



Prof. Adam Sabra.

Sabra Tapped For Cairo Lectureship

PROF. ADAM SABRA has been selected to be this year's Bayard Cleveland Dodge Distinguished Professor at the American University in Cairo.

Prof. Sabra, who replaced Prof. Stephen Humphreys as the King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies in 2012, will deliver a series of lectures in Cairo this March.

"This is a great honor and has been given in the past to such major figures as Edward Said and Josef van Ess," said Religious Studies Prof. Dwight Reynolds, chair of the Islamic Studies Program.

"It is a well-earned recognition of Prof. Sabra's research, publications and standing in the field, and, in addition, a very welcome honor for Middle East Studies at UCSB.

In Cairo, Prof. Sabra will deliver one lecture in Arabic on March 8 and another in English on March 10.

The topic of the first lecture is "The Family and the State in Ottoman Egypt: The Bakriyya as an Example."

This lecture will be based on his research for a new book entitled *Aristocracy and Empire: A Family History of Ottoman Egypt (1517-1800)*, a study of this influential Ot-

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Slavery & Justice

UCSB History Associates Slate Two Saturday Lectures for Winter

SLAVERY AND JUSTICE will be the topics of two Saturday lectures sponsored by the UCSB History Associates this quarter.

Paul Barba (Spickard/Harris) will deliver the second annual JoBeth Van Gelderen Graduate Student Lecture on the topic of "Slavery in the Texas Borderlands" Saturday, Jan. 31, at 12:30 p.m. in the Mosher Alumni House, next to Campbell Hall.

And on Saturday, Feb. 28, Prof. Laura Kalman will speak on "The Long Shadow of the Warren Court: LBJ and the Making of the Contemporary Supreme Court" in the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library at 3:30 p.m.

Barba's topic, based on his in-progress doctoral dissertation, is an attempt to create a comprehensive picture of what slavery meant and how it was instituted among

the different cultures that inhabited the Texas borderlands before Texas became a state in 1845.

Between 1700 and 1850, various peoples—including Spaniards, Comanches, Anglo-Americans and Choctaws—inhabited the area that now comprises the eastern portion of the state of Texas.

Without a single government or set of laws to regulate them, these different cultures had to develop ways to accommodate each others' different customs and economies. Slave raids were one way of accomplishing this task.

"Paul is opening up to comparative study the evolution of slave systems and racial formations in Texas, and indeed, the evolution of the very idea of Texas," Prof. Paul Spickard said.

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Prof. Laura Kalman.



Grad student Paul Barba.

Where Have All The Bitcoins Gone?

BITCOINS — THAT VOLATILE virtual currency that sometimes seems poised to supplant the dollar in internet trading will be the subject of the 6th annual Lawrence Badash Memorial Lecture Wednesday, January 21 at 5 p.m. in the McCune Room (HSSB 6020).

Prof. Nathan Ensmenger of Indiana University will describe the life cycle of a single bitcoin as part of a lecture on “The Materiality of the Virtual: A Global Environmental History of Computing from Babbage to Bitcoin.” He will also explain what “babbage” is.

A specialist in the social and cultural history of software, artificial intelligence and gender and identity in computer programming, Prof. Ensmenger will compare



Prof. Nathan Ensmenger.

the environmental impact of the current digital economy with the effects of previous industrial and technological revolutions.

He is the author of *The Computer Boys Take Over* (MIT Press, 2010), a study of the rise of the “computer expert.”

The lectureship honors

Prof. Badash, who taught history of science at UCSB for 36 years prior to his retirement in 2002.

Started in 2009 as a distinguished lecturer series, the lecture was turned into a memorial series following Prof. Badash’s untimely death in 2010.

The lectureship is intended to recognize scholars and thinkers who share Prof. Badash’s interest in the intersection of science and public life. It is supported by a gift from Prof. Badash’s family and friends.

Previous speakers include Prof. Greg Milman of Wisconsin, Prof. Alice Domurat Dreger of Northwestern, science journalist Chris Mooney, Prof. Michael Gordin of Princeton, and Prof. Jake Hamblin of Oregon State.

Postings

Eardley-Pryor Takes Postdoctoral Position

ROGER EARDLEY-PRYOR (PhD 2014 McCray) has accepted a multi-year postdoctoral position at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, a prominent research & education institution based in Philadelphia, where he will be working on a number of projects, including an exploration of interdisciplinary research networks.

Hanni Jalil Will Go To Icesi University

HANNI JALIL (Soto Laveaga) has accepted a tenure-track position in History at Icesi, a private university in Cali, Colombia, that is the top-ranked university in southern Colombia and fourth-ranked nationwide. Hanni is currently completing a dissertation on “Curing the Sick Nation: Modernization and Public Health in Colombia, 1930-1960.”

Harvard Publishes Gastón Espinosa

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Press has published Gastón Espinosa’s (PhD 1999 Garcia) *Latino Pentecostals in America*. Gastón is currently associate professor of Religious Studies at Claremont-McKenna College.

Paul Sandul Writes Two Books on U.S.

PAUL SANDUL (PhD 2009 Bergstrom) has published *California Dreaming: Boosterism, Memory and Rural Suburbs in the Golden State* with West Virginia University Press. A second book, *Histories of Everyday America*, will be published by University of Minnesota Press this Spring. Paul is currently Assistant Professor of History at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches Texas.

Historians of Science Win Book Prizes

Prof. Patrick McCray’s *The Visioneers* (Princeton 2012) received the Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize of the History of Science Society for best book in history of science directed to a wide public published between 2012-2014.

His book tells the story of “modern utopians” who promoted such schemes as space colonies and nantechnology half a century ago.

Jake Hamblin (PhD 2001 Badash) has been awarded



Prof. Patrick McCray.

the American Historical Association’s 2014 Paul Birdsall Prize for best book in European military and strategic history since 1870 for *Arming Mother Nature: The Birth of Catastrophic Environmentalism*, which was published by Oxford in 2013.

Currently associate professor of History at Oregon State University, Jake was selected to deliver the fifth annual Badash Memorial Lecture at UCSB last year.

Previous recipients of the Davis Prize include Daniel Boorstin for *The Discoverers: A*



Prof. Jack Hamblin.

History of Man’s Search to Know His World and Himself (1986), Nancy Tome, *The Gospel of Germs* (2001) and David Kaiser, *How the Hippies Saved Physics: Science, Counterculture and the Quantum Revival* (2013).

The first Birdsall Prize, in 1986, went to Robert Doughty of the United States Military Academy for *The Seeds of Disaster: The Development of the French Army Doctrine, 1919-39*. The 2012 prize was awarded to Edith Sheffer of Stanford for *Burned Bridge: How East and West Germans Made the Iron Curtain*.



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Editor

Hal Drake

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Recipe for a Great Department

Ed. Note: Cleaning out some old files, the editor came across the following memo, written in 1990 by the late Prof. Bob Kelley.

The context was this: in planning for UCSB's future, the administration contacted three or four of the strongest departments on campus and asked them to identify the factors that they felt contributed to their success. We sought Bob's opinion as one of the founding members of the department.

It will come as no surprise to anyone who knew him to learn that Bob wrote this response (which has been cut down) on the fly, as he was about to leave for a conference.

BY ROBERT L. KELLEY

EVERYTHING COMES down to personnel policy. *Everything.*

It is the kind of people you hire, and the expectations and environment you create for them thereafter, that is the key to achieving distinction as an academic department.

And the readiness to push for accelerations at key moment, to fight hard to keep people.

The key point is that we were fortunate enough to be one of those disciplines on campus which at the beginning was led by someone who had the dream of research and publication at the center of his values, Russell Buchanan, who was pursuing this kind of career from the time he returned from the war to what in 1944 had become a UC college, even if a liberal arts one with a lot of talk about teaching emphasis.

And he hired people with the same dream, particularly Wilbur Jacobs, whose vision of himself I guess from early life had been being a distinguished herr professor.

This meant that a mood, a spirit, a context of aspiration and expectation was there from the beginning.

When I taught for a semester on the Riviera campus in 1951,

Answers to Admin Survey From a Department Founder

Wilbur was the rising young man, motivated by a consuming passion for distinction and being accelerated and Russ was publishing actively. [Phil Powell and Henry Adams were already in place.]

And then in about 1958 came another man seized by the dream, Warren Hollister, who plunged right away into a busy international career of scholarship and went up through the salary and promotion ranks like a rocket, for he too was accelerated often, the department fought against the bids—and he had many—to keep him.

Everyone knew of his being an associate professor for only one year, and just how one got ahead in this environment.

I had the dream but I also was pulled strongly by an impulse to university service, which had me active from early on in Senate committees and then got me for a while into the administration.

At the same time I wanted to break into a different and intellectually much larger field of scholarship, and I chose the slowest possible way to do it—comparative history.

For many years, until *Transatlantic** came along in 1969 (14 years after I was hired) and was greeted by a flood of wonderful reviews, I was thought of as probably one of the mistakes of the department.

They were really angry with me for joining the administration as assistant to the chancellor, 1960-62, [and] I had developed what to them was an odd thing, a comparative field in something called Anglo American intellectual history, as my teaching and research



Photo by Mark Stuke, courtesy of Special Collections

Prof. Robert L. Kelley (1925-1995).

field.

[When Wilbur Jacobs was chair] he brought here a great friend of Stanford days (they were both Western civ instructors), Alex DeConde, practically the first campus hire at the full professor level, a man already distinguished coming to us from Ann Arbor, a Thomas Bailey PhD and thus trained by the only man, really, at Stanford, who turned out books by the ton.

And shortly after, Immanuel Hsu, another man with a distinguished world-class professor and model, John King Fairbank at Yale, in his background.

Then Alex became chair, and once again you had someone whose whole sense of identity and being was fused to the model of being a great research professor. When the big hiring times came in the 1960s very unpleasant years followed, for

we wound up firing quite a few of our choices.

[Warren Hollister's] department chairmanship continued our drive toward research and publication at a distinguished level as the criterion.

Unlike political science, where early on they established the practice of being kind to one another as to merit increases and promotions, nothing was done for kindness' sake in the Department of History. The ruling people had the Berkeley-Stanford-Harvard model of a great History department—and they meant to be a great one—firmly in mind, and they were quite ready to be hard-nosed when in search of that apotheosis.

So the crucial element for us has been the ruling vision of a desire for greatness as a scholarly department of History, a readiness to be unkind in the pursuit of that objective, and a growing determination to hire only the best, defined in terms of research potential or productivity.

[By the 1970s, the department had developed a strong critical mass at the senior and middle and upper-junior ranks.]

Two big things happened. Warren Hollister was finally given his dream of building a world-class medieval history program, which he had been laboring at so hard for so long, and the department did the inspired thing of hiring Jeff Russell and creating a strong

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“the crucial element for us has been the ruling vision of a desire for greatness . . . and a growing determination to hire only the best”

**The Transatlantic Persuasion: The Liberal-Democratic Mind in the Age of Gladstone* (Knopf).

Sabra to Deliver Cairo Lectures

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toman Egyptian family.

His English lecture will be on "Sufism and Political Theory in the Late Middle Ages."

In addition, Prof. Sabra will conduct a seminar for graduate students while in Cairo.

Prof. Sabra specializes in Egyptian history of the medieval and early modern periods, especially the social and cultural history of Cairo.

Prof. Sabra's edition of *The Guidebook for Gullible Jurists* and *The Abbreviated Guidebook* by the medieval Sufi scholar 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Sha'rani was published in 2012 by the Institut français d'archéologie orientale.

He is also the author of *Poverty and Charity in Medieval Islam: Mamluk Egypt, 1250-1517* (Cambridge, 2006) and co-editor of *Histories of the Middle East: Studies in Middle Eastern Society, Economy and Law in Honor of A. L. Udovitch* (Leiden, 2010).

Before coming to UCSB last year, Prof. Sabra spent 2012-2013 as an NEH Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

With degrees from Harvard and Princeton, Prof. Sabra taught at Princeton, Drew University, Sarah Lawrence College, the University of Michigan and the University of Georgia.

Kelley's Department Recipe

CONTINUED FROM P. 3
core there.

And of course in Warren we had someone who devoted his life, 24 hours a day, to his graduate students, and placing them.

In 1975 we got started on our adventure of another innovation, this one on my part (I have never seemed able to fit into the usual grooves).

This was our program in public history, which paid off and gave us another center of distinction, with its big spin-off of policy history as the next stage of that innovation.

Here, crucial hires again placed a critical role, notably Otis Graham and Wesley Johnson [who was originally hired to teach African history].

The vision of the Rockefeller Foundation was crucial, in its two big grants for ten fellowships a year which gave us a body of students to work with, who went out and by their labors created public history in reality.

[Also important was] the

NEH in its grant for a string of public history conferences here at a crucial time in the development of that movement nationwide.

The context had been favorable: a nationwide sense of desperation in the discipline for some new occupational breakout, which got this highly unusual program through the approval chairs here.

So I would have to say, in relation to Warren, and to myself, Otis, and Wesley Johnson, there has to be something that encourages entrepreneurship or, put another way, a group of people who have that urge and a department culture which encourages it.

So again I say, everything comes down to personnel policy, in hiring, in merit increases, in retentions, in promotions.

The mood, the atmosphere, the models in the higher ranks, the continual urgings in this direction by chairs and by what happens in promotion times.

And the readiness to innovate.

Slavery and Justice Top Associates' Winter Menu

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His topic has required extensive archival research.

"He is a dogged researcher, who sees both big questions and minute details," Prof. Spickard said.

Prof. Kalman's Feb. 28 lecture will focus on the years between 1965 and 1968, when then-President Lyndon Johnson launched what she characterizes as "the greatest effort to control the Supreme Court since Franklin Roosevelt tried to pack it with additional justices in 1937."

"The quest to consolidate Presidential power led to clashes with Congress that had lasting consequences for the

way the Warren era is remembered, the Supreme Court as an institution, and the way that Americans have selected and confirmed justices ever since," she says.

Details of that meeting will be circulated next month.

The Van Gelderen Lecture was established last year by the History Associates Board with the dual purpose of honoring one of the department's most loyal supporters and showcasing the depth of talent in the graduate program.

The speaker is selected from among those nominated by the faculty.

Last year, Ryan Abrecht (DePalma Digeser) delivered the first lecture on the topic of immigration to the city of Rome in the imperial period.

Reservations, at \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members, can be made by phoning (805) 893-4388 or sending an email to drake@history.ucsb.edu.

The price includes a luncheon of barbeque beef and chicken.

Kalman on 'Selma'

IN CASE YOU'RE wondering what an LBJ expert thought of the movie "Selma," here's what Prof. Kalman wrote in response to a query from Prof. Harold Marcuse:

"I absolutely loved the movie, which I thought was very powerful and have been recommending it to everyone interested in the 1960s.

"That said, of course, I disagree with its portrayal of LBJ. Would it have taken so much away from the storyline to suggest that he was more sympathetic to King than the movie did or, at the very least, that he was not encouraging J. Edgar Hoover to blackmail him?"

Eye Exam

From Nelson Johnson, *Boardwalk Empire*, p. 24: "An owlish, scrawny little man, Heston's appearance was marked by Nez Perce eyeglasses and a closely groomed mustache."

—submitted by Jeff Stine
(PhD 1984 Badash)

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

If the World's a Stage, Why Shouldn't History Be a Game?

BY WILL THOMPSON

HOW MANY STUDENTS are actively engaged with the material in a large survey course? How many in a smaller upper-division offering?

The percentages probably aren't that different, but in either case they're larger than any instructor would like. How should we try to reach students in these settings? Dumb down the material (heresy!), make our Power Points flashier (a gimmick), or do some Robin Williams-esque standing on tables (too dangerous)?

One proposed answer might surprise you: historical role-immersion games.

On January 8–10 a group from the History department attended a unique pedagogy workshop at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles on the "Reacting to the Past" (RTTP) curriculum.

RTTP seeks to engage students in the learning process through historically based academic role-immersion games.

These games require intense student preparation, including researching one's role in primary and secondary sources, writing position papers and sometimes creating period costumes.

Furthermore, students playing the game learn public speaking, negotiation, problem solving, creative writing and critical thinking.

From modest beginnings at Barnard College in the 1990s, the RTTP curriculum has expanded to include 10 games

Will Thompson (Bernstein) is a PhD student in the Department of History at UCSB working on religion and culture in Tudor-Stuart



Sasha Coles expounds on the plight of Northern dockworkers, while Prof. Ann Plane (immediately behind) waits to speak.

published by W.W. Norton, several more available from the RTTP Consortium Press and a whole host of new games in development.

Game themes range from democracy in Ancient Greece to Indian independence and partition; from Henry VIII and the Reformation parliament to the U.S. Civil Rights movement.

They have been played at more than 300 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, with astounding results. Professors report more students engaging with course material, students say they

enjoy the classes more than standard lecture courses and all agree that participants retain more historical knowledge and gain real-world skills as a result.

RTTP can work in classes as small as 18 and as large as 70, depending on the number of roles assigned. Games are not meant to stand alone but are integrated into existing courses as an extended project or final exam after lectures are finished.

The UCSB cohort played a game in development: Frederick Douglass, Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Constitution: 1845.

It centered on a series of imagined meetings in New York City during July 1845 between three factions: pro-slavery "defenders of the constitution," anti-slavery abolitionists, and a group of independent characters with their own agendas and views.

Each side sought to advance its position using historically accurate arguments to convince independents to join them in voting for their resolutions. There really are winners and losers in RTTP, so the votes matter!

The most challenging part of playing the game was not allowing future events to influence one's gameplay. Participants must think and act in that particular historical moment.

RTTP games normally last from two to six weeks of class time, but we played our game in one day. We were required to stay in character for the duration of the one-day game.

I did my best young Walt Whitman impersonation and even managed to quote a few lines of his poetry in defense of the union and against extremism on both sides.

Prof. Ann Plane led the abolitionist faction as the resolute William Lloyd Garrison, while recent History PhD Ken Hough (2014, Spickard) upheld the status quo as controversial Massachusetts Attorney General James T. Austin.

Laura Hooton (Spickard) was Madison Hemmings, an illegitimate yet eloquent son of Thomas Jefferson, and Francisco Beltran (Castillo-Muñoz) was a taciturn and keenly observant recent runaway slave.

Kim Debacco (Instructional Development) played the fiery temperance advocate Neal Dow, and Sasha Coles portrayed a racist drunkard Northern dockworker with great aplomb.

We were exhausted by the end, but we are enthusiastic about implementing the RTTP curriculum at UCSB. So, don't be surprised if you hear about an experimental role-immersion course in the future.

Who knows, there might even be a part in it for you!

For more information on RTTP and a list of games, visit <https://reacting.barnard.edu>.



Will Thompson, as the young Walt Whitman, urges listeners to preserve the union and avoid extremism on both sides.

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: _____

Address: _____

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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:

History Associates
Department of History
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410
Questions? call (805) 893-2991

Letters to *Historia*

1989 Grad Sends Regards from Sweden

To the Editor:

I graduated with a BA in 1989 (wow, 25 years ago!) and was a mostly unremarkable student, truth be told -- but I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoy reading *Historia* still, and your letters in each. I think Profs. Drake and McGee are among the last remaining faculty from my time in the History department.

I took 4B when taught by a combination of Warren Hollister and Prof. McGee, and

that course made me decide to major in History (Prof. Hollister's singing helped too!),

While I don't work in a field related to History—I'm a business consultant with IBM, working in a programme management role internally—it will no doubt please you to no end to learn that very frequently I encounter tidbits from the world that take me back to my undergraduate days.

Had a laugh last week when I came across "Martha" as a clue for something, and I knew—courtesy of Rod Nash and his "quickies"—that she was the last carrier pigeon and died in the early 1900s.

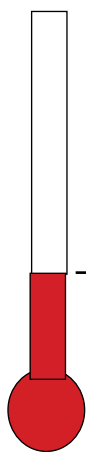
Prof. McGee during a lecture once put up a picture of a castle that I fell in love with and spoke with him about afterwards. When I finished graduate school and travelled around Europe, I went to visit it. Seeing Penshurst Place is still a highlight to me of my travels in England, along with visits to some of the sites I learned about during my studies.

Reading your letters in *Historia* today prompted me to think about this, so I just decided to write before I forgot. I think fondly of my UCSB days, although I haven't been back there in a long, long time. I've lived in Europe for about 15 years now, in Sweden for the past 10, and am married to a Swede. We'll actually be driving through Santa Barbara over Christmas during a visit home to see family (I'm from Los Angeles), and I hope we'll have a chance to stop and show our children (ages 6, 5, and 5) the campus. I'm certain I won't recognise it!

Andrea (Blumberg) Andreasson

The Return of the **DREADED** Thermometer

\$10,000!



\$4,500

ONCE AGAIN JoBeth Van Gelderen has challenged the History Associates with a \$10,000 matching grant. Our fundraising has helped put UCSB's History Department in the top tier nationwide. So send your contribution today to:

UCSB History Associates
Department of History 9410
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410.

Historia on the Web

Missing an issue?

All issues of *Historia*, from v. 1, no. 1 (March, 1988) can be found on the web at

http://www.history.ucsb.edu/courses/tcourse.php?course_id=772