



Saturday, April 9, 2011
8:00 am – 10:00 am

The Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel
Pensacola, Florida

Graduate Student Travel Awards

The Graduate Student Travel Award provides assistance for conference travel costs for five graduate students who will present a session or poster or will participate in a working group at the annual meeting. Award committee members: Helen Sheumaker, (chair), Marya McQuirter, Courtney Tollison, and Alicia Barber.

Charlotte Egerton, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Paula Hunt, University of Missouri, Columbia
Sarah McCormick, University of California, Riverside
Angela Sirna, West Virginia University
Joan Frangasz Troyano, George Washington University

NCPH Student Project Award

This award is given to an outstanding public history student project initiated as academic coursework and implemented and recognized beyond the classroom for its contribution to the field of public history. Award committee members: Helen Sheumaker, (chair), Marya McQuirter, Courtney Tollison, and Alicia Barber.

“Uncertain Futures: Americans and Science Fiction in the Early Cold War Era, 1945-1965”

Morgan Hubbard, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Unusual in its placement of science fiction in a local as well as national perspective, this project was not only a physical display presented at the Special Collections and University Archives, W. E. B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, in Fall 2010, but also a highly sophisticated web exhibit, located on the University of Massachusetts-Amherst website (www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/exhibits/uncertain/).

The importance of local fan clubs in the popularization of mass-market literature is uniquely highlighted in the research conducted for this project. Not only did Mr. Hubbard rely on the fiction collections housed in the Special Collections archives, he contributed to that archive by conducting oral histories, locating a local fan club's documents, and even remastering audio of a speech by Isaac Asimov from 1972 delivered on campus.

Mr. Hubbard's project presents the national and local arenas of a major form of popular literature, and the project serves both a local and national audience. We commend the high degree of professionalism exhibited in the research, physical display, and website construction.

New Professional Travel Awards

Travel awards for individuals who are new to the field and practice of public history, these two grants assist new professionals in attending the conference, helping them become more connected with other members of the profession early in their careers. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Historical Research Associates, Inc., for underwriting one of these awards. Award committee members: Stephanie Yuhl (chair), Rebekah Dobrasko, and Teresa Beyer Sherwood.

HRA New Professional Travel Award

Erik Christiansen, Rhode Island College

An enthusiastic new faculty member at Rhode Island College, Erik Christiansen is helping to reorganize the institution's undergraduate public history program. He has taught history and public history while volunteering for the National Park Service and coordinating public history conferences and colloquia. While at the conference, he is eager to absorb best practices to strengthen the college's public history program's approach, objectives, and content.

NCPH New Professional Travel Award

Nicole Annette Moore, Culture and Heritage Museums in Rock Hill, South Carolina

Nicole Moore's passion for public history has played out in her work as a researcher and historical interpreter of slave life at the Culture and Heritage Museums in McConnells, South Carolina. She is also deeply involved in gathering oral histories of Civil Rights Movement participants from upstate South Carolina. Nicole comes to the conference as a

first-time presenter interested in connecting with public historians who interpret slavery.

Honorable Mention

Lauren Safranek is the Lead Content Developer for the American History for Citizenship Project with the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. In this role, she uses her skills as a public historian to create an online database of resources, including lesson plans and museum collections, which will prepare aspiring adult citizens to pass the United States History and Civics test.

G. Wesley Johnson Award

Named in honor of the founding editor of *The Public Historian*, this award recognizes the most outstanding article appearing in the journal during the previous volume year. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stan Hordes of HMS Associates in Santa Fe, NM, for underwriting this award. Award committee members: Marian Ashby Johnson (chair), Benjamin Filene, Andrea Burns, Lindsey Reed, and Bradley Williams.

“Public Policy and the Public Historian: The Changing Place of Historians in Public Life in France and the UK,” *The Public Historian*, Summer 2010.

Mary Stevens, University College London

Stevens presents a thoughtful, timely overview of recent developments in Britain and France, describing two very different ways of seeing historians in the public sphere. Whereas there are many parallels between the USA and Britain, current political and cultural shifts in Sarkozy's France have caused it to veer off in a different direction. This article presents a sweeping, theoretical, and frankly alarming look at the contentious fight over who "controls" memory when national discourse about history becomes public policy. The article is also a useful, transnational follow-up to Robert Kelly's foundational 1978 article, "Public History: Its Origins, Nature and Prospects," which also envisioned historians contributing to policy debates. This is a significant addition to our understanding of the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of the profession.

Stevens is an honorary research associate in the Department of Information Studies, University College London, where in 2008–09 she worked on a project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council exploring the role of community archives in constructing collective identities for historically marginalized groups in the UK. Since November 2009 she has been working as a policy advisor in a UK government department, giving her direct experience of the relationship between history and policymaking from the other side.

Excellence in Consulting Award

Created in 2007, this award recognizes outstanding contribution to the field of public history through consulting or contract work. Award committee members: Dan Vivian and Elizabeth Fraterrigo. The Consulting Award Committee is pleased to recognize two reports that meet high scholarly standards in terms of breadth and depth of research and quality of writing and analysis. Together, they show the continued value of contributions made by historians working contractually to the field of public history.

“Working in the Dry: Cofferdams, In-River Construction, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers”

Patrick W. O'Bannon, Gray & Pape, Inc.

This study traces the history of in-river construction methods used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the early nineteenth century to the present. Concentrating mainly on cofferdams, it examines a history of technological innovation associated with construction of locks and dams, canals, and bridges. In addition, it investigates recent examples of in-the-wet construction, which circumvent the need for cofferdams. Conducted to satisfy mitigation requirements triggered by improvements to locks and dams on the Monongahela River, it represents an innovative use of historical analysis for documentation of engineering and construction methods associated with a particular genre of engineering structures.

“Iowa's Historic Roads: A National Register Study of Pre-1948 Arterial Highways”

Carl A. Merry, Marlin R. Ingalls, and Maria F. Schroeder, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa

This study investigates the history of road and highway construction in Iowa during the first half of the twentieth century. Based on extensive fieldwork and research, it examines the design and construction of state and federal

highways and evaluates resources associated with two historic road corridors for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A model study of transportation-related resources, it includes exhaustive investigations of highway engineering and construction in the Midwest during a crucial period of road-building.

Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis

Offered in alternating years, this prize recognizes historical studies that contribute directly to the formation of public policy. Dr. Robinson was a pioneering public works historian who tirelessly promoted historical research as a component of policy formation. He was associate editor of the American Public Works Association's bicentennial History of Public Works in the United States, and served as research coordinator for the Public Works Historical Society and as the first historian of the Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Commission/Lower Mississippi Valley Division. Award committee members: Gordon Olson (chair), Lynn Kronzek, Bruce Noble, Martha Norkunas, and Joan Zenzen.

The Ranch House in Georgia: Guidelines for Evaluation

Patrick Sullivan and Mary Beth Reed, *New South Associates*, and **Christy Johnson**, *Georgia Transmission Corporation*.

In the words of the authors, "in terms of... nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places, the ranch house has come of age." They prepared their book for the Georgia Ranch House Assessment Team of the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, outlining criteria for evaluating the significance of the many types of ranch houses built between the late 1940s and 1970. The thoroughly researched, well written, and beautifully designed book that resulted from their project has been the basis for a statewide training session for preservation professionals. It has changed the survey policy for Georgia's architecture, creating guidelines for understanding, identifying, and evaluating the state's ranch houses. The book's sponsors expect it to serve as a model and lead to criteria revisions in other states.

Honorable Mention

"Unsealing Federal Grand Jury Records (1996-2010)"
Bruce Craig, University of Prince Edward Island

In a major series of Federal Court cases beginning in 1996, Bruce Craig prepared the historical declarations that were central to unsealing of records in several Grand Jury proceedings based exclusively on their historical significance. His work brought about a major change in policy, releasing thousands of pages of Federal Grand Jury testimony to historians, political scientists and others in cases including those of Harry Dexter White, Alger Hiss, and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The government chose not to contest the request in the Hiss case, signaling a change of policy that will have a significant impact on future historians' research.

Outstanding Public History Project Award

This award is presented for work completed within the previous two calendar years that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serves as a model of professional public history practice. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf that makes this award possible. Award committee members: Mark Patrick (chair), Cynthia Koch, and David Glassberg.

"My Place is in the Voting Booth"

Elizabeth R. Osborn and **Sarah Kidwell**, Indiana Supreme Court

Under the auspices of the Supreme Court of Indiana "Courts in the Classroom" initiative, "My Place is in the Voting Booth" reaches a broad audience of impressionable students. Spearheaded by Dr. Elizabeth R. Osborn, the project educates students about the women's suffrage movement and brings to life the accomplishments of the nearly forgotten Helen M. Gougar, a 19th and early 20th century women's activist living and working as an attorney in Indiana. The project also nurtures an understanding of law and the American court system. The centerpiece of the project is a thought-provoking dramatic re-enactment play with over eighty roles for young students. Thus, it is experiential and connects students to the past. The project is archived on the Court's website, and includes the script and a lesson plan along with primary and secondary sources for educators to use in the classroom.

Honorable Mention

“Polk Street: Lives In Transition.” Joey Plaster, Independent Consultant. This is a multi-faceted history project sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society. It documents the history of the GLBT community living in the Polk Street neighborhood in San Francisco, CA. The project created a website, a travelling exhibit, archived oral histories and produced a radio broadcast documentary—all chronicling the transition from a vibrant gay neighborhood with a “queer” economy in the 60’s and 70’s through a period of urban decay and the accompanying AIDS holocaust, to a gentrified heterosexual enclave today.

“Cleveland Historical.” Mark Tebeau, Cleveland State University. This is a free mobile smart phone application developed by the Center for Public History and Digital Humanities at Cleveland State University. This project “breaks new ground by interpreting a regions’ history using multimedia digital story telling techniques.” In this digital app, historical sites and locales are linked to both oral histories and the printed narrative. The application contains content created by hundreds of CSU students and dozens of community partner organizations.

NCPH Book Award

The book award recognizes outstanding scholarship that addresses the theory and/or practice of public history or that include the products of public history work. Award committee members: Peter Wosh (chair), Laura Feller, Anne Murphy, and Aaron Marrs.

The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story (University of North Carolina Press, 2010).
Tiya Miles, University of Michigan

This beautifully researched and elegantly written book exemplifies public history scholarship at its best. Professor Miles relates the fascinating history of the Vann House, a popular Georgia historic site that was originally built by a wealthy Cherokee family early in the nineteenth century. Her analysis especially enriches our understanding of the dynamics of race, gender, and religion in the Early Republic. She also explores the ways in which local volunteers, historic preservationists, and the State of Georgia reinvented the site as a tourist attraction by foregrounding some histories and obscuring others. Perhaps most poignantly, Professor Miles explains both how her research helped to transform and enrich the interpretive approach at the manor, and how her venture into public history changed her as an historian. She writes about her experiences with grace, candor, and humility. Her book illustrates the ways in which university-based historians can collaborate with working public historians to tell complicated and controversial stories in an accessible and engaging manner.

Honorable Mention

Those About Him Remained Silent: The Battle Over W.E.B. Du Bois (University of Minnesota Press, 2009)
Amy Bass, The College of New Rochelle

Bass traces the conflicts that developed in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, when some Berkshire County enthusiasts began a campaign in the 1960s to honor that community’s most renowned native son. The movement quickly became embedded in racial politics, Cold War tensions, culture wars, and insider/outsider divisions. An exemplary local study, Amy Bass’s book deserves a wide readership.

Voices from the Back Stairs: Interpreting Servants’ Lives at Historic House Museums (Northern Illinois University Press, 2010).
Jennifer Pustz, Historic New England

Pustz comprehensively surveys the ways in which historic sites throughout the United States address domestic servitude. Her systematic research design effectively combines historical, survey, and ethnographic methodologies, and she also incorporates two photo essays into her book. Her suggestions for improving interpretive practice nicely blend theory and practice, and will prove valuable for public history practitioners in a variety of settings.

Congratulations 2011 award recipients and thank you award selection committees!

NCPH relies on its endowment to support the awards program and a variety of other programs and projects that fulfill the organization's mission. We are especially grateful for major assistance in recent years from the History Channel, a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant*, Stevie and Ted Wolf, Historical Research Associates, Inc., Stanley Hordes, as well as the ongoing generosity of NCPH members and friends who have brought the NCPH endowment to its current level. (* Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.)

Milwaukee, april 19-22



save the date for the
2012 joint annual meeting

Next year, NCPH joins the Organization of American Historians for a combined conference like never before: 60 NCPH sessions, posters, Speed Networking, working groups, workshops and tours integrated with 150 OAH sessions covering current debates, research, and teaching in U.S. history.

Signaling a public turn, this conference will feature key sessions that historicize current labor controversies in Wisconsin and showcase ways in which historians can more effectively inform public discourse. And the American History Guys (Ed Ayers, Brian Balogh, and Peter Onuf) invite all to attend as they record an episode of their BackStory radio show, using beer to explore the history of entrepreneurship, immigration, and capitalism. <http://backstoryradio.org/>.



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