Organization of American Historians

Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address

Saturday, March 31, 2007, 4:00 PM

Hilton Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN
2007 OAH Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address  
Saturday, March 31, 2007

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I. 2007 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 2007 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

This year the executive board of the Organization of American Historians confers its Distinguished Service Award on two individuals: Roy Rosenzweig and David M. Kennedy.

The executive board recognizes Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason University, for his outstanding contributions to labor and public history, and his dedication to reaching new and diverse audiences as expressed in his pioneering efforts in the uses of digital technology and new media. Over his more than thirty-year career, Rosenzweig’s work has served as a model of collaborative, public-spirited service and research.

Roy Rosenzweig is the Mark and Barbara Fried Professor of History and New Media; College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of History; and Director of the Center for History and New Media, George Mason University, where he has taught since 1981. Rosenzweig earned his Ph.D. in history at Harvard (1978). His dissertation, later published as *Eight Hours for What We Will: Workers and Leisure in an Industrial City, 1880-1920* (Cambridge University Press, 1983) insisted that explorations into popular amusements and pastimes are as central to our understanding of working class politics as voting patterns, strikes, and shop floor protests. *The Park and the People: A History of Central Park*, coauthored with Elizabeth Blackmar (Cornell University Press, 1992) won prizes for urban history, historic preservation, and New York history, and remains the definitive study of the park. In *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life* (1998), Rosenzweig and coauthor David Thelen challenged us to move beyond our pessimism regarding Americans’ lack of historical knowledge, and to appreciate our publics’ deep personal connections to the past through the compilation of genealogies, memorabilia collections, and museum visits.

Rosenzweig is unmatched among his peers as an advocate for new media and technology and he has guided (and sometimes gently pushed) many of us through the technological revolution. He has been associated with a list of pioneering media projects which includes the American Social History Project CD-ROM, *Who Built America?* (2000); his additional participation as an editor and author of the print volumes represented a culmination of a life’s dedication to history “from the bottom up” for Roy and many of his colleagues at the ASHP. In 1994 Rosenzweig founded the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, which has been at the forefront of efforts to use new media and digital technology to
promote an inclusive and democratic understanding of the past, while reaching new and diverse audiences.

A life member of the OAH, Rosenzweig has aided numerous organizational programs and committees over the past seventeen years. He played a lead role in incorporating electronic technology into the various programs and operations, including serving on the electronic advisory committee.

The Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians also confers the Distinguished Service Award upon David M. Kennedy, who has profoundly shaped our understanding of the 20th Century American experience through the publication of the highly regarded *Over Here: The First World War and American Society Over Here* (1980), and the Pulitzer Prize winning *Freedom From Fear: The American People in Depression and War* (1999). Over the course of his more than forty years as a historian, Kennedy has demonstrated a strong commitment to history education and the preparation of history teachers, as well as making important contributions to contemporary debates over issues of immigration, cultural diversity, and the presidency through his numerous essays in major newspapers and magazines.

David M. Kennedy is the Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History at Stanford University, where he has taught since 1967. He received his PhD in American Studies from Yale University in 1968, and three years later received the Bancroft Prize for his first book, *Birth Control in America: The Career of Margaret Sanger*. In 1988 Stanford honored Kennedy with its Dean’s Award for Outstanding Teaching and again in 2005 with the Hoagland Prize for Undergraduate Teaching. He is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

His service to the OAH has been exemplary, including a term on the OAH Executive Board (2002-2005). Kennedy has been a particular friend to precollegiate teachers and has served as a featured speaker for the National Council for History Education and the Organization of History Teachers; as a co-organizer of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History seminar on the West, the Depression and the New Deal; and a participant in Teaching American History seminars. His books are widely used in high schools.

Kennedy’s research and writing, his immeasurable contributions to the profession, and tireless dedication to his students make him richly deserving of the high honor this award conveys.

**OAH Friend of History Award**

The OAH Friend of History Award recognizes an individual (who is not necessarily a professional historian), 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 two individuals and an institution. The individuals are U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd and Dr. Libby O’Connell, Chief Historian and Senior Vice President for Corporate Outreach and Educational Initiatives for A&E Television Networks. The institution is The History Channel of the A&E Television Networks.
Born in North Carolina in 1917, Senator Robert C. Byrd was raised in the coal mining regions of West Virginia. He was elected to the state house of delegates in 1946, to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1952, and to the United States Senate in 1958. Although he never attended college, he did attend law school at night at American University while serving as a United States Senator, graduating in 1963. He also received a B.A. in political science from Marshall University in 1994.

Senator Byrd was elected Senate Democratic Whip in 1971 and Senate Democratic Leader in 1977. He served as majority leader from 1977 to 1981, and again from 1985 to 1989. He is currently the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and president pro tempore of the Senate, positions he also held from 1989 to 1995 and again from 2001 to 2003.


In 2001, Senator Byrd introduced legislation which led to the establishment of the “Teaching American History” grants program. These grants were to be used to improve the teaching of American history, as distinct from social studies, in America’s public schools. The goal of this program is to allow for local school districts and institutions with expertise in American history to collaborate over a three-year period to help teachers develop the knowledge and skills necessary to teach traditional American history in an exciting and engaging way. In 2006, the department awarded 124 grants totaling more than $118 million to school districts in 38 states. The previous year, some 129 grants totaling more than $118 million were awarded to school districts in forty states. In all, over a half-billion dollars in federal funds have been awarded to school systems around the country.

In 2004, Senator Byrd helped pass legislation that required “each federal institution that receives federal funds to hold an educational program on the U.S. Constitution” on Constitution Day (September 17) each year. Also in 2004, Senator Byrd spearheaded the effort to establish an Office of History (HO) within the Department of Homeland Security.

Since Senator Byrd was unable to be with us today to receive his award, several OAH leaders went to Washington to bestow it upon him there on March 1. Accompanied by a half of dozen other OAH members, they presented him with a plaque in his U.S. Capitol building office. Senator Byrd was “flattered and honored” and spent 45 minutes with the OAH group discussing the importance of history. He told the group that his “study of both English and Roman history . . . inspired me to understand the dangers inherent in the Reagan and both Bush Administrations’ efforts to grasp more
and more power at the expense of the legislative branch.” He noted that “Few endeavors deserve more attention and support at the federal level than the promotion of the study of our national heritage. It is of the utmost importance that the federal government promotes the teaching of history in our public schools and encourages them to develop, implement, and strengthen classes in American history. That is why I created the Teaching American History Grant Program.” He thanked OAH “for recognizing and appreciating” his efforts. Byrd concluded by congratulating “the OAH on its centennial. . . . One hundred years of promoting excellence in the scholarship, the teaching, and the presentation of American history is quite a mission. What a noble purpose!”

The Organization of American Historians deeply appreciates all that Senator Byrd has done and continues to do to promote the cause of American history. He is indeed a Friend of History.

Launched in January 1995, The History Channel, a mainstream cable television channel produced by A&E Television Networks (AETN), has presented audiences around the world with more than a decade of history related programming. For most of that time, Dr. Libby O’Connell has been a model for how to use the power of television to educate and inspire. In her current role at A&E, she serves as historical advisor for the History Channel’s programming department, develops and produces educational and community-based initiatives, and oversees onsite video production with organizations such as the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service. Two of her educational initiatives—Save Our History and the Biography Project for Schools—have received the prestigious Governor’s Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. O’Connell and her staff also provide educational content for the websites of the AETN. In large part due to O’Connell’s consultations and collaborations with an increasing number of professional historians, the quality of programming on The History Channel has greatly improved over the years.

O’Connell received her M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia. Her doctoral work was in seventeenth-century history, focusing on the relationship between Great Britain and the American colonies. She has taught history at Long Island University and has served as president of Raynham Hall Museum on Long Island. O’Connell currently serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the Civil War Preservation Trust, and National History Day. She is also on the Council of Scholar Advisors for George Washington’s home, Mount Vernon.

Dr. O’Connell and The History Channel have been longtime advocates of the Organization of American Historians and continue supporting its annual meeting and major teaching publication, the OAH Magazine of History. For all of their efforts at translating the best professional history for broad public audiences, the Organization of American Historians honors Libby O’Connell and The History Channel as a 2007 Friend of History.
Frederick Jackson Turner Award
for an author’s first book dealing with some significant phase of American history

Award committee: Vicki L. Ruiz, University of California, Irvine, Chair; Susan A. Glenn, University of Washington; and Steven W. Usselman, Georgia Institute of Technology.


By placing American Indians at the center of U.S. history, this sweeping narrative breaks new ground across several fields: Spanish Borderlands, American Indian history, the U.S. West, and nineteenth-century U.S. history. Drawing upon a wide body of recent scholarship and adding his own research into previously neglected groups, Blackhawk presses beyond familiar caricatures of Indians as tragic victims and noble resisters. His book presents Indians of the Great Basin as richly complex peoples engaged in an insistently violent struggle to resist successive colonial encounters from Spanish conquistadores, Mexican and Mormon settlers, and the U.S. cavalry. Amidst such maelstroms, they forged lives of sustenance and meaning. National in its implications, the story is revealed most powerfully at the level of individual families who both perished and survived under conditions that most people can scarcely imagine. Unflinching yet deeply empathetic, his dynamic portrait will alter not only the ways historians understand western Indians, but also the ways they understand the United States.

Honorable Mention
Aaron Sachs, Cornell University, The Humboldt Current: Nineteenth-Century Exploration and the Roots of American Environmentalism (Viking, 2006). This inventive, highly literate study locates the roots of modern environmentalism in a rich intellectual stream running from Alexander von Humboldt through a diverse cast of nineteenth-century writers, explorers, naturalists, and graphic artists from Clarence King to George Wallace Melville to John Muir. A truly distinctive historical brew of science, geography, literature, and the arts, this surprising, engaging book casts fresh light upon the deeply ambivalent sensibilities that inform American attitudes toward nature to this day. Capturing a sense of the American West’s imagination, this is intellectual history at its very best.
**Merle Curti Award**

for the best book published in American social, intellectual, or cultural history

Award committee: Henry Yu, University of California, Los Angeles, Chair; Mary Murphy, Montana State University; Mae M. Ngai, Columbia University; Hal Rothman, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Jeffrey Sklansky, Oregon State University.

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**Social/Cultural History**


A beautifully written, unique essay in social and cultural history that tells a multilayered story about labor, race, and railroads in the era of Reconstruction, *Steel Drivin’ Man* shows how a study of popular culture can illuminate the struggles of common laborers and the inequities of the southern chain gang. Exploring historical memory, myth-making, and music in the decades by tracing the origins of the most recorded folksongs in U.S. history, Scott Reynolds Nelson follows the long career of songs about “John Henry,” a mythic African American prison-gang laborer who became a popular icon and symbol of racial injustice and workers’ struggles. Nelson tells a moving story about how legends are created, circulated, and transformed in meaning by telling the history of the real John Henry and his death while detailing how the song that told his story was put to use in the service of various social movements over the next century. Elegant, accessible, and engaging, *Steel Drivin’ Man* reveals the archaeological process of historical research and history writing, compelling readers to understand how all of us come to understand the past. Based upon astonishing research, Nelson tells an eloquent story about injustice, racism, and most important of all, why we study history and how those in the present become engaged with the past.

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**Honorable Mention**

Joan M. Jensen, New Mexico State University, *Calling This Place Home: Women on the Wisconsin Frontier, 1850-1925* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2006).

An impressively researched regional history, *Calling This Place Home* is an admirable effort to reconstruct in careful and loving detail the lived experience of women in northern Wisconsin. Jensen integrates personal and family memory with broader social history in ways that bring to life the broad economic and demographic forces that transformed the region. Engagingly written and based upon extraordinary research, *Calling This Place Home* is an outstanding exemplar of social history, revealing the archival gems that a historian can find in state and local historical societies, and what can be done with them. Sharing with the reader how she makes sense of source material, Jensen reveals the mind of a master social historian at work, capturing what is to be gained by understanding the past through the lens of women’s history.
Intellectual/Cultural History

Moon-Ho Jung, University of Washington, Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006).

The committee recognizes this book’s originality and eloquence of argument, a brilliant and compelling intervention in the historiography of the Age of Emancipation, and an exemplary work fusing intellectual and cultural history. Coolies and Cane unpacks the multiple meanings and political uses of the idea of “coolies” in debates over slavery, free labor, immigration, and U.S. colonial ambitions in both the Caribbean and Asia. We admired Moon-Ho Jung’s command of different historiographies, combining political, social, intellectual, and cultural history perspectives in a subtle and compelling history. Tying in a deeply researched investigation of migrant Chinese plantation labor in Louisiana and the Caribbean with larger debates about enslaved, free, and coolie labor, Moon-Ho Jung weaves a complex story with great clarity, acuity, and force. An ambitious book that nevertheless remains elegant and compact, Coolies and Cane manages to be keenly attuned to class and political formations while providing an eloquent and sweeping narrative that brings together ideological, economic, and cultural forces and attenuates between the local, the regional, the national, and the international.

Honorable Mention

Howard Brick, Washington University in Saint Louis, Transcending Capitalism: Visions of a New Society in Modern American Thought (Cornell University Press, 2006)

A work of tremendous breadth and rigor that promises to have a major impact on the history of modern American liberalism, Transcending Capitalism is notable for its lucid analysis of notoriously thorny problems in the history of social thought. In a classic intellectual history, Howard Brick manages judicious assessments of both individual authors and the broader fields in which they work, cutting a clear path through historiographic thickets that have bedeviled other scholars. Approaching capitalism as a complex theoretical problem in its own right, Brick treats how a broad range of American thinkers attempted to explain and solve the social effects of capitalism, creating a complex and varied tradition that has changed over time. Tracing a line through many of the most famous social scientists and intellectuals of the twentieth century, Brick explores how they dealt with the challenges of capitalism’s social inequality and its effects on democratic society. Weighing judiciously how this intellectual tradition engaged with major currents in modern social theory, from Marxist ideas through theories about liberal individualism and consumer consumption, Brick takes on a wide range of ideas. Ambitious, persuasive, and original, this book is recognized by the committee for its tremendous achievement.
Ray Allen Billington Prize
for the best book in American frontier history, defined broadly so as to include the pioneer periods of all geographical areas and comparisons between American frontiers and others

Prize committee: Ramón Gutiérrez, University of California, San Diego, Chair; Margaret Jacobs, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and Jennifer L. Morgan, New York University.


Pablo Mitchell’s Coyote Nation: Sexuality, Race, and Conquest in Modernizing New Mexico, 1880-1920 (The University of Chicago Press, 2005), is this year’s Billington Prize winner for its depth of scholarship, theoretical rigor, careful reading of textual source, and narrative elegance. Coyote Nation is a dazzling history of the body in the context of colonial conquest: New Mexico’s territorial incorporation into the United States. Focusing on the minutia of bodily comportment and dress, on postures and disposition, on consumption and notions of health, Mitchell links behavior to notions of citizenship, citizenship to race, and race to white supremacy. Looking at the complex class and ethnoracial geography of New Mexico—where Anglos, Hispanos, Native Americans, and African Americans coexisted—Mitchell moves beyond the black/white narrative of race relations in the U.S. to show how the mechanisms of differential inclusion were organized largely on the basis of bodily evaluations. He explicates the logic of exclusion showing how Pueblo Indian children were tutored at Anglo-run boarding schools, how courts judged which Hispano bodies were worthy of protection, which group’s rituals were orderly in order to establish how the normative, patriarchal white body of colonialism was constructed and how it was imposed at the most intimate levels.

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: David W. Blight, Yale University, Chair; Thomas J. Brown, University of South Carolina; and Brenda E. Stevenson, University of California, Los Angeles.

Mark Elliott, Wagner College, Color-Blind Justice: Albion Tourgée and the Quest for Racial Equality from the Civil War to Plessy v. Ferguson (Oxford University Press, 2006). Color-Blind Justice is the first serious treatment in forty years of this much too neglected figure in the history of race relations. Through deep research, great sensitivity to the racial and social contexts of the late nineteenth century, and some eloquent writing, Elliot shows us a Tourgée who truly was a pioneer of the tradition of antiracism in its early years. The work is also an excellent on the ground biography of a carpetbagger’s experience in Reconstruction North Carolina. Tourgée was a major literary, legal, and political figure and this book finally may bring his story to a larger readership. As a first book by a young scholar, it is impressive for its mature writing and creative research.
James A. Rawley Prize
for a book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States

Prize committee: Chris Friday, Western Washington University, Chair; Clement Alexander Price, Rutgers Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor of History, Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience; and Kenneth J. Winkle, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Paul A. Kramer, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States, and the Philippines (The University of North Carolina Press, 2006), is a thorough and highly original dissection of the self-conscious construction of racial identities and ideologies within the context of the racial dynamics of imperialism and the impact on the construction and perpetuation of racism in America and around the globe. For his research, Kramer draws upon sources in the U.S. and the Philippines over a long period. This allows him to analyze the densely complex historical and ideological circumstances that converged to help transform racial identities within their specific social, cultural, political, and intellectual circumstances and constraints. Kramer thus contributes to our broader understanding how race works within an international context, far from America’s shores while at the same time helping us see the significance of race beyond Asian American history, or the traditional preoccupation with American blacks as the alpha and omega of discussions. His work has broad implications for understanding the repeated redefinition and refinement of racial identities and distinctions in the service of American imperialism and American society.

Willi Paul Adams Award
for the best book on American history published in a foreign language

Award committee: François Weil, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Chair; Xiaolan Bao, California State University, Long Beach; Hartmut Keil, University of Leipzig; Allan M. Winkler, Miami University; Kate Denaney, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Norbert Finzsch, Universität zu Köln. (To prevent any conflicts of interest, Professor Weil recused himself from the selection process.)

Pierre Gervais, Département d’Histoire, Université Paris 8 / CENA - Mascipo UMR 8168, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales - CNRS, Les origines de la révolution industrielle aux États-Unis: entre économie marchande et capitalisme industriel, 1800-1850 (“The Origins of the Industrial Revolution in the United States: From Mercantile Economy to Industrial Capitalism, 1800-1850” [Editions de l’École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales]) focuses on the transition to industrial capitalism in central New Jersey during the first half of the nineteenth century. Based on an impressive research in primary sources and set within a theoretical and international framework, The Origins of the Industrial Revolution analyzes the preindustrial regional economy around Trenton, and the changes brought about by the creation and organization of the transportation corridor that ran through Trenton. The committee, as well as the outside reviewers, were impressed by a well-researched, intellectually ambitious, and tightly argued interpretation that
is bound to stimulate discussion and contribute to the ongoing
debate on American industrialization. As a real contribution to the
scholarly literature and conversation, the committee unanimously
felt that Professor Gervais’s book deserved the 2007 Willi Paul
Adams Prize.

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: Brian Balogh, University of Virginia, Chair; Elizabeth
Sanders, Cornell University; and Robert Self, Brown University.

Marie Gottschalk, Department of Political Science, University
Incarceration in America (Cambridge University Press, 2006). Among
the outstanding entries for the Hawley Prize—and there were
many—Marie Gottschalk’s The Prison and the Gallows stood out. She
tackles a big question: why does the United States incarcerate such
a high percentage of its population? More specifically, why has im-
prisonment accelerated at such a rapid pace in the past thirty years?
Although the escalation is relatively recent, Gottschalk digs deeply
into its historical origins. Her answers are grounded in the institu-
tional and political roots of criminal justice policies that preceded
the surge in incarceration. Gottschalk traces the ways in which the
prison system expanded its mandate and capacity to incarcerate
over the course of the twentieth century. The United States had
long balanced its commitment to individual liberty with an equally
powerful distaste for disorder and crime. Eschewing a “big bang”
theory, Gottschalk demonstrates how the steady increase in state
capacity and willingness to entrust the federal government with
new powers laid the groundwork for the public policies of the past
thirty years. The Prison and the Gallows is a sweeping narrative that
does not neglect the rich literature on this topic. Besides unearthing
the deep historical roots of the carceral state, Gottschalk’s analysis
offers unanticipated explorations, focusing on the unintended con-
sequences of feminism, and growing concern with spousal abuse.
These generally liberal groups, inadvertently lent support to a pow-
erful conservative anticrime movement, creating a perfect storm
of demands for harsher sentencing and parole policies. Beyond its
contribution to the literatures on crime and punishment in America,
The Prison and the Gallows makes an important contribution to our
larger understanding of American political development and the
ways in which tendencies that were barely discernable at the time
combined to shape and limit future choices for all Americans.
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: Kevin Boyle, The Ohio State University, Chair; Linda Gordon, New York University; and Richard Pierce, University of Notre Dame.

Thomas F. Jackson, University of North Carolina Greensboro, From Civil Rights to Human Rights: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Struggle for Economic Justice (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007) offers a brilliant reinterpretation of one of the nation’s iconic figures. Drawing on a wide range of sources, Jackson traces the radical strains that ran through Martin Luther King’s public ministry: his complex understanding of the ways in which racial and economic injustice intertwined; his connections to the democratic left; his long, hard struggle to build a mass movement dedicated to securing equality across the chasms of class and color. By recovering King’s radicalism, Jackson shatters the standard image of the “America’s Gandhi” who championed individual opportunity in a colorblind society. Jackson forces us to rethink our understanding of civil rights’ classic phase and the political context within which it occurred. From Civil Rights to Human Rights is a profoundly important contribution to modern American history—and a painful reminder of just how far we are from the Promised Land.

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

Prize committee: Karen Anderson, University of Arizona, Chair; Sue Armitage, Washington State University; Lynn Weiner, Roosevelt University.

Serena Mayeri, University of Pennsylvania Law School, “Reasoning from Race: The Civil Rights Paradigm and American Legal Feminism, 1960-1979.” Serena Mayeri has written a brilliant legal history of the relations among feminism, the civil rights movement, and the legal system. She provides an “insider’s” look at debates within the feminist and civil rights movements and within the Supreme Court itself, thereby revealing the paths activists rejected and those the courts blocked. An original and substantive work, Mayeri’s dissertation illuminates the interactions among legal activists and legal theories while revealing the difficulties some justices had in conceptualizing gender discrimination within prevailing constitutional concepts. ■
ABC-CLIO America: History and Life Award

for scholarship in American history in the journal literature advancing new perspectives on accepted interpretations or previously unconsidered topics

Award committee: Virginia Sánchez Korrol, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, Chair; Mary Bagne, America: History and Life-ABC-CLIO, Inc., ex officio; Michael E. Engh, Loyola Marymount University; Laura Lovett, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and Hal Rothman, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Joon K. Kim, Colorado State University, “The Political-Economy of the Mexican Farm Labor Program, 1942-1964” (Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies, 2004). This article focuses on the process by which the United States agricultural business became dependent on Mexican labor. The author argues that a critique of the Mexican Farm Labor Program’s political economy clarifies the impact on documented and undocumented Mexican laborers in the 1940s and 1950s, and provides a fundamental understanding for creating a viable H-2A Guest Worker, or seasonal foreign worker program. Given the current national debate on undocumented immigration, the article provides historical dimensions for informing current public policy decisions. Professor Joon’s research opens innovative ways to conceptualize current Mexican-American issues today. It is clearly written, well-balanced, and demonstrates remarkable control of comparative sources. The article underscores the importance of historical research in policy making. It advances the field in an engaging, well-documented essay.

Louis Pelzer Memorial Award

for the best essay in American history by a graduate student

Award committee: Edward T. Linenthal, editor, Journal of American History, Chair; Andrew J. Rotter, Colgate University; Carl Guarneri, St. Mary’s College of California; Martha Saxton, Amherst College; and Stephen Kercher, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Andrew W. Kahrl, Indiana University, “‘Why the Police at No. 4 ‘Get Busy’ When They Hear the Whistle of the ‘Razor Beach’ Boat’: Steamboat Excursions, Pleasure Resorts, and the Emergence of Segregation Culture on the Potomac River, 1890-1920.” The Louis Pelzer Memorial Award committee unanimously judged Andrew Kahrl’s exceptionally well-written and well-researched essay deserving of the Pelzer Award for 2007. Using newspaper accounts, congressional records, and city records on steamboat excursions on the Potomac, the author examines the role of leisure and recreation in shaping performances of class and concepts of respectability in turn-of-the-twentieth-century Washington, D.C.’s African American community. Focusing on the public discourse about the black-owned riverside resort Notley Hall, the essay asks how enterprising African Americans, against a backdrop of hostility and derision, struggled to capitalize on segregated markets while combating white stereotypes of black leisure pursuits. It shows how white representations of Notley Hall in print and popular culture sought to pathologize black leisure and to stabilize racial categories during the uncertain transition from emancipation to Jim Crow. Converse-
ly, it shows how African Americans’ ambivalence toward Notley Hall reflected and shaped debates over the proper use of time and resources and proper conduct in public. It offers new insights into how black reformers perceived the relationship between recreational pursuits and racial inequality and, more broadly, into the impact of white segregationist ideologies on African American class orientations “behind the veil.”

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

Award committee: Estelle Freedman, Stanford University, Chair; Susan Lee Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Bruce Levine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Laura McEnaney, Whittier College, “Nightmares on Elm Street: Demobilizing in Chicago, 1945-1953” (March 2006). In this elegantly written and ingeniously researched case study of postwar housing in a Chicago neighborhood, Laura McEnaney reminds us that the consumer consciousness nurtured during the 1930s lingered long after World War Two. By documenting expectations of state intervention, not only on the part of renters but also by landlords and managers, McEnaney challenges interpretations of the postwar decade as an antiliberal moment. The case records of complaints filed by renters to government housing agencies provide rich human stories that she presents in the best tradition of historical narrative. The article persuasively argues that continuities in the movement for consumer rights, as well as support for a moderately activist state, characterized postwar America.

**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 at El Paso; Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University; George J. Sánchez, University of Southern California; and Lionel Kimble Jr., Chicago State University.


The recipients of the 2007 OAH Huggins-Quarles Award share a commitment to locating the racial formation firmly within landscapes of regional, urban, and national contest, as well as incorporating new political narratives into more traditional social history. Geraldo Cadava looks at military development in the Southwest alongside shifting participation in the civic culture of Tucson. How did the Tucson Chamber of Commerce’s promotion of the rodeo shape the Latino community and memory? What was the relationship between immigration from Mexico and controversies over public art? Julian Lim’s project diversifies the subject of the borders—whites, Asians, Latinos—to uncover fascinating cases of
what is seen as racial transference (for example, that illegal smuggling of Chinese affected the status and depiction of Mexicans). Lim analyzes how vying national narrative shaped local “freedom” struggles that were fostered by the civic culture of associations and newspapers. Again and again, the projects promise to demonstrate the insights long promised by the new transnational studies, while presenting complicated stories of the everyday.

**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; Craig Warren Carlson, Riverside High School (NC); and Steven Mintz, University of Houston.

**Victoria Zuleger Straughn**, La Follett High School, Madison, WI. Victoria Straughn has helped establish an impressive history museum and archives and has created a comprehensive women’s history curriculum at La Follette. She received a governor’s award and has a record of publications in professional journals and presentations at professional conferences. She is accurate when she states that her teaching appeals to all five senses. Straughn is clearly an outstanding classroom teacher who has thought seriously about history and teaching throughout a long career. Experience does count, especially when it is joined with such a dynamic pursuit of professional growth, instructing and mentoring younger teachers, working to shape curriculum, and continuing to be a fresh and inspiring force for students.

**Erik Barnouw Award**
for 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: Ron Briley, Sandia Preparatory School, Chair; Stephen Aron, University of California, Los Angeles and Autry National Center; and Melani McAlister, The George Washington University.

**The Gold Rush**, a Yellow Jersey Films, Inc. production for American Experience, was produced in association with KQED television. Randall MacLowry and Laura Longsworth producers; directed by **Randall MacLowry**. In choosing The Gold Rush as the recipient of this year’s Barnouw Prize, the committee honors a film that provides viewers with a truly fresh perspective on a familiar subject. Although most Americans have some awareness of how the discovery of gold brought a flood of people into California, few appreciate the regional, national, and international dimensions of the Gold Rush—dimensions that are a focus of much recent scholarship and that are nicely illuminated by this documentary. Adding to its appeal is the focus on five individuals, whose expectations and experiences—conveyed in their own voices—speak to the diverse risks and rewards that confronted gold seekers from different parts of the globe. With broad interpretive sweep and arresting visual style, The Gold Rush is a most worthy recipient of the Barnouw Prize.

**Honorable Mention**
Sacco and Vanzetti, Peter Miller, Producer/Director, (Willow Pond Films). The murder convictions and executions of Italian immigrants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti tell us a great deal about the politics and culture of the 1920s, and in this documentary, disturbing parallels are made with contemporary attitudes toward immigration, political dissent, and civil liberties. The filmmakers make their case through interviews with scholars, witnesses who knew Sacco and Vanzetti, footage from the 1920s, a 1971 Italian feature film on the case, and excerpts from the prison letters of the two men. It is a moving portrait of a celebrated case which often focused upon the anarchist beliefs of the two defendants rather than questions of innocence or guilt for the payroll robbery and murder of which they were convicted.

July ’64: The Roots of Urban Unrest in America, Carvin Eison, Director, Chris Christopher, Producer (California Newsreel). Rich in historical context, July ’64 narrates the urban disturbances that rocked Rochester, New York. Making excellent use of diverse sources, including television news, booster documentaries made by the industry, and vivid interviews with participants, July ’64 recounts the seemingly small incident that led to three days of violence, the calling in of the National Guard, and the impact of the events in Rochester on ensuing events in Detroit and Watts. While maintaining a sense of national context, the film usefully focuses on the specific situation in Rochester. African American migrants from the South arrived in a city known for its homogeneity and sense of settled entitlement. They faced striking levels of housing and employment discrimination, ongoing harassment and brutality from the police, and a general, simmering racism. When violence broke out in July 1964, it spoke to the history of race and racism in Rochester, and to the future of racial conflict across the nation.

The Boy in the Bubble, an Ark Media film for American Experience; produced and directed by Barak Goodman and John Maggio. In this documentary film regarding the short life of David Vetter, The Boy in the Bubble moves beyond the melodrama of made-for-television fare, raising serious ethical issues about how far medical science should go to extend life. Questions regarding the quality of life are examined through the stories of David, his parents, and the doctors who created the artificial world in which the young boy lived. With the expanding range of medical science, such ethical questions will become increasingly important for historians of American medicine, science, and culture.

Please join us in thanking the hardworking members of the OAH award and prize committees, who volunteered their time, expertise, and wisdom for the 2007 OAH awards and prizes.
II. 2007 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 two U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, and seminars, advising students and researchers interested in the American past, and joining in 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: G. Kurt Piehler, University of Tennessee, Chair; Juri Abe, Rikkyo University; Andrea Geiger, Simon Fraser University; Hayumi Higuchi, Senshu University; James O. Horton, The George Washington University; Robert McMahon, The Ohio State University; Naoki Onishi, International Christian University; and Mary Rothschild, Arizona State University.

Kathryn Kish Sklar, State University of New York, Binghamton, Tokyo Woman's Christian University, U.S. women's history; and Thomas J. Sugrue, University of Pennsylvania, Nanzan University, modern American history with an emphasis on race, ethnicity, and labor.

**White House History Fellowship in Precollegiate Education**
for projects that illuminate the historical roles of the White House as home, workplace, museum, structure and symbol

Fellowship 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.

**Research**
Kimberly Ann Hyde, Case Western Reserve University, “Louis Comfort Tiffany and the White House.” The single most important commission obtained by famed designer, Louis Comfort Tiffany, was from President Chester Arthur for decorating the White House. Hyde will investigate the client-designer relationship, create a timeline for the work, and explore how Tiffany’s work at the White House impacted American interiors and, more broadly, its culture.

**Precollegiate Education**
Glenda Armand Sheppard, Los Angeles Unified School District, California. “Frederick Douglass: From Slave Cabin to the White House.” Sheppard will create a narrative and accompanying classroom lessons based on the relationship of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Sheppard will research, particularly, the stories of their White House meetings.
Michelle L. Pearson, Hulstrom Options at Rocky Top Middle School, Thornton, Colorado, and Christopher T. Jennings, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. “Using Google Earth to Track the Mobile White House.” Pearson and Jennings will map White House history with Google Earth—accompanied by a rich collection of primary sources—to teach how presidents have made executive decisions at their retreats over the past century. While presidents have always been in touch with the nation’s capital on their travels, communication technology has made it increasingly effective for chief executives to escape Washington and do their work from more isolated locations.

OAH/IEHS Higham Travel Grants

for graduate students to be used toward costs of attending the OAH/IEHS annual meeting

Grants committee: Stuart McConnell, Pitzer College, Claremont, Chair; Nancy Foner, Hunter College, City University of New York; and Cheryl Greenberg, Trinity College, Hartford, CT.


Stephen Seng-hua Mak, Northwestern University, “The Other Internment: The United States, Latin America and ‘Enemy Aliens’ During the Second World War,” researches the internment and deportation of “enemy aliens” from Latin America during World War II and does immigration history in a comparative way.
Richard White, Margaret Byrne Professor of History at Stanford University, was born in New York, grew up in Los Angeles, began his academic career as an undergraduate in the freethinking University of California at Santa Cruz, and earned his doctorate in history at the University of Washington.

Recognized as the leading historian of the American West in our time, White specializes in unintended consequences and overturned verities. In six well-received books and several pivotal essays, he has recast our understanding of the West as a geographical place and symbol of the promise of America, a site of diversity, change, and conflict. White’s insightfully conceived, clearly presented, and beautifully written histories have won more than a quarter-century’s worth of honors. He would prefer our not citing them at all, but a few bear mentioning: Most recently he received the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Distinguished Achievement Award in the Humanities. He has been a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, the Guggenheim Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Center for the History of the American Indian, Newberry Library. He is a member of the American Antiquarian Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His 1991 Cambridge University Press book, The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815 (Cambridge University Press, 1991), won the Albert J. Beveridge Award of the American Historical Association, the James A. Rawley Prize of the OAH, and the Francis Parkman Prize. Over the last year or so he has made a tremendous investment in the welfare of the Organization of American Historians.
Become an OAH Member Today

As a member you will receive four issues of the Journal of American History, the OAH Newsletter, and an Annual Meeting Program in print and online, as well as online access to Recent Scholarship Online and the OAH Magazine of History. Other benefits include discounted registration for the OAH Annual Meeting, access to awards and fellowships, insurance coverage, and more. Become part of an organization committed to excellence in the scholarship, teaching, and presentation of American history.

The Journal of American History (JAH): The leading scholarly publication on the American past includes cutting edge scholarship in all areas of American history; reviews of books, films, Web sites, and exhibits; and special roundtable discussions. The online version is fully searchable.

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. Sign up to receive quarterly e-mails of citations to the latest scholarship, customized according to the key-words and categories you have selected.

OAH Annual Meeting: Experience the best new work in U.S. history research and theory, meet and exchange ideas with other historians, make professional contacts, and view the latest offerings from publishers and history-related associations. OAH members receive reduced registration rates.

OAH Newsletter: Published quarterly, the Newsletter includes articles on current developments in the profession, interviews, special features, and timely news about the activities of the organization.

OAH Magazine of History: One of the best tools available to teachers of American history, this quarterly thematic publication is written by prominent historians and includes classroom-ready teaching strategies.
2008  New York, New York  
March 28–31  
Hilton New York

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

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

2011  Houston, Texas  
March 17–20  
Hilton Americas-Houston

2012  Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
April 19–22  
Hilton Milwaukee City Center

2013  San Francisco, California  
April 11–14  
Hilton San Francisco

2014  Washington, D.C.  
April 2–5  
Hilton Washington
Please join us in thanking

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and
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