By Patricia Cline Cohen

A year ago in this newsletter, I ventured an optimistic picture of academic job prospects despite the warning signs in our national economy. I described a gender equity conference on my campus, framed by the news that college employment forecasts were looking good. My institution, the University of California, was (and still is) projecting a staggering 7,000 new faculty hires in the dozen years from 1998-2010, based on assumptions about looming retirements in the aging professoriate and on demographic trends that can predict the college-ready population fairly accurately.

A year later, now, I want to sound a note of caution. While it is true that teaching (like nursing) is a field that is hard to outsource beyond the US shores, it also remains true that college-level teaching requires specific areas of expertise, and my new worry is that we may have a serious imbalance between the jobs of the near future and the training of PhDs in History.

My thoughts derive in part from my teaching assignment this quarter: I stepped into my department’s course on “The Academic Profession of History,” a course pioneered back in the 1980s as a nuts and bolts professionalization course for students in their third or fourth year of the PhD. In its earlier incarnations, this course taught students how to create a C.V. and set up a placement file, how to write that all-important letter of application for a job, how to prepare for job interviews, how to get research published, how to apply for grants, and so on. These nuts and bolts really do need to be taught somewhere in the curriculum, along with readings as well on the various structures of higher education—the university, the college, the department—and what curriculum and department culture can be like at a variety of types of institutions.

My fresh addition to this class was to include readings that ring that bell of caution; many of them are easily available as columns in Perspectives, the AHA’s priceless publication (priceless and also free online back to 1998 at http://www.historians.org/perspectives/).

These essays include job outlook pieces brimming with data, along with essays by AHA leaders ruminating on various aspects of the job crisis—on adjunct faculty, on retirement and generational conflicts, on tenure as a concept (versus MYA’s—multi-year appointments replacing tenure). It has been sobering to read six years of these assessments all at one time.

One data point that really stuck with me was this, from an essay by the AHA’s Robert Townsend (“Job Market Report, 2001: Openings Booming…But for how Long?” in Perspectives, Dec. 2001, at http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2001/0112/0112new1.cfm). Townsend, writing at an optimistic moment three years ago, reported that advertised jobs were at their highest number since 1971 (with 955 openings) and completed PhDs were starting at long last to level off (down to 942 in 2000-01). But these numbers, happily in the same ballpark, concealed a serious imbalance in the training fields. Fully a third of the new PhDs that year were in 20th-century US history; while only 47 of the jobs were in that field. I suspect that three years later, now, that imbalance is probably similarly pronounced. (Plus, the happy similarity of the jobs/new PhDs numbers overlooks the hidden pool of past PhDs still unemployed and thus competing for the same openings.)

Now, a major joy in the world of academia is, I think, that one has the freedom to study the historical questions, eras, problems that one finds most compelling and fascinating. Should market projections deter students

(Continued on page 8)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAWH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conference Information
WAHW 2005 Conference
April 29-May 1, 2005
2005 Call for Papers Due November 15, 2004
2005 Award Applications Due January 15, 2005
2005 Programs Mailed: Early February 2005
2005 Conference Preregistration Due April 5, 2005

WAHW 2006 Conference
May 5-7, 2006, Asilomar Conference Center,
Pacific Grove, CA
2006 Call for Papers Due November 15, 2005
2006 Award Applications Due January 15, 2006

WAHW Volunteer Opportunity
Conferences
If you would like to help with local arrangements in investigating and planning conference location sites see page 7.

WAHW Volunteer Opportunity
Advertising
Would you like to help WAWH with advertising? Recently, WAWH has run conference and/or award ads in the AHA Perspectives and OAH Newsletter. We are looking for someone to manage these ads as well as find other potential sources. Advertising will raise the visibility of the organization. Contact Amy Essington at aessington@verizon.net., if you are interested.

Newsletters
At long last, a complete set of newsletters has been collected. There are 108 issues between 1969 and 2004. Thanks to the Women’s Collection at Texas Woman’s University and the Schlesinger Library. A special thanks goes to Sarah Hutchenson for locating newsletters that had been packed away during their recent remodel and sorting out issues with incorrect volume numbers. Member Karen Offen also contributed to the cause by donating material from her personal files. Most of the issues that were collected are copies. You can still double check your files for originals. Copies of several conference programs are still needed. Check page 4 for more information.

New Board Members
Sierra Prize chair Judy Raftery “retired” in May after four years of service. Committee member Jessica Weiss is the new chair of this prize. An assistant professor at California State University, Hayward, Jessica has been a WAWH member for over ten years.

Welcome to new board member Sandra Dawson. A graduate student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Dawson will serve from 2004-2006. With Annie Russell, Sandra will represent the interests graduate students in the organization.

THANK YOU DONORS

Thank you to the people who have made donations to the WAWH between July 16, 2004 and October 5, 2004.

Linda Alkana
Ellen DuBois
Doris H. Linder

Karen Offen
Gari-Anne Patzwald
Liz Willis-Tropea

The WAWH is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Your donations are tax-deductible and help support the continued growth of our organization and its activities including: the newsletter, the annual conference, two prizes, one award, and one fellowship. Donations of any size are welcome. Donations can be directed to a specific fund or award. Thank you for your continuing support.

www.wawh.org
This summer, Judith Strong Albert was part of a panel discussing Margaret Fuller as interpreted in plays and novels, with Carole Braverman (who wrote a play called The Margaret Ghost) and Joy Carlin (who played Margaret Fuller in that play for the Berkeley Rep in the mid 1980s). Also, Judith is having a review of a novel by Barbara Novak called "The Margaret Ghost" (no link to the Braverman play but the phrase taken from Henry James who coined it a century ago) published in the Women's Studies International Quarterly this fall.


Jane De Hart and Linda Kerber announce the publication of the 6th edition of Women's America. This new edition is much improved on its 20th century coverage. Jane is currently working on her book for Knopf on the life and early career of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, hoping to get it nearly finished before January.

Frances Richardson Keller has signed a contract for a reprint of her translation of Anna Cooper's Slavery and the French Revolutionists, with a new essay on the international implications of Cooper's work. Her original essay and the new one will both be included in this new edition.

Suzzanne Kelley, David B. Danbom Editorial Fellow and PhD student of history at North Dakota State University, will serve as Editor for the North Dakota Institute of Regional Studies publications division. She spent her first year as an Editorial Fellow in the position of Managing Editor of Agricultural History. Her fields of interest are American West, Rural Studies, and Public History.

Karen Lystra would like to announce the publication of her book Dangerous Intimacy: The Untold Story of Mark Twain's Final Years (University of California Press).

Donna Schuele has been appointed to the State Bar of California's Committee on Women in Law, for a three-year term beginning October, 2004.

Kathleen Sheldon was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association.

Nancy Taniguchi, Professor of History at California State University, Stanislaus, has just published a book (Continued on page 8)
THE HUNT FOR THE WAWH ARCHIVES-PART IV
WAWH CONFERENCES

By Amy Essington

As part of the ongoing hunt for and collection of information for the WAWH Archives, I am going to print a series of columns on pieces of the organization’s history. The purpose is to print known information with the hopes of members being able to fill in some blanks. As well inform the membership of the long and active history of our organization.

In the previous issue, I gave the list of the twenty-one WAWH Presidents. This issue I have included a list of WAWH Conference locations. To my knowledge this is the first complete list of all conference dates and locations. A comprehensive list of conference locations for the first twenty-five years was printed in 1994 in Histories of the WAWH, but a date was missing and several locations were listed cities, but did not include conference sites. The missing details of the conference dates and locations were found in the complete set of newsletters (see page 2). The complete list of conference dates and locations is listed on page 5.

While the list of conference information is complete, we still need some conference programs for the archives. Programs for 1969-1972 have not been located, but they may not exist. There are four years which refer to programs, but we do not currently have or were not reprinted in the newsletters. They are: 1973, 1979, 1981, 1994.

The hope is to collect as much history on the organization as possible before donating it to the WAWH Archives at CSU Sacramento. (An update on the archives will appear in the next newsletter.)

For many years the conference location rotated between northern and southern California as the majority of members were located in California, particularly in southern California. While these statements are still true the numbers have changed in recent years and conference locations for the future are being chosen with this in mind. See page 7 to see how you can participate. In 2001, WAWH made it first venture outside of California by going to Portland, Oregon. The Northwest is now the geographic area with the second highest number of members. In 2005, we are going to Arizona, the third largest membership state. Hopefully, we can build a larger base in Arizona and other parts of the country as the conference moves to other areas within our organizational base.

Thank you to Karen Offen to sending material which included several conference programs. If you have material of any kind—newsletters (see page 2), conference programs, or any WAWH records, pictures, or related material—contact me at aessington@verizon.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

WAWH 2005 Conference
April 29-May 1, 2005
Black Canyon Conference Center
Phoenix, Arizona

WAWH 2006 Conference
May 5-7, 2006
Asilomar Conference Center
Pacific Grove, CA

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## THE HUNT FOR THE WAWH ARCHIVES-PART IV

**WAWH CONFERENCES CONTINUED**

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CALL FOR PAPERS

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HISTORIANS
37th Annual Conference
Black Canyon Conference Center
Phoenix, AZ
April 29-May 1, 2005

The WAWH welcomes proposals for panels or single papers on any historical subject, time period, or region. Papers do not necessarily have to focus on women or gender history, although those issues are of special interest to our membership. Panels, workshops, or roundtables on major concerns of women in the historical profession are also encouraged. Proposals for complete panels, including commentators, are preferred, but individual papers will also be considered.

Proposals must include FIVE copies of each of the following:

1) A WAWH Cover Page (found at www.wawh.org)
   The cover sheet MUST be included for either individual or panel proposals.
2) A one-half to one-page abstract for each paper.
3) One-to-two-page curriculum vitae for each panelist.

The program committee reserves the right to change or reconfigure panels. Submission of proposal will indicate agreement with this policy. AV requests made after November 15, 2004, will not be considered.


If you have any questions, please contact the program chair:
Gayle Gullett
Arizona State University
History Department
P.O. Box 872501
Tempe, AZ 85287-2501
480-965-4787
Fax 480-965-0310
Gayle.Gullett@asu.edu

Mail one set of proposal material to each program committee member by November 15, 2004, (committee information will be posted to the web).
All WAWH award and prize applications are due January 15, 2005. Please visit www.wawh.org for more information.

www.wawh.org
2005 CONFERENCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Conference Site
The conference will be held at the Black Canyon Conference Center on Phoenix, Arizona. Information on the site is found at http://www.blackcanyonconferencecenter.com. The conference center is located near the Sky Harbor Airport.

Call for Papers
The call for papers is located on page 6. And posted on the web. Proposals require cover sheets and are due November 15, 2004. AV requests are also due on that date and requests made after November 15, 2004, will not be considered. Proposals should be mailed to each committee member. Information is posted on the web.

Award Deadlines
The deadline for all four WAWH awards and prizes is January 15, 2005. Each award has an application form. Each submission should be mailed to each of the committee members. Check page nine for details.

Registration
Preregistration materials will be mailed with the conference program and membership renewal information to all current members in early February. Registration forms and the program will also be posted to the web. Preregistration is due April 5, 2005. Late registration will NOT be accepted this year. Onsite registration will be available, but meals may or may be available for purchase.

Conference Airlines
United Airlines is an official airline for the 2005 conference. To receive a 5-10% discount on your airfare to Phoenix please call United Airlines at 800-521-4041 (a special line for meetings and not the regular reservation line) and mention code #530CC, Monday through Sunday, 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight (ET). Discounts apply to travel between April 26 and May 4, 2005. Mileage Plus members will receive full credit for all miles flown. For every 40 people that make reservations through the meeting line, WAWH will receive a free round-trip ticket.

America West is an official airlines of the 2005 conference. More information will be posted on the web and printed in the Spring newsletter and conference packet.

CONFERENCE LOCAL ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE

Would you like to help the WAWH plan its future conferences? With a two-year presidential cycle, it is difficult to plan conference more than one year ahead with the president deciding the location of the conference. The board has approved the creation of a trail standing local arrangement conference committee which would oversee the securing of conference locations and local arrangement chairs. The president will still be responsible for program chair, keynote speakers, and the program itself. The president and executive secretary will be members of the committee with a one or two other members. The hope is to develop a list of potential sites with pros and cons as well as prices. From this list, a conference site will be chosen by the committee. An ongoing list will provide diversity in location, awareness of costs, ease in travel to and from, and serve as a list backup locations, if needed. Many places (such as Asilomar) required booking at least two years ahead.

My hope is that we will have two to three years ahead booked at any time. Asilomar is secure for 2006, two locations (Cal Poly Pomona and San Diego) are under serious consideration for 2007, and final plans are under way with the University of British Columbia in Vancouver for 2008 (our first venture of the country). I would also like to expand our traditional locations to include other membership areas such as New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, or even Alaska or Hawai'i. Let me know if you would like to be a part of the committee, have any location ideas, or have a place you would particularly like to go.

Amy Essington

Email me at aessington@verizon.net for more information, offer ideas, or to volunteer.
new book called *Castle Valley, America: Hard Land, Hard-Won Home*. It traces the history of the United States from 1776 to 2004, viewed from the most multi-ethnic, religiously tolerant valley in Utah, where Greek coal miners and Italian peddlers rubbed shoulders with Mormon ranchers and Irish railroad workers. Over twenty-five years of research went into its creation. It’s like watching U.S. history from your kitchen window!

As of 1 September 2004, Elizabeth Watkins has moved to the University of California, San Francisco as Associate Professor (with tenure) and Director of Graduate Studies for the History of Health Sciences Program in the Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine.

Carol Williams' *Framing the West: Race, Gender, and the Photographic Frontier in The Pacific Northwest* (Oxford UP, 2003) has won the annual Norris and Carol Hundley Book Award from the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

from 20th-c. US history? Can budding historians transfer their allegiance and interest to some completely different place or era? How should graduate institutions like my own respond to this imbalance? These are hard questions.

Look to two places where hard questions about these complex matters will be addressed. First is an AHA book, long awaited and also available online: Thomas Bender et al, *The Education of Historians for the Twenty-First Century* (2004). http://www.historians.org/projects/cge/2004/Report/

The AHA embarked on a massive project to survey graduate institutions and to make recommendations about how we train historians for the coming years, and it should be required reading not only for all faculty running graduate programs but for all graduate students as well, to see how things might be done differently.

The second place to hope for pearls of enlightenment (or, failing that, commiseration and brass tacks advice) is a WAWH venture scheduled for the Berkshire Conference next June at Scripps College in Pomona. We are sponsoring a roundtable session on what we see as the prospects for employment for historians: “Tea Leaves on the Job Market: What Can New History PhDs Expect?” (The “tea leaves” is a reminder that prognostication is a dicey game.) The panel includes three past-presidents of the WAWH (Karen Blair, Peggy Renner, and myself), Regina Lark (a stalwart WAWH exec board member), and Merline Pitre (from Nupur Chaudhuri’s institution—Nupur being our incoming WAWH president). So between now and next June, we’ll each be coming up with an assessment of how future prospects for employment stack up at the range of institutions we represent.

One prediction I’ll make here: 7,000 UC jobs sounds huge, but it works out to an average of 65 jobs per UC campus per year. (My campus has been hiring around 25 to 45 new tenure track faculty a year for the last decade.) My guess—based on past practice—is that only two or at most three of each 65 jobs will go to historians, and in the end, that huge 7,000 number will translate to between 200 and 300 new jobs for historians at UC, over a dozen years. From this perspective, and compared to the near 4,363 dissertations in history now said to be in progress nationwide – you can get that figure (indeed, the entire list) at: http://www.historians.org/pubs/dissertations/index.cfm there is no real change in the very discouraging cloud that has hovered over the historical job market for thirty years now. As before, some will be lucky, and others will not. It behooves all of us to think hard about this labor market and our participation in individual decisions that, when aggregated, can have strong influence on the outlook here. Do we throttle graduate admissions? Ditch tenure? Do more to encourage retirement? Join the WAWH session at the Berks to wrestle with these very important questions facing us all.
2005 WAWH AWARDS AND PRIZES

Founders Dissertation Fellowship
The WAWH invites applications for its 2005 Founders Dissertation Fellowship. Applicants must be members of the WAWH, advanced to candidacy, writing the dissertation at the time of the application, and expecting to receive the Ph.D. no earlier than December 2005. The $1000 award may be used for any expenses related to the dissertation. A complete application must be received by January 15, 2005. The fellowship recipient will be announced at the WAWH Annual Conference.

For full application requirements and form, visit the web site.

THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15, 2005.

Applications should be mailed to each committee member, check the web for details.

For further information, please contact:
Alexandra M. Nickliss, Department of Social Science, City College of San Francisco, 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112, anickliss@ccsf.edu.

Sierra Book Prize
The Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) will award the 2005 Sierra Book Prize ($250) for the best monograph in the field of history published by a WAWH member. Eligibility of the prize is limited to two groups: those residing in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, or the Western Canadian Provinces; and WAWH members residing in other states who have paid membership for three years (not necessarily consecutive years). The book must have been published in 2005 or 2004. All fields of history will be considered, and articles must be submitted with full scholarly apparatus.

THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15, 2005.

Applications should be mailed to each committee member, check the web for details.

For further information, please contact:
Ellen DuBois, University of California, Los Angeles, 6265, Bunche Hall, Box 951473, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1473, 310-825-1846, edubois@ucla.edu.

Judith Lee Ridge Prize
The WAWH will award $100 for the best article in the field of history published by a WAWH member. All recipients shall be members of the WAWH for at least one year prior to submission. Eligibility is limited to two groups: those residing in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, or the Western Canadian Provinces; and WAWH members residing in other states who have paid membership for three years (not necessarily consecutive years). The article must have been published in 2003 or 2004. All fields of history will be considered, and articles must be submitted with full scholarly apparatus.

THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15, 2005.

Applications should be mailed to each committee member, check the web for details.

For further information, please contact:
Barbara Penny Kanner Award
The Western Association of Women Historians will award $500 to the best scholarly bibliographical and historical guide to research focused on women or gender history. The Kanner Award is intended to promote the practice of bibliomethodology or autobiography in historical context. The bibliomethodology award should reflect the critical tools of the historian’s craft as they have been developed to provide research guides rather than library catalogues. The autobiography in historical context award should reflect the craft of history as developed and interpreted in individual lives. Book-length submissions are preferred but substantial guides in other forms (articles or book chapters) may also be considered. The bibliographical and the autobiography awards will be given in alternate years, with submissions for each award considered for two-year intervals from the date of publication.

The 2005 award will be bibliographical and an item published in 2003 or 2004.

THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15, 2005.

Applications should be mailed to each committee member, check the web for details.

For further information, please contact:
Regina Lark, UCLA, Center for the Study of Women, 288 Kinsey Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1504, 310-206-5898, rlark@women.ucla.edu.

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WAWH CALENDAR

November 15, 2004  2005 Call for Papers Due
January 15, 2005  Deadline for all WAWH awards and prizes
February 1, 2005  Deadline for submissions for Spring 2005 Networker
Early February  Mailing of 2005 Conference Program/Registration Material to Current Members
March 1, 2005  Mailing of Spring 2005 Networker
April 5, 2005  Deadline 2005 Conference Preregistration
April 29-May 1, 2005  2005 WAWH Conference, Black Canyon Conference Center, Phoenix, AZ
May 5-7, 2006  2006 WAWH Conference, Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA

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