Annual Report
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

Building a Strong Community of Historians
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

Annual Report

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018
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In the decades ahead, we will be called on to embrace a broader set of “publics,” clarify whether we are the organization of American historians or the organization for those interested in American history.

As you will read elsewhere in this report, the past year has been marked by continuing successes and a tragic loss—namely the death of key OAH staffer Aidan Smith. Nonetheless, the organization remains financially healthy and focused on becoming the best example of a 21st-century learned society. In the decades ahead, we will be called on to embrace a broader set of “publics,” clarify whether we are the organization of American historians or the organization for those interested in American history. This requires us to formulate a sharper understanding of whom we seek to advance, protect, and support, which is critical if we are to secure broader philanthropic investment, more members, and a sought-after voice on issues in and out of the academy.

This year’s annual meeting theme is the work of freedom. The work of freedom is not just about our past; it also envelopes our present and future. Against the backdrop of bitter elections, potentially criminal state actions, crusades against journalists and journalism, and fundamental attacks on the efficacy of facts and truths, our individual and collective work stands out. Colleagues have volunteered to serve as content experts for media outlets and others looking for academically informed perspectives on the past and the present. We have weighed in a variety of public policy debates from transgender service in the military to what records the federal governmental should retain and how it might go about an ordered and sensible purging, if done at all. In states seeking to address structural budget shortfalls, we have been asked to explain the value and worth of the history major and the history degree. After all, the work of freedom has long demanded that an informed citizenry engage its civic duties by sharing views and facts, when and where appropriate.

The future may demand even more of us. McKinsey, the international consulting conglomerate, projects that by 2030 some 800 million jobs that existed worldwide circa 2015 will have disappeared. They estimate this trend consuming 54 million jobs in the United States, one-third of the contemporary work force. Who knows if the predictions will prove prophetic down to the last person, but few are debating that in the coming decade we will witness a major realignment due to automation. Any routine task that can be automated is projected to become automated. The advent of artificial intelligence is just one element of this seismic change. Robotics are a part of the future as well, as more workers can imagine a robotic helper at their side.

As an organization we can stand on the sidelines and lament the displacement of human labor or we can use our combined talents to shape a conversation and resulting
plans about the dignity of labor in an automated world. The year 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of the importation of the first African peoples into colonial Jamestown. Their arrival spearheaded the transformation of one system of bonded labor into an institution that engulfed all. The enslavement of African peoples further legitimated the enslavement of native peoples. Wealth, status, opportunity, freedom itself, stemmed from where you sat within what became known as the peculiar institution.

So as the nation prepares to confront another reorganization in the structure of work, shouldn’t we, the OAH, lead an effort to come to terms with the system of labor that dominated 60 percent or more of our national history? By confronting the past, can we help chart a future in an automated world?

Those are the kinds of questions that position us to be a learned society for the 21st century. It signals we know our work and our questions link to this nation—past, present, and future. It tells our members that we are alert to the big questions even as we champion their right to ask any question. More than anything, it says that we can be both for American historians and for those interested in American history.

The Executive Board has engaged these questions for the last two years. It has succeeded in raising external support. But whether extending exchanges between American and Chinese scholars, thinking anew about the growing ranks of nontenured, at times contingent, faculty, or exploring new digital tools for scholarly presentation and instruction, we must have a vision for the future. We encourage you to believe there is a future for the Organization as it continues to redefine its role as a 21st-century learned society. ■
Organizational Review

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KATHERINE M. FINLEY

“…the 2017–2018 fiscal year was one in which the entire staff, board, and members pulled together not only to come in under budget and finish the year in the black but also to advocate for history and humanities programs and provide important historical context to many policy decisions.”

The Greek philosopher Epictetus (50–135 AD) wrote, “It’s not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.” This past year at the OAH has been very challenging, but we have reacted well and emerged stronger and better as an organization. Since the 2016 election, there have been the constant threats of funding cuts for history and humanities programs and innumerable laws and presidential executive orders challenging our nation’s democracy and its institutions. Closer to home, shortly after the 2018 OAH Annual Meeting, a key staff member, Aidan Smith, passed away suddenly. Aidan was OAH’s Public History Manager and handled the OAH/NPS National Park Service Collaboration. Then, longtime employee, Annette Windhorn, left for another job.

Despite the tragedy with Aidan, the departure of another key staff member, and increasing external and internal demands upon an already-overworked staff, the 2017–2018 fiscal year was one in which the entire staff, board, and members pulled together not only to come in under budget and finish the year in the black but also to advocate for history and humanities programs and provide important historical context to many policy decisions. Moreover, through grant funding, we were able to provide important new programs for the OAH.

Since Aidan’s passing and Annette’s departure, we have hired a new Public History Manager, Paul Zwirecki, and one of our staff members, Sally Hanchett, will be handling the Distinguished Lectureship Program as a contractor. Paul holds a PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo and was deputy director of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation. Sally Hanchett had worked in the office as membership assistant, and before joining the OAH she worked at NBC News and holds a BA from Duke University and Master of Library Science from East Carolina University. Paul, with help from former OAH Public History Manager Sue Ferentinos and part-time assistance from Derek Duquette, who recently completed his Master’s degree in public history from Temple University, are working to make sure the 88 NPS projects that the OAH oversees are moving along. Sally has stepped seamlessly into the position of managing the lectureship program and is expanding our market for Distinguished Lecturers.
Three new programs introduced this year—an American History Experts database for media; media-related workshops; and programs, marketing support, and travel grants to increase participation of underrepresented groups at the OAH Annual Meeting—will all bear fruit in the coming year. Because journalists increasingly need background information on various political topics such as immigration and civil rights (as well as a multitude of other subjects), we designed the American History Experts database which all members of the media can access 24/7. Journalists will be able to identify experts in a variety of subjects and eras of U.S. history including politics, civil rights, women, race relations, immigration, religion, business and capitalism, environmental protection, monuments and memorials, agriculture and food, presidents, constitutional law, and sports.

Thanks to the efforts of President Elect Joanne Meyerowitz, the OAH received another grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to hold media-related workshops at the 2019 and 2020 annual meetings. These workshops are a nice complement to the American History Experts database. The 2019 OAH Annual Meeting will feature two media workshops—one on media training (conducted by Scott Jaschick, editor of Inside Higher Education), and the other is a full-day workshop conducted by the OpEd Project and is entitled “Write to Change the World.”

Just before the 2018 OAH Annual Meeting, we received a $300,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (to honor OAH President Earl Lewis upon his retirement from the Foundation) to attract three underrepresented groups (i.e., graduate students, non-tenure track faculty, and independent scholars) to the annual meeting. In the annual meeting promotional materials, we will be advertising the availability of travel funds to the conference for these groups. We have also been planning workshops for each of these groups on the Sunday of the conference weekend. Additionally, $50,000 of this grant was set aside in an endowment fund to provide travel grants in the future for non-tenure track faculty and independent scholars. Shortly, we will be fundraising among departments to increase the size of this endowment fund. Finally, some funds in the grant have been used to hire a part-time, temporary (two year) membership assistant to give us adequate staff not only to handle the annual billing of dues but also to communicate with current members and market the OAH to these groups and others.

Through the dedication and good work of the staff we have been able to overcome the challenges we faced this year to provide quality services and programs to members and to promote and the history profession.
The OAH ended the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, with a surplus. This surplus is primarily a result of the market gain from our long-term investments with Indiana University Foundation and the receipt of a large grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Accounting rules require us to report revenues when received or incurred, but the timing of the funds actual deployment is not included in these operating results. The gains we garnered this past year on our investments can likewise reverse in the upcoming year(s) and could negatively affect our officially reported results. This surplus should not be extrapolated or considered a secular trend. The key from a budgeting point of view is to concentrate on our operating revenues and expenses. Our focus is to use our limited available resources to create a balanced budget that dovetails with the mission of the OAH.

One of the OAH’s key relationships is with Oxford University Press (OUP). Their distribution capability enables us to focus on our key strength through the management of the *Journal of American History (JAH)*. We have recently completed a negotiation with OUP to extend our relationship to 2026. Importantly, this new contract will give the OAH a predictable revenue stream for the *JAH* over the next eight years. This cash “cushion” will give us the necessary time to plan any major changes we may embark upon with the *JAH*, especially in the area of digitalization.

Our long-term asset base remains in solid shape, largely due to the improved market conditions and a continue flow of new monies into the prize funds. Our total prize assets stand at $856,498 as of the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2018), an increase of 10% from the prior year. We have a number of funds that do not have a sufficient balance to pay the annual prize stipend for their category. As part of our agreement with OUP, we receive $5,000 per year from OUP that is used to support the prize money in those awards that do not have the available resources. Our funds from our Reserve Fund and the Fund for American History (FAH) total $1,182,514 as of June 30, 2018.

Overall, as we start the Fiscal 2019 fiscal year, we remain on target for our budget projections. With the receipt of annual dues and the cash inflow from OUP our cash position will improve. We will be carefully monitoring the attendance from the Philadelphia annual meeting and its revenue flow to the OAH. The OAH staff does an outstanding job in keeping very close tabs on our expenditures, and our detailed cash flow analysis remains one of the key tools in our yearly projections.
Crowe LLP of Indianapolis, Indiana, prepared the audit report for the Organization of American Historians. After auditing the financial statements of the OAH, Crowe Horwath issued the following opinion on November 20, 2018:

“In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization of American Historians as of June 30, 2018 and 2017, and changes in its net assets and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

Below are excerpts of the audited financial statements. Please note that these excerpts have not been audited by Crowe Horwath. However, you can find the full audited financial report at http://www.oah.org/about/reports/oah-annual-reports/auditors-report/.

### ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

#### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**June 30, 2018 and 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>$ 474,798</td>
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<td>Contributions receivable, net (Note 2)</td>
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<td>Other receivables, net (Note 3)</td>
<td>53,432</td>
<td>78,537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments (Note 4)</td>
<td>2,072,232</td>
<td>1,819,681</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets, net</td>
<td>65,266</td>
<td>77,906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed assets, net (Note 5)</td>
<td>209,827</td>
<td>237,194</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 3,051,786</td>
<td>$ 2,697,099</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 108,536</td>
<td>$ 177,976</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue (Note 7)</td>
<td>636,380</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>744,916</td>
<td>748,849</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Net assets

Unrestricted:

| Undesignated                                            | (196,688)  | (267,907)  |
| Board designated                                        | 1,236,366  | 1,133,091  |
| **Total unrestricted**                                  | 1,039,678  | 865,184    |
| Temporarily restricted (Note 8)                         | 950,435    | 767,642    |
| Permanently restricted (Note 8)                         | 316,757    | 315,424    |
| **Total net assets**                                    | 2,306,870  | 1,948,250  |

**Total net assets**                                     | $ 3,051,786| $ 2,697,099|
# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended June 30, 2018

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

### REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>$13,933</td>
<td>$1,333</td>
<td>$84,588</td>
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<td>In-kind contributions (Note 9)</td>
<td>535,900</td>
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<td>535,900</td>
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<td>Membership dues</td>
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<td>579,257</td>
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<td>Royalties</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
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<td>Annual meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
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<td>718,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholars grant programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectureship revenue</td>
<td>116,985</td>
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<td>116,985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>78,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment gain, net (Note 4)</td>
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<td>42,166</td>
<td>158,592</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>34,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions (Note 8)</td>
<td>214,315</td>
<td>(214,315)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,562,231</strong></td>
<td><strong>229,464</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,333</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,793,028</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program services:</td>
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<td>Journal of American History</td>
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<td>Other publications</td>
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<td>Meetings and conferences</td>
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<td>Programmatic committees</td>
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<td>Liaison/advocacy</td>
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<td>Collaborative projects</td>
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<td>925,829</td>
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<td>Scholars grant programs</td>
<td>61,000</td>
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<td>61,000</td>
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<td>Membership services</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3,017,955</strong></td>
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<td>Supporting services:</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3,434,408</strong></td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>127,823</td>
<td>229,464</td>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>358,620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarification of donor intent (Note 1)</td>
<td>46,671</td>
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<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>182,793</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,333</strong></td>
<td><strong>358,620</strong></td>
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<td>Net assets at beginning of year</td>
<td>865,184</td>
<td>767,642</td>
<td>315,424</td>
<td>1,948,250</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets at end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,039,678</strong></td>
<td><strong>$950,435</strong></td>
<td><strong>$316,757</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,306,870</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS
## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
### Year ended June 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>535,900</td>
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<td>Royalties</td>
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<td>Annual meeting</td>
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<td>Scholars grant programs</td>
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<td>278,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectureship revenue</td>
<td>93,996</td>
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<td>93,996</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>84,790</td>
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<td>84,790</td>
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<td>Investment gain, net (Note 4)</td>
<td>140,876</td>
<td>43,933</td>
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<td>184,809</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions (Note 8)</td>
<td>130,152</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
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<td><strong>215,343</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,391</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,834,019</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Program services:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of American History</td>
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<td>Other publications</td>
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<td>Liaison/advocacy</td>
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<td>Collaborative projects</td>
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<td>845,178</td>
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<td>269,069</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>269,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>52,618</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,972,147</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>2,972,147</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting services:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>430,409</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>430,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>54,508</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td><strong>484,917</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>484,917</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total expenses** | **3,457,664** | - | - | **3,457,664** |

| Change in net assets | 157,621 | 215,343 | 3,391 | 376,355 |
| Net assets at beginning of year | 707,563 | 552,299 | 312,033 | 1,571,895 |
| **Net assets at end of year** | **$865,184** | **$767,642** | **$315,424** | **$1,948,250** |
## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

### STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

**Years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$358,620</td>
<td>$376,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>31,716</td>
<td>42,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad debt expense</td>
<td>(43)</td>
<td>10,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net unrealized gain on investments</td>
<td>(75,963)</td>
<td>(99,064)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions restricted for long-term investment</td>
<td>(1,301)</td>
<td>(3,391)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in assets and liabilities:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>3,790</td>
<td>1,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>25,105</td>
<td>4,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>10,011</td>
<td>20,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>65,507</td>
<td>(43,302)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>(69,440)</td>
<td>26,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash from operating activities</strong></td>
<td>348,002</td>
<td>335,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from investing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of fixed assets</td>
<td>(1,720)</td>
<td>(2,233)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchases of investments</td>
<td>(232,049)</td>
<td>(85,544)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and maturities of investments</td>
<td>55,461</td>
<td>62,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash from investing activities</strong></td>
<td>(178,308)</td>
<td>(25,663)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from financing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from contributions restricted for long-term investment</td>
<td>1,301</td>
<td>3,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments on line of credit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(125,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash from financing activities</strong></td>
<td>1,301</td>
<td>(121,609)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>170,995</td>
<td>187,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>474,798</td>
<td>286,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</strong></td>
<td>$645,793</td>
<td>$474,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplemental cash flows information:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>535,900</td>
<td>535,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The OAH membership has stabilized with approximately 7,000 members, and after several years of stagnation, new membership acquisition is increasing.

Our joint webinar series with AASLH, now renamed History Check-Ins, continues to be well received and provides revenue, which is credited to the Distinguished Lectureship department, since we draw our facilitators from the ranks of that program (and they receive credit for the donation). Caroline Janney’s webinar on the Lost Cause attracted 119 registrants and just over 100 live attendees. Planned webinars for FY19 include:

- Clarence Lang, Civil Rights Movement outside the South (note—this is a live event at the AASLH meeting using the same format as the webinars and is designed to introduce AASLH members and attendees to the series)
- Susan Ware, Women’s Suffrage
- Michael Innis-Jiménez, World War I–Era Immigration
- Philip Deloria, The History of Native American Activism

The Membership department works closely with the Meetings department and the Distinguished Lectureship Coordinator to develop meaningful content and experiences to attract and retain members of the rising generations of U.S. historians, regardless of their career paths. To further these goals, as well as those of Meetings, DLP, and the OAH/NPS Collaboration, we rolled out Insights, a new platform to share content with our members and the public. We have used this platform to profile sessions for the Annual Meeting, to inform membership about organization-and profession-related news, and to feature OAH members and their work in the field. Members and nonmembers alike have shown significant interest in providing content for publication. Additionally, we have scheduled individual professional development sessions for the 2019 Annual Meeting. Three consultants will provide one-on-one meetings with interested attendees on Friday and Saturday. The sessions will cover grant writing, pitching a proposal to publishers, and career help.

In early spring 2018, the OAH received an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to expand access for graduate students, independent scholars, and non–tenure
Membership Overview, Cont.

This grant also included funding to assist the membership department. As a result, we are hiring a three-quarter time Membership Coordinator who will, among other duties, coordinate dues and prospect mailings with our printer, including list preparation. The membership department also received funds to work with a marketing firm to update and improve our member communications and marketing materials. Willow Marketing is providing guidance and feedback on new messaging and materials.
Lectureship Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

“During FY 2017–2018, 100 OAH Lectures were presented to audiences in 33 states.”

Since 1981, this program has served as the OAH speakers’ bureau for general educational outreach and engagement. It also contributes a valuable, steady nondues source of revenue to the OAH general operating fund.

During FY 2017–2018, 100 OAH Lectures were presented to audiences in 33 states. Our speakers continued to be hosted primarily by colleges and universities. Other host organizations included:

- State historical societies in Minnesota and Missouri
- Monta Vista High School in Cupertino, California, and Catholic Memorial School and Winsor School, both in the Boston area
- The cities of Boise, Idaho, and Rockville, Maryland
- The Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities in Denver and the Boca Grande Community Center in Boca Grande, Florida
- The New York City Department of Education
- The Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan, Maine

Special Initiatives:

HISTORIANS’ PERSPECTIVES ON THE RISE OF DONALD J. TRUMP

Since January 2017, this project has provided historical insights on current events to all who wish to foster dialogue on college campuses and in communities nationwide. At this writing, 130 OAH Distinguished Lecturers have volunteered to participate, addressing a wide variety of relevant topics. During FY18, 37 OAH Distinguished Lectures from this project were presented.


WEBINARS

The lectureship program continued to partner with two national organizations this year to present OAH Lectures as webinars:

- The National Humanities Center hosted OAH Distinguished Lecturer Andrew Rotter’s presentation on early American involvement in the Vietnam War as part of its “Humanities in Class” webinar series for teachers (156 registered for this free webinar and more than 90 attended).

- https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/education-programs/webinars/
The OAH and the American Association for State and Local History cosponsored two webinars for public history practitioners during the past fiscal year, on immigration history and the “Lost Cause.” Now called History Check-In, these webinars are also available in recorded forms to individuals who cannot attend the live events, extending the program’s reach. We look forward to continuing collaboration with each of these groups.

https://aaslh.org/new-webinar-series-history-check-ins/

RECORDED LECTURES
More than 70 OAH Distinguished Lecture video and audio recordings are available on YouTube. The most-watched of those added during FY18 is Manisha Sinha’s “A New History of Abolition,” presented at DePaul University, with over 700 views.

Thanks
We recognize and gratefully acknowledge these individuals for giving OAH Lectures in FY 2017–2018: (see list under Philanthropy/Development)
The 24th year of the collaborative relationship between the Organization of American Historians and the National Park Service featured the continued development of over 70 scholarly projects at nearly as many sites across the country. The partnership with the NPS allows the OAH to fulfill its mission of “promoting excellence in the scholarship, teaching, and presentation of American history” in a unique and important way. Visitors made over 330 million recreational visits to national parks in 2017. As our profession considers the many ways that historians and other scholars in the humanities engage with the public, this program serves as a vehicle for ensuring that the best scholarship informs the operation of and interpretation at America’s most significant historic places.

Unfortunately, the year was defined by the tragic death of Public History Manager Aidan Smith in April 2018. Aidan’s death shortly after the 2018 Annual Meeting was a shock to all and required the Organization to move quickly to ensure that the active projects continued with as little disruption as possible.

Many of the 21 new projects started during the 2017–2018 fiscal year derived their funding through a congressional appropriation designed to promote research and preservation projects related to civil rights. These funds established projects to examine African American experiences within a number of specific park units, and OAH scholars began work on such projects at the Carl Sandberg Home National Historic Site in North Carolina, as well as Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Park in Virginia. The African American experience is central to a multifaceted project originated out of the Northeast Region of the NPS that explores segregated spaces within NPS units in Virginia during the Jim Crow and civil rights era.

OAH scholars began work on a number of other multiyear collaborative projects to produce baseline studies for park units as well as special studies that place the park unit and its cultural resources within broader historic contexts. One common baseline study required at all parks are administrative histories. These studies not only detail the establishment of individual park units but also critically examine the subsequent management history of the unit to inform current and future operations. In the 2017–2018 fiscal year, the OAH took on three administrative history projects reflecting the broad geographic range of the program: one at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia, another at Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a third of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway located within Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

The 2018–2019 fiscal year marks the 25th anniversary of the OAH collaboration with the National Park Service. A major milestone such as this naturally leads to reflection, especially so this year with the sudden and tragic loss of Aidan Smith. The Organization continues to work with the NPS to improve our operations as their partner, to provide access to innovative scholarship, and to put the expertise of our membership to work for the public as they experience America’s national parks.
In Memoriam

Aidan Jeffrey Smith
February 12, 1981–April 23, 2018


Aidan was born in Hyannis, Massachusetts, and grew up on Cape Cod. He graduated with distinction from Johns Hopkins University in 2003. He then attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he researched antipoverty organizing in the American South. He moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in 2009 to take a position at the JAH and then became the public history manager at the OAH in 2011. Aidan was an indispensable and much-beloved colleague. He will be enormously missed and remembered for his charming and gentle presence, his generous hospitality, and his passion for cooking, music, and history.

Donations in his memory may be sent to the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation or the Southern Poverty Law Center.
International Residency

Programs Overview

The three residency programs offered by the OAH continue to be popular with our members and remain very competitive.

Japan

Since 1997, the Japan–United States Friendship Commission has provided a grant to the OAH and the Japanese Association for American Studies to allow two U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, attending seminars, and advising students and researchers interested in American history. In 2018 Katherine Benton-Cohen, Georgetown University, was hosted by Chuo University discussing transnational and transborder movements of people, ideas, institutions, and material culture in the twentieth century (the themes included immigration, race, gender, and such borderlands as the American West); Bethel Saler, Haverford College, was hosted by Fukuoka University discussing social, cultural, and political history from the Revolution to the Civil War, with a focus on race and ethnic relations, state formation, colonialism, and empire. The residencies program also funded three Japanese graduate students studying in the United States to attend the OAH Annual Meeting: Keiko Fukunishi, University of Hawai‘i; Minami Nishioka, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Masayoshi Yamada, University of California, Los Angeles.

Germany

The Germany residency program is funded by a grant from the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation. This program allows one U.S. historian to spend thirty days at the University of Tübingen to conduct an advanced undergraduate/graduate student seminar. All reports from Germany indicate that this program is a great success and is very popular with the students at the University of Tübingen. The 2018 recipient was Peter Cole, Western Illinois University.

China

The Ford Foundation provides a grant for the OAH and the American History Research Association of China (AHRAC) to offer residencies in China. The U.S. recipients in 2018 were: Emily Conroy-Krutz, Michigan State University, hosted by Zhejiang University discussing American cultural diplomacy; Julie Greene, University of Maryland, College Park, hosted by Sichuan University discussing the social response to American industrialization; and Natalia Molina, University of California, San Diego, hosted by Wuhan University discussing U.S. racial politics/race and politics. Three Chinese scholars received funding to attend the 2018 OAH Annual Meeting and spend time in residence at a U.S. university: Shen Hou, Renmin University of China, hosted by Stanford University; Du Hua, Wuhan University, hosted by Boston University; and Gao Yanjie, Xiamen University, hosted by the University of Maryland, College Park.
International Residency, Cont.

PHOTOS

[Need Direction on this page--not sure if these are the right photos to use here and/or what the captions should be: Choy and Camarillo...]

Programs
Publications Overview

Journal of American History
In our regular issues, we at the JAH strive to publish the most edifying works of history. Volumes 104 and 105 brim with precisely the sort of scholarly research that inspires participatory citizenship. Together, they offer a stunning survey of U.S. history, with particular emphasis on twentieth-century African Americans’ and women’s activisms. Upcoming issues of the JAH likewise promise to enrich readers’ understandings of both the past and the present. They include critical reappraisals of the financial mechanisms of Native American removal, the exploitation of slave labor by state governments in the cotton South, the influence and legacies of depression-era fascism, and the desegregation of U.S. hospitals in the era of the medical civil rights movement. Our March 2019 issue will include an exciting installment of Textbooks and Teaching, entitled “Peace History: Curricular Challenges and Innovative Opportunities.” As I compose this report, in late November, we are also preparing an Interchange on the subject of money, corruption, and politics. Finally, we are now planning special projects to observe the centennial anniversaries of two major constitutional and legal developments: the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920 and the enactment of the Emergency Immigration Act of 1921, the Immigration Act of 1924, and the Labor Appropriation Act of 1924.

The American Historian
Our OAH member magazine, The American Historian, published four issues over the past year. Each issue showcased innovative scholarship on a particular theme, encapsulated in brief articles written with classroom instruction in mind. The past year’s themes included law and the courts, the history of disasters, Caribbean history, and journalism and democracy in the United States. The American Historian also publishes letters from the OAH president, regular columns, field reports, and book reviews. We aspire in the coming years to develop new features dedicated to career development across the profession.

Process: A Blog for American History
Launched in March 2015, our blog Process has emerged as a lively outlet for historical commentary. Over the past year, Process posted a variety of topical essays and thematic series. Our series on legal history, for example, attracted a tightly focused cluster of submissions on Native American law and sovereignty. Our series on the histories of sport, by contrast, drew a wide assortment of materials on subjects ranging from boxing to football, from the Olympic Games to the President’s Council on Physical
Fitness, and from labor union intramurals to New York City’s Police Athletic League. In recent months, Process has also published a number of articles about monuments and memorialization. Rich Heyman’s “On Statues, History, and Historians,” Jamal Ratchford’s “Reparation as Fantasy,” and Laura E. Ruberto and Joseph Sciorra’s “Recontextualizing the Ocean Blue” might frame a smart and accessible undergraduate syllabus on public history. We rounded out 2018 with thematic series on the Caribbean, 1968, and religion.

JAH Podcast
Last year, the production crew at the JAH Podcast experienced a 100 percent turnover. For our first episode, we welcomed historians Anne Macpherson and Michael Staudenmaier, whose essays about Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican diaspora both appeared in our December 2017 issue, scarcely two months after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Last summer, we tweaked our forum just a bit, inviting Kali Gross to join us as guest host. Gross interviewed Garrett Felber, the author of “'Shades of Mississippi': The Nation of Islam’s Prison Organizing, the Carceral State, and the Black Freedom Struggle,” which appeared in our June issue. In the fall, Robyn Spencer interviewed Lisa Levenstein, the author of “A Social Movement for a Global Age: U.S. Feminism and the Beijing Women’s Conference of 1995,” which appeared in our September 2018 issues, along with Loretta Ross, a reproductive rights activist and participant in that conference.

[TG suggests: Thanks]
Publication of the JAH requires extensive collaboration. Our editorial staff relies heavily on, and is thankful for, the labors of the JAH editorial board, especially our contributing editors and international contributing editors; the oah national office and executive board; the Indiana University Department of History and College of Arts and Sciences; and Oxford University Press.
Meetings Overview

The 2018 OAH Annual Meeting was held in Sacramento, California, from Thursday, April 12 to Saturday, April 14.

The 2018 OAH Annual Meeting conference theme “Forms of History” was developed by OAH past president Edward L. Ayers and the 2018 program committee chairs Claudrena Harold and William G. Thomas. Blocks of approximately eighteen sessions were held each day (Thursday offered three consecutive sessions while Friday and Saturday had four), with plenary sessions on Thursday and Friday. Sunday was removed in 2018 to positive response from attendees and presenters. Breakfasts, luncheons, and receptions were held on Friday and Saturday, and the exhibit hall was open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

The 2018 OAH Program Committee evaluated 280 full-session and single-paper proposals. The final program included 240 sessions, networking and social events, meal functions, and tours. The program included the “Hey, I Know Your Work!” Mentorship program, The Hub, and continued “The Chat Room.” The Chat Room seminars continued to be a success, attracting close to 100 attendees. Two plenary sessions “California and the Nation—Past, Present, and Future” and “Confederate Monuments: What to Do?” were held on Thursday and Friday, respectively.

Total attendance at the 2018 meeting was 1,583. The Exhibit Hall contained fifty-one exhibit booths, four panel displays and two museum exhibits “Reclaiming the Past: The Sitka Project” and the “Capital Brew Exhibit.”
Meetings, Cont.

The Meetings Department worked closely with the Membership Department to enhance the promotion of the 2018 OAH Annual Meeting. In a push to increase attendance, the OAH continued with a four-panel mailer that outlined the highlights, points of interest, and reasons to attend the conference, as well as the traditional postcard that was mailed as a final reminder to register.

The OAH Web site gave us the opportunity to display extensive information about the conference. This allowed us to familiarize those who do not receive the Annual Meeting program to the conference. We increased our Twitter and Facebook promotions, as well as advertising in the publications of the OAH and partner organizations.

The 2019 OAH Annual Meeting, “The Work of Freedom,” to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was the recipient of two Mellon Foundation Grants—one is intended to increase attendance by graduate students, non-tenured faculty, and independent scholars, and the other, called “Public Voice for Historians,” will train historians in speaking to the public.
Awards & Prizes

The Following Awards were Given in 2018 Totaling $17,500.

- Frederick Jackson Turner Award — 1 award, $1,000
- Merle Curti Intellectual History Award — 1 award, $500
- Merle Curti Social History Award — 1 award, $500
- Richard W. Leopold Prize — 1 award, $1,500
- Avery O. Craven Award — 1 award, $500
- James A. Rawley Prize — 2 prizes, $500 each = $1,000
- Ellis W. Hawley Prize — 1 prize, $500
- Liberty Legacy Foundation Award — 1 award, $1,000
- Lawrence W. Levine Award — 1 award, $1,000
- Darlene Clark Hine Award — 1 award, $2,000
- David Montgomery Award — 1 award, $500
- Mary Nickliss Prize in U.S. Women’s and/or Gender History — 1 prize, $1,000
- Lerner-Scott Prize — 1 prize, $1,000
- Louis Pelzer Memorial Award — 1 award, $500
- Binkley-Stephenson Award — 1 award, $500
- Huggins-Quarles Award — 1 award, $1,500
- John D’Emilio LGBTQ History Dissertation Award — 1 award, $500
- John Higham Research Fellowship — 1 award, $1,500
- Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Teacher of the Year Award — 1 award, $500
- Erik Barnouw Award — 1 award, $500

In Addition:

- The Huggins-Quarles Award recipient also received $750 for travel.
- Five Samuel and Marion Merrill Graduate Student Travel Grants of $500 each were presented in 2018 from funds supported by a bequest from the Merrill Trust: $2,500
- Five grants of $750 each from the Presidents’ Travel Fund for Emerging Historians were given in 2018: $3,750
The China Residencies Program continued in 2018 with funding from the Ford Foundation. Three U.S. scholars traveled to China to lead seminars, and three Chinese scholars traveled to the U.S. to attend the OAH Annual Meeting and spend time in residence at a U.S. university following the meeting.

The Fritz Thyssen Foundation provides funding for one resident scholar to offer a seminar at the University of Tübingen each year on a U.S. history topic of his or her design. The program will continue through 2020.

Non-Monetary Awards
- Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award
- Friend of History Award
- Stanton-Horton Award for Excellence in National Park Service History

2018 OAH Award and Prize Winners

The Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award is given annually to an individual or individuals whose contributions have significantly enriched our understanding and appreciation of American history.
- Linda K. Kerber, University of Iowa (Emerita)

The Friend of History Award is given annually in recognition of an institution or organization, or an individual working primarily outside college or university settings, for outstanding support of historical research, the public presentation of American history, or the work of the OAH.
- The Civil War Trust

The Frederick Jackson Turner Award is given annually for a first scholarly book dealing with some aspect of American history.
- Brian McCamack, Lake Forest College, Landscapes of Hope: Nature and the Great Migration in Chicago (Harvard University Press)

Honorable Mentions

The Merle Curti Intellectual History Award is given annually for the best book published in American intellectual history.
- Brittney C. Cooper, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women (University of Illinois Press)
The **Merle Curti Social History Award** is given annually for the best book published in American social history.

- Tiya Miles, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, The Dawn of Detroit: A Chronicle of Slavery and Freedom in the City of the Straits (The New Press)

The **Richard W. Leopold Prize** is given every two years for the best book on foreign policy, military affairs, historical activities of the federal government, documentary histories, or biography written by a U.S. government historian or federal contract historian.

- Richard S. Faulkner, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Pershing’s Crusaders: The American Soldier in World War I (University Press of Kansas)

The **Avery O. Craven Award** is given annually 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.

- Edward L. Ayers, University of Richmond, The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America (W. W. Norton & Company)

The **James A. Rawley Prize** is given annually for the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States.

- Tiya Miles, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, The Dawn of Detroit: A Chronicle of Slavery and Freedom in the City of the Straits (The New Press)

The **Ellis W. Hawley Prize** is given annually 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.

- Richard White, Stanford University, The Republic for Which It Stands: The United States during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865–1896 (Oxford University Press)

The **Liberty Legacy Foundation Award** is given annually for the best book on the civil rights struggle from the beginnings of the nation to the present.


The **Lawrence W. Levine Award** is given annually for the best book in American cultural history.

- Cary Cordova, University of Texas, Austin, The Heart of the Mission: Latino Art and Politics in San Francisco (University of Pennsylvania Press)
2018 OAH Award and Prize Winners, Continued

The **Darlene Clark Hine Award** is given annually for the best book in African American women’s and gender history.
- Deirdre Cooper Owens, Queens College, CUNY, *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology* (University of Georgia Press)

**Honorable Mention**

The **David Montgomery Award** is given annually for the best book on a topic in American labor and working-class history, with cosponsorship by the Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA).

The **Mary Nickliss Prize in U.S. Women’s and/or Gender History** is given annually for the most original book in U.S. women’s and/or gender history.

**Honorable Mention**
- C. Riley Snorton, Cornell University/University of Southern California, *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity* (University of Minnesota Press)

The **Lerner-Scott Prize** is given annually for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women’s history.

The **Louis Pelzer Memorial Award** is given annually for the best essay in American history by a graduate student.
The **Binkley-Stephenson Award** is given annually for the best article that appeared in the *Journal of American History* during the preceding calendar year.


The **Huggins-Quarles Award** is given annually to graduate students of color to assist them with expenses related to travel to research collections for the completion of the PhD dissertation.

- Nakia D. Parker, University of Texas, Austin, “Trails of Tears and Freedom: Slavery, Migration, and Emancipation in the Indian Territory Borderlands, 1830–1907”

The **John D’Emilio LGBTQ History Dissertation Award** is given annually for the best PhD dissertation in U.S. LGBTQ history.


The **John Higham Research Fellowship** is given annually to graduate students writing doctoral dissertations for a PhD in American history.

- Katherine Carper, Boston College, “The Business of Migration, 1830–1880”

The **Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Teacher of the Year Award** is given annually for contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education within the field of American history.

- Christopher W. Stanley, Ponaganset High School (RI)

The **Erik Barnouw Award** is given annually for outstanding programming on television, or in documentary film, concerned with American history, the study of American history, and/or the promotion of American history.


The **Stanton-Horton Award for Excellence in National Park Service History** is given annually in recognition of excellence in historical projects for, by, and with the National Park Service and is intended to honor projects, parks, or programs that make the NPS a leader in promoting public understanding of and engagement with American history.

- Museum Management Program, Treasured Landscapes: National Park Service Art Collections Tell America’s Stories
OAH/JAAS Japan Residencies Program

The OAH and the Japanese Association for American Studies (JAAS), 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 in the collegiality of the host institution. It is part of an exchange program that also brings Japanese graduate students who are studying in the United States to the OAH Annual Meeting.

- Katherine Benton-Cohen, Georgetown University

Chuo University: transnational and transborder movements of people, ideas, institutions, and material culture in the twentieth century (these themes include immigration, race, gender, and such borderlands as the American West)
- Bethel Saler, Haverford College
- Fukuoka University: social, cultural, and political history from the Revolution to the Civil War, with a focus on race and ethnic relations, state formation, colonialism, and empire

Three Japanese students studying in the United States were selected to receive funding to attend this year’s OAH Annual Meeting:
- Keiko Fukunishi, University of Hawai’i
- Minami Nishioka, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Masayoshi Yamada, University of California, Los Angeles

China Residencies Program

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ford Foundation, the Organization of American Historians and the American History Research Association of China (AHRAC) are pleased to continue the exchange program between the two organizations.

- Emily Conroy-Krutz, Michigan State University
- Zhejiang University: American Cultural Diplomacy
- Julie Greene, University of Maryland, College Park
- Sichuan University: The Social Response to American Industrialization
- Natalia Molina, University of California, San Diego
- Wuhan University: U.S. Racial Politics/Race and Politics

Three Chinese scholars were selected to receive funding to attend this year’s OAH Annual Meeting and spend time in residence at a U.S. university following the meeting:
- Shen Hou, Renmin University of China, hosted by Stanford University
- Du Hua, Wuhan University, hosted by Boston University
- Gao Yanjie, Xiamen University, hosted by the University of Maryland, College Park
Germany Residency Program

Thanks to a generous grant from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the OAH is pleased to continue the Germany Residency Program in American history at the University of Tübingen. The resident scholar will offer a seminar on a U.S. history topic of his or her design.
· Peter Cole, Western Illinois University

Samuel and Marion Merrill Graduate Student Travel Grants

The grants, supported by a bequest from the Merrill Trust, help sponsor the travel-related costs of graduate students who are confirmed as participants on the OAH conference program and who incur expenses traveling to the annual meeting.
· Eddie Bonilla, Michigan State University
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· OAH Presidents’ Travel Fund for Emerging Historians

The fund provides annual travel stipends for up to five graduate students and recent PhDs in history (no more than four years from date of degree) whose papers or panels/sessions have been accepted by the OAH Program Committee for inclusion on the annual meeting program.
· Julia Bowes, Rutgers University
· Annelise Heinz, University of Texas at Dallas
· Mariona Lloret, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
· Sarah Miller-Davenport, University of Sheffield
· Marc Reyes, University of Connecticut
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We encourage you to consider making a financial gift to the organization to support advocacy for the profession, increase our many outreach efforts, and improve our service to historians and practitioners at all levels.

The Organization of American Historians gratefully acknowledges gifts and contributions to the OAH Annual Campaign and the special prize funds during the 2018 fiscal year (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018). The OAH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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