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**Navigating Challenges**

"Amid all the tumult, I am pleased to report that, thanks to strong staff and volunteer leadership, the Organization of American Historians has weathered the last two years surprisingly well."

—OAH President Philip J. Deloria

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**oah.org**
A global pandemic, massive public uprisings demanding racial justice, a fraught election and its equally fraught aftermath: How could the fiscal year running from July 2020 through June 2021 have been anything but challenging? The Organization of American Historians faced its own challenges, and if something less than world-historical, our staff made the adjustment to remote work; our annual meeting was forced online for a second year; we faced fiscal issues resulting from loss of meeting and membership revenue. And as these challenges emerged, the OAH was in the midst of recruiting and welcoming a new Executive Director, Beth English.

Amid all the tumult, I am pleased to report that thanks to strong staff and volunteer leadership, the Organization of American Historians has weathered the last two years surprisingly well. While everyone in Bloomington pitched in to keep the OAH running smoothly, the organization owes particular debts of gratitude to Conference Coordinator Hajni Selby, Board Treasurer Jay Goodgold, Journal of American History editor Benjamin Irvin, and Executive Director Beth English, whose first tasks on the job were substantial: restructure the budget and recruit new funding.

For those who have yet to meet Dr. English, you should know that she came to the OAH from Princeton University, where she directed the Project on Gender in the Global Community. With a Ph.D. in history from William & Mary, her scholarly interests lie in labor and working-class issues, gender, the U.S. South and globalization. English is the author of A Common Thread: Labor, Politics, and Capital Mobility and co-editor of Global Women’s Work: Perspectives on Gender and Work in the Global Economy. She combines a historian’s sensibility and skills with keen administrative and fiscal expertise. It is no exaggeration to observe that Beth has proven to be exactly the right person in the right place at the right time. We should all be immensely grateful for her efforts and leadership.

The OAH was able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program loan, which the organization used to keep staff employed in the dark days of pandemic 2020, and which was subsequently forgiven under the terms of the program. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities helped support the Distinguished Lectureship Program, and the general explosion of Zoom talks worked to our benefit, with increased participation over the course of the pandemic. With enough lead time to plan for an all-virtual Chicago meeting in 2021, we were able to contain costs. And if the conference was not the usual anchor in our revenue model, the organization was nonetheless able to mitigate potential damage. In September 2021, we learned that the OAH had been successful with a second application to the NEH for pandemic-funded projects, these to be focused on public-facing programming and professional development. Beth has restructured fiscal record keeping, established new communications channels with Indiana University, nurtured a strong relationship with the Journal of American History, and strengthened the organization across the board. While short-term dangers have not fully abated, it is safe to say that the organization is healthy and relatively strong.

At the same time, and as the OAH moves into a post-pandemic future, we need to be acutely aware of lingering and emergent challenges stemming from the conference/membership budget structure that continues to characterize most professional academic organizations. What will conference travel look like in a new era of climate change concerns and institutional retrenchments? The 2022 meeting in Boston, for example, will be a hybrid conference, as we seek to use the lessons of two virtual meetings to pilot efforts to reach a broader audience of history practitioners, teachers, and devotees. Led by Beth English and Erika Lee, the OAH is creating opportunities for leadership to better coordinate across multiple organization presidents. And we continue to advance development efforts, mostly notably those stemming from former OAH President Earl Lewis’s generous challenge gift, made in 2018. Lewis pledged $50,000 to the OAH endowment, and he promised to donate a second $50,000 gift if the organization could raise $500,000 over five years. Several generous gifts have helped toward that goal, but we need full participation from OAH members to have a chance of reaching it. I encourage all members to consider the OAH when considering philanthropic giving.

The organization continues to craft a range of public-facing engagement, building on the Distinguished Lectureship Program, our long-standing partnership with the National Park Service, and the expansion of our publica-
website commentary, issues letters and amicus briefs, as well as sessions at the annual meeting on strategies and practices for reaching wider audiences.

The 2022 Conference on American History (note the subtle rebranding!) will take place in Boston, March 29–April 3. An outstanding program committee led by Adria Imada, Malinda Maynor Lowery, and Suzanne Smith has assembled a rich meeting that speaks to the articulations of Indigeneity across the breadth of American history, while also addressing the shocks that have buffeted the nation and profession, and pointing us toward critical conversations about history—and professional organizations—in an uncertain climate future. I hope to see you there.

Organizational Review
From OAH Executive Director Beth English

As the OAH’s 2020–21 fiscal year began, the coronavirus had begun to transform our lives, and when I stepped into the Executive Director role in September 2020, the OAH was still grappling with the ripple effects of the 2020 Annual Meeting cancellation, wondering if the organization would be able to withstand the financial fall-out that was to come. The OAH and Journal of American History offices had been forced to close, and the work of the organization shifted to home offices, kitchen tables, and living rooms. Like for so many, the past year was one of ups and downs for the OAH. But we’re happy to report that—because of our dedicated national office and JAH staffs, leadership of our Executive Board, the time and talents of our many volunteers, and the generosity of our membership—the organization weathered that first pandemic year while continuing to support our vibrant community of historians, work for a diverse and inclusive profession, expand initiatives that reach a wider public, and bring historical scholarship to bear on vital contemporary issues.

Throughout the 2020–21 fiscal year, the OAH focused on strengthening our excellent publications, expanding our programming into the virtual environment, and advocating for the profession as we looked to an uncertain future. With financial support from a NEH CARES grant and a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan, we continued to publish the acclaimed Journal of American History, as well as our magazine, The American Historian, and Process blog. The Distinguished Lectureship Program successfully shifted to an online format and the 2021 Annual Meeting took place in a fully virtual format. With the NEH support, the organization grew its programming to include professional development and state-of-the-field webinars, and a new podcast series, Intervals. A grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation enabled us to increase the support we offer to our members, providing 260 discounted Annual Meeting registrations for contingent faculty, independent scholars, graduate students, and K–12 educators. The organization also established a sponsored membership fund in fall 2020 that disbursed some 40 sponsored memberships over the fiscal year.

The OAH’s relationship with Indiana University and IU’s History Department was strengthened over the course of the year. We finalized details of our External Agency Agreement with the university, importantly coming...
to an agreement about the minimum cash reserve the organization is required to keep with the university, and undergoing a comprehensive audit of our online information management and payments procedures to ensure compliance with IU and best-practice security standards. To further normalize our relationships with campus partners, a memorandum of understanding has been executed between the organization, the History Department, and the College of Arts and Sciences, setting parameters of cost sharing and stipends for JAH staff and graduate student editorial assistants, as well as the OAH Diversity Fellowship, which is awarded annually by the History Department to an incoming graduate student. We welcomed Ayoka Wicks, who currently serves as an editorial assistant for The American Historian, as our OAH Diversity Fellow this year.

The organization’s advocacy work on behalf of the profession was robust with statements and letters written on issues ranging from the politicization of history and federal funding for the humanities, to racial injustice, academic freedom, and tenure protections. The organization endorsed a number of initiatives in the past year as well, including the creation of a Smithsonian Women’s History Museum and Educating for American Democracy. We lent the organization’s endorsement to advocacy statements from peer organizations including the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the American Historical Association (AHA), and participated in National Advocacy Day to help generate congressional support for increased financial support for important federal programs and agencies, including the National Archives and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The organization remains a member of the National Coalition for History, the National Humanities Alliance, and ACLS.

As we look ahead to fiscal year 2021–22, we are continuing to fundraise around the Earl Lewis Endowment Challenge and several exciting developments are afoot. Among them are a redesign of the OAH.org website, and—with financial support from a second round of NEH pandemic funding under the SHARP program—an expansion of core programs, member networking opportunities, and the OAH catalog of digital content. The grant will support professional development and thematic webinars, online and in-person lectures, a second season of the Intervals podcast, and virtual content for the 2022 Conference on American History: Indigenous/American Pasts and Futures. The funding will bolster the OAH’s efforts to grow the many digital and virtual offerings we developed in response to the pandemic, but also return to and build on in-person programming to create new touchpoints for public engagement and supporting members’ professional development.

The discipline and professional practice of history continue change in ways that create significant challenges but also opportunities as the organization remains committed to excellence in pursuit of the common good. The mission of the OAH to support and advocate for the study and teaching of American history, to promote informed public discussion of and engagement with historical questions, and to encourage equitable treatment of all practitioners of history, is arguably more important now than it has ever been. We remain grateful for ongoing support of this shared endeavor, and hope to see you in Boston or online for the 2022 hybrid Conference on American History.

"The mission of the OAH to support and advocate for the study and teaching of American history, to promote informed public discussion of and engagement with historical questions, and to encourage equitable treatment of all practitioners of history, is arguably more important now than it has ever been."
For the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021, through the present time, the financial position of the Organization of American Historians continues its positive trajectory. Only 18 months ago, we were very cognizant of the serious financial implications that the cancellation of the 2020 annual meeting and the ramifications of the pandemic would have on the OAH. Today, we are at our strongest financial position in over a decade. This has enabled the OAH to maintain its full complement of employees throughout the past two years and allowed us to focus on our mission and to maintain the highest level of quality for our profession. There have been many reasons for this turnabout. Here is a summary of some of the key events:

- Forgiveness by the hotel chains for our 2020 and 2021 annual meeting cancellation resulting in little or no expenses to the OAH;
- Awarding of our 2nd Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) distribution of $218,000 and the forgiveness of both PPP "loans" by the Small Business Administration (SBA);
- Our second NEH grant ($199,683) in the past year that was received in September 2021 to aid our overall membership planning and services;
- Growth in our long term financial assets (including the prize fund) to $2,750,225, its highest level;
- For the first summer in over ten years, we did not have to draw down on our bank line of credit;
- Stable long-term financial arrangement with Indiana University.

From OAH Treasurer Jay Goodgold

Financial Overview
Our long term assets consist of the Fund for American History, the Reserve Fund and the Prize Fund. Overall the assets in these three sustaining funds have grown at an aggregate compound rate of 8.3 percent, after distributions, since June 2016. Of note, the Reserve Fund stands at $1,005,302, as of August 31, 2021, more than doubling in value over the last five years. The importance of this specific fund cannot be overemphasized as it is the financial safety net for the OAH. Over the past 20 years, it has been utilized in emergency and contingency situations, and its growth and safety of principal are paramount in the event of other unforeseen events.

Established the American History stands at $1,005,302 and the Prize Fund is at $1,005,302. For the first time the Reserve category, all of the awards are financially viable and are able to support the category winners. Each year we have received $5,000 from Oxford University Press for use in the Prize Fund that has greatly enabled the OAH to achieve this accomplishment. We are actively working to expand our asset base within all three long-term assets. We are midway through the $500,000 campaign that former OAH President Earl Lewis started, and we are approaching the 50 percent goal with pledges and contributions.

As we ended the June 30, 2021, fiscal year, our financial picture, as a result of the above items, had a much more positive tone. Normally, during the summer months, when we have our smallest intake of revenues, we would typically exercise our bank line of credit to cover our expenses, and when the fall revenues resume, the credit would be repaid by November. Because of the significantly reduced expenses due to the “virtual” annual meeting, the reception of the second Paycheck Protection Program fund, and our overall expense control, our cash levels were sufficient that we did not have to exercise the line of credit. The second NEH grant award, which will begin in October 2021, will help us through the balance of the current fiscal year. Following successful negotiation with Indiana University, we have a long-term stable and predictable arrangement with the university. While this is very encouraging, we want to highlight that we do not anticipate a repeat of the first time in the Prize category, all of the awards are financially viable and are able to support the category winners. Each year we have received $5,000 from Oxford University Press for use in the Prize Fund that has greatly enabled the OAH to achieve this accomplishment. We are actively working to expand our asset base within all three long-term assets. We are midway through the $500,000 campaign that former OAH President Earl Lewis started, and we are approaching the 50 percent goal with pledges and contributions.

We are monitoring the levels of our membership very assiduously. Many membership oriented not-for-profits have seen membership levels drop during the pandemic. The OAH is no exception. Membership dropped by approximately 8 percent in the past year, resulting in lower level of dues receipts. It is too early to account for the long-term implications of the pandemic, but we are stepping up our new membership and retention efforts. As both an operational and financial goal, the improvement of our membership dues is one of the key focal points for the upcoming years. We had a very successful effort with our discounted 3 and 5 year membership plans, and we will review and continue this advantageous plan for our membership.

This past year’s virtual annual meeting, while seeing a major reduction in revenues from exhibitors and registrations, was able to break even, as our expenses were significantly lower due primarily to the elimination of all hotel costs associated with the annual meeting. The upcoming 2022 hybrid meeting in Boston is being monitored very closely. Importantly, the CDC and the state of Massachusetts, planning to have a vigorous solicitation of our members. To help mitigate some of our potential costs, we have been able to negotiate a lower number of minimum rooms for the hotel, but our overall expenses will be higher in 2022 since we will be using the services of the hotel. Concomitant with the in-person meeting is the level of exhibit booths and sponsors at the meeting. We have seen revenue inflow for the Boston meeting, but it is too early to judge the overall amounts. The consolidation of publishers and the increasing reliance on electronic/digital communication has resulted in realization of financial resources. The annual meeting and the level of membership dues will be key elements in determining our financial position by late spring 2022.

Two of the OAH’s key areas of focus, the Journal of American History (JAH) and the work with the National Park Service (NPS), remain very solid and, in the case of the NPS, seeing strong improvement. The JAH is in the first year of its 5 year agreement with Oxford University Press, and the financial status of the JAH remains solid. Accounting for close to 40 percent of our revenue and expense base, the JAH had a small surplus at the end of the 2021 fiscal year. The strong partnership with Oxford and the JAH’s internal management of its expenses have resulted in these solid results. This is expected to continue into Fiscal 2022. Our collaborative work with the NPS has been a standout for the last several fiscal years. Fiscal 2021 saw the net revenues to the OAH total approximately $1,900,000 as a large number of projects were completed, and we continue to move toward a small number of NPS assignments but with a larger footprint. The NPS relationship is a high priority for the OAH and is a very important benefit for our membership. As we enhance our relationship with the NPS, we will be reviewing any additional resources this collaboration will need.
One of the biggest challenges the OAH faced during the past 18 months has been the Distinguished Lecture Program (DLP). As noted in prior reports, a complete pivot had to occur in March 2020 from an in-person to a streaming/webinar format. After a very expected slow start, the lectureship program did gather momentum, and we had revenues of $57,000 in Fiscal Year 2021. While we had an overall loss for this area, the first grant that we received from the NEH was critical to our ability to shift to a digital format. For the June 2022 fiscal year, we have revised our expectations to mitigate the expected loss. Like the annual meeting, the DLP will be structured along a hybrid format. Our great thanks go to the lecturers who participated in the DLP this past year and in the current fiscal year.

As mentioned earlier, we are working to expand our contribution to our long dated assets. This, along with annual donations from our membership and sponsors, is essential to make up for any shortfall during the fiscal year. The History Channel continues to be an outstanding partner with the OAH, and we are very grateful for their $25,000 unrestricted donation to the OAH in the past fiscal year.

Overall, the present financial position of the OAH is at its strongest level in many years. We must, however, be guarded regarding the trends of our membership along with a successful annual meeting and the impact both will have on our financial status. As we, and other scholarly organizations, adjust to the reality of expanding electronic/digital communication and forums, the recently received NEH grant will, in large part, be directed so we can enlarge and enhance our footprint in the virtual world. Improving our content, deliverability, and interactive capabilities across the OAH blueprint, including, but not limited to the *JAH*, the annual meeting, and the DLP, is part of the new paradigm that we must embrace. The OAH has an outstanding group of individuals in the financial area led by Beth English, Jonathan Apgar, and Karen Barker who have been instrumental in improving our financial position and thus allowing the OAH to fulfill and expand its mission.

**Membership Overview**

*From OAH Director of Membership, Marketing, and Communications Elisabeth M. Marsh*

At the suggestion of the OAH Membership Committee, we established the Sponsored Membership Award Fund in October 2020. The new fund enables OAH members to support emerging historians without needing to have a specific recipient in mind (as has been the case since the program launched in 2013). As members contribute to the fund, the OAH disburses the memberships via lottery. The initial announcement is made via Update, with subsequent announcements posted on social media. If we receive more interest than available memberships, recipients are selected randomly. In FY2021, OAH members donated $1,890. Two calls were made with 40 memberships being awarded.

We began a video series called “Get to Know the OAH” hosted on Facebook to increase awareness of the work of the OAH, In addition to being available on Facebook, the videos are also posted on the OAH’s YouTube channel. (The conversation about the conference has been taken down as it is out of date.) Three events were held in FY2022. These are continuing in FY2023.

- **Get to Know the OAH: A Conversation with Leadership**
  - Guests: Philip Deloria, President Elect, Erika Lee, Vice President, DeAnna Beachley, Chair of the Membership Committee, and Beth English, Executive Director
- **Get to Know the OAH: A Conversation with The American Historian Editors**
  - Guests: Jon Warner, Editor, and Ayoka Wicks, Editorial Assistant
- **Get to Know the OAH: A Conversation with Hajni Selby about #OAH21**
  - Guest: Hajni Selby, Director of Programming and Conferences

Following the receipt of a NEH CARES Grant, the OAH initiated a series of public webinars. Two featured primary sources and lesson plans and were geared toward high school and college educators. (Approximately
one-third of the 100 registrants for both teaching webinars attended the live event.) The third was a gener-
ali-interest webinar about the Federal Records Act and the Presidential Records Act. All three are available on
the OAH’s YouTube Channel and in the OAH’s Connected Community library.

- Records in Transition: A Conversation with NARA Leaders
  Guests: Laurence Brewer, Chief Records Officer of the U.S. Government, Gary M. Stern, General
  Counsel, and Meg Phillips, External Affairs Liaison

- Native Communities and the Vote
  Guest: Sara Lyons Davis, Education Specialist, National Archives and Records Administration

- A Practical Guide to Teaching Women’s History
  Guest: Allyson Schettino, Associate Director of School Programs, New-York Historical Society

The Membership Department is responsible for the management of and sales for the OAH jobs board. Our
Membership Coordinator, Patrick Dias, has increased revenue through regular solicitation of new listings.
FY2021 saw $19,294 in revenue, an increase of $1,501 over FY2020.

The number of organizations that posted jobs remained almost the same, with 77 in FY2021 and 78 in FY2020.
The increase in revenue stems from increased purchases of the “featured job” option as well as purchases of
posting periods longer than the standard 30 days. (The $250, 30-day posting is the base listing option.) Cur-
rently the majority of job postings come from universities, but we are targeting smaller institutions/muse-
um/historical societies by offering a discounted rate. In addition to listing the position, we also push each
announcement on social media, which serves to draw traffic to our site.

In FY2021 our social media presence has significantly increased. In addition to posting more frequently, we’ve
also increased the types of posts (including those of job announcements). During this time, we changed our
“This Day in History” posts from text-based to videos and graphics. We now frequently feature OAH publi-
cations and link to free content in the JAH and magazine. We are also using social media to draw attention
to our committees and our NPS collaboration projects. Posts about our advocacy efforts have been very
popular across all platforms as evidenced by the following statistics.

Twitter: We posted 692 times, which was an increase of 423 over FY2020. We increased our number of followers by 2,800 to 23,000. Our engagement (likes, retweets, and replies) increased to 7,800, which was an increase of 2,400 over FY2020.

Our most popular tweet (with 184 retweets and 313 likes) was: “Vibrant democratic societies are not built upon
a foundation of selective depictions of the past, but rather demand critical examination of and grappling with
the historical record.” Read the OAH response to White House Conference on American History – https://bit.
lv/3j2QFVn” posted on September 25, 2020.

The tweet with the most replies (39) was from May 23, 2021: “Who should we be following to get great content
on American history teaching and scholarship? #Twitterstorians #sschat #teachhist”

Facebook: We posted 364 times, an increase of 273 over FY2020. Our fans only increased by a handful (51),
but our engagement number (reactions, shares, and comments) increased to 2,500, from 1,000 the previ-
ous fiscal year.

The post with the most reactions (26) was a share of a post originally made by the IUB History Department
that featured one of the JAH’s editorial assistants: “Congratulations to one of our Journal of American History

The post with the most shares (38) was announcing a DLP event: “The Columbia University School of Profes-
sional Studies is hosting a virtual speaker series on the history of the American electoral system, featuring three
OAH Distinguished Lecturers. Attend the live virtual lectures, including Q&A, for free with the Zoom registra-
LinkedIn: Prior to FY2021, we posted infrequently on LinkedIn (52 times in FY2020). In FY2021, we posted 278 times, increased the number of followers from 3,200 to 4,800, and increased engagement (reactions, shares, and comments) from 100 to 1,200.

The post with the most reactions (34) was: “The OAH supports the creation of a National Women’s History Museum within the Smithsonian system ‘conceived from and built on a foundation of rigorous historical scholarship,’ and Senate Bill 959 as a crucial first step in the establishment of a museum that will ‘document and interpret the full and complex histories of American women.’ Read our letter of support for the...” posted on October 8, 2020.

The post with the most shares (8) was: “‘Vibrant democratic societies are not built upon a foundation of selective depictions of the past, but rather demand critical examination of and grappling with the historical record.’ Read the OAH response to White House Conference on American History – https://bit.ly/3j2QFVn” posted on September 25, 2020.

The post with the most impressions (1,893) was: “New Career Opportunity Posted: Assistant Professor | African American History and Public History | UNC-Wilmington #OAHCareerCenter #UShistory #careersinhistory | University of North Carolina Wilmington For more info and to apply visit the OAH Career Center - https://bit.ly/3dSUBGw” posted on October 23, 2020.

The post with the most clicks (42) and highest engagement rate (11.78%) was: “New Career Opportunity Posted: Research Historian | History Associates Incorporated #OAH #OAHCareerCenter #UShistory #careersinhistory | History Associates Incorporated For more info and to apply, visit the OAH Career Center” on November 3, 2020.

Instagram: We posted 190 times during FY2021 (an increase of 83), and our followers grew from 253 to 598.

The post with the most likes (48) was: “The OAH has issued a statement on the assault on the US Capitol last week that has culminated in today’s historic impeachment debate and vote. Read the full statement here: https://bit.ly/3MSig5” posted on January 13, 2021.

Now in its 40th year, the OAH Distinguished Lectureship Program pairs our nation’s finest American history scholars with organizations and institutions across the country for community events, lecture series, and historical commemorations. Distinguished Lecturers share their scholarship and research on all aspects of U.S. history with audiences in a valuable educational outreach and engagement volunteer service. Distinguished Lecturers donate their speaking fees as part of their participation in the program, thereby providing an important non-dues source of revenue for the OAH general operating fund.

New Lectureship Program Website Launched
At the beginning of fiscal year 2020–2021, an updated OAH Distinguished Lectureship Program website debuted. The new dynamic, streamlined format showcases our OAH Distinguished Lecturers and their work, highlights featured lectures, and offers a more efficient user experience for host organizations interested in scheduling speakers. A new “Topics and Titles” page provides all OAH Lecture titles available on a given subject or a combination of U.S. history categories, providing hosts the information they need when considering lecture themes and possibilities. Visit oah.org/lectures to see the new design.

New Virtual OAH Lecture Format Introduced
Academic year 2020–2021 was unique for the program: the coronavirus pandemic necessitated a switch to digital offerings as travel and large gatherings for public lectures were not feasible during the year. The Distinguished Lectureship Program launched Virtual OAH Lectures in August 2020. Utilizing the Zoom webinar format, options include customized recorded lectures and live lectures with Q&A, which proved to be a successful venture in terms of attendance and positive feedback. The virtual formats will be a permanent feature of the OAH Distinguished Lectureship Program in addition to traditional, in-person lectures.

FY 2020–2021 Distinguished Lectures
A total of 48 OAH Distinguished Lectures were presented throughout FY21 (all but one were virtual events).
Lecture host organizations represented 18 states and a variety of venues: half were colleges/universities, in addition to museums, libraries, historical societies, churches, K–12 schools, and a hospital. Some of the hosts included:

- Bayou Vermilion District (Lafayette, Louisiana)
- Brigade of the American Revolution (New Windsor, New York)
- Chicago Public Library
- Columbia University
- Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (Minnesota)
- Ohio State University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel (South Orange, New Jersey)
- Texas State University, San Marcos
- Tower Hill School (Wilmington, Delaware)
- University of Denver
- University of Kentucky
- Weber State University

Thanks

We recognize and gratefully acknowledge the individuals who gave OAH Distinguished Lectures in FY2020–2021. See lecturer list on p. 40 under Philanthropy & Development.

This year, the OAH continued its long-standing relationship with the National Park Service by coordinating work on over 40 projects across the country. OAH members have been engaging with the Park Service since 1994 under a series of cooperative agreements originally designed to bring the complementary expertise of both entities together for their mutual benefit, as well as the benefit of the public. Despite the challenges of working a full year under the pandemic, the NPS Department managed to exceed budget projections for the fiscal year. Each project faced unique challenges, and unfortunately some could not be completed. However, thanks to the collaborative efforts of OAH staff and members with NPS staff, most of these projects could be adjusted to accommodate the challenges of COVID. In the coming years, the OAH will continue to close out existing projects while undertaking a reasonable number of new ones nationwide.

While presenting many new challenges, the necessities of the pandemic have also yielded new, positive approaches. In June, the OAH partnered with the NPS Intermountain Region Heritage Partnerships Program and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom to hold a three-day virtual scholar roundtable. This program brought together six scholars working on slavery and freedom seeking in Texas and culminated with a public webinar produced with the assistance of the OAH Distinguished Lectureship Coordinator Sally Hanchett. The goal of this program was to examine the broad historical context of freedom seeking along the border with Mexico and, eventually, empower NPS and local historians to identify sites in Texas with connections to this history. In 2022, the OAH will be bringing this program to the West Coast, examining the history of freedom seeking in California, Washington, and Oregon.

The volunteer contributions from members of the OAH-NPS Committee continues to be an invaluable resource, as well as a prime example of collaboration between public and academic historians. The members of this committee advise OAH staff on projects and coordinate cooperative and interdisciplinary panels at each OAH Conference that highlight the working being done with and in parks.
Throughout 2020, we at the JAH at last began to reopen our Atwater office in October. The process has been slow and deliberate and will remain so as long as the coronavirus continues to pose a serious public health threat. In the meantime, though, I can only marvel at all that the JAH staff—along with our authors, contributing editors, board members, and external reviewers—have managed to accomplish over these many difficult months.

Over the past year, the JAH's contributing editors generated a wealth of magnificent content. In addition to Professor Kamensky's review of the original television series Mrs. America to Professor Kamensky's review of the original television series Mrs. America, solicited by Thomas Doherty, our contributing editor for Digital History Reviews, the December issue featured a lengthy comparative examination of the television series and a provocative article, “When Women Do Military Duty: The Civil War's Impact on Woman Suffrage,” as well as Nicole Etcheson's compelling essay, “Documenting Covid-19,” about the challenges and opportunities of interpreting the past during this year of public health crisis. In our March 2020 issue, Laura Westhoff and Robert Johnston, our contributing editors for Textbooks and Teaching, assembled a wonderful slate of essays about the assignment and assessment of undergraduate prose. To complement these many excellent contributions, our staff worked diligently on a number of special projects. In the early spring of 2021, we re-released the JAH African American History Index and the JAH Women's History Index on our blog. Offered as finding aids for researchers, the indexes include every article that the JAH journal has published in these two subfields since our inception as the Mississippi Valley Historical Review. To promote these indexes, and to encourage an intersectional analysis of their contents, we invited LaKisha Simmons to curate and introduce a sophisticated and thought-provoking annotated bibliography: “Black Women Authors in the Journal of American History.”

Excitement continues to build for our forthcoming special issue on the history of immigration restriction in the United States. Guest edited by Maddalena Marinari and Erika Lee, this special issue will historicize the Emergence of Immigration Act of 1921 and the Immigration Act of 1924, which together imposed a near-total ban on immigration from Asia, instituted a national-origin quota system for the admission of immigrants to the United States, and ultimately prompted the establishment of the U.S. Border Patrol. Our hope is that the special issue will foster discussion of this painful history and also raise public awareness about the racism and xenophobia that have undergirded immigration restriction policies through much of the twentieth century. We expect to publish the special issue in June or September 2022.

The JAH staff coordinates the adjudication of two OAH article prizes, the Louis M. Pelzer Memorial Award for the best manuscript authored by a graduate student, and the David Thelen Award for the best article written in a language other than English. In 2020, Esther Cyna, a doctoral candidate in history and education at Teachers College, Columbia University, and in American studies at the Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle, won the Pelzer for "Schooling the Kleptocracy: Racism and School Finance in Rural North Carolina, 1900–2018." Wang Yu, a lecturer at Sichuan University School of History and Culture, won the Thelen for "Boss La Follette and the Paradox of the Progressive Movement." Cyna's and Yu's articles will both appear in our March 2022 issue.
In the spring of 2020, we initiated the gradual expansion of the JAH Editorial Board, by which we aim to ease the members’ workloads, inducting five new members instead of our customary four. The newcomers included William Bauer, Geraldo Cadava, Kevin Mumford, LaKisha Simmons, and Jane Wong. They replaced Daina Ramirez Berry, Julio Capó, Kathleen DuVal, and Moon-Ho Jung, for whose tireless efforts we are greatly indebted.

The closure of our Bloomington office regrettably compelled us to pause production of the JAH podcast, which we record in a makeshift attic studio; it likewise drained energies away from the publication of Process: A Blog for American History. In December, though, we were pleased to post “The Histories of Epidemics in the United States,” a bibliography of book reviews devoted to the study of epidemics, quarantines, and related public health campaigns all published in the JAH over the past half century. Our hope is that the public health crisis will continue to subside through the coming months; we will resume production of our blog and podcast as soon as possible thereafter.

The American Historian
Jonathan Warner, Editor

While the pandemic presented unique challenges to The American Historian, our ability to quickly adapt allowed us to publish timely and relevant content. This fiscal year, we published four issues: “History Interrupted,” “History for Black Lives,” “Loss and Learning,” and “Native American History and Sovereignty.” Each issue had material that responded to current events, including, but not limited to: a piece on how to pivot to online instruction; an article advocating for support for non-tenure track faculty; an essay on other historical instances of teaching interruptions; an essay on writing obituaries and how the rise of genetic testing challenges our understandings of family; and pedagogy pieces on using online primary sources to teach the civil rights era and how to create a collaborative writing project in an online class.

Our most popular and powerful issue this year was “History for Black Lives.” Edited by Special Guest Editor Carl Suddler from Emory University, the articles in the issue sought to historically contextualize the nationwide protests that occurred in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others. Featuring seven up-and-coming scholars, the issue focused on diverse topics such as protest in sports, global struggles to end racism, the history of violence and protest, and the history of Black women activists. The issue garnered significant attention through social media, and each article has received thousands of views online through our website.

The American Historian on the OAH website continues to be a success and demonstrates that our content reaches a wide audience. For the upcoming fiscal year, issues will be published around the themes of “The State of Graduate Education,” “Immigration History,” “Asian American and Pacific Islander History,” and “Labor History.” We will continue to publish stand-alone articles on pedagogy and professional development that will be of interest to OAH members of all demographics.
Meetings Overview
From OAH Director of Programming and Conferences Hajni Selby

The 2021 OAH Annual Meeting—Virtual Conference on American History was held April 15–18, 2021, online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 conference was the first fully online conference held by the OAH. The virtual conference was a resounding success with 1,440 registered attendees and 7,937 session views. This increase in views is predominantly thanks to the ability to watch session recordings for a full month after the live event.

In late summer 2020, OAH staff determined that it would not be possible to hold the 2021 conference in Chicago. The COVID-19 pandemic was still heavy, and the city of Chicago had implemented very strict mandates. To satisfy expectations for session participants and attendees, the online conference had to fulfill three criteria: (1) it had to effectively present all accepted content, (2) it had to include a networking component to mimic interactive expectations, and (3) it had to be easy to navigate. Working with these three requirements, the OAH partnered with EventTech to host the conference.

The EventTech platform allowed the OAH to mimic the traditional in-person conference in a virtual form, complete with lobby area, auditorium, exhibit hall, and networking spaces. Attendees could attend live sessions, watch recorded content, or take part in small group discussions. The latter format proved to be extremely popular, allowing attendees to watch a precirculated session then attend scheduled live discussions with the session participants and other attendees on the Zoom Meetings platform. This style was so well received that it has been adopted as a format in the 2022 OAH Conference on American History virtual component. All live sessions were recorded and accessible, and recorded content saw continuous access for the full month of availability. Attendees appreciated the ability to access content at their leisure and utilized this opportunity to the fullest.

The second grant “Public Voice for Historians” offered workshops by the Washington Post’s Made by History and the OpEd Project during the conference. An additional six online webinars were added from the fall of 2020 through the summer of 2021 dealing with historians and public engagement. Topics included “Writing for the Public,” “Historians and Activism,” “Effective Public Engagement,” “Building a Media Presence,” and “Historians and Social Media.” All public engagement webinars were led by the Washington Post’s Made by History with over 500 people registered over 5 webinars (the final webinar is forthcoming).

The conference theme “Pathways to Democracy” was developed by past president George Sanchez and the 2021 Program Committee chairs Natalie Molina, University of Southern California, and Jack Tchen, Rutgers University–Newark. In total, the conference offered 168 individual events, including the plenary session, workshops, chat room discussions, sessions, lightning rounds, and state of the fields. The lightning rounds and state of the fields were the most viewed session types. Blocks of no more than four live sessions were held each day in three time slots. The live sessions took place on the Zoom Webinar platform allowing Q&A and conversation in chat format only. Attendees could also opt to take part in live workshops, which took place on the Zoom Meetings platform allowing for full audio and visual interaction. Additionally, attendees were also able to interact in the Meetings platform during thirty-minute discussion groups that took place from Friday through Sunday. The plenary session “Race, Policing, and Power in Chicago, 1919–2021” took place on Thursday afternoon, and the Presidential Address “Democracy in Trump’s America: Through the Looking Glass of Family Separation and the Undocumented” was delivered on Saturday. Both events were available live and as a recording with several hundred views each.

The 2022 conference was able to extend two Andrew W. Mellon grants that were to end in 2020. The first was designed to support graduate students, independent scholars, and non-tenure track/contingent faculty by offering $10 registrations, $500 travel grants, and targeted workshops. The travel grants were amended to add registration for K–12 teachers, increase overall availability, offset the costs of technology, caption all live events, and open-source caption requested recorded content. In total 193 underrepresented scholars were able to attend the conference using the $10 registration. We were also able to add captioning to a total of 12 recorded sessions, add automatic speech recognition captioning to all live sessions, workshops, and discussion groups, and live CART caption three additional live sessions.

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The virtual Exhibit Hall included 47 unique “booths.” Each booth included a private live chat option and spaces for exhibitors to post videos, links, and information. Exhibitors had the option to upload their own avatars and customize their booth as they wanted. The Exhibit Hall saw a total of 7,048 visits over the live conference days. The Exhibit Hall also housed the “Hey, I Know Your Work!” booth where 20 established scholars met with 28 early-career scholars/graduate students for one-on-one conversations. Participants could meet in a private Zoom meeting or had the option to use the platform’s chat feature to safeguard contact information if desired.

Survey results indicate that while the conference was still mostly attended by tenure-track faculty (30 percent), the virtual conference also saw diversification of careers and levels. There was a noted increase of independent historians and contingent faculty, and the OAH office was contacted by several community college teachers and high school teachers who brought entire classes to take part in the online conference. Typically, the number one reason attendees come to the OAH conference is to network; however, the number one reason to attend the online conference was to keep up with the profession (68 percent), followed by connecting with colleagues (24 percent), and only then to network (6 percent). Accessibility of the virtual conference was the number one reason attendees chose to take part, followed by interest in the content. Overall, 95 percent of surveyed attendees would welcome another OAH virtual event.

2021 OAH AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Organization of American Historians sponsors or co-sponsors awards, prizes, fellowships, and grants given in recognition of scholarly and professional achievements in the field of American history. The awards and prizes are presented each year at the OAH Conference on American History.

The following awards were given in 2021:

- Frederick Jackson Turner Award – 1 award, $1,000
- Merle Curti Intellectual History Award – 1 award, $500
- Merle Curti Social History Award – 1 award, $500
- Civil War and Reconstruction Book Award – 1 award, $500
- Ray Allen Billington Prize – 1 prize, $1,000
- James A. Rawley Prize – 1 prize, $1,000
- Willb Paul Adams Award – 1 award, $1,250
- Ellis W. Hawley Prize – 1 prize, $500
- Liberty Legacy Foundation Award – 1 award, $2,000
- Lawrence W. Levine Award – 1 award, $2,000
- 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
- David Thelen 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 – 2 fellowships, $1,500 each = $3,000
- Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Teacher of the Year Award – 1 award, $500
- Erik Barnouw Award – 1 award, $500
Due to the virtual meeting:

- The Huggins-Quarles Award recipient did not receive an additional $750 for travel to the meeting.
- The Samuel and Marion Merrill Graduate Student Travel Grants (five of $500 each and supported by a bequest from the Merrill Trust) were not given.
- The Presidents’ Travel Fund for Emerging Historians grants (five of $750 each) were not given.
- 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 recipient chosen for the 2020 residency will go to Germany in 2022.
- The OAH was awarded $36,243 from the Japan–United States Friendship Commission to fund the Japan Residencies Program in 2020. Two OAH members were selected to receive residencies, and two Japanese students studying in the United States were selected to receive funding to attend the 2020 OAH Annual Meeting. The residency recipients chosen for 2020 will go to Japan in 2022. Due to cancellation, the new students will receive funds for the 2022 meeting.

The China Residencies Program is on hiatus as options for funding are explored.

Non-Monetary Awards

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

2021 OAH Award and Prize Recipients

Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award
for an individual or individuals whose contributions have significantly enriched our understanding and appreciation of American history

Emilio Zamora, University of Texas at Austin

Frederick Jackson Turner Award
for a first scholarly book dealing with some aspect of American history

Johanna Fernández, Baruch College of the City University of New York, *The Young Lords: A Radical History* (The University of North Carolina Press)

Merle Curti Intellectual History Award
for the best book in American intellectual history

Merle Curti Social History Award
for the best book in American social history
Johanna Fernández, Baruch College of the City University of New York, *The Young Lords: A Radical History* (The University of North Carolina Press)

Civil War and Reconstruction Book Award
for the most original book on the coming of the Civil War, the Civil War years, or the Era of Reconstruction

Ray Allen Billington Prize
for the best book on the history of native and/or settler peoples in frontier, border, and borderland zones of intercultural contact in any century to the present and to include works that address the legacies of those zones

James A. Rawley Prize
for the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States

Willi Paul Adams Award
for the best book on American history published in a language other than English
Elsa Devienne, Northumbria University, *La ruée vers le sable: Une histoire environnementale des plages de Los Angeles au XXe siècle* ([The Sand Rush: An Environmental History of Los Angeles Beaches in the 20th Century]) (Éditions de la Sorbonne)

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

Liberty Legacy Foundation Award
for the best book by a historian on the civil rights struggle from the beginnings of the nation to the present
Johanna Fernández, Baruch College of the City University of New York, *The Young Lords: A Radical History* (The University of North Carolina Press)

Lawrence W. Levine Award
for the best book in American cultural history

Darlene Clark Hine Award
for the best book in African American women’s and gender history

David Montgomery Award
for the best book on a topic in American labor and working-class history, with co-sponsorship by the Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA)
Verónica Martínez-Matsuda, Cornell University, *Migrant Citizenship: Race, Rights, and Reform in the U.S. Farm Labor Camp Program* (University of Pennsylvania Press)
Mary Nickliss Prize in U.S. Women’s and/or Gender History
for the most original book in U.S. Women’s and/or Gender History (including North America and the Caribbean prior to 1776)

Lerner-Scott Prize
for the best doctoral dissertation in U.S. women’s history
Michaela Kleber, Northwestern University dissertation completed at the College of William & Mary under the direction of Dr. Joshua Piker with Dr. Brett Rushforth, Dr. Leisa Meyer, Dr. Hannah Rosen, and Dr. Guillaum Aubert, “*Gendered Societies, Sexual Empires: French Colonization among the Illinois*”

Louis Felzer Memorial Award
for the best essay in American history by a graduate student
Esther Cyna, Columbia University, “Schooling the Kleptocracy: Racism and School Finance in Rural North Carolina, 1900–2018”

Binkley-Stephenson Award
for the best article that appeared in the *Journal of American History* during the preceding calendar year
Kornel Chang, Rutgers University–Newark, “*Independence without Liberation: Democratization as Decolonization Management in U.S.-Occupied Korea, 1945–1948*” (June 2020)

David Thelen Award
for the best article on American history written in a language other than English
Wang Yu, Sichuan University, ““Boss” La Follette and the Paradox of the Progressive Movement” (Journal of Sichuan University, Philosophy and Social Science Edition)

Huggins-Quarles Award
for graduate students of color to assist with expenses related to travel to research collections for the completion of the Ph.D. dissertation

John D’Emilio LGBTQ History Dissertation Award
for the best Ph.D. dissertation in U.S. LGBTQ history
Elisabeth Frances George, K-12 educator, curriculum developer, and guidance counselor, “Lesbian and Gay Life in the Queen City and Beyond: Resistance, Space, and Community Mobilization in the Southwest Missouri Ozarks” (dissertation completed at University at Buffalo, State University of New York under the direction of Dr. Susan Cahn)

Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau Teacher of the Year Award
for contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education within the field of American history
Sergio de Alba, R.M. Miano Elementary School
Erik Barnouw Award

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 People vs. Agent Orange
Directors: Alan Adelson, Kate Taverna; Producers: Alan Adelson, Kate Taverna, Véronique Bernard; Editor: Kate Taverna; Executive Producers: Abigail E. Disney, Mayrne Franklin, Sally Jo Fifer, Gini Reticker; Supervising Producer: David Eisenberg; Commissioning Editor: Mark Ed- wards; a Films for Humanity co-production with Independent Television Service (ITVS) for Independent Lens, and ARTE, France

Stanton-Horton Award for Excellence in National Park Service History
recognizes 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

“The Illinois Freedom Project,” led by Timothy P. Townsend, Chief of Interpretation and Historian, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, with partners:
Old State Capitol State Historic Site
Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

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Old State Capitol State Historic Site
Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

OAH/JAAS Japan Residencies Program (2020 residencies postponed until 2022 due to Covid)
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.

Farina King, Northeastern State University
Otsuma Women’s University: Native American history, comparative Indigenous/colonial studies, and the history of education; race, ethnicity, gender

Erik Loomis, University of Rhode Island
Senshu University: 20th-century U.S. labor history with a focus on the American West, environmentalism, globalization, and the Pacific world

Japanese students studying in the United States will be selected to receive funding to attend the OAH Conference on American History.

Germany Residency Program (2020 residency postponed until 2022 due to Covid)

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.

Thomas G. Andrews, University of Colorado, Boulder
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 2020 fiscal year (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021). The OAH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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| **Centennial Club** | $100–$499 |
| Anonymous (23) |  |
| Kristin L. Ahlberg |  |
| Grant Aldonas |  |
| Susan Marie Armeny |  |
| Viki Arndt-Helgesen |  |
| Douglas M. Arnold |  |
| Frederick John Augustyn Jr. |  |
| Keith W. Baum |  |
| Delaina Ellick Beachy |  |
| Stephen David Beitler |  |
| John Bezis-Selfa |  |
| Scott G. Bocock |  |
| Eileen Boris |  |
| Howard Brick |  |
The OAH also is grateful for the support of the following foundations, funding agencies, and corporations for major funding during FY2020–21:

Japan-United States Friendship Commission.
OAH Distinguished Lecturers donate their speaking fees to the OAH, which is an important part of our operating budget. The OAH Executive Board commends and gratefully acknowledges these generous individuals who gave a virtual or traditional OAH Lecture during FY2020–2021.

Mia Bay
Eileen Boris
Charlene M. Boyer Lewis
Jennifer Brier
Joan E. Cashin
Steven Conn
Gregory Evans Dowd
Lynn Dumenil
Sharla M. Fett
Susan Goodier
Sarah Barringer Gordon
David Greenberg
Julie Greene
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Micki McElya
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Marjorie J. Spruill
Alexandra Minva Stern
Lisa Tetrault
Laurel Thatcher Ulrich
Susan Ware
Craig Steven Wilder
Steven E. Woodworth
Rosenarie Zagarri
Julian E. Zelizer

The OAH Executive Board offers special thanks and commendations to the following individuals for giving two or more OAH Distinguished Lectures during FY2020–2021:

Cathleen D. Cahill (2)
Deirdre Cooper Owens (2)
Martha S. Jones (3)
Erika Lee (2)
Katherine M. Marino (2)

OAH Distinguished Lecture fees start at $1,000 for in-person events and $600 for online presentations. A complete list of OAH Distinguished Lecturers and their areas of expertise can be found at: oah.org/lectures.

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Beth English, Executive Director, OAH, ex officio (beginning September 2020)
Benjamin H. Irvin, Executive Editor, OAH/Editor, Journal of American History, ex officio

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