

# The CCWH Newsletter

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The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

## CCWH AWARDS LUNCHEON

BY JENN SIEGENTHALER

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The Saturday luncheon was full of exciting news and events. CCWH Executive Director, Jen Scanlon, started off the event by introducing board members. Rebecca Nedostup then took the podium to speak about the work of the awards chairs Carol Gold and Ann Le Bar, and announce award recipients. Nedostup was pleased to present the 2005 Catherine Prelinger Award winner Catherine Fosl, who received her Ph.D in 2000 from Emory University. Fosl is an Assistant Professor of Communications and Women's Gender Studies at the University of Louisville, Kentucky. She is also the author of two books, *Women for All Seasons: The Story of the Women's International League for Peace and*

*Freedom and Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South.* Her current project, "Fairness Campaign," is a case study of a local gay rights movement in Louisville, Kentucky, in which Fosl illustrates how women's activism intersected with other social movements of the mid-twentieth century. Fosl also has acted as the director for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and has been involved with the National Association of Social Workers and the creation of women's studies programs at universities.

The CCWH/Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Award recipient was Irina Mukhina of Boston College, whose dissertation is on "Exile and Identity: Ethnic



Professor Mrinalini Sinha, Featured Speaker at the CCWH Luncheon

Germans in the Soviet Union, 1956." Dorothea Browder of the University of Wisconsin-Madison was present at the luncheon. She was the recipient of the CCWH/Berkshire Conference on Historians Award, and her dissertation is on "Christian Solutions to Problems: Working Women in the YWCA's Industrial Program."

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## WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

BY ROSA MARÍA PEGUEROS

In 1972, Shirley Chisholm declared her candidacy for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Although she did not win the nomination, she got 151 votes. Name five powerful elected female Americans. Condoleeza Rice doesn't count; she's never been elected to a public office. Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Barbara Mikulski have been in the Senate for a long time but the only women senators who

Americans across the country may recognize are Elizabeth Dole and Hilary Clinton. Typically, senators are well-known only within their home states and on Capitol Hill.

Several of our former presidents in recent years have been governors. Name one woman governor: Janet Napolitano (D-AZ)? M. Jodi Rell (R-CT)? Ruth Ann Minner (D-DE)? Linda Lingle (R-HI)? Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS)? Kathleen

Blanco (D-LA)? Jennifer Granhold (D-MI)? Christine Gregoire (D-WA)? Do any of these governors ring a bell? The only one I recognized was Kathleen Blanco of Louisiana, whose visibility during the Katrina disaster brought her into the national consciousness. It is unlikely that she could parlay that name recognition into a presidential candidacy.

According to the Center for Women's Business Research

(cfwbr.org), a Washington, D.C., nonprofit, only 6.6% of the U.S. businesses with more than \$1 million in annual sales are owned by women. Only a handful of companies owned by women are household names. Do you know who Debbie Fields is? Pernille Spiers-Lopez? Meg Whitman? Shelly Lazarus? 46% of America's labor force are women but the positions of power continue to be

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## CO-PRESIDENT STATEMENT: CAROLYN BROWN

First, I would like to thank Eileen Boris and Cheryl Johnson-Odim for nominating me to run as co-president of CCWH. I am very honored to be asked to lead an organization that has played such a historic role in strengthening women's studies and the position of women within the historical profession. However, I feel that the coming years will be very challenging for the preservation of these gains and I call upon all of you to help me to give the organization the strength and direction to assume these challenges.

I am an African American scholar whose entrance into the historical profession began with the political activism of the late sixties and early seventies. At that time the Black community was embroiled in the struggle for civil rights and in an internal debate about the value and consequences of integration. In this context Africa emerged as a key element in the reconfiguration of an oppositional African American identity. Students demanded Swahili in the curriculum. Parents gave their children African names and "African-American" replaced "Negro" and "Afro-American" as an identifier. As a graduate student this positioning of Africa in public debate encouraged me to consolidate a superficial interest in Africa into a professional focus. After a graduate degree at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia I continued into the Ph. D. program in African history. The political ferment in the U.S. and the Caribbean and the radical character of the last phase of African decolonization - the struggles against apartheid in South Africa, and for majority rule in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, Guinea-Bissau - propelled me into African labor history. In the search for the "ultimate proletarian" I settled on African mineworkers as the subject

of my dissertation. This "proletarian" led me into gender studies.

My interest in gender emerged from my study of, Nigerian coal miners. They responded to the despotic production regimes of the colonial workplace by negotiating with management for the time and resources to assume positions as "men" (as historically and socially conceived) in their natal villages. My analysis is reflection of the impact of historians of women who positioned gender at the core of historical analysis. This has led us to see gender as an important element in our understanding of the behavior, aspirations and power of "men" and "women", as historically and culturally construed. Thus "gender" is not a synonym for "women" but a category that describes power relations related to but not exclusively determined by human biology. Masculinity, as a category of analysis, was initially invisible and universalized but now it is crucial for an understanding of how power relations between "men" and "women" and between elite and subordinate men were framed and exercised.

I found that colonialism provides an excellent context to investigate gender transformation as impacted by the cultural, economic, social and political changes accompanying foreign rule. My book, "*We Are All Slaves*": *African Miners, Culture, and Resistance at the Enugu Government Colliery, Nigeria, 1914-1950* is a social history of these transformations. It examines how workers' aspirations to fulfill their positions as men in their villages impacted upon their perceptions of 'just' treatment and wages and propelled them to become a militant work force. It also notes how the definition of "men" changed historically and as these male workers confronted racialized assumptions about

Africans held by British bosses and policy makers. These racialized assumptions undermined the effectiveness of British colonial labor policies and prevented officials from perceiving "Africans" as "working class men". I have continued to publish on masculinity, race and class contributing articles to the Stephan Miescher and Lisa Lindsay's *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa* and a number of other anthologies on coal mining and labor.

My current project looks at gender and nationalism. It is a social history of Nigerian nationalism in a colonial city, Enugu. It examines how the "popular classes" create race, class and gender identities that shape how they intersect with the nationalist project. The book project, *Cowboys, Letter Writers and Dancing Women: Identity and Struggles over Space, Leisure and Time in a West African City: Enugu, Nigeria 1914-1955*, tells the history of the town through the experiences of women cooking shed owners, a gang called the "Cowboys", child domestic servants, 'respectable' clerks, and public letter writers.

I also have a project in slavery studies, but from the position of the African continent. The field of African Diaspora Studies in the United States has led to a renewed interest in slavery and the slave trade. African historians are now focusing on the complexities of the trade from the point of disembarkation and its enduring impact on contemporary Africa. In this respect I am conducting an exciting pilot project in villages in southeastern Nigeria on the memory of the slave trade. This region sent over one million slaves into the Atlantic slave trade by the 18th century. It is also distinguished by the fact that it is the only area in Africa in which the numbers of women exported nearly equaled that of the men. The full implications

of this gender anomaly have yet to be explored. Since southeastern Nigeria is such a small geographical area I anticipated that the imprint of the slave trade would be concentrated and pervasive. This has proven to be the case. Scarcely a village in southeastern Nigeria is without a memory of an ancestor who disappeared, and whose absence continues to be a painful loss to the family. By videotaping these interviews, the project, "Memories of Pain and Loss: An Oral History of the Slave Trade," documents this horror and insures that these memories will persist.

This invitation to lead CCWH comes during ominous signs of an attack against the gains that people of color and women made through the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Having succeeded in establishing new fields of study in minority, women's and gay history, we now see these gains eroded by carefully orchestrated attacks on multiple levels, both within the academy and outside in the political arena. Our campuses and our bodies have become a battleground and many of us have suddenly been put on the defensive by a new breed of student activist. These activists, whose power is magnified by the internet and supported by the lush financial resources from conservative organizations, are targeting individual scholars, programs, departments and students. On many campuses we see a disturbing resurgence of racist attacks against minority students and sexist attacks against women and gays. These activists are deeply aligned with broader political forces that even challenge the very presence of women, racial minorities and gays in the academy, deprecate our contribution to scholarship and create a hostile environment for faculty and students. Many of the time-honored

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## RETHINKING THE WAVES METAPHOR IN WRITING THE HISTORY OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES: A CCWH-SPONSORED AHA PANEL

BY KATHLEEN LAUGHLIN

The metaphor of waves of feminist activism has been useful in understanding the preconditions that gave rise to social movements for women's rights, when women banded together from the margins to claim a central place in public life. Histories of first and second wave feminism document the consciously gendered collective behavior of feminists, when women and men pursued opportunities to advance the collective status of women. However, a distinctive and significant body of scholarship has documented and analyzed the collective experiences of women within mainstream institutions, such as unions, political parties, government agencies, religious groups, and civic organizations, especially during the interregnum between waves one and two, 1945 to the 1960s. In doing so, scholars have raised important questions about feminist activism, specifically querying if women could be identified as feminists only if they named themselves as such and organized in a social movement with a singular purpose to achieve equality (or parity) with men? Scholars have identified various adjectives to describe feminist activism—Dorothy Sue Cobble's "labor feminism," for example.

Session participants explored the complicated process of writing histories of modern feminism that identifies a significant revolution in our national history while capturing the diversity of tactics and goals influenced by the politics of identity and place. While there was a

general consensus among the panelists that the ubiquitous wave metaphor probably could not and need not be abandoned, participants encouraged historians to recognize the problems inherent in such a powerful and persistent metaphor to describe the complexities of movements for social change. The following participants suggested ways to recast and reconsider the waves metaphor especially in light of recent scholarship. Eileen Boris, Hull Chair of Women's Studies at the University of Santa Barbara, asserted that we must historicize the wave metaphor: "The story of feminism, and even the waves metaphor itself, came out of a search for identity and struggles of some women in the late 1960s, their need for a sisterhood that was powerful." She noted that as historians "we know that separate waves don't just curl (to come in from the water). We know that the wave didn't recede after suffrage nor did it come crashing all of a sudden in the mid 1960s." She suggested that "if we are going to get wet, we should recognize different streams or strands that sometimes come together and other times move away from each other or fly apart."

Susan Hartmann, Professor of History at Ohio State University, suggested that the waves metaphor is an important means to relate feminist activism to a broader public: "The waves metaphor continues to provide a useful framework for talking about women's movements in U.S. history over more than 150 years. It encourages us to see the continuities in women's protest

and, with some exceptions, it is a capacious framework, as long as we attend to the differences in condition and in purpose of the different women who engaged in protest." She also pointed out that the waves metaphor is a potent political symbol. Julie Gallagher, Assistant Professor of History at Antioch College, concurred that the waves metaphor is a powerful point of reference with political implications. However, she argued that its tendency to define what counts as feminism is problematic as it "masks the feminism of too many women."

Dorothy Sue Cobble, Professor of Labor Studies, History, and Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, State University of New Jersey, presented ways to refine the "ubiquitous" metaphor and discussed two of the most "intractable problems" with out current "wave practices." The current two-wave model denies the half-century of female activism following suffrage. The first wave is a "long and inclusive wave covering many generations." "Why not confine the second wave to one generation? Why not think in terms of a long women's movement and lengthen the second wave? She suggested that an expanded definition of second wave could include campaigns for social justice and include race and class. Another problem occurs when the history of women's reform is collapsed into "a single all encompassing phenomenon." We need to think in terms of multiple femi-

nisms, of "overlapping continuous and multiple waves" and assume that there is "always a movement for freedom and equality among women in every era, among every generation."

Stephanie Gilmore, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Toledo, provided a means to insure that "we think in terms of overlapping continuous and multiple waves" by encouraging historians to initiate more studies of feminism as it developed at the local level. Local studies would allow a richer analysis of the nuances of the movement. Leandra Zarnow, Doctoral Candidate in History, University of California Santa Barbara, also suggested directions for historical research. She asserted that historians, largely absent from scholarly discussions about the Third Wave, needed to consider the outgrowth of feminist activism since the late-1980s to be "an important historical subject that fundamentally complicates our multi-layered narrative of twentieth century feminism." Historians, she argued, could serve an important role in historicizing and documenting the multiplicity of feminist activism during this moment "when critics suggest feminism was dead and activists suggest feminism was everywhere."

## CCWH AWARDS LUNCHEON

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The event's guest speaker, Mrinalini Sinha was introduced by Co-President Eileen Boris.

Sinha is an Assistant Professor of History and Women's Studies at Pennsylvania State University. She is also a member of the AHA Council and serves on a number

of editorial boards including the board of the *Journal of Women's History*. Her forthcoming work, *Specters of Mother India: The Global Restructuring of*

*an Empire*, is being published by Duke University Press.



## WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?, CONTINUED

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controlled by men and there are no female Bill Gates or Lee Iacoca's.

Of the 2613 American fatalities in Iraq, the numbers of female combat dead has grown to 57, 2.18% of the total. How many women generals are there? Do you know who Claudia Kennedy is?

Even at the university level, 64% of 2006 graduates are women, and they are taking 75% of the honors, but how many student body presidents are women?

George W. Bush and John F. Kerry, well-brought up, well-educated men from prominent families, demonstrated their grit, strength, and persistence to win the presidency, muscling each other aside to show how manly they were. To the con-

servative electorate, these qualities promise a strong president. Unfortunately, their values are swamping other opinions.

Whether candidates will run a "nice" campaign is the non-issue in our political climate. Campaigns aren't nice: They are bare-knuckled, teeth-bared, take-no-prisoners battles for power. If one of these cultured fellows "accidentally" calls a journalist an "asshole" into an open mike as Bush did, well, that's just politics. Remember the expletives and racial and ethnic slurs in the Nixon tapes? If the conservative Swift Boat Veterans maligned the record of a genuine war hero, well, boys will be boys, playing to win, and they did. Whining that they are playing dirty is simply stating the obvious. If there is a feminist view of this process it is that we are nowhere near being in a "post-feminist" era

so long as fight-to-the-finish election standards and tactics for electing men to office prevail. Wait, did I say men? Well, you don't see any women in the line-up, do you?

What about Hillary Rodman Clinton (D-NY)? Can she win the presidency? She's smart, savvy, competent, and can she deal with Capitol Hill. The public perception of her is that she is a castrating woman though her priapic, philandering husband is evidence to the contrary. They say that she is a polarizing figure yet she has forged alliances with her colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the Senate, a fact which amazes many of her former foes. However, the minds she has changed are inside the Beltway. She was born and raised in Chicago but is she likely to appeal to the voters in the "flyover states?"

If we are still at war, the next election will be played out on the same terms as the Bush-Kerry fight, especially if Karl Rove is directing from the wings. Still, if we aren't at war, "manliness" will again be in the forefront instead of real issues, and even a woman as tough and smart as Hillary Rodham Clinton won't qualify.

Affirmative action and Title IX have made great changes for women at the ground level, getting women in the doors of universities, corporations, law firms, and so on. Even though there are some cracks in the glass ceiling blocking the halls of power, few women get through it. Until we change the basic tender of high public office, even a Hillary Clinton won't break through.

## CCWH ANNOUNCEMENT: TREASURER POSITION

The CCWH seeks to fill an upcoming vacancy on its board, and is looking for a reliable person to take over the position of treasurer. Duties vary throughout the year, but require the treasurer to:

- Maintain the CCWH mailbox and respond to CCWH inquiries
- Collect funds directed to CCWH and keep full and timely financial records.
- Deposit membership and other checks in a timely fashion.
- Keep an accurate, up-to-date record of all financial transactions.
- Transfer new membership forms at least monthly to membership coordinator.
- Discuss any financial concerns and issues with executive director in a timely fashion.
- Assist in filing financial reports with Internal Revenue services and any appropriate state and local government agency.
- Pay vendors and reimburse other officers in a timely fashion for organizational expenses.
- Provide written treasurer's report for annual board meeting
- Distribute CCWH award monies.

## CCWH ANNOUNCEMENT: NEWSLETTER EDITOR POSITION

The CCWH seeks to fill an upcoming vacancy on its board, and is looking for a reliable person to take over the position of newsletter editor. Duties vary throughout the year, but require the newsletter editor to:

- Produce and distribute two newsletters per year (June and December).
  - Seek the most economical and professional printer and distributor so that we can have newsletters that reflect positively on the organization, and that fit within CCWH's budget.
  - Work with website coordinator to advertise job and conference announcements.
- Questions? Email Karol Weaver, [weaverk@susqu.edu](mailto:weaverk@susqu.edu)

The Coordinating  
Council for Women in History  
now advertises job announce-  
ments (\$25.00 per ad) on its  
website. Please send ad copy to  
[weaverk@susqu.edu](mailto:weaverk@susqu.edu).

# CONNECTIONS BETWEEN GENDER, WAR AND THE NATION IN FILM

BY JILL MASSINO

Over the past few decades a critical body of scholarship has emerged analyzing the connection between gender, war, and the nation. Scholars of various disciplines have explored how gender is mobilized to legitimate and foster popular support for war, how women and men, both as civilians and soldiers, have experienced war, and how gender shapes and is shaped by the post war context. The films under review here, *Calling the Ghosts* (1996), *Picture Me an Enemy* (2003), and *The Peacekeepers and the Women* (2003), all produced by Women Make Movies, explore issues of gender and war by focusing on the war in the former Yugoslavia.

In this war, gender, and more specifically women's bodies, served as a front upon which ethnic conflict was waged. Rape was not simply a byproduct of military conflict—a reward for good soldiering and a morale builder—but a deliberate military strategy designed to humiliate women and their families, and to dilute ethnic homogeneity through impregnation—a crime against women and the nation. The efforts of Western journalists and feminist scholars to document and theorize about rape during the war was instrumental in raising public awareness. Indeed, rape, became one of the rallying points around which various groups demanded intervention into the conflict by the international community. Yet, as rape increasingly became a symbol of Serb brutality, and the “raped woman” the symbol of Bosnian defenselessness, the actual women who experienced sexual assault (be they of Bosnian, Serb or Croat nationality) became obscured, while women who fell outside of that category but nonetheless suffered trauma, loss, and abuse during the war were wholly neglected.

*Calling the Ghosts: A Story about Rape, War and Women*, directed by Mandy Jacobson

and Karmen Jelincic, seeks to recapture these voices through the recollections and experiences of Jadranka Cigelj and Nusreta Sivac, two Bosnian women who were imprisoned in the infamous Omarska detention camp in Serb-controlled Bosnia-Herzegovina. Utilizing the narrations of Sivac and Cigelj, as well as actual footage of the camp taken by journalists during the war, this powerful documentary confronts the viewer with the camp's horrid conditions and the abuses and humiliations suffered by its inmates. However, the film is not simply a testament to brutality but an exploration of the internal tension faced by the protagonists as they contemplate whether they should speak out about their experiences or remain silent. In the end, they choose to speak out, and encourage—or, in their words, “beg”—other women to do so, traveling the country to collect women's (and men's) testimonies and provide legal assistance. In the process, we learn how the war impacted a host of individuals, from the male inmates housed at Omarska who attempted to present a collective front of bravery to female inmates by concealing wounds and broken collarbones under buttoned shirts and upturned collars, to other women in the region who suffered violence and sexual abuse during the war, one of whom cries out in frustration to Western journalists: “I'm begging you, if you want to help you can film. Otherwise stop.” We also meet the families of Cigelj and Sivac. Particularly powerful is Cigelj's son's description of her return from the camp and his unwavering support for her as she copes with her trauma and struggles to bring her perpetrator to justice. The documentary culminates with their journey to the ICTY at The Hague and the recognition of rape as both a war crime and a crime against

humanity by the International Criminal Court.

Though not focused on rape, *Picture Me an Enemy*, by Nathalie Applewhite, similarly seeks to disrupt sensationalized portraits of the war and ethnic conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The documentary profiles Natasa, a Serbo-Croat, who escaped the horrors of the war by coming to the US as an exchange student in 1992, and Tahija a Bosnian-Muslim who suffered through the siege of Sarajevo until she left for the US in 1995. Despite their different ethnic backgrounds and wartime experiences, both women challenge the conventional view of ethnic nationalities in eternal opposition and conflict and seek to demystify stereotypical images of the enemy, victim, and refugee (as perpetuated by both the Western media and the Serbian and Croatian leadership). Their earnest desires for healing and national harmony are evident in interviews, which are interspersed with archival footage and family photos, and their devotion, through scholarship and activism, to issues of human rights.

With the creation of the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda, rape was recognized as a war crime and a crime against humanity, punishable under international law, yet the sexual abuse and exploitation of women in Bosnia and Kosovo continues. Now, however, the victims typically come from countries outside the region.

Scholars have explored the connection between peacekeeping operations and the emergence of prostitution and/or sex trafficking in regions as diverse as the Philippines, Cambodia, Liberia, and Bosnia; however, *The Peacekeepers and the Women* is the first documentary to offer a comprehensive portrait of the various groups and individuals who are impli-

cated in and are affected by sex trafficking. Director Karen Jurschick utilizes interviews with a wide range of subjects: self-styled local “entrepreneurs” who promote and profit from the sex trade, NGO workers attempting to combat it, UN officials—such as Paul Klein, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Bosnia and Herzegovina, who vehemently dismisses the connection between the UN presence and the explosion of sex trafficking in the region, claiming: “we had a problem but we cleaned it up,” and Madeline Rees, former Commissioner for Human Rights for the UN in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who maintains that the introduction of an unregulated market economy actually facilitated the growth of organized crime and trafficking—and formerly trafficked women. Jurschick also addresses how the transition to a market economy in Eastern Europe, by sharply curtailing women's economic resources and employment opportunities, has facilitated trafficking. Women and adolescent girls, desperate to improve their economic situation are easily lured by promises of ‘work’ in the West; and we are informed that in certain villages in Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, all the women under 40 are missing. Although the film focuses less on the voices of the trafficked women than on the economic system and institutions that facilitate the exploitation of these women, it reveals how in post-war Bosnia and Kosovo peacekeeping has not led to a cessation of sexual violence.

## Film Information

### *Calling the Ghosts*

A film by Mandy Jacobson and Karmen Jelincic, 1996, 63 min., Color.

### *Picture Me an Enemy*

A film by Nathalie Applewhite, 2003, 29 min., Color/BW.

*The Peacekeepers and the Women* A film by Karin Jurschick, 2003, 80 min., Color.

## PUBLIC HISTORY INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

BY BRIANN GREENFIELD

As I write this column, I have just returned from the Organization of American Historians/National Council of Public History annual meeting in Washington, DC. With the NCPH as conference co-sponsor, the program was packed with public history events including panels on historical memory, women in public history, the future of the Smithsonian, place and race, and displaying diversity. But I want to use this column to discuss an event of less obvious importance to public historians, the daylong workshop on the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Grant Program entitled "What has TAH Wrought? The Impact of Teaching American History Projects on Historians and the Historical Community."

Public historians often define their professional identity by their absence from the classroom. Indeed, "history outside the classroom" is commonly provided as a simple

response to that difficult question, "What is public history?" This, I believe, is unfortunate. While public history is distinct from the practice of history in the academy, the field has much in common with the presentation of history at the secondary and elementary school levels. Like public historians, teachers must tailor content knowledge to audience needs, make history relevant, and confront popular perceptions of the past. Public historians and teachers also share a history of marginalization in the profession. Teachers are our compatriots.

With over one half billion dollars appropriated to the Teaching American History Grant Program in the last 5 years, TAH is changing the profession in ways particularly important to public historians. To start, TAH has created a new category of nontraditional scholars, those who administer and implement TAH grants. The granting program has also swelled the ranks of teachers

joining professional organizations. The OAH reports 1,700 teachers among its members, a statistic born out by teachers' clear presence at the annual meeting. Most importantly, TAH has fostered new partnerships across the profession. By federal statute, applicants for grant funding must collaborate with institutions of higher education, non-profit history organizations, libraries, or museums. As a result, scholars, public historians and teachers now regularly collaborate on shared projects. Because many TAH programs emphasize "historical thinking skills" and the use of primary source documents, museums and historical societies have become providers of archival and material culture collections for classroom use. I do not know of any statistics pinpointing the organizations involved, but the discussion at the annual meeting left me impressed by the number of small museums and historical societies participating. Over and over again, at-

tendees praised the work of public historians in their communities.

As TAH has broken down walls, it has also raised tensions. At several times during the session, teachers and university-based scholars expressed frustration with one another. TAH grant administrators complained that scholars conducting TAH seminars lectured participants rather than encouraging them to actively engage in scholarship. At the same time, scholars criticized teachers as not concerned enough with content. For public historians, these are old debates. Rooted in a profession which values both historical scholarship and public presentation, public historians have the skills and experiences to bridge these divides. Indeed, it is in the capacity as mediators that public historians may make their greatest contribution to the TAH program -- a contribution which has the potential to continue long after the funding runs out.

## CCWH GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Coordinating Council for Women in History and Berkshire Conference of Women Historians are pleased to announce the 16th annual competition for two \$500.00 Graduate Student Awards to assist in the completion of dissertation work. The awards are

designed to support either a crucial stage or research of the final year of writing. The CCWH/Berkshire award is for a woman graduate student in a history department in a U.S. institution, and the CCWH/Ida B. Wells award is for a woman graduate student in a

U.S. institution in any department, who is working on a historical topic, particularly one emphasizing race. Winners will be presented at the CCWH Awards Luncheon at the AHA Annual meeting. The application deadline is September 1, 2006. Application forms for

both awards are available at the CCWH website: <http://www.theccwh.org/awards.htm>. Any questions should be directed via email or telephone to Professor Ann Le Bar, the CCWH Awards Committee Chair: [alebar@mail.ewu.edu](mailto:alebar@mail.ewu.edu) 509-359-7952

## WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS: AMY ESSINGTON

I am the Executive Director of the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH). The WAWH is a regional organization that promotes the interests of women historians in both the historical profession and the field of history. I am writing to extend a special invi-

tation to CCWH members to join the WAWH and to submit a proposal for our 2007 Annual Conference. In addition to submissions by individuals, I would like to invite CCWH to sponsor a panel.

For the first time, our organization will be meeting in

the San Diego area. We will meet May 4-6, 2007, at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego. Our keynote speaker will be Asunción Lavrin. Our call for papers will be posted on our web site, <http://www.wawh.org>, in early summer. The deadline will

be November 1, 2006. Please share this information with your colleagues and students.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the organization or the 2007 conference. [aessington@verizon.net](mailto:aessington@verizon.net)



## MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT EILEEN BORIS

On this May Day, the OAH Presidential Address of Vicki Ruiz a little more than a week ago continues to ring in my ears: “Our America/Nuestra América,” Vicki declared with a nod to the exiled nineteenth century Cuban poet José Martí, as she narrated a more complete story of the national past. She highlighted America’s Spanish as well as Anglo origins, the constant struggle against racism and conquest, and search for citizenship and rights among earlier generations of Latina/o immigrants. Ruiz’s talk, which will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of American History*, expands the boundaries of nation, the borderlands of history, even as it represents the coming of voice of Latina/o history as U.S. history just as strongly as did the millions who marched today in the streets of New York, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, and even Santa Barbara, where I reside, claimed

their place in the work, educational, and political forums of our day.

Gender too wove in and out of the sessions at the OAH, which featured a state of the field panel on “Women and Work” also in recognition of its President. As a participant on that panel with Betsy Jameson, Dorothy Sue Cobble, Camille Guerin-Gonzales, Joan Sangster, and Ivette Rivera-Giusti, I was struck with the continued vibrancy of the study of laboring women. Although last September more than 200 scholars gathered in Toronto for a conference on laboring feminism, the number of ‘work’ panels per se at the last Berks seemed small, So I wasn’t really surprised by a comment during the OAH session that graduate students in recent years, whether in US history, other national histories, or comparative gender and women history, seemingly had turned away from study of work, women workers, or working-class women. The panel

felt this was only partially true, since the entire field of labor history was both undergoing transformation, especially under the new focus on globalization, and melding into other sub-fields. I invite you, our members, to share what is hot and what is passé, what areas within gender and women’s history are being worked upon, what areas are being neglected, what areas represent new directions and what is up with old topics—i.e., work, family, reform, and feminism. We’ll print your short comments in a future newsletter!

I would like to take this space to thank my co-President for the past few years, Cheryl Johnson-Odim, who will be stepping down at the next AHA. Being a Dean, scholar, family member, and co-President all at once wasn’t easy, but Cheryl brought wise counsel to the CCWH that we needed and will miss. Fortunately our commitment to expanding the geographies of study persists with the nomination of



CCWH President  
Eileen Boris

Carolyn Brown from Rutgers to replace Cheryl. You can read more in this issue about Carolyn, who has served as the co-chair for the 2007 AHA, before sending back your ballot. I also would like to extend my appreciation to Rebecca Nedostup who is passing her outreach duties to Nancy Robertson.

May this summer be a productive and pleasant one in these days of change.

## CO-PRESIDENT STATEMENT: CAROLYN BROWN

(Continued from page 2)

traditions of academic freedom and preservation of the classroom as a “safe” site of debate are being undermined. In area studies the tragedy of September 11th has been used to justify a blurring of the boundaries between overseas academic research and the defense security apparatus, boundaries

scholars struggled to establish as a result of the Vietnam War.

These are challenging times and difficult times for women scholars. CCWH will have to continue and intensify its advocacy role for women scholars and working women in general. We cannot assume that the gains we have made are irrevocable in the current political climate. I would

work to create broad coalitions to defend and extend the rights women have gained and to work against the creeping militarization of our society. Both of these issues are of equal concern to area studies scholars as we watch U.S. attempts to restrict the options for reproductive rights outside the U. S. and to redirect funding for international research through

defense agencies. This creates a context in which we should work together - women scholars of the U.S. and those of Asia, Africa and Latin America. These challenges bring new opportunities which I am anxious to develop.

## BALLOT FOR CO-PRESIDENT CAROLYN BROWN

CIRCLE ONE:

CAROLYN BROWN

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

SEND COMPLETED BALLOTS TO:

CCWH Executive Director Jennifer Scanlon  
Women’s Studies Program  
Bowdoin College  
7100 College Station  
Brunswick, ME 04011

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