The Historical Society's Annual Banquet in May 1999 was a real winner, even for those not receiving a scholarship. For those attending the event there was great food, a wonderful guest speaker—Dr. Teofilo Ruiz, and a beautiful view of the golf course.

Craig Harlan, Historical Society Advisor, Lynn Hudson, Chair of the Scholarship and Senior Award Committee, and John Snetsinger professor and sponsor, announced the scholarship and special awards for the academic year 1998-99:

- Elizabeth Lamoree received the "Outstanding Senior Award" sponsored by Professor Snetsinger.
- Monique Matta and Leon Snodgrass were awarded the J. Irving Snetsinger Memorial Scholarship.
- Kellie Crites was named as the recipient of the Jeri Ewy Thiel Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Bruce Thiel.
- Paul Hiltzold was named as the Historical Society's "Teacher of the Year."

In addition, Fiona Morgan, who served on the Historical Society and was instrumental in the success of the banquet, received an engraved vase with flowers from the History Department.

AN INVITATION
FROM THE CHAIR

Please join current and retired faculty, students, and alums in celebrating the History Department's 30th anniversary at a banquet to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2000. Please contact Tammy Muoio, the department's administrative assistant, at 805/756-2543 or e-mail: tmuoio@calpoly.edu if you would like more information.

Carolyn J. Stefanco

Carolyn J. Stefanco

WELCOME, NEW ALUMNS!!!

Spring 1999:
Bachelor of Arts in History
Kevin Michael Balsbaugh
James Alan Beaver
Michael Bryan Beever
Michael A. Brizendale
Laura Neri Caloca
Philip Conrad Campbell
Alyso Carrillo
Thomas Eugene Cubanski
Thomas B. Dias
William E. Eseltine
Marissa A. Famularo
Elizabeth Anne Flynn
Brian David Forgie
Nicole Bianca Harrison
Corey Dusten Hein
Amy Christine Hickenbottom

Fall 1998:
Bachelor of Arts in History
Hallie Elizabeth Cady
Jamie G. Daughete
Jodi Cecile Jensen
Peter M. Knaup
Susan Mary Raab
Alan R. Terry
Paul Richard Zito

Christina Dawn Horton
Erica Janelle Jameson
Keira Joy Kirby
Elizabeth Anne Lamoree
Jane Rathbone Leaphart
Monique Anne Matta
Brian Carleton McMurtry
Corey Andrew Miller
Fiona Jane Morgan
Joseph James Priola
Matthew H. Sage
Alexandria Denise Santos
Kurt James Schwertfeger
Samantha Lea Schiavone
John William Silva
George Ben Steinbach
Joseph Edmund Tavenor
Sherry Danyes Woods
Carlos Erasmo Benito Zamora
In response to the History Department’s Spring 1999 newsletter, we received the following updates from Cal Poly graduates: (Listed in chronological order by graduation date.)


Susan Collins-Avila (1980 grad): “I’m currently teaching 3rd grade.”

Valerie (Miles) Finney (1980 grad): “I spent five years as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer then went on to teach as an elementary school teacher. I have recently earned a Masters in Education/School Library Media Services and am the Librarian at Mt. Eagle Elementary School in Alexandria, Virginia.”

Barbara (Silver) Williams (1980 grad): “I am a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice in the International Trade field office. I litigate actions on behalf of the U.S. in import disputes with U.S. importers or foreign exporters.”

Matt Gargiulo (1982 grad): “Still single, I work in a management capacity and also teach in an adjunct capacity at a couple of local private colleges.”

Crystal Cann (1987 grad): “I have been teaching for eight years now at Rafer Johnson Junior High School in Kingsburg, CA (a California Distinguished School.) Currently I am teaching 8th grade history and, in my spare time, I am both the yearbook advisor and the site technology advisor. I have just completed my Master’s Degree in Education at CSU Fresno with a certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Technology. Life is great!”

Jim Lenihan (1990 grad): “I recently graduated from chiropractic college and have two offices, one in Oakland and another in Marin County, with my wife, Heidi.”

Aaron Muentz (1990 grad): “I publish a punk rock magazine as well as run Probe Records.”

Katie Brown (1991 grad): “I have been living in the Bay Area since graduation. I received my MA in Political Science from SJSU and, after working for local elected officials, I have settled down in a great job! I am a legislative analyst for the County of Santa Clara, and I feel very fortunate that I really enjoy my work. I would love to hear from old friends.”

Chris Hamill (1991 grad): “I’ve taught at Temecula Valley High School for the last five years coaching Varsity Girls Soccer for four consecutive championships. I married on August 1, 1998 to Lynanne. Loving my life!”

Brian Fallman (1993 grad): “For the past two years, I have taught the Young Adult Transition Program at Saddleback Community College. The program focuses on teaching 18-22 year old students with severe handicaps vocational skills, independent living skills, as well as social skills. In 1997, I received an Orange County Administrators Appreciation Award for outstanding work within Special Education. I have also earned accolades on the soccer field. For the past four years, I have been the Boys Head Soccer Coach at Trabuco Hills HS in Mission Viejo. Last season, the boys won the first ever South Coast League title in Trabuco Hills history. I live in San Clemente and surf at the pier often.”

Robyn Harrington (1994 grad): “In my role as a Developmental Project Manager, I constantly use the written and oral skills I developed at Poly. If you peruse Dilbert, you’re aware a proficiency in clear communication is desperately needed in the corporate world. I have also kept reading historical material, but I miss discussing and arguing about it! Life just keeps getting better!”

Rachel (McMurtry) Holt (1994 grad): “I am currently working as a deputy district attorney for San Mateo County, and I have had 13 jury trials so far. I married a little over a year ago to another Cal Poly grad. He is a software engineer. Although the Bay Area is a nice place to live, I sure do miss SLO town!”


Luc Chamberlin (1995 grad): “Currently, I’m in the Masters in Education program at Western Washington University. This time next year I’ll be teaching history to high school students.”


Iztaccuauhtli H. M. Gonzalez (1996 grad): “I finished teaching Bilingual World History to 6th and 7th grade classes and enjoyed it. I am currently studying to pass the CA State Health/Life and Fire and Casualty Insurance exams. I plan to become a Financial Analyst and eventually a Regional VP in the financial services field. Additional goals include getting my law degree and a Ph.D. in either Xicano studies, History, or Anthropology.”

Zack Larsen (1997 grad): “I worked in sales for one year, but my love of teaching would not die. So, I’m finishing up student teaching 5th grade in Fremont. I like 5th grade because of the U.S. History curriculum!”

Craig Weinreich (1997 grad): “I recently finished my teaching credential at CSU Fullerton and am currently employed teaching high school in Orange County. I married Nicole Valentine on August 14, 1999.”


Heather Perhach (1998 grad): “Right now, I’m in Phase I of the credential program at Sacramento State. I’m looking forward to teaching either high school or junior high after my student teaching. To current history majors: take time and money to go to school abroad. That is my only regret.”

Paul Miser (1998 grad): “I’m finishing my first year of law school at Santa Clara University. Since that requires so much of my time, I have nothing else to report at this time. Paul out.”

LYNN WHITE, SENIOR OFFICER FOR A FORTUNE 500 COMPANY WRITES ABOUT THE VALUE OF HISTORY TO A BUSINESSPERSON...

...LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

- When it comes to making policy, business leaders must deal in complexity and ambiguity. For that task, the study of history provides an excellent foundation.
- The lesson of history is that policy is far more contingent than business leaders might like, and that its consequences are in many ways unpredictable.
- The analytical methods of history are very effective in a business context, whether for policy or execution. Indeed, effective understanding of the performance and outlook for any company, market, or industry relies almost entirely on analysis of historical information. Since critical questions of such analyses are, “Why did that happen?”, “How can such events be repeated or avoided?”, “What lessons can we learn?”, the business analyst is performing the same task as an historian and can apply the same tools. The case method—an wholly historical approach—remains one of the most effective techniques in business education, since it simulates the reality of business decision making. One learns to deal with incomplete or contradictory data, ambiguous evidence, obscure chains of causality, and the whims of human action. In other words, the stuff of history.
The History Department is very grateful to those of you who helped support a wide range of activities within our department. The following alumni, faculty, and friends have provided generous support during the period November 1, 1998 through July 31, 1999. (Note: Donations received after 7/31/99 will be listed in the next edition.)

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