



Historia photo by John Majewski

Prof. Alice O'Connor gets the news.

## Channel Could See New Oil Spill—Schuyler

THE WORST IMAGINABLE accident in the Santa Barbara Channel would be a fully laden oil tanker hitting a producing oil platform, emeritus lecturer Barry Schuyler told an overflow crowd at the October meeting of the UCSB History Associates.

Such a disaster would dwarf the 1969 oil spill that helped jump-start the environmental movement, Schuyler warned.

And while chances of such a disaster actually occurring are only about one in a million, he added, the consequences should it occur would be disastrous.

"The 1969 spill was a relatively small one, but with different weather conditions even that one could have spread as far as San Diego," he explained.

Santa Barbara was also fortunate that the 1969 spill did not catch fire, he said.

Schuyler, who is completing a dissertation on the risk analysis and mitigation of oil spills, argued passionately for stricter controls over the operation of oil tankers.

"The people who run them are overloaded with work," he explained. "We need humane measures and more frequent inspections to prevent the exhaustion that frequently is behind accidents at sea."

Such prevention measures, he said, are far more important than trying to predict the likelihood of another spill.

Ironically, he said, shipwrecks are now

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# Alice Wows 'Em!

PROF. ALICE O'CONNOR has been chosen to receive the Academic Senate's Harold J. Plous Memorial Award as the Outstanding Assistant Professor at UCSB.

O'Connor, who was promoted to associate professor this year, received the news at a meeting of U. S. historians ostensibly called to discuss teaching needs.

Just as the meeting began, History Chair Jack Talbott and a string of well-wishers burst in with the surprise announcement.

Prof. O'Connor then was escorted to a meeting of the Faculty Legislature, where she was formally presented with the award.

Physics Prof. Omer Blaes, chair of the Plous selection committee, described Prof.

O'Connor as a policy historian who works "effectively at the interstices of intellectual, institutional, cultural and political history."

Her new book, *Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth-Century U.S. History*, "bridges the concerns of scholars and ordinary citizens," Prof. Blaes said.

"UCSB is truly fortunate to have on its faculty someone who is on her way to becoming a major voice in public discussions of social policy in the 21st century."

This book was the subject of a talk Prof. O'Connor gave to the History Associates last Spring.

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## 200-Year-Old Adulteress Piques Plane's Interest

A 300-YEAR-OLD tale of adultery will be the topic on Thursday, Dec. 7 as History Prof. Anne Marie Plane reconstructs the story of Sarah Ahhaton for UCSB History Associates at the Holiday Inn in Goleta, 5650 Calle Real.

Ahhaton was an Algonquian Indian who lived in the Christian Indian town of Punkapoag in Massachusetts in 1668.

Prof. Plane discovered her previously unknown confession to adultery while conducting research in the Massachusetts State Archives in 1990.

The intriguing document set Prof. Plane on a path of discovery that, 10 years later, has resulted in her book, *Colonial Intimacies: Indian Marriage in Early New England*, pub-



Prof. Ann Plane

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Chair Jack Talbott (L.) shows commemorative plaque to Jo Beth and Don Van Gelderen.

## Van Gelderen Ceremony 'Just Like Getting Married'

MANY WARM THINGS were said at the dedication of the department's graduate reading room to Jo Beth and Don Van Gelderen on Oct. 19. But, as usual, the best one-liner came from Jo Beth herself.

"I'm so nervous, it's like getting married," she said. Then, after a pause, "Worse, because this only happens once."

She also came to the ceremony with a gift of her own — a special edition of *Monticello and the Legacy of Thomas Jefferson* by Wendell Garrett.

The folio-sized book, which the Van Gelderens had previously had on loan to libraries and museums for special exhibits, was produced by 18th

century methods in the former Czechoslovakia in 1994 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Jefferson's birth.

It features plates that were hand-inked and pulled and a linen and hand-tooled leather cover with gold-leaf type.

Jo Beth also presented the department with two sets of reference works—the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences and the centennial edition of the Dictionary of American Biography.

In his dedication remarks, History Chair Jack Talbott took note of the impact the History Associates' annual fellowship awards have had on the department.

"And as we all know, the major force behind this wonderful program has been the unflagging support and generosity of Jo Beth and Don Van Gelderen."

Before unveiling a permanent plaque that, along with a bronze doorplate, formally identifies the new Van Gelderen Room, Hal Drake called attention to the unique nature of the honor being bestowed—the first in the department's history.

"The best thing about this

## Lansing Book Wins Church History Prize

PROF. CAROL LANSING'S new book, *Power and Purity: Cathar Herey in Medieval Italy*, has been awarded the Albert C. Outler Prize of the American Society of Church History.

The Outler Prize is awarded "to the author of the best book published in the two previous calendar years in ecumenical church history," defined as

books dealing with "problems of Christian unity and disunity . . . or with interactions between Christianity and other religious movements in any historical period."

Prof. Lansing's book, published by Oxford in 1998, is a richly detailed study of the role of this important medieval her-

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## O'Connor Wins Plous

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Prof. Blaes also called attention to Prof. O'Connor's innovative teaching in History 17C, the last quarter of the year-long lower-division survey of U. S. history, and the pivotal role she played in putting together an all-UC conference in policy history at UCSB, one result of which was a new year-long course in policy history.

Prof. Blaes also noted that Prof. O'Connor is the first assistant professor ever to serve as vice chair of the History department.

History Chair Jack Talbott said he made the unprecedented appointment because of the high regard her colleagues have for Prof. O'Connor's judgment and integrity.

"I asked her to serve because I knew I could count on her good sense, discretion, integrity, fearlessness, and ability to give good (and even unwelcome) advice," he said.

Prof. O'Connor is the 43rd faculty member to receive the award, which was established in 1957 in memory of an assistant professor of economics who died prematurely that year.

She is the seventh historian to win the award, giving History the largest number of recipients in the College.

Previous winners were Bob Kelley (1962-3), Bill Bonadio (1967-8), Hal Drake (1976-7), Pat Cohen (1981-2), Sarah Cline (1986-7), and Randy Bergstrom (1992-3).



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Tom Sizgorich

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Alice O'Connor poses with flower pot presented by fellow Americanists.





Curator Georgia Foz (lower right) points out details on Maritime Museum tour.

## 'Pilot Error' Has Meaning In Hazardous Channel

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more dangerous to people on the shore than they are to sailors.

Historically, residents near shores that were hazardous to shipping looked forward to shipwrecks because they could profit from looting the wreckage.

There were even instances, he said, where locals were known to have set up lanterns to lure unwary sailors onto reefs.

"It's only in this century that shipwrecks have not been a blessing to those on shore," he said. "Now, helicopters can save the sailors while those on the land have to clean up the muck."

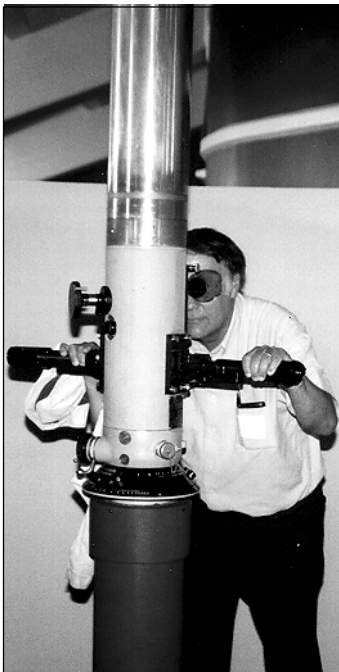
Yet in a recent decision the U. S. Supreme Court threw out the State of Washington's strong regulations on the grounds that states could not pre-empt federal control, even though those controls are much looser.

As a result of the decision, he said, California, Maine and Massachusetts have all retreated from imposing stricter rules of their own.

Introduced by History Associates President Patrick O'Dowd as "one of Santa Barbara's treasures," Schuyler left Associates with a somber thought:

"As long as humans design, regulate and operate oil platforms in the Channel, there is the hazard of another spill."

Prior to Schuyler's talk, Associates were treated to a guided tour of the new Maritime Museum by Executive Director Edward Cassano and Curator Georgia Fox, followed by a film in the museum's state-of-the-art auditorium.



Dale Seborg tries Museum's periscope.

## EDITOR'S DESK

### An Iota of Difference

I thought the answer was well-known by now, but we still get occasional idle inquiries about the accent mark on the title of this little rag. "Why is the accent mark of *Historía* on the 'i' instead of the 'o,' as it should be in Spanish?" Inquiring minds want to know!

So I thought it would be a good idea to insert the question as a teaser in this year's membership letter for the History Associates. An unsuspecting Board went along with the idea. Join the Associates, the sentence ran, and find out about the accent mark.

We were deluged with responses (in newspaper talk, that means we got at least three). Some of them were



even cordial. Most, however, pointed out that they already knew the answer. As one respondent, who couldn't wait for the vagaries of snail mail, shouted into the telephone, "You are idiots!"

So, once more, for the record, here is the story (abridged from volume 1, number 2 of *Historía*, published in April 1988):

"*Historía* is a Greek word meaning 'investigation' or 'research.' It was used by Herodotus, the 'Father of History,' at the start of his famous account of the Greek wars with Persia, written in the 5th century B. C. ('These are the histories of Herodotus of Halicarnassus . . .'), whence the name of our discipline.

"A nice name for a departmental newsletter, but not exactly imaginative," I wrote at the time. "The only thing *Historía* has going for it is that it isn't 'Clio.' Another name from the Greeks, 'Clio' was the Muse of history, one of the nine traditional deities who supervised all intellectual and creative activity."

So now you know. And, just for the record, I want to repeat that it was not my first choice. In fact, in that same column I started a contest, lobbying hard for *The Loose Cannon* ("local significance—Canon Perdido, the Goleta Beach cannons—with a dash of irreverence").

The entries, announced in the next issue, were "Paseo Tiempo" ("Pathway of Time") from Rebecca Conard (PhD Brownlee, 1984), "Mnemosyne" (the Greek goddess of memory) from Katie Sibley (PhD, DeConde, 1991, still in grad school at the time), and one from Joe Leedom (PhD Hollister, 1979), unfit for a family newsletter.

Now, for a two-year membership, wanna know where the phrase "It doesn't make an iota of difference" comes from?

Hal Drake  
Editor

# President's Corner

## Amazing Times

These are amazing times. I find it remarkable that as today's big issues come into our ken, we automatically turn to history to focus our public discussion. For example, if we think back to our country's recent painful considerations of impeachment, we can think of the hundred academic "historians" who told us about impeachment by telling us about the past. We learned of the attempted impeachment of Justice Chase and President Johnson and much more. I don't know about



you, but on this issue I was most impressed by the historical knowledge of Sen. Robert Byrd.

Now we find ourselves in an election quandary of major proportions. To try and solve this dilemma, we have turned to an historical analysis of the origins and development of the electoral college

system. Likewise, we are studying historical cases like Rutherford Hayes or John Quincy Adams. In the case of Adams, we learn that he was a minority vote getter whose election was thrown to the House of Representatives and who was finally elected when he obtained the support of Henry Clay. Adams then promptly appointed Clay as his Secretary of State. Adams' opponent Andrew Jackson and his forces called this a "corrupt bargain" and thereby doomed the Presidency of J.Q. Adams and insured the election of Jackson in 1828. Yes, we find history useful to think about.

As History Associates we are firm believers in the public value of history. In fact, you may know that the History Department has an important program in public history that forms graduate students for just this special purpose. These new scholars are being trained to bring historical awareness to public issues that will arise in their time. This program needs your support.

Ann Marie Plane, our next History Associates speaker, directs the department's program in public history. She has just completed her book, *Colonial Intimacies: Indian Marriage in Early New England*. In her book signing and talk on Dec. 7, not only will we learn about Algonquian New England but through the force of her generalizations we will also focus our minds toward a sharper vision of important considerations for our own Chumash community here in Santa Barbara.

Of course, the History Associates give you more than just the idea that if you come to our talks you will learn over and over again that history is useful. With the History Associates we also give you an opportunity

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# Plane Will Sign Books At November Talk

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lished this year by Cornell University Press.

To celebrate the publication, a book-signing has been added to the usual luncheon-lecture format, according to History Associates President Patrick O'Dowd.

"Everyone remembers the wonderful talk on the origin of Thanksgiving that Ann Plane gave us when she first came to UCSB," he said.

"We jumped at the chance to have her tell us about her book, now that it is out."

Following the trail left by Ahhaton, Prof. Plane set out to learn everything she could about the sexual, gender, and kin relations of the Algonquian peoples of southern New England during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

She was particularly interested in the effect of the En-

glish colonists' institution of marriage on Native peoples. Did English marriage—with its central role in the social, economic, political and religious relations of early modern Europe—play an important role in the colonization of early New England?

Prof. Plane argues that it does, but that the bonds forged between Algonquian men and women would remain quite distinctive even over the course of two centuries.

"These unusual bonds of 'Indian marriage' played an important role as both the means of colonization and a mode of resistance among the Indians of New England," she concluded.

"New England's 'forgotten peoples' can tell a fascinating story of personal and cultural survival, if only we can find the tools with which to listen," she says.

Reservations for the noon talk and luncheon, at \$16 for members and \$18 for non-members, can be made through the UCSB Office of Community Relations, (805) 893-4388.

## Van Gelderens

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action," he said, "is that Jo Beth and Don never gave the slightest hint that they wanted anything in return for their generosity. In fact, for years they wouldn't even let us acknowledge them at our annual awards ceremony.

"All of the initiative came from the department and the University, and somehow that makes it all the more fitting."

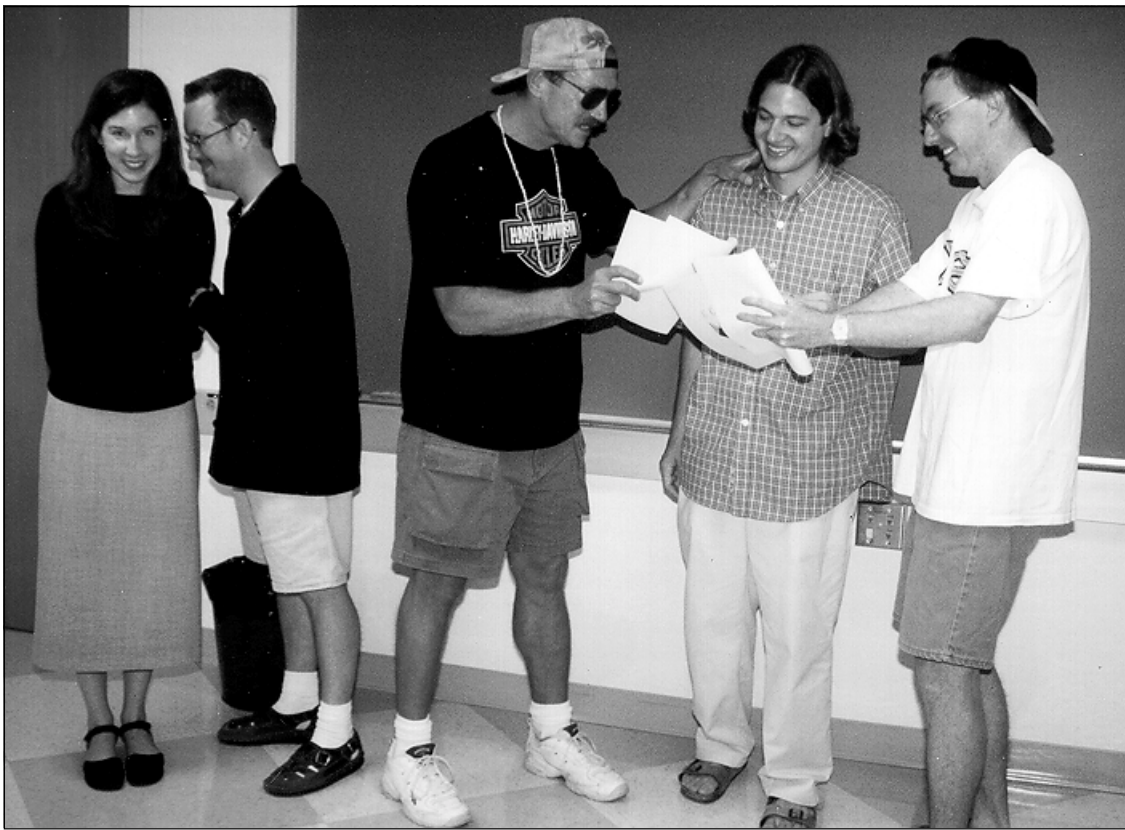
The dedication reads as follows:

"This reading room is named in honor of Jo Beth and Don Van Gelderen, longtime friends of the History department and sponsors of the Van Gelderen Fellowship, whose annual challenge grants significantly advanced the graduate study of history at UCSB. October 19, 2000."

# 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



Demonstrating typical TA problems are (l. to r.): Anne Peterson, Jon Lemmond, John Coleman, Jason Kelly, and David Burden

# History Grads Walk the Halls Of Power

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE, of course, but UCSB History PhDs do seem to be entering the corridors of power more frequently these days.

In the aftermath of the ouster of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, **Milan Protic** (PhD Djordjevic, 1987) has been elected as the reformist mayor of Belgrade.

**Michael Burger** (PhD Hollister, 1991) has been promoted to the rank of Professor at Mississippi University for Women, where he recently completed a term as chair of the Faculty Senate.

In more traditional venues:

**Nancy Stockdale** (Gallagher) was a Visiting Fellow at a Seminar of the Working Group on Modernity and Islam entitled "History and Historiography: New Approaches and Perspectives," at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin.

**Zuoyue Wang** (PhD Badash, 1994) is serving as assistant professor at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona.

## Turnabout Is Fair Play as TAs Act Out Their Student Problems

BY JASON KELLY

TURNABOUT WAS INDEED fair play at the department's first teaching assistant training session of the year last month.

Numerous first-year and returning TAs participated in the session on "Conflict Resolution," in which experienced TAs played the roles of students with everyday problems that TAs often encounter.

New TAs then attempted to solve their students' dilemmas.

Needless to say, with "students" like John Coleman and David Burden, the experience was far from everyday.

Taking on the personae of their favorite students from the past, the TA actors gave Oscar-worthy performances as "The Close Talker" (Jon Lemmond), "The Litigator"

*With Anne Peterson, Jason Kelly is one of the department's two lead TAs this year.*

(David Burden, apologizing for his appearance, but he "was on my way to a meeting with the Fulbright committee"), "The Angry Goon" (John Coleman, of course) and "The Apathetic Student" (David Torres-Rouff),

The relaxed atmosphere created numerous innovative strategies for dealing success-

fully with students' needs.

History TA Training Sessions take place throughout the year and will include sessions this year on several new topics. The TA Training Program hosts a website at <http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~amp2>.

Prof. Erika Rappaport is Faculty Coordinator of TA Training.

## Lansing Wins ASCH zPrize

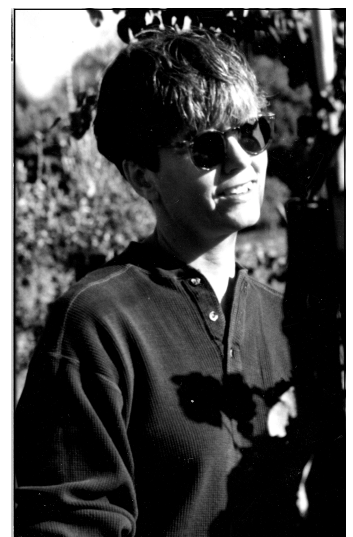
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esy in the Italian town of Orvieto in the 13th century.

While orthodox Christians emphasized the spiritual over the physical, Cathars went further, denouncing all things on this earth, including marriage and childbirth, as evil.

Based on extensive archival research, *Power and Purity* argues for a climate of popular toleration that contradicts modern scholarly assumptions about persecution and intolerance in this period.

The ASCH was founded in 1888 to encourage study of the history of Christianity and related subjects across a broad spectrum of religious persuasions and scholarly methodologies.

Prof. Lansing came to the UCSB History Department in 1995 from the University of Florida. This is her second book. The first, *The Florentine Magnates: Lineage and Faction in a Medieval Commune*, was published by Princeton University Press in 1991.



Prof. Carol Lansing



# 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  
☐ 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.

*Gifts of \$1,000 or more qualify for membership in the Chancellor's Council.*

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Membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Gifts to the scholarship fund are considered a charitable donation.

Please make your check payable to the UCSB History Associates and return it to:

UCSB Office of Community Relations  
 University of California, Santa Barbara  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2100

## President's Column

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to make a difference in the quality of public discourse. Let me show you how.

The Associates have developed financial support for public history students. Our Robert L. Kelley Fellowship is awarded each year to the outstanding graduate student in the fields of US intellectual history, public history or the history of public policy. If you believe that historical awareness strongly informs public policy, then you can support this idea and make a difference by making a donation to this particular History Associates fund.

Or, after you listen to the talk, if you think Ann Marie Plane's historical subject itself is of vital importance, then you might want to support outstanding graduate students in colonial, native American, or frontier studies. To this end, we give a Wilbur R. Jacobs Prize to a graduate student every year. Support public history by supporting these History Associates funds.

In any case, I know you will enjoy Ann Marie Plane's talk. See you there.

*Patrick O'Dowd  
 President*



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NEWSLETTER OF THE UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES  
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
 SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106

## A Timely 'Reaper'



SINCE HALLOWEEN coincidentally fell the same day as the mid-term exam for the History 4A class he was TA-ing, medieval grad student Mark O'Toole decided to kill two birds with one stone and come to class as 'the Grim Reaper.' Students were unfazed. When his students saw him, Mark said, "All they said was 'Cool costume, dude!'"

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