

The CCWH Newsletter

The Newsletter for the Coordinating Council for Women in History

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MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT: CAROLYN BROWN

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As women historians we're especially well positioned to understand the historic changes that are occurring with such rapidity in our country and in the world. Our 'First Family' is African-American and for the first time we have a president who has spent a considerable part of his life outside the continental United States. He has had the advantage of having 'seen' the U. S. 'from the outside,' a totally different perspective. Our 'First Lady' is a lawyer of urban working class origins whose approach to 'being a mother' includes a commitment to social justice and public service in her own right. This commitment includes working with Washington D.C.'s public schools, one of the most troubled systems in the nation. Our President, who at times in the campaign was considered 'too soft' (i.e. feminine?) on adversaries, exemplifies a new model of 'male' leadership with elements of a 'female' managerial style – developing administrative models that focus on reconciling competing positions, rejecting a competitive, confrontational style, developing ways of resolving conflict in which both sides receive something they want but not 'everything,' etc. He confronts formidable challenges: a health care system that is in crisis, an economic crisis that has crippled growth, an international reality that is daunting, etc. And he is a 'history buff,' lacing his speeches with references to historical events of past centuries. It would appear that history should be 'in vogue' again!!

But the economic crisis is taking a particularly heavy toll on tertiary education. At a time when undergraduate history degrees have reached their greatest high in 35 years, the number of history PhD's is at its lowest point in 10 years. Interestingly, the job market for history PhD's has contracted despite the demand from undergraduate enrollment. But now colleges and universities are making dra-

conian choices to effect economies. Caught in the decline of the market, they are crafting unprecedented strategies that could have far-reaching effects on the viability of higher education in the long term. In some cases, the strategies have appeared to be using the crisis as a rationale for rolling back advances made by faculty. Some universities have cancelled their contribution to pension packets. Others have increased teaching loads, cut or frozen salaries, and reduced research budgets in non-science fields. The effect that these strategies will have on our field of history could be quite catastrophic, even as we grow in student graduation rates but lag behind in gender and ethnic diversity.

When we look at our field and the representation of women and ethnic minorities we see how much work must be done to permit us to make our increasingly diverse student body understand a complex world with multiple centers of economic and political power. Statistics for 2006-07 from the May 2009 *Perspectives* reveal that our field is becoming less ethnically and gender diverse and lags behind other disciplines. In history, women received 41.3% of the new BA degrees, 46% of new master's degrees and 40.1% of new doctoral degrees. This compares unfavorably with all other fields that have female majorities and humanities like English language and literature, which are nearly 60% women. Furthermore in history, 16.9% of the bachelors, 15.9% of masters and 26.6% of the new doctorates are racial or ethnic minorities. This is **startlingly 64% lower** than all other fields at bachelor's and doctoral levels.

What will be the impact of this crisis on our field and our educational institutions as a whole? In times of crisis the lessons of the past are increasingly crucial to understanding the present and the future.

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CCWH NEWS

Newsletter by Email

Members now have the option of requesting an email copy of their newsletter rather than a paper copy. If you would like to request to receive an email copy of the newsletter, just email newsletter@theccwh.org. If you have signed up for an email newsletter, please add newsletter@theccwh.org to your email address book so you won't miss an issue.

The Coordinating Council for Women in History now advertises job announcements (\$25.00 per ad) on its website.

Please send ad copy to newsletter@theccwh.org

Next AHA Annual Meeting:
January 2-5, 2010 Santa Diego, California

CCWH MEMBER NEWS

Jennifer Scanlon published *Bad Girls Go Everywhere, The Life of Helen Gurley Brown* in April 2009 (Oxford University Press).

The book examines the careers and contributions of the original Cosmo Girl, herself, Helen Gurley Brown. In it, Scanlon argues that the longtime editor of *Cosmopolitan* and diva of the New York magazine world powerfully changed the way modern society views the single woman.

From Brown's first book, *Sex and the Single Girl*—a bold precursor to today's unapologetic *Sex in the City*—to her work editing of the most widely read women's magazine in the world, Brown defied traditional mores to proclaim the unmarried woman's right to happiness. As the first woman to publicly say there was another role available in the conservative context of the 1960s; Brown offered American women a revelation that resulted in a revolution.

Scanlon tracks the trajectory of Brown's career as a frank, fearless champion for women, from her support for abortion rights to her demands that freedom of choice for women include everything from fashion to politics, and shows how Brown advocated for women while achieving great commercial success. The first scholar to



focus on Helen Gurley Brown, Scanlon argues that Brown deserves a place among the early leaders of the second wave of the feminist movement. Scanlon depicts Brown as a woman of fascinating contradictions who carved out her own unique philosophy of pragmatic feminism, a philosophy that defines the lives of millions of women today.

The book has already earned many positive reviews. Jennifer Baumgardner, author of *Manifesta*, *Look Both Ways*, and *Abortion & Life*, had this to say: "Scanlon's lucid, authoritative biography of the misunder-

stood icon and feminist trailblazer Helen Gurley Brown is a welcome corrective to those who wrote Brown off as insufficiently political or serious. This book demonstrates that living an independent, brave, full life is the essential revolutionary act for women."

New York Times, *O Magazine*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *New Yorker*, and *The Washington Post* have also commented favorably upon the book.

Scanlon is Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at Bowdoin College as well as a former executive director of the CCWH.

Kathleen Sheldon (Center for the Study of Women, UCLA) and **Isabel Fêo P.B. Rodrigues** (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth) published "Outras Vozes: Women's Writings in Lusophone Africa," in *African and Asian Studies* 7:4 (2008): 423-445, as part of a special issue entitled *Researching African Women and Gender Studies: New Social Science Perspectives*.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Well I am three months into my new job as executive director of the CCWH and ending my second year as chair of my department. Like most of you, I have been spent much of my time as department chair coping with dramatic budget cuts that at least in the state of Washington are threatening the idea of public education. The result of such budget cuts are higher tuition, limited access to classes, more student fees, hiring freezes and fewer jobs especially for staff and part-time faculty. We are also facing the reality that many of these cuts will be permanent, undermining the promise that higher education will be accessible and affordable to all talented students. Many of those most hurt by these developments are women, who make up the majority of part-time faculty and staff and first generation and working-class students, who are less able to afford dramatic tuition jumps. While I often wonder about the wisdom of doing these two administrative jobs at the same time, these events underscore how intertwined our day to day work corresponds with that of a national organization like the CCWH.

If not for federal stimulus money, things would be even worse. But this money is temporary and targets very specific goals. How President Obama constructed his economic stimulus package has generated discussion and activism by feminist activists and historians. In December of 2008, feminist activists and historians based at the University of California, Santa Barbara wrote an open letter to President-elect Obama that warned of the potential gender and race bias in his proposed stimulus packages. Inspired by this letter and the activism surrounding it, the CCWH will sponsor an AHA panel entitled "Obama's Economic Liberalism: Historical Perspectives on Race, Gender and Economic Policy." The brainchild of Julie Gallagher, who will chair the panel, this panel will bring together several twentieth-century historians who will examine the gendered and racial history of American economic liberalism with an eye towards creating a conversation about how President Obama's policies reflect, repeat or depart from this history. Participants in this panel will include: Michele Mitchell, Elizabeth Faue, Nelson Lichtenstein and Felicia Kornbluh.

The CCWH will also co-sponsor a panel on Peggy Pascoe's book, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America*. Organized by Eileen Boris, this panel will use Professor Pascoe's award winning book as a backdrop to further discuss issues of interracial marriage in the twentieth century. Panel participants include: Vicki Ruiz, Jessica Millward, Matt Garcia, Valerie Matsumoto, and Kristin Celello.

We would like to extend a welcome to the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, a newly recognized AHA affiliate. We will be co-sponsoring the following sessions with the SMFS: Political Construction of Gender and Female Lords in the Middle Ages, Threads of Power, Violence, and Reputation: The Experiences of Women in the Crown of Aragon and Telling Medieval Women's Stories.

Along with these sessions, the CCWH will hold its regular luncheon and reception at the AHA. The luncheon will feature Ellen Carol Dubois who will speak on the global flows of feminism while the reception will sponsor a performance of *Those Smart Women*, complete with audience participation. So practice your singing voices and prepare for a good time.

And finally, a note on our room requests. We have requested that all of our events be held in the San Diego Marriott due to the owner of the Manchester's support of Proposition 8. As most of you know the AHA decided that withdrawing its contract from the Manchester would damage the AHA financially and result in a profit for the Manchester's owner. Out of respect for those members of our organization who would like to honor the boycott of the Manchester, we have requested that our events be held at the San Diego Marriott. I do not know if the AHA will be able to honor these requests. The AHA is providing rooms at both the Manchester and the San Diego Marriott, which is about .2 miles from the Manchester, at \$129.00.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the AHA in San Diego. One of the pleasures of this job is helping members who would like to present at the AHA with their proposals and offering co-sponsorship to relevant panels. Please feel free to contact me with your panel ideas for 2011 conference in Boston as proposals will be due in mid-February.

~ Kathleen Kennedy

Submit your members news for the next issue. Do you have a new book, article, conference presentation, graduation, recent promotion, service, teaching award, or other professional news to share with the CCWH membership?
Send it to newsletter@theccwh.org or art5sv@virginia.edu for publication in the next newsletter.

FALL DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

WEBSITE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

I became the web coordinator in June 2008. At that time, Rebecca Nedostup had just transferred the site to a new host that would allow us additional features. Thank you to Rebecca for taking care of that task before turning the site over. The features of the new site include the options of email lists. I have created two lists. The first is for the general membership. If you would not like to receive emails sent to the general membership, you may indicate that on your membership form or contact the Membership Coordinator Julie Gallagher at jag63@psu.edu. The second list is for the newsletter. This newsletter list gives us the option of sending the newsletter by email as a PDF rather than a printed copy sent by postal mail. Sending the newsletter by email saves the organization money in printing and postage costs. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, you may indicate that on your membership renewal form or contact the Membership Coordinator Julie Gallagher at jag63@psu.edu.

One of the services the CCWH provides is to post job announcements on our website. Some people are not aware of this service. For \$25, I will post an ad on the website for ninety days. Contact me if you have questions or want to post an ad. For no charge, I can post information about awards, conferences or other opportunities for members.

I hope the web site can become a central place of information for the different constituencies of the membership. We currently have pages and links about public history, but I hope to work with the board members representing other groups to develop pages for those groups as well.

~ Amy Essington

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The CCWH remains active and strong with over 260 members. Together, we continuously make substantial contributions to the field of history inside and outside of academia, both within the United States and beyond its borders. CCWH members come from all dimensions of the profession including award-winning independent scholars, graduate students, full-time academics, public historians, emeriti faculty, and secondary teachers. We are particularly excited to see the increasing number of new graduate students. For those of you who have graduate students currently working with you, please consider giving a gift of membership for a year as they move into the profession.

As the membership coordinator, I'd like to express how very much the CCWH appreciates the loyal support of so many members. The majority of the CCWH membership has been with the organization for years. At the same time, we are equally excited to welcome new members and know how important you are to bringing new energy and new ideas into the organization. For any questions about membership please contact me at jag63@psu.edu.

~ Julie Gallagher

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

I recently took over as CCWH newsletter editor. I have big shoes to fill because Amy Essington did such a terrific job. She has also been most patient as I try to learn the ins and outs of this fascinating organization. As I work on each issue, I am more and more impressed by the achievements and vision of individual members. As someone anxious to finish a dissertation and find a place in the academy, you are my role models.

Because our membership is scattered over such a large geographic area and everyone is so busy, I really hope that you will see the newsletter as a vehicle for bridging distance and busy schedules. To that end, I would love to hear from you with story and feature ideas that you believe would be useful to our members, as well as news about your accomplishments. You can reach me at newsletter@theccwh.org or art5sv@virginia.edu for publication in the next newsletter. The deadline for fall submissions is September 15, 2009.

~ Anne Throckmorton

Nominations for the 2010 CCWH/Berkshire Conference on Women Historians Award & the CCWH/Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Award are due SEPTEMBER 1, 2009.

For information & forms, visit: <http://www.theccwh.org/awards.htm>

NEW YORK 2009: CCWH AT THE AHA

The CCWH exerted a powerful presence at the 2009 AHA conference in New York. Dozens of members participated in various sessions and events designed to mark the 40th anniversary of the CCWH. The following is just a sampling of some of the debates and conversations generated by CCWH members.

The History of Women's History—and of the CCWH

Due to a programming glitch, this year's CCWH luncheon and a session designed to consider the history of the CCWH were scheduled at overlapping times. The solution: to combine the two. In an increasingly crowded luncheon room at the Hilton New York, AHA attendees gathered to have lunch, listen to Alice Kessler-Harris's luncheon address, then participate in a roundtable on the history of the CCWH in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the organization (in its various incarnations).

The luncheon address, "Women, History, and the History of Women in History," presented by Alice Kessler-Harris, R. Gordon Hoxie Professor of American History at Columbia University, drew a crowd and engaged listeners with the simultaneous sense that women have made significant inroads into the profession and that continued vigilance is necessary to stop a frightening reversal of positive trends. Kessler-Harris situated her discussion of the emergence of significant numbers of women into the profession in the context of the women's movement and suggested that today's beginnings of a reversal of almost adequate representation of women may require a political as well as an intellectual response.

Because of the session mix-up, participants were unable to direct questions to Professor Kessler-Harris. Fortunately, the members of the roundtable that followed both responded to her talk and raised additional questions as they considered historical trajectories and the need for activist work in the profession. Natalie Zemon Davis, Nupur

Chaudhuri (whose comments were read by Eileen Boris), Renate Bridenthal, and Barbara Winslow reminded us of the activism required to break into the ranks of academe and the leadership of the AHA—and the critical role played by the CCWH among other groups in that work. They offered historical perspectives as well as contemporary advice ("Get into the public schools and get high school students interested in women's history," urged Barbara Winslow) to remind us that any and all gains require not only determination and collective effort but also a level of vigilance. We left the session with several mandates: commemorate our histories, keep our organizations alive, make demands of the profession, and pass on to future generations the joys as well as the challenges of becoming and being historians.

~ Jennifer Scanlon

Third Wave Precedents: Race and Sexuality in the Second Wave

This well-attended session featured three scholars who sought to explore second wave feminism in light of some of third wave feminism's critiques. Julie Gallagher analyzed the complex differences among black women who contended with their dual oppression, noting that is false to suggest that the second wave was only white. Her examination of three key women, Pauli Murray, Anna Arnold Hedgeman, and Shirley Chisholm helped to illuminate these complexities. Stephanie Gilmore's research stemmed from the work she did on NOW chapters in Memphis and San Francisco. She argued that the feminists of the 1960s and 1970s did engage in sexual discourse and that their discussions were extensive and sex positive. The third panelist, Jen Scanlon, explored sexuality, power, and culture through her analysis of second and third wave publications, including Helen Gurley Brown's *Sex and the Single Girl* and contemporary magazines *Bust* and

Curve. She found continuities between the second and third waves, particularly in their abilities to position fashion as fun and self-affirming. The chair, Tiffany Gill, and commentator, Mark Naison, along with the audience, contributed to a lively Q & A.

Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower

The 2009 AHA offered conference attendees two rich opportunities to learn about the history behind and the writing of the new book, *Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower*, a powerful compilation of seventeen black women historians' personal journeys into the often inhospitable world of academia. The first came on Saturday morning at the AHA Committee on Women Historians breakfast. Deborah Gray White of Rutgers University was the keynote speaker. She shared some of her personal and professional experiences that led to the creation of this moving, inspirational, and informative book. On Monday morning, CCWH co-president, Carolyn Brown chaired a roundtable that brought together four of *Telling Histories'* contributors. In her introductory comments, Brown noted that this important book reads like a "survival guide for African American women in academia." As one of the panelists, Deborah Gray White elaborated on the process of finding contributors for the book and noted that it was a "labor of love, not a labor of sorrow at all." *The book, she explained, was arranged to note considerable changes in the profession, including the recognition of African American women's history as a field of study, and those things that have not changed including isolation in the academy, the balance of motherhood and career, and the burden of being "a first".* Mia Bay from Rutgers University spoke about the difficulties of writing an autobiography and of exposing oneself, but also appreciated the intellectual tools that historians have to unearth and analyze the past. Sharon Hartley from

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CHAUDHURI REFLECTS ON FORTY YEARS OF CCWH

The following are comments made by longtime CCWH member Nupur Chaudhuri at the AHA in January 2009.

During the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s, when many women historians actively participated in social movements, "AHA remained a gentlemen's protection society". . . openly supporting practices of sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, and anti-Semitism." In this context CCWHP was founded in December 1969 to encourage the recruitment of women into the historical profession, and to encourage research and instruction in women's history. Foundation of CCWHP is rooted in activism. During the first decade, CCWHP spent much of the time lobbying for advancing the status of women's history, then almost entirely neglected. The enormous growth of women's history led to the creation of Conference Group on Women's History or CGWH, which instead of becoming a separate affiliate stayed with CCWH.

During the second decade, new hostile forces outside the profession threatened to wipe out whatever little gains we had made. CCWHP/CGWH spent much of its time and energy defending these gains. Still it continued strengthening the field of women's history. Through the efforts of Claire Moses, Karen Offen and Phyllis Stock, CGWH became the US international representative to the International Federation on Research on Women's History (IFRWH).

During the third decade, many members and the executive board wanted to reevaluate our goals, chart new directions, and prepare to face the challenges of the 1990s and beyond. Some members objected to the bifurcation of our work into activist (CCWHP) and academic (CGWH) components. Also many new members found the name CCWHP/CGWH not user-friendly. After a lengthy discussion, membership voted to accept the new name CCWH in 1995.

In order to include women historians in each panel for several years

CCWH officers lobbied to the AHA Council to make each panel gender inclusive. Now it has become AHA's official policy to have a woman historian in each panel. Even our own panels have been rejected for not being gender inclusive. Once Claire Moses, one of our ex-co-president rejected CCWH panel for not being gender inclusive. But our lobbying efforts resulted in the increase number of women participants in the AHA annual meeting. According to Noralee Frankel, [a graduate student representative of the CCWP in the mid 1970s and now the AHA Assistant Director of Women and Minorities] only 4% women historians participated at the AHA in 1969, 25% participated in 1982 and 46 % in 1998. We don't have the latest figure but it seems that the number of women participants are increasing and CCWH can take credit for this. I remember in the early 70s both Peg Strobel and I had to work hard to get at least one panel on women's history from non-western world accepted by the AHA program committee and now there are usually several panels on women's history from non-western world. But I think CCWHP/CGWH officers took special pride when Natalie Davis got elected as the president of the AHA. The credit lies with CCWHP member Frances Richardson Keller, who was a member of the nominating committee.

Once Frances invited a male speaker, a well-known Japanese historian for Saturday luncheon during the annual conference. His speech offended most of us because of the non-feminist topic. I told Frances that most of the feminists, including me, were extremely offended. Her response to my complaint was that feminists including you will forgive me when we get Natalie Zemon Davis elected as the President of the AHA. I did not understand what she meant. Then she clarified her statement that she had invited this historian with the understanding that he will second the motion when she nominates Natalie's name. Since

Natalie, many women historians became president of the AHA and almost all of them are members of the CCWH. Election of other members and officers to important AHA offices- Eileen Boris, Nupur Chaudhuri, Mollie Davis, Nancy Hewitt, Claire Moses, Betsy Perry, Barbara Ramusack, Peg Strobel, Gerhard Weinberg and Robert Zangrando- to name only a few also facilitated our objectives. We consider this as the strategy of infiltration from below.

The co-president of the CCWHP/CGWH wrote numerous letters to various members of Congress and Senate. Co-presidents Kitty Prelinger and Lois Banner wrote several letters to restore the funds for the NEH and NHPRC. They lobbied to increase funds for the NHPRC because many of their junior colleagues worked in various archives and museums. Mollie Davis, another co-presidents wrote letters supporting various Civil Rights Legislations During the Bork hearing, Mollie and Frances composed a letter which I mailed to 800 members urging them to call their senators against confirming Bork

The CCWH board has never forgotten its activist roots. In the mid-1990s, it wrote letters protesting the proposed closure of various feminist research centers, such as the Canadian Simone de Beauvoir Institute. In 1996 it passed a resolution in support of unionizing Yale graduate students who tried to bargain collectively. Because of a strong letter from Nancy Hewitt and Judith Bennett, the AHA Council agreed to change its meeting place from Cincinnati, which had passed anti-gay regulations. Our AHA panels addressed timely topics, such as Roe v. Wade (1989), welfare reform (1997), and affirmative action (1998).

In *Voices of Women Historians: The Personal, The Political, The Professional*, Eileen Boris and I claimed "we are makers of history, both as individual subjects and as a professional generations". But one thing we failed

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CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We need to preserve diversity of perspectives, informed by gender, ethnic and national 'difference' rather than homogeneity, in our classrooms and our profession.

In the fall I spent a semester on a Fulbright Distinguished Scholars grant at York University in Canada. I was amazed at the quality of reporting on the U.S. economic crisis which was covered with amazing complexity and nuance in the Toronto newspapers. There was a fascinating debate in Canadian newspapers about a concept that I admit I hadn't heard often – 'American capitalism' vs. 'European capitalism.' Many argued that the only way that capitalism could survive is through modification, through some regulation, through boundaries on the 'free market,' and leveling responsibility on those corporate decision makers, CEOs, and CFOs whose decisions could destroy the world economy. Many of the fundamental values of the past 20+ years are being reexamined against a backdrop of declining U. S. military and economic power.

Thanks to the Internet, the American public is more involved than ever in the often complex debates about the current problems confronting the world. Nearly everyone now understands what sub-prime mortgages are, although we might not understand the complexities of derivatives. But the fact that some knowledge has been democratized should be reflected in what we meet in the classroom.

Our economy has crashed and dragged down the entire world economy in its wake. Globalization has linked national economies so deeply as to challenge the use of the term 'national.' Many of the assumptions we made about our wealth and standard of living are being questioned: the values that undergird a culture of unbridled 'prosperity' for some and deepening impoverishment for others; a reification of greed (and public fascination for people like Donald Trump) which led us to idolize magnates who 'get ahead' through ruthlessness; and the assumption that some companies were too big to fail. We are being forced to reexamine our consumption habits (does a family of two really need 5 bedrooms??), to question the logic of an unregulated 'free market,' and to think, once more, about the role of the government in modern society.

In this reality and future, the members of CCWH will confront new challenges but will also have new opportunities. In periods of transition, of crisis when old assumptions are turned on their head, *people do begin to think in new ways*. As women historians, we should use this opportunity to propose ways of making our profession more diverse, more relevant to everyday problems, and more willing to intercede in the debates that are reshaping our national and global realities. Please join us in our sessions at the Santa Barbara meeting as we discuss some of these problems.

~ Carolyn Brown

NUPUR CHAUDHURI'S COMMENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to mention that we are also institution builders. In December 1988, we established a graduate student fund in honor of our 20th anniversary and past presidents. Soon Berkshire Conference on Women's History joined CCWHP/CGWH in this effort and created CCWH[P]/Berkshire Dissertation Prize. Soon we created a second graduate student dissertation prize called CCWH/ Ida B. Wells Prize. To provide practical help, CCWH co-sponsors with the AHA Professional Division a workshop on job interviewing. On August 15, 1982, we lost Joan Kelly, a founding member of the CCWHP, an inspiring teacher, scholar and role model. In 1982 CCWHP/CGWH established an endowed fund for a book award in women's history and feminist theory. On May 21, 1983, the AHA Council voted to approve the Joan Kelly Memorial Prize in Women's History, with CCWHP/CGWH as official sponsor. In 1998 one anonymous donor gave a large sum of money to establish an award so that non-traditional scholars could carry out research. To honor Catherine (Kitty) M. Prelinger's memory and her untiring work to improve the status of part-time/adjunct faculty, the board has named this award after her. Furthermore, each year CCWH promotes women's history among school children. In 1989, it established a Women's History Day Prize for fifth to twelfth-grade students who participate in the National History Day Competition. Over the time the contour of our organization has shifted. In the words of Mary Elizabeth Perry, "What had begun as a caucus of protest has been transformed into a lasting national organization of programs and policies."

Now we are celebrating our 40th anniversary and a lot has changed. When CCWH [P] started women's history, black history and ethnic history were realms in the future but by the late 1990s all of these fields have been strongly established in our academia. Many of our members' scholarships, activities and teachings have contributed to this growth. Our leadership has changed. Younger generations of scholars are now in charge of this organization and they will lead CCWH in this new century. Our present co-president Kathleen Berkley was a graduate student when I first met her in one of the AHA meetings. She was with Frances Richardson Keller and Penny Kanner. Both of them served as the co-presidents of this organization. Frances is no longer with us and Penny is too frail to attend any conference. Jen Scanlon, our current executive director was also a graduate student when I first met her. I met our new executive director Kathleen Kennedy in one of the Berks conferences when she was an undergraduate student of Anita Rapone Anita served as a treasurer during the early years of this organization. The new leaders have to deal with new and different problems of this new century. I have absolutely no doubt that as leaders they would remember the values and goals of CCWH and maintain them. They would help the organization to act as the conscience of the historical profession as we have done with respect to women's issues and closely tie their activism to scholarship in women's history. I wish them all the best in their efforts.

~ Nupur Chaudhuri

WINNERS OF CCWH GRADUATE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

After assessing an impressive array of applications—22 in all—the CCWH Graduate Awards Committee is pleased to announce the following winners: **Lindsey Moore** from George Washington University is the recipient of the CCWH/Berkshire Conference on Women Historians Award. Moore's dissertation is entitled "Women at Law in England and the Chesapeake, 1630-1700." The recipient of the CCWH/Ida B. Wells Graduate Student Award is **Nicole Eaton** from Brown University. She is working on a dissertation entitled "Women's History and Women's Rights: Gender and Collective Memory in American Feminism, 1848-1998."

This year, Christina Anderson from Xavier University, Candice Goucher from Washington State University Vancouver, and Katherine Parkin of Monmouth University have graciously agreed to serve three-year terms on the committee. Many thanks to them and all past and current members who work so hard to recognize and encourage deserving graduate students.

~ Whitney Leeson

2008 PRELINGER AWARD WINNER CHOSEN

In 2008 there were 17 applicants for the CCWH Prelinger Prize. All of them were of very high quality. The Coordinating Council for Women's History is pleased to announce that **Midori Green** has been awarded the eleventh annual CCWH-Prelinger Scholarship Award of \$20,000. Ms. Green is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota to complete her dissertation on, "Sec's Appeal: The Secretary in American Popular Culture, 1900-1964."

Green's dissertation examines the visual and material world that female clerical workers interacted with on a daily basis," from sexy secretaries depicted in advertising, films, and cartoons, to the new work, leisure, and living spaces in the modern city. "With this in focus, she explores the ways images, she explores the ways images, objects, and environments were instrumental in shaping a new identity for women in the 20th century, that of working middle-class women. She also considers the ways the material world became instrumental in either advancing or deterring women's success in the workplace. The award committee was particularly impressed in Green's interest in women's workplace culture and believed that this study will show how these working women impacted—both culturally and physically—on office culture, the shaping of new urban spaces and redefinition of "middle-class."

Green entered college in the fall of 1982 and graduated in 2002 with a major in liberal arts and a minor in art history. She started working on her degree in 1996 and took a job as a file clerk making \$4.50 an hour in order to pay for her tuition. As a working student she was able to take only night courses. During this period she also worked as a docent at a historic house museum. Although she received her B.A. degree in 2002, it was one of the most difficult years for her. In September 2002, she protested the treatment of women in her workplace and suddenly found that her job had become superfluous. She became involved in a difficult sexual harassment lawsuit but still managed to apply to graduate school. She was accepted by the Department of Art History at the University of Minnesota with a five year teaching fellowship which allowed her to become a full-time student and pursue her graduate studies. The Prelinger Award Committee was impressed with Ms. Wilson's activism and believes she is a good example of the non-traditional academic career path which the award was established to honor.

The Prelinger award committee consisted of Nupur Chaudhuri, Chair, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX, Francesca Miller, UC Davis, CA, Cindy Little, Atwater Kent Museum, Philadelphia, and Lynn Weiner, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

~ Nupur Chaudhuri

AHA ROUND-UP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the University of Maryland reflected on the ways her life as a political activist informed her academic life, and the significance of finding supportive friends and colleagues along the way, especially as a graduate student at Howard University. Ula Taylor from University of California at Berkeley described her struggle to bring balance to her life, noting that the work structures we function in do not make it easy to also have a family life. At the same time, she underscored the importance of finding joy in life. For those who missed this compelling panel, we are fortunate to have their stories and thirteen others documented in the historically significant new collection, *Telling Histories*.

~ Julie Gallagher
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CATCHING UP WITH PRELINGER WINNERS: LISA DICAPRIO

The following is the first in an ongoing series about what past Prelinger prize winners have done with their opportunity. Since 1998, funds from an anonymous donor have made it possible for the CCWH to offer the Catherine Prelinger Award for non-traditional women historians. The award is named after Catherine (Kitty) Prelinger who was a non-traditional historian and served as co-president of the organization. Lisa DiCaprio received the award in 2002.

I definitely took a non-traditional path to the history profession.

Prior to attending college, I worked in the construction trades in Chicago. I was an apprentice carpenter and a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. I co-founded Chicago Women in Trades, an advocacy group that campaigned for affirmative action for women and minorities in apprenticeship training and in employment in the construction trades. I was also a free-lance journalist and wrote articles and book and film reviews for the alternative media.

I chose the Ph.D. program in history at Rutgers University for its renowned program in European women's history. My dissertation topic on working women and social welfare during the French Revolution was directly inspired by my own work experiences and political activism in Chicago. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the pioneers of women's history and to express my special appreciation to my advisor Bonnie Smith and to Renate Bridenthal. My book, *The Origins of the Welfare State: Women, Work, and the French Revolution* was published in 2007 by the University of Illinois Press. I am also co-editor with Merry E. Wiesner of *Lives and Voices: Sources in European Women's History* (Houghton Mifflin 2001).

My research concerns the role of women in the historical development of international justice. I am focusing on the campaign for justice for the victims and survivors of the Srebrenica massacre, which is led by associations of women survivors. The UN established Srebrenica as a "safe area" in 1993 to protect Bosnian Muslim civilians from military operations carried out by Bosnian Serb forces. In July 1995, however, Bosnian Serbs captured Srebrenica and subsequently executed over 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys. This was the single worst atrocity during the war in Bosnia and in Europe since World War II. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have determined that the Srebrenica massacre constituted genocide.

With funds provided by the Catherine Prelinger Award, I traveled to Bosnia and Serbia in July 2003 and interviewed Srebrenica survivors, officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Commission of Missing Persons (ICMP), human rights lawyers, journalists, and activists in civil society associations. In July 2005, I returned to Bosnia with NYC human rights photographer Paula Allen to document the ten-year commemoration, which was attended by over 30,000 survivors and their supporters. (Previously, we had collaborated on an exhibit of her photographs on the "disappeared" of Chile that opened at NYU in September 2004.)

While teaching at Washington and Lee University, I conceptualized and produced a traveling, photographic exhibit, "The Betrayal of Srebrenica: A Commemoration." This is a visual narrative of loss and hope, finality and anticipation – finality represented in the burial scenes, and the anticipation of justice, as yet only partially realized, in the organization of the ten-year commemoration. The exhibit opened at Antioch College in October 2005, Washington and Lee University in January 2006, Wellesley College in February 2007, and Boston College in

January 2008. A bilingual version of the exhibit was displayed in Sarajevo in July 2007 at the annual meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

The Srebrenica exhibit serves as a focal point of educational programs (films and speakers) on the war in Bosnia, the betrayal of Srebrenica, and the campaign for truth and justice. The exhibit and these educational programs, which are open to the public, have been publicized in campus newspapers and in the local media. I have also given presentations on my research and the exhibit to general public and academic audiences in the U.S. and Europe, including the AHA. In June 2007, I lectured on memorialization as an aspect of justice in a seminar on war crimes at the Inter-University at Dubrovnik.

I designed an exhibit catalogue while teaching at Boston College last year. The exhibit website (www.betrayalofsrebrenicaphotoexhibit.net), which is based on the catalogue, provides links to Srebrenica-related ICTY cases and various educational resources. (This website may be accessed in a Google search.) The website home page features the image of a woman touching one of the hundreds of coffins awaiting burial. In her anonymity, she represents all the women survivors and, in her solitude, she illuminates the magnitude of the death commemorated on July 11.

I am very grateful to the anonymous donor of the Catherine Prelinger Award and to the members of the award committee for supporting my research.

~ Lisa DiCaprio

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Critical Feminist Biography: Writing Race, Writing Gender, (Re)Writing Women of Color

Jennifer Morgan chaired the session, which featured an engaging roundtable discussion with Jocelyn Olcott, Sherie Randolph, and Stephen Ward. Dalia Boyce Davies also presented and fielded questions on behalf of Carole Boyce Davies, who was unable to attend. The well-attended session drew together a lively audience of professional historians, community activists, graduate students, writers, independent scholars, and many others.

During the roundtable, each panelist explored the methodological, conceptual, and personal challenges of writing an interpretative biography by recounting their ongoing efforts to document the lives of female activists of color. The panelists discussed the ways in which feminist and critical race theories have influenced their approach to biography and the difficulty of situating an individual social actor within multiple, and at times conflicting, histories. Given the continued marginalization of women of color in histories of social justice activism, the panelists also grappled with how biography can be used to rewrite these narratives while also disrupting static notions of identity and authenticity.

Following the presentations, the panelists and audience engaged in a wide-ranging discussion about women's political activism, the relationship between feminist biography and feminist praxis, and the fraught relationship between women of color and the mainstream women's movement.

~ Reena Goldthree

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