
Biographies

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Emeritae in order of appearance:

George Elliston

E. Lucy Braun

Annie Murray Hunt

Annie Laws

Jennie Davis Porter

Helen Schwartz

Helen Norman Smith

Phoebe Kandel

Phoebe Hobson Greenwood

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Minna Wagner Hoffmann

Annie Sinton Taft

Mary Muhlenberg Emery

Dolly Cohen

Julia Van Wormer

Dorothy Richard Starling

Ada Hart Arlitt

Clara Baur

Bertha Baur

**Tangeman Fine Arts Gallery****March 9-23, 1985****Paintings, Photographs and Sculpture**

University of Cincinnati Fine Arts Collection

University of Cincinnati Archives

University of Cincinnati Alumni Publications

Guest Curators

Anne Ghory-Goodman

Alice Weston

EMERITAE**Women Leaders
of the University of Cincinnati**

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George Elliston (pictured on the cover), journalist, investor, aspiring poet, is best known at the University of Cincinnati for the generous George Elliston Poetry Trust Fund which does much to fuel the study and writing of poetry by U.C. students.

Born in 1883 in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, Elliston graduated from Covington High School and soon after launched her career as journalist at the now-defunct *Times-Star*. At a time when women generally wrote only society news and recipes, Elliston was determined that she could handle hard news stories as well as men could. Wrote Elliston, "I was after news while it was hot and nothing short of murder would hold me back." During her lifetime, Elliston was regarded as "a fabulous reporter, congenitally gifted with a nose for news and the nerve to follow it."

Famous for her festive parties and risqué theatrical productions, Elliston was affectionately known to many Cincinnatians as "poor George" because of her penurious lifestyle. She dressed in second-hand clothes and lived in a coldwater slum apartment. Unbeknownst to all her friends, Elliston was a shrewd investor, carefully saving her newspaper wages and investing them in real estate. Following her death in 1946, the Cincinnati public was shocked to learn that Elliston had left her estate of a quarter of a million dollars to the University of Cincinnati to establish a chair of poetry. Today the Elliston Trust Foundation sponsors an annual poet-in-residence, regular poetry readings by nationally acclaimed poets under the auspices of the Elliston Lecture Series, and maintains one of the best modern poetry collections in existence (housed in the plush Elliston Poetry Room in the Central Library). Jean Valentine, Robert Frost, Stephen Spender, and John Berryman are among the past Elliston poets-in-residence.

In 1907, Elliston married cartoonist Augustus Coleman who worked for a St. Louis newspaper. Elliston moved to St. Louis briefly but soon returned to Cincinnati. The two met in Indianapolis and at various other half-way points. They remained married and apparently on friendly terms until Coleman's death.

Elliston's love of poetry was rooted in her own poetic inclinations. Every evening she retreated from her fast-paced reporter's life and wrote poetry. Her verses were syndicated and printed in newspapers throughout the United States, broadcast weekly, and reproduced in American and British anthologies. Between 1921 and 1929, five collections of her works were published. Dealing with nature, everyday emotions, and familiar places, Elliston's verses provided an escape from her often lurid newspaper career.

Born in Kentucky in 1883, the feisty, self-made George Elliston died in Madisonville in 1946.

Introduction

As part of the tenth anniversary celebration of Women's Studies at the University of Cincinnati, the Friends of Women's Studies is pleased to present an exhibition, "Emeritae: Women Leaders of the University of Cincinnati." The portraits and biographies which follow illustrate the achievement of distinguished women faculty, administrators, and philanthropists at the University of Cincinnati before 1950. These women, and the ones whose lives and careers are still being researched, merit special recognition because their contributions to the University were made at a time when higher education did not welcome women but rather erected social and economic barriers to exclude them from citadels of learning. Our emeritae were women of uncommon talent, energy, and courage who pursued intellectual and artistic destinies, sometimes at great personal cost.

Despite their limited numbers, women have played a significant role at the University of Cincinnati and in most American universities since the 1920's. Finding the traditional disciplines inhospitable, the first women chemists and biologists grouped together to create college-level nursing programs and home economics departments, while those trained in liberal arts gathered in education colleges to train generations of primary and secondary school teachers. Their isolation from male faculty, while limiting in many ways, provided women faculty with strong impetus to develop their own leadership abilities and to create a unique sense of collegiality which can be glimpsed in the records and is frequently referred to in oral testimony.

The research for this collection was motivated by an active interest in role models. It began with the assembly of portraits of women in the University of Cincinnati collection. Anne Ghory-Goodman, Associate Professor of Graphic Design in the College

of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, and graphic designer Alice Weston, a DAAP graduate, collaborated in curating and designing the exhibition and this accompanying catalogue. Gilbert Young, University of Cincinnati Fine Arts Collection Curator, was helpful in identifying and locating the portraits which were then photographed by Alice Weston. Locating biographical data about each of the women was aided by Claire Young and Lisa Frye of Information Services; Kevin Grace of University Archives; John Small of the President's Office; Janet Vasiliadas of Alumni Publications; Laura Rosnagle, Dean Emerita of the College of Nursing and Health; and countless others. With their help, English graduate student Trudelle Thomas compiled the biographies. The collaboration which made this volume possible is an example of the research style preferred by Women's Studies scholars. The combination of artistic, literary, and historical skills made it possible to produce this picture of our foremothers.

The activity of women pioneers at the University of Cincinnati set a standard of high achievement in teaching, scholarship, and community service for fifty years. By the 1970's, the number of women faculty and students reached a critical threshold. No longer were women willing to remain cloistered within a few departments. Under the banner of Women's Studies, a new goal was adopted—to move out into each and every department to challenge traditional, male-focused scholarship. Today, Women's Studies lists seventy-two courses in twenty-eight departments. I think our foremothers would be proud.

Laura S. Struminger

Director, Center for Women's Studies

Described by friends and colleagues as quiet, brilliant, and disciplined, E. Lucy Braun was a gifted scholar, author, and field scientist. She spent her entire academic career as a professor of botany at the University of Cincinnati. In 1956, Braun was one of three women botanists named by the Botanical Society of America as among the fifty foremost botanists in the United States. When she died in 1971, at the age of eighty-one, she was one of the top three ecologists in the country.

A tireless worker and an original thinker in the disciplines of plant ecology, vascular plant taxonomy, plant geography, and conservation, E. Lucy Braun spent most of her eighty-three years gathering facts from field, garden, and laboratory. Braun's *The Eastern Deciduous Forest*, published in 1950, is still the definitive text on the subject. She worked twenty-five years and traveled about 65,000 miles researching the book, a "technical but highly readable volume," according to one review.

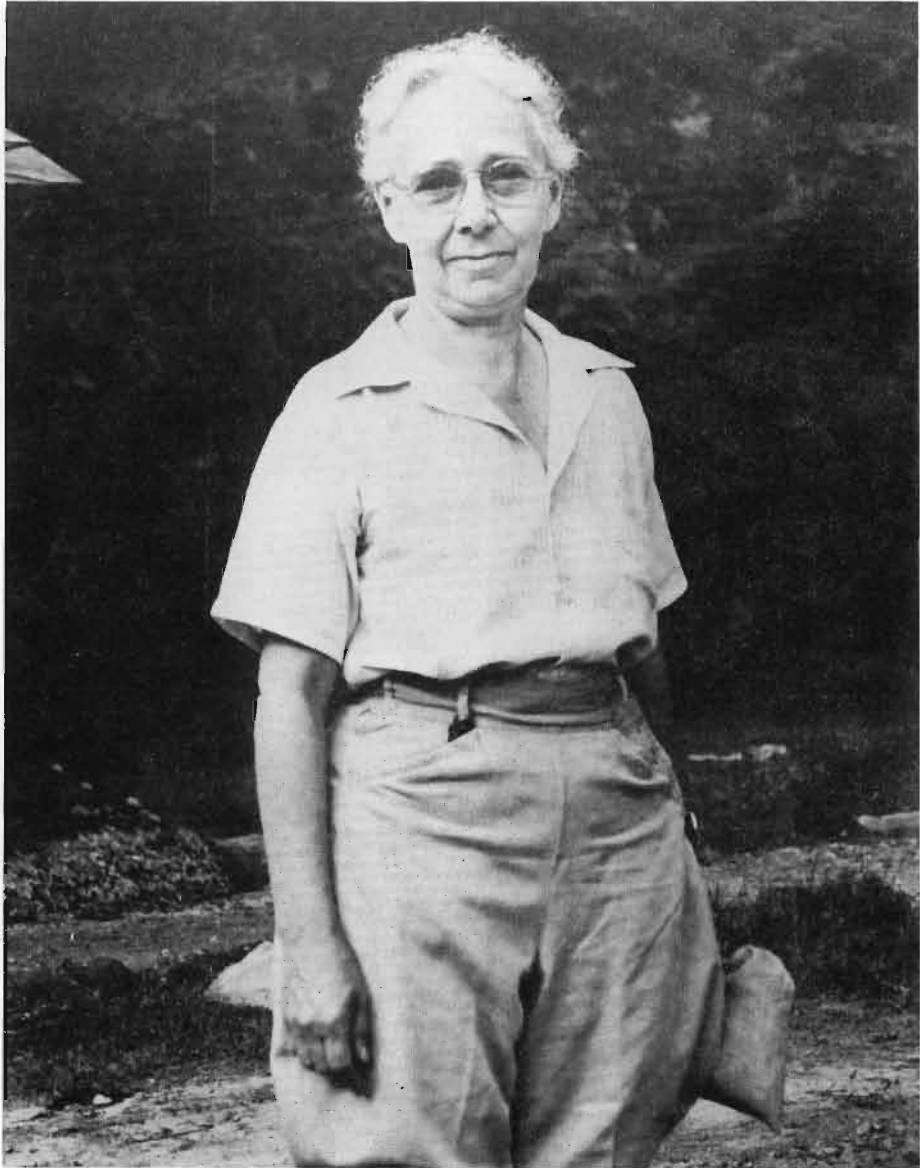
Daughter of a Cincinnati family, Braun became interested in botany in high school when she first began collecting and pressing plants. She went on to the University of Cincinnati to earn an undergraduate degree in 1910, a Master's Degree in geology in 1912, and a Ph.D. in botany in 1914. She taught geology, botany, and ecology at U.C. from 1910 to 1948.

Lucy Braun lived all her life with her elder sister, Annette Braun. Braun was very proud of the fact that her sister was the first woman ever to earn a doctorate at the University of Cincinnati—in zoology, in 1911. The Braun sisters spent their early years in Walnut Hills; in the 1940's, they moved to Mt. Washington. The two sisters remodeled their new home, converting the upstairs' maids' quarters into a laboratory and their lawn into extensive gardens.

In the 1950's, Lucy Braun unwittingly started a conservation movement in the Cincinnati area. She was responsible for spearheading efforts to preserve for the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History what is now known as the E. Lucy Braun-Lynx Prairie Preserve in Adams County. Realizing that the Lynx Prairies were a rare and beautiful area and in danger of vanishing, Braun began working to make them a preserve. Since then, the Museum, the Nature Conservancy, and others have combined efforts to assemble the 6,000-acre Edge of Appalachia Preserves which includes Lynx Prairies.

Many still remember Braun's dedication and love of nature. She was praised both for the "thoroughness and accuracy with meticulous attention to detail in her scientific work" and for her "deep feeling for nature which is poetic rather than scientific." Said one of her students, "Lucy Braun really turned people on. To be with her in the field was something. She made everything so real—she was just so knowledgeable." Even when she was eighty years old, Braun was leading field trips in Scioto County, Ohio.

In 1933, Braun was elected president of the Ohio Academy of Sciences and was later president of the Ecological Society of America. In 1953, she received the coveted Mary Soper Medal granted periodically for achievement in fields related to plant life. Throughout her life, Braun carried on her research in virtually every section of the United States with the aid of grants and fellowships from such groups as the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Research Council, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1964, U.C. awarded her the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, and in 1971 she was inducted into the Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame.



E. Lucy Braun

Annie Murray Hunt was a pioneer in the field of nursing in Cincinnati. She served as the superintendent of nurses for the newly-created Cincinnati Training School for Nurses (progenitor of the College of Nursing and Health) during its first seven years of existence from 1889 to 1896. Murray is credited with the successful launching of the school in this relatively new field of woman's work; she has been praised as "an outstanding example of a woman in a successful executive and leadership role."

Annie Murray was a graduate of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Scotland. After completing the program of training there, she worked for a year as sister and assistant superintendent in the Chelsea Hospital for Women in London; after that two years in Philadelphia, first at the University Hospital, then at Blockley, where she was assistant to Alice Fisher, well-known nurse and graduate of Florence Nightingale's St. Thomas Hospital and School of Nursing in London.

Murray came to Cincinnati accompanied by letters of recommendation from many well-known authorities in the medical field in Edinburgh, London, and Philadelphia, testifying to her professional ability to fill the position of superintendent. In addition, it was felt that her influence as a "thoroughly refined and cultivated woman" would be beneficial to the school; she was chosen from among several applicants for the position of first superintendent of nurses by the prominent civic-minded Cincinnati women who had organized the Cincinnati Training School for Nurses (including Annie Laws, Mrs. William Howard Taft, Mrs. Frederick G. Huntington, Mary Eva Keys, Mrs. R.M.W. Taylor, Sarah H. Wooley, and Mrs. John Gano). The school itself was the first professional school of nursing in Cincinnati, established in 1889 as an independent school attached to the Cincinnati Hospital at Twelfth Street and Central Avenue.




Murray worked under the direction of a Board of Lady Managers during the school's seven years of existence as an independent institution. At the end of their remarkably successful efforts, the Board of Managers wrote about Annie Murray, "whatever good has been accomplished in the past [seven years] it is due to our Superintendent Miss Murray—her great ability as a nurse and thorough teacher; her influence as a refined and cultivated woman, and to the indefatigable zeal and energy with which she always labored in a cause she had so deeply embraced—that of elevating the profession of nursing and preserving the highest standard of excellence in her work."

Murray suffered painful and unmerited humiliation at the hands of the city government that controlled the less than successfully operated City Hospital, abetted by certain newspaper media "through a calculated series of scurrilous attacks of a provocative and critical nature directed against women in general and Miss Murray in particular." Apparently her successful leadership as a woman was viewed as a threat to many people in power.

Murray returned to Philadelphia in 1897 where she married F.G. Hunt of Washington, D.C. She spent the remainder of her life in Washington, D.C. Following her death, Mr. Hunt presented her portrait to the Alumnae Association of the School of Nursing and Health.



Annie Murray Hunt

nnie Laws dedicated her life to developing the educational programs at the University of Cincinnati which would directly benefit women and children. Daughter of civic and philanthropic leaders James H. and Sarah Langdon Laws, Annie Laws lived in Cincinnati, from her birth in 1855 until her death in 1927. An important force in the development of the Teachers' College, the Nursing School, and the College of Home Economics, Laws used her wealth and social prominence to secure advantages for those less fortunate.

The first record of Laws' contribution to Cincinnati dates from 1879 when, at the age of twenty-four, she helped found the Cincinnati Kindergarten Association in order to counteract the "demoralizing influence which the streets of a large city present to the young." Laws embraced German educator Fredrick Froebel's ideas of education which emphasized the interaction between mother and child, the importance of fun in learning activities, and the child's spiritual and aesthetic development. The Cincinnati Kindergarten Association started a teachers' training school to staff these new kindergartens. Laws lobbied for the institutionalization of kindergartens through the support of public funds, a goal achieved in 1905 when state law was changed to include kindergartens in the publicly supported education system. In the same year, the College for Teachers (which would include a Kindergarten Department) was established at U.C. From that point on through the 1920's, Laws promoted Froebel's ideas regarding early childhood education at the University of Cincinnati. Following her death in 1927, Laws' friends pledged \$75,000 toward the addition of a new wing to the Teachers' College building which became the The Annie Laws Drawing Rooms and Auditorium.

Laws also created opportunities for young women to acquire

training as nurses. In 1889, Laws organized the Cincinnati Training School for Nurses which in 1916, became the College of Nursing and Health at the University. Laws was interested in nursing for two reasons. First, as a woman able to live independently, Laws felt that other women not of her means should have the same opportunity; nursing provided a worthy occupation that enabled young women to be self-sufficient. Secondly, Laws wanted to improve the lives of children through health and education programs; nurses might serve in the schools examining children for health problems and in the homes instructing mothers in health care.

Laws later established the School of Household Arts to teach improved homemaking skills and to train domestic science teachers for community service. The school eventually evolved into the College of Home Economics.

In addition to her work at U.C., Laws was, throughout her life, involved in the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, and the Chorus of the May Festival. She founded the International Kindergarten Union, the first Ladies' Music Club of Cincinnati, and a city-wide Federation of Mothers' Clubs. Laws also wrote a manual on home nursing which the Red Cross adopted for international use.

Laws pursued these projects for over fifty years with unflagging perseverance. She was farsighted in her determination to transform traditional "women's work" into publicly supported and recognized paying careers for women.

In June 1924, Annie Laws was awarded an honorary Master of Education degree from the U.C. College of Education for her work in three major fields of education: domestic science, early childhood education, and health care.



Annie Laws

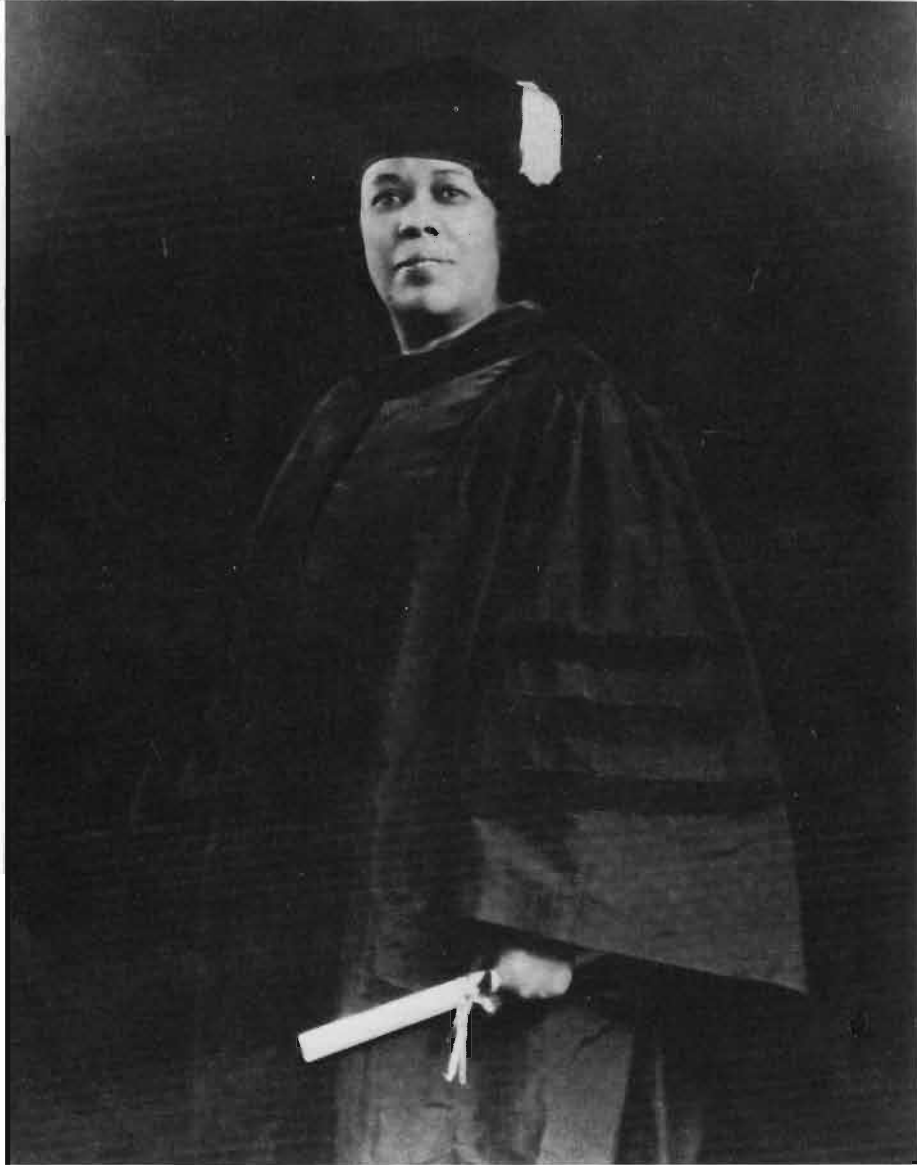
Jennie Davis Porter, the first black woman to earn a Ph.D. at the University of Cincinnati (in 1928), was an educational leader and champion of blacks. Her central life's work was the establishment and sustaining of the Harriet Beecher Stowe School for black children, but she was also prominent in many organizations in the black community of Cincinnati, including a social service bureau, a summer camp, a community center, and fifteen clubs.

Born in Cincinnati in 1876, the daughter of William Porter and Ethlinda Davis Porter, Jennie was strongly influenced by her mother, a public school teacher. Jennie Porter built her life on the then unpopular conviction that blacks were mentally equal to whites and that quality of education was the key to improving living conditions for blacks. She was an advocate of separate black schools and of all black teaching staffs, believing that black children needed to be protected from whites.

Porter graduated from Hughes High School in 1893. From 1897 until 1914 she taught at the Frederick Douglass School in Walnut Hills. In 1914, she helped organize the Stowe School which began in the old Hughes High School in downtown Cincinnati and later, in 1923, moved to a new building on West Seventh Street. In 1914, she also became principal of the school—the first black woman to hold such a position in Cincinnati. By the end of 1923, Stowe school employed thirty-five teachers; enrollment had climbed from 350 in 1914 to over 2,000 in 1923. By 1926, the school boasted, in addition to classrooms, a catering department, laundry, power machine, sewing room, print shop, house construction room, swimming pool, doctor's office, prenatal clinic, gymnasium, auditorium, and pipe organ.

Porter was committed to both academic achievement and to vocational training. She also emphasized music in the school's numerous choral groups, glee club, band, and orchestra. Foreign languages were taught. Believing "We must lift as we climb," Porter invited numerous black luminaries to visit the school, including Mary McCloud Bethune, George Washington Carver, and Marion Anderson. Porter's graduates included Theodore Berry, the first black mayor of Cincinnati, and DeHart Hubbard, an Olympic gold medalist, and many other leaders in the professions and public service.

In 1923, Jennie Porter received her B.S. and M.A. degrees and in 1928 her Ph.D.—all from the University of Cincinnati. She died in 1936 at the age of fifty-eight. The Jennie D. Porter High School, built near her home in the West End, was opened in 1953.



Jennie Davis Porter

Helen G. Schwarz was an important force in developing the curriculum of the School of Nursing and Health and in establishing the school as an independent college in the University of Cincinnati. As Assistant to the Director of Nursing Service and Nursing Education (1936-1940) and as Dean of the College of Nursing and Health (1940-1944), she helped to guide the school through the difficult years of World War II.

Helen G. Schwarz was a graduate of Washington Boulevard-Cook County Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago, Illinois. She received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in nursing education from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City where she served for a short time on the faculty.

Schwarz came to the School of Nursing and Health, College of Medicine in 1936 as assistant to the director of Nursing Service and Nursing Education following her active participation in the revision of "A Curriculum Guide for Schools of Nursing," a National League of Nursing project. She brought with her the current thinking of nursing leaders during those years as well as objectives for the future progress of the profession. It was her intense desire to implement those ideas in the School of Nursing and Health.

Schwarz possessed superb analytical ability, creative talent, and a "subtle and whimsical wit." She had a brilliant mind that was not always patient in waiting for others to perceive what she readily saw and undertook.

Her first effort upon her arrival in Cincinnati was to organize a prescribed course of study for all nurses in teaching positions in the school and in supervisory positions in the General Hospital in order to update their professional training. This was accomplished through a weekly in-service

program which was very successful.

With the help of other faculty members, Schwarz promoted the four year integrated curriculum which had been initiated previous to her arrival. During the increasingly difficult years of World War II, when many faculty, supervisory personnel, and recent graduates were recruited into the Army Nurse Corps, she helped to recruit students for the Cadet Nurse Corps, admitted increased numbers to the school, and organized three modified wartime programs. She also assisted in planning for the utilization of many volunteer helpers in the hospital as many recent graduates joined the Army. Schwarz approached all these difficult tasks with commitment and conscientiousness.

One of the accomplishments which Schwarz herself valued most was the freeing of the control of the School of Nursing and Health from the auspices of the College of Medicine, an arrangement which had existed for twenty-one years. The direction of all collegiate schools of nursing at this time was to become autonomous units in institutions of higher education. She pursued this goal "with a driving force" in 1938. The School of Nursing and Health became the fourteenth autonomous college of the University of Cincinnati.

Following this change, Schwarz became the dean of the College of Nursing and Health in 1940. She served in this capacity until her retirement in 1944. She died in Des Moines, Iowa in 1960 of a brain tumor. Her death was the occasion of great sorrow to those who knew her as a "dedicated nurse with knowledge and superb ability." Schwarz wrote, "Skilled nursing is based upon knowledge, precision, and accuracy in the performance of special techniques and the loftiest ideals and attitudes about nursing."



Helen Schwartz



New Yorker transplanted to Walnut Hills, Helen Norman Smith was a professor of physical and health education and head of the women's division of the Department of Health and Physical Education at the University for forty years. Best known for her promotion of women's rights and of health education, Smith was a powerful figure who influenced many individual students and affected significant University policies.

Born in New York City in 1900, Smith was the daughter of a successful newspaperman. The family also had a farm in Vermont which was perhaps the source of Smith's "New England drawl" and her dry wit, according to a former colleague. She was educated at the Horace Mann School, the Brearley School, and completed her professional training at Columbia University before coming to the University of Cincinnati in 1922.

Former student, Professor Emerita Mary Woverton remembers Smith as very personable, popular, and highly respected in the profession. "She influenced me very much in my professional life. She was extremely unselfish—constantly promoting others." Yet Smith was also a woman of determination. Remembers Dr. Woverton, "When she believed in something, nothing would stop her."

A pioneer in women's health and physical education both nationally and locally, Helen Norman Smith organized the first certified Health Education course of studies at U.C. as well as several support groups for women; she promoted the study of women's health as part of a more general program of health education. As head of the Women's Athletic Association, Smith was very active in getting women involved in physical education and sports. In the 1930's, she was instrumental in establishing coed physical education courses, believing that both sexes needed to understand and know more about

each other, as well as to support each other. In addition, Smith was an ardent promoter of women across campus. As the sole woman member of an advisory board to the President of U.C., she sought to place women on important committees and in other decision-making positions.

Beyond her work at the University, Smith tirelessly advocated the cause of health education. She was one of the founders and first officers of the Ohio Health, Physical Education and Recreation Association. She also helped the Ohio High School Athletic Association to establish standards in girls' athletics and in 1931, served as a member of President Hoover's White House Conference on Child Health.

During her tenure at U.C., Smith was a leader in various state and national organizations, among them the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation; the Midwest College Directors' Association; and the American Association of University Professors.

After retiring in 1962, Smith continued to work for the promotion of physical and health education. Having served on the Board of Directors of the Cincinnati Social Health Association since 1954, she assumed the position of acting director and led the Association as its president from 1965 until 1967. In 1979, Smith was inducted into the U.C. Hall of Fame; she died in 1983. In her honor, the Helen Norman Smith Award is given each year to the most outstanding graduate female athlete at U.C.





Helen Norman Smith



P hoebe Kandel



Phoebe Hobson Greenwood

Phoebe Kandel (1883-1982) was a pioneer in nursing education throughout the United States. She served at the University of Cincinnati as instructor in nursing (1918-1919), as assistant director of the School of Nursing and Health (1919-1924), and as director of the school (1925-1927). During the important years of the Nursing School's change from a hospital to a collegiate school, she carried the full responsibility for administering its teaching program. She went on to work in nursing education in Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Georgia, and Mississippi.

The Greenwoods were prominent Cincinnati philanthropists and civic leaders. Phoebe Greenwood (1813-1884) was mother to ten children and wife to industrialist Miles Greenwood, long-time director of the Ohio Mechanics Institute which became the Ohio College of Applied Science of the University of Cincinnati.

Laura Logan was an international leader in promoting collegiate nursing and public health education. As head of the Old Cincinnati General Hospital School for Nursing, she was responsible for the school becoming a department of U.C.'s College of Medicine in 1911, thus making it the first university level diploma program in nursing in Ohio and the second in the United States.

Called a "woman of vision and an architect of ideas" by Dean Emerita Laura Rosnagel, Logan was sensitive to prevailing social movements and pressures. She contributed to establishing firm foundations for the nursing profession and to developing lasting patterns of nursing education. From the beginning, of her career she emphasized the importance of public health in every nurse's training; not until the 1940's did this concept become widely accepted nationally as a component of the collegiate nursing curriculum.

Considered "a feminist in her own way" Logan, in 1915, strongly resisted a bill which would have made the all-male State Medical Board the official registration for nurses. She opposed the possibility of men controlling what at the time was essentially a woman's profession.



Following the United States' entry into World War I, Logan recruited 100 nurses to staff Cincinnati's Base Hospital No. 25 and served as Chief Nurse until the operation was running smoothly, before returning to her position as director of the School of Nursing. In 1918, she was named chairman of the Committee on Nursing of the Ohio Council of Defense, thus playing an important role in filling the sixty-five Ohio schools of nursing to capacity and recruiting over 2,000 nurses for war service in the United States and abroad.

Logan's decision to become a nurse was rooted in her belief in the importance of satisfying work. She said, "Happiness lies in a vocation which satisfies the soul. In nursing, one has the opportunity to give to life, service to human beings, forgetting one's self and possessions."

A Canadian by birth, Logan earned her Bachelor's degree from Acadia University in Nova Scotia and a diploma in nursing from Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. She later attended Columbia University and subsequently received an M.A. from Acadia. In 1954, the University of Cincinnati awarded Logan the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. At the same time, the nurses' residence building was officially named Laura R. Logan Hall. She died in 1974 in Sackville, Canada.



Laura Logan



A gifted teacher, Miriam Urban spent her entire career of thirty-three years as a member of the faculty of the University of Cincinnati's History Department. "She was one of the best undergraduate teachers I've ever encountered," wrote former U.C. President Henry Winkler. A scholar of the history of modern Europe, specializing in revolution, Urban made history spring to life for generations of U.C. students. Says a former student, "As one listened to her lectures one could practically feel the killing snow as Napoleon retreated from Moscow. We felt the horrors of war and the successes and failures of the great leaders of Europe."

Born Miriam Belle Urbansky in Piqua, Ohio, in 1882, Urban attended the University of Cincinnati as a DAR Fellowship student, earning her B.A. in history in 1915 and her M.A. in 1917. Her advanced studies were completed at Columbia University in 1920, the same year that she began her teaching career at U.C. Throughout her three decades at U.C., Urban was the only woman member of the history faculty. For many students, she was the only woman professor they encountered in their entire academic experience.

Urban was a successful and brilliant lecturer, and her classes were the best attended in the history of the department. She was known for her "flamboyant, theatrical manner that brought her subject matter to life," for her disarming humor, and for her "large dark and glowing eyes," as well as for her serious-minded intelligence. Urban had a strong sense of duty to her profession and from among her students she recruited many fine historians.

Apparently her personal life was characterized by the same vigor, talent, and determination which fired her teaching. One of her contemporaries reminisced about Urban, "She was a remarkable woman—intense, passionate, opinionated, indomitable, and a wonderful friend."

Urban was active off campus as well as on. She was a frequent and popular lecturer to community groups, notably the Woman's City Club and the Peace League. Locally, she was among the founders of the Charter Committee. On campus, she was an active member of the American Association of University Professors. She also served as president of the University of Cincinnati Alumni Association in 1932, directing two of its projects—the women's dormitory and the scholarship fund for women students.

Following her retirement from teaching in 1953, Urban spent the remaining years of her life in Palo Alto, California. When she died in 1977, she endowed the University with \$125,000 for the purchase of books and journals on the history of modern Europe. A commemorative plaque in the Central Library's History Collection pays tribute to this distinguished professor and historian.



Miriam Urban



Josephine Simrall

Josephine Price Simrall was the Dean of Women at the University of Cincinnati from 1921 until 1936. Born in Covington in 1869, Simrall graduated from Wellesley College in 1893 and received a diploma from the Cincinnati Kindergarten Training School in 1897. She did post graduate work at the University of Cincinnati, Johns Hopkins, and Columbia University before becoming head of the psychology department at Sweet Briar College and later Dean of Women and Assistant Professor of English at the University of Kentucky. She continued her career in Cincinnati and was awarded an honorary degree upon retirement. Dean Simrall is also remembered for her literary contributions as a poet and playwright.



Katherine Brent Dabney Ingle

As Dean of Women from 1936 to 1948, Katherine Ingle was an advocate for women and minority students. Born in 1893, she was educated at the University of Cincinnati, earning her B.A. in 1914. She also worked with the Red Cross in France and with the Manhattan Girl Scout Council. Dean Ingle was the daughter of Charles Dabney, President of U.C. from 1904-1920, and sister of Mary Moore Dabney Thomson, President of Western College in Oxford, Ohio.

Helen Walker Siddall

The Helen Siddall Residence Hall was named in honor of civic leader Helen Siddall. Born in 1903, Siddall was active in numerous Cincinnati organizations including the Red Cross War Fund and the Girl Scout program. Her husband, Kelly Y. Siddall was a vice-president and director of Procter & Gamble and president of the U.C. Alumni Association.

Prominent art educator and artist Jessie Roberts Grooms was for twenty-eight years a member of the College of Applied Arts faculty at the University of Cincinnati. She came to U.C. in 1926 after a peripatetic background and taught until her sudden death in 1955. Remembered as "having a magic about her," Grooms was a dedicated and charismatic teacher who worked hard to inspire and mold her students as she taught color, design, and art history. Her own artwork was primarily water color painting.

Born Jessie Roberts, daughter of Abel J. and Laura Macy Roberts, in Sidney, Ohio, Grooms fought to acquire an education. Her blacksmith father died young, leaving his wife with three small girls whom she supported by traveling around rural Ohio in a horse and buggy to give piano lessons. According to Jessie Grooms' husband, Reginald Grooms, when the three daughters reached maturity, they took turns putting one another through college. Two would work for a year to finance the third sister's year in college; the following year another sister would attend college while the remaining sisters paid her way. Grooms also worked in a factory and as a clothing model to finance her education.

Grooms earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Art Education degrees from Columbia University's Teaching College. For three years, Grooms was Supervisor of Art in the public schools of Clarksburg, West Virginia, and for four years she was head of the Art Department at Western Michigan State Teachers' College in Kalamazoo. When she came to U.C. in 1926 it was her first visit to Cincinnati. After a very long courtship, Jessie married fellow U.C. art professor Reginald Grooms in 1941 when both were in their early forties. The two were dedicated, attentive teachers. Reginald Grooms says, "We

knew the background of every student in the school. We talked of nothing else." Jessie Grooms believed that teaching itself was an art and that it should be student centered. "You teach people, not a subject" was her philosophy.

In addition to her dedication to teaching, Grooms is remembered for her strong will and determination. Her husband describes her as "very quiet, almost to the point of being self-effacing but a raging lion when fighting for something." She was also very dependable, consistent, and popular among her students. This portrait was drawn from memory by Reginald Grooms shortly after he had undergone surgery for cataracts.



Jessie Roberts Grooms



W

orld-renowned chemist, Leonora Neuffer Bilger was honored with the 1966 William Howard Taft Medal for Notable

Achievement in recognition of her contributions to the field of chemistry and to higher education. Both a student (A.B. 1913, A.M. 1914, Ph.D. 1916) and a professor at the University of Cincinnati, Bilger brought many honors to herself and to her Alma Mater.

First honors came in 1907 when, as a young girl in Cincinnati, she won both the silver and gold medals for oratory offered by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. In the years to come, she would address scientists from all over the world.

When she was sixteen, Leonora Neuffer won a four-year scholarship from Lockland High School to attend the University of Cincinnati —then, in her words, a "long, long trek" from her home in Lockland. After earning her doctorate, she spent eleven years on the the University's chemistry faculty, becoming Director of Chemical Research of the Basic Research Laboratory. In 1929, Neuffer moved to Hawaii to join the faculty of the University of Hawaii where she married Professor Earl M. Bilger. There she spent the balance of her career, retiring in 1959. During her thirty years at the University of Hawaii, she served as professor of chemistry, dean of women, senior professor, and chairman of the Chemistry Department, meanwhile building a distinguished reputation as a chemist. In 1950 the University of Cincinnati honored Bilger by conferring upon her its highest honorary degree of Doctor of Laws—the first honorary degree at U.C. granted to a woman since 1935, and in 1959 the University of Hawaii named its \$1,250,000 chemistry building after her. Bilger also received the highly esteemed Francis P. Garvey Award of the American Chemical Association.

Bilger's contributions to chemical research dealt mainly with problems important to the economy of the Hawaiian Islands—chemical investigations of the avocado, of the vitamin value of avocado oil, of the nicotine content of Hawaiian tobaccos. She also researched the chemotherapy of cancer, chemistry of poi fermentation, fluoride in Hawaiian waters, sterols of tropical waters, and the mutual influences between enzymes and hormones.

Both in Cincinnati and Hawaii, Bilger was active in community service. She spoke to grade school assemblies, lectured on chemical warfare, was the first scientist called upon to speak to military and community groups after the A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and challenged alumni groups to take responsibility for higher college ethics. In Cincinnati, she worked with the Christ Church Young Girls Social Club. Bilger also held various government posts and was active in a number of professional organizations, including the American Chemical Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Pan Pacific Women's Association.

Because of her varied activities, Bilger was listed in several directories of outstanding scientists. In light of her many accomplishments, it is no surprise that Hawaiians proudly refer to Bilger as "the mainland woman who has done most for Hawaii."



Lenora Neuffer Bilger



A **anna Rachel McDowell McMicken**

A nna McDowell McMicken (1826-1890) and her husband, Andrew McMicken, shared their home with his uncle, Charles McMicken, during the last years of his life. Charles McMicken's estate, bequeathed to the City of Cincinnati in 1858, established the University of Cincinnati.



Aнна Louise Taft Semple

Aнна Louise Taft Semple was a generous supporter of the arts in Cincinnati and of the Classics Department at the University of Cincinnati. She was also the first president of the Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation (from 1918 to 1952) which provided assistance to nearly 10,000 college students and 30,000 high school students in Cincinnati.

Mary Elizabeth Johnston

Mary Elizabeth Johnston (d. 1967), an Army nurse during World War I, made possible the first graduate courses in nursing at the University of Cincinnati. The June E. Procter Professorship and the William Cooper Procter Hall (named for her uncle), both in the College of Nursing and Health, were endowed by her.



One of the original members of the first faculty of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (then called the College of Applied Arts), Melrose Pitman came to the University of Cincinnati in the early 1920's and taught for over thirty years. She was part of a pioneering effort to establish a "new kind of art school" promoted by Herman Schneider, dean of the newly-formed college; the school emphasized an interdisciplinary study of the arts, offering courses in dance, science, and literature as well as art. Accordingly, Pitman taught body-movement and dance in addition to her more traditional courses in art history. A woman of many talents, Pitman was also a poet and an organic farmer.

A former colleague still recalls Pitman's "dash and vigor." A very energetic and spirited woman, she oversaw the activities of female students. "Melrose was ebullient when young — and very popular with the girls," says a fellow professor. During the early phase of the Art College's history, female students were in a separate division from males. Because most women could not be placed in co-op jobs, they were enrolled in the "non-cooperative" women's branch of the college which focused on general arts.



During her tenure as a professor of Art History, Pitman successfully operated a small farm in Kentucky, applying the organic gardening methods of the late Austrian naturalist Rudolf Steiner. She often hosted parties for the art faculty at her Kentucky farm. Colleague Reginald Grooms, now eighty-four, fondly remembers one party there before his marriage to Jessie Roberts Grooms which featured a mock marriage of the betrothed couple, complete with flowers and flower girl.

Born in Cincinnati in 1889, Pitman was the daughter of world-famous woodcarver Benn Pitman. She received an unconventional education on the east coast, under the guidance of her father; apparently her artistic family background fostered Pitman's free spirit. She also had close ties with artist Elizabeth Nourse and often traveled with her.

Throughout her life, Pitman wrote poetry, publishing four collections. The latest, *Dare the Rugged Road*, was published in 1971. She also frequently wrote poetry and dramatic scripts to accompany others' musical compositions. Her poetry has been praised for its "sensitivity and versatility." Pitman retired from U.C. in the mid-1950's, hoping to devote herself fully to the study of anthroposophy. Following her retirement, Pitman spent many years in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with long-time friend and colleague, composer Eunice Lea Kettering. Melrose Pitman now resides in Cincinnati.



Melrose Pitman

Whenever a woman achieves distinction, she raises the stature of all women." Cincinnati Elizabeth Dyer embodied her own credo; this distinguished woman founded U.C.'s College of Home Economics, one of the early schools in its field. In addition to initiating the College in 1924, Dyer served as its dean for twenty-eight years until her retirement in 1952. Dyer Hall on the Clifton campus is named in her honor.

Elizabeth Dyer was an early advocate of women's rights. In a 1930's speech Dyer stated, "Democracy means that everyone enjoys the right to be a person, a person worthy of regard, to be protected from those who thirst for power over others. There must be education for all according to their needs; each must have the opportunity of working in a respected job and each must assume the responsibility of making [her] rights a fact."

A strong supporter of higher education for women, Dyer aimed at "raising the stature of women" by elevating the status of home economics to a matter of scientific study and prescribed training. Progressively adapting its curriculum to subject matter changes called for by changing conditions, the College of Home Economics, during Dyer's tenure as dean, sponsored projects with community organizations such as the Consumer Conference of Greater Cincinnati, Aid to Dependent Children, and groups of supporters of pre-school education. Dyer consistently emphasized human values in home and public life.

To her work as dean, Dyer brought a rich breadth of experience in education and in department store personnel work. Following her graduation from Vassar in 1912, she was a high school teacher in Waterbury, Connecticut; assistant director of the Simmons School of Education for State Service in Boston; and coordinator in the New York University School of Retailing. Dyer's move to Cincinnati in 1924 to work at the University was a return to her home town; her father, Frank B. Dyer, had been superintendent of the Cincinnati Public Schools.

Her appointment as national president of Chi Omega sorority prompted Dyer's resignation from U.C. For several years, she had been a member of the sorority's awards committee which bestowed achievement honors upon Madame Chiang Kai-shek in public affairs, Anne O'Hara McCormick in journalism, and Dr. Margaret Mead in anthropology.

Dyer was given the honorary title of Dean Emerita when she left the University in 1952. In 1954 she was granted the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, and in 1971, the former Biology Building was renamed Dyer Hall.



Elizabeth Dyer



Edith Carson Wilder

Edith Carson Wilder established the Stephen H. Wilder Foundation which funds basic science research, public affairs research, scholarships in art and music, and summer opera in Cincinnati.

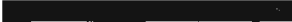
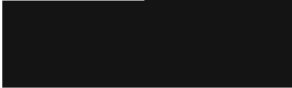


Minna Wagner Hoffmann

Minna Wagner Hoffmann, patron of the arts and benefactor of music students, was the widow of Dr. John A. Hoffmann, former dean of the Conservatory of Music. She was acting director of the Conservatory in 1948 and, later, vice-president and member of the Board of Trustees. For her many services on behalf of music students, Minna Wagner Hoffmann received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree and was honorary life president of the Conservatory's Alumni Association.

Annie Sinton Taft

Annie Sinton Taft and her husband Charles P. Taft were benefactors of the University of Cincinnati. Their gifts included a completely equipped university press in 1903.



Cincinnati philanthropist Mary Muhlenberg Emery was a generous contributor to the University of Cincinnati; the Medical School and the Ohio College of Applied Science especially benefited from her active support. In appreciation, in 1920, the Ohio-Miami Medical College conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Mary Emery. She was the first woman to receive such an honor.

Born in New York in 1884, Mary Muhlenberg Hopkins later moved with her family to Cincinnati. With her marriage to businessman Thomas Emery in 1866, Mary Emery assumed a prominent place in Cincinnati society. Losing her only two children in their youth, she rechanneled her energies into a variety of social causes. Although both Thomas and Mary Emery were active in Cincinnati arts and charitable activities, it was following her husband's death in 1906 that Mary Emery became most active as a philanthropist. Known during her lifetime for her "wise management" of money and her "practical Christianity," Emery was especially concerned about social needs, child welfare, sanitation, and housing.

In 1911, Emery financed the building of the Ohio Mechanics Institute (now the evening division of U.C.'s Ohio College of Applied Science) with its 2,200 seat Emery Auditorium. Emery went on to become the most generous of the Institute's many benefactors, steadily contributing to it until her death in 1927.

Emery was also a supporter of the University's Medical College. She was responsible for the Medical School building, in connection with the Cincinnati General Hospital. She also donated \$250,000 to establish a chair in pediatrics. Additional endowments by Emery created a chair in pathology and founded the B.K. Rachford Department of Pediatrics.



Mary Muhlenberg Emery

Dolly Lurie Cohen was a humanitarian who devoted her energies and philanthropy to the support and encouragement of students and scholars and to the assistance of those physically, mentally, and economically handicapped. Perhaps best known at the University of Cincinnati for the annual Dolly Cohen Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Cohen is also responsible for the Cohen Enrichment Room in the Central Library and for numerous other gifts to the University, including scholarships and essay competitions.

Described as an "indefatigable promoter of causes, friend of cab drivers, presidents, artists, athletes, and the handicapped," Cohen was for many years a prominent figure in the life of Cincinnati. "Bite off more than you can chew, then do it," was her motto. Born in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, in 1896, Dolly Lurie married young shoe salesman Abraham B. Cohen in 1920. In 1926, A.B. Cohen, with Joseph S. Stern, founded the U.S. Shoe Corporation with headquarters in Cincinnati. While her spouse devoted his life to building up U.S. Shoe, Cohen dedicated hers to a wide array of philanthropic causes, ranging from ballet to football, from the Cincinnati Symphony to the City of Hope hospital ship. She also held the unique distinction of being the only woman member of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame.

Cohen devoted the final decade of her life to educational causes. When she initiated the Cohen Awards for Excellence in Teaching in 1961, then president of U.C., Dr. Walter C. Langsam observed, "Mrs. Cohen has decided to concentrate some special attention on higher education, believing that in the excellence of this vocation rests the future of our civilization." This was the first such award in the State of Ohio and one of the only two or three such awards in the United States. Since 1962, each year two distinguished U.C. teachers have enjoyed the honor and the \$1,000 monetary award which accompanies it.

Although she never attended college, Cohen was said to be a great reader and conversationalist. In 1967, the University awarded her an honorary Doctorate of Humanities.

A distinctive public figure with her "eye-catching hats," Cohen was praised by many Cincinnatians for her compassion and warmth. Afflicted with cancer, she battled the disease for three decades; her suffering seemed to make her more responsive to the sufferings of others. Shortly before Cohen's death in 1970, a letter to the *Cincinnati Enquirer* praised her: "...The only thing this compassionate and beautiful lady ever knew was that someone needed help. She never asked anything in return. Nobody knows of all the people she helped—white and black."



Dolly Cohen



Julia Van Wormer



Dorothy Richard Starling

Julia Van Wormer and her husband Asa Van Wormer were benefactors of the University. Their gifts include the Van Wormer Library (now the Administration Building) dedicated in 1903.

Dorothy Richard Starling (b. 1899) studied music at the Cincinnati College of Music and went on to teach music and to perform as a violinist throughout her life. The one-million-dollar Dorothy Richard Starling Chair in Classical Violin Music at the College Conservatory of Music was established following her death in 1969 by her husband, Frank M. Starling.

P sychologist and educator Ada Hart Arlitt spent most of her professional life at the University of Cincinnati. She came to U.C. in 1925 and was successively professor and head of Child Care and Training in what was then called the School of Household Administration (later the College of Home Economics), professor of psychology, and finally professor emerita upon her retirement in 1951. During this time Dr. Arlitt was in charge of the Nursery School and was also director of the Mother's Training Center at the University. In the course of her career at U.C., Arlitt established a national reputation as an expert in the field of child care and training, authoring several books on child and adolescent psychology and development. Among her works are *Psychology of Infancy and Early Childhood* (1928, 1946), *The Child from One to Six* (1930), *Adolescent Psychology* (1933), and *Family Relationships* (1942).

Arlitt brought a diverse background to her work at U.C. Born in New Orleans in 1890 (daughter of John Hamilton Hart and Ada Hullen Mott), she married J.L. Arlitt in 1909, earned her B.A. from Tulane University in 1913, and completed her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago four years later. She was associate professor of educational psychology at Bryn Mawr (1917-1923) before coming to Cincinnati to serve as the chief psychologist of the Cincinnati Mental Health Clinic. After working two years at the clinic, Arlitt assumed the position of dean at the School of Household Administration.

In addition to her work as an educator and an administrator at U.C., Arlitt served in a number of national positions dealing with children: national chairman of parent education for the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the National Council of Parent Education; consultant to staff White House Conference on Child Health and Protection; and member of the governing board of the National Council of Parent Education. She was associate editor of "Child Welfare Magazine" and editor of *Parent Education Yearbook* and *National Parent Teacher*. In 1969, the University-sponsored Arlitt Child Development Center was named in her honor.



A da Hart Arlitt

Founder of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Clara Baur orchestrated the development of the Conservatory from a one-room studio with a piano in a frontier city into an internationally acclaimed center for the study of music.

In 1849, at age fourteen, Clara Baur traveled to Cincinnati from her native Germany to become housekeeper for her two banker brothers. For eighteen years she kept house for her brothers, as well as teaching piano and voice. During this period she conceived the idea of establishing a school in the European conservatory tradition in Cincinnati. Despite warnings about attempting such an institution in a backwoods community and without capital or endowment, Baur established a music studio in affiliation with a fashionable school for girls in 1867. After a period of struggle and discouragement, the Conservatory began to thrive. Within two years, the school employed a dozen teachers and taught courses in Italian, French, and German in addition to music. Primarily a school for talented women, the Conservatory enrolled over 800 students in 1896, only fifty-three of whom were male. By the time of Clara Baur's death in 1912—forty-five years after the school's modest beginnings—the Conservatory's artistic reputation was firmly established and its financial status secure.

Baur apparently endeared herself to many Cincinnatians. Admirers have used terms like "enthusiastic and tireless in her work," "determined and courageous," "a woman of great charm and grace" to describe her. She was physically small—five feet two inches tall with auburn hair and clear blue eyes. She spoke with a German accent, and in addition to her native German, she spoke and read French and Italian. Baur was deeply devoted to her religious ideals and was a student of the Bible. She was also noted

for philanthropy, often seeking out gifted but financially needy students and assisting them in the development of their musical talents.

The day in 1901 when the cornerstone was laid for the new Conservatory buildings on the Shillito estate in Mt. Auburn was, by Baur's own account, the happiest day of her life. A newspaper interview quoted her: "[That day] realized the hopes of a lifetime... There are not many who live to see their dreams come true; there are not many that work and see the work come out as they have planned. But it was so with me, that as I dreamed, the hopes of all my life came true one bright, bright day."

The descendent of a family of educators and theologians, Clara Baur was born in 1835 in Wurtemberg, in the Black Forest region of Germany. Her parents were Frederika Finke and Rev. George Baur. A close friend wrote in summation of Baur's life, "She was distinguished for the example she set in the fine art of living." The bronze statue of Pan playing his pipe at the entrance of Mary Emery Hall is dedicated to the memory of Clara Baur.



Clara Baur



city is not made merely of stone and brick but of its finest men and women." This was the tribute paid to Bertha Baur in 1925 when she received the honorary degree of Master of Arts at the University in recognition of her service to the cause of music in Cincinnati. Described by those who knew her personally as a "Christian thoroughbred, a distinguished leader of young people, an outstanding figure in the world of music," Bertha Baur dedicated sixty-three years of her life to building the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Successively she was its business administrator, its president, and its president emerita.

Baur's affiliation with the Conservatory began when she was seventeen. A student at the University of Michigan with plans to pursue a medical career, Baur also enjoyed music and came to Cincinnati to study with her father's sister, Clara Baur, founder and president of the Conservatory. Arriving in the city, she discovered that her aunt was in great difficulty; the Conservatory had recently relocated, and the administrative records were in chaos. The young Baur stepped into the position of secretary and soon became so interested in the institution that she gave up her ambition of studying medicine. Gradually, Bertha Bauer assumed responsibility for managing and promoting the school and for recruiting new artist-teachers from Europe and America; in the 1880's she became associate director of the Conservatory. In 1912, following the death of Clara Baur, Bertha stepped into the role of director a post which she retained until 1930, when she gave the Conservatory to the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts. Baur was a strong administrator whose chief policy was to increase the prestige of the school. During her tenure, the reputation of the Conservatory grew worldwide, it became empowered by the State of Ohio to grant the highest degrees in music, and its student body grew from hundreds to thousands.

Baur was described by friends as having a radiant and vibrant personality. She gave the impression of being a gentle woman—quiet and reserved in manner and was a respected music critic and a gracious hostess. Baur was especially noted for the encouragement she gave to young artists; she provided financial aid to a great many students at the school.

During Bertha Baur's administration, there was an active social life at the Conservatory. Frequent teas and parties brought students and faculty members together in an informal setting. According to those who knew her, she imparted an air of grace and propriety to every aspect of Conservatory activity. For example, at the opening of each school term, she mailed cards—printed in invitation form—cordially "inviting" students to resume their studies.

Baur received many honors during her lifetime. In 1926, she was unanimously awarded the medal of the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Exposition given to the Ohio woman who had made the greatest contribution to music. She was guest of honor at the 100th anniversary celebration of Lindenwood College, St. Charles, Missouri, in 1927. Leading music magazines praised her work, and her biography was included in *Who's Who in America for 1926-1927*.

Generous with her time and talents, Baur was a guiding spirit in many civic and cultural enterprises in Cincinnati. She was active in the Woman's City Club, Red Cross, the Public Recreation Commission, the National Federation of Music Clubs, Alliance Francaise, Matinee Musicale, Clifton Music Club, and Mt. Auburn Music Club. For many years, she was also a member of the Board of Directors and a patron of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Baur was born in 1858 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, daughter of Emil Baur and Bertha Herzer Baur. She died in Cincinnati in 1940 at the age of eighty-two.



Bertha Baur

Afterword

Much work remains to be done. We invite faculty, students, and the community to join the Center for Women's Studies in its continuing search for more biographical information about and portraits of U.C. emeritae.

Friends of Women's Studies

Friends of Women's Studies was established in May 1980 as a community support group for the Center for Women's Studies at the University of Cincinnati. "Friends" provides a continuous avenue for intellectual and social exchange between the University and the community. Membership dues are used in part to fund mini-grants for research in Women's Studies which are awarded annually to university and community scholars whose work is of special relevance to the greater Cincinnati community.

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