

História

Vol 2, No. 4 Newsletter of the UCSB History Associates March 1989

History Associates Create Fellowship

The History Associates Board has voted to create a Fellowship for support of graduate students at UCSB.

President Dick Cook reported that the new "History Associates Fellowship" initially will pay only registration fees. But as the endowment grows, the Associates hope to be able to provide a stipend as well.

"We're a new organization, just in our second year," Cook explained. "So we don't have the network established for fundraising yet. But everybody felt we ought to be doing something right now."

Cook said that Associates members will be asked to contribute to a fund that will be used to pay quarterly registration fees, which currently run about \$600. The graduate students who would receive these awards will be selected by the History Department's Financial Aid Committee.

Any Sized Contribution Welcomed

"It would be wonderful if some members wanted to contribute one quarter's fees or one year's fees," Cook said. "But we're happy to take any size contribution."

"That's the beauty of this kind of award," he added. "If every member gives only \$10, we still would be able to make three or four awards, and it will give those graduate students something to put on their resumé's when they go out looking for jobs."

Cook said that the flexibility of the new Fellowship would also allow Associates who wanted to do so to contribute enough funds to endow an award permanently.

Support Outstanding Students

"We would give these awards in the name of the person chosen by the donor," Cook said. "It's a wonderful way to honor a friend or loved one, and at the same time help support the outstanding students the Department is now getting from all over the country."

The fundraising is being coordinated by Ms. Janet Manzi, associate director of the UCSB Development Office. Ms. Manzi can be reached for further information at 961-2600 or by writing the University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

History Faculty Debate The RENAISSANCE

By Burris F. DeBenning, Jr.

Throughout my junior and senior high school education, I was always taught that there was indeed a European Renaissance: a cultural and intellectual rebirth of the Graeco-Roman Classical tradition that began in Florence, Italy, around the 14th century.

But last month I learned that such a Renaissance is actually a debatable topic.

That was when Phi Alpha Theta sponsored a "debate" between four distinguished UCSB historians on the question of "The Renaissance: If, When, and Why."

Prof. Abraham Friesen, who teaches Renaissance and Reformation history, supported the traditional definition of a Renaissance, pointing to a new interest in the Classics

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HGSA... ON THE MOVE

By Tom Widroe

Fortunately, my tenure as chairman of the History Graduate Student's Association has coincided with a surge of enthusiasm and effort by its members, unparalleled in recent years. Lane, Katie, Claire, Nina, Susan, Pierre, Brad, Stacey, Brian, myself and others have met on several occasions this quarter to discuss and act upon a variety of topics and issues directly concerning the lives of graduate students in this department. In addition, our Intramural softball

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Profs Discuss Bush's Foreign Policy

The Bush Administration needs to develop its own foreign policy agenda and get out from under the shadow of the Reagan Administration.

That was the consensus opinion of four historians who participated in the History Associates' first panel discussion last month.

The four—Profs. Hector Lindo-Fuentes, Keletso Atkins, Nancy Gallagher, and Dimitri Djordjevic—briefed the Associates on developments in the areas of their personal research.

Central America

Speaking on Central America, Prof. Lindo-Fuentes described the current situation as “a sort of ‘domino theory’ in reverse” whereby the states in Central America are now jockeying to show themselves as the most flexible and the most willing to make peace.

But so far, he said, the Bush Administration has not developed a policy of its own that will allow it to play a role in shaping these events.

“So far, they have just been reacting,” he said. “They have no plan yet, and no team. They have been very clever, but it is not enough to be clever; the U.S. needs to get its act together.”

South Africa

The situation is similar in South Africa, according to Prof. Atkins, where the peace process going on in Angola has temporarily masked the problem of apartheid.

The problem of white supremacy is certain to return to center stage, she said.

Many specialists expect President Bush to be tougher to deal with because of his CIA background, she said. But others see his call for coordinated action by the U.S., Europe, and Japan as a positive sign.

“Right now, President Bush is an unknown factor,” she explained. “He has always opposed sanctions, just like President Reagan, but people expect him to be more sophisticated and more informed than Reagan was in dealing with South Africa.”

If the Bush Administration continues to oppose sanctions, she said, it will certainly provoke a confrontation with the Democratic-controlled Congress, which already is preparing a new, stronger anti-apartheid law for 1989.

Middle East

Prof. Gallagher said that the situation is similar in Libya, where the flap about production of chemical weapons had disguised more important issues.

The Bush Administration needs to adopt a more realistic view of Libyan leader Mohammar Khaddafi if it is going to influence Arab opinion, she said.

“The Arab nations don’t like Khaddafi’s actions, but they don’t like seeing him beaten up by superpowers,” she explained. “They see it as a sign that the U.S. is grandstanding.”

An important sign that the Reagan obsession with Libya has been put aside will be a decision by the Bush Administration to allow U.S. oil companies to return to Libya, she said. But the Libyan problem won’t really end until a peace process with Israel succeeds.

Yugoslavia

In contrast to the other trouble spots of the world, Yugoslavia’s current problems are the result of a relaxation of tensions, according to Prof. Djordjevic.

“Since World War II, the Cold War and the threat of foreign intervention held Yugoslavia together,” he explained. “Now there is no foreign threat for the moment and the Cold War problems are over, so Yugoslavs can afford the luxury of fighting with each other.”

But the strikes and demonstrations now occurring in Yugoslavia should be seen as a harbinger of future unrest elsewhere in Eastern Europe, he said.

“For a long time, Tito held the different elements of Yugoslavia together,” he explained. “Since his death, the leadership has pushed regionalism and decentralization to the extreme, and this has led to an economic crisis, with inflation now running 250 per cent.”

Prof. Djordjevic said that these policies served to revive nationalism in the many different ethnic groups that make up modern Yugoslavia, and that the same thing is now happening in the Soviet Union.

Expressing an optimistic view, Prof. Djordjevic said he believes Yugoslavia can work out its problems and set an example for the other states in Eastern Europe, just as it did once before when Tito broke away from the Soviet bloc.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We all enjoyed a most interesting and informative panel discussion in February. Our thanks to Professors Gallagher, Lindo-Fuentes, Atkins, and Djordjevic.

Our next lecture will be held in the newly restored chapel at the Presidio on Thursday, March 23. The speaker will be Professor Drake who, incidentally, is chairman of the History Department. He will talk to us about "The Legend of the Cross," a story of how the True Cross was discovered by the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great.

Legend of the Cross

Professor Drake teaches Roman history and specializes in the Constantinian period. The last time he taught his course, he was voted Professor of the Year by Mortar Board, a student honor society.

After the lecture, we will walk one-half block to Anacapa Street, where lunch will be waiting for us at the Presidio Restaurant. Professor Drake promises not to talk for more than 30 minutes. I'll believe that when I see it.

New Board Members

We have made some changes to the Board recently. Both Douglas Schmidt, Vice President, and Jeremy Haas, Treasurer, have resigned because of their work loads. This leaves us without a barrister on the Board. But we have made two excellent replacements. Greg de Roulhac will be our new Vice President. He joined the Board last year and has been editing this newsletter. Incidentally, Greg was a History major and earned his doctorate at UCSB.

Al Clark has agreed to take on the Treasurer duties. Al was one of our first members and served as an executive in the L.A. public school system before retiring.

A new member on the Board is Joe Finnegan. Although Joe just moved into the community, he has been a member of the Associates from the start. Before retiring, Joe was a columnist for TV Guide.

Small World

Here's a note from the "it's a small world" department: before coming to TV Guide, Joe worked as a Hollywood columnist for United Press International in Los Angeles, where he broke in a young rookie just out of college who later left UPI for graduate work in History.

That rookie was Hal Drake, our speaker this month. He and Joe saw each other for the first time in over 20 years at the panel discussion last month.

I feel we are very fortunate to have such a fine History Department at UCSB. Let's show our appreciation by attending the lectures.

Dick Cook
President

"Dead Sea Trove" To Be Topic of Special Lecture

"Another Dead Sea Trove" will be the topic of a special lecture Friday, March 10, by Visiting Prof. Naphtali Lewis, a leading authority on documents of the ancient world. Prof. Lewis is frequently described as the greatest living authority on Roman Egypt.

Family Records

In his talk, which will be held at 4 p.m. in South Hall 4703, Prof. Lewis will describe the recent discovery of a set of family records that were hidden in a cave at the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

The records date from the late 1st to early 2nd centuries A.D., a time when this region was part of the Roman Empire, and are "absolutely unique" for the ancient world, according to Prof. Lewis.

Essenes

The Dead Sea caves became famous a generation ago when another set of documents—those containing the teachings of the religious sect of Essenes who flourished around the time of Jesus—was discovered.

Prof. Lewis' lecture will be illustrated with slides.

Phi Alpha Theta Hears Dr. Tibor Frank

By Katie Siegal

The Phi Alpha Theta Annual Winter Banquet at the Cattlemen's Inn in Santa Barbara last month was a great success.

After cocktails, conversation, dinner and initiation, the group was treated to an after-dinner speech by a fellow inductee, Fulbright Visiting Prof. Tibor Frank from Budapest, Hungary.

Explaining that he was instructed to be "brief, historical, personal, and funny—but especially brief," Prof. Frank talked about his own discovery of historical research.

Value of Manuscripts

At the age of 13, he said, he learned the value of manuscripts, autographs, visit cards and other primary documents in attempting to uncover his own family history.

From old family letters, Prof. Frank learned that his grandmother had been a student of the composer Béla Bartók. Later, an uncle gave him a personal letter written by novelist Thomas Mann.

"There is a feeling that comes from holding in your own hands documents written by famous people before you were born that cannot come from a textbook," Prof. Frank told the students.

A Princely Sum

For this reason, he expanded his collection after a while to include eminent persons outside his family by running newspaper ads offering to pay up to \$3—"a princely sum!"—for letters, photos, cards, and other memorabilia of famous persons.

As a result, his own collection now includes documents of Franz Liszt, Gustav Mahler, Alfred Dreyfus, Romain Rolland, Prince Metternich, Johann Strauss and Thomas A. Edison.

His VIP stationery collection helped him
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FROM THE CHAIR

I was wondering what I wanted to write about this month when I saw the story announcing the new History Associates Fellowship that appears on the front page of this issue.

In it, Dick Cook calls attention to the high quality of the graduate students now applying to the Department from all over the country.

Dick, you don't know the half of it.

Just a few days ago, I attended a meeting of our Financial Aid Committee that was called to consider candidates for Special Fellowships.

Special Fellowships

This is a category of award that was created by the Graduate Division a few years back to help UCSB compete for the finest graduate students in the nation. Special Fellows are guaranteed support for a minimum of four years and are given preferential treatment in campus housing as well as other perks.

Some 10 to 12 Special Fellows are chosen by Grad Division every year from candidates nominated throughout the campus. Naturally, competition is intense. Just to qualify, candidates have to have scored above the 90th percentile in at least two of the three testing categories of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)—Verbal, Math, and Analytical.

They also need grades of at least 3.8 (on a 4.0 scale) for their junior and senior years and letters of recommendation indicating that they could probably walk on water if they haven't already done so.

40 Departments Eligible

With some 40 departments eligible, it is an honor for any department to receive one Special Fellowship in any given year. To receive two in the same year is virtually unheard of. So you will forgive me if I digress to point out that our Department currently houses seven Special Fellows, which is almost 15 per cent of all the Special Fellows at UCSB.

Five of these are in our world-famous medieval history program, where three faculty—Warren Hollister, Jeffrey Russell and Sharon Farmer—thereby share more students of this caliber between them than are housed in any other whole department on the campus.

But I do digress. My point was that this year's Financial Aid Committee had fourteen applicants of Special Fellow caliber to consider this year alone.

The heartening thing was the spectrum of interests shown by these applicants. Not just medieval history, where we have accepted literally only the cream of the cream for years, but also modern U.S., Yugoslavia, Latin America, Public History, and ancient and early modern European history.

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Prof. Walter Capps Tells of His Afghan Experience

Dr. Walter Capps addressed the January History Associates Luncheon on the topic of his visit to Afghanistan with 20 Vietnam Vets. Because the Vets of both the Vietnam and Afghan Wars suffered similar syndroms and resorted to drugs, alcohol and withdrawal, it was thought that the Americans would be able to offer some help to the Afghan Vets in their

Chair

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The applicants are coming from such hallowed institutions as Brown, Berkeley, Bryn Mawr, Princeton, Michigan, Harvard, and Yale.

Equally heartening is the record number of minority graduate student applications we are getting this year—thanks in no small part to Prof. Zaragosa Vargas, who took over as Graduate Affirmative Action coordinator this year.

So much for the good news. Outstanding applicants are one thing; getting those applicants to come here is quite another.

As the academic market heats up, so does competition for the top graduate students, because every department knows that's where the future lies.

Free Rides

In recent years, we've been losing some of our best applicants to schools making them offers that we cannot hope to match, even with such resources as the Special Fellowship—five- and six-year full rides covering all expenses, with no obligations other than to do their own research (our best people still have to spend at least part of their time as teaching assistants).

It is a tribute to the quality of our faculty that some of our grad students have turned down such offers in order to come here anyway.

But I'm sure you realize it would be foolhardy to stake the future of our Department on such decisions. That's why the History Associates Fellowship is so important—not just for the support it will offer now, but for the important resources it opens up for the next decade.

If you have a few dollars lying around, please consider making a contribution. I can't think of any better way to insure the continued presence of a high quality History program in Santa Barbara.

Short of endowing a Chair in Roman history, anyway.

H.A. Drake
Chair

return to civilian life.

However, Dr Capps feels that while the war experience may have been similar, the differences in the psychological makeup of the Soviet Soldier—being a product of a rigidly socialistic society—make it difficult to apply the same techniques for dealing with the psychological aftermath of the war. American psychotherapeutic theory has focused upon rebuilding the ego. In the Soviet Union ego is not an important consideration.

Unlike their American counterparts, the Russian Vets were not angry with the war or the politicians who were responsible for the war. There was no anti-war movement, there was no anger. Instead, there was a deep sadness and remorse among Soviet Vets—a sadness for the loss of life and for those young friends who would never return. Because of the profound differences between the societies, Dr. Capps felt that the American experience and healing techniques could not be translated directly to the Soviet Vets.

More importantly, what came out of the visit, was a sense that a profound change was coming over U.S. and Russian societies. In meetings with students, Soviet citizens, and Afghan Vets there was evident a strong feeling that war was not necessary to settle differences. From the meetings between the Vets came a spontaneous agreement that they would not go to war again.

Frank

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discover a connection with his own past, Prof. Frank said.

Learning about the people who wrote the documents he was collecting and their relationship to his own history helped him feel less "Lost in the Twentieth Century" (the title of a book by Hungarian Nobel Laureate Albert Szent-Györgi, the discoverer of Vitamin C, who autographed a copy for the teen-aged researcher).

Prof. Frank's early experience thus showed him both the use and the fun of primary sources, and also how history can help us face the future.

Grads

(Continued from p.1)

team OUT OF SHAPE has lived up to its title, tying one game and losing five. And believe it or not, we've had fun out there.

The agenda of the last few meetings has listed a number of relevant items including computer access, TA selection procedures, fundraising, and reports from the library, 4 series, and faculty meeting committees. Also, Brad Brown constructed the first HGSA phone directory complete with a fabulous illustration on the final page. Copies are still available! However, most notably on Saturday May 6th, as a fundraiser we will be showing the film Eight Men Out in Campbell

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Debate

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in the 14th century and a more secular approach to the subjects of religion, history, literature, culture and philosophy.

But Prof. Warren Hollister, a Medieval historian, saw a "continuous Classical thread" running through the period we call the Middle Ages, as the Classical documents saved by monasteries and the Classical studies taught in universities and seminaries show.

Prof. J. Sears McGee, who teaches early modern England, pointed out that, if a Renaissance did occur, it did not affect all regions of Europe in the same way.

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Hall at 7, 9, and 11pm. The movie, directed by John Sayles, is a dramatization based on a book by the same name about the 1919 Black Sox baseball scam in which a number of major league players were accused of throwing the World Series. One reviewer summarized the theme as "a tale of how the national pastime became a national scandal." So mark your calendars. All are welcome.

For those who wish to plan early, advance ticket sales will take place in front of the UCEN the week before the event. Be aware that we may be raffling off several pairs of tickets to Dodger games prior to each showing in our exclusive Say it Ain't So Joe sweepstakes. See you there.

Rather, he said, the movement took variable forms as it spread across the Continent and eventually reached England.

The strongest stand against a "Renaissance" was taken by Prof. Paul Sonnino, whose field is early modern Europe. Seeing the term as a value judgment, Prof. Sonnino argued that no historian is in a philosophical position to make such a statement.

He argued that the period called "the Renaissance" was not one of constant prosperity and social harmony but one that experienced difficult economic conditions, famines, and intellectual despair.