Wine Tasting to Benefit Department of History

Kevin O’Connor, former wine director of Wolfgang Puck’s signature restaurant Spago in Beverly Hills (2001-2008) and founder of LIOCO Wine Company, will be doing a wine tasting to benefit the department during Alumni Weekend. LIOCO, a winery in northern California that garnered Wine & Spirits Magazine’s 2009 Winery of the Year Award, produces premier chardonnay and pinot noir. (They can be found on the Web at liocowine.com.) His brother, Roderick O’Connor, will be covering reception costs. Why this special generosity to the department? The O’Connor family has a fondness for history, of course. But it just so happens that their sister is our own Maura O’Connor, the department’s specialist in 19th-century British history, so we have a sneaky suspicion that there’s a special family connection happening that their sister is our own Maura O’Connor, the department’s specialist in 19th-century British history, so we have a sneaky suspicion that there’s a special family connection happening that their sister is our own Maura O’Connor, the department’s specialist in 19th-century British history, so we have a sneaky suspicion that there’s a special family connection happening that their sister is our own Maura O’Connor, the department’s specialist in 19th-century British history, so we have a sneaky suspicion that there’s a special family connection happening that their sister is our own Maura O’Connor, the department’s specialist in 19th-century British history, so we have a sneaky suspicion that there’s a special family connection happening.

Zane Miller’s Latest Gift to the Department of History

Zane Miller, professor emeritus of history, has made a generous bequest to the Department of History that will include an endowed professorship in urban history. Previously, he has supported graduate research and scholarship, including the Miller Prize awarded annually to the best graduate research papers. Miller is a prolific urban historian who instituted programs in preservation and urban history at the university in close cooperation with local neighborhoods. He has authored numerous books and articles. Miller was an extraordinary graduate mentor, serving on the dissertation committees of dozens of students and continuing to work with some of them years after they earned their degrees. As he has remarked, “The Miller seminar never ends.”

For those of us fortunate enough to work with him as a colleague in the department, his generosity and intellectual curiosity were inspiring. Now retired and living in Florida, he is very much “keeping his hand in the history game,” he says, by co-editing the Urban Life, Landscape and Policy Series from Temple University Press. (Another co-editor is David Stradling, a UC history professor and Miller’s former student.) The books in the series thus far are: “John D. Fairfield, The Public and its Possibilities: Triumphs and Tragedies in the American City” (Spring 2010); “Lisa M. Hoffman, Patriotic Professionalism in Urban China: Fostering Talent” (Spring 2010); “Andrew Hurley, Beyond Preservation: Using Public History to Revitalize Inner Cities” (Spring 2010); and “William Iosel, Catholic Action, Anti-Catholicism, and National Security Politics in World War II San Francisco” (Fall 2009). For more information, visit www.temple.edu/tempress/urban_life.html.

The Barbara Ramusack Graduate Fellowship

This fall was our first in 42 years without Professor Emerita Barbara Ramusack in the department. Over her long career, Ramusack was a remarkable presence in all ways – as a teacher, mentor, colleague and as a leading researcher in her primary fields of South Asian history and women’s history. To honor her rich legacy in the department, we have inaugurated a graduate student fellowship in her name. To find out more, visit our Web site at www.artsci.uc.edu/history and click on the Graduate Studies page. Please consider making a gift to this fund to help our graduate students, while also honoring Ramusack’s long and distinguished career in our department and the history profession.

History Club Goes Live

The History Department is pleased to announce a new university-registered student organization, the History Club. Welcoming history majors, non-majors and alumni alike, the club will host historically themed events designed to be both entertaining and educational. On tap for the spring are film viewings with related lecture and group discussions, as well as historical tours of downtown Cincinnati, area cemeteries and the Over-the-Rhine Brewery District. Undergraduate Emily Finke echoes the sentiments of fellow founding members Kelsey Bladh and Kimberly Wharton when she predicts “the History Club will help awaken people’s awareness of the fascinating pasts that surround them.” Professors Mark Lause and Steve Porter enthusiastically serve as the club’s faculty advisors.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Things have been moving in the history department over the last year! Between excellent new hires and the high quality of our existing faculty and students, we continue to make our mark as a center of teaching and research excellence at UC.

A few highlights: Mark Lause published not one but two new books in the last year; Martin Francis came out with a well-regarded second monograph; many of our faculty continue to win fellowships and awards as do our grad students; we’ve hosted prominent visiting lecturers, including Orlando Patterson of Harvard and Marshallt Patterson of Northwestern; our number of undergraduate majors is on the rise; we had one of the strongest graduate applicant pools in the last 10 years; and we’ve just hired a new South Asian, Shailaja Faiq, a specialist in 20th-century Indian women’s history.

With budget woes ongoing in public higher education in Ohio and across the country, it’s clear that we need to be ready to face challenges ahead, but if the last two years are any indication, we are doing a good job making our way through a difficult passage. Much of this success relates back to the emotional and material support we receive from you, our alumni and emeriti, including Zane Miller, Roger Daniels and Barbara Ramascul, all of whom are now associated with named initiatives and awards that actively help the work of students and faculty in the department. So heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continuing interest in and support for the Department of History. We truly couldn’t do what we do without you.

We’re absolutely committed to keeping our return to strength on track. If you are in Cincinnati and haven’t been over to the department in a while, come by for a visit. Use e-mail to track down your favorite professor, and please remember to use us at our special department wine tasting planned for at our special department wine tasting planned for strength on track. If you are in Cincinnati and couldn’t do what we do without you.

We hope that your year has been as rewarding as it has been busy. As always, we great you to visit and share your news.

Sylvia Sellers-Garcia

Visit our website at www.history.uc.edu/ for more information.

From the Head

Faculty News

David Claros ‘Advertising Empire: Race and Visual Culture in Imperial Germany’ will appear in late 2010 with Harvard University Press. He also published two essays this fall, one of which explored the connection between coca advertisements in Germany and Germany’s genocidal war in 1905 against the Herero in Africa. A new addition to the history department, he is teaching new classes on Weimar Germany and (with Professor Sellers-Garcia) on the commodities of empire, which will cover topics such as spices, cocoa, coffee, tea and opium.

Ethan Katz, a new addition to the history department, is spending the year at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is revising a manuscript on the history of Jewish-Muslim relations in modern France. An article related to this project recently appeared in a special issue on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in the Francophone World. In March, Katz co-organized a conference titled ‘Fragmented Encounters: Race, Religion and the Secular in Jewish-Muslim Relations.’

Wendy Kline is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her second monograph, ‘Bodies of Knowledge: Sexuality, Reproduction and Women’s Health in the Second Wave’ (University of Chicago Press). She has begun a third book project, tentatively titled ‘Birth in Transition: A Recent History of Midwifery and Childbirth in the U.S.,’ and has presented material at the Symposium on Birth Practices and Reproductive Rights at George Mason University last October. She also published ‘Eugenics in the United States’ in Alison Bashford and Philippa Levine’s ‘The Oxford Handbook of the History of Eugenics’ (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Man Bun Kwan has been on sabbatical this year, attending conferences at Cornell and Berkeley, presenting topics such as ‘Salt in the War of Resistance.’ His 1999 book on the salt merchants in Tianjin in China is being reprinted, as well as an updated edition of his two-volume set of selected archival materials on the Juta Salt Refinery.

Mark Lause has seen two books to press over the past year, including ‘Race and Radicalism in the United States’ (University of Illinois Press). He has a third book manuscript in submission and a contract for another on Civil War-era secret societies. He is also introducing several new courses on the foundations of the social sciences, on American radicalism, and on 1968.

Sylvia Sellers-Garcia, a new addition to the history department, is revising a book manuscript on the conception of distance in colonial Guatemala. She developed an article on the risky business of mail-carrying and the limits of sanctioned space for publication in March 2012. Her courses this year focused on foreign travelers in Latin America, the Spanish Inquisition in Spain and the new Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in the Francophone World. She is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her new baby, Haimanti Roy.

If you would like to donate to the department, you may give online at givevo.uc.edu. For questions on making a gift, please contact Deborah Pynsky at 513-556-5808 or deborah.pynsky@uc.edu.

David Claros

What’s new with you?

Please help us update our alumni files and let your friends know what you have been up to! Your answers will help shape the Alumni News. To submit your update, please email us at historyupdate@uc.edu. You can also make an address change, subscription status or add a new year at the Alumni News.

In Memoriam

Arthur Samuel Jones (49 BA; 50 MA) was a Cincinnati native, a life member of the NAACP, an honorably discharged second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, a leader in the Community Volunteer Service and a labor activist. While studying modern European history at UC, he wrote his thesis, “The Development of Agriculture and the Extractive Industry in British West Africa, 1919-1939.” A service was held in his memory in San Francisco on Jan. 26, 2007. The Department of History would like to extend their sympathies to his wife Mary and daughter Kimberley.

Alumni News

Thomas D. Cassedy (76 BA) is president and CEO of USI Midwest, one of the largest insurance brokers in the Tristate area. He is currently serving as a member of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees.

Aaron Cowan (70 PhD), assistant professor at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, facilitated a roundtable entitled “Interventions to the Rescue: Public History—University Partnerships in Financial Crisis” at the annual meeting of the National Council on Public History in March.

Robert Gioielli (78 PhD), visiting professor at Towson University, has garnered an advance contract from Temple University Press to publish his book, currently titled “Hard Asphalt and Heavy Metals.” An Environmental History of the Urban Crisis.”

Dan LaBote (92 MA; 98 PhD) is running for U.S. Senate on the Socialist Party ticket as part of an informational campaign to expand political discourse. He has also published extensively on labor issues both here and in Mexico.

Robert Langenderfer (78 MA) completed his MS in library science at the University of Kentucky in 2007. He is currently working as the evening librarian at Brown Mackie College in Ft. Mitchell KY. He is also a regular contributor of book reviews to the Library Journal and writes essays on local history and sports history for a variety of publications.

MI Morgan (91 MA; 95 PhD), adjunct professor at Kansas State University, will publish “Land of Big Rivers: French and Indian Illinois, 1699-1778” in June with Southern Illinois University Press. John Mack Faragher (Yale University) describes the book as ‘brilliantly conceived and beautifully written,’ and declares that it ‘will transform not only the way we think about the early Illinois Country, but the ways we write environmental history.

Haimanti Roy (76 PhD), assistant professor of history at MIT, has published “A Partition of Contingency: Public Discourse in Bengal, 1944-47” in Modern Asian Studies (November 2009). She and her husband Rahul Nair welcomed a son, Karna Roy, in March 2009.

Robert Sturdevant (76 BA) was recently elected Chief Labor Delegate for the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers Local 1520 and is now a delegate to the AFL-CIO Labor Councils of Cincinnati and Southwestern Ohio.

Historical Note:

The Department of History would like to extend their sympathies to the family of Dr. and Mrs. Dr. and Mrs. Roger Daniels, a life member of the NAACP, an honorably discharged second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, a leader in the Community Volunteer Service and a labor activist. While studying modern European history at UC, he wrote his thesis, “The Development of Agriculture and the Extractive Industry in British West Africa, 1919-1939.” A service was held in his memory in San Francisco on Jan. 26, 2007. The Department of History would like to extend their sympathies to his wife Mary and daughter Kimberley.

David Stradling’s “Making Mountains: New York City and the Catskills” (Washington University Press) is now available in paperback. He has just returned from Portland, Ore., where he served as commentator for the panel “Nature on Canvas: Landscape Art as Historical Document” at a conference of the American Society for Environmental History.

What’s new with you?

Please help us update our alumni files and let your friends know what you have been up to! Your answers will help shape the Alumni News. To submit your update, please email us at historyupdate@uc.edu. You can also make an address change, subscription status or add a new year at the Alumni News.

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