1978.

rollment, of the department's quality and of its burgeoning graduate program, the administration assigned it over 20 new positions. In two years the faculty expanded from about 18 to 50. I assumed that Vice Chancellor Russell Buchanan had a hand in this phenomenal allotment, but being reserved he revealed little about his involvement.

Everyone took part in the recruiting. Buchanan, Wilbur Jacobs, Warren Hollister, Immanuel Hsu, Philip Powell and Robert Kelley were notably active. While I was on sabbatical

leave part of the time, Warren as acting chairman ably guided the appointments.

I have been asked if we had a covering plan for this burst of expansion. We did. It grew out of consultation with colleagues along with the study of the best departments in the nation. We concentrated on areas that we thought should be covered, we debated recruitment strategy, we agreed and disagreed and went ahead.

Throughout we tried to identify the best people and went after them. We felt confident that we could succeed more often than we would fail because our salaries were competitive, Santa Barbara was an unusually desirable place to live and we had behind us the prestige of the University of California system.

Much did not go according to plan, in part because of the intensely competitive academic market of the time. We proceeded anyway on the basis of doing almost anything that would build a stronger department.

Despite disappointments, I believe that this flexibility permitted us to do quite well. The department quickly gained national recognition as being good, and in some areas as being outstanding.

Throughout this period another of my goals—but not mine alone—was a democratically structured department that would be different from the academic autocracies I had known elsewhere. This broad self-governance was perhaps inefficient in a time of rapid growth because it had to take into account internal politics.

Our politicking may have slowed recruitment, but not much. Fortunately we were not rent by bitter feuds such as I have seen elsewhere in academia. Regardless, I believe

that a department open to the participation of all is worth the price of some dissension and inefficiency. Most of all, I am proud that ours has been and continues to be one of the most democratically structured History department I have known.

When I arrived this department already had a nucleus of strong scholars as well as teachers, among them Buchanan, Jacobs, Powell and Hsu. In addition, Hollister and Kelley were already on the way to earning their fine reputations. The appointments that came later during my tenure as chairman, as well as after, usually followed in this pattern.

Another of my abiding concerns has been the quality of our students, undergraduate and graduate. We all know that we have never had sufficient financial support to compete with well-endowed universities for graduate students. Yet from the start we were able somehow to attract high quality graduate students, a number of whom are now teaching in the nation's finest institutions of higher learning.

As for the undergraduates, I have always regarded their quality as remarkably high. Among the institutions in this country and abroad where I have taught, I have found no students as a group who were intellectually stronger or finer than those on this campus.

I feel privileged to have instructed such students and to have had something to do with advancing their careers. I feel equally fortunate to have worked with congenial colleagues, many of them cherished friends, in the building of a fine campus in a great university system, and particularly to having contributed with them a bit to the flowering of a splendid department.

Grads Grab Fellowships, Contracts

JUSTIN BENGRY (PhD 2009 Rappaport) has been selected to be the first Elizabeth and Cecil Kent Postdoctoral Fellow in History at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. An article on "Peacock Revolution: Mainstreaming Queer Styles in Post-War Britain, 1945-1967," has been published in *Socialist History* 36 (2010): 55-68.

MATT KESTER (PhD 2008 Spickard) has had a revised version of his dissertation, entitled *Remembering Iosepa: Race, Religion, and Place in the American West* accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. Matt currently serves as university archivist and a member of the History department at

BYU-Hawaii.

NICOLE PACINO (Soto Laveaga) is conducting research in Bolivia on a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship. For her dissertation, entitled "Prescription for a Nation: Public Health in Post-Revolutionary Bolivia, 1952-1964," Nicole is examining changes in public health programs after the Bolivian National Revolution in 1952.

A medievalist.net interview with KATRIN SJURSEN (PhD 2010 Farmer) about the military leadership of a 13th-century French countess can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THiUMoz5di0>. Katie now teaches at Southern Illinois University.

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 \$35
 Corresponding 15

(Available to residents outside of Santa Barbara County only)



In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is:

- \$25 to obtain a UCSB Library card
- \$ _____ gift to the History Associates Graduate Fellowship Fund.
- \$ _____ gift to the History Associates Dick Cook Fund.
- \$ _____ gift to the History Associates _____ Fund.
(specify other scholarship fund)

Note: Gifts of \$1,000 or more qualify for one-year membership in the Chancellor's Council.



Name: _____

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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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Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410
Questions? call (805) 893-2991

The Last Word

'Dedicated to Larry'

It's been a long time coming.

There are a lot of reasons for UCSB's History department to be ranked nationally where many, including Prof. Alex DeConde, whose memoir appears elsewhere in this issue, long-believed it belonged.

Among those who worked tirelessly toward this goal, Profs. Carl Harris and Elliott Brownlee come immediately to mind, as do Wilbur Jacobs, Bob Collins and Bob Kelley. Strong support from the UCSB administration over the past 10 years also helped. And the unwavering commitment of community members like JoBeth Van Gelderen, who has annually challenged the department and its supporters to go for the gold.



Changes in the way we produce doctorates also made a difference. When I came here, the doctorate was basically achieved by collaboration between the grad student and her or his major professor, with the rest of the committee primarily charged with assuring competence in their various fields of study.

That began to change about 30 years ago, with the emergence of research groups in the department that cut across traditional geographical or chronological boundaries. I think Public History was the first, but it was soon followed by gender studies, Cold War studies and a raft of exciting, cutting-edge groups such as food studies, borderlands, and Mediterranean studies.

Excellent hires have also made a difference. There are so many faculty in this department doing award-winning work that I hesitate to name any for fear of slighting others. Still, if I had to put a face on the reason for our top national ranking, it would be that of our latest recipient of the Faculty Research Lectureship, Toshi Hasegawa.

This is our Academic Senate's highest award, and Toshi is the first historian to receive it since Bob Kelley back in 1993. It is deeply coveted, and few are those who would willingly share its light with anyone else. Yet Toshi started his riveting lecture the other week with a dedication to the recently departed Larry Badash, praising their mutual interest in the impact of nuclear weapons, but also citing Larry's integrity and high moral sense as an inspiration to himself.

This says a lot about Toshi, who has always been deeply engaged in department and campus issues despite his own high-flying career. But it says even more about our department. Larry was brought here to teach the history of physical sciences, Toshi to teach Russian history. In most departments, their familiarity with each other would be limited to social occasions.

In contrast, this department has a culture that leads us to hire faculty who are not merely outstanding in their own right, but who are also interested in, and interesting to, people who work outside of their own specialities.

This is what underlies the unorthodox groupings that are now producing the innovative dissertations that are in turn giving us one of the highest placement rates in the country.

Of course, those grad students need to eat, and every one of them will tell you how much the History Associates' support has meant. So thanks, too, to all of you History Associates reading these lines.

Hal Drake
Editor