Alumni News

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Mitch Cronin (BA, '97) took the Bearcats to the NCAA tournament as the head basketball coach, losing only to the eventual champion. He has signed a contract to remain at UC through 2017.

Carlton Farmer (BA, '84; MA, '87) spoke at the TEDx Cincy conference last fall.

Huma Gupta (Taft Departmental Senior Undergraduate Fellow, '08) is completing her MA in urban design at M.I.T.

Isaac Hand (BA, '10) is teaching English in Turkey. He has been admitted to the University of Chicago for an MA in Middle Eastern studies.

Rick David Konrad (BA, '96) is a city manager for Fratland, Md. Konrad had previously been employed by the city of Norfolk, Va. and Wicomico County, Md.

Kriste Lindenmeyer (BA, '85; MA, '87; PhD, '91) has been appointed dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University–Camden, after teaching 11 years (including six years as department chair) in Turkey. He has been admitted to the Universidad in Germany.

Mike Rhyne (PhD, '97) has signed an advanced book contract for his book on violence in post-Civil War Kentucky. He is an assistant professor of history at Urbana University in Urbana, Ohio.

Dawn Spring (PhD, '08) has signed a contract to publish the tentatively titled "Building Brand America: Politics and Free Enterprise at Home and Abroad, 1941-1961" with Palgrave/Macmillan.

Susan Carol Taylor (BA, '77; MA, '78) retired from teaching, including a Fulbright Senior Teaching, including a Fulbright Senior Scholar appointment at the Martin-Luther-Universität in Germany.

Trish Myers (BA, '99) is pursuing her MA/PhD in Ottoman and Islamic world history at Ohio State University.

Andy Pilder (Taft Departmental Senior Undergraduate Fellow and BA, '09) is finishing his MA at Miami University of Ohio and is applying to doctoral programs to continue his historical studies.

Since 2009, history department faculty have published no fewer than 15 books.

The books cover a wide range of subjects. Just a few of the highlights, starting with American history: John K. Alexander’s "Samuel Adams: The Life of an American Revolutionary" (2011) is a comprehensive biography of an important founding father. Mark Luns’s four books—two last year, two out later in 2011—focus on previously unexplored facets of Antebellum and Civil War America; David Staudtling's "The Nature of New York" (2010) traces the human reshaping of New York state’s physical landscape from the arrival of Henry Hudson to the environmental era; Wendy Kline’s "Body of Knowledge" (2010) offers an account of the challenges faced by second-wave feminists as they sought to take ownership over women’s bodies and women’s health; and Tracy Teslow’s "Anthropology and the Science of Race in America" (2011) explores interwar anthropology and its impact on racial thinking in 20th-century America.

Moving beyond U.S. history, the range of works is just as impressive. In "Red Conspirator" (2011), Professor Emeritus Thomas Sakmyster recounts how J. Peters became a key figure in the underworld of Soviet espionage and the American Communist Party. David Charlton’s "Advertising Empire" (2011) analyzes the convergence of consumerism, visual culture, race and colonialism in imperial Germany. Man Bun Kwan has co-edited a three-volume set of "Selected Archival Materials on the Pacific Alkali Co., Ltd." (2011) along with a revised edition of a two-volume "Collected Archival Materials on the Jiuda Salt Refinery, Ltd." British historian Martin Francis’s "The Flyer" (2009) examines the life of the pilots of the British Royal Air Force during World War II. Finally, Mark Raider’s edited volume, "Nahum Goldmann: Statesman Without a State" (2009) explores the life of one of the most important Jewish political figures of the 20th century.

Needless to say, we’re proud of all of our authors. And as our faculty continue to engage students in the classroom and research documents in the archives, there are surely more path-breaking titles to come.

U.S. Ambassador to Portugal Visits History Department

On April 21, 2011, the honorable Allison Katz, American Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic (and father of professor Ethan Katz), joined us to make a special presentation in our "History Out There" lecture series. The series invites former history majors to share their thoughts about the value of a history degree with current students. During his remarks to a full house of students and faculty, Ambassador Katz reflected on how the skills of analysis and critical attention to facts that he learned as a history major proved to be wonderful assets to him as he pursued what turned out to be a long and accomplished career as a successful attorney and public servant. Katz also offered fascinating tidbits on Portuguese history and some of the behind-the-scenes workings of American diplomacy.
Greetings From the Head

Good news this year from the history front! Our faculty and graduate students continue to rack up accomplishments. We have a vibrant and growing undergraduate major, and a lively calendar of visiting speakers and other interesting opportunities for learning and talking about history. We've even survived (so far!) the preparations for the transition to the new semester-based academic schedule, which is set to begin in fall 2012, though the planning is already feverishly underway.

As usual, the department is a dynamic place, and we've seen a good deal of coming and goings this year. Shalaja Paik, a specialist in South Asian women's history and recent PhD from Warwick University in the U.K., joined us this fall, replacing Barbara Ramusack who retired the year before last after 42 years of teaching in the department. Ethan Katz, a specialist in modern Jewish history, has also just joined us, fresh from a postdoctoral fellowship at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. And next year we'll be joined by three new assistant professors in modern German, colonial Latin American and early American history. Unfortunately, we also have some departures to note. Susan Tumarkin Bronston, a specialist in South Asian women's history and recent PhD from Warwick University in the U.K., will be leaving the department, retiring later this year, after a long career of teaching at UC and 35 years of being a leader in the field of women's history. (See the note on Hildda's remarkable career on the opposite page.)

Of course, it's not really news to report that budgetary times remain challenging. In spite of strong leadership in the area of teaching and learning and around the country. The need for ongoing investments in history and the liberal arts never ends. But I'm happy to report that our budget outlook for next year is not as dire as we feared, and with strong leadership in the McKeon Center of Arts & Sciences, we're committed to continuing to expand our faculty numbers and strengthen our reputation as an excellent research and teaching department. In all of these efforts, your continued support and as alumni continue to mean the world to us. Please know that we value every donation and every idea you send our way. I'm reminded every year as I write this letter that we truly couldn't do what we do without you. If you are in Cincinnati and haven't been over to the department in a while, please stop by. We'd also be thrilled to add you to our department email list so that we can send you regular news of our goings-on, including visiting lectures and other history events. Whatever you do, don't be a stranger. Let us know what you're doing. Stay in touch.

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Honor Roll of Donors

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the department from Jan. 1, 2010 to June 1, 2011. These gifts fund scholarships, attract and retain the finest faculty and enrich the experiences of our undergraduate and graduate students.

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Faculty & Emeriti News

Professor Emeritus Roger Daniels continues researching, writing and lecturing. He delivered the Jefferson Memorial Lecture on “Japanese American Incarceration Reconsidered: 1914-2010” at the University of California, Berkeley in September 2010.

Jason Krupar presented a paper in June at the Journal of Policy History Conference held at Tufts University and continues to work on his book which examines the intersection of race, regulation and national policy within the early U.S. atomic weapons program. Professor Emeritus Zane Miller is still basking under the Florida sun, while continuing to edit the series on environmental and urban history for Temple University Press.

Shalaja Paik published an article on the contested identity of Dalits (“untouchables”) in 20th-century India in the 2011 summer issue of Contexts, a journal of sociology and policy. She also presented a paper on Dalit names at the Association of Asian Studies conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, gave an invited talk at Dartmouth College, and participated in a workshop on “Caste and Democracy in India” held at the University of Iowa.

Steve Porter received a grant from the University Research Council to support work on his book manuscript, “A Benevolent Empire? Refugee NGOs and the American State.” He also secured funding from the Taft Research Center for a major U.C. Libraries acquisition, a searchable database titled “Historic Black Newspapers.” This spring he spoke at public forums focusing on the dramatic developments in North Africa and the Middle East.

Beginning next year, he will serve a two-year term as the director of U.C.I.’s International Human Rights Certificate Program.

Mark A. Raider, professor of modern Jewish history and history of science, was recently awarded the Leo Wackerman Prize, an honor given annually for the best article in American Jewish History. In 2010-11 Raider served as project director of the Posen Foundation Education Project, a teacher education initiative conducted under the auspices of the Center for Studies in Jewish Education and Culture (CECH), where he is a research associate. The project, funded by the Posen Foundation, supports teaching and learning in American high schools about secular Jewish history and culture.

Since retiring last year as the department’s specialist in South Asian history, Professor Emerita Barbara Ramusack has been busy giving public lectures on her work on the Indian princes, serving on prize review committees, and reviewing grant and article submissions for national boards and journals. She also took a trip to India in the winter.

Professor Emeritus Thomas Saksmyter, the department’s former specialist in East European history, has just published “Red Conspirator: J. Peters and the American Communist Underground” with University of Illinois Press.

Professor Hilda Smith is retiring after 27 years of teaching in the department. Smith has established herself not only as an internationally recognized authority in early modern English women’s history and intellectual history but also as a true pioneer and enduring influence on the more general field of women’s studies both in the U.S. and the world academy. She has been feted at national and international conferences. Just this spring, we held a special mini-conference that included 10 of the most accomplished scholars in her field who came together to honor her contributions. Everyone agreed that Smith is nothing less than a force of nature, constantly alive with ideas and passionate in her advocacy for the history of women and appreciation of female perspectives in the past. To honor her contributions, we’re inaugurating a new annual prize for best student paper in the field of women’s history. There’s no question — she will indeed be greatly missed!

Willard Sunderland has been awarded a Fulbright grant from the U.S. Department of State to spend seven months in 2011-2012 conducting research in Beijing and Taibei. He will be working on his new book project titled “Colonial Encounters: Eurasian Empires in the Cosmopolitan Age.”

Tracy Tewold’s book manuscript, “Anthropology and the Science of Race in America, 1900-1960,” will be published in 2012 by Cambridge University Press. In November, she accompanied a group of UC history students on an outing to the “Carrers in History” symposium hosted by the National Council on Public History at TUFP in Indianapolis. The symposium gave students the opportunity to meet public history professionals in our region.

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Save the Date! Oktoberfest for the History Department Planned for Oct. 14, 2011

What three things fit together more perfectly than Cincinnati, beer and history? To celebrate this remarkable trio, we’re organizing our own mini-Oktoberfest this fall, with proceeds to benefit the department, our students and faculty and friendly conversation. Mr. Greg Hardman, President and CEO of Christian Moerlein Brewing Company, will be on hand to provide a wonderful selection of Christian Moerlein beers and an opportunity to talk about one of the most storied brewers of the city’s past. We had a fantastic time raising funds and smiles with our department wine tasting with LIOCO Wines in 2010. We’re excited to keep our new fundraising — and glass-raising — tradition rolling with this next event. We’re grateful to our friends at Christian Moerlein and Mr. Hardman for their support. We look forward to clinking glasses with you in October! More information about the event forthcoming.

Tracy Tewold