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OHMAR ADDS A SECOND DAY OF FALL WORKSHOPS

This fall, OHMAR is sponsoring two separate programs of workshops – one on **Friday, October 28**, at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, and the other on **Friday, November 18**, at New York University, in New York City.

The full-day Philadelphia program on October 28 will feature a choice of workshops in the morning — either a beginner's oral history "how-to" workshop or a session on incorporating oral history into documentaries; in the afternoon, registrants can choose between a session on sound recording equipment or one on archiving oral histories and sound collections. Each session in Philadelphia is limited to 25 participants.

In New York on November 18, there will be only one session in the morning — a beginner's oral history workshop — and one session in the afternoon that will explore digitizing existing analog oral history collections. Participation in each of these two sessions at New York University is limited to 25 attendees.

Registration forms and presenters' biographies begin on page 7 of this newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registration is required. Payment **MUST** accompany your registration form in order to be assured a seat. In Philadelphia, the fee applies to the entire day – one morning session and one afternoon session. In New York, there is a fee for the morning workshop and another for the afternoon session.

For travel directions to either venue, consult www.ohmar.org.

NEWS FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION VIRGINIA

The Virginia Forum, a conference exploring issues and initiatives pertinent to that state's history, will be held April 7-8, 2006, at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. The conference will welcome students, teachers and scholars, as well as historical professionals from museums, historical societies, historic sites and all related fields including public history, preservation, geography, literature and archaeology. Proposals for presentations on any area of scholarship or research on Virginia prehistory and history are invited. Submit proposals and brief c.v.'s by September 15, 2005 to: Warren R. Hofstra, Shenandoah University, 1460 University Drive, Winchester, Virginia 22601, or whofstra@su.edu.

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2005 POGUE AWARD GOES TO ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

On March 18, OHMAR presented its 2005 Forrest C. Pogue Award to the Army Corps of Engineers Oral History Program. The project, which dates back to 1957, was recognized for the outstanding body of information it has collected, through the use of well-trained oral historians both in-house and on contract.

Accepting the Pogue award was Dr. Paul Walker, Chief, Office of History, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Walker received a bachelor's degree in American Thought and Civilization from The George Washington University in 1967 and started graduate work at the University of North Carolina. Having selected the development of Baltimore in the American Revolution as the topic for his dissertation, he moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where he also began teaching part-time at Towson State University. In 1973 he received a Ph.D. in American History. After several years as a contractor with the Corps of Engineers, he joined the Corps' Historical Division (later Office of History) in 1978.

Portions of an interview with Dr. Walker, conducted by OHMAR past-president Donita Moorhus, appear below. For the full interview, go to: www.ohmar.org

Moorhus: How did you get into oral history?

Walker: A notice came to Towson State from the then-Historical Division of the Office of Chief of Engineers, which was located in Baltimore at that time. This announcement was for a history of what was known as the Susquehanna Engineer District and Tropical Storm Agnes. I went down and had an interview, and I was hired. I had never heard of the Corps of Engineers. I had very little knowledge of the military. But I got the contract.

I did a lot of interviews. I did them with General Groves, the district engineer, the deputies, and I did them with some of the major civilian folks. It was a team thing where some people in Baltimore District and some people in Philadelphia District, and probably some in New York, all helped, but there was this separate entity, the Susquehanna District. I tried to interview people at all those levels and to look at documents. Because it wasn't that long after the event, there still were a lot of documents available.



OHMAR Past President Donita Moorhus presenting the Forrest C. Pogue Award to Paul Walker, who accepted it on behalf of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Office of History.

I went all over the place. It was a real interesting project and very challenging, because like I said, I was learning about the Corps on the job

I became the director of the oral history program in the office. Most of the historians in the office were expected to do oral histories as part of their job. We were expected to use oral history in our research projects for source material. We were expected to do career oral history interviews. I think we quickly realized the value of doing oral history interviews, and were encouraged by the fact that it was part of what we were expected to do. I don't think that oral history was being too widely done in the Army. There was the officer interview program at the War College. But I would say in the other major commands, as far as history offices, they weren't doing a whole lot of oral history. And we became known for doing oral history.

Moorhus: You continued to use contractors then for oral history, even though you were requiring all of the staff to do oral history interviews?

Walker: We did. Initially we were doing more interviews in-house and fewer on contract. Over the years it's become the reverse of that for in-depth interviews. But the interviews that we're doing now, like as part of our coverage of the current Global War on Terrorism, are almost entirely in-house.

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The **Forrest C. Pogue Award** is named for the military historian Dr. Forrest C. Pogue (1912-1996) who pioneered the use of oral history interviews to compile battlefield histories. Pogue taught for several years before joining the historical section of the United States Army during World War II. He later was appointed director of the George C. Marshall Research Center and then directed the Marshall Library and Marshall Research Foundation. In 1974, he was named director of the newly established Eisenhower Institute for Military Research at the Smithsonian and continued in that position until his retirement in 1986.

began to notice certain trends or certain subjects that came up over and over again, and analyzed that. One of the things that they focused on was what people were saying about the training that they had received before they were sent to Iraq or Afghanistan. There were a lot of problems with the training that they were getting for various reasons. So the historians took the initiative, and they made a presentation to several of the headquarters people in an open forum. As a result of that, really almost directly, there was a change made in the training that was being provided people to meet the shortcomings, the issues, that people were having. It wasn't instant, but it was a very fast incorporation of things that were gained from the oral history process into decision-making and policy for what is now our number one mission. That was really powerful.

I think we're trying to be as innovative as we can in using oral history in other ways. One example might be a forthcoming publication we have on the Korean War that's utilizing excerpts from oral histories and combining that with photos and having it laid out in such a way that the layout is also a major part of the telling of the story.

Technology is going to continue to change. It's the

change in the medium, from reel-to-reel to cassettes to digital. That's one piece of the technology story. But also, as we get more and more into people doing e-mail, the materials that we're dealing with are part of the technological change. So oral history takes on maybe new, different roles as a component of dealing with the electronic age, where huge volumes of material result, combined with cutbacks in records management.

Another thing that I would like to see us looking at more is how to make the contents of our huge collection of interviews more accessible and useable. The technology is there to do it. It's just a matter of devoting the resources. There's a lot of talk about knowledgeable management and knowledge transfer with the changeover in the workforce. More than 50 percent of the federal workforce—and it's true in the Corps of Engineers, in particular—supposedly is eligible to retire. We're going to have this mass exodus of knowledge. How do we deal with that? I think oral history can play a part in that.

Moorhous: Thank you for your time, and again, congratulations on receiving the Pogue Award. ■

NEWS FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION *continued from page 1*

NEW JERSEY

Monmouth University professor Susan Douglass has assigned her oral history class a project that will study WWII and the heritage of the Italian-American community in New Jersey. Little has been done to record the memories of Italian-Americans at home and abroad during this time of war.

Interviewees must have been ten years or older in 1941, when the United States entered World War II. Additionally, they must have served in the U.S. Army or U.S. Navy during the war; or have lived in New Jersey during the war; or have lived in Italy during the war. Each person who participates will get a copy of their interview for their family records.

Anyone interested in participating, or anyone knowing someone who might wish to participate, should contact Professor Douglas

at sdouglas@mondec.monmouth.edu, or 732-263-5509.

MARYLAND

Harriet Lynn, producer and artistic director of Heritage Theater Artists Consortium, has received a grant from the city of Baltimore to conduct an oral history project—"Life Stories"—that will collect oral histories of senior adults who gather weekly at the Ivy Center Eating Together Program in West Baltimore and then incorporate them into a performance work to be presented by the participants themselves at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History and Culture, and at various other community venues. Both a publication and a documentary film based on this oral history material will be produced. The program is intended to both celebrate and document the heritage and culture of the participants, utilizing the visual, oral,

written and performing arts. Performances are planned for late 2005. For further information, contact Harriet Lynn at hlynn@h-t-a-c.com, or 410-235-4457.

PENNSYLVANIA

Dr. Chad Kimmel, of Shippensburg University, was recently awarded a FPDC grant to continue his study of Levittown, Pennsylvania, a mass-produced suburban community, now 53 years old. Along with two department majors, Rachel Marks and Chris Ottey, Dr. Kimmel is recording and preserving the stories and memories of those who built Levittown. Oral history interviews explore five content areas: work conditions, incentive pay and other motivating factors; organization of labor; division of labor; and social/psychological factors. The project will continue through the fall of 2005. For further information, contact Dr. Kimmel at cmkimm@ship.edu. ■

OHMAR FALL WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

FRIDAY OCTOBER 28, 2005

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HALL OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
427 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106**

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM
RECEPTION—DINE-AROUND SIGN-UP

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
MORNING SESSIONS

(CHOOSE ONE)

BEGINNING ORAL HISTORY

___ OHMAR President David Winkler will lead this half-day workshop on the basics of oral history interviewing. Limit 25 people.

OR

INCORPORATING ORAL HISTORY INTO DOCUMENTARIES

___ Former Red Cross Historian Brien Williams and Bloomfield College Communications Professor Jeanne Nutter will discuss approaches to video-recording oral history with an eye towards incorporation footage into quality production documentary.

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
LUNCHTIME DINE AROUND/NETWORKING

Break bread with your fellow workshop participants and facilitators at nearby restaurants. (Cost of lunch not included in conference fee.)

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
AFTERNOON SESSIONS

(CHOOSE ONE)

AUDIO FRONTIERS: FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL

___ Charles Hardy will demonstrate the latest capabilities of sound recording equipment.

OR

ARCHIVING ORAL HISTORIES AND SOUND COLLECTIONS

___ American Philosophical Society Archivist J.J. Ahern will lead a panel that will include Historical Society of Pennsylvania Archivist R.A. Friedman and other experts on preserving and archiving analog sound in the digital age, and will explore new trends.

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS (check one)

___ \$50 OHMAR Member/ Student rate ___ \$70 Non-Member rate ___ \$25/individual; \$10/
student OHMAR Membership (through 2006)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2005

**TAMIMENT LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM, 10TH FLOOR
BOBST LIBRARY, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
70 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY**

9:00 am – 9:30 am
COFFEE

9:30 am – 12:00 noon
MORNING SESSION

BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

Let by Rachel Bernstein. An introduction to methods for conducting oral history interviews, including methodology, interviewing techniques, locating interviewees, and other aspects of oral history.

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
AFTERNOON SESSION

DIGITIZING ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

A close look at the issues and techniques for digitizing oral history collections that are on analog tape formats. Chris Lacinak and Dr. Michael Nash will discuss the Tamiment Library project with the VidiPax company to digitize 350 interviews from the New Yorkers at Work Oral History Collection.

REGISTRATION FEES FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

___ \$25 OHMAR Member/Student ___ \$35 Non-Member ___ \$25/individual; \$10/student OHMAR Membership (through 2006)

REGISTRATION FEES FOR DIGITIZING ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

___ \$25 OHMAR Member/Student ___ \$35 Non-Member ___ \$25/individual; \$10/student OHMAR Membership (through 2006)

(see reverse side to complete registration for all workshops)

PRESENTERS' BIOS

Philadelphia

Javid Winkler, OHMAR president, [CDR David Winkler], has been an oral historian for the Naval Historical Foundation since 1996. There, he oversees the national collection effort involving over 50 volunteers who capture and transcribe the recollections of Navy veterans. He publishes a quarterly oral history newsletter, ALL EARS, which is distributed to his volunteers and to other Navy oral history efforts. As a naval reserve officer, he trains reservists on oral history interviewing on behalf of the Navy's Combat Documentation Program. He also runs the Navy's End of Tour Oral History program that interviews senior Navy leaders. A volunteer for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, he has been invited to interview numerous congressmen and senators about their combat experiences.

Joseph-James Ahern is currently the assistant manager for technical services and programs at the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia. There he works in the Manuscript department, providing reference assistance to readers and processing collections, and is responsible for programs. A resident of Riverside, N.J., Mr. Ahern graduated in 1996 from Rutgers University-Camden with a Master of Arts in Public History. He has focused his scholarly research in U.S. military and naval history, primarily in the areas of military operations and technical development. In November 1997 he published *Philadelphia Naval Shipyard*, a photographic look at the historic shipyard located on League Island. In addition, Mr. Ahern has published articles in *American Neptune*, *International Journal of Naval History*, *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*, and *Encyclopedia of the Atomic Age*. Recently he published the article, "We had the hose turned on us!": Ross Gunn and the Naval Research

Laboratory's Early Research into Nuclear Propulsion, 1939 – 1946," in *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*. He belongs to several professional and historical organizations, including the Society for History in the Federal Government, the Delaware Valley Archives Group, and the Naval Historical Foundation (where he is a volunteer in the Naval Heritage Speaker Forum).

Brien Williams, a former president of OHMAR, recently left the American Red Cross, where he managed their historical collection program for many years. His specialty with the ARC was video-interviewing. He perfected his techniques after previous employment with the Smithsonian Institution, where he filmed interviews related to the history of science and technology. Currently, he is doing oral history consultation work with the Federal Reserve Board in conjunction with the pending retirement of its chairman, Alan Greenspan.

Jeanne Nutter is an associate professor of Communication at Bloomfield College. She has worked for such organizations as William Paterson University, NYU's Metropolitan Center for Education, Research, Development and Training, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, where she coordinated training for SWAPO Chief Representatives in Lusaka, Zambia. more than twenty-two years of varied experience in education, training and administration. She has been a fellow for the Danforth-Compton Foundation, the John D. Rockefeller 3rd Fund, and Leadership America. In conjunction with Hagley Museum and Library, where she helped create an exhibit and pilot documentary film on P.S. duPont and the African American School Rebuilding program, she collected over fifty hours of oral histories of African Americans in Delaware. She served as executive producer of several short films,

as well as a full-length documentary, "A Separate Place: The Schools P.S. duPont Built," which aired on WHYY-TV and won an honorable mention in the 2003 Wilmington Film Festival. She is the author of an oral history publication, *Growing Up Black in New Castle County*. In 2002, she was inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame and in 2004 she was awarded the Delaware State Education Association Humanities and Civil Rights Award. She holds a Ph.D. from Howard University.

Charles Hardy III, an award-winning producer of radio, video and web-based documentaries, has been a member of the West Chester University Department of History since 1990. The first producer of "Crossroads," (1987) a national weekly radio news magazine on multicultural affairs, he won the 1999 Oral History Association Biennial Non-Print Media award for *I Can Almost See the Lights of Home: A Field Trip to Harlan County, Kentucky*, a 2.5 hr. essay-in-sound (*Journal of Multimedia History*, vol. 2, 1999), co-authored with Alessandro Portelli. His other awards include The Forrest C. Pogue Award, (Oral History in the Middle Atlantic Region, 2001), a Public Radio Program Award from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (1983), and three Audio Fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (1984, 1988, 1990). An authority on the recording and use of oral history interviews in non-print media, he has taught for the Temple University Public History program, the Columbia University Oral History Research Office's Summer Institute in Advanced Oral History Training, the Scribe Video Center, and the University of the Arts. Currently, he is supervising historian for www.explorePAhistory.com, an EDSITEment-listed website that builds historical content and lesson plans around Pennsylvania historical markers.

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OHMAR'S NEW PRESIDENT

David F. Winkler, Ph.D., OHMAR's 25th president, has been a member of OHMAR for nearly a decade. He was elected to the board of directors in 2002 and served as the organization's vice president from 2003 until his election as president on March 18, 2005. Among his OHMAR accomplishments are creating the organization's program database and publishing OHMAR's 2005 membership directory.

Dave serves as the Programs and Development Director at Naval Historical Foundation in Washington, DC, supervising an oral history program that collects and preserves recollections of Navy veterans. Dave also oversees the Foundation's Naval Heritage Speakers Program and other Navy History-related projects, and writes a monthly history column for the Navy League's journal *Sea Power*.

Dave earned his Ph.D. at American University. He is a commander in the Navy Reserve.

ROGER HOROWITZ RUNNING FOR OHA COUNCIL

OHMAR Past-President Roger Horowitz has been nominated for an at-large seat on the Council of the Oral History Association. The Council is the principal governing board of the OHA, and is composed of the OHA president, the vice-president/president-elect, the first vice-president, and four Council members elected at large for a three-year term. Roger works at the Hagley Museum and Library in Delaware and has been on OHMAR's board since 1996 in various capacities. He was OHMAR president from 2003-05 and served as program chair for the OHA annual meeting in Bethesda, Maryland in 2003. The OHA election is for members and will take place in a mail ballot during August and September.

OHMAR Spring 2005 Newsletter

Deadline for material: **January 15, 2006**

OHMAR produces two newsletters per year, one in the early fall, the other in the early spring. Deadlines for ads and submissions to its newsletter are **January 15** and **July 15**.

ADVERTISING RATES

Business card	\$20
¼ page	\$30
½ page	\$60
Full Page	\$75

To place an ad in the Spring 2006 newsletter, please contact:
sharonzane@earthlink.net

OHMAR

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region

Established in 1976, OHMAR is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and improvement of oral history in the Mid-Atlantic region, and serves both professional and amateur oral historians, librarians, archivists, teachers, folklorists and independent researchers in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Each year, OHMAR sponsors two public forums—a fall workshop and spring conference—and produces two newsletters, one in the early fall, the other in the early spring. Deadlines for ads and submissions to its newsletter are **January 15** and **July 15**. Send all information to the newsletter editor: sharonzane@earthlink.net

Membership is for the calendar year. Benefits include newsletters, advance notice of, and reduced fees to, OHMAR events. For more information about membership, contact Doug Wilson at wilsondj@bellatlantic.net.

OHMAR

c/o Douglas J. Wilson
820 Crittenden Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20011

For further information:
www.ohmar.org