



CHARLES PHELPS

TAFT

RESEARCH  
CENTER

2014-15  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF  
Cincinnati

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, TAFT FACULTY CHAIR

In my second year as Chair of Taft Faculty and Director of the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati, I have been afforded the opportunity to more extensively engage our local community in Taft-sponsored events, allowing for greater exchange between researchers and the wider public. The launch of **Commemorative Events** and the **Louder Than a Bomb** poetry program represent our initial commitment toward public humanities programming for the Center, engaging the public in difficult but important conversations. In such conversations the advancement of ideas, theoretical frameworks, creative thinking, and the exercise of imagination all benefit from humanities-based research and scholarship. In addition to new, expanded programming, we have created a number of novel, successful partnerships in the Cincinnati community, leading to an increase in the overall number of co-sponsored events. Such collaborations have led to almost \$50,000 in sponsorship external to Taft, all the result of many hours spent nurturing community relationships.

While making this turn toward public engagement, we have increased our attention to collaborations between researchers, advancing the primary mission of the center as a place for fostering the research and scholarship of Taft faculty and students. Changes made to the **Taft Undergraduate Research Award**, the **Annual Research Symposium**, and the **Dissertation Fellowship** program, have sought to increase the depth and collaboration among scholars, both in and beyond their fields of expertise.

Below, I draw your attention to a few specific changes implemented this past year.

We launched several new programs in the 2014/2015 year, including **Commemorative Events**, **Louder Than A Bomb**, **humanitiesNOW Taft Graduate Conference**, the redesigned **Annual Research Symposium**, and the **Taft Undergraduate Research Award**. The first two programs signal the Center's continued commitment in making the turn toward public humanities, offering more opportunities for public reflection and engagement, as well as collaborations. **Commemorative Events** allows us to engage the wider community in celebrating the history and heritage of particular groups of people. **Louder Than A Bomb (LTAB)** is an Olympic-style (live dueling) poetry competition for teens and is a veritable treasure trove of collaborations within UC and with community partners.

In partnership with the Graduate School, which graciously provided financial support, we launched the first annual **humanitiesNOW Taft Graduate Conference**, which featured the work of our Dissertation Fellows and hosted students from preeminent institutions within and beyond North America. Marshall "Chip" Montrose, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, gave opening remarks. We were pleased to have two directors from other humanities centers as our keynote speakers.

Following the **humanitiesNOW** graduate conference, each Center Fellow presented their work on successive days of the week, with a selected outside scholar expert in the area of the fellow's research project. The new formatting of the Center and Dissertation Fellows presentations afforded increased attendance and participation by UC faculty and students, and the general public, while also allowing for more conversation between the fellows and other experts in and beyond their field of study.

The newly formatted **Taft Undergraduate Research Award** program completed its first year with an inaugural class of six undergraduate fellows, thanks to the generous support of Vice Provost of Undergraduate Affairs Gigi Escocoe and her office. This program offers exceptional undergraduates the opportunity to pursue funded, advanced research projects under the guidance of a faculty mentor, culminating in a presentation at the **Annual Undergraduate Research Conference (URSC + PRaise)**.

In addition to the above changes, I want to draw your attention to two other significant changes this year. First, the Taft Faculty Executive Board voted to reduce the number of Dissertation Fellowships from 14 to 9, or one for each PhD-granting department. Previously, the program budget was significantly skewed towards graduate support, with approximately 50% of these monies dedicated toward Dissertation Fellowships, which was the largest budget line over all and benefiting only 8 of the 13 Taft departments. By comparison, faculty awards held only a minority share of the budget, with the largest faculty programming line holding less than half of the expense of the Dissertation Fellowships. Several faculty requested an audience with the Taft Director and the Faculty

Executive Board to plead their case against this cut. Following their presentation at the February meeting, the previous decision to reduce the number of Dissertation Fellows was reaffirmed by the Faculty Executive Board.

While the overall number of Dissertation Fellowships was reduced, this change is offset by the decision to allow up to 50% of Center Fellow Release funds to be used to fund graduate students, up to an amount commensurate with a department's graduate student stipends. In addition, I have begun to explore the possibility of increasing the number of Center Fellowships, which would conceivably increase the overall number of Dissertation Fellowships to 15, one greater than previously held.

The second important change deserving of mention was to the fiscal policies regarding Taft Professors, DARS, and Graduate Enrichment. In the April meeting, the Taft Faculty Executive Board voted (9-4-0) to approve rollover within the above categories, into a second year, and by special permission, a third year, provided there is justification for the carryover as well as project start and end dates.

I have urged faculty to try to spend these funds within the year of allocation, as the practice of rollovers leads to several issues, including overly-complex accounting structures, a lack of budget transparency, an accrual of monies, which necessitated the self-initiated audit just a few years ago, as well as potential difficulty in maintaining the Taft budget at its current level. Outside of the Taft Faculty Executive Board, all parties privy to these issues have expressed grave concern over the lack of fiscal responsibility in adopting such practices.

In closing, I would like to thank the Taft family and Trustees, the Executive Board, and the Arts and Sciences and broader UC administration for their continued encouragement and support. If you have not been able to stop by Taft recently or visit our website, I would strongly encourage you to do so, as we are in near-constant motion, hosting new and exciting events and programing.

In appreciation,

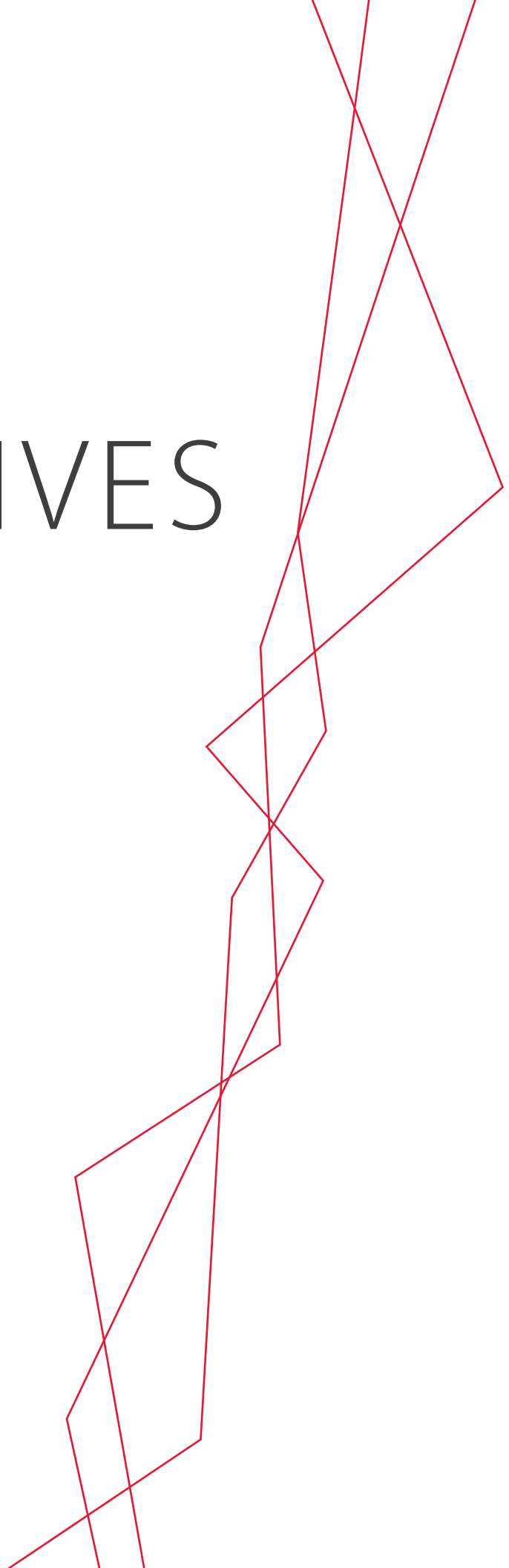
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Parr', written in a cursive style.

**ADRIAN PARR, PH.D.**

*Chair of Taft Faculty, Director*

*Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati*

# MAJOR INITIATIVES



## COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

In our continued push toward public humanities, we are proud to add commemorative events to the Taft programming lineup. By celebrating the history or heritage of particular groups of people, these events offer significant opportunities for public reflection and engagement, as well as collaborations. Unlike many of our other programs, these are center-based, providing Taft a larger role in humanities programming at and beyond the University of Cincinnati. Events for this first year included the following:



### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

As part of our very first commemorative event, José B. Fernández, College of Arts & Humanities, Dean, University of Central Florida, gave a lecture on Spain in America, elucidating historical explorations of the Americas.



### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

As a co-sponsor of “Outspoken: Conscience & Responsibility,” we aimed to develop a framework for respectful social responsibility and civil dialogue on difficult, politically-charged topics. Dr. Susannah Heschel, Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies and Jewish Studies Chair, Dartmouth College, moderated a round-table discussion featuring Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion President Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, University of Kentucky President Dr. Eli Capilouto, and UC President Santa Ono. In addition, we held talks by Judaic Studies Professor Steve Bowman, on *Not as Sheep to the Slaughter: The Uprising in Auschwitz/ Birkenau*, as well as Abdul-Monem Al- Mashat, who spoke on *Arab Revolutions and US Policy in the Middle East: Any Meeting Point?*



### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In February 2015, we had the pleasure of hosting two guests as part of Black History Month. Malcolm London, spoken word artist and author, performed at the Taft Center and throughout greater Cincinnati, and Lewis Gordon, Professor of Philosophy, African American Studies, and Judaic studies, University of Connecticut at Storrs, and Visiting Chair in Europhilosophy at Toulouse University, who spoke on Black Existentialism. We were fortunate enough to also tape a **TAFTtalk** with both individuals.



### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In March, Taft hosted Suzanna Walters, Professor of Sociology, and Director of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Northeastern University. Dr. Walters spoke on her latest publication, *The Tolerance Trap: How God, Genes, and Good Intentions are Sabotaging Gay Equality* (NYU Press, 2014).

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### TAFT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

Owing to the wide support amongst Taft departments and financial support from the office of Provost of Undergraduate Affairs and Vice Provost, the undergraduate research program was relaunched under a new format. The new format increases both the requirements and the opportunities for advanced undergraduate research. Awardees are required to apply for a nationally competitive award, to meet regularly with their faculty advisor and as a cohort, and present their work at the Undergraduate Research Conference (URSC + PRaISE), which occurred on April 24. This first year's cohort exceeded expectations and most have already accepted offers at prestigious graduate programs.

On a related note, Peter Stiver, a triple major in international affairs, political science, and Spanish, and a recent undergraduate award winner, also received the Robert Patterson McKibbin Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Male Senior.

A red-tinted photograph of a person on a stage. The person is on the right side, wearing a dark jacket and pants, with their right hand raised in a fist. In the center, a microphone on a stand is visible. The background consists of a wall with horizontal bands of graffiti. The floor is made of wooden planks. The overall scene is lit with a strong red light, creating a dramatic and intense atmosphere. Two white lines cross in the upper left corner of the image.

# LOUDER THAN A BOMB



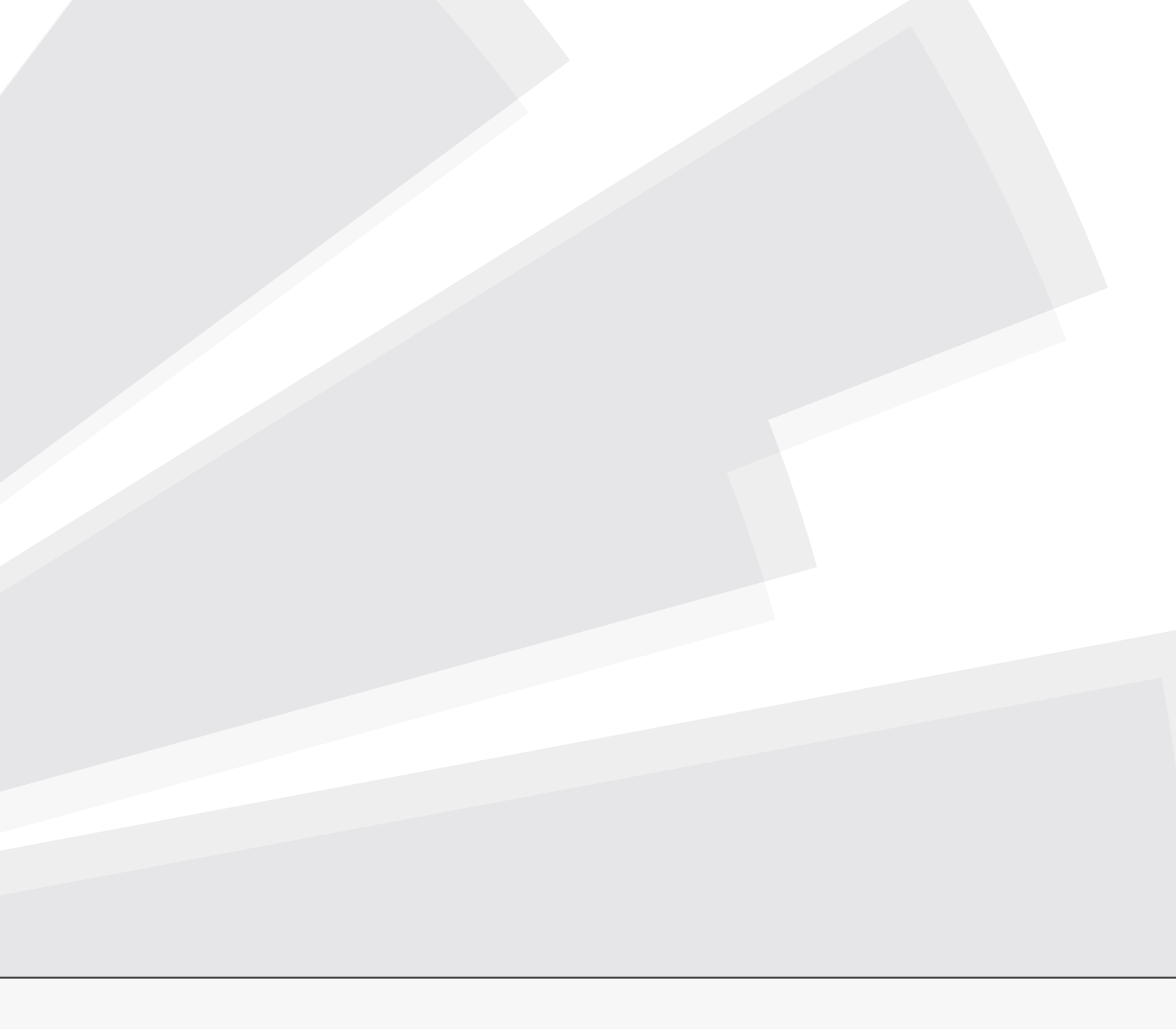


Exploring public engagement and sustainable city living, the Future Cities; Livable Futures event in the fall of 2014 looked at the future of urban life, where future cities will support an ever-increasing majority of the earth's population, and they will face increasingly-complex challenges stemming from aging infrastructure, inadequate social services, health disparities, and climate change related issues. Common themes that emerged during the Future Cities; Livable Futures event included diversity, inclusivity, civic engagement, community participation, and feedback. The **LOUDER THAN A BOMB (LTAB)** event series sought to continue a dialogue on these issues by engaging Cincinnati's youth, increasing English Language Arts programming and opportunities for students.

**LOUDER THAN A BOMB** is an Olympic-style (live-dueling) poetry competition for teens, which allows a space for our city's youth to speak and be heard, empowering youth to share their stories. The Cincinnati launch was the largest inaugural event series in the nation, starting with 12 teams and more than 100 participating youth. By all accounts, the first year of **LTAB**cincy was an enormous success. Whereas every other host city, including the founding city of Chicago, started with only four schools and only gained limited community awareness, **LTAB**cincy tripled that number, with extensive media coverage across a wide array of media outlets, e.g. NBC (WLWT), Fox (WXIX), WVXU (public radio), soapbox, and the Cincinnati Public Schools' website and blog.

The finals took place on April 18, at the Harriet Tubman Theater, inside the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Dhani Jones, philanthropist and former Cincinnati Bengal, was the Master of Ceremonies to a standing room-only crowd of 340. The event was truly inspirational, and we are proud to have been in a position to bring this wonderful competition to Cincinnati.

The partnership list for this event series is quite extensive. Partners included: WordPlay, Elementz, Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, Mayerson High School Service-Learning Program, Center for Holocaust & Humanity Education, UC Center for Community Engagement, UC Center for Hope & Justice Education, Aiken College and Career High School, Hughes STEM High School, Walnut Hills High School, School for Creative and Performing Arts, Hughes STEM High School, Taft Information Technology High School, DePaul Cristo Rey High School, Seven Hills High School, Lighthouse Youth Community School, and the Cincinnati Reds Urban Youth Academy. Sponsoring partners include Kroger, UC Chief Diversity Officer, University of Cincinnati Research Institute, McMicken College of Arts & Sciences, DAAP, MetroLab, and the departments of Africana Studies and Political Science. Heading into our second year of **LTAB**cincy, we are poised to double the number of participating schools, which would put us in competition with the second **LTAB** site, Tulsa, which is now in its sixth year and currently engages 25 schools.



# humanities**NOW**

## GRADUATE CONFERENCE

Rather than attempt to feature the work of our Dissertation Fellows alongside that of our Center Fellows, in a week-long, poorly-attended symposium, we asked Dissertation Fellows to present at the inaugural **humanitiesNOW** Taft Graduate Conference.

This event provided opportunities for advanced graduate students to communicate their ideas on novel research and to interact with others both inside and outside their discipline, and across institutions. The conference attracted students from elite institutions throughout North America, including Cornell University, Miami University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Concordia University, University of Saskatchewan, University of Maryland at College Park, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Compared to previous years, the conference attracted more audience members, allowing more sustained interactions. This extraordinary event would not have been possible without the gracious support of the Graduate School.

We were delighted to host two outstanding keynote speakers for the first year of the **humanitiesNOW** conference: Professors Michael Lynch, of the University of Connecticut and Sara Guyer, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Michael Lynch, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Connecticut; Director of the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, is the author/ editor of seven books including *In Praise of Reason: What Rationality Matters for Democracy, Truth, Truth as One and Many, and True to Life*. Dr. Lynch is a contributor to the New York Times and has appeared on National Public Radio's *On Point*. His work has been translated into multiple languages and has been widely read. Dr. Lynch spoke on his newest work: *The Knowledge Machine: Knowing More and Understanding Less in the Age of Big Data* (W.W. Norton).



Sara Guyer, Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities, is a scholar of poetry and rhetoric, with a particular interest in romanticism and its legacies. Dr. Guyer's research helps to demonstrate the ongoing relevance of romanticism and poetry for thinking about the major social and philosophical issues of our time, including survival, post-humanism, biopolitics, geographic displacement, and public life. She is the author of *Romanticism after Auschwitz* (Stanford, 2007) and *Reading with John Clare: Biopoetics, Sovereignty, Romanticism* (Fordham, 2015), and edits *LitZ*, a new book series published by Fordham University Press.

In light of the early closing of UC on the afternoon of March 4, due to inclement weather, the program schedule was reorganized overnight to accommodate those unable to present.





# ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Departing from a historical coupling of presentations from Dissertation and Center Fellows' presentations, the latter now present their work on successive days of the week, following the **humanitiesNOW** Taft Graduate Conference on the Humanities. Each Center Fellow was asked to select an expert in the area of the fellow's research topic, who would review and comment on their project during the symposium. Presentations by both the Center Fellow and their interlocutor were approximately 35 minutes each, with about 30 minutes of question and answer or discussion and dialogue.

This new approach allows for: (1) more attendance and participation by UC faculty, students, and the general public; (2) increased conversation between the fellows and other experts in their subdiscipline; (3) increased support for eventual publications; and (4) increase recognition for the center by hosting these events. Our Center Fellows and their interlocutors were:

# CENTER FELLOWS



**Zvi Biener**, Assistant Professor, Philosophy

**PROJECT TITLE:** *Organizing the Disciplines: Philosophical Systems, Applied Mathematics, and the Geometrical Manner in Early Modernity*

How are academic disciplines related to one another? Since the 19th century, a common assumption has been that the disciplines are relatively independent. This is why interdisciplinarity is important to us and why we applaud those who realize it — they seem to overcome some intellectual (and certainly social) barrier(s). But this was not always the case. The project of constructing a complete system of knowledge — a system capable of integrating all that is and could possibly be known in a single edifice — was common to many early-modern philosophers. The inspiration for this project often came from geometry and, in particular, applied geometry. My project examines why the applied sciences were so important to the construction of philosophical systems, how those systems integrated disparate fields, how this should alter the historiography of early-modern philosophy, and what we may learn about interdisciplinarity itself from our predecessors.

#### INTERLOCUTOR

**Brandon Look**, *University Research Professor and Chair of Philosophy, University of Kentucky.*

Dr. Look's work focuses on the history of modern philosophy, especially on the metaphysics, epistemology and natural philosophy of Leibniz and Kant. He has published several monographs on the subject, a critical edition of the Leibniz-Des Bosses correspondence, and is currently at work on Leibniz, Kant and the Possibility of Metaphysics, which details Kant's critical reaction to Leibniz's philosophy



**Jana Braziel**, Professor, Africana Studies

**PROJECT TITLE:** *Necropolitical War Machines in Cité Soleil*

This work address the myriad, interlocking forms of violent "traffic" (in drugs, guns, and political street warfare) in Port-au-Prince as depicted in Danish film director Asger Leth's *Ghosts of Cité Soleil* (2005). First, I conceptualize Port-au-Prince as a biopolitical city and Cité Soleil as its dark underbelly where necropolitical warfare was waged. I thus theorize Port-au-Prince (under the United Nations "peace-keeping" forces and its "Empire of NGOs") as the international production of a "biopolitical city"; and Cité Soleil, the militarized battle zone of a biopolitical Port-au-Prince, which then became the impoverished and abjectly poor neighborhood where necropolitical warfare was waged in the streets.

#### INTERLOCUTOR

**Alexander G. Weheliye**, *Professor of African American Studies, Northwestern University.*

Dr. Weheliye is the author of *Phonographies: Grooves in Sonic Afro-Modernity* (Duke University Press, 2005), which was awarded The Modern Language Association's William Sanders Scarborough Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Study of Black American Literature or Culture. In addition he is the author of *Habeas Viscus: Racializing Assemblages, Biopolitics, and Black Feminist Theories of the Human* (Duke UP, 2014).



**Peter Langland-Hassan**, Assistant Professor, Philosophy

**PROJECT TITLE:** Imagination Reimagined

Imagination allows us to transcend the here and now, and to step outside of our beliefs to inhabit other perspectives. The remarkable power, flexibility, and creativity of imagination has led most philosophers and psychologists to conceive of imagining as a distinct cognitive ability that is unconstrained by, and irreducible to, our ordinary beliefs, desires, and practical reasoning capacities. These theorists find imagination to be irreducible in the sense that we could give a person her full complement of beliefs and desires, together with the ability to use such states in practical reasoning, without yet having given her the ability to imagine. In the book I am developing, I seek to overturn this picture of imagination by showing how imagining is a mental activity that is fully entwined with and inextricable from our ordinary beliefs and desires. We use our beliefs and desires in order to imagine, I argue, and do not in the process enter into *sui generis* mental states that are distinctive only of imagination. A great advantage of this approach is that once we understand how to model, within a naturalistic framework, the less mysterious states of belief and desire, we know how to model imagination as well.

**INTERLOCUTOR**

***Jonathan M. Weinberg, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona.***

Dr. Weinberg has published widely on issues in the philosophy of mind, aesthetics, and the philosophy of cognitive science. He is the author of several important papers on the cognitive architecture of imagination and the relation of imagination to aesthetic appreciation. Weinberg is also at the center of a current debate in philosophy over the role of intuition in philosophical argument.



**Brianna Leavitt-Alcántara**, Assistant Professor, History

**PROJECT TITLE:** *Alone at the Altar: Gender, Devotion, and Marriage in a Guatemalan City, 1670-1870*

This project reframes our understanding of single women and religious culture in colonial and nineteenth-century Latin America. Scholarly and popular portrayals of women in colonial Latin America generally assume that women had two honorable options: marriage or the convent. Historians thus typically describe single and widowed women as symbols of marginality and disorder who were more vulnerable to suspicions of religious “deviance.” My book examines another side to this story in the specific context of Guatemala City, the colonial capital of Central America. I explore how single and widowed women navigated the tensions and contradictions within religious gender ideals and ultimately shaped Guatemala City’s urban religious culture during the pivotal period of late colonial reforms, independence, and nation formation.

**INTERLOCUTOR**

**Gretchen Starr-LeBeau**, Associate Professor of History, University of Kentucky.

Dr. Starr-LeBeau is the author of *In the Shadow of the Virgin* (Princeton, 2008). Her work has been funded by the Fulbright Commission (1993-1994), the National Endowment for the Humanities (2001), the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain’s Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports and US Universities (2003, 2006), and the American Philosophical Society (2010-2011).



**Rebecca Sanders**, Assistant Professor, Political Science

**PROJECT TITLE:** *Getting Away With Torture: The Dynamics of Rule Evasion in the “Global War on Terror”*

The prohibition on torture in international and American law is universal and absolute. Nonetheless, it is well established that after 9/11, the United States subjected detainees to extensive abuses. The architects of these “enhanced interrogation techniques” have escaped prosecution and sanction, raising questions about the efficacy of legal rules and broader human rights norms as checks on state violence. This presentation explores varying modalities of rule evasion, arguing that government lawyers have engaged in legal interpretations to facilitate human rights violations.

**INTERLOCUTOR**

**Clifford Bob**, Professor and Raymond J. Kelley Endowed Chair in International Relations, Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy, Duquesne University

Dr. Bob is a leading scholar of global human rights politics. In addition to numerous peer-reviewed articles, Dr. Bob has published *The Global Right Wing and the Clash of World Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), *The International Struggle for New Human Rights* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), and *The Marketing of Rebellion: Insurgents, Media, and International Activism* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), which won the International Studies Association 2007 Best Book Award, as well as *International Activism* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).





Author and environmentalist **Bill McKibben** was the keynote speaker for the 9th Annual Research Symposium. He is a Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement. He has won numerous awards for his work, including the 2013 Gandhi Prize and the Thomas Merton Prize, and holds honorary degrees from 18 colleges and universities. His 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change and has appeared in 24 languages. *Foreign Policy* named McKibben one of the world's 100 most important global thinkers; the Boston Globe has characterized him as "probably America's most important environmentalist."

McKibben spoke about the state of the environment, grassroots activism, and what it means to engage with and think about the environment. More than 500 people attended the event in the MainStreet Cinema of TUC, with overflow in the Great Hall via simulcast. Bill's presence at UC was co-sponsored by UC Sustainability.

**UC** | *sustainability*



# TAFTtalks

Capturing renowned scholars discussing their research and its connection to contemporary issues, these videos help advance humanistic inquiry and discussion on common values, knowledge, and innovation in the world.

Since the launch of the **TAFTtalks** in the Fall of 2013, we have heard from a number of humanities centers and institutes around the United States and abroad, showing an expanded reach. There have been well over a half a million original hits for videos, largely as a result of our collaboration on the Disposable Life Project. These talks are available for free, through the Taft website.

Now into the second year of the program, we have taped almost a dozen **TAFTtalks**, including the following:

**Slavoj Žižek**, senior researcher at the Institute for Sociology and Philosophy, University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, Global Distinguished Professor of German at New York University, and international director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities.

**Lewis Gordon**, Professor of Philosophy, African American Studies, and Judaic studies, University of Connecticut at Storrs, and Visiting Chair in Europhilosophy at Toulouse University, France.

**Ananya Roy**, international development and global urbanism scholar and Professor of City and Regional Planning and Distinguished Chair in Global Poverty and Practice at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Mary Szybist**, a renowned poet and winner of the Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress, the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, the Guggenheim Foundation-National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and the National Book Award for Poetry.

**Andrew Leong**, Associate Professor at the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

**Vernon Scarborough**, Charles Phelps Taft & Distinguished Research Professor of Anthropology, University of Cincinnati.

**Malcolm London**, hip hop artist.

**Paula Banerjee**, Head, South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta.

Newly published videos include **Alison Auciello**, Ohio Organizer for Food & Water Watch; and environmental activist, and author **Bill McKibben**.

# TAFTco-labs

The co-labs initiative is a partnership and event accelerator, offering seed or matching funds for collaborative events, between community leaders, private organizations, and public institutions. This program was designed with the intention of helping to generate public conversation, civic engagement, and debate in humanistic inquiry, common values, knowledge, and innovation in the world today. Since the launch of the **TAFTco-labs** in the fall of 2013, the Taft Research Center has come to be recognized as a regional leader in public humanities, bridging the gap between the University of Cincinnati and the greater Cincinnati community.

*Highlights for the 2014/2015 academic year include the following:*

## **25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL**

A commemorative program at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, as part of the International Celebration of Freedom Worldwide, this event featured notable leaders, such as William Howard Taft IV, the former U.S. Ambassador to NATO (1989- 1992) and great grandson of President William Howard Taft; as well as Martin Wilhelmy, Honorary German Consul; and Herbert Quelle, Consul General, Federal Republic of Germany. This event was the product of collaborations between the Honorary Consul of Germany, the Munich Sister City Association, the Greater Cincinnati World Affairs Council, the University of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky University, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and the Taft Research Center.

## **OUTSPOKEN: CONSCIENCE & RESPONSIBILITY**

Following the controversy surrounding the appointment of Steven Salaita to the faculty of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, along with other similar events occurring around the country, Taft collaborated with Hebrew Union College, with the goal of helping to develop a notion of responsible, conscientious civil dialogue, especially in the case of socially- and politically-charged issues. Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion President Rabbi Aaron D. Panken was joined by University of Kentucky President Dr. Eli Capilouto and UC President Santa Ono for a roundtable discussion moderated by Dr. Susannah Heschel, Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies and Jewish Studies Chair, Dartmouth College.

## **THE MAKING OF MODERN ISRAEL**

Kenneth Stein, Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History, Political Science and Israeli Studies, Emory University; Director of the Institute for the Study of Modern Israel.

An acknowledged expert in Middle Eastern, especially Israeli History, and Arab-Israeli diplomacy, Dr. Stein's work remains among the most thorough scholarly examinations of Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. Along with Ambassador Samuel W Lewis, he published *Making Peace Among Arabs and Israelis Fifty Years of Negotiating Experience*, United States Institute of Peace, 1991; and in 1998, Dr. Stein founded the Institute for the Study of Modern Israel, the first academic institute in the United States for such studies.

## **BILL MCKIBBEN**

Arguably the most preeminent climate change activist alive today, Bill McKibben gave the keynote address at the 9th Annual Research Symposium, speaking on topics from his most recent publication *Oil & Honey: The Education of an Unlikely Activist* (Times Books, 2013). This event was perhaps the largest event in the history of the Center, with 500 people in attendance at the MainStreet Cinema of Tangeman University Center and with overflow in the Great Hall, via simulcast. This event would not have been possible without the support from UC Sustainability

## **POVERTY LECTURE SERIES**

Poverty Lecture Series: Global Health, Poverty, and Gentrification

Organized by Center Fellow Jana Braziel, Professor of African Studies, this series hosted Andrew Leong, Associate Professor at the College of Public and Community Service at the University of Massachusetts Boston, as well as numerous faculty from the University of Cincinnati, including: Opeolu Adeoye, associate professor of Emergency Medicine and Neurosurgery, Farrah Jacquez, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Shaunak Sastry, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communications, Guy-Lucien Whembolua, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, and Frank Russell, Director of the University of Cincinnati Community Design Center and the Niehoff Urban Studio, and Instructor in Urban Design.

## **GEFILTE FISH AND COUSCOUS**

Co-sponsored with the Mayerson Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, Claudia Roden, leading food intellectual, discussed Jewish heritage and practices surrounding food. Roden is president of the Oxford Food Symposium on Food & Cookery and has won numerous awards, including the James Beard Award for the Best Cookbook of the Year (1997), the National Jewish Book Award, six Glenfiddich prizes including the Glenfiddich Trophy and Food Writer of the Year (1992), along with two of the most prestigious food prizes in Italy: the Premio Orio Vergani and the Premio Maria Luigia, Duchessa di Parma.

This talk was part of a larger series titled *Foodaism: Do Jews Make Food or Does Food Make Jews?* Judaic Studies hosted this talk series, which also included Jordan Rosenblum, Assistant Professor of Classical Rabbinic Literature at University of Wisconsin, Madison, who spoke on *Crying Fowl: How Chicken Upset the Kosher Law*, as well as Jenna Weissman Joselit, Charles E. Smith Professor of Judaic Studies, Professor of History, and Director of Judaic Studies, George Washington University, who spoke on *The Great Vinegar Controversy of 1986 and Other Food Fights in American Jewish History*.

# OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS



**Laura Zanotti**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Purdue University

Feminist Political Ecology and Hydroelectric Development: The Search for Just Livelihoods in the Brazilian Amazon



**Kelsy Burke**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, St. Norbert College

Making “Bad” Sex “Good”: Religion, Masculinity, and Kinky Sex on Christian Sexuality Websites



**Vincent Grégoire**, Nichols Professor of French, Berry College

Albert Camus: The Conscience and Voice of a Generation



**Zandria F. Robinson**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Memphis

Not Stud’n ‘em White Folks: Black Racial Epistemologies in Post-Racial South



**Michel Cassir**, Professor of Electrochemistry, Materials Chemistry, Nanotechnology, École nationale supérieure de chimie de Paris

The Multiple and Diverse Voice of Poetry: Poetry as a Reflection of Culture and Life in the French, Spanish and Arab world



**Gennady Samorodnitsky**, Professor in the School of Operations Research and Information Engineering, Cornell University

Beyond the Color of the Noise: What is “Memory” in Random Phenomena?



**Paul Mullins**, Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University-Purdue University

Race, Displacement, and University Landscapes: An Archaeology of Urban Renewal and Post-War Universities



**Alec Hargreaves**, Ada Belle Winthrop-King Professor of French, Florida State University

From 'Arabs' to 'Muslims': Media Representations of Immigrant Minorities in France



**Mike Perschon**, Assistant Professor of English, MacEwan University

An Odyssey of Realities: From Journey to the West to Pan's Labyrinth



**Michael Lacey**, Professor in the School of Mathematics, Georgia Institute of Technology

The Mathematics of Futurama



**Edward Glaeser**, Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics, Harvard University

Triumph of the City



**Eric Schliesser**, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy and Moral Sciences, University of Gent

How I Learned to Love Derrida by Talking to a Mathematical Economist



**Barbara Piperata**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Ohio State University

Re-imagining Poverty in the Brazilian Amazon: Livelihoods, Food Security and Health in the Age of Bolsa Família



**Lourdes Martinez-Echazabal**, Professor and Chair of Latin American and Latino Studies, University of California Santa Cruz

Colonial Products, Postcolonial Fantasies, Global Markets: Afro-Cuban Women and the Commoditization of Brown/Black Flesh



**Lorena Garcia**, Associate Professor of Sociology,  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Complicating the Good Girl/Bad Girl Binary: Latina Youth and  
Sexual Agency



**Reynaldo Anderson**, Assistant Professor, Harris-Stowe  
State University

Afrofuturism: A Transdisciplinary Approach For Africana Studies



**Shefali Chandra**, Associate Professor, Washington  
University in St. Louis

“Just Some Exotic Hindu Thing”: Caste and Race in the Time of  
Globalization



**Mark Peterson**, Professor and Chair of Anthropology &  
International Studies, Miami University

Toward an Anthropology of Media Studies



**Peter J. Verovšek**, Lecturer on Social Studies, Harvard  
University and **Peter Rozic**, Jesuit Legacy Research  
Scholar and Postdoctoral Fellow, Santa Clara University

One Norm, Many Variations: Continental Regimes and the  
Transnational Justice Cascade



**Scott Bukatman**, Cultural Theorist and Professor of  
Film and Media Studies, Stanford University

On Hellboy, Color, and Other Non-Linear Pleasures



**Danielle Marx-Scouras**, Professor of French, Ohio  
State University

French Remix: Popular Music and Identity Politics in Toulouse



**Mark Shiel**, Reader in Film Studies, King’s College  
London

Century City Makes Magic Where Film Studio Used to Spin Fantasy:  
A Site-Specific Analysis of Urban Restructuring in Los Angeles,  
1961-1972





**Simona Sharoni**, Professor, Plattsburgh State University of New York and **Rabab Abdulhadi**, Associate Professor, San Francisco State University

Gender, War, and Accountability: Palestinian Resistance and Feminist Solidarity



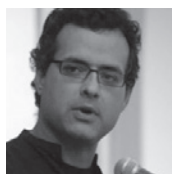
**Kamesha Spates**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Kent State University

Armors of Protection: Black Women's Accounts of Resilience and Positive Life Strategies as an Explanation for the Racial Suicide Paradox



**Jonathan Haws**, Associate Professor, University of Louisville

The Last Neanderthals? The Middle-Upper Paleolithic Transition in Western Iberia as Seen from Lapa do Picareiro, Portugal



**Vijay Prashad**, George and Martha Kellner Chair of South Asian History and Professor of International Studies, Trinity College

Indian Futures, Indian Left, and the World We Live in Today



**David Ciarlo**, Associate Professor of History, University of Colorado at Boulder

King Bell's Hat: On Representation, Photographic Agency, and the Trans-Media Iconography of Racial Mockery in Nineteenth Century German



**Rachel L. Einwohner**, Professor of Sociology, Purdue University

Sociological Understandings of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust



**Abdul-Monem Al-Mashat**, Professor and Dean, Economics and Political Science, Future University

Arab Revolutions and U.S. Policy in the Middle East: Any Meeting Point?



**Efraim Zuroff**, Director, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Isreal, Jerusalem

Defending History in Eastern Europe: Holocaust Distortion.

# BUDGET OVERVIEW

## **FACULTY AWARDS: 34.8%**

Faculty awards consist of Travel, Center Fellowships, Summer Fellowships, Release Fellowships, Research Supplements, Research Support, Departmental Allocated Research Support, Publications, and Collections.

## **STUDENT AWARDS: 36.9%**

Student awards consist of Graduate Travel, Graduate Enhancements, Dissertation Fellowships, Graduate & Undergraduate Summer Fellowships, Graduate & Undergraduate Enrichment, and Undergraduate Research Awards. Student awards remain the largest budget category, though the reduction of dissertation fellowships should shift this weight to Faculty Awards in subsequent years.

## **FACULTY & STUDENT AWARDS: 8.3%**

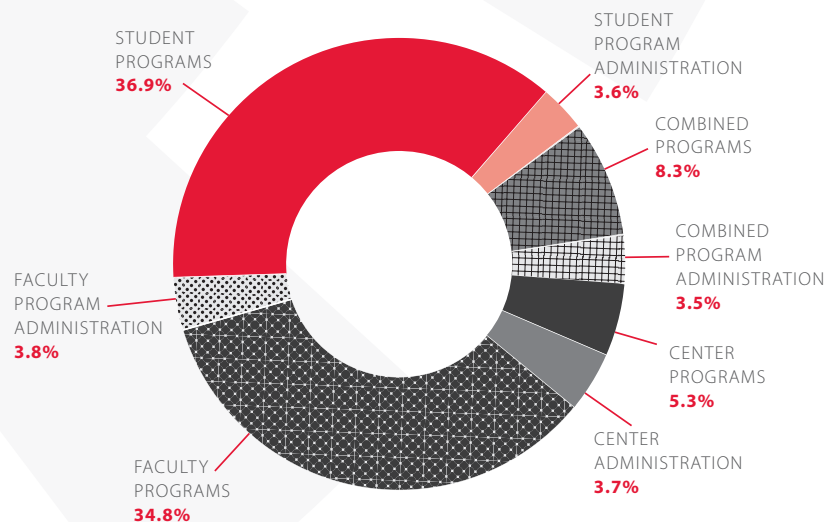
Faculty & Student awards consist of Conferences, Competitive and Departmental Lectures, and Research Seminars.

## **CENTER BASED PROGRAMMING: 5.3%**

Center-based programming consists of Commemorative Events, **TAFTtalks**, **TAFTco-labs**, **humanitiesNOW** Graduate conference, Annual Symposium, Research Groups, and membership and attendance to the Consortium of Humanities Center and Institutes.

## **ADMINISTRATION: 14.6%**

Administration of Faculty Programs, Student Programs, Combined Faculty & Student Programs, and Center Programs comprises 14.6% of the total budget.







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