

Organization of American Historians

Presidential Address and Awards Ceremony

12 April 2002



Washington DC

2002 OAH Presidential Address and Awards Ceremony

Schedule of Events

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7:35 p.m. Presentation of Awards

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Immediately following the presidential address and awards ceremony, OAH President Darlene Clark Hine invites you to a reception in her honor. The reception, located in the Renaissance West A Ballroom is cosponsored by the Department of History, Kent State University.

2002 OAH Awards and Prizes

The Organization of American Historians sponsors awards and prizes given in recognition of scholarly and professional achievements in the field of American history. Please join us in congratulating the following 2002 OAH award and prize winners.

2002 OAH Distinguished Service Award

The Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians has conferred its Distinguished Service Award on three pioneers who have fundamentally shaped the study of American history: **John Hope Franklin, Gerda Lerner, and Anne Firor Scott.** Professors Franklin, Lerner, and Scott not only helped create, nurture and frame the fields of African American and women's history through their extensive scholarship in the last half of the twentieth century and into the new millennium, but they have also served both the profession and the Organization of American Historians in numerous capacities, including that of OAH President. They have touched the lives, intellectual development, and work of generations of historians, and have truly changed the ways we understand the past and our present.

John Hope Franklin, a native of Rentiesville, Oklahoma, was educated at Fisk University and Harvard University. During his long career as an influential American, Southern, African American and legal historian, he maintained positions at Fisk University, St. Augustine's College, North Carolina College, and Howard University, chaired history departments at Brooklyn College and the University of Chicago, and served as Professor of Legal History at the Duke University Law School. He is currently the James B. Duke Professor of History Emeritus at Duke.

Franklin's highly regarded work on the history of African Americans and race in the United States, as well as his renowned efforts to promote racial understanding, tolerance, and education, has earned him the respect of scholars worldwide. He has won numerous awards, including the Jefferson Medal Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award, and the NAACP Spingarn Medal. He was the first African American to receive the Truman Good Neighbor Award and he has been granted over one hundred honorary degrees. *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, arguably his best known work, is currently in its seventh edition and has been translated into six Asian and European languages. His other publications include *The Emancipation Proclamation*, *The Militant South*, *The Free Negro in North Carolina*, *A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Ante-Bellum North*, and *Race and History: Selected Essays, 1938-1988*. Recently he edited an autobiography of his father entitled *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*.

No stranger to service in the profession, for many years, Franklin served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Negro History*. He also served as president of the American Studies Association, the Southern Historical Association, the United Chapters of Phi Beta



Chris Hildreth, Duke Photography

Franklin

Kappa, and the American Historical Association. He was appointed to the National Council on the Humanities and the President's Advisory Commission on Ambassadorial Appointments; he was the Consultant on American Education in the Soviet Union and the chairman of the advisory board for One America: The President's Initiative on Race.

Professor Franklin has served the OAH for over fifty years, as a member of the OAH Executive Board, the Program Committee, and the *Journal of American History* Editorial Board, and as president from 1974 to 1975. A pioneer in African American history, a leader in the historical profession, and a servant in the cause of racial understanding and harmony in America, John Hope Franklin is a worthy recipient of this Distinguished Service Award to three pioneers in American history.



Lerner

Gerda Lerner was born in Vienna, Austria, and was forced into exile in 1938 after the rise of the Nazis. She was the only member of her family to secure a visa to come to America and became a naturalized citizen. She was educated at the New School for Social Research and Columbia University and earned her American history degree with a focus on nineteenth-century social history, U.S. women's history, African American studies, and women's studies.

An equally important part of her education came from her social activism, particularly her participation in grassroots and community movements. Her belief in the equality of all people led her to form an interracial civil rights movement in New York City that promoted social justice, peace, and better education, and railed against McCarthyism. She is acknowledged as a pioneer in the field of women's studies and has inspired generations of historians to follow in her footsteps.

Her career has taken her to positions at Long Island University, Sarah Lawrence College, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison where she was Robinson-Edwards professor of history. She taught the first postwar college course in women's history and has established several graduate programs in women's studies. Her writings include *The Grimké Sisters from South Carolina: Rebels Against Slavery*; *Black Women in White America: A Documentary History*; *Women and History*; *The Feminist Thought of Sarah Grimké*; *Why History Matters: Life and Thought*; *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness: From the Middle Ages to Eighteen-Seventy*; and this year's *Fireweed: A Political Autobiography*.

She was honored as a senior distinguished research professor in 1984 by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, the Lilly Foundation, and the Guggenheim Institute.

Professor Lerner was the first woman in fifty years to be elected president of the OAH in 1981-1982, and has served on the OAH

Program Committee, the Frederick Jackson Turner Award Committee, the Women's Committee, the Binkley-Stephenson Award Committee, and the OAH Executive Board. Over a decade ago, OAH created the Lerner-Scott prize, named after her and Anne Firor Scott, to be awarded annually for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women's history. She was nominated for president of the American Historical Association, and was elected a member of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters.

Her intense work in community organizations and her brilliant scholarship make Gerda Lerner a true pioneer in the field of American history. The OAH is honored to confer upon her the Distinguished Service Award.

As a pioneer in southern women's history, **Anne Firor Scott** was educated in her home state at the University of Georgia, and at Northwestern University and Radcliffe College. During her long career she taught at Haverford College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; she is currently the W. K. Boyd Professor of History Emerita at Duke University.



Scott

A distinguished scholar, Professor Scott has written extensively on women's history and feminism, with an emphasis on southern views and analysis of American women. She has authored nine books, including *The Southern Lady*, *Women in American Life*, *Making the Invisible Woman Visible*, and *Unheard Voices*, and edited Jane Addams's *Democracy and Social Ethics*.

She has served her profession through a number of organizations, including the North Carolina Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, the President's Advisory Council on the Status of Woman, the executive board of the Southern Historical Association, the editorial board of the *Journal of Southern History*, and as president of the Southern Historical Association.

Professor Scott served with distinction as the president of the Organization of American Historians from 1983 to 1984, and prior to her OAH presidency, she was chair of the OAH Women's Committee, a member of the Executive Board, the Program Committee, and the Committee on Television, Film, and Radio Media. She was chair of the Frederick Jackson Turner Award Committee while serving as OAH Past President. Scott was honored with the creation of the OAH Lerner-Scott Prize, named after her and Gerda Lerner, to be awarded annually for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women's history.

Her tireless work in the field of women's history and women's studies has earned her the admiration of the scholarly community. She continues to be active in the pursuit of equality for all people while focusing on the history of women, and for her incredible contributions to the field, the OAH is proud to honor her with the Distinguished Service Award. □

2002 OAH Awards and Prizes

Erik Barnouw Award

in recognition of outstanding reporting or programming on network or cable television, or in documentary film, concerned with American history, the study of American history, and/or the promotion of history

Award committee: Evan W. Cornog, Columbia Journalism School, Chair; Joshua Brown, Graduate Center, City University of New York; Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Harvard University.



Anker

Scottsboro: An American Tragedy, Daniel Anker and Barak Goodman, producers, Social Media Productions, 2001.

Scottsboro offers a panoramic yet incisive account of the controversial 1930s Alabama case involving the alleged rape of two white women by nine African American teenagers, a story that has been the focus of outstanding scholarship and reinterpretation while remaining largely unknown by the general public. Moving from Alabama courtrooms to protest marches in northern cities, the film uses the familiar elements and techniques of historical documentary—commentary by scholars, interviews with participants, archival photographs and film, and contemporary location footage—in ways that powerfully convey a sense of time and place as well as the complicated racial, political, legal, and regional issues that were evoked and provoked by the 1931 case. *Scottsboro* is particularly graceful in its delineation, flowing through the narrative, of the relationship of the American Communist Party to the handling of the defense as well as the significance of the case in the history of civil rights struggles in the twentieth century. Framing its information and interpretation in a compelling and often gripping narrative, the ninety-minute documentary is both an unusually informative and well-paced work of filmic storytelling. □

Binkley-Stephenson Award

for the best scholarly article published in the Journal of American History during the preceding calendar year

Award committee: Eric H. Monkkonen, University of California, Los Angeles, Chair; Glenda Gilmore, Yale University; Albert L. Hurtado, University of Oklahoma.



Keith

Jeanette Keith, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, "The Politics of Southern Draft Resistance, 1917-1918" (*Journal of American History*, March 2001).

Keith's research and assiduous documentation of widespread southern resistance to the draft of World War I demonstrates that a significant part of the South remained deliberately and stubbornly outside of the growing national state. In arguing for the persistence of populist anticapitalist critiques, Keith uncovers an anti-New South ideology and probes the racial dimensions of the resistance. Her well-written article also shows how court records

and forgotten federal reports can be used to recover twentieth-century actions which otherwise would have gone unknown and unnamed. The article is an outstanding example of the historian's craft. □

Avery O. Craven Award

for the most original book on the coming of the Civil War, the Civil War years, or the era of Reconstruction, with the exception of works of purely military history

Award committee: Michael P. Johnson, Johns Hopkins University, Chair; William C. Hine, South Carolina State University; Donald G. Nieman, Bowling Green State University.

Don E. Fehrenbacher, Stanford University, died in 1997, but **Ward M. McAfee**, California State University, San Bernardino, a former student of Fehrenbacher's, has completed and edited his book, *The Slaveholding Republic: An Account of the United States Government's Relations to Slavery* (Oxford University Press, 2001.)

This magisterial volume analyzes the federal government's relation to slavery from the founding of the republic to the crisis of the Union. Combining rigorous scrutiny of political controversies, judicious assessment of the implementation of government policies, and sober consideration of the real-world alternatives faced by government officials, *The Slaveholding Republic* illuminates questions debated for more than two centuries: what was the place of slavery in the Constitution? In the nation's capital? In foreign policy? In the federal territories? Penetrating accounts of the prohibition of the African slave trade and of the complex struggles over fugitive slaves display the mind and hand of a master historian. Like Fehrenbacher's Pulitzer-winning *The Dred Scott Case* (Oxford University Press, 1979), *The Slaveholding Republic* makes a lasting contribution to our knowledge of the nation's conflicting legacies of slavery and liberty. By highlighting the moral gravity of mundane political decisions, it exemplifies the highest achievement of the historian's craft. The completion and editing of *The Slaveholding Republic* by Ward M. McAfee eloquently expresses the collective responsibility of historical scholarship and testifies to the ties that bind all of us as teachers and students of the past. □



Fehrenbacher



McAfee

James A. Rawley Prize

for a book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States

Prize committee: Mitch Yamasaki, Chaminade University of Honolulu, Chair; Peter Wallenstein, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Irma Watkins-Owens, Fordham University. The committee selected two cowinners of the James A. Rawley Prize this year.



Harris

J. William Harris, University of New Hampshire, *Deep Souths: Delta, Piedmont and Sea Island Society in the Age of Segregation* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001).

As Ira Berlin had done earlier with the institution of American slavery, Harris argues that there is no single “Deep South.” Instead, he identifies three distinct regions—the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta, the eastern Piedmont of Georgia, the Georgia Sea Islands and Atlantic coast—and traces their histories from Reconstruction to the New Deal. Harris locates national and regional developments in their particular “locale.” He then effectively demonstrates the significance of regional circumstances in the ultimate transformation of the segregated South. The committee was impressed with the way Harris created an interconnected narrative of black political, economic and cultural life, using plantation records, oral histories, blues music and other innovative sources.

David W. Blight, Amherst College, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2001).

Blight examines America’s collective memory of the Civil War and reveals how a culture of reunion, which downplayed sectional and racial divisions, prevailed in the decades after the war. He argues convincingly that white Americans, intent on reconciliation, ignored the legacy of slavery and abolitionism. Stories about the noble sacrifices of white soldiers in Blue and Gray, as well as a romanticized literature of the Old South, became popular. Meanwhile, the struggles of African Americans during the war disappeared from white memories. The committee was impressed with Blight’s weaving of rarely cited post-Civil War African American sources with the popular “lost cause” narratives of southern whites to reveal the growing segregation of black and white memories of the war. □

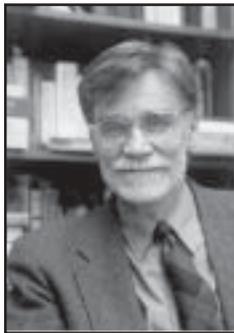
Merle Curti Intellectual History Award

for the best book published in American intellectual history

Award committee: Stanley Harrold, South Carolina State University, Chair; Robert E. May, Purdue University; Daryl Michael Scott, University of Florida.

David W. Blight, Amherst College, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2001).

An analysis of ideas in conflict and written in moving prose, this book exemplifies the best in American intellectual history. It provides a comprehensive treatment of the contested public memory of America's greatest domestic conflict. Blight deals with relationships between perceptions of race and desires to reunite the North and the South. Limiting himself to the period from 1863 to 1915, he identifies three ways in which Americans chose to recall the war. African Americans emphasized that it was a struggle for emancipation and citizenship. White southerners viewed it as part of a laudable effort to maintain white supremacy. Seeking reconciliation, whites in both sections portrayed it as a test of soldiers' manhood. Blight relies on political speeches, soldiers' reunions and reminiscences, African American recollections, Memorial Day observances, and Lost Cause literature to tell a complicated story. The three strands of memory competed and combined in ways that usually dismissed African Americans and their rights. The result was a national identity based on sentimentalized memory of the war and white supremacy. Blight's insightful book helps us to understand the legacies of that identity. □



David W. Blight, Amherst College, winner of an unprecedented four OAH book prizes this year.

Merle Curti Social History Award

for the best book published in American social history

Award committee: David Nasaw, Graduate Center, City University of New York, Chair; Barbara M. Posadas, Northern Illinois University; Thomas J. Sugrue, University of Pennsylvania.

David W. Blight, Amherst College, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2001).

David Blight reminds us once again that the Civil War did not end at Appomattox Court House. This exceptional work of social and cultural history traces the struggle for American public memory of the Civil War on many fronts and weighs the rival claims of healing and justice in a complex story of commemoration. By the early twentieth century, a theme of reconciliation that aimed to bring white veterans of North and South together had pushed the African American freedom struggle to a segregated sideline. The nation, it seemed, had engaged in a politics of forgetting and exclusion.

Race and Reunion is an elegantly written work that is simultaneously erudite and accessible. Fair-minded in its judgments yet not neutral in the contest, it warns of the price of a popular history that privileges romance—the gallant soldiers of both sides and the Lost Cause—over reality. Putting an old story in a new setting, *Race and Reunion* also recovers a counter tradition among African Americans and others that kept alive the memory of the battle for emancipation. □

Ellis W. Hawley Prize

for the best book-length historical study of the political economy, politics, or institutions of the United States, in its domestic or international affairs, from the Civil War to the present

Prize committee: Gordon T. Stewart, Michigan State University; Chair; James R. Barrett, University of Illinois; Lawrence S. Kaplan, Kent State University.

David W. Blight, Amherst College, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2001).

It is a challenge to write a book which enables us to view the Civil War and its impact in fresh ways. David Blight has risen to that challenge in examining the ways in which this great American drama has been remembered, reshaped, and retold. He shows that the priority of reunion between the North and South led to a view of the Civil War in which the issue of race was put aside in favor of a grand narrative of national reconciliation. While such a commentary on modern American history is not new, David Blight evokes it in a richly textured manner that brings it to life as never before. He fully acknowledges his debt to many other scholars who have elucidated the long-term impact of the Civil War. His range of sources go deep into the history of all Americans. He presents a panoramic picture of how the Civil War was refashioned and presented in the period down to World War I and shows the consequences of that view of Civil War history for race relations in the United States in the twentieth century. His elegant account reveals how public memory is at the very center of the race issue in contemporary America. □

Huggins-Quarles Award

for minority graduate students at the dissertation research stage of their Ph.D. program

Award committee: Craig Steven Wilder, Williams College, Chair; Charles Pete Banner-Haley, Colgate University; Wanda A. Hendricks, University of South Carolina; Peniel E. Joseph, University of Rhode Island; Emma Lapsansky, Haverford College.

Françoise Nicole Hamlin, Yale University, “The Book Hasn’t Closed, The Story Isn’t Finished: Continuing Histories of the Civil Rights Movement.”

This important project examines the gendered institutional and political cultures that shaped the lived experience of the Civil Rights movement in Coahoma County, Mississippi. Hamlin seeks to show that struggles located in the 1950s and 1960s continued to inform the sociopolitical world of Coahoma County in the 1970s and 1980s. Innovatively and thoughtfully organized, Françoise Nicole Hamlin's project has the potential to recast academic understandings of the Civil Rights movement. □

Jamestown Scholars Dissertation Fellowship

cosponsored by OAH and the National Park Service to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the colony; supports Ph.D. candidates contributing to our understanding of Jamestown

Fellowship committee: Heather Huyck, National Park Service, Chair; Ira Berlin, University of Maryland; Lorena S. Walsh, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Anna Sophia Agbe-Davies, The University of Pennsylvania, "Up in Smoke: Tobacco, Pipe-Making, and Bacon's Rebellion," takes a fresh perspective on the much-studied topic of Jamestown's ceramic pipes to better understand the era and people of Bacon's Rebellion (1676). She thoughtfully applies anthropological theory to a historical database and analyzes manufacture, distribution, and use of clay pipes to understand local social relationships including ethnic/racial ones.



Hinton

Michele Marie Hinton, Saint Louis University, "Jamestown Medicine: Old World Practices in a New World Environment, 1607-1666," examines the sociocultural adaptations of medicine to understand cultural retention and change in a different environment. Given early Jamestown's high mortality rate, such an analysis may help us better understand the reasons for that death rate, reasons still subject to nearly endless speculation.



Wehner

Karen Bellinger Wehner, New York University, "Craft Production, Economy and Society in Early Seventeenth-Century Jamestown." The committee believes that this research could "open all kinds of possibilities" in understanding early Jamestown. Wehner suggests that "Chesapeake scholars, focused on tobacco, have underestimated the economic and social importance of town-based manufacturing." □

OAH-JAAS Short Term Residencies

The OAH and the Japanese Association of American Studies, with the generous support of the Japanese-United States Friendship Commission, selects three U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, seminars, advising students and researchers interested in the American past, and joining the collegiality of the host institution. It is part of an exchange program—the subject of a 3:30 p.m. session tomorrow—that also brings Japanese scholars and graduate students to the OAH Annual Meeting.

Committee members: John W. Chambers II, Rutgers University, Chair; Casey N. Blake, Columbia University; Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa Barbara; Masako Iino, Tsuda College, Japan; Valerie Matsumoto, University of California, Los Angeles; Masako Notoji, University of Tokyo-Komaba, Japan; Naoki Onishi, International Christian University, Japan.

The three two-week teaching residencies in Japan for 2002 were awarded to: **Beth Bailey**, University of New Mexico, who will visit Saitama University, Saitama City; **Davison M. Douglas**, William and Mary School of Law, who will visit Tohoku University, Sendai; and **David Farber**, University of New Mexico, who will visit Keio University, Mita Campus, Tokyo. □

La Pietra Dissertation Travel Fellowship in Transnational History

for graduate students whose dissertation topics deal with aspects of American history that extend beyond the territorial borders of the U.S.

Fellowship committee: Thomas Bender, New York University, Chair; Linda K. Kerber, University of Iowa, François Weil, École des Hautes Études in Sciences Sociales, France.



Masur

Matt Masur, Ohio State University, “Consumption Junction: American Consumer Culture in South Vietnam, 1954-1963.”

Consumption Junction examines U.S. efforts to introduce elements of American consumer culture into urban areas of South Vietnam to counter communist expansion there. Masur seeks to understand the interplay of these U.S. cultural programs designed to “win the hearts and minds” of the South Vietnamese, the role of the South Vietnamese government in this strategy, and the ways in which the Vietnamese, particularly youth, responded to this presentation of American culture. The study greatly extends the terrain of American cultural history. The La Pietra fellowship will enable him to travel to Vietnam for several months of research in archives there. □

Richard W. Leopold Prize

biennial prize for the best book written by a historian connected with federal, state, or municipal government, in the areas of foreign policy, military affairs broadly construed, the historical activities of the federal government, or biography in one of the foregoing areas

Prize committee: Gail Radford, State University of New York, Buffalo, Chair; Hal M. Friedman, Henry Ford Community College; Sandra Opdycke, Fordham University. The committee selected two cowinners of the Richard W. Leopold Prize this year.

Dale Andradé, U.S. Army Center of Military History and **Kenneth Conboy**, Control Risks Group, Indonesia, *Spies and Commandos: How America Lost the Secret War in North Vietnam* (University Press of Kansas, 2000).

S*pies and Commandos* is an exhaustively researched, sobering account of U.S. covert paramilitary operations in North Vietnam between 1960 and 1972. These missions, which were initiated by the CIA and later supervised by the Pentagon, were uniformly unsuccessful. Agents for the U.S. were routinely killed or “turned,” and at no time did their efforts undermine Hanoi’s war-making ability. Nevertheless, U.S. officials continued the program for twelve years. Conboy and Andradé provide important documentation and analysis of this little known dimension of the Vietnam War. By doing so, they help us think about the nature and consequences of covert action as a means for achieving America’s purposes in the world.



Conboy

Gary E. Weir, U.S. Naval Historical Center, *An Ocean in Common: American Naval Officers, Scientists, and the Ocean Environment* (Texas A&M University Press, 2001).

An Ocean in Common is an innovative work that links naval, scientific, and environmental history. Weir shows how U.S. naval officers and ocean scientists from a variety of disciplines came together in the early twentieth century to study the ocean as a system. Together they developed the new science of oceanography in the United States. The study breaks new ground within military history with its close attention to professional culture. Also, it makes an important contribution to the history of science in demonstrating how, in one crucial area, military goals and spending have influenced the direction of American scientific research. □



Weir

Lerner-Scott Prize

for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women's history

Prize committee: Anne M. Boylan, University of Delaware, Chair; Lisa M. Fine, Michigan State University; Kevin Gaines, University of Michigan.



Materson

Lisa G. Materson, Yale University, "Respectable Partisans: African American Women in Electoral Politics, 1877 to 1936."

In her path-breaking dissertation, Lisa Materson demonstrates that studying African American women's electoral activism can be the key to refocusing both women's history and African American political history. Through meticulous research, she reconstructs the experiences of Chicago and downstate Illinois African American women as voters, canvassers, suffragists, partisans, campaigners, and lobbyists. Through insightful interpretations, she challenges historians of women to rethink their assumptions about the exclusion of African American women from suffrage and partisan activity in the pre- and post-1920 eras. She also challenges historians of politics and the Great Migration to incorporate African American women into their studies of public culture. By focusing on African American women's use of partial voting rights (beginning in the 1890s) and their mobilization as full voters after 1920, Materson depicts them participating in the electoral process, drawing upon their clubs and associations and especially the African American church for support, and helping elect candidates. Most significantly, Materson shows that the experiences of Reconstruction and disfranchisement fundamentally shaped the political concerns of African American women into the Progressive Era and beyond, in the North as well as in the South. Her work reframes existing political narratives and demonstrates that African American women did not merely seek to enter public life, but in fact, shaped it. □

Horace Samuel & Marion Galbraith Merrill Travel Grants in Twentieth-Century American Political History

for younger scholars doing research in the Washington, D.C., region's rich primary source collections

Grants committee: Richard A. Baker, U.S. Senate Historical Office, Chair; Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa Barbara; William Van Deburg, University of Wisconsin.



Cahill

Cathleen D. Cahill, University of Chicago, "The Indian Service: The State, Gender, and Labor in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1869-1928." This dissertation argues for the significance of women and women's benevolence in the creation of Indian policy, turning the study of the development of federal bureaucracy away from Washington to the West. An institutional, intellectual, and social history, it focuses on both the programs of assimilation forged by reformers and policy-makers who relied on missionary models for their pedagogical approaches and the workers they hired to carry out their projects during the last decades of the nineteenth century.

Sara M. Gregg, Columbia University, “From Farms to Forest: Federal Conservation and Resettlement Programs in the Blue Ridge and Green Mountains, 1924-1976.” The Merrills would have loved to have nurtured this ambitious and intelligent project. Gregg seeks to examine federal land-use management policies in two mountain regions of the eastern United States. In Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, state policy makers supported the forced removal of seemingly inefficient subsistence farmers to make way for what they believed to be more effective land use in the establishment of Shenandoah National Park. The more politically engaged farmers in Vermont’s Green Mountains, however, rallied the support of state officials to resist similar resettlement programs in favor of voluntary additions to the national forest. Gregg examines the environmental impact of farming in marginal mountain areas and suggests that her study will necessarily complicate “the story of wilderness in the East” by exploring the transition from farm to forest and telling how the land was changed as a consequence.



Gregg

Adriane D. Smith, Yale University, “All Things Sacred: African Americans and the First World War.” This study of the African American freedom struggle during World War I grapples with the paradox of Wilsonian Progressivism. While the Wilson administration institutionalized white supremacy in both domestic and foreign policy, its war for democracy offered a language of “rights and liberties” that African Americans seized upon to facilitate their quest for citizenship. Through the figure of the black soldier, as trope and embodiment of racial manhood, Smith explores the possibilities and limits of popular political discourse.



Smith

Ann Marie Woodward, University of Kansas, “Between Growth and Entitlement: Fiscal Conservatism, Postwar Tax Policy and the Politics of ‘Pay-As-You-Go.’ ” Woodward examines the historical, social, and cultural significance of post-World War II payroll taxation policies, their relationship to the political process and their impact on American families. Her study of taxation will illuminate broader issues relating to citizenship and the democratic process. Key areas of inquiry include: the relationship between public policy, private interests, and cultural agendas; the historical roots of present-day fiscal conservatism; and the extent to which economic growth can be reconciled with individual fiscal entitlement. □

Louis Pelzer Memorial Award

for the best essay in American history by a graduate student

Award committee: Joanne Meyerowitz, Journal of American History, Chair; Daniel Czitrom, Mount Holyoke College; Jean H. Baker, Goucher College; Lynn Dumenil, Occidental College; Elizabeth R. Varon, Wellesley College.



Sklaroff

Lauren Rebecca Sklaroff, University of Virginia, “Constructing G.I. Joe (Louis): War Officials and the Dilemma of ‘Low Negro Morale’ during World War II.”

This outstanding essay examines how policymakers refrained from direct assaults on wartime racial discrimination and relied instead on popular culture to address the concern with “low Negro morale.” To alleviate racial tensions, officials in the War Department and the Office of War Information turned to radio, film, newspapers, magazines, and posters to emphasize the positive contributions of African Americans. The propaganda campaign featured heavyweight champion Joe Louis, among others, as a key representative of patriotism and black achievement. The “iconography of racial liberalism,” Sklaroff argues, failed to acknowledge, condemn, or remedy racial discrimination. Nonetheless, it offered and inspired subtle—and sometimes unintended—political commentary on racial inequities. The essay brings together the histories of popular culture, federal policy, and social movements with a breadth of research, clarity of prose, and thoughtfulness of argument. □

Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Precollegiate Teaching Award

for contributions made by a precollegiate or classroom teacher to improve history education

Award committee: Margaret Harris, Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, Chair; Betty Brandon, University of South Alabama; Michele Forman, Middlebury Union High School, Vermont.



Dickson

Ted Dickson, Providence Day School, Charlotte, North Carolina.

The committee unanimously selected Ted Dickson because of his extensive range and scope of activities. The committee was impressed by his classroom units of study such as the role play of a variety of characters at a “cocktail party” in the 1920s, as well as his community projects, such as Kids Voting. Both the depth and breadth of Dickson’s accomplishments are reflective of the six award criteria. His commitment to his students and his love of teaching are evident throughout his application. Dickson has presented at both regional and national conferences, including the OAH annual meeting, where he works to build bridges to other areas of the profession. He also reaches out to his local community in Charlotte by teaching citizenship through the Kids Voting program. Ted has developed a number of simulations encouraging historical thinking which he uses in his classroom and has published an article in the OAH *Magazine of History* on the Gilded Age. □

David Thelen Prize

for the best article on American history published in a foreign language

Prize committee: Joanne Meyerowitz, Journal of American History, Chair; Bruno Ramirez, University of Montreal, Canada; Christiane Harzig, University of Bremen, Germany; Thomas Schoonover, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Mauricio Tenorio Trillo, University of Texas at Austin.

Jürgen Martschukat, University of Hamburg, Germany, “The Art of Killing by Electricity: The Sublime and the Electric Chair” [“The Art of Killing by Electricity: Das Erhabene und der Elektrische Stuhl”], published in *Amerikastudien/American Studies: A Quarterly* 45:3 (2000).



Martschukat

The article uses the concept of the sublime to show how Americans associated electricity—and later, the electric chair—with technology, progress, and civilization. To American observers, the electric chair transformed executions from the barbarism and cruelty of the gallows to a wondrous, quick, and allegedly painless form of death. From the first electric chair execution in 1890, Martschukat argues, American observers celebrated civilized death as a symbol of an advanced, superior culture. The Thelen Prize committee was impressed with Martschukat’s insights from cultural studies as well as his historical research on science and technology. The result is an intriguing and original essay that raises provocative questions about the death penalty today. □

Frederick Jackson Turner Award

for an author’s first book dealing with some significant phase of American history

Award committee: Kenneth T. Jackson, Columbia University, Chair; Lisa Keller, Purchase College, State University of New York; Peter C. Mancall, University of Southern California.

Adam Rome, Pennsylvania State University, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).



Rome

Although suburbanization in the United States is now almost two centuries old, the process accelerated after World War II, as millions of returning servicemen sought new homes for their brides and baby boom children. Farms and fields gave way to tract homes, new roads cut through the countryside, and shopping centers and corporate office parks began to redirect daily life away from the old city centers. All these movements had environmental consequences, and Adam Rome elegantly and persuasively demonstrates how Americans first came to realize that the homes that we build affect the air and the water that are necessary for our existence. □

Appreciation of Support During the Adam's Mark Controversy



Mfume



Bond

After learning that the United States Justice Department was suing the Adam's Mark Hotel chain for racial discrimination, the Organization of American Historians decided in February 2000 to move its upcoming annual meeting in St. Louis from the Adam's Mark Hotel to Saint Louis University. Under the outstanding leadership of its president, David Montgomery, OAH took a substantial risk and incurred a major cost, but its collective stand against Adam's Mark's racism represented a shared commitment that makes us all proud to be members of this organization.

Following the annual meeting, Adam's Mark sued OAH for moving the meeting. For close to two years, committed civil rights attorney Lisa Van Amburg provided OAH with expert legal advice and was preparing the organization for its court battle with Adam's Mark. Largely through the efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and its leadership, however, the case against OAH was dropped last December. As historian Julian Bond concluded, OAH took a "principled stand against bigotry at great potential cost. In the end, justice prevailed and right triumphed—as history teaches us it often does." This is a lesson worth remembering.

OAH thanks **David Montgomery**, Attorney **Lisa Van Amburg**, and the leadership of the NAACP—President and CEO **Kweisi Mfume** and Chairman of the Board **Julian Bond**—for their support of OAH during this challenging time. □



Montgomery



Van Amburg



National History Day Student Performance

A short performance by **Jasmine Rouse** from Alice Deal Junior High School in Washington, D.C., will immediately precede the Presidential Address. Jasmine, an eighth grader, will deliver a dramatic, historical performance focusing on her church's struggle against the city and its plan to relocate the neighborhood. Her teacher is Cynthia Mostoller. □

2002 OAH Presidential Address

Ira Berlin, University of Maryland
OAH President-Elect, Presiding

*Black Professionals and Race
Consciousness: Origins of
the Civil Rights Movement, 1890-1955*



DARLENE CLARK HINE
Michigan State University

The presidential address focuses on the struggle of African American physicians and nurses to desegregate the Medical Department of the War Department during World War II. Between 1940 and 1945 black physicians and nurses, as leaders of the National Medical Association and the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, met repeatedly with white military officials in the Surgeon General's Office and with representatives of the War Department in order to ensure that black professionals would be given equal opportunity to serve in military hospital installations. The War Department's adherence to a policy of "segregation without discrimination" presented a formidable foe to black aspirations for inclusion. The long struggle black professionals waged to eradicate medical segregation, quotas, and to end discrimination within the military constitutes a critical opening chapter in the history of the modern black rights revolution. This World War II era case study advances the meta-argument, to wit, the history of black professionals and the evolution of their race consciousness, from 1890 to 1955, is essential to understanding the origins of the civil rights movement that transformed America. □

