

OHMAR

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region

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REGISTER NOW!
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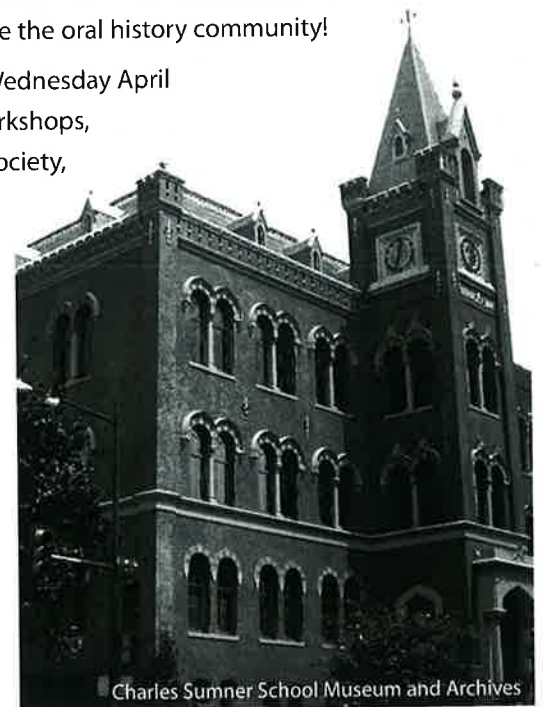
WWW.OHMAR.ORG

ANNUAL CONFERENCE HAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOCUS!

"Catching Lightning in a Bottle, "Documenting Science, Technology & Innovation Through Oral History is the theme of this year's OHMAR Spring Conference that is to be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives (1201 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC, located adjacent to the National Geographic Society Museum). In addition to paper presentations, the conference will feature a luncheon that will conclude with the presentation of the Pogue Award. After the presentation OHMAR will have its annual meeting that will include the election of two new members to replace Amy Starecheski and Shaun Illingworth. Members are strongly encouraged to attend to thank Amy and Shaun for their service and welcome their replacements on the board. We also would like members to share their views on how OHMAR can better serve the oral history community!

The day prior to the conference—Wednesday April 28—will feature a pair of fantastic workshops, a tour of the National Geographic Society, and an opportunity for OHMAR members to socialize at one of Washington's favorite gathering spots.

A detailed description of these two days of OHMAR activities in the nation's capital are covered inside beginning on page 3. As we anticipate some program modifications, be sure to check our www.ohmar.org website. If you have questions, please contact us at ohmar.conference@gmail.com. ■



Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP!

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SPRING CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP UPDATES!

The Program Committee wanted to share with our membership some of the intriguing workshops, paper presentations and activities that have been accepted and arranged at press time. Please note that times are subject to change.

For up-to-the-minute program details or to register, visit the OHMAR website (<http://www.ohmar.org>).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Registration and Continental Breakfast/Refreshments
Morning Workshop Session**

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

"A Picture and a Thousand Words: Adding Video to an Oral History Program"

Brien Williams will lead a half-day workshop designed to discuss and demonstrate the technical, aesthetic, and social aspects of incorporating video in oral history projects. The workshop is designed primarily for those already experienced in doing oral history who are adding video to their repertoire or considering doing so. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own cameras and equipment for evaluation and practice, if they wish.

An oral historian and video producer Williams is currently conducting interviews for the George Mitchell Oral History Project at Bowdoin College, Maine, and directed a similar project for the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas with members of Congress and senate staff. He has also interviewed members of Congress for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress. Formerly Dr. Williams was 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. Dr. Williams has been an independent video producer, writer, and director. Clients have included government agencies, private corporations, and members of the Washington political and legal communities. He served as contract video producer for the Smithsonian Videohistory Project and the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation on videotaped studies of leading scientists and inventors. He received his Ph.D. in Radio-Television-Film from Northwestern University and taught media production and theory at Indiana and George Washington universities. He was the 2009 recipient of OHMAR's Forrest Pogue award.

This workshop is limited to 20 attendees.

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

Lunch on your own

1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SESSION

"Oral History 101: So How Do You Catch Lightning in a Bottle?"

Drawing on the topic of this conference, and her own 15 years as an oral historian documenting dance (certainly one of the most elusive subjects around), Susan Kraft will explore with workshop participants our intentions as oral historians and how we might most effectively achieve them. This three-hour workshop will focus mainly on interview techniques and project design. It is suitable for oral historians new to the field as well as those seeking to hone their skills.

Kraft has served since 1993 as the Coordinator of the Dance Oral History Project and Archive, a model documentation initiative of the Jerome Robbins Dance Division of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy & Lewis B. Cullman Center. In this role Susan has helped develop the largest, most comprehensive and best preserved dance oral history archive anywhere in the world. Besides the development and care of the materials, Ms. Kraft provides advice to researchers internationally on topics ranging from oral history practice to rights clearances. Through workshops, lectures and one-on-one consultations, Ms. Kraft has assisted in bringing the archive to the attention of choreographers, authors, filmmakers and lecturers, thereby increasing the visibility and use of oral history materials and methodology in the performing arts. Prior to her involvement in the Dance Oral History Project, Ms. Kraft was a Library Technical Assistant for five years in The New York Public Library's Jerome Robbins Dance Division. Additional professional experience includes work as a dance columnist and as a freelance writer and researcher. Ms. Kraft holds a Master's Degree from New York University, where she was awarded a Dean's Scholarship in Dance Research, and a Bachelor's Degree from Oberlin College.

This workshop is limited to 20 attendees.

David J. Caruso earned a B.A. in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology from the Johns Hopkins University in 2001 and a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Cornell University in 2008. His graduate work focused on the interaction of American military and medical personnel from the Spanish-American War through World War I and the institutional transformations that resulted in the development of American military medicine as a unique form of knowledge and practice. Caruso is the Program Manager for Oral History at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF). His current research interests are on the discipline formation of biomedical science in 20th-century America and the organizational structures that have contributed to such formation, as well as the practice and experience of modern military medicine. He also oversees all oral history projects at the CHF including those that focus on Women in Chemistry, the recipients of the Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences award, environmental history, and the chemical history of electronics, just to name a few.

Secretary to serve for two years (2010-2012)

Sarah Rouse is serving as the current secretary for OHMAR, and has been nominated for a second two-year term. Prior to coming to OHMAR, Rouse worked at the Library of Congress, most recently as the senior program officer for the Veterans History Project (VHP), now numbering 65,000 oral histories and other documents. Rouse earned her MLS from Catholic University, and worked in London before beginning her career at the Library of Congress. Her 1996 Fulbright Scholarship was in Dublin, Ireland, surveying historical photograph collections. Rouse has taught oral history to volunteer interviewers, spoken widely on the value of oral history and the VHP's methodology, and has interviewed many war veterans. She transcribes oral histories for the Ruth Ann Overbeck Capitol Hill (DC) History Project.

Nominating Committee to serve a two year term

Barry A. Lanman is the Director of the Martha Ross Center for Oral History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Concurrently, he is the past-director of the Consortium of Oral History Educators, historian for the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, an oral history consultant/interviewer and specialist in the field of oral history as an educational methodology. Dr. Lanman has authored numerous articles, pamphlets and books in the fields of education and history. He has also written and produced historical media presentations and wrote an educational component for the television series *The Promised Land*. Lanman received his doctorate from Temple University,

served as the first chair of the Oral History Association's Committee on Education and is a founder and past-president of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The Former Members of Congress named Lanman as its educator-historian for 1984. He has also received the Judith Ruchkin Research Award and the Forrest Pogue Award.

2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Afternoon Parallel Presentation Sessions

Below are some of the papers that have been accepted at press time. Please visit the OHMAR website (<http://www.ohmar.org>) for more details on the schedule.

- **Putting Scientists to Good Use: (Re-)Creating Scientific History with the Stories Scientists Did and Did Not Tell**, a panel presentation from The Chemical Heritage Foundation, featuring:
 - **The End of "Eureka!": Normalizing Discovery in Laboratory Practice**, David J. Caruso
 - **Women in Chemistry: Talking about Career and Family**, Hilary Domush
 - **Emergence of an Industry: Rubber and Polymers in World War II**, Sarah Hunter
 - **The Private Face of Public Science**, Erica Stefanovich
- **Destroyers, Shatterers, or Saviors of Worlds: Scientists at the Crossroads**, James Deutsch, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- **Deterrents, Retaliations, and Turkey Feathers: Recovering the History of America's Anti-Crop Warfare Program (1950-1980)**, George H. Gittinger, Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh
- **Oral Histories and the Development of the Liquid Crystal Display**, Benjamin Gross, Princeton University
- **The Role of Oral Histories in the History of Technical Societies**, David Hochfelder, History Department, University at Albany
- **History in Real Time: the Contemporaneous Archives**, Genya O'Gara, North Carolina State University Libraries
- **Oral History Read and Spoken: Collecting and Reading the History of Human Remains and Physical Anthropology in the United States**, Samuel J. Redman, University of California, Berkeley
- **Physicians in Transition: The Voice of Rural Physicians in Response to Electronic Medical Records**, Susan M. Wiczorek, University of Pittsburgh ■

AMELIA FRY: AN OHMAR ORIGINAL

Amelia "Chita" Fry, a retired University of California at Berkeley historian, died in Carmel Valley, California on December 30, 2009 after a sudden illness. She was 84 and had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Considered by many a "Founding Mother" of Oral History, she had split her long career between U.C. Berkeley and the Library of Congress. In

Ms. Fry was hired as an original member of U.C. Berkeley's Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) at the Bancroft Library.

This small office was in the forefront of the new practice of recording interviews with historically significant people while they were still alive.

1958, following marriage to her first husband and the birth of their three sons, Ms. Fry was hired as an original member of U.C. Berkeley's Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) at the Bancroft Library. This small office was in the forefront of the new practice of recording interviews with historically significant people while they were still alive.

Ms. Fry's interviewees included California governors Earl Warren and Edmund G. "Pat" Brown and a series of interviews with people who helped create the National Park system. These included Horace Albright, who steered the legislation creating the system through Congress and served as one of its first direc-

tors as well as Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. She also interviewed Newton B. Drury, the first executive secretary of Save the Redwoods League, and later a Director of the National Park Service. In the late 1960's, Ms. Fry started to work on the women's suffragist movement of the 1920's and 30's. Her efforts were principally directed at documenting the role of Alice Paul, noted suffragist, founder of the National Women's Party, and one of the people most responsible for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Ms. Fry conducted several interviews with Alice Paul prior to her death in 1977.

Following a divorce from her first husband, Ms. Fry remarried and, in the late 1970s, moved to Washington, D.C. with her new husband. It was during this time she became involved with a new organization that was encouraging grass roots collection efforts in the mid-Atlantic region—OHMAR. Meanwhile, she continued her work for ROHO at the Library of Congress. Over the next 20 years, she wrote a two volume biography of Alice Paul. It was nearly finished when she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and became unable to work. The book is being finished by another author, Jill Zahnizer. A memorial service was held at the Women's Faculty Club at U.C. Berkeley at noon on Saturday, January 30, 2010. She is buried with her second husband, Rex Davis, at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Save the Redwoods League, 114 Sansome Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94104, or info@savetheredwoods.org. ■

NINTH
Maritime Heritage
CONFERENCE
Baltimore • September 15-19, 2010



OHMAR MULTIMEDIA PROCEEDINGS ONLINE

OHMAR is pleased to announce that the multimedia proceedings website for the 2008 OHMAR Oral History and Performance Conference is now online. Thank you to all of the presenters who contributed their work to this public record of the conference, and thanks to all of you who presented, attended, or helped to organize the event. Finally, thanks to the staff at Columbia University Libraries who worked with Jeff Friedman and Amy Starecheski to create the site.

The proceedings include video, audio, images, and text. Some highlights: full video of the staged performances at the Lerner Hall Black Box Theater (featuring Gregory Ramos, Slash Coleman, Susan Banyas, and David Ornette Cherry), Della Pollock's presentation on "Oral History As and In Performance," and Jeff Friedman's Pogue Award speech: Oral History "A G-Go."

We can still add materials, so if you have something you would like posted feel free to send it along. We also welcome feedback on the site.

Here it is: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/conferences/2008/ohmar/index.html> ■



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. The deadlines for ads and submissions to its Fall 2010 newsletter is **July 15, 2010**. 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.

OHMAR
c/o Constance S. Beninghove
Assistant Treasurer
317 12th Street, NE #5
Washington, DC 20002

For further information:
www.OHMAR.org

XVI INTERNATIONAL ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE
SAVE THE DATE : JULY 7-11, 2010

**Between Past and Future:
Oral History, Memory and Meaning**

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC • WWW.IOHANET.ORG

OHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAVE THE DATE : OCTOBER 27-31, 2010

Times of Crisis, Times of Change
Human Stories on the Edge of Transformation

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