



AfterWords . . .

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE SFSU HISTORY DEPARTMENT

created to provide a record of the exciting achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni

Words from the Chair

Welcome to the pioneering edition of **AfterWords**, our History Department newsletter, created to provide a record of the exciting achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni. We hope that reading this publication will bring back fond memories of your years as a member of the department and help reinvigorate the connections with friends and faculty you made while you were here. There is so much good news to share. Several of our faculty members have received major awards, we have a whole bookshelf of recently published books and articles, and an impressive number of our alumni can report significant accomplishments in their professional development. **Jessica and Ethan Elkind** have welcomed twin daughters into their family. And the History Department has two new members: **Professor Charles Postel**, who focuses on U.S. political history, arrived this past school year. **Professor Molly Oshatz**, who specializes in American intellectual history, joined us this fall.

As this list of good news suggests, the Department is maintaining its strength and quality even in the midst of the present budget crisis. A good deal of our resilience is the result of generous gifts in the past, which have enabled us to provide fellowships, funds for students to travel to conferences, and support for guest lectures and other special events. We are grateful to our donors who have made so much possible. The gifts of alumni and friends help us continue to make the History Department a center of excellence on the San Francisco State campus.

Exciting events are happening on campus. One purpose of this newsletter is to invite you participate in them. On September 13, we will host our annual **Jules Tygiel Memorial Symposium on the Post-9/11 World**. The San Francisco **Rights Conference** will take place on September 16-17. And we invite you to join us for **University Alumni Day** on October 2. There will be good food and drink, good fellowship, and a really good program. We look forward to renewing old friendships and meeting with you again. See "Events" below for details. Be sure to check out our website, too, for last-minute additions to our events calendar. Above all, we want to hear from you! We would love to find out more about what you are doing and how (or if) you have used your training in history. We will be so pleased to brag about your accomplishments in subsequent issues of the newsletter. Do keep in touch!



With many best wishes,

Barbara Loomis,
Chair, Department of History

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Words about our Events

Jules Tygiel Memorial Forum on Post-9/11 World Affairs

The Obama Administration and Prospects for Change in the U.S. Role in World Affairs

Monday, September 13, 2010, 2 to 4 pm
History Lounge, Science Building 270

This year's panel on the Obama administration and the U.S. Role in world affairs comprises a half dozen expert faculty: **Joann Aviel**, International Relations, on Latin America; **Sanjoy Banerjee**, International Relations, on Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India; **Maziar Behrooz**, History, on the Middle East; **Jerald Combs**, History emeritus, on general patterns in U.S. foreign policy; **Anthony D'Agostino**, History, on U.S.-European relations; and **Suijan Guo**, Political Science, on U.S.-China relations. A reception will follow.

San Francisco Rights Conference: The Question of Rights

Thursday and Friday, September 16 and 17, 2010
Seven Hills Conference Center, SFSU campus

San Francisco State University will host an on-campus conference exploring the question and place of rights in American history, politics, and society. Americans have fought over questions of individual and collective rights since the nation's founding. The conference's goal is to bring together a wide variety of people from a range of academic, activist, legal, and community spaces to examine the place of rights within the broader context of American society. The keynote speaker, **Lynn Hunt**, Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles, will speak on "**Tortured Bodies, Novel Readers, and the Origins of Human Rights.**"

This will be the second annual conference on the history of rights hosted by San Francisco State and cosponsored by the History Department, other campus organizations, and H-Law. It will again be headed by **Professor Christopher Waldrep**, who holds the Jamie and Phyllis Pasker Chair in History. Once again this year, the conference will draw more than six dozen scholars from across the United States and other countries. Last year, many of our current students attended sessions, and four of our graduate students (past and present) presented their work: **Michael Caires**, **Carol Cini**, **Terra Caldwell**, and **Melissa Barthelemy**. We welcome our alumni to this event, an opportunity to connect with our faculty and the current generation of students. For more information, including the conference schedule, go to:

<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~law/sfsurights2010/index.html>



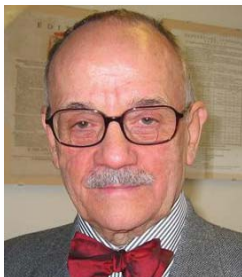
Alumni Day

Saturday, October 2, 2010, at 2 pm
History Lounge, Science Building 270

The History Department will host a reception as part of SFSU's Alumni Day. The program includes two brief talks. **Alumnus Gregory Kendrick** will tell us about his new book *The Heroic Ideal: Western Archetypes from the Greeks to the Present*. After that, **Professor Richard Hoffman** will talk about "**Villains or Heroes? The Case of Several Roman Emperors.**" There will be plenty of time to mingle with former classmates and professors over good food and drink. Come join us in the History Lounge (Science 270).



Profile: Frank Kidner



"Each of these projects sparked a real interest, . . . that's what has to be there if writing and all the drudgery of seeing something into print is to pass beyond a duty to seem worthwhile and pleasurable."

Frank Kidner retired in 2006, after thirty-eight years service. Hired in 1968 to teach courses in eighteenth-century European history and specifically the French Revolution, over the years--- "pestered" by "a succession of Chairs," he says---he taught the U.S. lower division survey ("after doing European history U.S history was a piece of cake") and, most memorably for several generations of graduate students, History 700, the graduate methods course. He also created an upper-division two-semester course on early Christianity. "It is very odd to offer such a long course on Christianity for such a short historical period in a state university," he says, "but there it is."

Always devoted to teaching and his students, late in his career he began to publish. With Linda Ellis of the Department of Museum Studies, he co-edited a collection of papers on Travel, Communication and Geography in Late Antiquity from a conference they organized. Meanwhile, he became the lead author of a new Western Civ textbook, *Making Europe: People, Politics, and Culture* (Houghton Mifflin, 2006), a project ten years in the making. "One of the things I've always liked about the SF State History Department is the good working relationship on a professional level with colleagues," he says. Fortunately for us, his colleagues, Professor Kidner has taken leave from his post-retirement non-academic life to come back to the classroom. "I've been exhumed to teach once again that history of Christianity survey."

New Faculty



Charles Postel comes to us from CSU Sacramento to teach U.S. political history. Since completing his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley in 2002, he has earned national prominence for his first book, *The Populist Vision* (Oxford University Press, 2007). It won both the Organization of American Historians' Frederick Jackson Turner Award, given annually for the best first book in American history, and the even more prestigious Bancroft Prize, awarded by Columbia University to two or three of the most distinguished books in American history or diplomacy published in the preceding year. The *Journal of American History* review observed: "It is rare that a book comes along with the power to redefine the parameters of a major historiographical debate.... This is the most important book on Populism in thirty years. Masterfully researched in an astonishingly broad array of primary and secondary sources, and written in a clear, compelling style, *The Populist Vision* propels its author into the first rank of American political historians."



Molly Oshatz arrives from Florida State University. She too earned her Ph.D at UC Berkeley. She will be teaching courses on American intellectual and religious history. She specializes in nineteenth-century America, with an emphasis on the intellectual and cultural sources of liberal theological, social, and moral thought. She is currently finishing up a book for Oxford University Press, provisionally titled "Christian Liberty: The Antebellum Slavery Debates and the Development of Protestant Liberalism, 1830-1890."

Words from Our Alumni

Dorothy Sue Cobble (M.A., 1976), Professor of History and Labor Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, was awarded the 2010 Sol Stetin Award for Career Achievement in Labor History from the Sidney Hillman Foundation.

Charles Fracchia (M.A., 1980), who has taught for many years at the City College of San Francisco and the University of San Francisco, has a deep interest in San Francisco's history. His latest book on the subject is *When the Water Came up to Montgomery Street: San Francisco during the Gold Rush*. It's available from the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society.

Alan Siegel (B.A. and teaching credential, 1981) teaches in Clearlake in Lake County, California. He reports that it is "a very high poverty area" but also says that Carl Continuation High School, "a 3 time California model school" where he teaches, is "a true community. . . . We do a tremendous amount of community service[.]" In 2005, he was named California Teacher of the Year.

Benjamin Guterman (M.A., 1987) earned his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland. He is currently an editor at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., where he co-edits a newsletter, *The Federalist*, and a scholarly journal, *Federal History*, that showcase the work of historians who are employed in the federal government. He wants everyone to know that the journal also accepts articles from nonfederal historians on topics exploring the history of the U.S. government. Both publications are online at www.shfg.org, the website of the Society for History in the Federal Government.

David Vaught (B.A., 1988; M.A., 1990) is Professor of History at Texas A&M and the current president of the Agricultural History Society. He is the author of *Cultivating California: Growers, Specialty Crops, and Labor, 1875-1920* (1999) and *After The Gold Rush: Tarnished Dreams in the Sacramento Valley* (2007), both published by Johns Hopkins University Press. His current book project examines baseball in rural America since 1839.

Martin Anderson (M.A., 1993) went on to earn his Ph.D. at Stanford. After many years as an adjunct professor, he obtained a tenure-track position in 2006 as Assistant Professor of History at Dominican University in San Rafael. He teaches modern British history/British Empire.

Michael Masatsugu (M.A., 1996) received the 2009 Arrington-Prucha Prize in Western American Religious History from the Western Historical Association for "'Beyond this world of transiency and impermanence': Japanese Americans, Dharma Bums and the Making of American Buddhism in the Early Cold War Years," *Pacific Historical Review* 77, no. 3 (2008).

David Barber (M.A., 1998) published his first book, *A Hard Rain Fell: SDS and Why It Failed*, (University Press of Mississippi), in 2008. In 2010, he was granted tenure in the history program at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Giovanni Ruffini (M.A., 1999) is an Assistant Professor of History at Fairfield University in Connecticut. In 2008, Cambridge University Press published his book, *Social Networks in Byzantine Egypt*. He would like to hear from his classmates at SF State.

Alicia Vosberg (B.A., 1999; M.A., 2003; Single Subject Teaching Credential, 2004) teaches U.S. History and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination, a college-readiness program for academically less prepared students) at El Camino High School in South San Francisco. She also advises two campus organizations: the Expressing Youth Elements club which promotes students expressing themselves through art, spoken word, and dance; and the Sojourn to the Past club which takes students on a ten-day, social justice journey to the Deep South to retrace turning-point moments of the Civil Rights Movement.

Barbara Blinick (M.A., 2000) is teaching U.S. and World History at San Francisco's Washington High School. She did "a two year stint working part-time as a 'content specialist' for SFUSD, which was a wonderful opportunity for my own professional growth, and am now happy to be back in the classroom full time." Meanwhile, she and her partner Linda "officially tied the knot last year, after several previously unsuccessful attempts to marry throughout the past 18 years."

Courtney Goen (M.A., 2003) is back teaching U.S. History/Social Studies at Piedmont High School in the East Bay after she and her husband took a year off to live in Ireland, his home country. She is the teacher coach for Piedmont High's highly regarded Mock Trial Team.

Some SFSU History alums teach in fields other than history

Denis Fama (B.A., 1968) was a member of *Phi Alpha Theta*. After a career in health care administration, he returned to school and received a Masters in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco in 1992. He currently teaches at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, California, and John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, California.

John P. Elia (B.A., 1986 --- "Richard Hoffman was my advisor" ---; M.A., 1989), earned his Ph.D. in education at UC Davis (1997), with an emphasis in the history of the philosophy of education. Professor and Associate Chair of Health Education at SFSU, he still keeps his hand in history as an adjunct professor at Skyline College, in his research on the history of American school-based sexuality education, and in his book project on the history of public health in San Francisco. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Homosexuality*, an internationally based, peer-reviewed scholarly journal in sexuality studies. He and his wife, Gina, have a son, Brian. He was selected to receive the Sarlo Excellence in Teaching Award for 2010.

Richard Nardi (M.A., 1998) is a doctoral candidate in education at UC Santa Barbara and Associate Director of the Undergraduate Rhetoric Program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. "I'm also, and primarily," he reports, "both the husband of my wonderful wife and the proud father of two fantastic boys. I remember fondly my time as a graduate student in the history department of San Francisco State University and appreciate the sustained and focused opportunities for learning I enjoyed there."

Many SFSU History graduates distinguish themselves in other professions

James O. Clifford (B.A., 1962), spent forty years in journalism, working for both United Press International and Associated Press. At AP, he was Northern California broadcast editor. He retired in 2000 with numerous honors, including the UPI Broadcast Excellence Award for his coverage of the Mount St. Helens volcano in 1980. He received an award from the San Francisco Press Club in 1973 for a series on the contributions of ethnic groups to the history of California. He has written extensively on San Mateo County history, including works on the Irish and histories of Union Cemetery and Mount Carmel Parish, both in Redwood City. He also wrote a book of poetry, *Media Hype and Other Tripe*, and a novel, *Philip's Code: No News is Good News— to a Killer*. He and his wife, **Peggy (B.A., 1962)**, live in Redwood City where they raised their seven children, including two who graduated from SFSU.

Peter Spangler (B.A., 1995; M.A., 2005) is a web developer/system administrator at a Bay Area education-related, nonprofit organization. He still hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in history in the future.

Veronica Agosta (M.A., 1998) worked for several years as a financial reporter, covering real estate and banking. She and Duncan Lyon married in 2001. She worked in corporate public relations “until the birth of my second daughter in 2008; I now am at home with my two young children.”

Duncan Lyon (M.A., 1998) is the Assistant Head of Bentley School, an independent, coeducational, college preparatory school in the East Bay. And he still keeps his hand in Early American history: “I just referred to Alden T. Vaughan’s *Roots of American Racism* this morning and keep Robert Middlekauff’s *The Glorious Cause* nearby my office desk.”

Mark Pedersen (M.A., 1999) has been working at the UCSF medical center library since graduating. In his spare time, he keeps busy with traditional black and white darkroom photography and music (guitar), and occasionally translates German-language medical articles into English. He recently obtained Danish citizenship (based on ancestry) and is now a dual-citizen.

Victoria Giari (M.A., 2003) has taught English in Rome, Italy, and ESL at private schools in San Francisco. Since January of 2008, she has been back at SFSU as office manager/budget coordinator in the School of Music and Dance. “I really like working on campus and knowing that in some small way I’m helping students earn their degrees,” she tells us.

Ricardo Dabatos (B.A. History, 2005; M.A. Education, 2008) has worked for the past several years at the Social Security Administration. For those of you who have any questions about Social Security, he says, “I’m always available to help.”

Marc McGinnis (B.A., 2005; M.A., 2007) got married in October 2008. “Since graduating, I’ve been working in online marketing and am considering earning a teaching credential.” In History, of course.

Some former SFSU History students are currently continuing their graduate studies in history

Laura (Bellew) Hannon (B.A., 2003) is finishing her Ph.D. in history at UC Riverside. She hopes to complete her dissertation by early 2011.

Ann Wilson (M.A., 2003) is completing her Ph.D. in History at Harvard, where she is writing on “the history of American participation in international humanitarian and human rights movements during the long nineteenth century.” Ann also received the Fischel-Calhoun Prize of the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era for “In the Name of God, Civilization, and Humanity: The United States and the Armenian Massacres of the 1890s,” *Le Movement Social* (2009).

Erika Perez (M.A., 2004) is a doctoral student in history at UCLA. She is researching her dissertation, “Colonial Intimacies: Interethnic Sexuality, Marriage, and Kinship in Southern California, 1769-1885,” which she hopes to complete this summer. She recently presented papers at an ethnohistory conference in New Orleans (“my first”) and a symposium in New Mexico.

Tom Dorrance (M.A., 2006) is a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago, working on his dissertation on the relationship between federal expansion and local politics during the New Deal in Los Angeles and Chicago. His article "Re-Making an Older Deal: Chicago Employment Politics, 1932-1936," appeared in *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas* (Winter 2010). Tom is "curious to hear how everyone else is doing."

Kevin Mummey (B.A., 2006) went on to earn an M.A. in history at the University of Minnesota, where he recently completed course work on his Ph.D. and is now hard at work on his doctoral dissertation, a study of women slaveholders on the island of Mallorca in the late 14th century.

Chong Moua (M.A., 2008) is about to start her third year in the doctoral program in history at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She is studying U.S. history with a minor in gender and women's history. She is particularly interested in Asian American and Hmong history and intends to write her master's thesis paper on "how Hmongs through writing fiction and nonfiction literature (re)create identity and re-tell and re-envision Hmong history." She says she misses the City and California, especially during Wisconsin winters!

Alexis 'Teddi' Pontecorvo (B.A., 2008) is a credential candidate in SFSU's secondary education program and is student teaching at San Francisco's School of the Arts High School. She plans to teach high school Social Studies.

Michael Reagan (M.A., 2009) is starting his second year at the University of Washington's doctoral program in history. He finds it "both challenging and rewarding." "Seattle's a beautiful city, and I'm slowly making some friends up here," he reports. "So overall things have been very good."

Susan Wels has taken time out from her M.A. thesis to write a book, *Amelia Earhart: The Thrill of It* (Running Press), which is now in bookstores. Her first book, *Titanic: Legacy of the World's Greatest Ocean Liner*, made the *New York Times*' bestsellers list.

Natalie Marine-Street (M.A., 2008) is pursuing her Ph.D. in United States history at Stanford University. Her research interests are in gender and business history, and she is currently working on a project related to women and sales and a study of the Viavi Company, a San Francisco patent medicine company. You can contact her at njmarine@stanford.edu.

**Please send us news of yourself.
Just e-mail it to history@sfsu.edu.**

Pictures from Graduation 2010



left to right
Prof. Paul Longmore
Prof. Robert Cherny
Lauren Brollier



left to right
Tera Uppstad
Lindsay Ehrisman
Lauren Brollier
Lucas Flowers
Kathryn Buckwalter



left to right
Prof. Eva Sheppard Wolf
Suzanne O'Rourke Scanlan
Aleta Oryall
Prof. Barbara Loomis

IN MEMORIUM

Dear Friends,

It is with tremendous sadness that I write an additional message for this newsletter, to tell you that Paul Longmore passed away on Monday, August 9. Getting this newsletter going was largely Paul's project, and he was in the midst of working on it when he died. I thought of re-doing the copy, to make the newsletter stand as a memorial to Paul's accomplishments, but I decided to stick with the material that Paul had been compiling, as his last statement to you. Please think of Paul as you peruse these pages; with each word he is trying to tell you how much his time with you meant to him.

Paul often said, "I can't believe they pay me for doing this!" He found teaching to be so rewarding, and I know that all of you who had the pleasure of being in one of his classes experienced his rare blend of intellect, compassion, pointed humor, and profound commitment to the struggle for equality and social justice. He loved teaching, and he had so much to teach all of us.



You may not know that when this extraordinary teacher and mentor was in graduate school, he was denied a fellowship because, he was told, no college would ever hire him to teach with his disability. So he moved through graduate school at a snail's pace, enrolling in only one class a semester, which was all he could afford. The California Department of Rehabilitation initially turned down his request for financial assistance. They would provide money to train him to become a computer programmer, but they would not support his ambition to become a college professor. Finally, they relented, but they still failed to provide enough money so that he could be a full-time student. Then, they threatened to cut off his support altogether, because he was taking too long to complete his coursework.

Paul Longmore's successful academic career proved all these naysayers to have been completely wrong. The San Francisco State University History Department is proud to have been the institution that gave him a chance to show what he could do. And we are not merely proud, but grateful, too: the time we shared with Paul was an extraordinary experience which gave us so much.

The History Department and the Institute on Disability will host a celebration of Paul Longmore's life and accomplishments

Saturday, October 23, from 2:00-5:00 pm
Seven Hills Conference Center
San Francisco State campus
All of his friends are warmly invited to join us

We are also in the process of establishing an appropriate way to preserve and honor Paul's legacy. If you would like to contribute, please make your checks to the San Francisco State University Corporation, with "Dr. Paul Longmore Memorial Fund" written on the notation line.

Your tax deductible contribution can be mailed to:
Andrea Rouah, University Development
1600 Holloway, ADM 153
San Francisco, CA 94132

A sampling among many recent faculty publications includes:

Sarah Curtis: *Civilizing Habits, Women Missionaries and the Revival of French Empire*. Oxford University Press, 2010.

Phil Dreyfus: *Our Better Nature, Environment and the Making of San Francisco*. University of Oklahoma Press, 2008.

Christopher Waldrep: *Jury Discrimination, The Supreme Court, Public Opinion, a Grassroots Fight for Racial Equality in Mississippi*. the University of Georgia Press, 2010.



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