

A Medieval Renaissance

FOR THE FIRST TIME in almost 15 years, UCSB's History department has its full complement of medieval European historians with the arrival of Asst. Prof. Debra Blumenthal.

And with another new addition, Associate Prof. Elizabeth Digeser, whose specialty is Late Antiquity, the department now has a major cluster of historians whose research interests span the period from the Fall of Rome to the Italian Renaissance.

Prof. Blumenthal, whose specialty is medieval Spain, joins Profs. Sharon Farmer (medieval France) and Carol Lansing (medieval Italy) as the department's third medievalist.

"We had three medievalists for over a decade, but then lost two to retirements in the 1990s and were only able to replace one then," History Chair Pat Cohen said.

"We are finally back to full faculty strength."

Cohen noted that Prof. Blumenthal's research focus also will make her a resource for Islamic and Latin American historians.

Prof. Digeser's research deals with the interaction between Neoplatonic philosophers and Christianity in the third and fourth centuries. She is the author of *The Making of a Christian Empire: Lactantius and Rome*, published by Cornell in 2000.

"As a specialist in Late Antiquity, Prof. Digeser provides a perfect bridge between our ancient Mediterranean historians—John Lee (Greece) and Hal Drake (Rome)—and our medieval program," Chair Cohen said.

Prof. Blumenthal, who took her PhD from the University of Toronto in 2000, studies interactions between Spain's Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities.

She was hired by UCSB in 2003 but spent last year as a Sargent-Faull Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, where she conducted research for her book project on "Women's Networks in Late Medieval Spain."

Prof. Digeser took her PhD from UCSB in 1996. Her dissertation won the campus Lancaster prize that year and went on to win honorable mention in the national competition.

She is the first UCSB PhD hired by the department.



History Chair Pat Cohen (l.) greets Profs. Debra Blumenthal (c.) and Elizabeth Digeser.



Just How Important Is the 2004 Election?

THE UCSB HISTORY Associates kick off the 2004-05 season at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12 with a round-table discussion of this year's Presidential election at the Elephant Bar Restaurant, 521 Firestone Road in Goleta (across from the Airport Drive-In).

Four History faculty will discuss "turning point" elections in the nation's past as they try to decide whether this election will be another one.

Profs. Mary Furner, Nelson Lichtenstein, John Majewski and Alice O'Connor will compare this year's race, which has been called one of the most polarized in American history, with Thomas Jefferson's election, which has been called the "Revolution of 1800," and the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

Also on the agenda are the 1896 contest

between William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan and the election of Franklin Roosevelt in 1932.

One of the traits of the 2004 race is the unusually large number of voters who appear to have made up their minds very early and of states that so heavily favor either President Bush or his challenger, Sen. John Kerry, that they no longer are considered in play by either candidate.

This leaves the election to be decided by a relatively small number of undecided voters in a handful of "battleground" states.

The panel discussion will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. Cost is \$10 for members of the UCSB History Associates, \$12 for non-members and \$8 for students.

Reservations can be made by phoning the UCSB Office of Community Relations at (805) 893-4388.



Co-directors Sears McGee (L.) and Margaret Rose (r.) congratulate Vikki Kornahrens.

Busy History Faculty Produce Books, Papers

SUMMER BREAK did not find History faculty idle.

Hilary Bernstein's book, *Between Crown and Community: Politics and Civic Culture in Sixteenth-Century Poitiers*, was published in June by Cornell.

Based on meticulous archival research, Prof. Bernstein's book argues that the standard view of the relationship between French provincial cities and the monarchy needs to be revised. Instead of local power being eclipsed by the emerging state, she concludes, cities like Poitiers developed rhetorical strategies and ritual practices that allowed them to maintain strong ties with the monarchy while maintaining their local identity.

Mary Furner delivered the Distinguished Lecture for the History of Economics Society meeting in Toronto in June. Her topic was "Structure and Virtue in U. S. Political Economy."

Paul Spickard has two edited books coming out this Fall.

Racial Thinking in the United States: Uncompleted Independence, which he co-edited with Reg Daniel of the UCSB Sociology department, is being published by the University of Notre Dame. *Race and Nation: Ethnic Systems in the Modern World* is being published by Routledge. He is currently working on a reinterpretation of the relationship between immigration and American identity that is under contract with Routledge.

Steven Humphreys is spending Fall quarter in residence at the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan. He is working on a book on the fifth Muslim caliph, Mu'awiya, and a chapter for the Cambridge History of Islam.

Patrick McCray spoke on "Giant Telescopes: Astronomical Ambitions and the Promise of Technology" at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum Oct. 1.

Brandon School Teacher Wins History Prize

VICTORIA THOR KORNAHRENS, a 3rd grade teacher at Brandon School in Goleta, has received the History Associates Outstanding K-12 Teacher Award for 2004.

The award recognizes achievement in UCSB's summer professional development institute in history, which conducts intensive two-week seminars for K-12 teachers.

It has become one of the most popular of all the awards presented at the Spring Awards Ceremony since being created five years ago.

"Vicki participated in the first institute at UCSB in 1997 and has served as a teacher leader for the K-5 educators in the year-around program," said Margaret Rose, who co-directs the program.

Her model lesson on "Bernarda Ruiz" The Woman Behind the Peace," produced for the 2003 institute on "Making History: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Choices," which was effusively praised by her colleagues, Rose said.

The next year, Kornahrens created an interactive lesson on Holocaust survivors in the Santa Barbara area, using a recently created photo exhibit at the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara.

A teacher since 1983,

While the Emeriti Just Keep Rolling Along

RETIREMENT DOES NOT mean an end to scholarly activity. Just ask Frank Frost or Bob Collins.

Frank Frost, who took early retirement in 1989, took time out from the good life in the south of France, where he has built a home and honed his gourmet cooking skills, to supervise publication of *Politics and the Athenians*, a collection of his major articles on Athenian history.

Meanwhile, militia activities in Sudan have placed a premium on Bob Collins' time. After writing an article on "Disaster in Darfur" for *Geopolitique Africaine*, he spent the summer giving interviews to NPR, the BBC,

CNN and *The New Yorker*.

He also spent three days doing a documentary on Darfur for Cloudburst Media, while also serving as a consultant for *The Financial Times* and the *New York Times*.

Amid all this, Prof. Collins completed revisions for a new edition of his *Problems in African History* and the manuscript of *A History of Sub-Saharan Africa*, co-authored with former student James Burns (PhD 1998), who is now associate professor of History at Clemson University.

"What gives me the greatest pleasure," Prof. Collins writes,

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Matt DeFraga

Undergraduate Editor

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Meet the Entering Graduate Class of 2004



New grad students meet for orientation session with Graduate Secretary Darcy Ritzau (center, front), Chair Pat Cohen and Director of Graduate Studies Nelson Liechtenstein (right rear).

The Few, The Proud The Historians

EIGHTEEN STUDENTS joined the History graduate program this term, bringing the total number of students in the program to 120.

New students and mentors are Rafaela Acevedo-Field (Cline), Dimitri Akulov (Hasegawa), Teresa Algosio (Fruhstuck), Lawrence Anderson (Lindemann).

Joe Bassi (McCray), Justin Bengry (Rappaport), Susan Falck (Bergstrom), Mateo Farzaneh (Gallagher), Andrea Gill (O'Connor).

Justin Jackson (Liechtenstein), Jill Jensen (Furner), David Lemon (Bergstrom), Nadia Nader (Gallagher), Nathan Perry (McGee).

Jack Robinson (Garcia), Monica Sanchez (Vargas), Patrick Shapland (Gallagher) and Gayle Zive (Farmer & Lansing).

"Ours is the largest graduate program at UCSB, and also the oldest," said History Chair Pat Cohen.

"The students selected for this year are exceptional. We are very proud of them."

The History Department produced UCSB's first PhD in 1962.

Grad Students Garner Awards, Deliver Papers

Eric Boyle (Osborne) received two fellowships for this year. The Lister Hill Fellowship in Bioinformatics will allow him to develop educator resources and curricula for a digital library site in the history of medicine. He will also conduct dissertation research at the Rockefeller Archive Center with a Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship.

Toshi Aono (Hasegawa) has received fellowships from the IGCC and the Matsushita Foundation for 2004-05.

Rose Hayden-Smith (Bergstrom) gave two papers at Cornell this summer. The first was a 1-1/2 hour presentation on U. S. gardening and agricultural efforts during WW I that she was invited to present to the American Horticultural Society's Youth Gardening Symposium. She returned later in the summer to present a paper on the Women's Land Army in WW I.

Anil Mukerjee (Dutra) has been named a Bancroft Fellow for 2004-2005 to continue research for his doctoral dissertation and to use the Engel Sluiter Historical Documents Collection, which holds more than 160,000 transcribed pages of manuscripts from Spanish and Portuguese archives.

Anil shared honors with **Kevin Smith** (Cline) for best MA thesis in Latin American and Iberian Studies in 2004.

Mark O'Tool (Farmer) has received a Bourse Chateaubriand Fellowship from the French Embassy to conduct research for his dissertation on "Caring for the Blind in Medieval Paris: Life at the Quinze-Vingts, 1250-1500." The Quinze-Vingts was the first hospital for the blind in medieval Europe.

Matt Aberman (Badash) received a Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant for 2004-05.

While Others Land The All-Important Jobs

ANDY JOHNS (PhD Logevall, 2000) began a tenure-track appointment this Fall as assis-

stant professor of U. S. foreign relations in the History department of Brigham Young University. **Ben Zulueta** (PhD Badash, 2004) has been hired as a full-time lecturer at Cal State Channel Islands in Oxnard.

Justin Stephens (PhD Drake, 2001) has accepted a tenure-track position in the History department of West Georgia State University.

John Baranski (PhD Furner, 2004) has been appointed to a tenure-track position at Fort Lewis College in Colorado.

Matt Kester (Spickard) has been appointed University Archivist and assistant professor of History at BYU-Hawaii.

David Burden (Cline) has been hired for a one-year, full-time lectureship in History at Ohio Northern University.

Jake Hamblin (PhD Badash, 2001) has signed a long term contract as a lecturer in history of science and world history at California State University, Long Beach.

Evan Widders (Osborne) has accepted a one-year lec-

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President's Corner

Bonehead History

ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2004, the lead editorial in the LA Times was titled "A Bonehead on History," and it had some fun with a proposal introduced in the House of Representatives which is named the "Reaffirming American Independence Resolution." Introduced by a Florida Republican named Tom Feeney and supported by no less than 59 of his colleagues, the resolution would require "federal judges not to cite or rely on 'judgments, laws or pronouncements' of any other nation in reaching their decisions." Whoops – that means the judges dare not refer to Periclean Athens, the Roman Republic, the medieval English common law (including jury trials), or the Enlightenment. Indeed, since the Old



Testament came from the Israelite nation, it would be out, too. The editorial rightly characterizes Feeney's resolution as "a silly declaration" that would "violate the Constitution's separation of powers." That the historical illiteracy it displays is shared by no less than 60 members of Congress is truly disturbing. For us, it's a timely reminder to redouble our efforts to support the teaching and learning of history. After all, some of our students might get into Congress one of these days.

One of the perks enjoyed by History Associates board members in recent years has been the summer planning luncheon at Kathy and Hal Drake's home. They provide a delicious repast and a relaxed and comfortable setting for our annual "brainstorming session" for program ideas. You already know about our first event, a panel discussion in which John Majewski, Alice O'Connor, Mary Furner, and Nelson Lichtenstein will talk about the 2004 election in the context provided by such epochal elections as those of 1800, 1860, 1896 and 1932. Other events we are preparing include a tour of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse led by former mayor Sheila Lodge and talks by Bob Collins (presenting "The Murky World of Islamic Charities" as distilled from his forthcoming book on the complex world of Islamic charitable giving, Islamic systems of money transfers, and the misuse of Islamic charities to launder money for terrorism) and Pat Cohen (on her project on the careers of two 19th-century health reformers, Mary Gove and Thomas Low Nichols, proponents of mesmerism, phrenology, and the water cure—and also early advocates of "Free Love" in the mid-1850s). See you there!

Sears McGee

In Lieu of Bloopers

THE FOLLOWING quotes were taken from actual medical records dictated by physicians (with thanks to Jack Talbott):

"The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed."

"Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year-old male, mentally alert but forgetful."

"Discharge status: Alive but without permission."

"The patient refused an autopsy."

"The patient has no past history of suicides."

"The patient's past medical

New Profs

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Before returning to UCSB, Prof. Digeser taught at St. Norbert's College in Wisconsin and McGill University in Montreal.

Her current research involves the role of philosophers in the start of the Great Persecution, a ten-year effort to eradicate Christianity that was started by the emperor Diocletian in 302 AD.

An article on an aspect of this issue, "An Oracle of Apollo at Daphne and the Great Persecution," was published in the January, 2004 issue of *Classical Philology*, published by the University of Chicago.

Jobs

CONTINUED FROM P. 3

tureship at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln where he will be teaching Latin American and European History

Alex Epstein (PhD Cohen, 2001) is serving this year as a lecturer at UC Davis, where she is teaching courses on American women's history.

Mark Hndrickson (PhD Furner, 2004) is serving as a lecturer in the History department at Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days."

"The patient left the hospital feeling much better except for her original complaints."

"Rectal exam revealed a normal size thyroid."

"The patient was in his usual state of good health until his airplane ran out of gas and crashed."

Emeriti

CONTINUED FROM P. 2

"is Tsehai Publishers, who specialize in Northeast Africa, invited me to submit what my colleagues jokingly call 'The Best of Bob,' which consists of 20 of my unpublished essays written between 1962 and 2004."

This volume, which will be published in December with the more sedate title of *Revolution and Civil War in the Sudan*, includes invited plenary papers for conferences, memorial lectures and position papers for the State Department, National Security Council, and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

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

A Reader Remembers The Hollister Music

To the Editor:

I'M A HISTORY Associates member for the sole reason that I like reading the *Historia* newsletter so much.

I received my BA in History in 1989, and while I have sadly noted the passing of many of my professors, I enjoy reading of the goings-on of the department/faculty/students who I knew so well (I was close friends with David Tipton and Rob Babcock, to name a few, and through Rob knew many of the other medieval and ancient graduate students of that era).

Although originally from Southern California, I have been living in Europe for 5 years, so don't get back very often, and this remains my key connection to UCSB.

What prompts me to write at this time is the article in the April 2004 edition (ok, so I'm a

little late...) about Abe Friesen retiring.

To this day, when asked why I majored in history (I was in Financial Services for 3 years, then got my MBA, and have now been in consulting for 10 years—so not much correlation to my degree!), I explain about this professor who sang to us my freshman year of college, and that he made the course so interesting—Warren Hollister, of course.

I was thrilled to read that the singing tradition hadn't been lost, and that Professor Friesen carried it on.

However, your article left unanswered the question on Pat Cohen's mind - who will continue the tradition?

I would love to see the lyrics of the songs reprinted in the *Historia*, for all to re-enjoy - my sole memory at this stage is the Great Schism review to the tune of Old MacDonald Had a Farm: "Here a Pope, there a Pope, everywhere a Pope, Pope."

Do you think between you and Abe Friesen and others, we could get some of the lyrics in print?

Thanks for your consideration of this idea!

(One other small idea—instead of just a snail-mail address in the Let Us Hear From You section, how about including an e-mail address?)

Warm regards to you and the History Department team, from sunny Dusseldorf, Germany!

Tschüß / Cheers

Andrea L Blumberg

IBM Business Consulting
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cations

Graf-Recke-Straße 82,
40239 Düsseldorf, Germany



Prof. Paul Sonnino (L) demonstrates engineering wonders of his venerable Pinto.

Like That Bunny, Sonnino's Pinto Keeps Going and Going

IT WASN'T THE kind of note Paul Sonnino is used to finding on the windshield of his 1976 Pinto.

First, this was about his car, rather than his teaching.

Second, it was flattering.

The note was left last Spring by two Engineering students who noticed the vintage Ford in the HSSB parking lot.

They were particularly interested in the Pinto's proverbial gas tank and its relationship to Prof. Sonnino's equally proverbial longevity.

They asked if Prof. Sonnino would be willing to speak to Prof. Jacquelin Hynes Engineering Ethics class about his experience with the car.

At a meeting in the parking lot last Spring, Prof. Sonnino was asked why he was still driving his Pinto.

He gave three explanations.

"First," he said, "because, given current traffic conditions, the Pinto gets me to exactly the same places in exactly the same period of time, as any Jaguar, Mercedes or Lexus, and in so

doing provides a constant reminder of the completely illusory nature of all earthly vanities.

"Secondly, because since the development of the Pinto neither the American, European, Japanese or Korean automobile industry has managed to produce an automobile that runs on something other than fossil fuels."

Finally, Prof. Sonnino intoned, by holding on to his Pinto he was not under any pressure to slap together "half-baked phony imitations of books just to keep up with the payments on a more up-to-date gas guzzler."

Instead, he said, I find myself in the fortunate position to publish half-baked phony imitations of books in my own good time."

As a result of this uplifting demonstration, Prof. Hynes made Prof. Sonnino and his Pinto the topic of the class's term paper assignment.

Best Teacher

CONTINUED FROM P. 2

Kornahrens has taught 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at Brandon School for the past eight years.

In a letter to the History Associates, Kornahrens expressed her gratitude to the institute and the History faculty who have participated in it over the years.

"During our collaboration, we teachers in grades K-12 have profited from your vast knowledge of history while demonstrating to faculty how history can be presented using innovative teaching strategies," she wrote.

Kornahrens has twice been recognized by the Santa Barbara County Office of Education with Disseminator Grants for lesson development.

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.
 \$ _____ 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.

*

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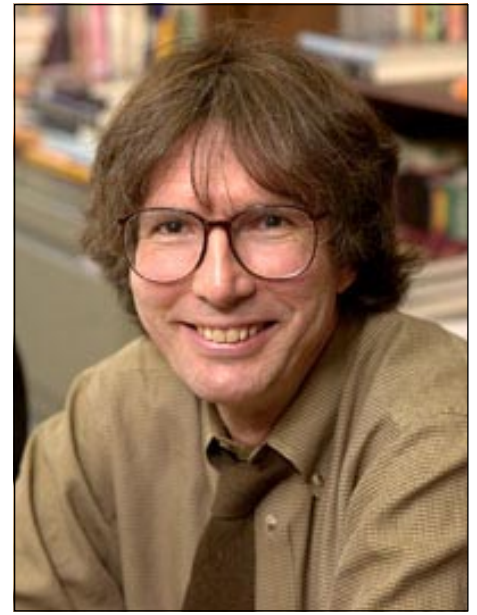
Membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Gifts to the scholarship fund are considered charitable donations.

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

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Questions? call (805) 893-4388



Tom Frank



Michael Denning

Social Critics to Lecture on Labor And Culture at History Forum

TWO PROMINENT SOCIAL critics are on tap for lectures in October.

Tom Frank, founding editor of *The Baffler* magazine and author (most recently) of *What's the Matter with Kansas? How Conservatives Won the Heart of America* (2004) will speak on "Class War and Culture War in 21st Century America" on Tuesday, October 7 at 4 p.m.

Michael Denning, William R. Kenan Professor of American Studies at Yale, will speak on "The Rhetoric of Class in the Age of Globalization" on Thursday, Oct. 28 at 4 p.m.

Both lectures, which are co-sponsored by the History department's new Center for the Study of Work, Labor and Democracy, are free and open to the public. They

will be delivered in the McCune Conference Room, 6020 HSSB.

Frank, who has been called "one of America's most acute and lively public intellectuals," will also conduct a workshop on writing history for a general audience.

He earned a PhD from the University of Chicago in 1994. His dissertation became his first book, *The Conquest of Cool*, published in 1997. He is a frequent contributor to *Harpers Magazine*.

Yale's Denning is the author of a number of books of cultural commentary that take a historical perspective. These include *Mechanic Accents: Dime Novels and Working Class Culture in America* (1987) and *The Cultural Front: the Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century* (1997).



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