

Organization of American Historians

2008 Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address

Saturday, March 29 • 6:30 PM



Hilton New York

2008 OAH Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address

Saturday, March 29, 2008
East Ballroom, Hilton New York

Schedule of Events

6:30PM

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OAH President Nell Painter invites you to join her for refreshments and An Evening with Valerie Capers, immediately following the presidential address. Ms. Capers and her ensemble will perform an exclusive jazz concert at 8:00 PM in the Trianon Ballroom.

I. 2008 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 2008 OAH award and prize winners.

ROY ROSENZWEIG DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

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

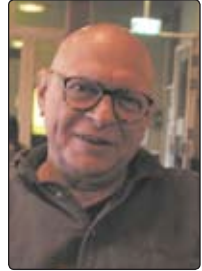
Award committee: James O. Horton, The George Washington University, Chair; Edward L. Ayers, University of Richmond; Daniel Czitrom, Mount Holyoke College; and Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University.

The Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians confers its Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award on **David Thelen**, Indiana University Bloomington, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to *The Journal of American History*, which he transformed during his fourteen years as editor. Under his leadership, the *JAH* not only encouraged and disseminated the best and most innovative historical scholarship, but contributed to an ever expanding dialogue within the historical profession. David's numerous initiatives include: introducing conversations between academic historians and public historians; expanding the scope of historical issues and methods presented in the *Journal*; incorporating new media, museum and other public exhibitions of American history into journal articles and reviews; and pioneering the use of photography and other visual elements.

David's impressive imagination and boundless energy helped to make an exciting range of new scholarship available to public historians, K-12 teachers and community college historians, and the professoriate. His widely acclaimed book, *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life*, coauthored with Roy Rosenzweig, profoundly demonstrated the significance of American history to the nation's public and the many public venues that Americans depend upon for their history education.

Further, David's dedication to internationalizing the study of American history has played an important role in establishing the global approach to American history that many of us now take for granted. His encouragement and facilitation of transnational comparisons and connections have broadened and deepened scholarly interest in American history around the world.

The OAH currently offers an award for the best article on American history published in a foreign language, which is named for David Thelen. This award illustrates David's significant influence on *The Journal of American History*. We recognize the depth of his contribution to the Organization of American Historians and to American History by honoring him with the 2008 OAH Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award. ■



Thelen

FRIEND OF HISTORY

*The OAH Friend of History Award recognizes an individual, who is not a professional historian, or an institution or organization for outstanding support of the pursuit of historical research, of the public presentation of history, or of the work of the Organization of American Historians. This year the OAH Executive Board recognizes an individual, **Ruth J. Simmons**, President, Brown University.*



Simmons

Ruth J. Simmons graduated from Dillard University in New Orleans in 1967 and earned a Ph.D. in Romance languages and literatures from Harvard University in 1973. She established her scholarly reputation through a book and essays on writers in French from the Caribbean. Moving into administration in the early 1980s, Simmons served as associate dean of the Graduate School of the University of Southern California, then as provost of Spelman College and vice provost at Princeton University. In 1995 she was appointed president of Smith College, the largest college for women in the United States, where she created the first program in engineering at an American women's college. In 2000 she was named eighteenth president of Brown University, where she also holds a faculty appointment as professor of comparative literature and Africana studies. Simmons is active in educational, charitable, and civic endeavors and holds a number of honorary degrees from institutions that include Boston University, Dartmouth College, Princeton University, Dillard University, Mount Holyoke College, and the University of Pennsylvania. In September 2001 she responded to President George W. Bush's address to Congress.

Widely recognized and honored for intellectual acuity, Simmons speaks and writes on issues related to education and public policy, focusing often on questions of diversity and women's roles. At Brown University she has supported the faculty through its enlargement and the improvement of libraries, information technology, and academic space. She has established a financial aid program that allows all worthy applicants to attend Brown regardless of their ability to pay.

The Organization of American Historians appreciates President Simmons's commitment to academic excellence, especially her commitment to the faculty and graduate students who produce new knowledge. However, we chose her for this year's Friend of History Award based on her creation in 2004 of a Committee on Slavery and Justice at Brown University, a faculty and student investigation of a crucial and uncomfortable piece of the history of the United States. Relying upon the careful examination of history and led by a historian, the Committee on Slavery and Justice overcame the Brown community's reluctance to confront the American past as manifested in the centrality of slavery in the creation of wealth and education in colonial Rhode Island. As Simmons said herself, "we wanted to move the examination away from a focus on reparations to learn more about the many ways in which societies past and present have dealt with retrospective justice following human rights violations such as genocide, internment, and certain forms of discrimination. . . . This is an effort designed to involve the campus community in a discovery of the meaning of our past."

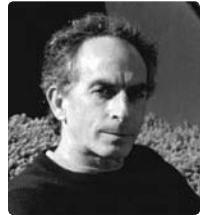
President Simmons realized the undertaking would not be easy, for the debate engaged sharply opposing points of view. By the time the Committee on Slavery and Justice presented its report in the fall of 2006, the Brown University community and readers around the world had learned how deeply the colonial American economy was embedded in slavery and the slave trade. The committee also recognized two important outcomes of dealing with that fact: first, the need for historical commemoration, and, second, the difficulty of grappling with history honestly and thoroughly. The historical profession appreciates her respect for our knowledge. American history as a whole benefits from her search for truth in this past. ■

FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER AWARD

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

Award committee: Richard White, Stanford University, Chair; Robert L. Harris Jr., Cornell University; and Jill Lepore, Harvard University.

Charles Postel, California State University, Sacramento, *The Populist Vision* (Oxford University Press). *The Populist Vision* is at once a fine synthesis of recent scholarship on the Populists and an impressive example of historical research. It is a compelling, convincing and quite original reinterpretation of antimonopoly reform in the late nineteenth century. He makes the Populists modern vital contestants for an American future and sees in their embrace of an alternative version of capitalism a vital, if buried, American version of modernity. Ranging widely across politics, economics, culture, religion and more, this is an ambitious and important book. ■



Postel

MERLE CURTI AWARD

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

Award committee: Gerald Horne, University of Houston, Chair; Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Harvard University; Martha Hodes, New York University; Stephanie J. Shaw, The Ohio State University; and Christopher Phelps, The Ohio State University.

Marcus Rediker, University of Pittsburgh, *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (Viking). This book, as the subtitle suggests, is a “human history,” i.e. there are people in this narrative—not simply numbers or descriptions of demography but individuals. As a result, it provides one of the most bracing, useful, and powerful accounts of the transatlantic slave trade that has been published in some time. This careful attention to the marrow of the experience of human beings—with the unavoidable nuance and detail of agony—makes this book a must to consult for any who desire to learn about the “peculiar institution” that built the United States of America. The author is well known for his expertise in maritime history. Here he couples this far-reaching expertise with investigation of vessels bearing human cargoes that resembled at once a warehouse, a market, a work-site, a factory, a jail. As such, he expands the boundaries not only of the history of enslavement but of political economy as well.



Rediker

The question of how “Africans” became “African Americans” has become a leading debate in the literature, with some looking across the Atlantic for clues and others looking to plantation sites in North America. What this book does is direct our attention to the vessels that brought the enslaved to these shores in order to understand this fraught question. What has been referred to as the “slave community” first took form aboard ships in the middle of the Atlantic, which like most valuable insights seems perfectly obvious—once a scholar with the author’s depth and range states it clearly. Likewise, in the process he sheds valuable light on another important matter, i.e., the construction of “whiteness” and how the crews on these vessels were “racialized.” In short, this book adds immeasurably to what we thought we already knew about the Chesapeake and Deep South, colonial and antebellum slave culture and resistance—and abolitionism. It is a compelling and phenomenal achievement. ■

RICHARD W. LEOPOLD PRIZE

awarded every two years for the best book written by a historian connected with federal, state or municipal government

Prize committee: Donald J. Pisani, University of Oklahoma, Chair; Daniel P. Carpenter, Harvard University; and Jeffrey J. Crow, North Carolina Office of Archives and History.



Neufeld

Michael J. Neufeld, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, *Von Braun: Dreamer of Space, Engineer of War* (Alfred A. Knopf). Neufeld’s exhaustively researched, gracefully written, and evenhanded biography is transnational history of the first rank. In the 1930s and early 1940s, Wernher Von Braun was a Nazi Party member, S. S. officer, and architect of the German V-2 rocket program. He came to the United States in 1946 and helped develop the American military missile program. After the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1960, he turned his attention to the “space race” and pushed the Saturn and Apollo programs. Yet the scientist/engineer could not escape his past or the moral ambiguity of his career. This champion of American freedom in the struggle with the Soviet Union had been morally compromised during the 1930s and 1940s, particularly by his acquiescence in the use of slave labor from German concentration camps at the V-2 rocket factories at Mittelwerk. Based on German as well as American archival and manuscript sources, *Von Braun* will fascinate students of science and technology, as well as politics and international relations. It surveys a fascinating and important life, and it raises profound questions about the moral responsibility of bureaucrats in the modern state. ■

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: Anne Sarah Rubin, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Chair; Catherine Clinton, Queen’s University, Belfast; and Gary W. Gallagher, University of Virginia.

Chandra Manning, Georgetown University. *What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery and the Civil War* (Alfred A. Knopf) elegantly traces the evolution of Federal and Confederate soldiers' attitudes about slavery, Union, and patriotism. Her deep and detailed excavations of wartime correspondence allow the soldiers to speak for themselves. Her argument about the increasing centrality of slavery to the Union's crusade unfolds elegantly and organically from the sources. Similarly, her work persuasively makes the case for the centrality of slavery and racial ideology to Confederate national identity. This book demonstrates exquisite sensitivity to change over time, paying close attention to the interplay between battlefield events and evolving ideology. *What This Cruel War Was Over* deepens and intensifies our understanding of questions of wartime motivation and allegiance. ■



Manning

JAMES A. RAWLEY PRIZE

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

Prize committee: Kenneth J. Winkle, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chair; Chris Friday, Western Washington University; and Clare A. Lyons, University of Maryland, College Park.

Susan Eva O'Donovan, Harvard University, *Becoming Free in the Cotton South* (Harvard University Press). O'Donovan has produced a sophisticated, assiduously researched, and beautifully written study that seeks to connect the microcosm of southwest Georgia to the larger issues of slavery, freedom, work, and the relative power of the subaltern within the postemancipation Cotton South. Through painstaking research into an imposing array of local, state, and federal sources, she achieves this goal through a detailed rendering of the process of negotiating race relations in the rural South that puts a persuasive human face on the participants in this tragic story. *Becoming Free in the Cotton South* radically alters our overall perspective on race relations during Reconstruction with emphasis on the ways in which the gendered division of labor influenced later postslavery experiences of work, as well as emerging patterns of mobility, politics, and community that dramatically altered longstanding power dynamics between whites and blacks, men and women, and landowners and laborers within the Cotton South. ■



O'Donovan

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: Elizabeth Borgwardt, Washington University in St. Louis, Chair; Charles L. Lumpkins, Pennsylvania State University; and Charles A. Zappia, San Diego Mesa College.

David M. P. Freund, University of Maryland, College Park, *Colored Property: State Policy and White Racial Politics in Suburban America* (The University of Chicago Press). This masterfully researched book sheds new light on the politics of racial exclusion during the era that Freund cites as the "era of hidden violence" in the mid-twentieth century. It dissects what the author calls "a new



Freund

politics of race and rights” when northern white homeowners, federal housing bureaucrats, and real estate industry professionals developed a new language, and a new set of rationales, for exclusion in the generation following World War II, relying on ostensibly nonracial factors such as protecting property values, ownership rights, and their rights as citizens. As one committee member observed, the book reshapes our understanding of the politics of state-subsidized growth in a “foundational” way. Freund’s skillful use of local records such as zoning boards, city council meetings, and “property improvement associations” supports his trenchant analysis of how state interventions shaped whites’ ideas, not only about residential segregation in the suburban housing market, but also about race, property, and markets.



Wall

Wendy L. Wall, Colgate University, *Inventing the “American Way”: The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement* (Oxford University Press). Wall has authored an outstanding analysis of the creation and, to some extent, the imposition of “consensus” upon a much divided American society between the mid-1930s and the early 1960s. She has done so with close attention to the complex relationships among various groups expressing quite different ideologies, even as they shared a deep desire for a broad sense of American commonality. Wall has been meticulous in her gathering of primary sources and creative in her interpretation of their meaning. One of the more impressive points of this work is Wall’s clarification of the ubiquitous term “free enterprise” in a substantive and precise way. This beautifully written volume offers a sophisticated analysis of the reciprocal relationship of political economy and popular culture to probe the parameters of diversity and consensus. ■

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: Peniel E. Joseph, Brandeis University, Chair; Robert Korstad, Duke University; and Renee Romano, Wesleyan University.



Honey

Michael Honey, University of Washington. *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King’s Last Campaign* (W.W. Norton & Company) is a magisterial historical narrative of the 1968 Poor People’s campaign. More than simply a top-down study of King, *Going Down Jericho Road* places black workers in Memphis at the center of a panoramic study that weaves a multilayered narrative that helps us better understand the high stakes that surrounded King’s final efforts to transform American society. Well-written, richly researched, and analytically rigorous, *Going Down Jericho Road* provides new insights into Martin Luther King’s final year and the definitive account of the antipoverty campaign that indelibly shaped his last year.

Liberty Legacy Finalist

Kent Germany, University of South Carolina. *New Orleans After the Promises: Poverty, Citizenship and the Search for a Great Society* (University of Georgia Press) is a wonderfully innovative case study that combines urban history and civil rights that challenges the notion of liberal decline after 1965. Germany skillfully documents the way in which Great Society liberalism fundamentally reshaped New Orleans's local political structures. Along the way, we are given new insights into how an amalgam of local black activists, welfare mothers, Black Power militants, white liberals, and urban powerbrokers ushered in an era infused with hope and optimism, yet buffeted by loss and heartbreak, in the Crescent City. Germany's study represents a unique and original contribution to the literature on civil rights, postwar urban history, and the Great Society.

Liberty Legacy Finalist

Laurie Green, University of Texas, Austin. *Battling the Plantation Mentality: Memphis and the Black Freedom Struggle* (University of North Carolina Press) presents an original and complex portrayal of how black Memphians imagined, articulated, and sought to realize freedom in the period from World War II through the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Strike. African Americans in Memphis, she demonstrates, struggled against a subservient "plantation mentality" to craft new identities for themselves, envisioning a version of freedom that went well beyond a narrow legal framework. Green's compelling study pays particular attention to black women's activism and the gendered nature of their critiques of racial and sexual oppression. Her penetrating analysis of movie censorship and of Memphis black radio illustrates the vital importance of the arena of mass culture as a site for racial struggle. With her focus on what freedom actually meant to the people who were struggling for it, Green offers a rich and textured analysis of black activism in Memphis during the civil rights era. ■

LAWRENCE W. LEVINE AWARD

for the best book in American cultural history

Award committee: Michael O'Malley, George Mason University, Chair; Waldo E. Martin Jr., University of California, Berkeley; Grace Palladino, The Samuel Gompers Papers, University of Maryland, College Park; Elena Razlogova, Concordia University; and Shane White, University of Sydney.

Daniel R. Mandell, Truman State University. *Tribe, Race, History: Native Americans in Southern New England, 1780-1880* (The Johns Hopkins University Press) examines how cultures survive—how culture is contested, revised, transformed and passed on. It looks specifically at New England Indian tribes and their efforts to maintain cultural traditions and political identities and rights in the volatile aggressive American marketplace in both the antebellum period and in Reconstruction. Mandell uses a broad range of sources to establish how, at both the national and local level, Native Americans used the resources American culture presented—commerce, politics, fiction, folklore—to maintain a sense of distinctiveness and tradition. The book offers a synthetic account not just of Native American survival, but of the ways people negotiate power. The committee admired the depth and extent of research, and the



Mandell

humanist sensibility that marked the writing. In its emphasis on subaltern people's struggling in myriad ways to create a culture that gave full range to their sense of who they were, Mandell's book most clearly reflects the legacy of Lawrence W. Levine. ■

LERNER-SCOTT PRIZE

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

Prize committee: Sara Evans, University of Minnesota, Chair; Lillie Johnson Edwards, Drew University; and Amy G. Richter, Clark University.



McGuire

Danielle L. McGuire, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill/Wayne State University (fall 2008), "At the Dark End of the Street: Sexualized Violence, Community Mobilization and the African-American Freedom Struggle." Written under the direction of Nancy Hewitt and Steven Lawson, Rutgers University, Danielle McGuire's dissertation demonstrates that sexualized violence and the defense of black womanhood in the postwar American South served as catalysts for the modern civil rights movement. In a beautifully written narrative, McGuire reframes the post-World War II civil rights movement by examining the impact of sexual violence, mostly against women, on the formation of community struggles for racial equality. The well-known story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, for example, takes on new meaning when linked to an earlier campaign for first-class citizenship galvanized by the rape of Recy Taylor by white assailants in the early 1940s. That key leaders of the boycott were shaped by this incident brings to the forefront the issue of women's bodily integrity as a cardinal feature of the black freedom struggle. Deeply researched and convincingly argued, "At the Dark End of the Street" forces us to rethink the intertwined histories of women, African Americans, the civil rights movement, and gender and sexuality. ■

LOUIS PELZER MEMORIAL AWARD

for the best essay in American history by a graduate student

Award committee: Edward T. Linenthal, Editor, The Journal of American History, Chair; Carl Guarneri, St. Mary's College of California; Martha Saxton, Amherst College; Stephen Kercher, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh; and John T. Schlotterbeck, DePauw University.



Keyes

Sarah Keyes, University of Southern California, "Like a roaring lion: The Overland Trail as a Sonic Conquest." This essay provides a fresh perspective on a well-studied historical topic. Sarah Keyes persuasively argues that attention to sounds and silences on the overland journey provides an important way to investigate participants' sensory experience and sensibility and to broaden the story of conflict in the West. Drawing on a wide range of sources, the author explores sounds made, sounds heard, and sounds imagined by emigrants and indigenous peoples. This essay convincingly demonstrates that sounds could be a source of comfort, an expression of power and intimidation, or a key to survival. ■

BINKLEY-STEPHENSON AWARD

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

Award committee: Susan Lee Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair; Estelle Freedman, Stanford University; and Thavolia Glymph, Duke University.

Kate Masur, Northwestern University, "A Rare Phenomenon of Philological Vegetation": The Word 'Contraband' and the Meanings of Emancipation in the United States" (March 2007). In this deeply researched and intelligently argued study of the word "contraband" as it was used in Civil War contexts, Kate Masur illuminates a transitional moment in U.S. history, when it was not yet clear that the war would secure the emancipation of enslaved people. Soon after a Union general referred to fleeing slaves as "contraband of war" in 1861, the term took root in popular culture and blossomed in varied forms, becoming a key word in northerners' debates over the status of escaped slaves and their future in the republic. "Contraband" connoted property, but property loosed and thus primed for transfiguration. Because of this association with property, and not people, some northern African Americans rejected the term, while others embraced it as a way to distinguish themselves from the newly liberated. Masur reads representations of "contrabands" by journalists, missionaries, abolitionists, cartoonists, minstrel performers, artists, and fiction writers to great effect. Then, she deftly demonstrates how and why such images began to fade from view as the Emancipation Proclamation prompted northerners, black and white, to produce new representations of "freedmen." The article provides stunning insights into the meanings of enslavement, emancipation, citizenship, and race at a pivotal juncture in national history. ■



Masur

DAVID THELEN AWARD

awarded every two years for the best article on American history published in a foreign language

Award committee: Edward T. Linenthal, Editor, The Journal of American History, Chair; Kate Delaney, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Udo Hebel, Universität Regensburg; Leila J. Rupp, University of California, Santa Barbara; Axel R. Schäfer, Keele University; and Larisa M. Troitskaia, Center for North American Studies, Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Marcus Gräser, University of Frankfurt, "Weltgeschichte im Nationalstaat: Die transnationale Disposition der amerikanischen Geschichtswissenschaft" ("World History in a Nation State: The Transnational Disposition of Historical Writing in the United States") (Oldenbourg Verlag Science, *Historical Journal*). Gräser argues that the recent emphasis of the American historical profession on internationalizing or transnationalizing the discipline is not merely a reflection of contemporary debates on globalization but also has deep roots in American historiography. Gräser points out two contemporary motives for the emphasis on a more global view of American history: the poststructuralist critique, particularly from the field of postcolonial studies, of the Eurocentric perspectives of



Gräser

the discipline, and the pervasive dissatisfaction with the inability to reach synthesis based on the high number of monographs written by practitioners of the new social history. To those two contemporary causes, he believes, could be added a third one: the reality of an American world policy, even of an American empire, and in that sense a transnational American history could eventually become an ideological cover for an aggressive American foreign policy. Gräser traces the origins of this tendency toward viewing American history as a component part of world history back to the period 1890–1920, when American historical writings became professionalized. He attributes the transnational dispositions of American historians to, among other things, the traditional view of American civilization as part of a larger “Western civilization.” This may have been due to a certain insecurity of American intellectuals regarding the originality of their own culture and also, less naïvely, to the State Department agenda during the Cold War, which traced the development of Western culture “from Plato to NATO.” No less important, he argues, was immigration, which encouraged American historians to trace the roots of different ethnic groups back to their countries of origin and also encouraged foreign-born historians to engage in American history. ■

HUGGINS-QUARLES AWARD

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

Award committee: George J. Sánchez, University of Southern California, Chair; Kevin Mumford, University of Iowa; Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University; Lionel Kimble Jr., Chicago State University; and Amrita Chakrabarti Myers, Indiana University, Bloomington.



Ervin

Keona Katrice Ervin, Washington University in St. Louis, “Entitled to Live: Black Women Labor Activists, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Gendered Politics of Freedom in St. Louis, 1933-1973.”



Sanders

Crystal Renée Sanders, Northwestern University, “Redeeming the Community: Mississippi Black Women and Head Start, 1965-1967.”

The recipients of the 2008 OAH Huggins-Quarles Award share a commitment to unearthing the history of black women activists in struggles for equal rights and community equity in the twentieth century. Keona Ervin examines the contributions of African American women labor activists in St. Louis to the emergent civil rights movement in that city as they staked out public space for themselves, changing the city around them. Beginning with black women’s participation in the Funsten Nut strike in 1933-1934, Ervin shows how city officials, reformers, and academics were forced to reckon with the existence of black women industrial workers that challenged their notion of appropriate class, race, and gender order in twentieth-century America. Her research indicates that black women’s labor organizing was critical in formation of diverse political alliances and new practices that influenced progressive social movements across the twentieth century.

Crystal Sanders explores why Head Start’s pilot program and premier success nationwide was de-funded within two years of

its creation. Her project examines how cooperation between local activists, especially black female teachers and parents, and federal officials after the Civil Rights Act threatened the hold of the Mississippi white elite on power in the state. Through archival sources and oral interviews, Sanders will show how success in transforming society through the War on Poverty led directly to new initiatives to maintain racial order and white domination without seeming racist or violent. Both projects promise to widen the way we view participation in the struggles for full inclusion and citizenship among working class black women that will have an impact not only in black women's history, but also in labor history, political history, and the history of social movements in America. ■

TACHAU TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

for contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education

Award committee: Craig Warren Carlson, Riverside High School (NC), Chair; Bob Bain, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and Gloria Sesso, Patchogue-Medford Schools.

Bruce Allyn Lesh, Franklin High School, Reisterstown, Maryland, is an outstanding classroom teacher whose colleagues and students praise his history instruction, professional leadership, and scholarship. Mr. Lesh not only inspires and excites students, he also challenges them to think critically and historically. One student writes of an especially rewarding project: "Students had to decipher through all of the evidence available, and deal with many of the ambiguities In order to develop a sound thesis, students had to understand the nuances of their case and the different interpretations."



Lesh

Mr. Lesh involves students in the process of forming good questions, analyzing primary and secondary sources, determining cause and effect, developing historical argumentation and engaging in historiographic debate. As cofounder of the Center for History Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, he has demonstrated a commitment to bringing scholarship and quality professional development to classroom teachers. Mr. Lesh's leadership positions at local, state, and national history education organizations, curriculum work, numerous presentations, and publications further highlight his tremendous contributions. ■

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: Stephen Aron, University of California, Los Angeles, and Autry National Center, Chair; Ron Briley, Sandia Preparatory School; and Lary May, University of Minnesota.



Hott

Through Deaf Eyes, a film by **Lawrence Hott** and **Diane Garey**, is a production of WETA Washington, DC and Florentine Films/Hott Productions, in association with Gallaudet University. The recipient of this year's Erik Barnouw Award offers an illuminating and inspiring examination of the history of deaf life in the United States.



Garey

Opening up a subject that has received little public (or scholarly) attention, *Through Deaf Eyes* compellingly explores how the experiences and education of deaf people have been shaped by social and scientific shifts over the last two hundred years. The film's treatment of Alexander Graham Bell and the long-running conflicts that he fostered—by insisting that the deaf be made to speak, as opposed to allowing them to communicate by sign language—was particularly riveting and revealing. So, too, was the commentary by deaf citizens with varying perspectives, whose words, both spoken and signed, gave powerful voice to the legacies of past conflicts and the challenges of being deaf in today's America.

Honorable Mention

Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno, Bongiorno Productions (filmmakers). *Revolution '67* addresses the facts and myths concerning the eruptions of violent civil disturbances in Newark, New Jersey, in 1967. Effectively mixing vivid newsreel footage and interviews with contemporary observers, community leaders, and current scholars, the film presents different views of how the violence started and why it escalated. In challenging the ideas that the unrest was caused by outside agitators and the violence was wholly generated by the disorderly conduct of black youth, *Revolution '67* provides viewers with a provocative interpretation of the strife that rocked Newark that year and that shook many other American cities during the late 1960s. (<http://www.Revolution67.com>, California Newsreel, distributor)

Revolution '67 is a co-production of Bongiorno Productions Inc., the Independent Television Service (ITVS), and P.O.V./American Documentary Inc., in association with WSKG, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). ■

II. 2008 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, 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.



Kim

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; Christopher Jespersen, North Georgia College & State University; Robert McMahon, The Ohio State University; and Naoki Onishi, International Christian University.

Elaine H. Kim, University of California, Berkeley, Waseda University, Asian American Literary and Cultural Studies.

Gary Y. Okihiro, Columbia University, University of the Ryukyus, Japanese American History, Asian Studies, and Ethnic Studies. ■

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, Georgetown University; Randall M. Miller, Saint Joseph's University; Lee Ann Potter, National Archives & Records Administration; and John P. Riley, White House Historical Association, ex officio.

Research

Catherine Forslund, Rockford College, “Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Victorian Modern First Lady.” Forslund is writing a biography of Roosevelt, who impacted the restoration of the White House and numerous protocols related to ceremonial events. Origins of an established first lady’s office, social secretaries, and managing press coverage of the first family will be explored. The Roosevelts turned away from the late Victorian period and unveiled a White House for the twentieth century.

Eve E. Rosenbaum, University of Iowa, “Working for the Ladies of the White House: Elizabeth Keckley and the Domestic Civil War White House.” The first family’s domestic space during the Civil War is the focus of Rosenbaum’s work, through the writings of Keckley, dressmaker to Mary Todd Lincoln and affluent Washington society. Extending this, Rosenbaum will examine works of writers in the nation’s capital during this period—Walt Whitman, Louisa May Alcott, and others—who crafted a national message of American identity influenced by time in wartime Washington.

Dana John Stefanelli, University of Virginia, “A Capital City: Financing the Development of Early Washington, DC.” This dissertation assesses the role that the President’s House, Lafayette Square, and the grounds played in the early development of Washington. The scarcity of federal resources made private investment critical to any success at creating a viable commercial capital. The executive home and grounds were designed and situated to encourage both entrepreneurial activity and the pooling of capital for growth.

Andrea Wulf, Writer and Historian, “The Founding Gardeners: How the Revolutionary Generation Created the American Eden.” Wulf will examine the agricultural and horticultural backgrounds and interests of Jefferson, Madison, Washington and other founders and how those interests influenced design of the nation’s capital on the banks of the Potomac River. Also, the founders’ eye for landscape design was important in the layout of the political and commercial institutions in the city of Washington.



Okihiro



Forslund



Stefanelli



Wulf



Toogood

Public History

Anna Coxe Toogood, Independence National Historical Park, “Presidential Households in Philadelphia.” Toogood will research and compile documentation relevant to the households of Presidents Washington and Adams, who lived in the same residence in Philadelphia, prior to Adams moving into the President’s House in Washington in 1800. This project will also consider Washington’s 1794 summer home in Germantown, Pennsylvania. The work will be the basis for exhibitions and media presentations on the site of the original structure, and provide compelling stories of all residents: family, presidential staff, and free and enslaved domestic workers. ■

OAH/IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HISTORY SOCIETY JOHN 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; Cheryl Greenberg, Trinity College (Hartford, CT); and Francille Rusan Wilson, University of Maryland, College Park.

Gustavo Licón, University of Southern California. The committee was impressed with Mr. Licón’s strong statement of purpose and his research plan to study MECha’s transformation to advocacy of immigrant rights in the 1970s. It is an important topic in immigration history, and Licón is well situated to get primary sources while the founders of MECha are still around. At OAH he will present a paper on “Immigration, Conservative Backlash, and Chicano Student Response: Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlán, 1970-2000,” as part of a panel on “Lived Histories of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands since World War II.”

Stacy Lowe Bondurant, The George Washington University. Ms. Bondurant’s work on immigrants in urban nineteenth- and twentieth-century Texas puts together the study of three immigrant groups—Italians, Jews and Mexicans—that are often studied separately, or in urban locales other than Anglo-dominated East Texas. Her work promises to add to the substantial body of new work on race and identity formation by looking at those processes in small urban enclaves rather than large ethnic communities.

Mayumi Hoshino, Indiana University, Bloomington. Ms. Hoshino’s research on Japanese immigrants in Chicago also looks at a small enclave in an unusual urban locale, though in this case one that was significantly disrupted by the influx of arrivals from internment camps after World War II. Her ability to conduct primary research in both English and Japanese is a plus, and her statement directly addresses the annual meeting’s themes of synthesis and unity. ■

Please join us in thanking the hardworking members of the OAH award and prize committees, who volunteered their time, expertise, and wisdom for the 2008 OAH awards and prizes.

2008 OAH Presidential Address

Pete Daniel, National Museum of American History
OAH President-Elect, Presiding



NELL IRVIN PAINTER
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

RALPH WALDO EMERSON'S SAXONS

Nell Irvin Painter is the Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita, Princeton University. Painter received her BA in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, the MA in African history from the University of California, Los Angeles and earned a doctorate in American history from Harvard University. Currently a BFA student at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey, Painter has received honorary doctorates from Wesleyan University, Dartmouth College, SUNY-New Paltz, and Yale University. She is the immediate past president of the Southern Historical Association. A prolific and award-winning scholar, her most recent books are *Creating Black Americans* (Oxford University Press, 2005) and *Southern History Across the Color Line* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002). She has also written four other books: *Exodusters: Black Migration to Kansas After Reconstruction* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1976), *The Narrative of Hosea Hudson: His Life as a Negro Communist in the South* (Harvard University Press, 1979), *Standing at Armageddon: The United States, 1877-1919* (W. W. Norton, 1987), and *Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol* (W. W. Norton, 1996). A second edition of *Standing at Armageddon* (W. W. Norton) and a Korean translation of *Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol* are appearing in 2008. Her latest work, *The History of White People*, is slated for publication in 2009. ■

(Photo Steve Miller / AP)



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**Please join OAH in thanking The History Channel for its
generous support of portions of the 2008 OAH Annual Meeting.**