Greetings from the Chair

Dear All in the Circle of the Berkeley History Department,

Warm greetings to everyone, with high hopes that the mid-summer light is long and bright and cheering for each of you. Welcome to our new edition of the online Newsletter. Please note the Table of Contents at the side of the page for navigating through the contents of the newsletter. If you would like a printed version of this newsletter (minus, alas, the picture gallery), please send an email to historynews@berkeley.edu.

Secondarily (yes, absolutely, secondarily—we remain above all a community bound by mutual engagement), I encourage contributions, in the event you are able to make one. (This can be done in three ways: electronically—, in the envelope sent out, or by requesting a donation envelope from Lara Miller-historynews@berkeley.edu). I cannot sufficiently thank you for a generosity that makes a daily difference between struggle and stability. In this year of significant cuts in support from the state of California, the help of our friends enables us to staff a full curriculum, offer fellowship packages to our graduate students, fund undergraduate research travel, provide modest research grants for faculty, help recruit new faculty, and tend a pleasant ship (complete with guest lecturers, pretty good refreshments, and occasional fresh paint for our aging premises). I marvel all the time that Berkeley manages a heroic mission with comparatively scant resources. Your generosity does make all the difference. Really.

Keep well and keep in touch. Notes are always welcome at historynews@berkeley.edu.

Every best wish,

Beth Berry, Chair

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In Memoriam, Gerard Ernest Caspary
January 10, 1929-April 6, 2008

by Geoffrey Koziol, Professor of History, UC Berkeley

Told of Gerry Caspary's passing, a former student (herself a renowned historian) responded with the quickness we reserve for the obvious. "He was the real thing."

And he was. For a long generation, he was our medievalists’ secret weapon in producing a stream of remarkable graduate students, including one who just received a MacArthur award. People outside the program did not always know this. After all, he published only one book: Politics and Exegesis: Origen and the Two Swords of Luke (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979). But it was quite a book, the product of twenty years' reading, learning, thinking, ruminating. Even so, the book he published was less than half of what he had written, the whole only a minuscule fraction of what he knew. His students had the benefit of being able to learn from the whole. A seminar with him was an experience of legend, for he could easily devote an entire semester to a single text, spinning complex histories out of every word and phrase. He lived ideas. For him, thinking provided its own reward.

Born in Frankfurt in 1929, Gerry grew up in Paris, where his family had fled in 1933. In 1942 his parents were arrested and deported, dying in Auschwitz. Gerry himself fled to southern France, where for the next three years a family gave him shelter. After the war he emigrated to the United States, receiving his BA from Swarthmore College in 1950 and his MA and PhD from Harvard University in 1952/1962. He taught at Smith College until 1970, when he came to Berkeley. His research and teaching ranged broadly across medieval intellectual history, especially patristics. His book on Origen (1979) highlighted the intersections and reciprocal influences of biblical exegesis, ecclesiology, and political ideology. Thereafter, he worked to understand the development of...
what he called "the grammar of Christian thought," that is, the deep semantic, conceptual, and ideological structures and dynamics that shaped Christian discourse in Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages, especially in the works of Augustine. No one knew more about these subjects than he did. For that matter, few knew more about the middle ages generally. In his prime (and before the current industrial-scale output of scholarship) it was hard to find a book on any aspect of medieval history he had not read and mastered. In a sense, he brought the the best of Swarthmore and Harvard to Berkeley: a liberal arts commitment to the power of ideas informed by the standards of rigorous scholarship. But he was also a Survivor - one of that fast-disappearing generation of intellectuals whose learning and experiences so deepened American education. Though those experiences never overtly appeared in his research, they were never far from his consciousness. They lie behind his passionate commitment to dispassionate research, and quickened his awareness of the power of ideas and the linkages between ideas and power. A few years before his retirement, quite by chance, he received a substantial collection of family correspondence written in the years before World War II. He used it to teach an undergraduate seminar on the Holocaust (recalling it as the best teaching experience of his career). In 2005 he completed a translation, edition, annotation of the most important letters, mixed with his personal memoir. He called the manuscript “From the Edge of the Holocaust.”

Few historians have ranged so widely, with such depth of understanding, probably because so few are driven by such sheer love of ideas. That is why his student called him "the real thing." He was the purest of scholars, the gentlest of teachers, of people the most humane.

by William North, Carleton College

In the late 1990s, the chance receipt of several extensive collections of family correspondence previously unknown to him led Gerry Caspary to undertake a new field of teaching-the Holocaust-and to dedicate himself to a new project: the writing of his own memoir of the Holocaust and the translation and annotation of the letters exchanged by his grandmother and mother from 1940-1943. Entitled “From the Edge of the Holocaust: Letters from my Mother and Grandmother, 1940-1943,” this work was completed in manuscript in 2005. At once scholarly and deeply personal, it stands as a monument to Gerry Caspary’s skills as a historian and his constant awareness of the complexity and subtlety of human memory, emotions, and thought. Yet, even more important, its pages convey the warm humanity, the intellectual passion to understand, and the generosity of spirit that those who knew him—whether as a friend, colleague, or teacher—will always associate with his name and memory.
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Charles Postel's Commencement Address
Welcome to you all on this joyous occasion. I am Beth Berry, chair of the Department of History, and it is my great honor to greet you today. When I asked my older daughter, Anne, what my message should be, she said: "This school is really cool and you should be happy and proud to say you went here." Well, yes. And you know this. This school is really cool; and this department is coolest of all. And that’s because of the people here—all of us, and our families, who have staked a good part of our lives on the amazing experiment that is the University of California at Berkeley—a public multiversity that does the whole thing at the highest level while treasuring the personal connection of a college.

Let me tell you something about us. We have about 600 undergraduate majors in the history department; and about 250 of you are graduating this year. We have over 200 graduate students; and about 25 of you are receiving your doctoral degrees this year, about 20 of you your master’s degrees. Roughly 40% of us are women—a figure broadly consistent across the student body and the faculty (which currently numbers 53 people—each very, very special). Most striking in our community, perhaps, is our cosmopolitan character. California surely runs through us all now, and for a few of you the History Department itself is an old family affair.

---The father of Lisa Mann (who receives her BA today) graduated here in Zellerbach with a history degree in the 1970s.
---And both the father and the aunt of Derek Yee majored in history at Berkeley (also in the ‘70s).
(My hunch is that there are a lot of Old Blues out there, from whatever departments.)

Still, many, many of those here (faculty and students and family members alike) came to Berkeley from other worlds: from most U.S. states, and from China, Taiwan, Australia, England, Japan, Germany, Greece, Korea, India, New Zealand, Vietnam, Russia, Israel, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, France, Poland, and
Zealand, Vietnam, Russia, Israel, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, France, Poland, and surely many other places as well.

Distance means that many of your loved ones cannot be here today. I know, for example, that Amitya Satyal's parents are in New Delhi. But they are much on our minds. As are the beloved dead. A salute to their spirits. The great measure of our cosmopolitan commitment, of course, is not birthplace but scholarship, which crosses every boundary. One indication of the power of this commitment on the broader campus is language instruction: we teach 58 classical and modern languages at Cal; and we and build library resources in many more. (A marvellous event this year was the opening at Berkeley of the first free-standing library in this country dedicated to materials in East Asian languages. It holds almost a million volumes. It's wonderful. Do go visit.) And at the very center of global inquiry on this campus is our department.

---This year alone, faculty members published five major books: Prachi Deshpande on historical identity in western India; Jan de Vries on consumer behavior and household economy in Europe; David Henkin on postal communication in 19th-c. America; Rebecca McLennan on U.S. prisons; James Vernon on hunger in imperial Britain.

---Our new Ph.D.s, as you will hear in detail soon, have written brilliantly about the U.S., and about Brazil, Mexico, Russia, France, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Germany, India, Chile, and Thailand. Ja-Jeong Koo gets at a basic Berkeley reality when he describes himself as a "Korean who works on Russian Cossacks in the US."

---As for undergraduates, your story is breathtaking. All of your wrote the masterpieces we call 101 theses. And 20 of you presented your research at the graduation colloquium—on, just to take a bare sample, Czech feminism; Jewish refugees in Britain; Mexican farming; northern blacks in the union army; foreigners in Japanese baseball; racial discrimination in the Berkeley real estate market; and female brigades in Russian armies.

Many of you roamed the world on departmental travel grants to collect your research materials. You went to India, Germany, the Czech Republic, Japan, Mexico, London, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles, and many other US archives large and small.

The point here is simply that history is a big house, also a lively and living house, where rich new meanings about being human are open to courageous explorers ready to read the sources.

Another great feature of our department is success. On the prize front, we do very handsomely, thank you—perhaps no surprise for a department typically ranked number one in the nation (though I should point out that Newsweek unaccountably ranked us number two. The name of number one begins with the significant letter Y).

I'll mention just a very few of the prizes.

---We have three Haas scholars: Ziza Delgado, Sabina Garcia, and Keith Orejel.

---We have six Summer undergraduate Research Fellows: Samma Ishaq, James Lin, Meghan Lowe, Jeff Manassera, Linda Nyberg, and Andrew Prout.

---Samma Ishaq was also the winner of this year's Judith Lee Stronach Prize, one of Berkeley's highest honors, for a project titled, "Finding alternative sources of income for Kashmiri women."

On the faculty side, again just mentioning a few milestones of the past year:

---Pauls Fass was awarded an honorary degree from Linkoping University in Sweden for seminal work on the history of childhood.

---Thomas Laqueur, was awarded a Distinguished Achievement Award (which will bring 1.5 million to the campus) from the Mellon Foundation.

---Margaret Anderson won a Guggenheim fellowship.

---Yuri Slezkine was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

---And David Hollinger has been selected as the vice-president (and president elect) of the Organization of American Historians.

Now, prizes are lovely. But they're a bit random. And they only barely begin to capture the amazing lives of this community. So, a few other snapshots.

---Suzanne Evans writes that, "When I entered the Ph.D. program, I was 27 and footloose and fancy free. Today, I am 42 and married with four children and also work full time as an appellate attorney."

---Damany Fisher has been working as a Jazz and Blues Radio Programmer at KDVS in Davis and at KPFA in Berkeley.

---Kali Peterson directed the west coast premiere of John Milton's Samson Agonistes, written in 1671.

---Jeff Manassero worked as an intern in the office of Governor Schwarzenegger.

---Riva Litman spent a summer in the White House, doing research in the Office of Presidential Speechwriting.

There are countless more experiences. All of you, I hope, played good games and took moonlit walks and fell in love. I know of at least one match in the class of 08: Dalia Muller and Camillo Trumper, both receiving Ph.D.s today, were married yesterday.

And what now?

---Many of you new BAs appear to have the school habit. You are going to law school and to graduate school (not only in history but in Public Policy,
At least four of you will Teach for America: Jason Johnson, Jeff Manassero, Connie Lee, and Emily Sacks. Zenaida Gallardo is entering a teaching credential program to become a career teacher of elementary school. Joanna Chen will be a Fellow in the Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellows Program. Jonathan Chin will become an officer in the Marine Corps. Jared Wigton will commission, tomorrow, as a second lieutenant in the army.

Our Ph.D.s will, among many other things, be teaching and assuming post-doctoral fellowships at Stanford, Minnesota, Loyola Marymount, Vanderbilt, Cal State Hayward, Washington and Lee, McGill, Yale, Rutgers, Sonoma State, Puget Sound, Penn, and Delaware.

So, yes, I guess, you are leaving. We do change. The faculty lost two precious emeriti to death this year: Gerard Caspary and Gerald Feldman. Our splendid colleague, the peerless teacher William Taylor is retiring. Five new members joined us over the past two years: Professors Deshpande, Osseo-Asare, Peterson, Shagan, and Sheehan. We hope four will join us next year.

We do change. But we also have, I hope, an unbroken circle in spirit. Scholarship is often a lonely and solitary enterprise, sometimes narcissistic. Yet the best of us live and thrive because we know one another—because we struggle together in classrooms and libraries and coffee shops; because we learn together; because we keep each other faithfully in mind. Berkeley is a cool place because we share it. Thank you for trusting us. Thank you for making us better. And never forget, wherever you are, that Berkeley is in your blood.
Back in the 1980s, Melanie Griffith starred in a film called Working Girl. Griffith worked in a typing pool with few opportunities. She went back to school. By a series of lucky accidents – contingencies, as historians like to say – she landed up in an executive suite.

I am feeling very much like Melanie Griffith this morning. I was also working in a typing pool when I went back to school. By a series of lucky accidents I had the opportunity to have as my teachers some of the professors who are here today. I also had the luck of returning to Berkeley as a visiting professor, where I have had the good fortune of teaching a number of the amazing students in this graduating class.

In the last scene of Working Girl, Melanie Griffith put her feet up on the desk. She took her good fortune in stride. But that’s not me. I fret about the historical meaning of it all. To gain perspective, I have been thinking about the history of trading places stories, and when and why they capture the popular imagination.

The Eddie Murphy film appropriately named Trading Places provides a good starting point. Eddie Murphy played the part of a street person. Dan Aykroyd was a pampered manager of a Wall Street trading firm. The two owners of the firm argued over the question of nature versus nurture in human behavior. To solve the argument they entered a wager over what would happen if Murphy the street person traded places with Aykroyd the corporate manager. The film was released in the early days of the Reagan administration, when the deepest recession since the 1930s filled America’s cities with homeless people out of work and out of luck. It was a blockbuster hit.

Trading Places was roughly based on the 1935 film Hoi Polloi. In that classic short, a Professor Richmond placed a $10,000 wager with a Professor Nichols that a pampered man would outshine a street person in a trading firm. "A rich man is not necessarily a better man," he argues. A day in the life of such a man, Richmond concludes, "is about as far removed from the life of a poor man as Monte Carlo is from the Sahara."

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Take the U.S. Post Office, for example. In their day, the Populists and other
social reformers expected that the public would benefit from the
bureaucratic efficiency that the post office promised. But the post office
also provided half of the personnel serving in Iraq.

In this experiment, however, too little attention is paid to the counter-evidence.
The working hypothesis of this experiment is that private enterprise works best, in
all places and all cases. As a result, we have witnessed the systematic
degradation of public lands and parks, highways and bridges, schools and
social services. We now even have a privatized war, with private security firms
providing security for American soldiers.

We live in a time that historians have described as a Second Gilded Age,
because not since the last Gilded Age has the gap between wealth and poverty
been so wide or so insurmountable. In this context, another “trading places”
story has soared to the top of the best sellers list. In his two books, Dreams
From My Father and The Audacity of Hope – books that have sold over three
million copies – Barak Obama tells the story of his life. It begins as a barefoot
boy on the dusty streets of Jakarta:

“Our family was not well off... We lived in a modest house on the outskirts of
town, without air-conditioning, refrigeration, or flush toilets... Without money... I
went to local Indonesian schools and ran the streets with the children of
farmers, servants, tailors, and clerks.”

As a young adult Obama had the good luck of going to Columbia and Harvard,
and then to win a seat in the U.S. Senate. As he would later point out, “there
was no point in denying my almost spooky good fortune. I was an outlier, a
freak.”

My purpose is not to help Obama with his book sales, but to learn something
about the historical moment. It is a moment when a self-described “outsider,”
with a story about the “audacity of hope,” can capture the public imagination;
when the “real world,” by multiple measures, seems so hopeless; when the
hopes and dreams of so many Americans seem fixed by their zip code, their
place of birth, or the color of their skin.

I have a few thoughts about this university. Other universities may have nice
campuses, if not the stunning beauty of this campus. Other universities may
have a fine research library, if not the scope of the Berkeley libraries. Other
universities may have well-qualified professors, if not Berkeley professors. But,
more than these things, what sets Berkeley apart, and above, is that it is a
public institution serving a public function. We don’t give this enough
consideration.

For the past twenty-five years the United States has been the subject of a
crude experiment in what might be called “market fundamentalism.” The
working hypothesis of this experiment is that private enterprise works best, in
all places and all cases. As a result, we have witnessed the systematic
degradation of public lands and parks, highway and bridges, schools and
social services. We now even have a privatized war, with private security firms
providing half of the personnel serving in Iraq.

In this experiment, however, too little attention is paid to the counter-evidence.

Take the U.S. Post Office, for example. In their day, the Populists and other late-nineteenth century reformers viewed the Postal Service as proof that a public agency could be a model of fair treatment and efficiency. Today, despite all of the insults and abuse suffered by "snail mail," the Post Office remains one of the most remarkably efficient and accessible institutions in American life. Just think Netflix.

Perhaps the best counter-evidence of all is America’s public universities. Being public has its downside – its underfunded, overcrowded, bureaucratic downside. Everyone who has waited in line in Sproul Hall knows full well. But as you wait, it might ease your mind to ponder UC-Berkeley’s public meanings.

In the late nineteenth century, a coalition of farmers, laborers, and middle class activists unleashed the most powerful movement against corporate power ever experienced in the United States. The movement was known as Populism, and Populism would have a lasting impact on the shape of the country’s public universities, including this one.

The Populists believed that "Knowledge is power," as they put it. If citizens understood how nature and society worked that would give them the power to create a more equitable and just world. The key to that power, the Populists argued, was public education: better public schools, and better and more accessible public universities. As one group of petitioners put it, the University of California should serve the people of the state and not just "teach() rich... boys Greek with the farmers' money." The word "boys" deserves note as the Populists broke down barriers that denied women access to higher education.

How was public education to be paid for? The Populists demanded an income tax. Progressive taxation would kill two birds with one stone: It would help close the gap between rich and poor. It would also provide the funds for first rate public schools, public universities, and other public needs.

By the mid-twentieth century, the public miracle of UC-Berkeley was in full bloom. Combining the principles of access and excellence, and fed with tax revenue, it emerged as the finest university in the country, if not the world.

Recent years have been less kind. In a cruel twist of history, the Populists also left us with the mixed blessing of the California proposition system. The first blow was Prop 13, unleashing the "tax revolt" against progressive taxation that has starved public education, driven up University fees, and undermined the public mandate of the public universities. The second blow was Prop 209, arbitrarily denying access to the University for black, Latino, Native American, and other underrepresented minorities.

But Berkeley at its best lives up to its public mission. At its best it functions as the Populists intended, as a great conveyor belt of social mobility, as a public means for trading places. Stanford, MIT, Harvard, none of them are even in the same ballpark when it comes to the number of community college transfer students that they enroll, or the number of students qualifying for need-based Pell grants. A third of the students entering Berkeley are children of parents with no college education. And they come out the other side as top candidates for the best graduate schools and professional careers.

Of course, Berkeley can work in mysterious ways. Such as when the prospective biochemist shocks her parents by informing them that she wants to be a history major. Or, the other day, one of my 101 students surprised her folks with the news that she was heading off to Guam to be a surfing instructor. The only sure thing is the uncertainty of it. Berkeley can take perfectly comfortable and self-assured high-school graduates and, after four or five years of study, leave them resembling the Dan Aykroyd character in Trading Places: dazed, disoriented, and more than a little worried about their next move.

If you are feeling a bit like that – if you are feeling a little anxious this morning – it makes a lot of sense to me. Because you may soon face the truth learned the hard way by so many who have gone before you: life may never be as good, it may never be as full of wonder and discovery, as it has been as a student here at UC-Berkeley.

Best of luck! You may need it!
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All of us in the department were delighted to hear of this award. To give everyone a taste of Susanna's contributions, I quote part of our letter of nomination, which includes remarks from her past students.

Beth Berry

Number is one frail indicator of the Barrows phenomenon. Just in the past nine years (for which we have records), she chaired ten dissertation committees, served as second reader on six more, and is presently chairing an additional five. (Oh, incidentally, she served on twenty-five qualifying exam committees between fall 2004 and fall 2007, a department record as far as I know.)

The dissertations also mutate into notable books at a breathtaking clip. As Vanessa Schwartz writes: "All but one of the twenty-seven or so theses [Barrows] directed have become university press books. And those books (finished or in formation) have put what the French call "l'usine Barrows" (the Barrows factory) at the forefront of the field. All three of the candidates on Stanford's short list two years ago were Barrows's students and one of them currently holds the French history position there. The senior position at Michigan went to a Barrows student. Others are at the University of Toronto, UC Irvine, the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, the University of Southern California, the University of Pennsylvania, Vanderbilt, Bowdoin, the University of Connecticut, Denison, American University, the University of Auckland, and so on.

In short, Susanna Barrows is the major graduate teacher of her generation in modern French history. The "Barrows factory" rules.

Why? Well, here let me turn to the giddy letters from former students. My favorite excerpts fall into four categories.

Sociable Structure
Barrows understands the long, tough interludes of graduate training and has provided supportive frameworks at every stage—with study groups in preparation for the Master's and Qualifying Examinations, dissertation writing...
Community Forever
All her students emphasize the links Barrows establishes—between them, between them and established scholars here and in France, between generations. From their very entry into graduate school, and across the career arc, they understand themselves to be members of a vitally connected profession. The links last.

"She is an intellectual socialist and she has taught her students to work together rather than compete for her attention and love and as a result, that group has formed a tight and powerful force in the historical profession, once called, to my face, ‘the Berkeley mafia.’” (Vanessa Schwartz)

"Rigorous in her expectations of us as new scholars in the field, she also oversaw our formation as colleagues and comrades in the human domain of French history. From her work instilling a deeply collaborative ethos in the large dissertation group she oversaw, to the inclusive atmosphere of the meetings of the Bay Area French history reading group she hosted at her home, to her efforts to ensure that no one go to France to conduct research without a list of contacts among French historians working in related areas, Susanna was tireless in her commitment to help us enter the multi-dimensional world of the practicing historian.” (Sylvia Schaefer)

"Susanna’s classrooms (and the living room in her Berkeley house) became a kind of crossroads, where scholars from Berkeley, Stanford, UC Davis and Santa Cruz, and other schools met with scholars from Europe and discussed their work. Graduate students were actively invited to participate in these discussions and several chapters of my own dissertation were read, discussed, and criticized by theses gatherings. I remember the food, the atmosphere, and the constructive engagement with my work with equal fondness. When I think of the roster of scholars whom she pushed us to meet and speak with, it leaves me breathless: Roger Chartier, Alain Corbin, André Burgière, Jacques Rancière, Victoria de Grazia—these are just a few of the people who she brought to Berkeley during my time there.” (Joshua Cole)

"What really stands out is her ability to connect researchers and students. At these intellectually lively dinners, I met several generations of her graduate students, many of whom have become friends, and intellectual comrades.” (Eric Jennings)

Personal Voice
The Barrows community is not a place where individuals get lost. She has the genius of detecting and nurturing genius.

"What is remarkable about Barrows, and in my experience extraordinarily rare, is her ability to help students find what it is THEY have to make as a singular intellectual contribution. This is why she has directed so many dissertations which bear very little resemblance to one another. ... She listens well to students and offers them tidbits of information or an article to read or a novel to ponder and perhaps opens several doors at once and then lets the student do the rest. You have to be patient to do that. You have to bring out in others what it is they are passionate about and let them find their own voices. This is not a skill. It is a gift.” (Vanessa Schwartz)

"I could think of no one who has done more to shape a field of history through the work of her students. And she has done so not by making students work on topics that fit particular molds but by fostering original and creative thought, introducing scholars to new archival sources, encouraging them to look at old sources in unexpected ways, and enabling them to understand the people of the past as creative, feeling, and living actors.” (Katherine Norris)

"We learned that Susanna is a brilliantly creative archival researcher—the stories she can tell of discoveries in the police archives are enthralling—and that she is incredibly adept at helping students whose intellectual interests are a world away from her own. That is why, I think, when one looks over the distinguished list of books by former Susanna students, one is continually startled by the sheer diversity of subjects, approaches, and interpretations. Susanna gives her students extraordinary freedom to find their own voices, and it is no exaggeration to say that her influence has reshaped scholarship on modern French History.” (Joe Zizek)

"Susanna was able to gauge student difficulties, and adapt to PhD student personalities and needs: she prodded those with writer's block in different ways from those who struggled in the archives.” (Eric Jennings)

Living Up To Her
Very movingly, students seem to carry Barrows with them as a warm and graceful guide to what they might become.

"Not a day goes by when I don't think about her example as a mentor of graduate students, especially when I reflect on best practice with my own students.” (Sylvia Schaefer)
"Whenever I walk out of a class that went well, or whenever I have a student get excited as the comprehension process kicks in, I think to myself: 'That's how Susanna might have done it.'" (Joe Zizek)

It would be easy to go on (about Susanna’s writing and editorial gifts, her infectious addiction to archives, her sheer hilarity and joy, her brilliant tutelage in food and wine). It would also be easy to talk about undergraduates (ten of fourteen students in a recent seminar rated her perfect). But, I quit.
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Steve Sullivan is the owner and founder of Acme Bread Co. in Berkeley. Several years ago, he came to Berkeley to get his undergraduate degree. When he had finished, he discovered that he had not yet exhausted the inventory of courses that sparked his interest. So Steve began to audit courses and found that each class offered new interests that he could not help exploring. Now Steve audits one course per semester. Every year, there are many people like Steve Sullivan who go to lectures simply to listen. They do not receive grades or course credit, nor do they write papers or take exams. Several of these people have been kind enough to share their experiences and enthusiasm in auditing courses in the history department.

**Glyde Cooper**

Spring semester of 2006 was a very exciting time for me. Suzanna Barrows’ course on the Social History of Paris was two mornings a week. Jack and I would leave Dwinelle with a real bounce in our step, deep in comments and questions about the lecture just given. I still refer in my mind to the books I read for the class, the list was a fine one. I had audited an economics class a few years prior, and we talk about another. It will be hard to beat the Barrows lectures!

**Jack Smith**

After a lifetime of “continuous learning” (a phrase drummed into every Medical Student) the seven years of post doctoral training, and a busy surgical practice, combined with teaching medical students and surgery residents, I have found that I have to continue to learn new things. In retirement, there has been more time for reading widely (not medical journals,) and one of my favorite areas has been history, most often in biographies of famous people, but in general history as well.

A friend had audited Susanna Barrows’ course on “Paris and its Fictions”, and insisted that we attend when it was given next. We did. We found a submersion in the history of Paris as told by the famous authors of the periods (after Napoleon to the present) with the major emphasis on the lives of the common people.

The intensity of the students, the volumes of required reading, and the general pace brought back thoughts of my experience in college and medical school—notably missing in my recent years. Professor Barrows was so deeply involved in the 19th Century in Paris, having done years of research into such things as police records and old newspapers, that having her talk about the subject was like listening to a person brought via time machine to the present. She is a magical teacher.

I had been to Paris three times since 1964, but never before understood its history and the reasons why its people, city design, and politicians had evolved, or not evolved. I now read the newspaper with renewed interest and a lot more understanding when Paris is the subject.

Not incidentally, I was very relieved that the auditors did not have to write papers or take the final examination.

**Susan Levine and Richard Hill**

It may be unfair to say that education is wasted on the young, but it surely.
It may be unfair to say that education is wasted on the young, but it surely benefits those of us who are older than young. What an opportunity it is to live near to a major university—just drive a couple of miles, and there on offer, in lecture halls, seminar rooms and libraries, is virtually the full range of human knowledge. In our case, both of us used to be graduate students in history, and so it is not surprising that our auditing interests would focus on Berkeley's History Department (every semester we think about expanding our vista, but then some remarkable history class appears on the schedule, and our plan to take Biochemistry or Forestry goes by the wayside). Bouwsma on Christianity, Zelnik on the unlamented Romanovs, Feldman on modern Germany; these are just a few of the thrilling scholarly opportunities the Department has offered us.

We auditors are of course the principal beneficiaries of the Department's (and the University's) welcome, but we do think we serve a useful purpose as well. Our mostly very young classmates notice our presence in the class, even in a large lecture class, and thereby learn a crucial lesson—education must not stop with a B.A. or any other degree.

And there’s one other circumstance that makes attending many of these courses fun: while with respect to the subject matter of a course such as The Roman Republic we stand in much the same position as the other students, for courses dealing with the very recent past, we’re not just fellow students, we’re primary sources!

*Martha Hamilton Jones*

What is it like to be an auditor in Cal’s History Department? It is a most rewarding experience taking courses in the best history department in the whole land. Many decades ago, I was a "real" student who majored in history (Russian) from this department. Over time as you get older, you realize you need to brush up on all that lost knowledge. Like any product, I hoped that my education was guaranteed. It was time to return to the halls of Dwinelle.

One of the classes I decided to audit was History 151A: Tudor- Stuart Britain. I had taken this class with the same delightful professor 43 years before. This meant that I had been in his first teaching class and would now be in his last class. This was living history. We both remembered each other and naturally we both thought we hadn’t changed one bit. I could hardly wait to show him the 43- year- old syllabus, the two midterm tests and the final I had kept. They certainly didn’t look so hi tech: they were done on a ditto machine and had that faded look. With these papers in hand, I could compare how the demands of that long ago syllabus compared with today’s syllabus. The comparison showed that we had taken two midterms not just one midterm like in these modern times. This means we had a lot more ids to worry about. Needless to say taking this course was certainly a very special time for me.

Since then I have taken classes with young professors who were so humorous that I and my fellow young students were in despair when those classes came to an end. My class on 19th and 20th Centuries of Paris was taught by not one but two superb professors. I had a professor whose presentations were so organized and intelligent that my fellow four auditors would stand around in the hall after every class discussing what we had just heard. Three times I have taken History 5 because the course was taught by three different amazing professors. Every history professor is a winner; I just need to live a long and healthy life to take all their classes.

Auditing is truly a wonderful experience. Each semester after you chose your courses and get permission to take the course from the professor, you buy your textbooks. Of course, you will do all your homework. Be alert in class and try not to look at the other students’ laptops while they are doing e-mail, or solitaire. Remember the best part of all is you don’t take the midterms, the finals or do a paper. Auditing allows you to make a lot of friends with the young students who sit around you. I have gone out to lunch, to coffee breaks and have even taken some out sightseeing. They have even graciously invited me to their history graduation to meet their families. The young students are amazing in every way. Another plus is meeting the auditors who shared your love of history.

The most important thing the auditor does, of course, is to send money to Friends of Cal History because you have been allowed the such a special experience.
New Books by History Faculty
Reviewed by their Students and Colleagues


By David Henkin

Prachi Deshpande, *Creative Pasts: Historical Memory and Identity in Western India, 1700-1960.* (Columbia University Press, 2007)

by Eugene Irschick


by Mary Elizabeth Berry

By Thomas Laqueur

David Henkin, The Postal Age: The Emergence of Modern Communications in Nineteenth-Century America. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006)

By Amy Lippert
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New Books by History Faculty


By David Henkin

From many perspectives, the remarkable process by which chattel slavery was delegitimated and legally abolished throughout the Western Hemisphere (sometimes violently, often not) in roughly a century following the American Revolution stands as the singular event of modern history. It is less frequently observed that one major form of bound labor survived the age of emancipation. In the U.S., for example, legal bans on slaveholding were significantly accompanied by an exception for laborers convicted of a crime. From the 1787 Northwest Ordinance to the Thirteenth Amendment (1865), American law conceded that forced servitude was still an appropriate fate for those who break the law. Rebecca McLennan’s magisterial study of the political controversies surrounding incarceration in the U.S. through the New Deal reminds us both that the status of the imprisoned has always been a test of prevailing ideas about the meaning of freedom and that the American prison system was, for much of its history, a major form of bound labor.

Students of American History may be familiar with the subject of prison reform, especially in the antebellum and Progressive periods, and especially from the perspective of would-be reformers. But McLennan presents an altogether different and more complicated story, featuring prisoners, guards, administrators, penologists, private contractors, labor unions, and political figures and institutions in New York—the state that stood at the vanguard of national developments in the transformation of both prison life and the politics of punishment. McLennan charts the growth of a powerful and economically significant system of contract prison labor in the nineteenth century, which instituted and relied upon a brutal regime of industrial discipline that fits awkwardly (if at all) into Michel Foucault’s famous account of the modern prison. She also describes, with colorful detail, the fits and starts by which a coalition of forces (Reconstruction-era Republicans, unions, Democratic politicians in the Gilded Age, progressive reformers, former N.Y. Governors holding the reins of national power, and frequently the imprisoned themselves) sought to dismantle that system, often deploring the competition or the example of convict labor, but ultimately calling into question the equation between hard industrial work and just punishment. Along the way, readers will discover much about prisons and politics (including a fascinating discussion of the importance of prisoner sexuality to penal reform at the end of the Progressive Era), all richly documented and all presented in McLennan’s precise, eloquent, and witty prose. Those readers who follow McLennan’s story for some guidance to the
Those readers who follow McLennan's story for some guidance to the current phenomenon of mass incarceration in the U.S. may find certain moments of this story (including the institution of mandatory sentencing and a four-strikes policy by New York Republicans in the 1920s) particularly familiar, but will in any event be persuaded that the treatment of criminals in this country has always been a central arena for battles over political economy and state power.
Prachi Deshpande, *Creative Pasts: Historical Memory and Identity in Western India, 1700-1960*. (Columbia University Press, 2007)

By Eugene Irschick

In her fascinating new book, *Creative Pasts*, Professor Prachi Deshpande has sought to understand historical memory and historical practice over the last three and a half centuries in western India. Taking the study all the way from the point in the eighteenth century when a local history-writing tradition in western India existed into the colonial and post-colonial periods, Professor Deshpande writes of the initial attempt to make local history-writing coincident with the way in which history was written in the West. But she also demonstrates how new political requirements sought a new kind of history that fulfilled both local and nationalist demands. This evolved into a new project where historians mostly outside the institutional frame sought to “discover” documents that would enable a new kind of history that fulfilled the requirements of memory. What is very striking in her writing is the way in which these new histories served nationalist needs to connect this area of western India – Maharashtra where Marathi is spoken – to the nation as a whole. In the story of this “tangled negotiation” Professor Deshpande concludes that local “Marathi regional identity, far from opposing Mother India, was constructed through Maratha historical narratives as her idea protector and dutiful son.”
New Books by History Faculty

Jan de Vries, The Industrious Revolution: Consumer Behavior and the Household Economy, 1650 to the Present (Cambridge University Press)

by Mary Elizabeth Berry

Jan observes in this great book that "Man as a 'desiring subject' whose subjectivity is shaped by 'desire' as a fundamental aspect of the self' is not a product of modern industrial capitalism; his origins are to be found earlier" (43). Well, yes, the Buddha told us this. But if for the Buddha desire was the source of suffering, it is for Jan a source of pleasure and economic transformation.

He finds in early modern Europe a "new industriousness" (a commitment to hard, smart, profit-making work) that--and here is the central argument--was "substantially motivated by new consumer aspirations." In effect, the enterprising labor of the multitudes of private actors who created the early modern economy was driven by materialist appetite, by desire. People worked harder, forfeiting more leisure for more money, to buy more things (typically not old but "new luxuries," such as Delft tiles and faience, linen chests, paintings, watches, pipes, silverware. . .). Demand, then, came to fuel production to become a source of economic growth.

And, critically, the change was a family rather than an individual affair. "Both consumer demand and the supply of market-oriented labor grew by means of reallocations of the productive resources of households." The division of labor "was achieved [not at the firm level, where Adam Smith located it, but] primarily at the level of the household, where it can be identified as a simultaneous rise in the percentage of household production sold to others and a rise in the percentage of household consumption purchased from others" (71).

You will find similarly revelatory observations on most pages of this book, which provides a terrific education in the social history of early modern Europe. Go consume it. It will give you pleasure.

By Thomas Laqueur

James Vernon’s recently published *Hunger: A Modern History* (Harvard University Press, 2007) is intellectually big and morally exigent book. It has been widely and positively reviewed. Hunger has never been a culturally or politically empty category because the human body has always meant more than its biological form—one thinks of the powerful symbolism of the self-starvation of the dessert fathers and of female saints; rulers from the Biblical pharaoh to eighteenth century kings thought it their duty to make sure that their subjects had bread. It never lost, Vernon shows, these deep historical echoes. But in the writing of Thomas Malthus and Adam Smith it entered a new world where its meanings multiplied: that of political economy. Hunger was the inescapable scourge of profligacy and excess fecundity—the cutting edge of the Malthusian scissor—or a sign that a free market in food had been distorted by well meaning but ill-advised intervention. And, conversely, it became the arena in which the liberal state could prove its efficacy: a new way of thinking about individual, state, and society.

This began the "modern history" that Vernon traces in a book that navigates beautifully between the poignancy and the political/administrative history of its subject. It is a history that ranges from debates about English policy toward the Irish potato famine and about claims that the legitimacy of the British empire hung on its success or failure in ameliorating the famine in Bengal--famine was not the result simply of harvest failure but of transport and of administration that was within a governments control; to the discoveries role of nutritional science and school lunch programs in ending—as well as re-defining—hunger; to the role of self-starvation among suffragettes and hunger marchers. There is no simple story here—no "rise of the welfare state"—that accounts for the near elimination of hunger in England or the prosperous west more generally but a far more complicated and intriguing tale of science and sociology, politics and administration, economics and philosophy, suffering and charity.
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David Henkin, *The Postal Age: The Emergence of Modern Communications in Nineteenth-Century America.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006)

By Amy Lippert

Newman, the nefarious postman, once reminded his arch-enemy Jerry Seinfeld that “when you control the mail, you control...information.” In *The Postal Age,* Professor David Henkin has contextualized that claim for nineteenth-century America, and the results are considerably broader and richer than even Newman himself could have imagined. By 1860 America was one of the most literate societies in the world. And as Henkin demonstrates, Americans went postal: they wrote letters expressing every sentiment from love to hate, addressing topics from junk mail to slavery. In an age when the art of the written letter is fast becoming a quaint relic of bygone days, Henkin reminds us why this communication mattered, and why the postal service still plays an "intensely modern" function in everyday life. It was, as his subtitle tells us, *The Emergence of Modern Communications in Nineteenth-Century America.* This development portended not just a channel for meaningful forms of communication, but a new understanding of the world that these Americans inhabited. The post office inaugurated an era of interconnectedness that remains at the heart of our digital-age experience. For the first time, ordinary Americans tapped into and were accessed through a system of mass communication. In the process, the “outside world” as we know it took shape.
Graduate Student Makes Jeopardy History

By Cathy Crockwell, Newscenter

History graduate student Larissa Kelly has made history — on prime-time TV — racking up $223,597 in winnings as a "Jeopardy!" contestant, more than any woman before her in the show's regular games. She was knocked out on the Wednesday, May 28 airing — after losing a big bet on a Daily Double.

Said one blogger, who followed her progress closely: "Congrats, thanks, and goodbye to Larissa Kelly! It sure was fun while it lasted.... She will undoubtedly be back for the Tournament of Champions."

A fourth-year Berkeley Ph.D. candidate specializing in 19th-century Mexican history, Kelly's foreign-language and pop-culture knowledge served her well during her week-long "Jeopardy!" career — with correct responses on such items as the lottery abbreviation "QP" ("What is 'Quick Pick'?"") and the French for "one of these social blunders, from the French for 'false step'" ("What is faux pas?").

She also acquired strategic know-how through intimate familiarity with the game. Her sister, Arianna, appeared on "Jeopardy!" this January; her husband, Jeff Hoppes, a fellow UC Berkeley history grad student, competed in 2004. (Being "strong in both British and Latin American history," Cal was "a top choice" for the couple from the beginning, Kelly says.)
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By Leah Flanagan, Undergraduate Advisor

This spring our fellow staffer, Marianne Bartholomew-Couts, received the Chancellor's Outstanding Staff Award. And because she deserves more than a certificate (and a carved wooden bear, nice as that is), I’m very happy to have the opportunity to offer Marianne a bit of public approbation in this edition of our annual newsletter.

Marianne is, and does, many things. A Cal alum (1994, Art Practice and Women's Studies), she is a wife, a full-time mother of two very cute small children, a 2-acre farmer/fruit grower, and when she has time (which I think is never) an artist. She has worked for our department, half time, since 2002. Her official title is Curriculum Assistant. However, like many such things here at Cal, Marianne's job title is pretty well incorrect. (Note that Mabel Lee, half of the graduate student advisor team across the hall from Marianne, still has "Graduate Secretary" painted on her door's glass window. No one seems to mind or even notice this anachronism. I love walking down the hall, paperwork in hand, imagining I'm working in a 1940's movie, or maybe an Edward Hopper painting.) So Marianne's title might more properly be "Assistant to Everyone and Everything", as her job includes scheduling all of our many classes (finding rooms and times that work for everyone – in other words producing the impossible with regularity) and planning and directing our magnificent annual commencement ceremony. But the real truth is that Marianne could never be mistaken for anyone's or anything's assistant.

The ostensible reason that Marianne won the Chancellor's Outstanding Staff Award was that she put together the endlessly useful Faculty Handbook last summer. But that is only an outward sign of the main thing one notices when working with Marianne. She is in fact the most insightful and far-reaching organizational thinker that I think I've ever known. She really cares that everything functions well, and she consistently thinks several steps ahead of whatever is on the table in order to make that happen. She takes care of business with authority, but also with a great sense of humor that makes her intelligence bearable. When and if she chooses to devote a larger percentage of her life to paying work, I fully expect to see Marianne in charge of something large and important. In the meantime, and we hope that's a long time, here's to

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large and important. In the meantime, and we hope that's a long time, here's to
Marianne – an awesome colleague!
The History Staff Visits The Crucible

By Lara Miller, Chair Holders' Assistant

On June 10th, the history staff undertook an ambitious team-building project at The Crucible in Oakland (a non-profit facility that offers instruction in the industrial and fire arts.) The project – a clock made from metal and fused glass – was conceived of, designed, and executed by the staff. Most of us had no experience with a blowtorch or a glasscutter. Nonetheless, the results were impressive – we created a beautiful, working clock, and at the end of the day everyone still had their eyebrows. It goes to show, anything is possible in the hands of such a competent and creative group. The clock will be on display in the department, so please feel free to stop by and admire our handiwork.
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The following students were among many who undertook research travel, supported by the Friends of Cal History, while preparing their theses as history majors.

Joelle Brown

I am a fortunate recipient of a travel grant from Berkeley’s History Department. This grant helped me research my senior thesis on the assimilation process of German-Jewish refugees in World War II Britain. With the grant money, I traveled to Douglas, Isle of Man and London, England last November. The Isle of Man was the location for most of the internment camps that held German nationals during the war. In Douglas I explored some of the old campsites and visited the Manx National Heritage Museum. From the museum, I got copies of old camp newspaper articles that described some of the internees’ experiences. This information was then supplemented by tape-recorded interviews of former internees, which I heard in London’s Imperial War Museum. At the British National Archives in London I examined and copied some of the original government documents authorizing internment. All of these documents were crucial primary sources in my analysis of the German-Jewish refugee experience and helped me gain a broader understanding of British immigration policy. I would not have been able to accomplish this research without a travel grant. So, in conclusion, thank you Cal History!

Megan Martin

I feel very fortunate as a history major. Last year I...
I feel very fortunate as a history major. Last year I studied abroad in Budapest, Hungary and Prague, Czech Republic. While over there I fell in love with the region's history. I wrote a paper for my Czech gender class about women's roles in the home, public sphere and in the underground movements during communism. I encountered some difficulty finding sources. My Czech professor told me that there is no English language history of women dissenters from a Gender perspective. Once I got back to the US, I decided I wanted to pursue the questions of women, gender and communism further. The paper topic became my thesis topic. With help from my GSI, Blake Johnson, and Professor John Connelly (for whom I do research) I got a travel grant to visit Prague and conduct the interviews I needed to write my thesis. I had an amazing time connecting with women (and one man) from three different generations. I asked them about their experiences under communism and their role in the resistance movement. Among my interviewees were a Czech rock star, the leading scholar on Czech gender and feminism, a science fiction writer and a score of university professors. I had an amazing opportunity to write a previously unwritten history thanks to support received from UC Berkeley’s history department and my contacts in Czech Republic. I plan to pursue my interest in Eastern and Central Europe next year. I will start a masters program in Comparative Politics at New York University in the fall. I am excited to continue studying a subject that I am incredibly passionate about and have been encouraged to pursue through the support of the history department.

Joe Boone

My undergraduate thesis was entitled “Farm Boys and Foreigners: The Rockefeller Foundation and Mexican Agriculture, 1943-1953.” It used the oral histories, letters, scientific papers, and personal logs of scientists and administrators employed by the Rockefeller Foundation to analyze their motivations and actions. It focused particularly on Edwin J. Wellhausen, the head of the Foundation's Mexican corn breeding program.

The History Department was kind enough to give me a $700 travel grant that allowed me to go to New York City and conduct research at the Rockefeller Archive Center. The work I did there was critical to the viability and success of my paper. I received an “A” grade on the final product of my work, and presented it at Phi Alpha Theta’s Undergraduate Thesis Colloquium in May. The research and writing of my thesis was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life, and I am grateful to the History Department for the opportunity to travel as a part of it.

My heartfelt thanks go to my advisor, Dr. Ian Read, whose encouragement persuaded me to apply for a grant, and whose insightful criticism made it useful.
Margaret Lavinia Anderson
Margaret Lavinia Anderson won a Guggenheim Fellowship for her work on Germany and the Armenian genocide and will be spending the next academic year as a fellow at Stanford’s Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences. Her article, "Down in Turkey Far Away: Human Rights, the Armenian Massacres, and Orientalism in Imperial Germany," was featured last year in the "Contemporary Issues in Historical Perspective" of the Journal of Modern History.

Tom Barnes
Later this summer and early fall, the Lawbook Exchange will republish three major works on the English Court of Star Chamber, Richard Crompton, Star Chamber Cases (1630), John Hawarde, Les Reportes del Cases in Camera Stellata 1593 to 1609, William Paley Baldwin ed. (London, 1894), William Hudson, A Treatise on the High Court of Star Chamber (1792) each one with a succinct introduction to the work by me. I continue as Co-Director of the Canadian Studies Program, IAS.

Andrew Barshay

Mary Elizabeth Berry
Of the lectures I gave this year, the most entertaining (for me, anyway) were "Noticing the Virtue of Things: The Obligation of Taste in Japanese Society (The Griffith and Patricia Way Lecture at the University of Washington)" and "Adultery in Casablanca and The End of the Affair (for "Marriage in the Movies" at Cal Day). But most of my time, of course, was given to my departmental job. Highlights? Seeing Susanna Barrows accept the Sarlo Award for Distinguished Graduate Student Mentoring and Marianne Bartholomew-Couts accept the Chancellor's Outstanding Staff Award; helping to recruit four (I hope) new faculty members to the department; and getting in on the graduation planning. I don't think there can be any better group to work with than our faculty and staff.

Thomas Brady
I have been retired since June 2006, though I’ve not yet had time to discover what that means. In Fall 2007 I taught in the Center for Late Medieval Reformation Studies at the University of Arizona and attended a conference in Strasbourg, France. During Spring 2008 I taught Modern Ireland once more, this time with a GSI, as a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, who served as our native informant; and I attended a conference on "Enduring Loss in Early Modern Germany" held at Duke University. Otherwise, I have hibernated at home and worked on revisions to my...
I am now serving as Dean of the Social Sciences.

Richard Candida-Smith

Richard Candida-Smith One of the highlights of the past academic year was teaching the graduate pedagogy seminar that the university requires that every new GSI takes. Thirty students signed up for the course, which made for an unusual grad seminar, but facilitated lots and lots of discussion about how teaching works. I learned a lot and I’d recommend every faculty member on this campus teaching the course at least once in order to have some structured time to reflect on that important part of our scholarly life. I’ve been busy at work on a new book on cultural exchange between the United States and Latin America from the end of the nineteenth century to the present. I compiled a thorough record of translations and publications, including the ability of particular authors to establish themselves in other national markets, and written the chapters analyzing the difficulties confronting almost every effort in the twentieth century to expand academic exchange, translations, publications aimed at readers across the continent, or even relatively well known and often popular writers to break out of national literary markets and publish regularly in the periodicals of other nations. I have also done basic research and some writing on independent films. I want now to reconstruct inter-American museum and art gallery exhibitions. I delivered papers related to my research on writers reaching out to readers across borders at the American Historical Association meeting in Washington and at the American Comparative Literature Association meeting in Long Beach. As always good food for thought from the other paper presenters, the commentators, and the audience.

Prachi Deshpande

Prachi Deshpande published her monograph Creative Pasts: Historical Memory and Identity in Western India, 1700-1960 with Columbia University Press in 2007. She has an article forthcoming in October 2008 in the Journal of Asian Studies, entitled "The Making of an Indian Nationalist Archive: Lakshmibai, Jhansi and 1857". She received an American Institute of Indian Studies-NEH Senior Fellowship for the year 2008-09, and will be spending the academic year researching a new project on the social history of migration and cultural geography in 18th and 19th century India.

Jan de Vries

Jan de Vries returned to full time service in the department after serving seven years as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. He has a new book, The Industrious Revolution: Consumer Behavior and the Household Economy, 1650 to the Present, recently published by Cambridge University Press.

Beshara Doumani

Beshara Doumani spent the 07-08 academic year as a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, Harvard University. He is finishing a book on the history of family life in the Eastern Mediterranean in Ottoman times.

Susanna Elm

As part of the Steering Committee of the Multi-Campus Research Group Late Antiquity, I am the very proud recipient of the American Philological Associations Outreach Prize for 2007, awarded January 6, 2008 (unfortunately I was not there to receive it since I was at the AHA meeting in Washington DC...but it is a beautiful plaque with a Latin inscription...).

Paula Fass

Paula Fass returned from Sweden, after receiving an honorary degree from the Linkoping University, with a number of insignia—a laurel wreath made of Italian laurel leaves, a special gold ring inscribed with laurels, a knock-out hat, and a doctoral certificate conferred by the King of Sweden. The ceremony was very serious and elaborate. Who knew that the Swedes practiced this kind of extreme formality. She returns to Sweden in the fall as Kerstin Hessgren Professor, a special honor because Hessgren was the first woman elected to the Swedish parliament and an important reformer and activist on behalf of children. She hopes to make progress on her book on parent-child relations in the United States and will look forward to more ceremonial occasions.

Jon Gjerde

I am now serving as Dean of the Social Sciences. In my spare time, I am...
Erich Gruen
2007/8 marked the first year of my "retirement." As a send-off I received the distinct honor of the Berkeley Citation for "distinguished achievement and notable service to the university." But there is little evidence of leisure. I spent my academic year at the Getty Villa in Malibu where I was "Getty Villa Professor," responsible for selecting the theme, inviting participants and running all the seminars, colloquia, and conferences on antiquity. It was an exhilarating but exhausting year - - with barely a moment to think about surfing! In addition to my inaugural lecture as Getty Villa Professor, I gave invited lectures at Columbia, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Liverpool, UCSB, London, Durham, UCLA, and Oxford. I have hardly severed ties with Cal. I am currently serving on the dissertation committees of eight students, which should keep me occupied for some years to come.

David A. Hollinger
David A. Hollinger has become Vice President of the Organization of American Historians, a professional association of 10,000 specialists in the history of the United States affiliated with universities and institutes throughout the world. He will serve a year as President of that Organization beginning in March, 2010. His recent writings have focused on religion and politics in the United States, and his ideas on this topic are the subject of a symposium, "Civil Discourse: Exploring the Role of Religion in the Public Sphere," being published as a book this summer by The Center for American Progress in Washington, DC.

David Henkin
David Henkin has been brushing up on his baseball, and taught a Freshman/Sophomore seminar this past Fall entitled "Baseball in American Society and Culture." Meanwhile, he speaks with diminishing frequency to reporters, philatelists, and letter carriers about the postal service, though he did write a short piece for the on-line journal Common-Place about email and some of its slower precursors. He has an equally short piece due out soon in Representations about form and media, on the occasion of that journal's twenty-fifth anniversary. Over the summer he is hard at work on a U.S. Cultural History survey, which he is co-authoring with his neighbor Rebecca McLennan.

Peter Rutledge Koch
Peter Koch is co-founder of the CODEX Foundation produced the first CODEX Symposium and Book Fair on campus in 2007. Planning is underway for the 2009 Biennial CODEX International Symposium and Book Fair and the theme is "Considering the Book as a Work of Art." Symposium speakers include Ron King, Lawrence Weschler and Dave Hickey. The CODEX Book Fair is already (after only one event) considered the World's Fair of the Hand Made Book. Events are in the Pauley Ballroom and the BAM Theater February 9 - 11, 2009 see www.codexfoundation.org for information.

Martin Jay

David Johnson
I have finished a book called Spectacle and Sacrifice: The Ritual Foundations of Village Life in North China, which will be published in the Harvard East Asian Monograph series. It is based on unique village-level liturgical manuscripts that have never been used in a major study and describes local temple festivals in unprecedented detail. I also gave lectures at Harvard, Michigan, and Columbia in the spring semester, and participated in an international workshop on Chinese local history at Harvard in early June.

David N. Keightley
I just finished a book: Working for His Majesty: Labor Mobilization in Late Shang China (ca. 1200-1045 B.C.) as Seen in the Oracle-Bone Inscriptions. I now just have to find a publisher!

Geoff Koziol
In the several years since I last told of my doings, I wrote a long overdue manuscript on the ninth- and tenth-century Carolingians that covers everything from politics and monastic reform to forgery and memory. It will be published next year by Cambridge University Press as The Politics of Memory and Identity in Carolingian Royal Diplomas. Among other activities, I gave a number of presentations, including a lecture for Humanities West on the First Crusade; a discussion of "The End of History" for a wonderfully engaged group in St. Helena organized by Michael Marston; and a survey of "Big History" for Prof. Walter Alvarez's innovative interdisciplinary class of the same name. But my favorite address during the last few years was one I gave at the 42nd International Congress for Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo for an unusual set of panels on "Medieval Studies, Social Justice, and Human Rights." My contribution was: "What Ever Happened to Wisdom? Why We Have Morals for Princes but None for Presidents?" I hope this will turn into my next project: a study of medieval contributions to modern ethics. A number of articles written some time ago also finally appeared in press: "Truth and its consequences: Why Carolingianists don't speak of myth," in Myth in Early Northwest Europe, ed. Stephen Glosecki (Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 2007); "Charles the Simple, Robert of Neustria, and the vexilla of Saint-Denis," Early Medieval Europe 14/4 (2006); and "Is Robert I in Hell?" Early Medieval Europe 14/3 (2006). For teaching, I reprised two of my favorite courses: "Biography from the Greeks to VH10 (History 103) and "The Goddess and the Knights" (History 100). However, my best teaching experience this year was an intense graduate historiography course, "Thinking Through History," which left the students mourning at the end of class, and perhaps a little depressed about the future of history. I also led discussions on college preparation to students at Mission High School in San Francisco, where I live, and on the teaching of the crusades for the Oakland Public School District, and came away inspired, touched, and grieving all at once.

John Lesch

Emily Mackil
Thanks to fellowships from Berkeley's Townsend Center for the Humanities and from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation of Harvard, I enjoyed a sabbatical for the academic year. The extended time away from the classroom allowed me to write two new articles and come close to completing my book, tentatively entitled, Creating a Common Society: Religion, Economy and Politics in the Greek Koinon. In February I gave a paper at Stanford on my research on regional economies and the emergence of regional state institutions in Classical Greece.

In September 2007 I assumed the Directorship of Berkeley's Aleshire Center for the Study of Greek Epigraphy, administered by the Graduate Group in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology, of which I am also a faculty member. The Aleshire Center is a tremendously valuable resource for ancient historians at Berkeley and beyond: in addition to a large and very fine specialist library, it holds around 1,000 photographs and 1,000 "squeezes" (paper impressions) of ancient Greek inscriptions. Such texts are among the most valuable primary sources for the study of ancient Greek history, but their decipherment can be challenging to say the least, and the photos and squeezes can be enormously helpful in that process.

Rebecca McLennan
Notes from the History Graduate Association

This year the History Graduate Association (HGA) expanded in size and operation, doubling in numbers to improve the quality of our programming, and to lighten the load of each of our members. Our enlarged program included a series of “Making History” colloquia; BBQs and Receptions; Happy Hours; Sporting Events; and Graduate Orientation Events. We are especially proud of the “Making History” talks, a series of panel discussions on methodology and historical focus, with the aim of offering students a forum to consider these issues with interested faculty. Participants included Professors Einhorn, Henkin, Candida-Smith, Laqueur, Healey, Vernon, and Fass from the History Department; Professor Karras from IAS; and Professor Miller from the Law School. In addition, throughout the year the HGA worked to bring graduate student concerns to the attention of the Chair and Vice Chairs, and attempted to bridge the gaps between faculty and students.
Notes from Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta, UC Berkeley's premier undergraduate honors society, provides a myriad of opportunities for history students to become better acquainted with their faculty as well as their fellow students. Phi Alpha Theta has organized several events throughout the academic year, ranging from faculty-student dinner in the fall to lecture nights throughout the year. This year's seminal event, the History 101 Circus, was an opportunity for undergraduate students to present their thesis papers to an audience of faculty, staff, family, friends and their peers. This event boasted twenty undergrads, most of whom later received departmental honors for their theses, who presented topics ranging from baseball in Japan to funerals in the Civil Rights Movement and the Russian Women's Battalion of Death.

Through this and other events, all members of the history department, from students to faculty, can grow together in their appreciation for the study and application of history. Please take a look at the pictures to view the success of our events!

Click here to see photos from the History 101 Colloquium!

Click here to see the program from the History 101 Colloquium!
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On May 13th Phi Alpha Theta staged a presentation of the Undergraduate Thesis Papers

This past May, Phi Alpha Theta and the History Department hosted the 101 Circus, an undergraduate thesis colloquium dedicated to giving this year's seniors the opportunity to share their research experience and present their findings with their peers, the faculty, and other members of the Berkeley campus. The event was indeed a huge success, attracting a large audience and boasting some of the most praiseworthy projects of the year. In fact, all but one of the colloquium's twenty undergraduate presenters received the high distinction of honors for the work they put into completing their papers. Of course, the event could not have been pulled off without the tremendous support from the department, especially the Chair, Professor Berry and the invaluable staff members of the department, notably Lara Miller, Deborah Kerlegon and Janet Flores, for the contribution of their time and efforts. Phi Alpha Theta would like to thank all who contributed and we hope that this event can become an annual affair for years to come!!

Click here to read the program
Photos of the Event
RYAN McDonald
“An American Parnassus: Artistry and Practicality in the WPA Federal Writer’s Project”

RIVA LITMAN
“The Shackles of Political Slavery: Maryland’s ‘Jew Bill’ and the Rise and Fall of Legal Restrictions on Jewry in Nineteenth-Century America”

JEFF MANNASSERO
“From the West to the Rest: The Process & Product of Multicultural Curriculum Policies at UC Berkeley and Stanford University”

KEITH OREJEL
“Bodies, Burials, and Black Cultural Politics: African American Funerals in the Civil Rights Movement”

ANDY SLATER
“Race, Real Estate, and the Forgotten Man: The Rise of Conservatism in California”

MEGAN
“The Growth of through Resistance Activities”

MARTIN
Czech Feminism from 1968 to 1993”

RUTH
“I went through hell Struggles of Professional Japanese”

CHANG
the first year: The the Gaijin Identity in Baseball”

JOANNA CHEN
“California’s 1988 Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide: An Anti-historical Result of Historical Reform”

FELIPE LOPEZ
“Jalisco’s Pronunciamientos: a national phenomenon through a regional lens”

BEN RHODES
“Homeopathy Decline, Osteopathy Adaptation, and Orthodox Power: The Creation of the California’s Standardized Medical Monopoly”

SCOTT ALTO
“California’s Civil War: The Forgotten Theater”

ALLA BARKAN
“Botchkareva and the Women’s Battalion of Death”

1:00-2:00
LUNCH IN ISHI COURTYARD
Joelle Brown
“Becoming British: The Internment of German-Jewish Refugees in World War II Britain”

Stephanie Krol
“History on Trial: The Sears Case and the Crisis of Feminist History”

Bob O’Leary
“Pure Caucasian Blood: Racially Restrictive Housing Covenants in Berkeley, CA”

Joe Boone
“Farm Boys and Foreigners: The Rockefeller Foundation and Mexico’s Green Revolution, 1943-1953”

Olivia Luna
“Museums, Manga and Movies: Revisiting Memories of the War in Postwar Japan”

Sarah Schraff
“Rethinking the Overseer: The Person Behind the Punishment”

Andrew Braver

Luci Petlack
“A Black Yankee’s Battle: The Northern Black Community’s Fight to Enlist in the Union Army”

THE PHI ALPHA THETA HISTORY 101 COLLOQUIUM TUESDAY MAY 13, 2008 10-4 PM

4:00
HISTORY DEPARTMENT
END OF THE YEAR RECEPTION
3303 DWINEILLE (THE CHAIR’S OFFICE)
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Recent Graduates

Ph.D Job Placements

John Abromeit
Late Modern Europe
Buffalo State College*

Ellen L. Berg
United States
Nat'l Museum of American History postdoc

Celso Castilho
Latin America
Vanderbilt University Postdoc/Visiting Ast Prof 3 yrs.

Jacqueline (Kim) Friedlander
Late Modern Europe
Rutgers University (NIMH Postdoc)

Jeanne E. Grant
Early Modern Europe
Metropolitan State University* (Minnesota)

Joanna Guldi
Britain
U Chicago Postdoc (Digital History)

John Holmes
Late Modern Europe
Cal State Hayward lecturer

Sarah Horowitz
Late Modern Europe/Early Modern Europe
Washington & Lee University*

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Dalhousie University*

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United States
Sonoma State University* (women’s studies)

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United States
Yale University*

Amita Satyal
South Asia
Rutgers University*

William Scott
United States
University of Delaware*

Edith Sheffer
Late Modern Europe
Stanford University Postdoc

Jason Sokol
United States
University of Pennsylvania Postdoc (Mellon)

Julie Tanaka
Early Modern Europe
University of Puget Sound lecturer

Jarrod Tanny
Late Modern Europe
Ohio University Athens Postdoc

Yuma Totani
East Asia/Japan
University of Hawaii - Manoa*

Camilo Trumper
Latin America
Stanford University visiting assistant professor

Daniel Ussishkin
Late Modern Europe
Wellesley College postdoc

*today track

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Mr. Robert W. Popper
Mr. Lewis Batenman
John J. Fitzpatrick
Doris G. Quinn Foundation
Ms. Mary P. Dolven
Dr. John J. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.
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David Aaron Afnassian  Scott Lee Alto
Brittany Kerby Alv*  AnnaMarie Andersen
Kyle Anderson  James Niel Anderson
Sona Arutyunyan  Brion Baer
Sam Atherton  Michelle Lee Ban
Alla Barkan  Yuko Barringer
Vitaly Belevich  Jacob Leo Enero Berman
Clark Andrew Binkley  Sarah Rebecca Binning
Paul Cortlandt Bishop  Alexander Geoffrey Bloom
Joseph K. Boertje  Joseph D. Boone
Julie Nicole Boucher  Brianna Lynn Bricker
Joelle Aileen Brown  Patricia Aline Burgess
Tyler Goodman Burke  Eliseo Cabrera
Christopher F. Cadelago  Christopher Cadena
Rene Carrasco  Brandon William Cassels
Elizabeth H. Castaneda  Elliot Richard Castro
Elizabeth Catalano  Ruth Chia-Full Chang
Joanna Chen  Yi Hui Chim
Jason Chin  Andrew Cho
Karen D. Chung

Doctor of Philosophy

Kalil T. Swain Oldham  Shakhar Rahav
Padraig Riley  Allison Rottman
Amita Satyai  William Scott
Jarrod Mitchell Tanny  Tuyen Tran
Camilo Trumper  Leslie Ann Woodhouse
Deborah Yalen  Zygmunt Bialkowski
Celso Thomas Castilho  Jessica Lorraine Delgado
Suzanne Elizabeth Evans  Damany M. Fisher
Ellen Yutzyl Geble  John Holmes
Sarah Horowitz  David Johnson
Ja-Jeong Koo  James Krapfl
Daniel T. Lee  Mark McNicholas
Alan Mikhail  Dalia Antonia Muller

Master of Arts

Samuel Redman  John Timothy Ruckle
Christopher Shaw  Melanie Tanielian
Margaret Tillman  Alexander Toledano
Jeffrey Wolf  Philip Wolgin
Megan Adams  Brett Auerbach-Lynn
Joseph Bohling  Michael Dean

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Shauna Christine Yandell
Derek Benjamin Isao Yee*
Julia Ruth Ayumi Yoshikawa
Patrick M. Yutronich
Marianne Zawadzki

*Phi Beta Kappa
Dear Alums and Friends,

This note brings all warm seasonal greetings. The crushing news, as many of you have heard, is the death on October 26 of our cherished colleague and dean, Jon Gjerde. Jon died without warning, and we pray without pain, of a heart attack at the age of fifty-five. The loss is blindingly personal for so many of us, since Jon’s genius for friendship—always seasoned by quiet hilarity and a modesty that put others first—spread everywhere.

Jon would have rejoiced over the election, a bit of balm as we mourn and a fitting inspiration for our next gathering of friends, alumni, and faculty, which is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11 between 7:00 and 9:00 in Alumni House. Together with sweets, savories, drinks, and camaraderie, we shall have a panel discussion on “Barack Obama and the Making of American History,” with Mark Brilliant, Robin Einhorn, Waldo Martin, and others. We plan to make such February gatherings annual events, perhaps under the rubric of History Homecoming (Improvements are avidly requested! Perhaps History for Bears? or The Cal History Connection? Help me.)

A few fast notes. Our auditors might be interested in a new spring course, History 2: World Cities, which will cover Rome, Tokyo, Paris, and Delhi. We all rejoice in welcoming two new assistant professors this year: Daniel Sargent (U.S. and World History) and Massimo Mazzotti (History of Science). And we lift a glass to Rebecca McLennan, who has won the Littleton-Griswold Prize in American Law and Society, awarded by the American Historical Association, for her book, The Crisis of Imprisonment: Protest, Politics, and the Making of the American Penal State, 1776-1941 (Cambridge University Press, 2008). Like all the books by our faculty and graduates, it sounds like just the right holiday gift.

And, speaking of gifts, we send profound thanks for your continuing generosity to the department. As I have said again and again, it makes all the difference. We are putting particular emphasis these days on funding for our graduate program, something urgently important to Jon who, with his wife, established last year the Jon and Ruth Gjerde Graduate Student Endowment. (Contributions, noting the name of the fund, may be made to the UC Berkeley Foundation and sent to the department.)

The DEPARTMENT of HISTORY

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E-mail: historynews@berkeley.edu

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The Friends of CAL HISTORY Newsletter

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More broadly, and apart from this specific fund, we are in the process of setting endowment goals that will help enable us to (1) improve graduate fellowship stipends (now $17,000, while those of our peers range from $22,000 to $27,000); and (2) admit more international students (now limited to about two each year because of costs, despite the brilliance of the pool). Additional goals include guaranteed fellowship support for the dissertation write-up year (now awarded selectively) and the slight expansion of graduate enrollment (now limited to 26 entering students because of costs). Initial projections for some combination of these goals put the endowment target at around 25 million. This is a heady figure, but one we must seriously engage to keep our program among the top three in the nation. We have been hugely fortunate in your past support. We are committed to living up to your trust.

We hope to see you on February 11. And, if you are in the halls of Dwinelle on December 9 after 5:00 pm, do share some holiday cheer with us during our departmental holiday party. Music and Santa are on the bill.

All best wishes,
Beth Berry, Chair
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Beth Berry, Chair
Dear Dr. History,

I currently live in a frat house that has been converted into an apartment complex where each room is a 'separate' apartment and the kitchen, bathrooms and living room are shared quarters for the fifty or so inhabitants of what has become known with pride, "The Slums." The reason this lovely toilet is so called is because with all of these people living together it is no one person's responsibility to clean up the common areas. This leads to the new frontiers of low standards of sanitation as excrement rot in broken toilets, dishes go unwashed and the entire house smells like week old Berkeley Hobo pee. House meetings have been called in several failed attempts to organize a Federation of the Slum States so that livable conditions are maintained but after working through the applications of Hobbes's, Locke's, Marx's, Rousseau's theories of establishing formal foundations of cooperative societies but none have been able to foster much more than frustration. What should I do, Dr. History?

Yours,
Distressed Slum-dweller

Dear Slum-dweller,

Dr. History can only applaud your recourse to social contract theory. In a jam, I say go to the classics. Yet as much as the Dr. prefers to resist recourse to economics, you seem already to realize that you are suffering not from a "state of nature" so much as a "tragedy of the commons," in which the absence of private property rights leads to the irresponsible exploitation of shared resources -- in your case kitchens and bathrooms. Dr. History draws consolation from locating the origin of this idea in ecology instead of economics (chalk one up for wikipedia), but discourages you from engaging in any further game-theoretic modeling. The solution, unfortunately, is the obvious. You must move out of there as soon as you possibly can!!!

Love,
Dr. History

Dear Dr. History,

I am a Civil War enthusiast. On weekends I participate in a reenactment of the battle of
Murfreesboro. On the day of a battle, I try to live, as much as possible, as one might have in the 1860s. I do not wear clothes with zippers or shoes with Velcro, and I certainly do not eat modern day snacks. Last weekend, while we were in the heat of the mock battle, I noticed one of my fellow confederates drinking a bottle of Hawaiian Punch on the forest’s edge. I was outraged at this thoughtless display of historical inaccuracy. I happen know for a fact that Hawaiian Punch was not invented until 1934! Just I was about to shout, “Stop drinking that Hawaiian Punch and get in here and be a team player!” I realized that a Civil War soldier would not know what Hawaiian Punch was. How can I confront this careless confederate without compromising my own authenticity?

Yours,
Confused Confederate

Dear Confederate:

Yes indeed, the epistemology of anachronism is one of the greatest historical quandaries. How can we complain about knowing what we cannot possibly know? Dropping a reference to the Sandwich Islands -- say, “hey buddy, how would that red drink go with a lard sandwich” -- is probably too subtle for your temporally challenged comrade. And it has the further disadvantage of acknowledging that “Hawaiian” made sense to you. But the packaging of the offending libation may offer an opening. Assuming that it is in a plastic bottle, you might ask about the transparent material that looks so much lighter and thinner than normal glass. Otherwise, keep your head down and your canteen full of clean water. See you at Appomattox.

Love,

Dr. History
Sun, Sand, Surf, and Starlets

Erich S. Gruen, Wood Professor Emeritus

Two years ago I received a phone call out of the blue from the Associate Director of the Getty Research Institute. This was followed up shortly thereafter by one from the Associate Curator of Antiquities at the Getty Villa Museum in Malibu. The Villa had only recently been reopened after nine years of reconstruction. It would now house all of the antiquities owned by the Getty and would be the center of its activities dealing with the ancient world. In that connection they had decided to create a new post, rather pompously called the “Villa Professor.” That individual would be responsible for selecting a motif for the year and for running the program of seminars, colloquia, and conferences connected with that motif. They very generously invited me to take up that position for 2007/8.

Lest anyone think that this invitation was based on merit, I should note that the Associate Director of the GRI was a former student of mine when he was an undergraduate at Berkeley, and the Associate Curator of Antiquities had been both an undergraduate and a graduate student of mine. This is cronyism run rampant. As it happens, I had other plans for 2007/8, primarily to do some writing on a long-delayed project. What to do? I consulted with my principal group of advisers, i.e. my three children, scattered across the globe. The reply came back immediately and incredulously: “Are you kidding? You are hesitating when sun, sand, and surf beckon?” (I added the “starlets”). In the interests of family harmony, I decided (not too reluctantly) to take up that offer.

A northern Californian in la-la land? I managed to make the compromise without great difficulty. The Getty supplied a handsome office with an ocean view, and a house just minutes away, itself two blocks from the ocean. That eased the transition quite effortlessly. They permitted, even encouraged, me to select a theme related to my research, with a sufficiently broad title to embrace a range of scholarly topics. I chose “Cultural Identity and the Peoples of the Ancient World.”
embrace a range of scholarly topics. I chose "Cultural Identity and the Peoples of the Ancient Mediterranean." Pretty broad, but relevant to my work. They also gave me free rein to invite any scholars I wished for the conferences and other gatherings. Money was no object. Hard to resist. I did my best to run the Getty into bankruptcy. But they still had ample reserves.

The result was an exhilarating but also exhausting year. Some scholarly session or another took place on average every six weeks. I had the privilege of choosing the format and selecting the participants for each - - but also the responsibility of reading the papers beforehand, presiding over the sessions, introducing speakers, commenting on the presentations, delivering talks of my own, and even herding people back from coffee breaks and lunches. I introduced the practice (not done before at the Getty) of having respondents for each session and having both papers and responses circulated in advance. This produced some very vigorous and productive discussions. But much work for me. My successor in this job who visited the Getty last year to get a sense of how I was organizing matters, recoiled in horror: “I am coming here to some research, not to work myself to death.” A smart man.

Hence, some pluses and minuses. I had little time for sand and surf, let alone starlets (I may have seen some, but would not have recognized them). Little time also for writing. But I brought in many of my friends and many more whom I knew only by reputation, and I profited enormously from the scholarly exchanges. The enjoyment of spending other people’s money cannot be minimized. As a consequence of my spendthrift ways (and perhaps slightly as consequence of the failing national economy), even the Getty is now cutting back sharply on expenditures. I got out just in time.
NEW FACULTY

Daniel Sargent

by Professor Rebecca McLennan

Dr. Daniel Sargent joined us this year having recently completed his PhD in History at Harvard and a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale. Professor Sargent continues the work of expanding and restructuring Berkeley’s US field, bringing us much-needed expertise in diplomatic history and the exciting new field of international history. His doctoral dissertation, “From Internationalism to Globalism: The United States and the Transformation of International Politics in the 1970s,” examines the connections between US power and the restructuring of the international system in an era of renewed globalization. Continue...

Massimo Mazzotti

Massimo Mazzotti has studied in Italy and France before moving to Scotland, where he has been awarded a Ph.D. at the Science Studies Unit, University of Edinburgh (2000). He has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Dibner Institute (MIT), and the 2002 Kenneth May Fellow in the History of Mathematics at the University of Toronto.

Massimo’s current research interests include the interaction of religion and science in early modern Europe, and the politics of science and technology in the age of Enlightenment. He has authored articles in international journals including Isis, The British Journal for the History of Science, Technology and Culture, Actes de la Recherche en Science Sociales, and Ricerche storiche. He is also the author of The World of Maria Gaetana Agnesi, Mathematician of God (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), and the editor of Knowledge as Social Order. Rethinking the Sociology of Barry Barnes,
UNDERGRADUATE PROFILES

Jesus Gaytan

This past October I spent ten days in Michoacán, Mexico, conducting research for my senior thesis. The trip was made possible by the travel grant for undergraduate thesis research I received from Berkeley’s History department, and by the encouragement and support of my thesis advisor, Professor Margaret Chowning.

Continue...

Mircea Raianu

I am a fourth-year student about to graduate in Spring 2009, and the History Department has been my home at Berkeley. I entered university knowing my major but having no clue as to my concentration. From the start I set out to take courses that were as different as possible until I found out what I wanted to do.

Continue...
Graduate Profile

Kathryn Jasper

When I look out my bedroom window every morning I can see the tower of the Palazzo Vecchio, one of the most enduring symbols of Florence. That is, next to Brunelleschi’s dome, an architectural masterpiece that dominates the cityscape, which also happens to be right up the street. But I am in Florence with a purpose beyond enjoying the art and architecture (not to mention the cappuccinos). I came to study how a congregation of monastic communities managed property in the eleventh century. Many of their economic transactions are preserved in the Archivio di San Lorenzo, located in the Biblioteca Laurenziana, which is one of the most famous repositories of manuscripts in the world. I work in the sala di studio housed in a fifteenth-century cloister, which is quite appropriate considering my dissertation topic.

In a fashion similar to the monks I study, I spend my days hunched over parchments trying to decipher a scribe’s scrawled Latin. Typically these charters contain information such as the price at which a monastery purchased land, or there might be a request for water rights to operate a mill. Although it sounds fairly straightforward, as all historians know, sometimes things will turn up in a document you didn’t expect—some wonderful discoveries, some frustrating road blocks. Thus far I have already experienced quite a few surprises. One of the best things about my research is getting to work with these ancient primary sources, handling charters that were written almost a thousand years ago. After deciphering and transcribing the charters, I leave the cloistered archive and start the truly difficult part of my day, deciding which type of pizza I should have for dinner. I spend a part of the evening going over what I did in the archive before falling asleep to the sounds of Florence.
Interview with Darril Tighe

Lara Miller

Q: Tell me about something about your work, and about how you started painting.

I am an abstract painter, and I use watercolor on paper to make my images. I started on my own several years before I went to art school. I was an English major as an undergraduate and 10 years after graduating with a degree in English I returned to Claremont California, and studied art at Claremont Graduate School. It was the best two and a half years of my life. We were involved with art twenty-four hours a day and school expanded my vision and my talent. I love painting more than anything else in my life. It makes me feel completely alive when I am painting. I use color to create my compositions, so I probably would consider myself a colorist. I consider my paintings to be about color and light. I grew up in Hawaii and the colors of the tropics play a big role in my work.*

Q: Who are some of your influences?

I had a mentor in art school, a brilliant sound sculptor—he was my most immediate influence, Michael Brewster, probably the smartest person I know. He challenged and encouraged me. The hardest thing about graduating was to leave him behind. Other than him as an influence, my favorite painter is Mark Rothko. I love his work and he has inspired me. I saw a retrospective in Los Angeles and it knocked my socks off. Other than him I love Jackson Pollock, William Turner, Helen Frankenthaller --- all the modern abstract painters. Also Matisse and the German Expressionists. I like a lot of different types of artwork. I wait for a piece to grab me. I go to museums and galleries all the time. Besides the influence of other artists, my work is inspired by nature, light, color, the environment, whatever is happening at the time—friends, good conversation, etc.
Q: Your website shows some pieces from a series of autobiographical paintings. Can you tell me something about this series?

I conceived of an idea to create watercolor paintings as an abstraction of each year of my life--- it was like creating a problem to solve. I would muse about the year, bring in memories, diaries, letters, etc. and then would paint with that year in mind. I created 38 of those paintings before I ran out of steam. Some of them are my most successful paintings-very expressive. My modernist mentor would not have approved.

Q: When do you paint?

Whenever I can. I am always on as an artist. I see colors and shapes all the time. I have honed my eyes to see colors and compositions constantly. That being said, I paint in the evenings when I get home from work, and sometimes in the morning before work, and sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night after a dream and paint. And, of course, I have the weekends to devote to work where I am not interrupted. Some of my best work comes when I go to an art colony and paint all day and into the night. There is a consistency in time. It is hard to do this with a full time job.

Q: Does your job in the history department ever have any influence on your work in the studio?

Everything influences my work. All my interactions with people, the politics of the world, my relationships--- I feel like I paint from intuition and emotion. When I start to work, I clear my mind, and then make a mark and go from there. My best work happens when I leave my ego behind and transcend the experience and let what happens take over.

* The painting shown above is Pele (41/2' x 6', watercolor on paper.) In Hawaiian mythology, Pele is the goddess of volcanoes.
Notes from the HGA

History Graduate Association (HGA) This year, the History Graduate Association is running a number of new programs for the graduate community, as well as history undergraduates and faculty and staff of the History Department. The HGA has instituted a series of panel colloquia on methodology and historical focus, with an aim of offering students a forum to discuss current trends in the field with interested faculty. These 'Making History' panels cover topics such as global history, oral history, urban history, and ethics in history. A dissertation colloquia series is planned for the spring, in which advanced graduate students will present their original research, writing strategies, funding resources, and other topics related to the dissertation stage. The HGA is also hosting a number of social events throughout the year to create a greater sense of community among the department's graduate students. We've had great success so far with our first events, including great turnouts at the HGA Welcome Reception and the First Year Barbeque. The spring semester promises to hold more events, including the much anticipated return of the Historians' Classic Basketball Game between students and faculty. The members of this year's HGA are Jon Cole, Emily Hamilton, Sam Redman, Jeff Wolf, and Phil Wolgin. Many events are open to alumni. Please feel free to contact any of the members for more information.

The Department of History

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History Homecoming: An Annual gathering for alumni and friends of the History Department.

February 11th, 7-9 pm, Alumni House

Barack Obama and the Making of American History
A panel discussion of History Department faculty, including Mark Brilliant, Robin Einhorn, and Waldo Martin, will place the remarkable election victory of Barack Obama in its historical context. The discussion will include questions from the audience, and will be followed by a lavish reception and the opportunity for more conversation over food and drink.
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Melissa Hampton

Phi Alpha Theta, UC Berkeley’s premier undergraduate honors society, facilitates a wide range of activities every year designed to give history students the opportunity to better get to know one another, their graduate students, and their faculty on campus. Throughout the year, we sponsor events ranging from the intellectual to the purely social, including a stimulating lecture series, faculty-student dinners, and the History 101 undergraduate thesis colloquium at the end of every spring. This fall, Phi Alpha Theta was proud to hear from Professor Ethan Shagan, who discussed the process of writing his newest book on moderation and violence in Early Modern Europe. And just following this November’s historic presidential election, we were joined by Professor Robin Einhorn, who put the 2008 race in historical context and talked about the unique and changing nature of elections within the United States. The semester culminated in our annual fall faculty-student dinner, which allowed our large number of new members to enjoy pleasant conversation and a good meal with their favorite members of the UC Berkeley faculty.
# Job Placements

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
<th>Dissertation Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Suran</td>
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<td>(Dissertation Chair: David Hollinger)</td>
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<td>Joyce Mao</td>
<td>Middlebury College*</td>
<td>(Dissertation Chair: Kerwin Klein)</td>
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IN MEMORIAM JON GJERDE

Berkeley's Dean of Social Sciences, Jon Gjerde, died suddenly October 26 at his home in Albany of an apparent heart attack. Gjerde was 55.

Gjerde became Dean in 2007 after a year as Interim Dean. He had previously served as Chair of the Department of History. Gjerde joined the Berkeley faculty in 1985 as Assistant Professor of History, and in 2007 became the Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of American History.

Gjerde was a distinguished historian of immigration, widely respected for two prize-winning books, From Peasants to Farmers: The Migration from Belestrand, Norway to the Upper Middle West and The Minds of the West: The Ethnocultural Revolution of the Rural Middle West, 1830-1917 (1997). At the time of his death, he was nearing completion of a third major book, a study of Catholic-Protestant political and cultural interaction in the United States in the nineteenth century. He was also the editor of several other books and the author of several dozen monographic articles.

Gjerde was born in Waterloo, Iowa, on February 25, 1953. He completed his doctorate at the University of Minnesota in 1982, and prior to that had been an undergraduate at the University of Northern Iowa. Always affectionate toward the small-town Methodist milieu in which he grew up, Gjerde was not captured by that milieu, but ranged far and wide in the domains of scholarship and culture. He was known throughout the world as a leading scholar in his field, yet would often say to friends pensively, according to his colleague, Professor David A. Hollinger, "In some ways, I've never really left the Middle West."

Dean Gjerde leaves his wife, Ruth Gjerde, who is a staff employee of Berkeley's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and two daughters, Christine and Kari.
Memorial contributions may be directed to the Jon and Ruth Gjerde Graduate Student Endowment, a fund they established last year to benefit the History Department. (Checks should be made out to the UC Berkeley Foundation with a note directing it to the above named fund.)