Message from the President

Well, spring semester is over and summer is just around the corner. More importantly, the Ninth Conference on Women’s History at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth is just a few weeks away. I hope you’ve all made your travel plans, registered for the conference, and booked your rooms. This promises to be an exciting and fun-filled weekend. Conference Coordinator Rebecca Sharpless and Program Committee chair Lorri Glover have organized a wonderful selection of panels, workshops, and plenary lectures. The program is so rich I can’t even begin to pick titles to entice you with; just check the information on H-SAWH and, if you haven’t already done so, follow the link to the registration page.

In addition to the exciting conference sessions, SAWH members will also be voting on some amendments to our By-Laws. Many of these changes just involve cleaning up language and recognizing existing practices. The Executive Council has approved the following amendments and submits them to the membership for approval. We will have a formal vote during the conference. The complete By-Laws are on H-SAWH.

1. Article VII, Section 2: Change in line one.
The Nominating Committee, appointed and chaired by the Past President, has four to six members. The committee is charged with selecting one candidate for each of the following offices: second vice president, executive council member, and graduate student representative to the executive council. These nominees should be drawn from names suggested by past committees and the membership, and from self-nominations. The Nominating Committee conducts its work in December and January. Once the committee has completed its selections, the Executive Council must approve its slate of candidates. Nominees present their statements to the membership in the spring newsletter, which will also include a ballot, on which members may vote for the nominees or for other write-in candidates.

Change number on the Nominating committee from "four to six" to "three to five."

2. Article VII, Section 3:
The organization shall be governed by an Executive Council composed of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five at-large council members. Three at-large council members will be selected from the general membership and two members will be graduate students. The Second Vice-President and the three at-large council members shall be elected from a slate of two candidates for each office. At-large council members representing the general membership shall serve staggered three-year terms. One at-large council member will be elected each year. Graduate Student Council Members shall serve staggered two-year terms. One graduate student member will be elected each year. All other terms are for one year except those of the Secretary and the Treasurer, who are named by the Executive Council for terms of five years subject to reappointment. In the event of an unexpired term, the President in consultation with the Executive Council is empowered to fill the position.

Delete “Three at-large council members will be selected from the general membership and two members will be graduate students." Change first sentence to "The Organization shall be governed by an Executive Council composed of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five at-large council members including two graduate students."

Executive Council Candidates and Ballot Information Inside!
Also, change "Graduate Student Council Members" to "Graduate student council members." [It's not a separate "Graduate Student Council." They are graduate students serving on the council.]

3. Article VII, Section 5: This amendment passed with a unanimous vote at the membership meeting on October 29, 2011. This is the new wording:

Section 5. Standing committees include: Awards, Finance, Graduate Studies, Membership, Mentoring, and Nominating. The President appoints all committees except the Nominating Committee whose members serve one year and are appointed by the immediate past President. The three members on each of the Awards Committees serve for one year. The other standing committees will be comprised of a chair and five additional members who will serve staggered terms.

4. Article VII, Section 12:
Section 12. A board of six editors, appointed by the President from among senior SAWH members, shall work in an advisory capacity with the President and Executive Council to appoint editors and review proposals, budgets, and timetables for all SAWH-sponsored publications. The board shall also work to ensure that the organization maintains an excellent working relationship with the University of Missouri Press, the SAWH publisher of record. In consultation with the director of the Press, a board member will be available to serve as an outside reader for each SAWH volume submitted to the Press. The board will work with the authors or editors in charge of the conference volumes and all other publications to ensure that deadlines are met and that the content and quality of the manuscript represents the organization well. The board should work with the author/editor of each SAWH publication to develop a schedule and a budget for each publication and should be kept apprised of the progress of SAWH publications. Board members will serve staggered four-year terms, with three members rotating off every two years.

Action: Delete this section. SAWH no longer published a volume with University of Missouri Press.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work Jennifer Ritterhouse (our Interim Web Editor), Megan Britt (graduate student member of the Ad Hoc Social Media Committee and Associate Web Editor), Karen Cox (Facebook editor) and our very active Ad Hoc Social Media committee have done in updating our web presence. I would also like to acknowledge our very active H-SAWH editors, many of whom have worked quietly and diligently for many years to maintain our internet presence. Our list editors are Jennifer McDaid, Marie Jenkins Schwartz, and Jean A. Stuntz; and our review editor is Antoinette Van Zelm. Along with Jennifer Ritterhouse, these editors make up H-SAWH’s Advisory Board.

See you in Fort Worth!!!

Beverly Bond
Message from the Secretary

Hi everyone! Once again, I find myself apologizing for getting the spring newsletter out a bit later than usual, but as the semester winds down, and we continue to work on the triennial meeting, we have all found ourselves behind the eight ball. That said, I’d like to remind everyone that if you haven’t yet registered for the meetings in Fort Worth this June, please do so at the following website: http://www.his.tcu.edu/facultypages/SAWH.asp

The Executive Council is looking forward to what promises to be one of the best SAWH conferences yet. I would personally like to thank Lorri Glover and Rebecca Sharpless for all of the hard work they have put into making this conference and the programs happen. I hope that everyone is surviving the end of semester and that you are, as I am, looking forward to spending time with our SAWH friends this June, who we don’t get to see as often as I know we would all like. Please go to Survey Monkey and vote or write in your candidates for the new nominees for the Executive Council. I want to thank our former President, Sally McMillen, for selecting women who as always should prove to be an asset to our board. Also, please note the changes to the by-laws and note your approval (or disapproval) for what the Executive Committee voted to change this past November in Baltimore. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns throughout the summer months.

All best,
Shannon

Have you renewed your 2012 membership yet? If not, please send in the membership form as soon as possible!

New Members

Erin Bush – George Mason University
Caroline Cortina – Guilford College
Diane Crothers – City College, City University of New York
Paula Anne Fortier – University of New Orleans
Damita Drayton Green – Morgan State University
Adelaide Hair – Louisiana State University
Torrie Hester – Saint Louis University
Glenda Hodges – Gainesville, Florida
Ruth Karbach – Fort Worth, Texas
Deborah Keating – University of Missouri, Kansas City
Deborah Kilgore – University of North Texas
Elizabeth A. Novara – University of Maryland, College Park
Sarah Lirley McCune – University of Missouri, Columbia
Ivy Farr McIntyre – St. Louis University

Debbie Parker Wayne – Cushing, Texas
Lee Polansky – Washington, D.C.
Rachel Seidman – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Janice L. Sumler-Edmond – Huston-Tillotson University
Announcements:

Call for Book Chapter Proposals – Motherhood and War
Editors: Dana Cooper, Stephen F. Austin University; Claire Phelan, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Our proposed volume will examine the various roles assumed by mothers during periods of national, or international, unrest. Conflict has certainly affected women in ways that are unique to their sex, yet while many have suffered emotionally or even physically, others have felt the more grievous loss of a son through death or life-altering injury. How did women cope during times of such great uncertainty, and how did they navigate the social boundaries of their day in order to make a substantive contribution to the war effort if, indeed, they did? Our proposed edited volume will approach the topic from a chronological and regional perspective in an effort to identify responses from women that are both traditional and non-traditional.
We encourage interested contributors to forward a 300-500 word abstract, along with a brief curriculum vita, to Claire Phelan by July 1, 2012. Successful authors will be notified by July 15, 2012. Completed essays must be received by October 15.
Claire Phelan, Ph.D. Department of History University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Tel: 254 295 5085 Email: cphelan@umhb.edu

Drusilla Dunjee Houston Award

Call for Entries and Nominees - Sponsored by the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH) to recognize emerging Black female scholars and foster scholarly research in Africana Women’s history. Each year an award will be given for the best, unpublished original essay from either a graduate course or chapter from a thesis or dissertation for the 2012 award year. The essay must be wholly focused on some aspect of history on Black women from the U.S. and/or the Africana Diaspora. The paper must involve interpretation of primary sources, focus on the ideas or actions initiated among Black women, and make a significant contribution to Africana women’s history. The award will be presented at the 97th Annual ASALH Convention in Pittsburgh, September 26-30, 2012.

Criteria: All entrants or nominees must be current ABWH female members of African descent and currently enrolled in a M.A. or Ph.D program at an institution either in the United States or Canada. Nominations are also accepted from ABWH members who have identified a graduate student writing an exceptional paper or thesis/dissertation chapter.

Prize: A $250 honorarium; a 2013 ABWH membership renewal; a complimentary registration to next year’s 2013 ASALH annual meeting and ABWH luncheon; and publication of the winning essay in TRUTH.

Conditions: Submit three copies of the history essay with an Entrant (or Nominee) form attached to each copy; Length: 7000-10000 words (28-40 pages), double-spaced including reference matters (notes, tables, charts, and bibliography). For Graduate Essays include the name of the school, specific course, and instructor’s contact information. For Thesis/Dissertation History Chapters include the school’s name and anticipated degree completion date. Essays cannot be published works nor be under consideration for publication. For further information, please contact Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram at pbertram@gmail.com.

The Many Souths
Southern Labor Studies Association, New Orleans
March 7-9, 2013
The Southern Labor Studies Association is soliciting panels for its 2013 conference in New Orleans, LA. The conference theme, the “Many Souths,” invites a broad range of panels on southern working-class history, while at the same time it asks participants to examine how we have conceptualized the region: as rural and/or urban; as a single region, or as multiple sub-regions, e.g. the Mountain South, Deep South, etc.; as part of the Caribbean, Gulf Coast, and/or Atlantic World; and as a region defined by particular sets of race, class, and gender relations.

New Orleans is an ideal place to do this, as it is often set apart as somehow “exceptional” or outside the South in popular culture and historical
accounts. For some, it is a city distinct from the rest of the South, even as for others, it is very much part of the South’s economic and racial framework. Others see New Orleans as a Caribbean capital. In fact, New Orleans, like much of the South, is often “exemplary” of larger historical trends related to migration, de-industrialization, the rise of the service economy, the importance of tourism, race relations, violence, and working-class struggles.

To this end, we welcome full panels on a broad range of southern labor themes, including panels related to slavery and unfree labor, prisons and labor, oil, fishing, and the Gulf Coast, work and disaster capitalism, tourism and the service economy, music and cultural workers, sex workers, the Global South, African American labor history, Latino and migrant workers, gender and labor activism, and migration throughout the South.

Please submit panels by September 14, 2012. Panel submissions must include a brief synopsis of the panel (250 words), abstracts for each paper (250 words), 2-pg CV of each participant, contact information of each participant, and contact information for panel organizer. Please submit panels to both Jana Lipman and Steve Striffler at jlipman@tulane.edu and sstriffl@uno.edu.

E. Lee Eltzroth (Retired/Independent Scholar) is the 2012 President of the ARLIS/NA SE Chapter. The annual meeting will be held November 8-9, 2012 at the University of Georgia, Athens.


Anya Jabour (University of Montana) has been awarded an NEH Summer Stipend to support her work on a biography of southern-born educator and reformer Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge. Her article, "Relationship and Leadership: Sophonisba Breckinridge and Women in Social Work," was published in AFFILIA: Journal of Women and Social Work, Vol. 27, No. 1 (February 2012), 20-34.


Mary L. Scheer (Lamar University) book, Women and the Texas Revolution, will be published by University of North Texas Press in the fall of 2012. She is Associate Professor and Chair of history department at Lamar University.

Charlene Boyer Lewis (Kalamazoo College) book, Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte: An American Aristocrat in the Early Republic will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in June 2012.

Member News

Ronald E. Butchart (University of Georgia) 2010 publication, Schooling the Freed People: Teaching, Learning, and the Struggle for Black Freedom, 1861-1876 (Chapel Hill: UNC Press), received the Book of the Year Award from the History of Education Society at its 2011 Annual Meeting. It also received Honorable Mention for the 2011 Avery O. Craven Award from the Organization of American Historians. The University of Georgia recognized the research behind the volume with the 2012 William Owens Award for Creative Research, one of the university’s top awards.

Regina Sullivan (Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York) has published, Lottie Moon: A Southern Baptist Missionary in History and Legend in June 2011 with Louisiana State University Press in their Southern Biography series.

Nancy Baker Jones (Ruthe Winegarten Foundation for Texas Women’s History, President) The RWF won the 2012 outstanding public history award from the National Council on Public History for their 31-topic series, “Texas Women’s History Moments,” Broadcast on Austin Public Radio Station, KUT, daily during Women’s History Month 2011.

Joan Browning (Marshall University) Last year was the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides and it seemed that we were suddenly in great demand. I started the year with a Martin Luther King Jr. Day presentation with four other Freedom Riders at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. The four of us bonded and were together again at a half dozen other events, in Washington, in Chicago, and in Indiana, and for the Smithsonian via some kind of technology, in Washington and Pittsburgh. I went to seven events in Washington, if one counts Mt. Vernon as Washington, and two in Pittsburgh. I was in Georgia at the Albany Civil Rights Museum, in Greenburg, Indiana, and all over West Virginia. Following Ms. Ella Baker’s lesson, I feel obliged to “pass on to others that which was passed to me” whenever I am able, and so I accept every invitation that I can schedule. This year I’ve driven on icy roads to remote parts of West Virginia and to Maryland and Virginia, and my last scheduled event comes up soon in New Jersey.

Two highlights were that Oprah Winfrey brought 178 of us -- all still living except three, as far as we know -- to Chicago for a taping of the Oprah Show. We had a reunion while in Chicago, and another in Jackson, Mississippi. And in November the National Women's Law Center featured fourteen women Freedom Riders at their annual event -- to which President Barrack Obama invited himself and had his picture taken with us. Oprah and the president both said that we opened the doors for their achievements.

Next fall, I finally get to realize a life long dream: I get to teach in a college! Dr. David Trowbridge at Marshall University and I will team-teach an undergraduate and a graduate course in which I get to preach what I learned in the freedom movement and especially from Ms. Ella Baker. And I have my first-ever invitation to speak outside the United States.

Following Ms. Ella Baker’s lesson, I feel obliged to “pass on to others that which was passed to me” whenever I am able, and so I accept every invitation that I can schedule. As I tell folks who invite me to speak but have little money, this “passing on” is more ministry than business. I never earned a decent income and so I gratefully accept any honoraria, but as long as expenses are covered I will try to go everywhere folks want me. Joan C. Browning, oma00013@wvnet.edu

Meantime, I work part time as Special Assistant to the Hon. Andrea J. Pendleton, first woman elected mayor of Rainelle, West Virginia. I am thoroughly enjoying putting into practice all that I have learned about rural community development with people who are devoted to their "place" on the map and are willing to work together and diligently.

The SAWH Newsletter is published three times a year by the Southern Association for Women Historians

Managing Editor: Shannon Frystak, Ph.D.

Phone: (570) 422-3262
East Stroudsburg University
Dept. of History
409 Stroud Hall
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
sawh@esu.edu

Web Site: http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~sawh

Membership is $25 per year for regular members, and $10 per year for graduate students, retirees, and independent scholars. A lifetime membership is available for $300, payable in quarterly installments. The SAWH especially welcomes as members women and men who are interested in southern history and/or women’s history, as well as all women historians in any field who live in the South.

If you would like to become a member or know of someone who would like to be a member of this dynamic organization, go to H-SAWH and fill out the membership form on the website and mail it in!
The organization would like to thank the following members for their generous donations to the organization over the past six months.

Peter Wallenstein
Mary Carroll Johansen
Frances Pollard
Anne Loveland
Jonathan D. Wells
Elna Green
Marcia Synott
Jane Turner Censer
Nancy Baker Jones

Candidate Statements
For Second Vice President—Lorri Glover, Saint Louis University

Statement:

I’ve always considered it a special privilege to participate in SAWH activities. Sometimes in the past the task involved more work than I bargained for and more talent and time than I had. (You can probably tell the 2012 Conference program remains fresh in my mind!) But without fail I have always gotten far, far more than I gave. A book or article prize committee becomes the chance to discover a wider range of brilliant scholarship than I usually take time to read. Conference participation leaves me inspired by the innovations in scholarship and teaching that SAWH members create, not to mention our gatherings help me make new friends and reconnect with old ones. And all along the way there remains the precious gift of working alongside women whose names grace the favorite books on my shelves. So, it is a pleasure again to attempt to pay back, just a bit, all I have gotten over the years from SAWH. In addition to continuing our long-standing signature events (the triennial conference and annual lecture and reception at SHA) and our rich tradition of conviviality and collaboration (both the in-person and virtual sort), I would like to see SAWH remain on strong financial footing. We should make certain we are good stewards of the gifts of SAWH and ensure there always remains this invaluable space for graduate students redefining our disciplines, writers puzzling through ideas, and teachers re-inventing the classroom to find fellowship and foster community.

I fell in love with history as an aimless sophomore at the University of North Alabama. It was the spring of 1987, and except for one sabbatical, I’ve looked forward to the coming of the fall semester—first to what I would learn about the past and then to what I would learn while teaching and writing—ever since. After earning my Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1996 I worked for one year at Otterbein College and then for twelve at the University of Tennessee, in the beautiful foothills of the Smoky Mountains. In 2009 I moved to Saint Louis University, where I hold the John Francis Bannon Endowed Chair in the Department of History and have become, much to my surprise and that of my friends, quite a city girl! My dissertation/first book, All Our Relations: Blood Ties and Emotional Bonds Among the Early South Carolina Gentry (Hopkins, 2000) explored kinship, gender, and gentry culture in the eighteenth century. For my second work, I moved into the early national era and the (then) emergent field of masculinity studies. Southern Sons: Becoming Men in the New Nation came out in 2007 with Hopkins. In the meantime, I had great fun working with Craig Friend and other SAWH members on an edited collection, Southern Manhood: Perspectives on Masculinity in the Old South (Georgia, 2004). More recently I journeyed back into the seventeenth century and experimented with more narrative forms of writing. My mate, Dan Smith, and I co-wrote The Shipwreck that Saved Jamestown: The Sea Venture Castaways and the Fate of America (Henry Holt, 2009) and happily made it through the other side. Currently I am collaborating on another collection with Craig Friend and a whole different group of SAWH authors as well as writing a book for Yale about the intersection of family and politics in Revolutionary Virginia. Founders as Fathers: Family Values and Revolutionary Politics should be out in 2014.

My first SAWH meeting was in Charleston in 1997. Since then I’ve helped design the Anne Scott mid-career fellowship guidelines; served on the 2009 conference program committee and chaired the committee for our 2012 meeting; participated in conference panels; and served on the book prize committee and nominating committee. I am a proud life member and honored to contribute to an organization I truly admire.

For Executive Council—Diane Miller
Sommerville, SUNY - Binghamton

Statement:

On a summer day in 1996 I received an unexpected phone call from Drew Gilpin Faust. I braced myself
for disappointment, assuming she was calling to say she had to withdraw from chairing the panel I had put together (my first) for the SAWH conference in Charleston the next year. The purpose of the call, however, was to congratulate me for winning the A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize for best article written on the subject of Southern women. That honor, then as now, remains the most meaningful accolade I’ve ever received. It represented the recognition by historians of Southern women that my work had made a valuable contribution to the field of history most important to me, Southern women. Since that time I’ve moved on from rape and race in the 19th-century South and am now tackling the topic of suicide, the Civil War and the American South, for which I recently received an NEH fellowship. But the focus remains gender and women. In fact, as I sit at my desk to craft this short bio, I have pushed to the side case histories of suicidal Southern women housed in “insane asylums” and 19th-century lectures on “puerperal insanity.” Since 1997, shortly after receiving my PhD from Rutgers University, I have continued to identify closely with the SAWH. I have given numerous papers and chaired and commented on sessions at nearly every conference since Charleston. I will be participating at the Ninth Conference this June in Fort Worth. I served as chair of three prize committees – Willie Lee Rose (2012), Julia Cherry Spruill (2007) and A. Elizabeth Taylor (1997) – and have assisted on two nominating committees, in 2002 and 2007.

I am thrilled to pieces to have been asked to serve on the Executive Committee of the SAWH and pledge to preserve and enhance the tradition of robust mentoring and inclusivity, what I see as the hallmarks of the SAWH.

For Graduate Student Representative—Deborah Kilgore

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated to serve as the graduate student representative on the Executive Council of the SAWH. I was introduced to the organization in 2007, by my chair and mentor, Elizabeth Hayes Turner, and then-doctoral student Jessica Brannon-Wranosky. The online resources provided by the SAWH have been a source of inspiration and sometimes a lifeline to me as a developing historian.

My path to graduate studies followed a non-traditional route. Born in Texas, I grew up on Air Force bases during the Cold War while planning a career as either a veterinarian or an Egyptologist. Returning to Texas for my undergraduate degree, I quickly discovered that since my first name wasn’t “coach,” majoring in history and secondary education was a non-starter. Thanks to Title IX, five other women and I broke into what was then called industrial arts, as the first generation of women instructors in previously all male “shop” courses. After spending eight and a half years teaching drafting, architecture, pre-engineering, and world history, I dropped out and spent ten years as a bookseller and buyer before returning to the classroom just as the Internet began to transform education. Subsequently, I spent an additional seven years teaching computer courses before deciding to return to my first love, history.

My research interests include Southern, Mexican-American and Twentieth Century U. S. history along with Oral History. The industrialization of the South provides the backdrop for my dissertation exploring the history of textile mill in Texas. I am especially excited about the role women had as business investors at the turn of the century, the intersection between investing and advocating for improved working conditions for women and children, and the resulting drop off in child labor. I look forward to exploring the role of Mexican women as spinners and weavers so mill owners could maintain the color line while continuing to reduce wages. I have presented seven papers at various conferences, including the Texas State Historical Association, East Texas Historical Association, Southwest Popular Culture Association and the Tejas Regional Conference of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies. Currently I am editing my oral history interviews with mill workers for presentation and publication at the Texas Oral History Association Conference in April. In the past year, I have arranged two conference panels and organized a new graduate student workshop while serving as an ad hoc
researcher for local museums and historical associations. As someone who has always enjoyed working with students, I am also having fun working as a teaching fellow for both online and bricks and mortar classes at the University of North Texas.

This will be my first professional appointment and I appreciate having the opportunity of serving the SAWH both for the duration of my selection and many years afterward. As a graduate student representative, I look forward to serving as a link between the rising generation of women scholars and all those who established and continue to shape the field of southern women’s history.

You’ve read the Candidates Statements, now go to this website to cast your vote!
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/63HSRDJ

Do you have news? Please send all member news to Shannon Frystak at: sawh@esu.edu
Or: Shannon Frystak, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary, SAWH
Department of History
East Stroudsburg University
409 Stroud Hall
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301