NEW NAME, SAME TRUSTED SOURCE

The Department of History Newsletter has a new name and a new format! Not to be outdone by the recent additions of social media and a much needed upgrade to the website, the Department of History newsletter now has a new look and more accessible format to complement our other media. The digital format of the Primary Source allows for interactive text with links to more information on the web. While the newsletter will still be sent out via Email, it will always be posted on our website and blog for your convenience. These changes represent another step in our ongoing efforts to offer the most relevant and accessible information to the largest audience possible.

THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE!
The Department of History Online

There are several new ways to stay up to date with news from the Department of History at the University of Cincinnati. Over the summer, we have added a blog, Facebook page, and Twitter feed to our department. The main website also received a new look and has been streamlined so you can find the information you need quickly and easily. We hope you will find these new resources useful as well as engaging ways to keep up with the latest news, research, and accomplishments of our students and faculty. It is also a great way to let everyone know about upcoming events and speakers. As always, we welcome any and all feedback about these new additions to our media, as well as the newsletter, and hope you will help us improve them over the coming months. If you have questions, comments, or news that you think we should know about, please send an Email with the subject “history news” to history@ucmail.uc.edu. Links to all of our social media can be found on our website at http://www.artsci.uc.edu/collegedepts/history/ or by going to them directly at their respective links below. The faculty and staff wish everyone the best in this new school year and we hope to hear from you soon!

Blog: http://uchistorydept.wordpress.com
Twitter: http://twitter.com/uchistorydept
Facebook: http://facebook.com/UHistory

Tales From the Archives:

Dr. Charles F. Casey-Leininger just completed a study of integrated communities in Hamilton County that is posted on the Housing Opportunities Made Equal website. “The previous study for which this one serves as an update,” his report explains, “concluded that there was good news for those who wished to live in racially integrated communities in Hamilton County. The news remains good. At the 2010 census, fifty-four suburban Hamilton County communities and Cincinnati neighborhoods, over one-third of the total, containing 46% of the total population of the county, were at least modestly racially integrated.” The full report can be found at this link: http://www.homecincy.org/pdfs/Final%20DN%20Report.pdf
Relations between the religious and secular worlds have rarely been so beset by tension and misunderstanding as they are today. Yet in recent years, scholars across the humanities have begun to rethink many of their assumptions about how the "secular" world emerged, and also about its relations with the religious world. Increasingly, these scholars have come to understand that the modern world is deeply shaped by religion, and that the religious and secular can rarely be separated. Three very distinguished scholars will be coming to UC this year to talk about their books that deal with this topic from various angles, and to explore a new topic of research in a public lecture. They will be giving particular attention to various aspects of the Jewish experience and influence in modern European history.

For the book seminars, we will make the book available to students and faculty well before they come to campus.

First Speaker (November 4): Matthew Goldish, Samuel M. and Esther Melton Chair in Jewish History; Director of Center for Judaic Studies, Ohio State University

Book Seminar: Discussion of Goldish, Judaism in the Theology of Sir Isaac Newton

Lecture: The Moderate Enlightenment: Jewish and Christian Models

Second Speaker (February 13-14): David Sorkin, Distinguished Professor, CUNY Graduate Center

Book Seminar: Discussion of Sorkin, The Religious Enlightenment: Protestants, Jews, and Catholics, from London to Vienna

Lecture: The Enlightenment and Religion: Shifting Boundaries in Recent Scholarship

Third Speaker (May 9-10): Lisa Moses Leff, Associate Professor of History, American University

Book Seminar: Discussion of Leff, Sacred Bonds of Solidarity: The Rise of Jewish Internationalism in Nineteenth-Century France

Lecture: ‘Sacred’ Remnants for a Secular History? Zosa Szajkowski and the Creation of French Jewish History

Matt Stanley was recently featured on Emerging Civil War, a blog dedicated to continuing scholarship and discussion of issues related to the American Civil War. His essay explores the relationship between Civil War tensions, Civil Rights tensions, and the ever-changing perspective of American historical memory.

“Still, some aspects of official American memory (and the national mythmaking it converges with) aren’t likely to change any time soon. I haven’t yet visited the monument (it opened three days ago), but I expect that it, like so much of King’s public memory, will focus on only parts of King’s message, such as non-violence and equal opportunity, and downplay some of the specifics within his goals of social and economic justice. In addition to trumpeting his well-known statements about racial equality, by the mid-1960s King came also to question the nature of capitalism and believed
that war, racism, and poverty all had roots within the economic system.”

Matt is a doctoral student at the University of Cincinnati in the Department of History.

BUSY TIMES FOR UC HISTORY FACULTY

The Department of History faculty have been incredibly busy this summer and while there is no way to offer a full list of their work and accomplishments, here is a sampling of what they have been up to since the end of the spring quarter.

Over the summer and early fall, Dr. Wendy Kline presented two conference papers (at the Berkshire Conference on Women’s History at UMass in June, and at the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health at Utrecht University in September), conducted a tenure review for the University of Delaware, reviewed a grant for the NSF, reviewed a manuscript for New York University Press, completed a book chapter for the Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity (edited by Ron Bayor), and reviewed Elaine May’s America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation for the American Historical Review. She conducted research on her book project on the history of childbirth at the Schlesinger Library in Cambridge, the National Library of Medicine in Washington D.C., and in the San Francisco bay area, with funding from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Taft Research Fund, and Harvard University’s Schlesinger Library. Later this fall, she will give invited talks at two international conferences: the first for “The Study of Eugenics: Past, Present, and Future,” Uppsala University Department of the History of Science and Ideas, Sweden, November 10-11, 2011, and the second for the “Communicating Reproduction” Conference, Department of the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, England, December 5-6, 2011.

Dr. David Stradling gave the keynote address at the New York State Historical Association’s annual meeting in Cooperstown this past June. More recently he gave a talk at Cornell concerning "The Nature of New York."

Dr. Christopher Phillips has been featured several times in the New York Times Opinion pages over the summer as well as being interviewed for a roundtable discussion on To The Point, a radio program produced by American Public Media. In his most recent piece, Grant Goes to War, Phillips provides a snapshot of the life and times of the Civil War general and offers some insight as to why he became such a prominent figure in Civil War history. The article can be found
Dr. Shailaja Paik will present her paper "Educate, Organize, Agitate: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Philosophy of Education" at the Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, in October 2011. The paper is drawn from chapter two of her book-in-progress and deals with Dalit philosophies of education as they contradicted with upper-caste, middle-class agenda of education, including that of Gandhi. She also worked on two chapters of her historical monograph this summer which is forthcoming.

Additionally, Dr. Paik is one of two faculty members who have been nominated by the University of Cincinnati for the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Summer Stipend Competition, 2011.

Dr. Jason Krupar spent a week in August doing research in several archives in the Tri-Cities, Washington region. This archival work is related to the book he is currently writing on race relations and policy within the Manhattan Project and early U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. The Tri-Cities is home to the communities of Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco all towns that have depended on the nearby Department of Energy’s Hanford Nuclear Reservation for employment for the last sixty years. This same region has become fairly well know for the quality of the wines its produces, many of which have gained national and international reputations. Wine-tasting was not on Dr. Krupar’s agenda during this research trip. However, he did get the opportunity to take a tour of the decommissioned B-Reactor at the Hanford Site. B-Reactor was the first full-scale plutonium production reactor in the world and began operations in 1944. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 2008, the National Park Service is presently considering incorporating B-Reactor into a Manhattan Project National Historical Park that would include Hanford, Oak Ridge, TN, and Los Alamos, NM. The history tour included standing before the remains of the graphite reactor core. Dr. Krupar experienced a “Homer Simpson” moment when he got to sit in the controller’s chair in B-Reactor’s control-room as part of the tour and pushed all the buttons. Fortunately, the Atomic Energy Commission shut down B-Reactor in 1968 so no harm was done by pushing as many buttons as possible at once, nor was a SCRAM incident declared. The archival research also provided to be quite productive for Dr. Krupar.

Dr. Isaac Campos was recently interviewed by the North American Congress on Latin America for his insight into the “forces behind drug prohibition in Mexico.” Dr. Campos notes, “The roots of the War on Drugs go deep in Mexico. In fact, in some ways, they are deeper there than in the United States.” The full interview is available on the NACLA website. When asked to
describe his book, *Home Grown: Marijuana and the Origins of Mexico’s War on Drugs*. Dr. Campos explains, “My book is a history of marijuana in Mexico from its arrival in the 16th century through its prohibition there in 1920. It demonstrates that Mexico’s War on Drugs was very much a phenomenon of Mexico’s own making. The findings also suggest that Mexico’s experience and approach to marijuana proved critical in the development of that drug’s early history and prohibition in the United States. *Home Grown* revolves around marijuana’s reputation for producing madness and violence in its users. Marijuana was overwhelmingly associated with those effects from the 1850s through 1920, and that reputation made its prohibition almost an afterthought for Mexican policy makers. Thus the book traces the development of that reputation, in the process demonstrating how Mexican drug law evolved and how Mexico’s War on Drugs was born. The book argues that marijuana’s nature was key to this process. Marijuana’s effects are highly unpredictable. It’s a drug that can produce anxiety, panic attacks, and even hallucinations at high doses. Like all drugs, however, marijuana’s effects are highly conditioned by the social and cultural “setting” of its use, and the psychological “set” of the users. Simply put, what people think is going to occur when they take a drug is often as important as any other factor in producing a particular effect. In Mexico, a country with the richest collection of hallucinogens on earth and where, since the 16th century, disputes over the use of such substances have been intimately linked to political and spiritual battles for control, it is not so surprising that the use of marijuana would soon be associated with madness and even violence. Indeed, I suggest that within this setting it is plausible that marijuana actually inspired “mad” behavior and violent outbursts, though until now scholars have universally shrugged off reports that marijuana caused such effects, deeming them the product of exaggeration and myth.”

The interview is part of a larger discussion about Dr. Campos’ recent article, “In Search of Real Reform: Lessons From Mexico's Long History of Drug Prohibition” which can be purchased and downloaded here.