Prof. David S. Luft has retired after 36 years of an extraordinarily dedicated career at UCSD. Luft has accepted an Endowed Chair, the Thomas Hart and Mary Jones Horning Professorship in the Humanities, at Oregon State University.

With his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1972, Luft came to UCSD as an Assistant Professor in 1972. His research in his first three books treated the intellectual history of modern Austria, especially during the first six decades of the twentieth century: *Robert Musil and the Crisis of European Culture: 1880-1942* (Berkeley, 1980; 2d. ed. pbk, 1984); *Robert Musil, Precision and Soul: Essays and Addresses*, co-translated and edited with Burton Pike (Chicago, 1990; pbk ed, 1994); *Eros and Inwardness in Vienna: Weininger, Musil, Doderer* (Chicago, 2003). His point of entry was the work of a number of leading Viennese authors, who were studied against an ever-broadening backdrop that included German language culture in general and the European modernist tradition in literature and philosophy.
Phi Alpha Theta Initiates New UCSD Members

Six UCSD History students were recently initiated into the Phi Alpha Theta, an American honor society for undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors of history. There are over 800 local chapters of Phi Alpha Theta nationwide.

Undergraduate students must have a 3.0 overall grade point average, at least a 3.1 in their history courses, and be in the top 35% of their class.

New UCSD Phi Alpha Theta members include:

Alexandra Doll
Christopher Eichstedt
Justin Wales
Jennifer Wang
Jackie Yu
Sarah Zaides
Jeremy Brown has accepted an appointment as assistant professor of modern Chinese history at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. His dissertation, "Crossing the Rural-Urban Divide in Twentieth-Century China," won the Jean Fort Dissertation Prize, awarded at the 2008 commencement ceremony. In addition, Brown’s co-edited book, Dilemmas of Victory: The Early Years of the People’s Republic of China, was published by Harvard this year.

Laura Harkewicz has been awarded a dissertation fellowship from the Science and Society Program of the National Science Foundation. Harkewicz’s dissertation project is, "The Bravo Medical Program: Radiation Standards, Scientific Uncertainty, and the Legacy of the Cold War, 1954—Present."

Ellen Huang has accepted a two-year UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Art History. Her dissertation is “China’s China: Jingdezhen Porcelain and the Production of Art in the Nineteenth Century.”


Matthew Johnson has accepted a two-year position as Departmental Lecturer in the History and Politics of Modern China at the University of Oxford. His dissertation is entitled "International and Wartime Origins of the Propaganda State: The Motion Picture in China, 1897-1955." In addition, in August 2008 he co-chaired an international conference sponsored by The Journal of Chinese Cinemas on “Exhibiting Chinese Cinemas in the World.”

Ben Jordan, currently a Lecturer in the Kenyon College History Department, recently accepted the Johnston Visiting Professorship in Gender Studies and Environmental Studies at Whitman College in eastern Washington.

Jessica Jordan, a second year Ph.D. student in Japanese history, has been awarded a multi-year Jacob Javits Fellowship to fund her graduate studies.

Harun Küçük has received a Council of European Studies Fellowship for research at the British Library at London. He has two articles in press: "Islam, Christianity and the Conflict Thesis" in Science and Religion: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives, and "Esad Efendi, Ibrahim Muteferrika und Friedrich Bachstrom: Ein islamischer Gelehrtenkreis zwischen islamischer Tradition und 'europäische Wissenschaften' in den 1720er Jahren."

Miguel La Serna has accepted a tenure-track appointment at California State University Sacramento in modern Latin American History to begin in 2009, and will take up a postdoctoral appointment at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 2008-2009. La Serna’s dissertation is entitled, “The Corner of the Living: Local Power Relations and Indigenous Perceptions in Ayacucho, Peru, 1940-1983.”

Michael Lettieri was the co-winner of the 2007 H. Stuart Hughes Prize for the best graduate seminar paper, “The Wheels of Government: Camioneros and Political Culture in Twentieth-Century Mexico.”

Kate McDonald has been awarded fellowships from the Fulbright IIE and the UC Pacific Rim Foundation to conduct dissertation research in Japan during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years. Jimmy Patino has been awarded several 2008-09 fellowships, including the Kenneth and Dorothy Hill Fellowship in the UCSD Special Collections, the UCSD California Cultures in Comparative Perspective Fellowship, a UC Humanities Research Institute Travel Grant, and a Historical Society of Southern California Haynes Research Grant.

Jesus Perez Varela is the recipient of the 2008-09 President’s Dissertation Year Diversity Fellowship, awarded to promising students in the final stages of their doctoral work who demonstrate strong potential for university teaching and research. He was also selected to participate in the UCSD Summer Graduate Teaching Fellows Program.

Sjahari Pullom was awarded a fellowship from the Waitt Foundation and is currently conducting research in India.

Bradley Root was awarded a Waitt Foundation Fellowship to visit archeological sites and complete writing his dissertation on “Galilean Society Under Herod’s Successors.”

Nick Saenz has been elected President of the UCSD Graduate Student Association (GSA) in 2008-09.


Jomo Smith, a second year Ph.D. student in the modern Chinese history Ph.D. program, has been awarded a multi-year Jacob Javits Fellowship to fund his graduate studies.

George Solt has accepted a tenure-track appointment in the Departments of History and East Asian Studies at New York University. His dissertation is entitled, “The Politics of Ramen: Food, Labor, and Everyday Life in Modern Japan.”

James Tracy has won the 2008 UCSD Student Book Collection Competition sponsored by the UCSD Libraries. Tracy won for his collection of and essay on “Darwinism, Evolution, and Religion.”

Kazuyo Tsuchiya’s recent paper, “Transnational Struggles over Citizenship: Translating Black Theology into Korean Activism in Japan, 1969-1974,” which she presented at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, was selected for honorable mention by the ASA’s Standing Committee on Ethnic Studies.

Ana Varela Lago has accepted a three-year Lecturer appointment to teach European and World History at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Her dissertation is “Conquerors, Immigrants, Exiles: The Spanish Diaspora in the United States (1848-1948).”

Todd Welker was awarded the Gunther Barth Research Fellowship from the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley.

Chris Wisniewski has been awarded a 2008 UC MEXUS Dissertation Research Grant for archival work in Mexico, Spain, and Rome. Chris’s dissertation is entitled, “Changing Habits: Franciscan Adaptations in Mexico, 1763-1859.”

Elya Zhang has accepted a tenure track assistant professorship in Modern East Asian History at Fordham University to begin in 2009 and will take a postdoctoral appointment at the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard University in 2008-09 to work on her project, “Spider Manchu: Duanfang as Networkers and Spindocor of the Late Qing New Policies, 1901-1911.”
Luis Alvarez’s first book, *The Power of the Zoot: Identity and Resistance in US Youth Culture during World War II*, was published in June 2008 by the University of California Press. In addition, Alvarez was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Takashi Fujitani has just concluded three years of service on the Stanford Humanities Center Board and began service on the Japan Advisory Board, Social Science Research Council. In addition, Fujitani’s article, “Right to Kill, Right to Make Live: Koreans as Japanese and Japanese as Americans During WWII,” was published in *Representations* (Summer 2007). The Korean language version of this article appeared in *Asea yo’ngu* (2008). Also, Fujitani gave three talks at Colorado State University as the annual Norman Furniss Lecturer and the keynote seminar at UC, Santa Cruz held in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Research Cluster Graduate Student Conference. In addition, two new books appeared in the series he edits called *Asia Pacific Modern* (UC Press).

Thomas W. Gallant joined the History Department in July 2007 as the holder of the Nicholas Family Chair in Modern Greek History. Over the course of this academic year, he wrote and had accepted for publication the following articles: “When ‘men of honour’ met ‘men of law’: violence, the unwritten law and modern justice,” in E. Avdela, S. d’Cruze and J. Rowbotham, (eds.), *Crime, Violence and the Modern State: Greece and Western Europe* (forthcoming, 2008); and “Tales from the Dark Side: Transnational Migration, the Underworld and the ‘Other’ Greeks of the Diaspora,” in Dimitris Tzovas (ed.), *Greek Diaspora and Migration* (2008).

In addition, Gallant continued as book review editor of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, editor of the Edinburgh University Press’s series *History of the Greek People*, and he agreed to edit the Routledge *History of the Mediterranean World*; he also signed a contract with Princeton University Press for the publication of his next book, *Murder on Black Mountain: Love and Death on a Nineteenth Century Greek Island*.

Cathy Gere has been named a recipient of the 2008-09 Hellman Faculty Fellows Award. Funded by Chris and Warren Hellman, the Hellman Faculty Fellows Awards are given to support the research and creative activities of promising assistant professors that show capacity for great distinction in their work.

Mark G. Hanna, who joined the department this past year, is taking a two-year National Endowment for the Humanities postdoctoral fellowship at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture.


In addition, Hertz recently founded the Holocaust Living History Workshop, which brings local survivors and students together to use the Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive, a database of 52,000 video interviews with survivors. Future plans include expansion to serve three high schools in 08-09.


Christine Hunefeldt, who has just served in her third year as CILAS director, has recently helped organize the first ERIP-LASA conference at UCSD with 300 participants. From last year’s annual conference an edited volume (together with colleague Misha Kokotovic) is in press “Power, Culture, and Violence,” with Sussex Academic Press. New research includes *The Amazon Basin Over Time*, or the *Timeliness of the Amazon*.

Rachel Klein has been awarded a Huntington Library Fellowship.
Weijing Lu’s first book, True to Her Word The Faithful Maiden Cult in Late Imperial China, was published by Stanford U. Press in 2008. In addition, Lu was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure. Lu has also been awarded a U.C. President’s Fellowship.

Alden Mosshammer, Professor Emeritus, has completed a new book, scheduled for publication in December 2008 by Oxford University Press. Under the title "The Easter Computus and the Origins of the Christian Era," the book offers a new history of the Easter calculations of the early Christian church between the second and the seventh century and a new hypothesis about the origin of the system of numbering the years from the birth of Christ. Mosshammer was also an invited speaker at the 2nd International Conference on the Science of Computus in Galway (Ireland) in July 2008, where he presented a paper on "The Computus of 455 and the Laterculus of Augustalis, with an Appendix on the Fractional Method of Agristia." He and his wife now reside in Prescott, Arizona.

Naomi Oreskes has been named the new Provost of UCSD’s Sixth College. In addition, Oreskes was awarded the 2007-08 Chancellor’s Associates Faculty Excellence Award in Community Service, especially for her work both academic and in the public sphere on global climate change. Oreskes was also elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Michael Parrish will be on leave in 2008-09 as director of the UC Education Abroad Program in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Paul G. Pickowicz convened the UCSD-Cornell University Modern Chinese History Graduate Student Research Conference on the UCSD campus in summer 2007. Seventeen grad student research papers were presented; faculty discussants included Sherman Cochran and Chen Jian (Cornell) and Joseph Esherick, Lu Weijing, and Sarah Schneewind (USCD). A conference volume is now in the works. Pickowicz also published Dilemmas of Victory: The Early Years of the People’s Republic of China (Harvard University Press, 2007), a volume he co-edited with his Ph.D. student Jeremy Brown. Dilemmas of Victory features the work of several UCSD scholars. Pickowicz and Joseph Esherick have chapters in the books, as do a number of young faculty who earned the Ph.D. in UCSD’s modern Chinese history program: Jeremy Brown (now at Simon Fraser Unv.), Christian Hess (now at the Univ. of Warwick), Sigrid Schmalzer (now at the Univ. of Massachusetts), and Douglas Stifter (now at Juniata College).

Jeremy Prestholdt's first book, Domesticating the World: African Consumerism and the Genealogies of Globalization, has been published by the University of California Press in 2008. Also, Prestholdt was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure.

David Ringrose, Professor Emeritus, has been elected as a Corresponding Member of the Real Academia de la Historia. The Spanish Royal Academy of History was founded in 1738 and remains Spain's premier scholarly academy in history. There are currently 370 Corresponding Members of the Academy. Ringrose is the 15th U.S. citizen so honored.

Sarah Schneewind has edited a collection of 20 essays reassessing the impact of the Ming dynastic founder on a wide variety of fields, from politics to art and drama, and in a number of countries. “Long Live the Emperor! Uses of the Ming Founder across Six Centuries of East Asian History” was published in 2008 by the Society for Ming Studies.

Eric Van Young has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences. There are currently 1,976 members in the Academy, and only 71 foreign Corresponding members. Van Young continues to serve as Interim Dean of the Division of Arts and Humanities through December 2008.

Daniel Widener has been named a recipient of the 2008-09 Hellman Faculty Fellows Award. Funded by Chris and Warren Hellman, the Hellman Faculty Fellows Awards are given to support the research and creative activities of promising assistant professors that show capacity for great distinction in their work.

The History Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Nancy Kwak as Assistant Professor of History and Urban Studies and Planning. Dr. Kwak received her Ph.D. in International Urban History from Columbia University in 2006 and has taught the last two years as an Assistant Professor of the History of Globalization at Polytechnic University in New York City.

Dr. Kwak’s dissertation, “A Citizen’s Right to Decent Shelter: Public Housing in New York, London, and Singapore 1945-1970,” explores the history of urban planning and public housing policy by comparing and contrasting patterns in postwar urbanization and public housing in New York City, London, and Singapore. She combines transnational and comparative research in her studies of urbanization, “globalization,” and planning by focusing on the exchange that occurred between urban planners, architects, businesspeople, and bureaucrats in the period after World War II. She also has begun work on a second project that examines the role of American non-governmental organizations in shaping postwar urban development plans in Korea, Taiwan, and Japan through archival research in the Korean National Archives, the United Nations, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the World Health Organization.

At UCSD Dr. Kwak will teach courses on U.S. Urban History, International Urban History, and the Sustainable Urban Environment in the History Department and the Program in Urban Studies and Planning.
Department Welcomes New Staff Members

The department welcomed several new staff members during the 2007-08 academic year.

Jacqueline Griffin has joined the department as the new Chief Administrative Officer. Jackie worked in the History Department as our fiscal officer from 1984-1989, and she served as the founding MSO in UCSD’s Department of Ethnic Studies for the past 18 years. She brings a wealth of experience and dedication in all management areas.

Susan Bernal has a long and varied student affairs background and has focused for the past 15 years at UCSD on student affairs issues and experiences related to diversity. She began advising with the Division of Biology and then moved to the School of Medicine to serve as the Assistant Director of Student Affairs. Previous to joining the Department of History, she was the Student Affairs Manager of the Education Studies Program and played a large role in the implementation of the Doctorate of Education (Ed.D) as well as the admission of the inaugural cohorts to that degree program.

Kimberly Bondad joined the department in fall 2007 as the new CAESAR Program Coordinator and Fiscal Assistant. Kimberly graduated from UCSD in 2005. She was previously employed at California IGCS, a non-profit trade association, and Nordstrom.

Amber Rieder is our new Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer. She has been with UCSD for over 10 years and has worked in the Education Studies Department as well as Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Mónica Rodríguez was recently hired as the new Chinese Studies Program Coordinator. Mónica started her career at UCSD as an undergraduate and earned her degree in Ethnic Studies with a minor in Chicano Literature and specialization in Southwest Studies. Over the years, Mónica has worked at the Jacobs School of Engineering, Extended Studies and the Warren Writing Program. In addition to helping the Chinese Studies Program run smoothly she hopes to improve her Mandarin speaking skills.

Maissha Stewart is our new Main Officer Administrator. Previously, Maissha served as an Executive Assistant at a number of San Diego firms, as well as to serve as the Sr. Secretary for the City of Glendale in Glendale, Arizona.

Alejandra Ruiz Retires After 38 Years at UCSD

Alejandra Ruiz first came to UCSD 42 years ago as a freshman in 1966 and graduated with a B.A. in French Literature in 1970. Upon her graduation, she began to work in the UCSD Library, to begin a 38-year career as a dedicated UCSD staff employee. Alex was discovered there by then History Department Chair Ramon Ruiz and she subsequently moved up through a number of staff positions in the department to become the History Department’s Management Service Officer in 1978, the position from which she retired now 30 years later.

Alex’s university service is legion and legendary, as she has been sought for her knowledge and advice on policies, procedures, and practices. She was Chair of the Chancellor’s Inauguration Committee, twice served on search committees for new Vice-Chancellors of Academic Affairs, has been a staff consultant to the Program Review Committee, served on many Chancellor’s Advisory Committees and many committees of the campus Staff Association. In 1982, Alex became a member of the UCSD Hispanic Women’s Group and has often consulted on job placements, job mobility, job applications, and job interviews. Alex was acknowledged for her “gracious demeanor, vast institutional experience, impressive wisdom, tact, and diplomacy” in 1999 as the fifth recipient of UCSD’s highest staff award, the Betsy Faught Award Honoring Excellence in Academic Program Management.

For those of us who know Alex, however, we know her best for her unusual ability and personal touch as a manager and supervisor in making each of us feel special. Alex is much more than a font of knowledge and institutional memory, problem-solver and trouble-shooter extraordinaire, but above all, a confidante and friend.
David Noel Freedman (1922 – 2008)

On April 8, 2008, our colleague and friend David Noel Freedman, Professor of History and Judaic Studies, died at the home of his son David and daughter-in-law Genevieve in Petaluma, California. He was 85 years old and had continued to co-teach his biblical seminar with Prof. William Propp through winter quarter via video-conferencing.

Time and space do not allow us to detail Dr. Freedman’s 60-year scholarly career; and if it were physically possible to name the titles of his 470 co-authored or edited books and articles in one second each, it would take 10 full minutes without coming up for air and taking a breath. The sheer magnitude of his scholarly production is difficult to grasp and the juxtaposition of the quantity of Freedman’s work with its extraordinary quality is perfectly captured in the quotation by John R. Huddlestun from his two-volume edition of Freedman’s selected writings: “To survey the writings of David Noel Freedman is tantamount to reviewing the history and development of nearly every facet of American biblical scholarship following the Second World War….The creativity and originality of his many contributions are exceeded only by their prodigious number.” (John R. Huddlestun, ed., “Editor’s Introduction,” Divine Commitment and Human Obligation: Selected Writings of David Noel Freedman, 2 vols. [1997].)

To know Dr. Freedman was to know that his life was consumed by his scholarship. We like to apply to Freedman a quotation said of Averell Harriman, whose long career in American politics had him chief negotiator at the Paris Peace Talks on Vietnam at age 78 and active through his 80s as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee’s Foreign Policy Task Force, “It’s not unusual for a man in his 80s to be as active and intellectually acute, what is unusual is that he was still ambitious.” So with Dr. Freedman, who would proudly recount this year’s list of completed books for the Anchor Bible Commentary Series and Reference Library. All this work continues and lives on through the over 1,000 scholars—representing Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, secular, and other traditions—who have now contributed to the project, and the millions of readers who own and read it.

Prof. David Luft Retires

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Prof. Luft has published numerous articles and reviews on Modern European Intellectual and Cultural History, Austrian and Habsburg History, Central European History, Comparative European Literature, German Politics and Culture, Historiography and Historical Theory.

Since his arrival in 1972, Luft has been a dedicated teacher in the Revelle College Humanities Program, with what is now Humanities 5: Modern Culture (1848-Present) his signature course. He promptly received the Revelle College Excellence in Teaching Award in 1975. Promoted to Associate Professor in 1979, he continued to excel in teaching and was awarded the Revelle College Excellence in Teaching Award a second time in 1983, the Chancellor’s Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1985, and the UCSD Alumni Distinguished Professor Award in 1986. Promoted to Professor in 1990, David has directed or co-directed 13 Ph.D.’s in History; served as a member on an additional 10 Ph.D. dissertation defense committees, and received the UCSD Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award in 2003. David taught his final quarter of Revelle Humanities 5 this spring.

David Luft has been an indefatigable servant in the History Department, Revelle College, the Academic Senate, and UCSD at large. Notably, he has served as Chair of four Academic Senate Committees (Research, CEP, Graduate Council, and Privilege and Tenure) as well as most recently serving on the Senate Council and as the UCSD Representative to UC Systemwide Assembly of the Academic Senate, 2005-2007. In the profession, he has been serving as Executive Secretary of the Society for Austrian and Habsburg History, 2006-2008; as a Member of the Hans Rosenberg Article Prize Committee in Central European History for 2007-2008; as a Member of the Executive Committee of the Society for Austrian and Habsburg History, 2005-2008; and on the editorial boards of the Austrian History Yearbook and German Quarterly.

We truly wish Prof. Luft well in his new position at Oregon State. We will all miss his exemplary engagement with all aspects of the academic life: scholarship, teaching, and service. One can barely summarize his innumerable contributions to the Department and to UCSD.
What History Professors Read…

Prof. Mark Hanna is rereading for the fifth time *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe and *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift for an article about early visions of empire.

Prof. Deborah Hertz is reading *teach-yourself Yiddish textbook* and Katherine Anne Porter’s *Ship of Fools*.

Prof. Christine Hunefeldt’s current readings mostly pertaining to early (18th century) scientific and missionary expeditions into the Amazon.

