Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to the UCLA History Department, one of the largest and best in North America. Our 65 core faculty and thousands of students come from around the world. Similarly, our course offerings and faculty research are vast in reach and ambition. For this reason, we regard ourselves as a global department in a global city.

It is perhaps true that the challenge of public universities has never been greater. Shrinking state support places substantial burdens on all of us. And yet, we are a Department of considerable resources and ingenuity. We are also a Department deeply committed to the sense of public mission that comes with being at UCLA. That mission issues from the belief that the depth of perspective afforded by history has never been more important. We seek to fulfill our public mission by training students who think critically and engage in informed public debate. And we do so by infusing historical knowledge into the public sphere through our cutting-edge research, teacher education programs, and extensive lectures and symposia open and accessible to a general audience. (continued on page 2)
In facing the challenging future, we know that it will be necessary to innovate and rejuvenate. We are most fortunate to have two new and exceptional colleagues to help with both goals this year. They are: Sebouh Aslanian as the Richard Hovannisian Term Chair in Modern Armenian History. Sebouh is the author of the recently published From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa, which was just awarded the PEN USA UC Press Exceptional First Book Prize; and Robin D. Kelley as the Gary Nash Chair in U.S. History. Robin is a distinguished scholar of African-American, cultural, US, and African history, and the renowned author of five major books, from Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists during the Great Depression (1990) to the award-winning Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original (2009). Robin and Sebouh will bring a great deal of new energy and dynamism to the Department. We are honored to have them as colleagues. Similarly, we welcome our incoming class of graduate students, as well as our post-docs and visiting professors.

We are also invigorated by the strategic planning process that our Department underwent last year. One of the recommendations of the strategic plan was that we encourage the creation of clusters, concentrations of faculty and students that reflect important trends in the field of history that are not otherwise represented by our fourteen established sub-fields. This year, we are pleased to introduce three new clusters: 1) Women/Sexuality/Gender, 2) Oral History Research & Methods, and 3) History in Practice. The clusters will sponsor public programs, faculty-student seminars, and course offerings with the goal of encouraging new pathways of research and teaching that will allow our Department to remain a national trend-setter.

Finally, I want to conclude by noting that we are constantly looking, especially in these trying times, to expand our partnerships with those who share our commitment to the importance and relevance of history. We couldn’t agree more with business leader Norm Augustine, who opined recently in the Wall Street Journal: “Now is a time to re-establish history’s importance in American education.” (“The Education Our Economy Needs,” WSJ, 9/21/11). To re-establish the vital role of history in our society—indeed, to cultivate critical thinking and foster world-class research—requires your steady support. Please join us as partners in realizing this role: http://www.history.ucla.edu/giving. It will be a most worthwhile investment not only in the past, but in the future of the world in which we dwell.

“Now is a time to re-establish history’s importance in American education.”

David N. Myers

CLICK HERE TO GIVE!
Faculty Awards continued...

Margaret Jacob will be honored at the 126th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association on Saturday, January 7, 2012.

Ghislaine Lydon has been awarded the inaugural Martin Klein prize for African history by the American Historical Association for her book On Trans-Saharan Trails: Islamic Law, Trade Networks, and Cross-Cultural Exchange in Nineteenth-Century Western Africa.

David Myers was honored at the foundation for Jewish Culture’s 50th Anniversary Jewish Cultural Achievement Awards. The award recognizes him as an “extraordinary individual who has demonstrated excellence in his commitment and contribution to Jewish life.”

Jan Reiff received two grants from the recent UCLA RFP for Research Informatics and Computational Data. The first, with her co-PI Lisa Snyder (ATS), is to organize a North Campus Research Infrastructure Summit. The second, with her co-PI Johanna Drucker (Information Sciences), is for Prototyping Digital Scholarship in the new YRL Research Commons.

Debora Silverman has been named the Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow at the Stanford Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, where he was working on his current project, a study of how insane asylums became leading sites of data collection and research on human heredity, beginning about 1800.

Sanjay Subrahmanyan won a 2011-12 Guggenheim Fellowship for “Ethnography and Realpolitik.”

Kevin Terraciano won an NEH grant for his research on “Memories of the Conquest of Mexico.”

Norton Wise has been awarded a fellowship at the American Academy in Berlin for the period January-May 2012. He will be working with Elaine Wise on the project “Gardens of Steam: Projecting Industrial Culture in the Berlin Landscape.”

Faculty Updates

Stephen Aron is writing The American West: A Very Short Introduction for Oxford University Press. In 2010-2011, he delivered several endowed lectures around the world. He also made his second appearance on the NBC’s “Who Do You Think You Are?”

Ivan Berend finalized a more than 600 pages long manuscript on “An Economic History of 19th Century Europe: A Regional Approach.” All the publisher’s suggestions were realized in the final version and the manuscript was sent to the publisher at the end of August.

Ellen DuBois is working on two exciting book projects. She is closing in on a history of international feminism between the two world wars, with emphasis on Latin America and the East. Participation in a conference on the history of the League of Nations in Geneva just this August was particularly exciting. Additionally, she is beginning on a group project to rewrite American history for college audiences in a more international, transnational framework.

Sanjay Subrahmanyan won a 2011-12 Guggenheim Fellowship for “Ethnography and Realpolitik.”

Staff Update

This summer, History undergraduate counselor Juliana Espinosa participated in Pueblo Ingles. The eight day volunteer program groups “Anglos” with Spaniards who wish to improve their conversational English skills in a fully immersive environment. During the week, all participants speak only in English an average of 14 hours a day, working in one-on-one sessions, group activities, telephone sessions, and conference calls. Additionally, all meals are shared in large groups and social activities are arranged to encourage spontaneous conversation topics. The group lived in a medi- eval village, called La Alberea, in the Castle y Leon region—the first village designated as a National Heritage site in Spain. This was a truly once in a lifetime experience!
Sebouh David Aslanian received his Ph.D. (with distinction) from Columbia University in 2007. He is the new Richard Hovannisian Term Chair of Armenian history at the department of history at UCLA. He has taught at the department of History at CSULB as an Assistant Professor in the fall of 2010 after serving a year at Cornell University as a Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral fellow in world history. Aslanian specializes in early modern world and Armenian history and is the author of numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of World History, the Journal of the Social and Economic History of the Orient, the Journal of Global History, and Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies. His book, Entitled From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011) was the recipient of the PEN literary award for the most outstanding first book of the year from UC Press.

Robin D. G. Kelley is the inaugural Gary B. Nash Professor of American History at UCLA. His books include the prize-winning, Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original (Free Press, 2009); Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression (University of North Carolina Press, 1990); Race Rebels: Culture Politics and the Black Working Class (The Free Press, 1994); Yo’ Mama’s DisFunktional!: Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America (Beacon Press, 1997), which was selected one of the top ten books of 1998 by the Village Voice; Three Strikes: Miners, Musicians, Salesgirls, and the Fighting Spirit of Labor’s Last Century, written collaboratively with Dana Frank and Howard Zinn (Beacon 2001); and Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination (Beacon Press, 2009). He also edited (with Earl Lewis), To Make Our World Anew: A History of African Americans (Oxford University Press, 2000), a Choice Outstanding Academic Title and a History Book Club Selection. His next book, Africa Speaks, America Answers: Modern Jazz in Revolutionary Times (Harvard University Press) will be released in February. He is currently working on a general survey of African American history co-authored with Tera Hunter and Earl Lewis to be published by Norton, and a biography of journalist, social critic, adventurer, and racial/ethnic masquerader Grace Halsell.

UCLA History student Zoë Rose Buonaiuto won the 2011-2012 UCLA Distinguished Senior Award. This highly competitive award recognizes leadership, involvement, and service to the UCLA community as well as academic excellence. Zoë will now be part of the distinguished Alumni Scholars family.

Teo Ruiz’s new book The Terror of History: On the Uncertainties of Life in Western Civilization, has been selected as the Book of the Month by the History News Network. This book reflects on Western humanity’s efforts to escape from history and its terrors—from the existential condition and natural disasters to the endless succession of wars and other man-made catastrophes. Drawing on historical episodes ranging from antiquity to the recent past, and combining them with literary examples and personal reflections, Teoﬁlo Ruiz explores the embrace of religious experiences, the pursuit of worldly success and pleasures, and the quest for beauty and knowledge as three primary responses to the individual and collective nightmares of history. The result is a profound meditation on how men and women in Western society sought (and still seek) to make meaning of the world and its disturbing history.
Student Awards

Jyoti Balachandran:
Dissertation Year Fellowship Program

Lee Beaudouen:
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Alexandra Carter:
International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship

Lucia Staiano-Daniels:
Gordon Hein Fellowship

Alfred Flores:
Caughley Fellowship

Emi Foulk:
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Daniel Franken:
Graduate Research Mentorship Program

Aaron Freeman:
Descartes Centre Fellowship

Ricardo Garcia:
Graduate Research Mentorship Program

Lela Gibson:
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Leanne Good:
Mellon ACLS Fellowship/Luskin Fellowship

Amy Gordanier:
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Zevi Gutfreund:
Haynes Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

Veronica Gutierrez:
Dissertation Year Fellowship Program

Melis Hafez:
Dissertation Year Fellowship Program

Joshua Herr:
Pacific Rim Advanced Graduate Research Fellowship

Eric Hounshell:
Fulbright IIE

Mik Larsen:
Graduate Research Mentorship Program

Adam Lawrence:
The Berlin Program for Advanced German & European Studies Fellowship

Matthew Luckett:
Caughley Fellowship

Daniel Lynch:
Graduate Research Mentorship Program

Miriam Melton Villaneuva:
Quinn Fellowship

Aaron Moreno:
Dissertation Year Fellowship Program

Brandon Reilly:
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Ziad Abu-Rish:
International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship

Cassia Roth:
International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship

Melanie Schmidt Arias:
Luskin Fellowship

Robert Schraff:
Charles F. Scott Fellowship

Dahla Setiyawan:
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Jeffrey Stevens:
Scott Ollken Endowed Graduate Travel Research Fellowship

Neferitti Takla:
International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship/Luskin Fellowship

Hisao-chun Wu:
UCLA Center for Chinese Studies Fellowship

Murat Yildiz:
IIE Graduate Fellowship for International Study and Mellon Pre-Dissertation Fellowship

Antonio Zaldivar:
Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Romani Fellowship

UCLA, USC Students Set Aside Rivalry to Collaborate on L.A. History

A heated rivalry for Los Angeles supremacy on the football field and in the rankings has not stopped collaboration between UCLA and USC in the classroom.

This fall, students from the two schools are sitting side by side in a joint graduate seminar on the history of Los Angeles. The class, History 251A, is co-taught by Eric Avila, a UCLA professor of history, Chicano studies and urban planning, and William Deverell, a professor of history. The weekly seminar consists of nine UCLA students and nine USC students. In the classroom, students get along and the competition does not show itself, Avila said.

“We’re rivals on the playing field, we’re colleagues and collaborators in the field of history,” said David Myers, professor and chair of the history department at UCLA.

Despite a larger seminar size than he is used to, UCLA graduate student of 20th century American history Devin McCutchen said he enjoys listening to other students’ ideas.

“One of the joys … is to meet other graduate students in our region,” McCutchen said. “This is a chance to build an academic community and foster intellectual discussion.”

The hope is students will learn to not only understand Los Angeles in the context of American history, but also in the context of Western, urban, immigration and global history.

Avila said.

To avoid the conflict of UCLA’s quarter system with USC’s semester system, the 15-week seminar began prior to UCLA’s academic year. Avila added. He stated that coordinating this time conflict was the most difficult part of planning the seminar. Avila said he was happy to see both USC and UCLA making a joint effort to better understand their city. He hopes the collaboration can continue.

“One of USC and UCLA are a part of L.A. history itself, so it’s a great opportunity to be a part of these two institutions and study the rich history of the city,” he said.

-Kassy Cho, Daily Bruin Contributor

* This article originally appeared in the Daily Bruin

Professor Eric Avila

The Berlin Program for Advanced German & European Studies Fellowship

The Huntington Library and supplement that with the special collections at UCLA,” Avila said. Avila and Deverell, who have been colleagues in the historical field for years, came up with the idea for the seminar over the summer. A large number of graduate students and faculty in both universities had expressed an interest in researching L.A. history.

Many of these students sit in on the class despite not being enrolled. So far, the seminar has discussed the identity of the city and how it shapes the way people interact and live here, McCutchen said. Some of the discussion topics include Jim Crow laws in Los Angeles, the creation of a Mexican community and elements of the city infrastructure such as freeways.
Undergraduate

Zoë Rose Buonaiuto is a current undergraduate senior in the History department. Zoë’s passion for history began during childhood, while she and her family were moving across the country constantly. During that period she found great comfort in history books and historical fiction. “When everything around me changed from year to year—new schools, new faces, new cities—reading about the past became a sort of meditation, a constant I could count on,” Zoë states.

Setting in San Francisco for her last three years of high school, Zoë studied the French language intensely and gravitated to the study of Modern Europe. Eager for an undergraduate experience that combined her love for challenging academics and big-city living, Zoë quickly found a “home away from home” at UCLA, where she is currently double majoring in History and French & Francophone Studies.

Though she has greatly enjoyed her experience in both departments, she notes that the relationships she has formed with peers, graduate students, and faculty within the History program have really defined her undergraduate career: “I couldn’t have asked for a better four years. UCLA’s History Department has provided me with endless support, inspiring mentors, and great friends. My experience here has inspired me to continue my studies within the discipline and embark on an academic career.”

Zoë has spent summers abroad in France and Greece with UCLA Professors Teo Ruiz and David Phillips, respectively, and is currently working on her honors thesis under the direction of Professor Lynn Hunt.

Zoë’s thesis focuses on the life and work of French intellectual Simone de Beauvoir during the Nazi Occupation and the immediate postwar period, with a specific concentration on Beauvoir’s little known essay “Él pour ceil.” Published after the execution of Robert Brasillach in 1945, Beauvoir took a controversial stance and justified the death penalty for French collaborators. This past summer, Zoë gained access to a little-explored archive of Beauvoir’s correspondence at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Reading hundreds of letters addressed to Beauvoir, she gained invaluable research experience looking for readers’ responses to Beauvoir’s essay at the time of publication.

Zoë has received numerous research grants, honors scholarships, and other awards during her UCLA career, including early induction to the Phi Beta Kappa honors society. She was named the “Best Undergraduate Student” by French Department faculty last Spring, and she won the UCLA Distinguished Senior Award for 2011-12. After graduation in June 2012, she will apply to Ph.D. programs in Modern European History.

Outside of Bunche Hall, Zoë can be found training for the LA Marathon, strolling the Hollywood Farmers’ Market, and searching the web for NYC airfares.

Graduate

Michael Slaughter entered UCLA’s Ph.D. history program in the Fall of 2007, though his interest in history has much earlier roots. Spending his childhood years in Richmond and Oakland, Michael’s family ultimately settled in the foothills of San Jose. Though natives to Illinois, Michael’s parents instilled in him an appreciation for the West as a place and an idea. This appreciation deepened during his time as an undergraduate at Eastern Illinois University, where he completed a history course project on the millions of African Americans who participated in the Second Great Migration from Illinois to California. The complexity and paradoxes of the American West demonstrated to him that the area could be a fertile site for further study.

After completing his B.A. in history, Michael returned to California where he taught history at Thomas Jefferson High School in South Central Los Angeles, while simultaneously pursuing an M.A. degree in history at California State University, Los Angeles. With an interest in the African American experience in the American West, particularly in Los Angeles, Michael knew there was no better place to continue his academic pursuits than at UCLA: “UCLA’s unsurpassed historical collections on Black Los Angeles and the remarkable institutional support found in Young Research Library and the Ralph Bunche Center for African-American Studies were too attractive to pass up.”

Currently, Michael is in the dissertation stage of his graduate career working with Professors Stephen Aron and Brenda Stevenson. For his dissertation topic, Michael will use Jefferson High School as a lens to view the historical forces working on the neighborhood of Central Avenue and more broadly Black Los Angeles between 1930 and 1980. Michael also explores other important aspects of the black Angeleno experience, including migration, diversity, classism, colorism, politics, housing, and employment.

Michael has worked as a teaching assistant and has guest lectured in several courses. He volunteers with the National Center for History in the Schools and is currently working with UCLA’s Oral History Center to preserve the remembrances of African American educators in Los Angeles. Off campus, Michael has worked at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage as a researcher; he has presented his ideas about black Los Angeles and Central Avenue at national conferences; and he is engaged in community work. Most recently, Michael, in cooperation with Jefferson High School and Los Angeles Unified, organized a commemoration to Los Angeles’ first black secondary teacher, who was also a central figure in the history of Los Angeles Jazz. Michael has enjoyed the support of a five year departmental fellowship and two graduate division summer research mentorship fellowships.
New “Clusters to Enliven Teaching and Research

The Department will be rolling out three new and innovative thematic “clusters” this year. This development follows on the recommendation of the Strategic Vision approved by the Department last year. The impetus behind the recommendation was the desire to identify and fortify, alongside our existing 14 sub-fields, important new trends and currents in the field of history. Clusters are, in the first instance, concentrations of faculty and students who share an interest in a given theme. They are intended to promote new pathways of teaching and research through new course offerings, Internal Department events, and broader public events. The three clusters to launch in the 2011-12 year are:

1) Gender/Women/Sexuality: This cluster builds on longstanding strengths of the department. The cluster will develop a new upper division lecture course designed to get students to think critically about the defining role of gender and sexuality on major historical events. We will also be hosting several influential scholars who are present on their experiences in oral history collection and interpretation and the challenges of oral historical research. The goal is to become familiar with various genres of oral forms, and the core methodological tools for the collection and interpretation of oral sources. The cluster will showcase current research among our colleagues with experience working in oral narrative methodologies and creating oral archives, including Andrew Apter, Scot Brown, Valerie Matsumoto, Toby Higby, Jan Reiff, and Sharon Traweek.

2) Oral History Research and Methods: Since the 1970s, oral history has become a key method for generating data about subaltern groups which have remained outside the historical record, including women, peasants, and colonized peoples. This cluster explores key approaches and debates in the field of oral history including the life narrative, collective memory, the role of the interviewer, performativity and gender. We will also be hosting several influential scholars who are present on their experiences in oral history collection and interpretation and the challenges of oral historical research. The goal is to become familiar with various genres of oral forms, and the core methodological tools for the collection and interpretation of oral sources. The cluster will showcase current research among our colleagues with experience working in oral narrative methodologies and creating oral archives, including Andrew Apter, Scot Brown, Valerie Matsumoto, Toby Higby, Jan Reiff, and Sharon Traweek.

3) History in Practice: This cluster aims to provide an organizational footing for the Department’s commitment to applying history in the service of the larger community. Within the Department, these efforts to apply history have developed in several directions: 1) shaping K-12 education (principally through the National Center for History in the Schools and the UCLA History-Geography Project); 2) convening general programs that put historians in conversation with public figures and officials on key topics of the day; 3) developing service learning and other civic engagement pathways; 4) inserting the voices of historians into public discourse through editorial writing and consultation with the creators of films, television programs, documentaries, and museum exhibitions. We expect this cluster will contribute to each of these avenues and will generate courses that will allow our students to understand the broader responsibilities and possibilities that the study of history opens. Stephen Aron, Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Toby Higbie, Jan Reiff, and Geoffrey Robinson have signed on as founding members of this cluster.

UCLA Board of Directors 2011-2012

Barbara Berg
Co-Founder
UCLA Friends of History

Alan Buckelew
President and CEO
Princess Cruises

Clare DeBriere
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
The Ratkovich Company

Ed Kanner
Chairman Emeritus
American Insulated Wire Corporation

Benjamin E. Nickoll
Chief Investment Officer
Ore Hill Partners

Chet Pipkin
President and CEO
Belkin International, Inc.

Kristin Rolla
New Media Strategist and Consulting Founder, Free Agency Consulting

Dean Rydquist
Senior Vice President
The Capital Group

Paul Turosky
Principal
True North Management Group, LLC

Michael Tyler
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Sanmina-SCI

Kenneth L. Wilton
Partner
Seyfarth Shaw, LLP

CLICK HERE TO GIVE!