Dear Friends,

This note brings all warm summer greetings and word that the latest newsletter from the Department of History is up on our Web site (http://history.berkeley.edu/). Here you will find various pieces from the May 22 commencement, including the moving address by Professor Stephen Hinshaw (chair of the Psychology Department at Cal) and remarks from me that recap some of the highlights of the year.

There is also a piece about the great study trip to Germany for our undergraduates, led by Professor Michael Schuering, that was made possible by your generous gifts. So, too, those gifts enabled over thirty majors to conduct research for their senior theses across this country and the world. One exceptionally thrilling donation to the department, which is now mounted in our entry hall, is the kago given by Mrs. Yasuko Ashford. To sate curiosity about just what a kago might be, do explore the newsletter.

As many of you may have heard, our colleague Carla Hesse will become Dean of the Division of Social Sciences in July, joining a lustrous lineage of historians in that job: Jon Gjerde, whose death last fall is a lasting sorrow for us all, and Jan deVries, who took up the reins on an interim basis last November (after serving earlier not only as dean but as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Faculty Welfare). I must admit to bittersweet emotions: gaining Carla as dean is terrific for us (and far more for the campus) but losing her daily presence down the hall is a first-class sacrifice.
We are weathering the financial storms pretty well thus far, largely thanks to a long history of munificence from our donors. We shall welcome a splendid new class of twenty-six graduate students in the fall (extensively supported by our endowments) and we continue to provide research grants to all our faculty. Some beautification is also in view: by the opening of the fall term (I hope) you can visit a refurbished mailroom and faculty lounge complete, just imagine, with space to sort and read that mail and chat with friends. Maybe coffee, too (if we can manage the clean-up detail).

The next History Homecoming is scheduled for February 10, 2010, when we hope to welcome you again in the early evening for drinks, a faculty panel, and a fine spread of sweets and savories. Last year the focus was the Obama election. I hope the (yet undetermined) theme for 2010 can be just as joyful.

Do keep in touch. And do thrive. We are a large and dispersed community, but one bound humanly by years of learning and talking together about the deepest (and often the lighter) things that matter most.

All warm regards,
Beth Berry, Chair
In 1911, American journalist Ambrose Bierce called history "an account, mostly false, of events, mostly unimportant, which are brought about by rulers, mostly knaves, and soldiers, mostly fools." This interpretation may horrify many of us here, as we have given four years of our lives to study what Mr. Bierce deemed unimportant and false. But four years ago, I agreed with him.

My first history class at Berkeley was Introduction to European History, a prerequisite for the Psychology major, taught by Professor Laqueur. My impression of history at that time was based on a preconception that I would learn a lot of dates and a lot of wars that I would never care about. For the sake of my intended major, I was prepared to endure it, and I was prepared to learn it, but I was not prepared to enjoy it.

Although Professor Laqueur taught me the dates of the Renaissance, the reasons behind the Thirty Years War, and the differences between the First French Republic and the Fifth, what I learned is that history is not a series of facts. I learned that history is the story of who we were, who we've become, and why and how we have arrived at this moment. It is an ever changing narrative that is constantly being revised and rewritten by historians. Each generation asks different questions of the past, and as we reevaluate our world, what we know changes. I can say it no better than Tommy Lee Jones did in the film, Men in Black. “Fifteen hundred years ago everybody knew the Earth was the center of the universe. Five hundred years ago everybody knew the Earth was flat, and fifteen minutes ago you knew that humans were alone on this planet. Imagine what you’ll know tomorrow.”

I also learned that it is not only the people in power who shape history, but also the peasants who believed they should own the land they worked, the American colonists who felt they should have representation in Parliament, the suffragists who insisted they had a citizen’s right to vote, the African Americans who fought for civil rights, the gays and lesbians who struggled to gain equal rights under the law, and the parents who, in the face of adversity and violence, fought for their children’s right to attend any school, regardless of race.

Today, we are leaving a university that has produced a significant share of extraordinary people who have made history. In the 1930s, J. Robert Oppenheimer, who became known as “The Father of the Atomic Bomb,” created Berkeley’s world-class physics department. In the 1960s, Berkeley
graduate Chief Justice Earl Warren ruled on some of the most important Supreme Court decisions in U.S. history. Through the 1980s, Berkeley alumni Steve Wozniak and Charles Simonyi brought us Apple Computers and Microsoft Word respectively, both of which have accompanied us through our undergraduate education. In 1996, Berkeley graduate Leroy Chiao became the first Asian-American astronaut to perform a spacewalk. And on a lighter note, in 2004 Berkeley engineering student William Hung proved that even those of us who cannot sing can still get record deals when he sang Ricky Martin’s “She Bangs,” on American Idol.

When I sat down in that European history class three years ago, I believed that what happened in the past was irrelevant. Today, I know that what happened in the past has everything to do with the future. As history majors, we have learned how to use our critical skills when we read and write, to do research, and to analyze documents. We leave this department blessed with an education that has prepared us to know why and how social change is possible and how to analyze whatever the future will bring into our lives. In short, we have learned to take our intellectual skills seriously, to think creatively and to use our imaginations wisely.

We leave the University of California knowing that the world expects a great deal from us. And while we may not all be the next Earl Warren, Steve Wozniak or William Hung, we have all been given the honor of receiving an education from UC Berkeley. We are the new history-makers. Some of us will challenge our society to listen to us. Many of us will fight the injustices that plague our world. All of us will ask the difficult questions, and question the obvious assumptions. This year we witnessed our own potential to change the course of history when thousands of Berkeley students mobilized to elect Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. As graduates of the department of History at UC Berkeley, we should never forget that we now join those who have made history. So congratulations, class of 2009. And go bears!
NEW BOOKS BY FACULTY

The Jews: A History (Prentice Hall; 1 edition)
John Efron (Author) with Steven Weitzman (Author), Matthias Lehmann (Author) and Joshua Holo (Author)

Inheriting the Holocaust: A Second Generation Memoir (Rutgers University Press)
Paula S. Fass

The G.I. Bill (Cambridge University Press)
Kathleen J. Frydl

PHOTO GALLERY

Installation of the Kago

Commencement

101 Circus
How Free is Free? The Long Death of Jim Crow (Harvard University Press)

Leon F. Litwack
COMMENCEMENT 2009

Opening Remarks
Mary Elizabeth Berry

Good morning to you all. My name is Beth Berry. I am the chair of the department of history and it is my honor to welcome you to this wonderful event.

Lots of legends have stood on this stage: Marian Anderson, Dave Brubeck, Yoyo Ma, and, a few weeks ago, the Dalai Lama. But their appearances here pale with yours; for today we have not one principal but over 300 principals, each of you with a complex and important story.

All of you probably have hectic stories about today—about getting yourselves and the people you love actually here and presentable this morning. You’re sleep-deprived. You’re high on caffeine and emotion (and perhaps other things). You’re wearing new shoes and old robes (really flattering robes) inspired by medieval clerics. And lord knows where you found parking space.

But it’s the back-stories that really make today huge—very long stories mixed for each of you of hope and risk and work and tears and all those people who helped you find your best selves. Here’s to you and to them.

Let me use my few minutes to tell you something about us. Mainly, we are big,. You may have noticed this. And we are big in many ways.

We are big, to begin, in numbers. There are 54 members of this faculty (each very, very special.) There are about 600 undergraduate majors, roughly 250 of you graduating this year. There are over 200 graduate students—27 of you receiving the M.A. degree today, 30 of you receiving the Ph.D. About 40% of us are women.

Our department is also big in fame, and justly so. A few days ago the ever-reliable Newsweek magazine confirmed that among major American history departments, we rank number . . . One! Let it be said, though, that Newsweek unaccountably called it a four-way tie: between Berkeley and Princeton, Stanford, and Yale. We commend our sisters for approaching our standard. You may know that they are a little richer in lucre than we are. But when it comes to human treasure, the advantage is here.

We are also very big in spatial reach. Many of us have the blessing to be Californians. (I am not referring here to the legislature and the budget.) And quite a few graduates have connections to Old Blues.

---Sarah Chamberlain’s great-grandmother, Ethel Eggleston, graduated in the Cal class of 1905, with a degree in German and Latin.
Samatha Silva’s mother, Alicia Donahue, received a Cal degree in history in 1981.
---Then there is the family of Tommy Owens: his mother, aunt, and cousin are all Cal alumnae.
---And the family of Brooke Agee: her older brother Chris has two Cal history degrees and both her parents have Cal degrees in something not-history (wisely left unnamed).

All these connections—and probably many more out there that I don’t know about—are particularly auspicious since Cal, is austerely meritocratic and gives no advantage to legacies. (You are alone in the application process.)

But while all of us are Berkelyans, we do come from all over: from most U.S. states, and from China, Taiwan, Australia, England, Japan, Germany, Greece, Korea, India, New Zealand, Vietnam, Russia, Israel, Mexico, the Czech Republic, France, Poland, and surely many other places as well.

We grew up speaking many languages. We learned many more. (One glory of Berkeley, incidentally, is that 58 modern and classical languages are taught here.) And our work reaches across the globe.

Among the books by the faculty published this year are:
The G. I. Bill, by Kathleen Frydl;
Inheriting the Holocaust: A Second-Generation Memoir AND Children of a New World, both by Paula Fass;
The Jews, a History, by John Efron;
How Free is Free? The Long Death of Jim Crow, by Leon Litwack.

As you will hear when the doctoral candidates are introduced, their dissertations form a brilliant catalogue of inquiry, through time and space, into the deepest human questions.

As for you seniors, there is the 101: the research essay based on primary sources that is our gold standard of greatness. You wrote, just to sample the work presented last week at our 101 Circus (otherwise called the Graduation Colloquium), about modern dance in the Soviet Union, Japanese castaways in Baja, middle class identity in Bengal, French propaganda in WWII, the role of children in the American abolitionist movement, 16th-c. Spaniards in the Yucatan, debate in the US about King Leopold’s Congo, the Carter Administration and Nicaragua, the odor of sanctity in medieval Orvieto, the politics of British rock music, and much, much more.

One of you—Melissa Hampton, the splendid head of the undergraduate history association—wrote about the trial in S.F. of a notorious madam, Sally Stanford. (Sally named herself after the winner of one of our bigger Big Games.)

To do your research, over 30 of you used travel grants from our marvelous donors to explore local archives. You went to Manzanar and North Carolina and Massachusetts and Washington. You went to Cuba and Mexico and Russia and India.

One of you—Dyana Delfin-Polk—walked down the hall to the Ethnic Studies Department to produce a fascinating study of the early years of Chicano studies on our campus. The point here is that most of us make our greatest intellectual journeys when stroll across this gorgeous campus to our own peerless libraries.

Oh, and by the way, lots of you studied abroad for a semester or more—in London and Paris, for example, in New Zealand and Shanghai. One of you did something formally called (I’m not kidding) “A Semester at Sea.” I suspect almost all of you did at least one informal semester at sea. (I know I do them regularly.)

Along the way, you collected big prizes. For doctoral candidates, the big deal is the post-doctoral
fellowship. Jessica Delgado won one at Princeton, Heather Ferguson and William Goldman at Stanford, Jo Guldi at the Harvard Society of Fellows (very swank), Miriam Kingsberg also at Harvard, and Amy Lippert at the Huntington Library.

An aside here: we trust you folks at Harvard can do something to help improve the ranking of their history department.

The Julia Warde Howe book prize, awarded by the Boston Authors Club, went to Sylvia Sellers-Garcia, who published last year a novel set in Guatemala. The title: When the Ground Turns in its Sleep. A little magazine called the New Yorker described the novel as an “impressive debut.” (Wow...)

More wow now among undergrads. Each year Berkeley identifies five finalists for the University Medal, which is awarded to Berkeley’s top graduating senior—in a class, bear in mind, of roughly 7,000 seniors across campus. This year, two of the five finalists are history majors:

---Sonia Fleury, a Haas scholar and double major in art history who works on modern France;

---and Zoe Silverman, a Latinist and medievalist who, among many things, did a research apprenticeship with Prof. Laqueur on the exhumation and reburial of White Army soldiers in Russia.

Then there is Rhae Lynn Barnes, the editor of the Berkeley Poetry Review, who recently added to other prizes the Collegiate Book Collecting Championship (a sort of Olympic medal for young book collectors.) Rhae Lynn collects racist, black-face minstrel plays—books she hates rather than books she loves—to shed light on the literature of an unhappy period in American history that most libraries and collectors have avoided.

There are a few faculty honors as well.

---David Hollinger is the president-elect of the Organization of American Historians.

---Rebecca McLennan was awarded the Littleton-Griswold Prize in American Law and Society by the American Historical Association for her book, The Crisis of Imprisonment: Protest, Politics, and the Making of the American Penal State, 1776-1941.

---Jonathan Sheehan has been awarded the Fredrick Burkhardt Fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies.

---Martin Jay has been honored by his many former graduate students—many of them eminent professors throughout the field—with a celebratory volume of essays

---And two colleagues—David Henkin and Carla Hesse—have won teaching awards for their inspired guidance of undergraduates and graduates alike.

Let’s be clear, though, that we know how to live Big and play Big, too.

Katy Milton (coxswain) and Samantha Silvia (rower) are members of the absolutely sterling Women's Crew Team.

At least one history major has served on the elected Executive Committee of the Cal Band for the past three years, including Hanadi Shatara, Brooke Agee, Tara Castro, and Eric Dezendorf.

And at least five of you seniors pursued your passions in internships:

Kate Sohasky at the Smithsonian; Marie Logan at Food & Water Watch; Rebecca Pollack in the New Zealand Parliament; Sarah Chamberlain in the US State Department in Ediburgh; and Michelle Bennet in US State Department.

Benjamin Wurgaft mixed dissertation research with writing on food culture and the arts for a number of magazines

Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara had a baby, Mateo, who, in her words, is both “the best distraction ever
and the best inspiration to graduate and get a job."

Martina Nguyen is getting married.

Kevin Sheehan is raising two sons, Liam and Patrick, in San Diego—together with his wife Paula De Vos, who also has a PhD in History from Berkeley.

And what next? I hope there are lasting love affairs and life-giving families and work for you all.

I know many of you seniors have the school habit and will be going on to graduate study—at Vanderbilt, Harvard, U. Wisconsin, USC, Oxford, Edinburgh, and yes, Berkeley. One of you will enter the Columbia Writing Program two will enter Irvine’s Master’s in Teaching Program.

At least three of you will Teach for America: Naomi Herman; Zoe Silverman; and Matt Busch. Rebecca Pollack will be teaching high school history in Oakland.

A number of you are entering new internships—at Common Cause, for example—or converting old ones into jobs. Tommy Owens, who was an ASUC senator, will be a Coro fellow in Public Policy in SF.

Our graduate students are going on to post-docs. And many are going into professorial positions: at the U. Colorado, Denver, SUNY Buffalo, Colby, U. Cincinnati, Centre College Kentucky, Boston College, Reed, U. Alaska, Weber State in Utah, UC Davis. Two of you—Kwangmin Kim and Miriam Kingsberg—are going to the U. of Colorado, Boulder, where Berkeley now has a lock on East Asian history. Both China historians and both two Japan historians there are ours.

Some of you have excellent positions elsewhere. Kevin Sheehan is curator and manager of collections at the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Wennan Liu looks forward to engaging in academic translation from English to Chinese and becoming a mediator between American and Chinese academia.

So, yes, I guess, you are leaving. At a difficult time economically. We worry about you. We will do our best to help and support you. We believe that who you are and what you have done is bedrock for a humane future.

Change is not easy. And some changes this year have been bitter. Last October we lost our cherished colleague and dean, Jon Gjerde, to a heart attack at the age of 55. I expect that many families among us have suffered losses. So let us salute our beloved dead.

But we have also welcomed new colleagues and new babies and new lovers and friends, and (maybe) new, mature manifestations not only of the young but of ourselves.

We do change. But we also have, I hope, an unbroken circle in spirit. Scholarship is often a lonely and solitary enterprise. Yet the best of us live and thrive because we know one another—because we struggle together, because we learn together, because we keep each other faithfully in mind.

Berkeley matters 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.
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Rhae Lynn Barnes
FAMILY MEMBERS, GUESTS, STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND GRADUATES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY...I AM TRULY HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DELIVER YOUR 2009 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS HERE IN ZELLERBACH.

I WOULD LIKE FIRST TO REMEMBER OUR LATE COLLEAGUE PROFESSOR JON GJERDE, OUR DEAN; WHAT A LOSS FOR THE DEPARTMENT THIS PAST YEAR.

THIS WILL NOT BE A PARTICULARLY WITTY TALK, AS I HAVE SOME SERIOUS ISSUES TO TALK ABOUT. BUT I HOPE THAT, IN THE END, IT MAY BE UPLIFTING, BECAUSE IT BLENDS PSYCHOLOGY (MY CHOSEN FIELD) AND WHAT LITTLE I KNOW ABOUT HISTORY...AND HOW BOTH PERSONAL AND MORE GENERAL HISTORIES CAN HUMANIZE US ALL.

SO, IF I MAY, A BIT OF MY OWN HISTORY: I RECEIVED MY ADVANCED EDUCATION IN CLINICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY. I HAVE KNOWN SINCE COLLEGE THAT I WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT THE CAUSES OF AND TREATMENTS FOR YOUTH WHO EXPERIENCE MENTAL PROBLEMS. MY WORK HAS TAKEN ME TO PRISONS, HOUSING PROJECTS, AND CLINICS, WITH SUMMER CAMP TREATMENT AND RESEARCH A MAINSTAY.

IN READING THE SCIENCE, AND IN FOLLOWING UP THE CHILDREN WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHO WERE PARTICIPANTS IN SUMMER PROGRAMS, A TROUBLING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS BECAME APPARENT. HERE ARE THE FACTS:

*BOYS PREDOMINATE WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS OF THE FIRST DECADE OF LIFE (ADHD, AUTISM, AGGRESSION). FOR THESE, BOYS OUTNUMBER GIRLS BY 3 OR 4:1.

*BUT GIRLS SHOW A RISE IN PREVALANCE BEGINNING IN THE EARLY TEEN YEARS, WITH A DIFFERENT SET OF PROBLEMS: DEPRESSION, CUTTING (OR SELF-HARM), ANXIETY, EATING DISORDERS.

*IN FACT, THE VERY STRENGTHS THAT GIRLS BRING INTO THE WORLD (VERBAL SKILLS, COMPLIANCE, SOCIAL SKILLS, EMPATHY)—WHICH PROTECT THEM FROM EARLY MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS—PLACE THEM AT HIGH RISK FOR ADOLESCENT PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY IF ABUSE, DEPRESSED PARENTS, OR OTHER RISKS ARE PRESENT. THE EMPATHY, SOCIAL CONCERN, AND LANGUAGE SKILLS CAN TURN INTO RUMINATION AND EXCESSIVE FOCUS ON OTHERS, WITH A NEGLECT OF TAKING CARE OF ONESELF.

SO, I STARTED TRACKING SOME RECENT HISTORY.

FIRST, IT CLEAR THAT IT'S THE BEST TIME IN HISTORY TO BE A GIRL AND YOUNG...
WOMAN: 57% OF COLLEGE DEGREES, 59% OF MASTER'S DEGREES GO TO WOMEN. ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS, TITLE IX: UNHEARD OF IN MY DAY. WE CAN'T GO BACK; THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE WONDERFUL.

BUT SECOND, WHAT'S THE HIDDEN COST? NOT ONLY ARE GIRLS AT GREATER RISK THAN BOYS IN ADOLESCENCE FOR SERIOUS MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS, BUT THE SITUATION HAS WORSENED CONSIDERABLY IN THE PAST DECADE.

FE MALES ARE GETTING DEPRESSED AT EVER-EARLIER AGES (FROM 30S, TO 20S, TO TEEN YEARS).

AS FOR SUICIDE, IT'S THE SECOND LARGEST CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS. RATES HAVE BEEN GOING DOWN IN BOYS, IN RECENT YEARS, BUT WENT UP 76% IN GIRLS 10-14 THREE YEARS AGO (AND UP 32% IN GIRLS 15-18). THIS IS ACTUAL SUICIDES, NOT JUST ATTEMPTS.

WHAT ABOUT CUTTING, SELF-MUTILATION, SELF-HARM—THOSE MEANS OF EXPRESSING DEEP INNER PAIN THROUGH GOUGING OR TORTURING THE BODY: THEY ARE A VIRTUAL EPIDEMIC AMONG TODAY'S TEEN GIRLS.

AND EATING PROBLEMS, ESP. BINGE EATING—ARE FAR HIGHER THAN ANYONE EXPECTED, ACCORDING TO A 2005 NATIONAL SURVEY.

EVEN DELINQUENCY AND VIOLENCE, DOWN IN BOYS SINCE THE MID-1990S, ARE UP IN GIRLS, OVER 35%.

REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE LEFT THE PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH MENTAL ILLNESS WAS BLAMED SOLELY ON BAD PARENTING. WE KNOW THAT NEARLY ALL FORMS OF MENTAL DISORDER HAVE MODERATE, OR SOMETIMES STRONG, GENETIC LIABILITY.

*BUT WE CAN'T EXPLAIN SUCH RECENT DECREASES IN THE AGE AT WHICH GIRLS AND WOMEN GET SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED, OR THE STRIKING INCREASES IN SUICIDE, SELF-HARM, BINGEING, AND AGGRESSION ON THE BASIS OF RECENT MUTATIONS TO GENES. DARWIN WOULD TURN OVER IN HIS GRAVE!

*SOMETHING OF HISTORICAL RELEVANCE IN THE CULTURE MUST BE PUSHING THE GENETIC ENVELOPE. AND WE KNOW NOW THAT ENVIRONMENTS ‘SWITCH ON’ OR ACTIVATE OUR GENES.

MY HYPOTHESIS IS SOMETHING CALLED THE 'TRIPLE BIND'

1. FIRST, GIRLS ARE STILL OUR CAREGIVERS AND NURTURERS—STARTING EARLY, AT AGE 2; AND WE CONTINUE TO SOCIALIZE THEM ALONG THESE LINES.

2. BUT WITH TODAY'S OPPORTUNITIES, AND GIRLS' STRENGTHS, AND WITH TITLE IX, WE MUST SOCIALIZE THEM TO BECOME TOP RANK—TO BE ATHLETIC AND ACADEMIC SUCCESSES, OUTPERFORMING BOYS. THIS CREATES A DOUBLE BIND, ALREADY.

3. WHAT MAKES THIS ESPECIALLY HARD, FOR GIRLS, IS NOT JUST SCHEDULING BUT RELENTLESS PRESSURE, TO BE PERFECTLY NURTURING AND PERFECTLY COMPETITIVE, WITHOUT ANYONE SEEING THE EFFORT...MEETING IMPOSSIBLE EXPECTATIONS...AND DOING SO WHILE MAINTAINING AN ULTRA-FEMINIZED OR ULTRA-SEXUALIZED LOOK, EFFORTLESSLY, WHICH IS BOTH PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

THERE'S A DEEP SENSE OF FAILURE IF ALL 3 BALLS AREN'T UP IN THE AIR. FALSE SELVES THRIVE; A TRUE IDENTITY MAY FAIL TO FORM.

THERE ARE OF COURSE MANY ASPECTS HERE: RELENTLESS CYBERCULTURE, A SHEER LACK OF SLEEP, THE HISTORICAL TRENDS OF ALTERNATIVE IDENTITIES (BEATNIKS AND HIPPIES AND GOTH ARE NOW CO-OPTED INTO SEXY ATHLETES AND ROCK SINGERS), THERE'S LITTLE ROOM FOR A UNIQUE IDENTITY.

AND, IT'S BEGINNING EVER EARLIER. IN A RECENT NATIONAL SURVEY OF 3RD GRADE
GIRLS: OVER HALF WORRIED ABOUT THEIR WEIGHT, WITH OVER A THIRD DIETING. 8 YEARS OLD!

LET ME NOTE SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH: BARB FREDRICKSON'S SWIMSUIT STUDY (POST DOC AT CAL, MICHIGAN, NOW UNC). AT MICHIGAN, SHE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED COLLEGE WOMEN AND MEN (IN AN INDIVIDUAL STUDY) TO DO HARD MATH PROBLEMS, ALONE IN A ROOM, ONLY A MIRROR AND DESK IN THERE, WHILE WEARING (A) SWEATER AND TROUSERS OR (B) A BATHING SUIT (ONE PIECE FOR THE WOMEN). WHAT A DEVIOUS SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGIST!

RESULTS: MEN FELT POSITIVE EMOTIONS AND DID BETTER IN SUITS... BUT WOMEN FELT SHAME AND DID FAR WORSE.

SO, SEXUAL OBJECTIFICATION TAKES AWAY COGNITIVE RESOURCES FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN. IF THIS HAPPENS IN 25 MINUTES, WHAT ABOUT THE CULTURAL BARRAGE OF TODAY?

**WHAT CAN BE DONE?**

*FOR ONE THING, WE CAN TEACH CRITICAL THINKING (MEDIA ANALYSIS—IS THIS AN AD OR NEWS? DO ALL GIRLS AND WOMEN TO LOOK LIKE THIS?)*

*SELF-DISCOVERY: IF WE ARE TO HELP TEENS THROUGH ADOLESCENCE, WITH GOAL OF IDENTITY FORMATION, WE MUST NOT INSIST ON RELENTLESS PERFECTION, BUT ON DOWNTIME, TRYING NEW THINGS, HAVING ROOM TO FAIL.*

*WIDER SENSE OF PURPOSE AND COMMITMENT (GET AWAY FROM THE RELENTLESS MIRROR OF THE TB).*

*MEALTIMES TOGETHER! THE RESEARCH IS CLEAR—BE OPEN AND CONCERNED, SHARE DAILY AND LIFE HISTORIES.*

*AND OPEN UP/TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS; WITHOUT THIS, NO CHANCE FOR ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT.*

BUT LET ME TELL YOU A BIT MORE ABOUT MY FAMILY HISTORY, WHICH WILL GIVE A SENSE OF HOW DIFFICULT THIS MAY BE.

MY FATHER, WHO PASSED AWAY 13 YEARS AGO, WAS A PHILOSOPHER AND A LOVING DAD.

HE WAS BORN IN 1919 TO MY PROHIBITIONIST GRANDFATHER AND MY MISSIONARY GRANDMOTHER, THE 4TH OF 4 BOYS. HIS MOTHER DIED WHEN HE WAS THREE, THE FIRST RISK FACTOR HE EXPERIENCED. HIS STEPMOTHER, ANOTHER MISSIONARY, ABUSED HIM AT THE SAME TIME THAT SHE PRAISED HIM...ANOTHER RISK FACTOR, ERODING TRUST. STILL, HE WAS SMART, ATHLETIC, RELIGIOUS, AND HARD WORKING.

YET IN 1936, AT AGE 16, HE INSPIRED AND TERRIFIED BY WHAT THE INTERNATIONAL PROHIBITION LEADERS WERE TELLING HIM AND HIS BROTHERS ABOUT CURRENT HISTORY IN PASADENA—ABOUT HITLER AND MUSSOLINI. HE WANDERED THE STREETS, SLEEPLESS FOR 3 DAYS, FINALLY JUMPING FROM THE ROOF OF THE FAMILY HOME, CONVINCED THAT HE COULD FLY TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM FASCISM.

HE PERIODICALLY SPENT LONG PERIODS IN MENTAL HOSPITALS, ONLY TO BOUNCE BACK, MISDIAGNOSED AS HAVING SCHIZOPHRENIA (AS OPPOSED TO THE ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS OF BIPOLAR DISORDER, WHICH HE RECEIVED 40 YEARS TOO LATE—AFTER COLLEGE, I HAD LEARNED ENOUGH TO HELP HIM GET THE RIGHT DIAGNOSIS)

STIGMA COST HIM NEEDED TREATMENT FOR 40 YEARS. IT ALSO PLACED HIM IN MENTAL HOSPITALS, CHAINED TO HIS BED.

IT ALSO LED HIM, IN 1945, FRESH OFF HIS PH.D. IN PHILOSOPHY FROM PRINCETON, WHERE HE STUDIED WITH THE VISITING BERTRAND RUSSELL AND WITH ALBERT EINSTEIN, TO PHILADELPHIA STATE HOSPITAL FOR 5 MONTHS, BELIEVING THAT HE
I was being held in a concentration camp (translating the road signs into German on a day pass with one of his brothers). A psychotic delusion, yes, but prescient: Phila. State was the subject of “The Snake Pit,” and my father knew of Hitler’s goals of ridding the world not only of Jews but of gypsies, gay and lesbian individuals, the mentally defective, and the mentally ill.

Stigma did not allow my sister and me to know, as my father was told in the 50’s by his doctors, receiving hospitalizations and shock treatment: “Never tell your children about mental illness, they can’t understand.” It led him to believe that he deserved his episodes and hospitalizations. It led the family into silence.

Only after I had begun college, did he go against medical advice and call me in to his study during school holidays to reveal his history. This led me to psychology, and work with children. Perhaps I wished to help the lonely child I had been. And my father, who soothed me when he was home when I was young, speculated that I would live to be 100, because of the miracles of modern medicine. Perhaps he wondered whether any of the miracles might help him.

The irony is that we now know that of the top 10 most debilitrating illnesses worldwide, 5 are mental illnesses: depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and OCD, plus substance abuse. Depression will become the most impairing illness on earth by 2010. And the stronger irony is that mental disorders really respond to treatment.

But on average, from the time one realizes that symptoms are present, it’s 10 years until treatment.

So, today, I ask on commencement day that you consider each of your families—their histories, and your own.

This is a day of celebration, but please consider some of your family members who may not have made it here. Some who rarely get discussed—about whom you may carry a heavy heart.

* Maybe the grandparent who lost his or her life to suicide, or alcohol.
* Or the aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, or cousin whose depression, or ‘breakdown,’ made it difficult for them to go to family functions or keep jobs.
* Or the children of the newest generation who are locked into the world of autism, or who can’t seem regulate their behaviors and emotions no matter how hard they try, or whose learning problems or mental retardation stand in the way of succeeding in school.
* Or those of any age whose anxieties are crippling, preventing them from venturing out to face the world.
* Or, more dramatically, those who seem to have lost the thread of reason, and who find themselves periodically in mental hospitals, or board and care homes, or even on the street.
* And the many family members, often of advancing years, whose minds or whose emotional control have been eroding because of neurological disease or injury.

I dedicate this talk to all of your family members who cope with mental illnesses—with the hope that their histories (and yours), will become a bigger, more explicit part of your narratives, your own histories.
IF WE CAN DO ANYTHING TO BRING THOSE HISTORIES TO LIGHT, WE MIGHT STUDIES OF CAUSES AND TREATMENTS, AND TO INCLUDE RATHER THAN EXCLUDE ... BECAUSE THE CORE PROBLEM IS EVEN RECOGNIZING THESE ISSUES.

WORK WILL NEED TO TAKE PLACE ON VARIOUS FRONTS: IN THE MEDIA, WHERE THE MAIN IMAGES ARE OF VIOLENCE, INCOMPETENCE, AND HOPELESSNESS, OR OF SEXUALIZATION OF OUR DAUGHTERS.

IN STATE CAPITOLS, BECAUSE IN OVER HALF OF THE STATES, LAWS EXIST SUCH THAT IF ONE DISCLOSES A HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS, HE OR SHE CANNOT VOTE, HAVE CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILDREN, HOLD OFFICE, AND DRIVE A CAR, OR SERVE ON A JURY. (IF SUCH LAWS WERE IN PLACE 150 YEARS AGO, LINCOLN WOULD NEVER HAVE HELD OFFICE)

WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE IN EACH OF OUR FAMILIES, WHERE THE MAIN STANCE IS ONE OF SECRECY AND SHAME.

TRAGICALLY, MENTAL ILLNESS REMAINS TODAY’S LEPROSY, IN TERMS OF EXCLUSION AND FEAR, I HOPE THAT WHEN YOUR OWN CHILDREN GRADUATE, THINGS CAN BE DIFFERENT.

WE ARE BORN HISTORIANS; WE WERE NATURALLY SELECTED TO TELL OUR NARRATIVES, OUR LIFE STORIES; DOING SO CREATES OUR IDENTITIES AND BRINGS US TOGETHER.

AND SO, TO THE CLASS OF 2009—CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE WORKED HARD, AND THIS DAY WILL BE A BENCHMARK IN THE REST OF YOUR LIFE HISTORY.

THANK YOU, HISTORY DEPARTMENT AND CHAIR BETH BERRY, FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY. A SIMPLE PLEA, BUT A DIFFICULT ONE: TO OPEN UP OUR OWN, AND OUR FAMILIES' HISTORIES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2009! GO BEARS!
NEW BOOKS

Tracing her family’s Holocaust story, a historian learns that facts can count for as much as the big picture

By Carol Ness, Public Affairs | 26 February 2009

BERKELEY —Paula Fass always knew that she existed only because her parents, Polish Jews, survived the Holocaust.

Before she turned three, she had heard her mother’s story of losing her son to the Nazi exterminators.

She was just seven, or so, when she discovered that her father had had an entire first family — a wife, two daughters, and two sons, all starved and weakened in the Lodz ghetto, then gassed at Auschwitz. He never spoke to her of them.

Fass, a Berkeley history professor for more than 30 years, now realizes that it’s no coincidence that she went on to become a top scholar in the study of children — but always other children, never the ones that haunted her family. Not until her own children, Bibi and Charlie, were well into their teens did she turn her historian’s eye to these ghosts.

The result was a deeply personal and often painful nine-year journey that started in Poland and is recounted in Fass’s new book, Inheriting the Holocaust: A Second-Generation Memoir, just out from Rutgers University Press.

"I was very reluctant to do it for a long time. I felt like a poacher. These were not my experiences," Fass says. "Then I realized that it was my story, and that I had an obligation and a responsibility to tell it."

While she hadn’t lived her parents’ lives, she had been shaped by their memories and their pain — and she wanted to know their lived experience, and understand it better, so that she could pass the connection along to the next generation.

"It needed to be real for my children, so they had a past," Fass says. "And I needed it to be real for other people, as well."

The enormity of the Holocaust is so immense that it’s hard for the mind to grasp, she says, unless you shatter it, like a huge piece of glass, and tell it through the pieces, the individual lives.

She builds her story through the everyday details she gleaned from the memories her mother, a gifted storyteller, shared with her and from the fragmentary and sometimes contradictory
records she tracked down on an emotional journey to Poland nine years ago.

Fass was able to piece together the lives of several generations of her family — what they wore and ate, their jobs and friends, how they lived, first as thriving members of society in pre-war Lodz, then through the Holocaust's devastation, and then, for the few survivors, in their new lives. (A family tree in the book shows 20 family members lost — with the fate of others still unknown.) Her parents immigrated to New York, where Fass grew up.

Fass herself is a main character: The book is framed by her dual existence as the devoted daughter of survivors and a young American teen-ager building her own identity as a scholar while grappling with questions about the role memories play in constructing history.

Neither of her parents ever went back to Poland before they died. They didn't want to. But Fass realized that if she were going to write her memoir, she needed to start there. She was born in Germany, where her parents were liberated, in 1947, landed in New York in 1951, and went to Poland for the first time in 2000, accompanied by her daughter, Bibi.

Her profession gave her the tools she needed to find the facts amid what remains some six decades after the Nazi atrocities were ended: birth certificates and graves, so many unmarked; the register from the Jewish ghetto in Lodz, where her parents lived through much of World War II; notebooks of people from the time. Fass, with Bibi, walked miles in the Lodz cemetery looking fruitlessly for her two grandfathers, who had died of starvation in the ghetto.

At Chelmno, several hours from Lodz, she found a piece of history never mentioned by her parents, an early killing ground where many from Lodz — including, probably, Fass's mother's young son — perished. As Fass describes it, thousands "were gassed in large vans ... and then dumped into the ground where we now stood. As the earth swelled with the rank putrefaction of so many bodies buried at once, the Germans sought more efficient and hygienic means of disposal."

It was in Poland, after her parents' deaths, that Fass finally learned the names of many of the people whose stories she'd long heard — including all of the names of her father's four children and wife, and of her mother's first husband, who died in the Lodz ghetto.

As painful as her family's history was to recollect, Fass sobbed only as she wrote her chapter on her parents' first families. "It's a tormented chapter ... the others are painful but not tormented," she says.

Mysteries remain, including how her parents survived what so many others didn't, and how they met. They didn't speak of it.

Writing the book was not, as some have suggested, cathartic for Fass. "In some ways it's the opposite," she relates. "I wake up in the night and passages of the book come into my mind, as if they're something I need to work through. It's almost as though I've finally allowed it to enter into my consciousness and my life. It's not separate now."

Writing the book also transformed her definition of the historian's proper role. Until she took on her family's history, she believed that a historian's primary responsibility was to interpret events, not simply to uncover what happened.

"Facts were only facts, but as historians we emphasize context and perspective," she writes. "Now I know that in trying to reconnect to this most essential history, the facts count the most."
Dear Dr. History,

My fiancé and I have decided to have a "throwback" wedding theme, but we cannot agree on a historical period. He wants "Roman Romance" but I have my heart set on "Me and You in Mesopotamia". Can you recommend a compromise?

Sincerely,
No Name Nuptials

Dear No Name:

Dr. History wonders at your decision to write off modernity altogether, but reconciles herself to the idea that the deeper past has its attractions. Meanwhile, there are three issues to consider in weighing your Mesopotamian fantasy against the Roman vision of your betrothed. First, invitations. Much as we love Cuneiform, Latin will have clear advantages in case of undereducated guests.
Second, tunics versus togas, especially for your bridesmaids. You will be able to annoy your close female friends either way, depending on colors, but the Mesopotamian tunic does seem to have the edge on this one.

Finally, on the honeymoon, it's definitely Rome. Italy versus Iraq . . . But there are also geographically and temporally appropriate compromises here: a Mediterranean cruise or the beaches of Israel, Greece, or any other ancient society with modern tourist facilities.
But do not sweat the mixing of metaphors. A no-no in prose, it may be the essence of compromise in personal life.

Love,
Dr. History
A spring break excursion.

Michael Schuering

For ten days our 103 course traveled to Germany, visiting sites, museums and archives. The goal of the trip was to bring students closer to the material culture of scientific knowledge and historical scholarship. We visited Frankfurt, as the center for German chemical industry with its imposing former headquarter of chemical giant IG Farben. It now houses the University of Frankfurt and an impressive exhibition, showing the company’s use of slave labor and participation in the war effort during the time of National Socialism.

We went on to Munich and the Deutsches Museum, one of the finest collections for the history of science and technology in the world. The Museum maintains an archive where students were shown original documents such as letters and laboratory diaries of eminent scientists and engineers, including Otto Hahn, Albert Einstein, and Wernher von Braun. The museum’s collections include replica of technological and scientific artifacts such as Germany’s V2-rocket...
Our last stop was Berlin where we were privileged to be introduced to the work and collections of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and the Archive of the Max Planck Society. We walked across the former campus of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society (the predecessor), Germany’s most prestigious research organization until 1945. It was a close encounter with the ambivalence of scientific progress at the birthplace of physical and chemical breakthroughs in both war and peace.

See photographs of the trip here: http://history.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/103Germany/.
THE 101 CIRCUS

Click here for pictures of the event.

Click here to read the program.

This spring, Phi Alpha Theta and History Department Chair Mary Elizabeth Berry hosted the 101 Circus, the department’s annual undergraduate thesis colloquium. The event, held on Tuesday May 12th, provided 20 of history’s most accomplished majors with the opportunity to present their 101 projects to an audience of faculty and peers. The presentations covered topics that spanned eras and continents, ranging from the Odor of Sanctity in medieval Orvieto to recent environmental politics in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Other topics focused on Japanese castaways in Baja California, child abolitionists in 19th century America, Victorian theatre, British youth culture, and the creation of UC Berkeley’s Chicano Studies program in the 1970s. A complete list of presenters and topics can be viewed above in the program for the event. In addition to the presentations, the day also featured a delicious lunch in Ishi Courtyard and a cocktail reception hosted by Professor Berry.

Phi Alpha Theta would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of everyone involved in making this year’s Circus a huge success, especially Professor Berry, Deborah Kerlegon, Lara Miller, Janet Flores, Leah Flanagan and each of the presenters. Thank you all very much for all your hard work, and we look forward to another great 101 Circus in the spring of 2010.

--Melissa Hampton
COMMENCEMENT 2009

Professor Berry's Introduction of Stephen Hinshaw

Stephen Hinshaw is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology here at Berkeley and Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychology at U.C.S.F.

He is an award-winning teacher, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a former President of the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, and a member of the International Advisory Board on Stigma and Discrimination in the UK. (There's much more, of course . . .)

His work concerns children and adolescents, particularly those with troubles. Steve has had an abiding interest in attention deficits and hyperactivity in children (first in boys, more recently in girls) since the time of his graduate research at U.C.L.A. in the 1970s when ADD was a new diagnostic category.

He has written over 200 articles and 7 books, and he has received over 12 million dollars in grants. (I wish I could say that I know what this feels like.) And can we just add that Steve's research interests in hyperactivity may be biographically meaningful? (This is one hyper-productive human.)

Incidentally, his work gets covered by the Today show, CNN, Time magazine, USA Today, the New York Times, and almost everybody else. (I really wish I could say that I know what this feels like.)

But this is no cool clinician driven by professional ambition (though I'm sure he does have some ambition). In several frank autobiographical pieces, Steve Hinshaw has written about his early calling away from medicine to psychology, his formative experiences as a volunteer in prisons and Big Brother programs, and his revelatory discovery, after entering college, of his father's trials.

Virgil Hinshaw was a distinguished academic philosopher who suffered from mis-diagnosed bipolar disease, which he long kept secret from his children. Steve writes tenderly of him in an important book of 2002, The Years of Silence are Past: My Father's Life with Bipolar Disease. In Steve's words:

Despite the grim realities of many aspects of my father’s personal history, including the shortcomings of the mental health profession, I believe that his story is ultimately a positive one. From my perspective, his life illustrates the essential point that devastating and even debilitating
life experiences can yield strength, gentleness, and resilience. Too often, mental illness is portrayed as both entirely irrational and completely dominating of the afflicted person's life. This perspective neglects the reality that mental illness is a major part of the human condition, showing its effects in nearly every extended family on the planet, and that it can prompt courage and strength as well as devastation and hopelessness, often in unexpected ways.

Steve Hinshaw's most recent book is The Triple Bind: Saving Our Teenage Girls from Today's Pressures (2009). The Bind? Be pretty, sweet, and nice; be athletic, be competitive, and get straight As; be impossibly perfect.

Again, in his voice:

Despite the apparent wealth of choices, our girls are ultimately presented with a very narrow, unrealistic set of standards that allow for no alternative. A seemingly boundless and hermetic culture insists on every female looking thin, pretty, and sexually available, whether she's a political pundit, a professional athlete, or a ten-year-old girl, even as it also demands that every girl aspire to being a wife (lesbian or straight) and mother, all while climbing to the top of her career ladder, becoming a millionaire, and triumphing over every possible competitor.

Steve studies the psycho-pathological consequences of this lunacy even as he offers here, and in much of his work, a redemptive vision of healing and wholeness that focuses on the generous and expansive opening of the self to others and some peaceful reconciliation with human imperfection.

Here is a wonderful person.
GRADUATE JOB PLACEMENTS

*denotes tenure track

Heather Furguson - Postdoc Stanford
Advisor: Beshara Doumani

Dalia Muller - SUNY Buffalo, Dept. of History*
Advisor: Margaret Chowning

Brianna Leavitt - Alcantara Centre College (Kentucky)
Advisor: William Taylor

Ron Bialkowski
Sage Ridge School (Reno NV)
Advisor: Nicholas V. Riasanovsky

Jo Guldi
Postdoc Harvard Society of Fellows
Advisor: James Vernon

Camila Trumper
SUNY Buffalo (American Studies)*
Advisor: William Taylor

Jessica Delgado
Postdoc Princeton (3 year) Department of Religion
Advisor: William Taylor

Brandon Little
Weber State University (Ogden UT)
Advisor: Paula Fass

Miriam Kingsberg
Postdoc Harvard (2 year) then University of Colorado, Boulder*
Advisor: Andrew Barshay

Amy Lippert
Colby College then Post Doc Huntington
Advisor: David Henkin

Julian Bourg
Boston College*
Advisor: Martin Jay

Corrie Decker
UC Davis*
Advisor: Tabitha Kanogo

Kwangmin Kim
University of Colorado, Boulder*
Advisor: Wen Hsin Yeh

Sean McEnroe
Reed College
Advisor: William Taylor

William Goldman
Postdoc Stanford Humanities (IHUM)
Advisor: Thomas Dandalet

Eric Weisbard
University of Alabama* (American Studies)
Advisor: Waldo Martin

Chris Agee
University of Colorado, Denver*
Advisor: Kerwin Klein

Brian Kassof
University of Alaska, Fairbanks*
Advisor: Yuri Slezkine

Benjamin Wurgraft
UC Berkeley, lecturer
Advisor: John Efron
HISTORY DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ANTIQUE KAGO

view photos of the kago here

This kago (often translated as palanquin or sedan chair) is a very generous gift to the department from Mrs. Yasuko Ashford of Los Gatos, an antique dealer. It was installed in the foyer of the north entrance to the office wing of Dwinelle Hall by Mr. Andrew Woodd and his team from Atthowe Fine Art Services. We are planning a ceremony to thank Mrs. Ashford and mount a small descriptive plaque.

Kago date from the early fifteenth century in Japan but came into wide use in the seventeenth. Simple models, usually made of bamboo, were used extensively by members of all classes during the Tokugawa period (1600-1858). Ornate models such as our own—with red and black lacquered wood, metal fixtures and crests, interior arm rests and paintings, and dual roofs—were reserved by law for the use of courtly aristocrats, daimyo, samurai over the age of fifty, physicians, and members of the Buddhist hierarchy.
Linda Finch Hicks, the manager of the history department won the annual Lilli Fabilli and Eric Hoffer essay contest. The contest is open to students, faculty and staff at the university. Three students also won, and the three winners shared $3000 in prize money.

Rock, Paper, Scissors

Jan ken po, ai ko de sho ... So went the game when I was a child in Tokyo. Foreigner, red-devil, or friend? Always the questions ... Where did you come from? What are you to us? How can you sound Japanese when you don't look Japanese? Jan ken po, ai ko de sho ...

Rock, paper, scissors, rock, paper, scissors .... What do you mean you never lived in America before? But aren't you American? You said your sister was born in Japan, she doesn't look Japanese?


Rock, paper, scissors. Foreigner, red devil, friend. "Yes, yes" I interject so that you will know I am listening. No, I haven't heard what you are saying before. Wrong cultural signals. Again.

Henna gaijin! Weirdo foreigner! So come flying the rocks and spit.

Paper covers rock as politeness covers feelings.

But cruelly scissors cut paper, causing separation. Let's not play with her today — she's not one of us.
And rock breaks scissors — solid, whole, unchangeable. I am all these things: foreigner, red devil, and friend.

We all have stories of alienation, of finding our place. We are defined and in turn define ourselves, our space, our world. Who am I today? Foreigner, red devil, or friend. How do you know me? Jan, ken, po ... rock, paper, scissors ... always a gamble, sometimes a choice.

— Linda Finch Hicks
December 2008
Sometimes the hardest thing in the world is to do what you love. No one—no one—knows that better than a graduate student.

Today I become a Berkeley graduate three times over: BA (2001), MA (2003), and now I’m receiving my PhD. I love and appreciate Berkeley for all the opportunities it’s given me, for its embrace of free speech and independent thought, for the ways this University has expanded my horizons and changed my life.

But when I walk out of here, I’ll make thousands less than what I earned when I came in, 7 years ago. And I’m one of the lucky ones, because I actually have a job next year, and I’m grateful for it. The academic job market has always been extremely difficult; for many years, doctoral programs across the country have been producing more professors than there are professorships. And this year, that employment problem has reached a crisis-level—the few jobs that did exist have been cut (according to some estimates, by 30%) because universities everywhere are drastically scaling back their budgets. In a recent New York Times article, an NYU dean said that Ph.D.s are stacked up “like planes hovering over La Guardia” in “a year of no jobs.” We all have the social and political responsibility to continue funding higher education even (and especially) in times of crisis. But universities have additional ethical responsibilities under these circumstances...which might include not training more graduate students than they can expect to place; not relying upon graduate student labor when they can no longer claim to be preparing those graduate students for teaching careers.

None of us could have seen this coming, but we all knew when we entered the doctoral program at Cal that jobs were scarce, and that if we were lucky enough to get one, we would not make much money (especially in relation to the number of years it takes to finish your doctorate). We knew that completing a 300-plus-page dissertation that meets the approval of 3 faculty members would be no mean feat. We knew all the Simpsons jokes about grad students, we knew (or maybe thought we knew) how hard our own GSIs had worked when we were undergrads, and we knew that if and when we did graduate, we would have no control at all over where we’d wind up teaching and spending most of our adult lives. So why the hell would we do this? Why voluntarily opt for the thankless existence of a graduate student??? (No one likes tweed that much.)

My colleagues and I share many of the same passions and priorities, and since I’m representing
the grad students, I'll tell you my own story. After graduating from Cal in 2001 (a history major, of course) I took a year to work full time at a law firm, because I was debating between law school and graduate school. I made the classic pro-con list about my options, knowing that this decision would have a momentous impact on the rest of my life. And the grad school list included all the cons I've already mentioned: low pay, no control over where you wind up, a tough job market, and a very long road to graduation. By comparison, the law school list looked much less painful: I would finish in 3 years, easily make a 6-figure salary, could probably stay in San Francisco, and would kid myself that I wouldn't have to feel guilty about it because I'd soon move on to a career in politics, or I'd become the next Clarence Darrow (yeah, right).

Here's what made me choose grad school. I was on the BART, heading home from work at the law firm. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 had recently happened, so I had already been contemplating my mortality and the question of what I wanted to accomplish in whatever amount of time I had left in this world. It was rush hour, and I was stuck standing in a crowded train car full of suits. I looked around me and thought to myself: “how many of them will inspire someone in their lifetimes?” How many people get that chance? I realized that not one suit in all of my law firm, in all the financial district had ever inspired me in a fundamental way, had ever made me experience life differently, had ever given me an entirely new perspective on society, culture, politics, or existence itself. But my professors at Cal had. Robert Middlekauff; Susanna Barrows; Robin Einhorn (the intellectual tornado); David M. HENKIN!...and of course, and especially, Leon F. Litwack—they had forever changed the way I thought, the way I saw the world, the way I understood history and the people around me. Once I recognized that, I knew I wanted the chance to do the same: to truly make a difference in people's lives, to share my passion for history with future generations. So that’s what I did.

In a way, that's what all of us up on this stage have done: we took a flying leap into the unknown, and we did it because this is our passion. You have to admire that kind of courage, persistence and determination, especially in the face of the odds that are now against us. Whatever else happens, we did this. We accomplished what we set out to do, after 6, 7, 8, 9 years for some of us, after living off of $15,000 a year, after undergoing the trials and tribulations of qualifying exams, dissertations, and the humbling experience of the job market. I hope that this brand of commitment and courage can serve as inspiration for our own students, the BA graduates here today, as each of you figure out what to do next with your lives. I’m not suggesting that everyone should be a professor; it’s a distinctive calling that requires a unique combination of skills, perseverance (and...insanity).

I am however, arguing that you—all of you, but especially the Class of 2009— you should do what you love, no matter how hard that is, no matter what happens. Create a life less ordinary for yourselves. Live the kind of life that inspires others. Take what you've learned here in our History department, from our professors and GSIs, and use that knowledge and those abilities, to accomplish something truly worthwhile—perhaps historic. Don’t waste your time and effort on selfish and inconsequential endeavors. Let the Stanford graduates enjoy their country club memberships and their gradual decline into obscurity. You're from Berkeley, and if Berkeley teaches us one thing, it's that standing apart from the pack can be a good thing...sometimes it's downright glorious. I want you to change the world; and given the skills we've all acquired here at Berkeley, I expect each of us to think critically and question authority for the rest of our lives, to be brave enough to stand up for what is right, even when it is unpopular or downright dangerous to do so, to commit ourselves to employing our talents for the sake of creating a better place on this planet.

As the poet Donald Hall said, “the only way we are likely to be any good is to try to be as great as the best.”
The people up on this stage with me are the best: they are some of the most brilliant, dedicated, admirable human beings I have ever known and can ever hope to know in my lifetime. They will change the world for the better, and I am so very proud to stand with them here today. Thank you.
Table of Contents

LEON LITWACK'S HOW FREE IS FREE?
The Long Death of Jim Crow

Waldo E. Martin, Jr.


How Free is Free? is a telling exploration of the tension between white supremacy and the enduring Black Freedom Struggle. On one level, as Litwack shows, the more things change, the more they remain the same. On another, freedom is a deeply contested terrain of ongoing struggle between the powerful and the powerless. Using a variety of materials, including African American cultural sources — from the Blues to Rap — How Free is Free? offers probing insight into the consciousness and actions of dispossessed yet constantly struggling African Americans, voices and experiences still too often excluded from our National History.

How Free is Free? builds masterfully upon Litwack’s earlier highly acclaimed works: Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery (1979); and, Trouble in Mind; Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow (1988). How Free is Free? heightens the anticipation awaiting Pearl Harbor Blues: The Black South and Race Relations in World War II. This forthcoming full-scale historical examination of the impact of World War II on the modern Black Freedom Struggle and black-white relations in the US promises to be a powerful and fitting conclusion to Litwack’s important trilogy, which I anticipate will soon constitute a classic series of historical works.

Waldo E. Martin, Jr.
Professor of History
NEW FACULTY

**Alexander C. Cook** specializes in modern and contemporary Chinese history. He comes to Berkeley from Stanford University, where he has been a Mellon Humanities Fellow for the past two years. He earned his PhD in History from Columbia University in 2007, and previously taught at his alma mater Brown University. His research investigates the legal, intellectual, and cultural history of China within the broader context of the global twentieth century. He has several research projects underway: *The Cultural Revolution on Trial: Justice in the Post-Mao Transition; Three Worlds Apart: Chinese Visions of the Third World; and Little Red Book: A Global History of Quotations from Chairman Mao.*

**Brian DeLay** writes about connections between indigenous peoples and the interlocked histories of American nation states. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2004, taught for four years at his alma mater the University of Colorado, Boulder, and spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University. His publications include articles in the American Historical Review and the Journal of the Early Republic, and he is coauthor of the US history textbook Nation of Nations (McGraw-Hill). His book *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War* was published by Yale University Press last year, and will be issued in paperback this fall. At Cal he'll teach classes on U.S. and the World, borderlands, comparative histories of contact and conquest, and the global history of the arms trade. Brian is now at work on a book about native peoples and the international arms trade in the Americas, 1750-1900.
FACULTY AWARDS

Dean's Professor of East Asian History and Department Chair, Mary Elizabeth Berry has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In May, David Henkin received the distinguished teaching award from the Division of Social Sciences.

Carla Hesse is the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Mentoring Award, which is conferred by the Graduate Division and the Graduate Assembly.

Jonathan Sheehan has received a prestigious Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars.

The Swiss Academy for Humanities and Social Sciences elected Thomas Brady as an honorary fellow.

MORE NEWS

Richard Abrams. Since retiring, I have published a couple of articles -- including a piece for Dissent showing that public policy confutes the idea that Americans live in "a consumer society," and a review essay in Business History Review on the economist, Joseph Schumpeter. Having sent some 3000 books from my home and office library to Zhijiang University in Hangzhou, China, and having cleared out 14 file drawers of stuff, I have finally abandoned my office of some 40 years. I have kept enough books as a reserve for some future writing plans. Meanwhile, Marcia and I will attempt to provide some edification for Cal Alumni traveling the Black Sea and the Dnieper River this July beginning in Bucharest and ending in Kiev, and have signed on to do the same for travelers from Berlin to Prague next April. Traveling companions are invited.

Richard Cándida Smith has a new book coming out in September from University of Pennsylvania Press: The Modern Moves West: California Artists and Democratic Culture in the Twentieth Century. Exploring the transformation of California into a center for contemporary art through the twentieth century, this book traces the tensions between the “democratic” and the “professional” sides of modern art. The experiences of the artists examined dramatically illustrate the paths taken as the United States has developed a more diverse and inclusive culture.

Roger Hahn has been re-elected as Vice-President of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences, and will attend the International Congress of History of Science meeting in Budapest in late July. When he returns, he will be offering a freshman seminar in the Fall quarter.

David Henkin spent much of the Spring semester on sabbatical in Paris, working on two book projects, one of which is a collaborative survey text on U.S. History with Rebecca McLennan. In May he was the grateful recipient of a teaching award from the Division of Social Sciences.

Carla Hesse was appointed to the Peder Sather Chair in the Department of History and (pending Regential approval) as the new Dean of Social Sciences. She won the Graduate Assembly "Distinguished Graduate Mentorship Award." She also delivered the inaugural "Alphonse Aulard Lecture" on the French Revolution at the the University of Paris (Sorbonne) on Political Justice in the French Revolution.

David A. Hollinger is now President-Elect of the Organization of American Historians and has been traveling extensively in carrying out the duties of that office. On Campus, he has been serving as the Director of the American Political History Seminar under the auspices of the Institute of Governmental Studies. In addition, this past winter and spring he lectured at the University of Cambridge, delivered the Kutler Lectures on Jewish History at the University of Wisconsin, was a featured speaker at the national convention of the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education, participated in an international conference in Berlin, Germany, that was organized around his own work on multiculturalism, and delivered a paper at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. He also published a memoir of his early career, focusing on his experience as a Berkeley graduate student in the 1960s, "Church People and Others," in James Banner and John Gillis, eds., Becoming Historians (University of Chicago Press, 2009).


Among my lectures and presentations this past year were the following: “The Virtues of Mendacity: On Lying in Politics,” Lionel Trilling Memorial Lecture, Columbia University, October, 2008; Response to two panels, conference on Teleology and the Enlightenment, Columbia University, October, 2008; “Magical Nominalism: Photography and the Reenchantment of the World," Yale Museum of Art, October, 2008; Grilk Lecture, U. of Michigan (March, 2009); “The Menace of Consilience: Keeping the Disciplines Unreconciled,” Keynote address to conference on interdisciplinarity, U. of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, November, 2008; “Marx and Mendacity,” Keynote address to conference on The Communist Manifesto, Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago de Chile, November, 2008; Response to Barrett Watten, Conference on Medium & Margin: Multiplying Methodologies, Proliferating Poetics, UCB (March, 2009); Panelist, Art and Engagement, UCB (March, 2009), Response to Wang Hui, UCB (April, 2009); Response to panel, UCB Political Science Graduate Student Conference (April, 2009);Response to Humanities Conference, Stanford University (May, 2009).
But by far the most gratifying event of the year was the presentation of a Festchrift by my students at the American Historical Association meetings in January: *The Modernist Imagination: Intellectual History and Critical Theory*, eds. Warren Breckman, Peter E. Gordon, A. Dirk Moses, Samuel Moyn, and Elliot Neaman (New York, Berghahn Books, 2009).

**David Johnson.** My book, "Spectacle and Sacrifice: The Ritual Foundations of Rural Life in North China," will be published by Harvard in the fall. It is a detailed study of very large-scale temple festivals in southeastern Shanxi, and of New Year festivals in other parts of Shanxi, as they were celebrated as late as the 1930s, and long before. Newly discovered liturgies of village rituals made possible the reconstruction of these local festivals in unprecedented detail. One of the book's major findings is that, unlike much of south China, these village rituals were directed not by Daoist priests (or Buddhist monks), but by non-Daoist non-Buddhist local ritual specialists. This will require revision of current ideas about Chinese popular religion.

**Maureen C. Miller.** By the time you read this, Professor Miller will be “chasing chasubles” in Italy and the UK. One of the surprises of her research on clerical clothing, particularly liturgical vestments, is how many garments actually survive from the eleventh and twelfth centuries. So, after a crash course in the means used to date silk, she’s off to explore several collections of medieval liturgical attire, particularly a cache of about thirty albs, chasubles, dalmatics, and copes in the tiny village (population 2,400) of Castel Sant’Elia in northern Lazio. Another highlight of her year has been learning about embroidery, particularly embroidery using gold thread. She will give a paper in Durham in July on Saint Cuthbert’s stole and maniple, the earliest surviving gold-embroidered vestments in Europe. An article on the Dossal of Saint Zenobius of Florence was published this year in *The Haskins Society Journal* and a historiographical piece on medieval reform movements in The Blackwell Companion to the Middle Ages. She also was invited to speak on itinerant builders and stone masons in early medieval Europe at a conference last October in Como, Italy. The published version of the talk is dedicated to the memory of Jon Gjerde, who contributed to it several stimulating references to comparative work on labor migration in the modern era.

**Michael Nylan** is reading proofs in Cambridge, England, for a supplement to *The Cambridge History of China*, giving a lecture at the College de France, and giving a paper in Leuven University. Meanwhile, she is trying to finish two chapters in her book on the *Politics of Pleasure* in early China.

**Yuri Slezkine** collected his American Academy of Arts and Sciences regalia; attended conferences in Moscow and Vladivostok; signed exchange agreements in Georgia and Azerbaijan; spoke twice at Stanford; presided over the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies; and found three native-born Jews in the Jewish Autonomous Region on the Amur river.

**James Vernon**'s first book *Politics and the People* (Cambridge, 1993) was reissued in paperback this year. His most recent book, *Hunger. A Modern History* (Harvard, 2007) was awarded the Norris and Carol Hundley Award of the American Historical Association's Pacific Coast Branch for the best book of that year. He was just as excited that Thom Carey won a Haas Undergraduate Scholarship for his research on the experience of Irish political prisoners between 1916 and 1946.

Professor **Wen-hsin Yeh** was awarded at a ceremony in Shanghai this past fall the title of 'Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow' at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences for her service to facilitate research collaborations between the Academy and the University of California at Berkeley. The ceremony was presided over by the Mayor of Shanghai on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.
The award confirms Berkeley’s leading role in pioneering urban historical and contemporary studies in Chinese and American academia concerning Shanghai. The awardee is delighted, because the recognition carries with it not only the privilege to introduce Berkeley colleagues and students to Shanghai research community but also free accommodations whenever she shows up in town! Professor Yeh's most recent summer essay is a contribution to a catalogue under preparation at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, which is to accompany a show that is part of San Francisco's celebration of the 2010 Expo in its sister-city Shanghai.
Barack Obama and the Making of Modern History

On February 11th, the Department of History hosted a panel discussion of history faculty, Mark Brilliant, Robin Einhorn and Waldo Martin. The three offered separate insights into the election victory of Barack Obama in a historical context. The presentations were followed by questions from the audience and a buffet of delicious finger foods. We were pleased with the exceptional turn out from friends and alumni of the department. Thank you for all for attending and we hope to see you at next year’s event on February 10th, 2010. Mark your calendars!
UNDERGRADUATE TRAVEL GRANTS

Every year, several undergraduates are given travel grants, funded by the Friends of Cal History, to conduct research for their 101 thesis papers. Here, Sarah Gold and Rhae Lynn Barnes (both of whom received highest honors on their papers) share their experiences.

My Research Trip to North Carolina
by Sarah Gold

When I decided to write my thesis about a pair of little-studied conjoined twins named Millie-Christine McKoy, I knew that the obscurity of my topic was going to make for some tough research. The twins were born as slaves on a North Carolina plantation in 1851, but although their extraordinary formation propelled Millie-Christine to wealth and fame in the freak show circuit, they essentially fell out of the historical record in the twentieth century. As such, my initial research was limited to secondary sources, and a few contemporary journal articles and circus pamphlets that had been digitized in the past few years.

My research, however, kept pointing to one place, where a recent surge in interest about local history had brought Millie-Christine back into prominence: North Carolina. I decided the best thing I could do for my thesis was to apply for one of the History Department’s undergraduate travel grants, so that I could utilize the materials gathered in the North Carolina archives.

I was lucky enough to receive one of the grants, and proceeded to spend my spring break in North Carolina. Over seven days, I traveled to Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and a small town called Whiteville where Millie-Christine were born. I found local librarians and archivists who not only had heard of Millie-Christine, but were very excited to help a student from California who was interested in their lives. I was able to access incredible primary documents, including Millie-Christine’s 1852 deed of sale, their will, and a letter they wrote in the last year of their lives. I read dozens of articles from local newspapers, and found interviews with Millie-Christine’s relatives that illuminated so much about their lives that I would never have known had I not been to North Carolina.

Without the travel grant, my research would have lacked a diverse primary source base, and my thesis would not have been nearly as strong as it was able to be, thanks to the sources I found in North Carolina. Thank you, Friends of Cal History!
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