

OHMAR

Spring 2009 Newsletter

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region

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WAR AND CONFLICT TO BE SPOTLIGHTED AT OHMAR 2009 CONFERENCE

On May 1, 2009 at the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, OHMAR and Veterans History Project, American Folk Life Center, Library of Congress will co-host this year's Mid-Atlantic Region Oral History Conference and OHMAR's annual meeting. This year's theme is "War and Conflict."

War and conflict have been a formative part of United States history during the twentieth century, a trend that has continued into the new millennium. Since World War II, oral history has become a progressively more valuable tool in exploring the causes of war; the fierce national and international debate over the efficacy of waging war; the experiences of the combatants and civilians caught up in the conflict; and the social, political, and economic consequences of war. Drawing on this rich history, OHMAR and the Veterans History Project have solicited papers for a conference that explores war and conflict through the use of oral history.

In putting together the programs, the program committee sought proposals for individual papers or complete panels that focus on the use of oral history in documenting the impact of war and conflict on world history during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Enclosed you will find a tentative program that not only should be of interest to those who have an interest in the subject, but should be of interest to all practitioners of oral history as collection methodology is universal. ■



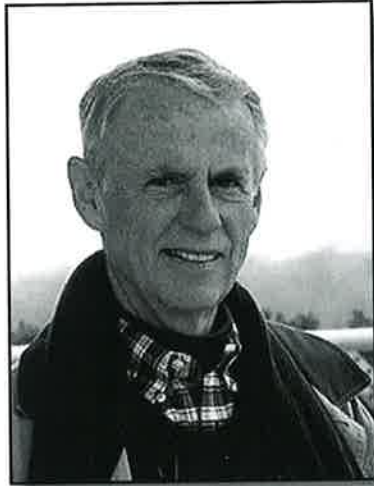
Library of Congress, Washington, DC

WILLIAMS EARNS 2009 POGUE AWARD

OHMAR is pleased to announce that Brien Williams has been selected to receive the 2009 Forrest Pogue Award for outstanding achievement in the field of oral history. Former OHMAR president Roger Horowitz observed that Williams "...is kind of the mild-mannered reporter who has done a lot more than most people know. I chaired a session at the last OHA meeting where he spoke and was astounded by his resume."

Indeed, Williams is a past president of OHMAR, was on the program and local arrangements committee for the 2003 OHA meeting, and is one of the few veteran OHMAR members who continues to be involved and contributing via workshop presentations and attending both OHMAR and OHA meetings.

In his short biographical write-up, Williams defines himself as an oral historian and video producer. He currently is directing the Robert J. Dole Oral History Project for the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas and interviews members of Congress and others associated with Sen.



BRIEN WILLIAMS

Dole. He serves as a special oral historian for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress interviewing members of Congress and others about their military service. He was a video producer for the Smithsonian Videohistory Project covering contemporary science and technology and works with the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center on the documentation of inventors. For a number of years, Dr. Williams served as historian of the American Red Cross responsible for the study and dissemination of Red Cross history and for a national Red Cross Oral History Program. He received his Ph.D. in Radio-Television-Film from

Northwestern University and taught media production and theory at Indiana and George Washington universities before becoming a Washington-based, independent video producer and oral historian.

Williams was honored when he found out he was selected. He looks forward to speaking to OHMAR members and other attendees at the 2009 OHMAR conference at the Library of Congress. ■

The FOREST C. POGUE Award:

In its continuing efforts to recognize and promote high standards in the field of oral history, OHMAR created an annual award for outstanding and continuing contributions to oral history. The award honors Forrest C. Pogue. Pogue pioneered the use of oral history in combat during World War II and also served as an early president of the Oral History Association.

BOARD NOMINEES

At the membership meeting that will coincide with the Pogue Award presentation at the Library of Congress, the nomination committee is pleased to present the following candidates for election.

FOR PRESIDENT: Renee Braden (2 Years)

Renee has served as OHMAR's Secretary and Vice President and is employed by the National Geographical Society in Washington DC.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT: Sandra Holyoak (2 years)

Sandra has served on the OHMAR Board in the past and has directed the Rutgers Oral History Archives at New Brunswick, New Jersey for over a decade.

FOR AT LARGE BOARD MEMBER: Susan Kraft (3 years)

Susan Kraft has organized several OHMAR workshops in the New York area (and we anticipate additional workshops this Fall!). She has served as the Coordinator of the Dance Oral

History Project and Archive of the Jerome Robbins Dance Division of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy & Lewis B. Cullman Center.

FOR TREASURER: VACANCY (2 years)

If you would be interested in being considered by the nominating committee for this position, please contact Dave Winkler at dwinkler@navyhistory.org.

FOR AT LARGE BOARD MEMBER: VACANCY (3 years)

If you would be interested in being considered by the nominating committee for this position, please contact Dave Winkler at dwinkler@navyhistory.org.

**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. The deadlines for ads and submissions to its Fall 2009 newsletter is **July 15, 2009**. Send all information to the newsletter editor: dwinkler@navyhistory.org.

Membership is for the calendar year. Benefits include newsletters, advance notice of, and reduced fees to, OHMAR events. For more information about membership, contact Constance Beninghove at connie.beninghove.ctr@navy.mil.

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