



## The Economy and Us Carole Srole

Today's economic climate poses challenges for working women, in the way we talk about women's work as well as real life hardships. In 1930s America, the opposition to women's employment, especially for married women, reflected the popular language about the male breadwinner. Today, we rarely hear such language. Instead, the debates about women and work from the recent past have supplied the vocabulary for discussing the current economic crisis. For example, when the *New York Times* website posted an article about the greater number of men than women losing jobs, the reactions exhibited familiar gender and racial resentment and disputes about oppression. Some posts complained about women's advantage through affirmative action, and that "man-hating feminists" couldn't recognize why men were losing jobs. Conversely, others pointed out that low-wage pink-collar jobs may have protected women, while high-paid men were fired. These message-board posts called on the relatively recent language about limitations and opportunities for women workers to explain the gendered job situation in the current crisis.

As historians and feminists, we need not only understand how recent gendered discourses are melding into today's economic discussions, but also consider women's actual current experiences and the potential long-term consequences. The above-mentioned *New York Times* website included a chart of the distribution of jobs lost and gained by industry and sex. Men suffered many more job losses than women in construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation, and utilities, and a bit more in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and other services. Women, in contrast, lost slightly more positions in information, but actually gained many more posts in government and education.<sup>1</sup>

The numbers in education, however, miss the impact of the economic crisis for women in academia. In Sept. 2009, the AHA's *Perspectives* reported widespread cuts in part-time and adjunct positions, financial freezes in hiring, travel, and research; and support for graduate students. These cuts affect both men and women, but are not evenly distributed. Every report on faculty in History Departments has documented the much higher proportion of adjuncts among women.<sup>2</sup> Does this mean that female adjuncts are shouldering a greater share of the layoffs? Since graduate students often need adjunct work, what will this mean for female graduate students? How will the layoffs and freezes affect their careers and the tension between the biological clock and the tenure schedule? In bad times, are more women bound to a particular geographic location, if they don't find jobs by a certain age? In other words, what are the long-term implications of this deep economic downturn for academic women?

Certainly, in the short run, we know that all academic associations are struggling. The OAH just sent out requests to help maintain their prizes. What does the failing economy mean for a smaller, less-funded organizations, like ours? Already, we have seen a decline in the interest rates of our prize money. To keep the Founder's Dissertation Fellowship at \$10000, we will need donations from those who still have jobs, even if partially furloughed. We look forward to your generous donations and creative ideas for protecting the WAWH by promoting membership.... (continued on page 5)

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...the debates about women and work from the recent past have supplied the vocabulary for discussing the current economic crisis.  
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1. "The Recession: Total Jobs Lost since December 2007," *New York Times*, February 2009, <http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2009/04/30/business/economy/womenjobs.jpg>.

2. "History Faculty by Gender and Type of Employment, a Twenty-Year Comparison," *Perspectives*, American Historical Association, October 2000, <http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/Issues/2000/0010/figure1.gif>. From 1979-1999 to 1998-1999, 41 percent of women vs. 29 percent of men were employed part-time. Elizabeth Lunbeck corroborated this. Elizabeth Lunbeck, *The Status of Women in the Historical Profession* (Bloomington, Ind.: American Historical Association, 2005).

## Welcome New (and Returning) Members

Welcome to members who joined or renewed between June 2, 2009, and October 1, 2009!

|                       |                          |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Ute Chamberlin        | Shannon Catrett Huggins  | Amy Shaw           |
| Elizabeth Colwill     | Rebekah Kennedy          | Yukako Tatsumi     |
| Leah Deane            | Melissa Lambert Milewski | Katherine Vallaire |
| Linda Wilcox DeSimone | Jacquelin B. Pels        | Kiara M. Vigil     |
| Ashley Farmer         |                          |                    |

## Thank You, Donors

Thank you to those who made donations between June 2, 2009, and October 1, 2009.

Elizabeth Reis  
Jane Slaughter

The WAWH is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your donations are tax-deductible. Donations of any size are welcome. Donations can be directed to a specific fund or award. Thank you for your continuing support.

## Volunteer for the WAWH

There are many ways individuals can help support the WAWH. Contact Amy Essington at [amyessington@wawh.org](mailto:amyessington@wawh.org) if you are interested or have ideas to share.

### *Awards Committees*

As stated by the newly approved Constitution (2006) award committee members will serve staggered three-year terms. This will mean that each year each committee will require a new committee member.

### *Conference Assistance*

Maybe you attend the conference, but are not able to commit to the hours of participating on a program committee or local arrangements committee. There are many smaller jobs that occur at the time of the conference and volunteers are always needed.

We would like to reach out to members who have never held a board position. If there are board positions for which you would like to be considered, in the future, please contact Amy Essington and submit your name.

## Mark Your Calendars!

WAWH 2010 Conference  
University of Puget Sound  
Tacoma, WA  
May 20-23, 2010

## Executive Director's Column

### Amy Essington

Our 42nd annual conference will be held at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, from May 20-23, 2010. The conference keynote speaker will be Joanne Meyerowitz (Yale University). We will also have a session honoring Estelle Freedman (Stanford University) and her work. We will have the option to stay on campus in the dorms or in a local hotel. Conference program and the registration material will be posted in early 2010. Conference costs will be posted as soon as they become available. Even in these difficult times, we hope to see as many people there as possible, especially those of you in the Pacific Northwest and in British Columbia.

New to the board this year are Gayle Gullett as president-elect and Andrea Thabet as graduate student representative. Treasurer Emily Rader has stepped down. Carole Srole has appointed Lois Nettleship to complete her term. Nancy Page Fernandez and Kathleen Kennedy are serving as co-chairs of the program committee, which includes Janice Matsumura (Simon Fraser University), Jadwig Pieper (University of Arizona), Corliss K. Slack (Whitworth University), and Susan Wladaver-Morgan (Pacific Historical Review). Kimberly Jensen is the chair of the local arrangements committee.

Each year WAWH offers six awards and prizes. These can only be offered because of the work of the volunteers on the committees. The prize committee for 2009-2010 year is Hend Gilli-Elewy (chair), Elizabeth Watkins, and Jane Slaughter on the Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize; Carolyn Herbst-Lewis (chair), Terri Snyder, and Marie Francois on the Judith Lee Ridge Prize; Lois Huneycutt (chair), Sharon Wall, and Lydia Otero on the Founders' Dissertation Fellowship; and Lynn Sacco (chair), Ron

Loftus, and Amy Harris on the Barbara "Penny" Kanner Award. Kathleen Sheldon, Margaret Jacobs (chair), and Laura Woodworth-Ney make up the Gita Chaudhuri Prize. The Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize committee members are Paivi Hoikkala (chair), Susan Wladaver-Morgan, and Sanjam Ahluwalia. If you would like to volunteer for any of the board or committee positions, please contact me or the president.

Some financial updates. In the summer issue, the treasurer's report did not include the total

donations for 2008. The figure is \$12,702. Thank you again to all of our donors. In 2007, all of our awards were fully endowed, but unfortunately, with the changing economy and bank rates, the interest we receive from the award accounts has decreased. Rather than using the principle to pay for the yearly awards, the board voted to reduce the amounts of the Judith Lee Ridge Prize from \$400 to \$250 and the Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize from \$1000 to \$400. The Founders' Dissertation Fellowship will not be reduced

from \$1000 and the organization will cover the difference in the amount of the award and the interest earned. For the Kanner and Chaudhuri Prizes, the circumstances are slightly different and the award amounts will not be reduced. The Kanner Prize, which has not been given the last two years, has accrued enough interest to pay for this year's award. The Chaudhuri family will cover the Chaudhuri Prize. We will work to re-endow the awards so we can raise the amounts again. Any donation, even \$5, helps the accounts to grow. If you are able, please consider donating. You can specify which award you want to help. All donations are tax-deductable.

The best way to maintain the health of WAWH is to grow our ... (continued on page 5)

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## Member News

Amy Essington published biographical entries on Alice Coachman, Shani Davis, Vonetta Flowers, Sarah E. Goode, Carl Lewis, and John Baxter Taylor on blackpast.org. She also presented "The Nuts and Bolts of Facilitating an FLC" at the Faculty Learning Community Conference (June 2009).

Kathryn Kish Sklar's book, *The Selected Letters of Florence Kelley, 1869–1931*, co-edited with documentary editor Beverly Palmer, was published by the University of Illinois Press, 2009. Its 270 letters from Florence Kelley highlight the new paths she forged for the creation of social rights in the decades before 1930, and how she and other women reformers laid the foundation for the New Deal. The letters' extensive annotations offer useful examples of historical detective work.

Phylis Cancilla Martinelli's book, *Undermining Race: Ethnic Identities in Arizona Copper Camps, 1880–1920*, has been published by University of Arizona Press, 2009. *Undermining Race* rewrites the history of race, immigration, and labor in the copper industry in Arizona. The book focuses on the case of Italian immigrants in their relationships with Anglo, Mexican, and Spanish miners (and at times with Blacks, Asian Americans, and Native Americans), requiring a reinterpretation of the way race was formed and figured across place and time.



Lynn Sacco's first book, *Unspeakable: Father-Daughter Incest in American History*, has been published by Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009. It focuses on the cultural mores, political needs, and distorted attitudes toward and medical knowledge of patriarchal sexual abuse at a time when the nation was committed to the familial power of white fathers and the idealized white family.

Share your accomplishments! Include your professional news in the next newsletter.

Send submissions for Member News to Brittany Ferry at [networker@wawh.org](mailto:networker@wawh.org).

Your information will be included in the next *Networker*.

A reminder email is sent to the organizational email list before the submission due date.

Due dates are February 1, June 1, and October 1 each year.

## Public History

We are interested in making a public history column a regular part of the newsletter. If you have news, updates, and other information about public (or other non-academic) history, please email Brittany Ferry at [networker@wawh.org](mailto:networker@wawh.org).

## **Executive Director's Column (cont.)**

### **Amy Essington**

membership even in these difficult times. Word of mouth and personal invitations are usually the best ways to do that. Talk to your colleagues, graduate students, or those who support the mission of WAWH. Tell them about membership and the conference. Membership forms are available online at [www.wawh.org](http://www.wawh.org). WAWH is a way for us all to stay connected and support one another. I want to mention again that, for the 2010–2011 membership year, membership fees will change to a structure based on income. Over \$90,000 will pay \$50; \$60,000–90,000 will pay \$40; \$30,000–60,000 will pay \$30; under \$30,000 will pay \$20; and graduate students will remain \$10. This will go into affect when the conference registration material is sent to members.

## **Seeking Advice for Graduate Students**

### **Karissa Haugeberg and Andrea Thabet**

Karissa Haugeberg, a PhD candidate at the University of Iowa, and Andrea Thabet, a PhD candidate at the University of California-Santa Barbara, are serving as graduate student representatives to the WAWH Board of Directors for 2009–2010.

#### **Goal #1: Create WAWH website page for graduate students**

This year, Haugeberg and Thabet will create a page on the WAWH website devoted to graduate student issues. They plan to include advice on varied topics, such as presenting papers at conferences, navigating the job market, managing time effectively, and dealing with family issues. Haugeberg and Thabet would like to hear from you. Is there an article, book, or website that you think might be useful to graduate students? Please send your suggestions to [athabet@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:athabet@umail.ucsb.edu) and [karissa-haugeberg@uiowa.edu](mailto:karissa-haugeberg@uiowa.edu) and use the subject line "WAWH grad student advice."

Also, be sure to check out the WAWH grad student page in early November 2009 when Haugeberg and Thabet expect to have the majority of new content posted. They plan to update the page frequently and would like to receive feedback and suggestions from you throughout the year.

#### **Goal #2: Recruit graduate students to join WAWH**

Haugeberg and Thabet are assembling a project to increase graduate student membership in WAWH. They are crafting a letter that conveys the importance of the organization's annual conference, the diverse network of members, and the historic significance of the group. We would like to remind WAWH members in contact with graduate students that word of mouth is a great way to increase membership. Please encourage your grad students to join WAWH, submit a paper proposal, or attend the annual conference. If you have suggestions or ideas for recruiting graduate students, please send them to Haugeberg or Thabet.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Call for Papers Berkshire Conference of Women's Historians

The Berkshire Conference of Women's Historians is holding its next conference at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst on June 9–12, 2011. The theme will be "Generations: Exploring Race, Sexuality, and Labor across Time and Space."

The year 2011 marks the 15th Berkshire Conference on Women's History and the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, which was first celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland and is now honored by more than sixty countries around the globe. The choice of "Generations" reflects this transnational intellectual, political, and organizational heritage as well as a desire to explore related questions such as:

- How have women's generative experiences—from production and reproduction to creativity and alliance building—varied across time and space? How have these been appropriated and represented by contemporaries and scholars alike?
- What are the politics of "generation"? Who is encouraged? Who is condemned or discouraged? How has this changed over time?
- Is a global perspective compatible with generational (in the genealogical sense) approaches to the past that tend to reinscribe national/regional/racial boundaries?
- What challenges do historians of women, gender, and sexuality face as these fields and their practitioners mature?

To engender further, open-ended engagement with these and other issues, the 2011 conference will include workshops dedicated to discussing pre-circulated papers on questions and problems (epistemological, methodological, substantive) provoked by the notion of "Generations."

The process for submitting and vetting papers and panels has changed substantially from previous years, so please read the instructions carefully. To encourage transnational discussions, panels will be principally organized along thematic lines and therefore proposals will be vetted by a transnational group of scholars with expertise in a particular thematic, rather than geographic, field. All proposals must be submitted electronically and be directed to ONE of the subcommittees. Please list a second choice for the subcommittee to vet your proposal, but do not submit to it. Instructions for submission will be posted on the website (<http://www.berksconference.org>) by Nov. 1, 2009. Preference will be given to discussions of any topic across national boundaries and to work that addresses sexuality, race, and labor in any context, with special consideration for pre-modern periods. However, unattached papers and proposals that fall within a single nation/region will also be given full consideration. Paper abstracts should be no longer than 250 words; panel (2–3 papers and a comment), roundtable (3 or more short papers) and workshop (1–2 pre-circulated papers) proposals should also include a summary abstract of no more than 500 words. Each submission must include the cover form and a short CV for each presenter. If you have questions about the most appropriate subcommittee or problems with electronic submission, please direct them to Jennifer Spear ([jms25@sfu.ca](mailto:jms25@sfu.ca)). The deadline for submission is March 1, 2010.

### Subcommittees:

- **Beauty and the Body**, Stephanie Camp
- **Migrations: Race, Gender and Activism**, Annelise Orleck
- **Economies, Labors, and Consumption**, Tracey Deutsch
- **War, Violence, and Terror**, Madhavi Kale
- **Youth and Aging**, Jennifer Spear
- **Race in Global Perspective**, Marilyn Lake
- **Health and Medicine**, Julie Livingston
- **Sexuality**, Kathy Brown
- **Religion: Belief, Practice, Communities**, Madhavi Kale
- **Politics and the State**, Margot Canaday

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## WAWH Membership Renewal Form

The date on the mailing label of your *Networker* is the year your membership expires. Membership runs conference to conference. Thank you for keeping your membership current.

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Become a member of WAWH today or renew your membership

This is a 1) \_\_\_\_\_ new      2) \_\_\_\_\_ renewal      3) \_\_\_\_\_ gift membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (including city, state, zip): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
This is a HOME or WORK address (circle one)      For renewals: is this an updated address? YES or NO

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Institution and/or Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Department and/or Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Research and/or Teaching Fields (up to 3): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please circle YES or NO)

Publish my information: YES or NO

Publish my home information: YES or NO

Send me an email rather than paper *Networker*: YES or NO

Include me on the organizational email list (only info, reminders, announcements): YES or NO

| Membership level                     | Fees (U.S. funds) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Full-Time Employed                   | \$25              |
| Part-Time/Retired                    | \$20              |
| Graduate Student/Independent Scholar | \$10              |
| Lifetime Membership                  | \$500             |

My membership level is \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to donate \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Membership runs conference to conference.

You may pay either by check or by credit card. Make checks payable to WAWH.

Circle one: Visa or MasterCard      Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Three-Digit Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip form and send with payment to:

WAWH, 3242 Petaluma Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90808-4249, amyessington@wawh.org.

## MEMBER NEWS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

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Notice of publication or other member news: \_\_\_\_\_

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Use additional sheet if necessary. Please send to Brittany Ferry, P.O. Box 634, Cosmopolis, WA 98537, or email it to [networker@wawh.org](mailto:networker@wawh.org).

Your information will be included in the next *Networker*.

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# ***The Networker***

Western Association of Women Historians

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