Organization of American Historians

Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address

Saturday, April 22, 2006, 4:30 PM

Hilton Washington
Washington, D.C.
I. 2006 OAH Awards and Prizes

The Organization of American Historians sponsors annual awards and prizes given in recognition of scholarly and professional achievements in the field of American history. Please join us in congratulating the following 2006 OAH award and prize winners.

Distinguished Service Award

for an individual or individuals whose contributions have significantly enriched our understanding and appreciation of American history

The OAH presents its Distinguished Service Award to Lawrence W. Levine, Professor of History and Cultural Studies at George Mason University and the Margaret Byrne Professor of History Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, in recognition of his dedication to our profession, particularly his contributions to the field of American cultural history, his commitment to improving historical pedagogy, and his long-standing service to the Organization of American Historians.

Lawrence Levine's scholarship has shaped a generation of American historians, bringing new insights through the exploration of the broad terrain of American history. Through meticulous scholarship and delightfully felicitous prose, Lawrence Levine has interrogated some of the most intransigent sources to make the past speak to us and throw light on worlds long kept in the shadows. Levine's wide-ranging historical studies have been especially important in incorporating the tools of other disciplines. His use of folktales and music in his pathbreaking *Black Culture and Black Consciousness* revealed new ways to understand those previously deemed voiceless. Lawrence Levine challenged the profession to become more inclusive of other peoples, other theories, and other methods by demonstrating how it could best be done.

Beyond his scholarship, Levine has been an active member of the history profession, devoting much of his energy and time to improving the study of history through his leadership of the Organization of American Historians. Within our organization, his service reaches back over thirty years, as a member of the program committee, numerous prize committees, the budget review committee, the executive board, and finally as president. His knowledge, his commitment, and his wisdom have made the OAH a stronger, more vigorous, and more diverse organization—open to new ideas, new peoples, and new ways of practicing history.

In keeping with the mission of the OAH, Lawrence Levine has also helped to promote history teaching and scholarship. As an active member of the OAH's Distinguished Lectureship Program, he has spoken to dozens of audiences, popular as well as professional. As chair of the Committee on Community Colleges and during his tenure as President of the OAH, he has taken the lead in improving history teaching in community colleges across the nation. With a grand vision of the practice of history, Larry has helped to integrate public historians and secondary school teachers into the historical profession.
Lawrence Levine’s presidential address, “Clio, Canons, and Culture,” spoke directly to the conflicts over historical inquiry and the controversy over the challenge to traditional narrative posed by the new social and cultural histories. It revealed Levine’s deep investment not only in the contemporary practice of history but also in its future direction. Through his scholarship, his teaching, and his service, Lawrence Levine has set the practice of history on a better path. We all enjoy the fruits of his labor.

For his dedication to the history profession, his success in expanding the boundaries of historical scholarship, his embrace of a more diverse and inclusive pedagogy, and his deep appreciation for the importance of the past, the Organization of American Historians is proud to award Lawrence Levine its 2006 Distinguished Service Award. ★

Friend of History

The OAH Friend of History Award recognizes an individual or an institution or organization for outstanding support for the pursuit of historical research, for the public presentation of history, or for the work of the Organization of American Historians. This year the OAH Executive Board recognizes Geoffrey C. Ward, an independent scholar.

There is a danger that any citation of Geoffrey Ward is going to sound grandiose because over the last twenty years Geoffrey Ward’s writings on American history have had a greater influence and reached a wider audience than those of any other American writer and historian. Geoffrey Ward is a skilled historian and eloquent writer and a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1990 for his book, A First Class Temperament: The Emergence of Franklin Roosevelt. He is a winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Los Angeles Times Award for Best Biography, the Francis Parkman Award of the Society of American Historians and his latest book, Unforgivable Blacness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson, won the Anisfield-Wolf Award for 2005.

His influence, however, extends beyond those who read his books. He has served as the editor of American Heritage, and as the head writer for Ken Burns, his words, read by others, have reached into American homes and American classrooms. If historians, as they may soon have to do, grant awards for writing for documentaries, the award would become the monopoly of Geoffrey Ward. He has already won an Emmy Award for Civil War and for Baseball.

Geoffrey Ward’s skill as an historian or a writer is not, however, what wins him this particular award as a Friend of History. Geoffrey Ward has had the unenviable task of negotiating—endlessly, generously, patiently, carefully, and fruitfully—with academic historians who have been consultants on the documentaries that he has written. Geoffrey Ward’s work is always his own, but he has also helped free ideas that otherwise might have been imprisoned in the academy and helped them find a wider world. He has helped academic historians understand the possibilities, limits, and demands of what has become the medium through which most Americans now get their history. For this we thank him. ★

Frederick Jackson Turner Award

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

Award committee: James O. Horton, The George Washington University, Chair; Kyle Longley, Arizona State University; and Maria E. Montoya, University of Michigan.

Tiya Alicia Miles, University of Michigan, Ties that Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom (University of California Press). Tiya Miles has written a moving account of the Shoe Boots family, a family centered in the Cherokee Nation. Their experience illuminates the intersection of race, slavery, and freedom in the nineteenth century. It is the story of Shoe Boots, a Cherokee war hero who, in the 1790s acquired Doll, a South Carolina slave. Master and slave lived together for 25 years, most of that time as a married couple, and produced a family of 5 children. This is a poignant narrative conveying the complex meaning of family, slavery and racial identity at a time when both Native Americans and African Americans struggled against different kinds and degrees of oppression in a nation claiming a commitment to freedom and equality. With her beautifully written and finely crafted narrative, Miles has made a seminal contribution to the broad field of social and cultural history. Her nuanced analysis enriches and reshapes our understanding of the blurred boundaries of culture, race, and family in nineteenth-century America.

Honorable Mention

Eiichiro Azuma, University of Pennsylvania, Between Two Empires: Race, History, and Transnationalism in Japanese America (Oxford University Press). Between Two Empires is a thoroughly researched and theoretically sophisticated discussion of Japanese immigrants to America in the years before World War II. In it, Azuma provides a compelling analysis of a unique transnational identity that forged international links between a Japanese homeland and an American residence. These Issei—regarded by Japan as part of its cultural and racial expansion—managed to negotiate American racial and class structure, even though they remained aliens in a society that precluded their national citizenship. This is a complex tale of transnationalism told by a scholar with an impressive crosscultural understanding and facility. It stands as a major contribution to the emerging field of transnational history. ★
Robert J. Schneller, Jr., Naval Historical Center, Breaking the Color Barrier: The U.S. Naval Academy’s First Black Midshipmen and the Struggle for Racial Equality (New York University Press). Schneller’s work is a thoughtful and touching account of the long struggle to open the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis to African Americans. Schneller recounts this history from Reconstruction through World War II, detailing the painful experiences of those African American plebes who were driven from the Naval Academy by racial hostility. The resistance to integration had not abated by 1945, when Wesley Brown was admitted. Through extensive documentary and oral history research, Schneller relates the difficulties faced by Brown and some courageous classmates, among them a future president of the United States, Jimmy Carter, who befriended and helped sustain him. Brown’s graduation in 1949 finally broke the color barrier and opened the way for other minority applicants. His singular achievement is set against a larger backdrop of military and social history that allows readers to appreciate the magnitude of Brown’s accomplishment. Schneller’s informed and sympathetic treatment of his subject transforms it from an institutional history into a work that will appeal to all those concerned with civil rights in the United States.

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

Anne Sarah Rubin, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, A Shattered Nation: The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy, 1861-1868 (University of North Carolina Press). Rubin’s beautifully written book contributes importantly to our understanding of the creation of Confederate nationalism, as well as the longevity of Confederate identity in American life. Using a rich variety of materials—including sermons, literature, schoolbooks, and music, among others—Rubin reveals not only how quickly Confederate identity was shaped in wartime, but provides fresh insight into the persistence of that identity among southern whites after the Civil War. Of particular interest is Rubin’s exploration of the importance of gender in shaping white southern identity: as she shows, ideas of masculinity and femininity were fundamental to the redefinition of Confederate identity after 1865. But perhaps the most powerfully resonant aspect of Rubin’s work is her fascinating examination of the dual identities constructed by former Confederates. Building on a wide range of studies of nationalism in fresh new ways, Rubin allows us to understand the complexity of the process by which many southern whites publicly insisted that they were loyal American citizens even as they privately maintained a separate, resistant, and often defiant identity. As Drew Gilpin Faust has commented, Rubin’s work “moves the discussion of Confederate nationalism onto a new plane.”
James A. Rawley Prize
for a book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States. The OAH notes with sorrow the passing of Professor Rawley last November.

Prize committee: Clement Alexander Price, Rutgers University, Chair; Chris Friday, Western Washington University; and Gerald Horne, University of Houston.

James Edward Smethurst, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, The Black Arts Movement: Literary Nationalism in the 1960s and 1970s (University of North Carolina Press). The Black Arts Movement: Literary Nationalism in the 1960s and 1970s is an ambitious and enormously successful historical exploration of black creativity, cultural politics, intellectual fervor and ethnic chauvinism during the civil rights movement and post-civil rights era. Smethurst sheds a brilliant light on the complicated cultural and political terrain of community activism around the nation. Smethurst’s broad outlook, which is supported by thorough research and a careful consideration of the diversity of opinions by an array of historical actors, marks the maturity of serious scholarship on the Black Power Movement. And it significantly contributes to our understanding of the enduring influence of the Black Arts Movement on contemporary American culture.

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: Tim Borstelmann, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Chair; David Farber, Temple University; and Julie Greene, University of Colorado, Boulder.

Meg Jacobs, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Pocketbook Politics: Economic Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America (Princeton University Press). Jacobs offers a fresh and provocative interpretation of liberal reform in the United States in the first six decades of the twentieth century. This deeply researched narrative blends state-oriented policymaking and grassroots consumer organizing to recast modern American liberalism as profoundly concerned with the cost of living and thus “pocketbook politics.” Drawing on labor history, cultural history, economic history, and political history, Jacobs demonstrates how policymakers, economic elites, and masses of consumers sparred over questions of fair prices, fair wages, and the role of the national government in determining Americans’ purchasing power. She identifies an important alliance of organized labor and large segments of the middle class around issues of affordable prices that reached an apex of influence during the war years of the early 1940s. Sweeping in chronological scope, Pocketbook Politics builds on a burgeoning historiography to write a new narrative of the politicization of the consumer interest as a vital aspect of American elections, policymaking, and state building.

Liberty Legacy Foundation Award
for the best book on any aspect of the struggle for civil rights in the United States, from the nation’s founding to the present

Award committee: Gary Y. Okihiro, Columbia University, Chair; Stephanie Cole, University of Texas, Arlington; and Kenneth R. Janken, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Matthew J. Countryman, University of Michigan, Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania Press). In an elegantly crafted and compelling account, Countryman examines the rise of colorblind liberalism in Philadelphia rooted in the New Deal and trade union movement, and its fall by the 1950s due to the bankruptcy of that liberal vision. The potency of black power derived from its critique of the liberal state and its pursuit of race-based economic uplift and community control, while its demise rested in its inability to effect long-term change amidst urban blight, deindustrialization, and shifts to the suburbs, and not in the alleged dichotomy between nonviolent protest and civil rights and self-defense and black power. A solid piece of historical scholarship, Countryman’s Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia deepens and broadens our understanding of the civil rights movement.

Honorable Mention
Emilie Crosby, State University of New York, Geneseo, A Little Taste of Freedom: The Black Freedom Struggle in Claiborne County, Mississippi (University of North Carolina Press). A discrete community study, Emilie Crosby’s A Little Taste of Freedom engages large historical questions, including periodization, leadership, economic boycotts, and armed self-defense in the civil rights movement. Above all, this wonderfully narrated account gives primacy to African American agency amidst a stifling and tenacious white opposition. Of particular note is the more than one hundred oral histories that offer startling insights missed by assumptions derived from the national civil rights movement and that bring to life the persistent and effective African American quest for freedom.

Lerner-Scott Prize
for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women’s history

Prize committee: Kathi Kern, University of Kentucky, Chair; Maria Raquel Casas, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, The Ohio State University.

Margot Canaday, Princeton University, “The Straight State: Sexuality and American Citizenship, 1900-1969.” Written under the direction of Sara M. Evans and Barbara Y. Welke, University of Minnesota, Canaday’s extraordinary dissertation reexamines state formation and citizenship in relation to sexuality. Weaving political and legal history, the history of sexuality, and the history of women into a finely crafted argument, Canaday transforms our understanding of the state, of citizenship, and of the emergence of new political identities over the course of the twentieth century. Canaday investigates how the federal government regulated and formulated homosexuality as a category of identity by studying three arenas of state
apparatus: immigration, welfare, and the military. Based on painstaking archival research, Canaday masterfully mines government sources both for their policy implications as well as their human drama. She persuades us that “homosexuality, which was relatively unmarked in federal policy in the early-twentieth century, became increasingly central in defining who could enter the country and be naturalized, who could serve in the military, and who could collect state benefits.” For American women, this transition marked a profound shift. The federal government relinquished its “long history of state indifference to homosexuality among women” only when women began to reap the benefits of full citizenship. In a narrative that is insightful, funny, moving, and complex, Canaday illuminates the path by which heterosexual identity became a condition of U.S. citizenship.

**Louis Pelzer Memorial Award**

*for the best essay in American history by a graduate student*

Award committee: Edward T. Linenthal, Journal of American History, Chair; John Dittmer, DePauw University; Carl Guarneri, St. Mary’s College of California; Andrew J. Rotter, Colgate University; and Martha Saxton, Amherst College.

**Wendy Anne Warren**, Yale University, “‘The Cause of Her Grief’: The Rape of a Slave Woman in Early New England.” In this compelling essay, Warren seeks to recover from anonymity a slave woman raped in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the fall of 1638. We do not know her name, the author tells us, and we do not know the particulars of the rape. We know of it only from a paragraph in John Josselyn’s *Two Voyages to New England*. Josselyn was an Anglican, visiting his brother and gathering information for potential investors. He was a guest in the house of the merchant Samuel Maverick, who owned the slave woman and two other slaves. Desiring “a breed of Negroes,” Maverick ordered his male slave to have sex with the slave woman, and she resisted. Josselyn wrote, “Mr. Maverick’s Negro woman came to my chamber window, and in her own Courtyard language and tune sang very loud and shrill…and willingly would have expressed her grief in English; but I apprehended it by her countenance and deportment, wherupon I repaired to my host, to learn of him the cause…” Warren’s essay is an exercise in the conscientious employment of historical imagination and invention. The author concludes, “The research available to me can offer only faint hints as to the cause of her grief. But there is some relief in knowing that I have tried.” This article, written in a voice not often found in the pages of the *Journal of American History*, is a worthy recipient of the Louis Pelzer Memorial Award.

**Binkley-Stephenson Award**

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

Award committee: Bruce Levine, University of California, Santa Cruz, Chair; Estelle Freedman, Stanford University; and Pauline Maier, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Manfred Berg**, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität, “Black Civil Rights and Liberal Anticommunism: The NAACP during the McCarthy Era.” Berg argues that the accusations that the civil rights organization sold its soul to avoid being considered sympathetic to the Communist Party of the USA (CPUSA) and that it thereby weakened its advocacy of civil rights are unfair. Berg asserts that the NAACP’s goals were rarely congruent with the CPUSA and that its anticommunism was not as strident as some historians have claimed. In fact, Berg writes, the NAACP’s philosophy of “liberal anticommunism” preserved the mainstream political legitimacy of the movement for civil rights without subjecting the organization to internal ideological purges during the McCarthy era. Berg’s articulate essay makes good use of primary source materials in the Library of Congress and extends an important historiographical conversation about the NAACP, domestic politics, and the Cold War.

**Jamie J. Fader, Michael B. Katz, and Mark J. Stern**, University of Pennsylvania, “The New African American Inequality.” This ambitious and revealing essay explores some of the most dramatic changes that occurred within U.S. society during the twentieth century. By skillfully employing census data, these three authors illuminate and analyze the evolving nature of black/white inequality—from the relatively monolithic forms imposed by the overt, formal, and legalized color bar of the Jim Crow era down through the subtler, more complex and differentiated, but no less dramatic and consequential patterns that appeared by the end of the twentieth century. The formal outlawing of segregation and discrimination, they convincingly demonstrate, significantly expanded individual opportunity for some and thereby permitted the growth and prosperity of the country’s black middle class. But the authors show just as clearly and by a host of indices that severe economic inequality remained a central fact of life for a large segment of the African American population. This essay commands respect for the extended historical era that it examines; for using quantitative evidence to make sweeping arguments about long-term change; for illuminating relationships among gender, class, and race and particularly the distinctive patterns of African American women’s economic opportunities; for the care with which it frames its conclusions; and for the important contribution it makes by graphically demonstrating how a rigorous analysis of the historical past can illuminate the present.

**David Thelen Award**

A biennial prize for the best article on American history published in a foreign language. The winning article will be translated into English and published in the *Journal of American History*.

Award committee: Edward T. Linenthal, Journal of American History, Chair; Rob Kroeze, Amerika Instituut; Leila J. Rupp, University of California, Santa Barbara; Axel R. Schäfer, Keele University; and Mauricio Tenorio, University of Texas, Austin.
Huggins-Quarles Award
for graduate students of color at the dissertation research stage of their Ph.D. program

Award committee: Kevin Mumford, University of Iowa, Chair; Ernesto Chávez, University of Texas, El Paso; Donald L. Fixico, Arizona State University; David G. Gutiérrez, University of California, San Diego; and Daniel R. Mandell, Truman State University.


The winners of this year’s award demonstrated the promise of the new transnational studies for expanding the boundaries of African-American history and race relations in quite different yet complementary ways. Both students are at work on a little-known movement in the 1950s to promote the adoption of Korean infants and children by families in the United States. Both dissertations will take up military and diplomatic history, while sustaining an analysis of transnational activism and the construction of the family. Finally, the proposals focus on the unique challenges posed by both mixed-race children and cross-racial adoptive families to the racial formation in the nation.

In her proposal, Graves will examine the range of responses to Korean children, for many viewed the newcomers as an uncomfortable reminder of ideological conflict during the Cold War. The proposed research casts a wide net into the Children’s Bureau, the National Urban League, and the papers of Pearl S. Buck. Analytically wide-ranging, Graves intends to center the tolerant response from the already stigmatized African American family, and argues that such a narrative “has disappeared from contemporary discussions of adoption.”

In her proposal, Oh challenges traditional narratives of a conservative consensus by focusing on the persistence of religious humanitarianism and the operation of the military to explain how “deeply felt and profoundly private religious and familial concerns became entangled with the broader political agenda of Cold War America.” The proposed research focuses on INS and U.S. State Department records, which promise to illuminate adoption and family reconstruction in the broader context of Asian American immigration. Oh is particularly interested in the emergent field of social work and its role in promoting interracial adoption, as well as reinforcing normative definitions of family.

Tachau Teacher of the Year Award
for contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education

Award committee: Debra Savage, Westside High School (TX), Chair; Steven Mintz, University of Houston; and Howard Seretan, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Barry Bradford is a United States history teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School where he also teaches English and psychology. He has been teaching since 1985. Quoting Howard Seretan, a member of the Tachau committee, “Barry Bradford is an innovative teacher who has been responsible for an outstanding cocurricular program at his school. Most remarkable, he worked with students who researched the lynching of three men and found that the real killer was never tried despite a confession. After the students won national recognition for their project, the case was reopened. He is also responsible for a variety of programs involving cable television, the environment, exchange programs, tutoring, and specialized study of certain historical events or themes. Mr. Bradford is an innovative teacher who seeks to bring excitement into his lessons. It is interesting to use guest speakers and controversial figures to evaluate the Warren Commission findings on the Kennedy assassination.” Through his involvement with the National History Day program, he fosters an interest in his students to actually “do” history. To quote Brittan Saltiel, one of his current students, “Mr. Bradford is truly committed to supporting us in our interest in history…He works with the History Fair teams before school, during lunches and study halls, and after school to describe obscure historical figures, proofread papers and scripts, assist in editing documentaries, and set up interviews. It is this last function that makes Mr. Bradford such a unique sponsor. He … adds that “only with the guidance and support of Barry Bradford could I have been able to achieve this level of success.”
era dominated by terrorism and the media, the saga of Patty Hearst continues to resonate.

**Honorable Mention**

**American Experience**, *Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst*. Executive Producers: Mark Samels and Nick Fraser. Producer: Robert Stone. Distributor: New Video. In *Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst*, documentary filmmaker Robert Stone provides new insights into one of the most bizarre events in recent American history: the kidnapping of heiress Patty Hearst and her reemergence as the revolutionary Tania. Drawing upon interviews with former members of the Symbionese Liberation Army, as well as rare archival footage and tape recordings, Stone attempts to place the Hearst story within the context of the turbulent 1960s and 1970s. Eschewing the use of an omnipresent narrator, Stone allows viewers to reach their own conclusions regarding the odyssey of Hearst from heiress to revolutionary to apparent victim of the Stockholm Syndrome. In an impressive insights into the emotional and political realities of student activists, US soldiers, and even Vietnamese military officers. Weaving together the two events, they show the similarities of experience across the political divides, as they trace the decisions to fight or to protest, the miscalculations by leaders (a military officer in Vietnam and the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin), the escalation of violence in each situation, and even the politics of class and culture that shaped the two events. This film is as much about memory as it is about the historical events themselves. Each of the interviewees struggles with what the intervening years have forced them to consider, and with the disillusionment they have faced—with the U.S. government, with the war, and sometimes with themselves.

Please join us in thanking the hardworking members of the OAH award and prize committees, who volunteered their time, expertise, and wisdom for the 2006 OAH awards and prizes.
II. 2006 OAH Fellowships and Grants

OAH-JAAS Short Term Residencies
The OAH and the Japanese Association of American Studies, with the generous support of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, select 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 that also brings Japanese graduate students to the OAH annual meeting.

Residencies committee: Mary Rothschild, Arizona State University, Chair; Juri Abe, Rikkyo University; Beth Bailey, Temple University; James O. Horton, The George Washington University; Robert McMahon, University of Florida; Masako Notoji, University of Tokyo, Konabu; Naoki Onishi, International Christian University; G. Kurt Piehler, University of Tennessee; and Noriko Shimada, Japan Women’s University.

Donald L. Fixico, Arizona State University
Rikkyo University, American Indian History

Paul R. Spickard, University of California, Santa Barbara
Kansai University, Japanese American History

White House History Fellowships
for projects that illuminate the historical roles of the White House as home, workplace, museum, structure and symbol

Fellowships committee: John H. Sprinkle, Jr., National Park Service, Chair; Luisa E. Bonillas, Arizona State University; Dickson D. Bruce, Jr., University of California, Irvine; Eve Carr, Zoological Society of San Diego; Randall M. Miller, Saint Joseph’s University; Lee Ann Potter, National Archives; and John P. Riley, White House Historical Association, ex officio.

Precollegiate Education
Susan Hamilton Mitchell, Oceanside (CA) Unified School District, “Encounters at the White House: The President and Native American Delegations (1850-1865).” Mitchell’s project will focus on the White House as a “great, national meeting place” in the relationship between Native Americans and the presidency during the mid-nineteenth century. What expectations did the president and Native American delegations have regarding these official performances? What official business was conducted and what kinds of gifts were exchanged during these encounters? Using a variety of primary and secondary sources, Mitchell will develop teaching materials that illustrate these meetings and their significance, while helping students analyze multiple viewpoints and develop critical thinking skills.

Research
Pamela Scott, Independent Scholar, “Designated for Public Purposes: The Evolution of Lafayette Square.” Scott’s project will provide a critical review of the development of Lafayette Square. Located at the north entrance to the White House, a variety of well-known designers have influenced the park’s change over time, including Peter L’Enfant, Thomas Jefferson, and A. J. Downing, but other anonymous builders, craftsmen and developers were at work in the transformation of this very public square. By examining documents and drawings as well as newspaper and other accounts, Scott will be able to provide a fuller appreciation for Lafayette Square’s development prior to the Civil War.

Catherine Clinton, Writer, “Mrs. Lincoln.” Clinton’s proposal will support the preparation of a new biography on Mary Lincoln as the wife of the sixteenth president. “Mary Lincoln’s role as First Lady (an appellation that came into popular usage during her White House tenure) transformed her reputation” as she was “battered by an unforgiving press.” Comprehensively reexamining White House records, this study will elucidate Mary Lincoln’s relationship with Elizabeth Keckly, her dresser and confidant, to illustrate complex gender and racial dynamics during the mid-nineteenth century and will place Mrs. Lincoln and the First Family in the context of wartime Washington.

OAH/Immigration and Ethnic History Society Higham Travel Grants
for graduate students to be used toward costs of attending the OAH/IEHS annual meeting

Grants committee: Nancy Foner, Hunter College, City University of New York, Chair; Raymond Gavins, Duke University; and Stuart McConnell, Pitzer College, Claremont.

Brian D. Behnken, University of California, Davis, “The Triracial Struggle for Civil Rights in Texas: Blacks, Mexican Americans, and the Limits of Interethnic Unity,” presented here at the 2006 OAH/NCPH Annual Meeting, explores relations between African Americans and Mexican Americans during the civil rights era.


2006 OAH Presidential Address
Richard White, Stanford University
OAH President-Elect, Presiding

Vicki L. Ruiz
University of California, Irvine

Nuestra América
Latino History as U.S. History


In 2003 Ruiz served as interim director of UCI's Humanities Out There, a community partnership program in which graduate student workshop leaders and undergraduate tutors bring innovative humanities programming to students in the Santa Ana Unified School District and in that year she received the UCI Humanities Associates Faculty Teaching Award. When she was at Arizona State University, she received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Award (2000), ASU Commission on the Status of Women Outstanding Achievement and Contribution Award (2001), and ASU Faculty Women's Association Distinguished Mentor Award (2001). She also served as a Clinton recess appointment to the National Humanities Council (2000-2001).

She is past president of the Berkshire Conference of Women's Historians. In 2005 she and Virginia Sánchez Korrol received a “21 Leaders for the 21st Century” award by women's e-news network. Ruiz is the new president-elect of the American Studies Association. Her former graduate students teach at a variety of institutions, including Brown University, the University of Utah, and three of the California State University campuses.
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The Journal of American History (JAH): The leading scholarly publication on the American past—online version is fully searchable.

OAH Magazine of History: A thematic resource for educators of American history.

OAH Newsletter: Timely information on key issues and opportunities in the profession.

Recent Scholarship Online (RSO): A searchable, cumulative database of citations for new books, dissertations, CD-ROMs, and articles drawn from more than 1,100 journals.

RSO Personalized E-mail Updates: Sign up to receive quarterly e-mails of citations to the latest scholarship, customized according to the keywords and categories you have selected, months before they appear in the print version of the JAH.

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Building a Lasting Legacy for the Study of U.S. History

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Upcoming Meetings

2006  Lincoln, Nebraska
      Midwest Regional
      July 6–8
      Cornhusker Hotel

2007  Minneapolis, Minnesota
      Centennial Convention
      March 29–April 1
      Hilton Minneapolis and
      Minneapolis Convention Center

2008  New York, New York
      March 28–31
      Hilton New York

2008  Vancouver, British Columbia
      Western Regional

2009  Seattle, Washington
      March 26–29
      Washington State Convention Center

2010  Washington, D.C.
      April 7–10
      Hilton Washington

www.oah.org/meetings

Organization of American Historians
The third regional OAH conference will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 6-8, 2006. Its theme is “Historic Heartland: Celebrating a Century of OAH,” and it aims to reach members and other historians and teachers living in or having an interest in the Midwest and Great Plains. The special purpose of the conference is to launch the centennial celebration of OAH, which was founded in Lincoln, Nebraska, as the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

The opening plenary session surveys the origins, history, and future of the OAH. Nearly forty sessions explore compelling historical topics, including the civil rights movement, gender and sexuality, politics and war, Native American history, the westward movement, African American history, and agriculture. The meeting will also present state-of-the-art methodological perspectives on teaching, community history, oral history, digital scholarship, and public history. Plenary luncheon speakers will include Devra Weber, University of California, Riverside, and James T. Patterson, Brown University.

Two special events will celebrate the time and the place of this conference. On Friday evening, a reception at the Nebraska State Historical Society will commemorate the centennial of the founding of the OAH. The meeting will conclude with an old-fashioned barbecue, complete with all the historic trimmings, at Homestead National Monument.

The 2006 OAH Midwest Regional Conference in Lincoln promises intellectual stimulation amid the pleasures of the heartland. Historians of all varieties—college and university professors, high school teachers, archivists, public historians, students, and anyone with an interest in learning and sharing unique perspectives on American history—are welcome.