

CENTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES \$3,000,000 NEH CHALLENGE GRANT

The George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center exceeded an ambitious fundraising goal of \$3 million to successfully conclude the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) *We the People* Challenge Grant. Over the last five years, the total raised to meet the challenge was more than \$3.4 million. “To say we are thrilled about meeting the challenge is an understatement,” said William Blair, Liberal Arts Research Professor of American History and director of the Richards Center. “Ten years ago we had a vision to become a leading institution widely recognized for its impact on scholarship. The funds raised from this campaign have made our vision a reality. We are poised to become one of the key institutions in the country for interpreting the larger struggle for freedom that has shaped so much of American history.”

The Richards Center received enormous support from alumni and friends of the Center, in particular the board members. George Richards ('54), who with his wife, Ann, endowed the Center in 2002, played a key leadership role in the fundraising efforts of the Center. “We are so proud of the path-breaking research and teaching being done by the Center’s faculty and graduate students,” Richards said. “Less than half of NEH Challenges are successful, and the Center’s achievement is even more significant because they had to conduct the final phase of the fundraising during one of the worst economic recessions in the U.S.”

Richards Center activities supported by NEH funds and alumni gifts include a new academic journal titled *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, a teachers institute offering ways to incorporate the latest scholarship about America’s struggles for freedom into classrooms, a new kind of society for Civil War era historians with an ongoing national conference, a 2007 symposium on the Emancipation Proclamation that resulted in a published book, and an annual national conference for graduate students that showcases the Center as a premier institution for graduate scholarship. NEH funds also allowed the Center to

initiate a digital project to assess, catalog, and eventually digitize Pennsylvania’s Civil War era historical collections. This pioneering initiative, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, attracted an \$80,000 planning grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in 2009.

Receiving the *We the People* grant marked the formal acknowledgement by the federal government of the outstanding work of the Richards Center in advancing the study of the Civil War era and related issues of slavery, freedom, and equality up to the present day.

In August 2005, the Richards Center received one of the NEH’s largest *We the People* Challenge Grants ever. When the NEH gave the grant of \$1 million, it challenged the Center to raise an additional \$3 million with a five year period.

Announced by President Bush in 2002, the initiative supports targeted institutions that can help fulfill the goal of the *We the People Initiative* to further the study, teaching, and understanding of American history.



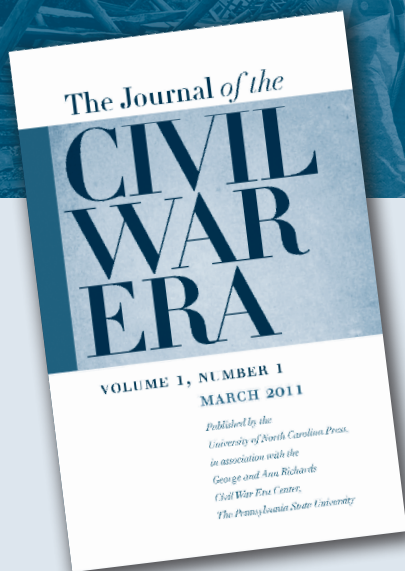
Ray Lambra, Special Assistant to the Dean for Advancement in the College of the Liberal Arts and Professor of Economics, and George Richards celebrating the successful completion of the grant at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D.C. in May 2010.



ANDY COLWELL

History Department Ranked in the Top 25 in National Research Council Rankings

The National Research Council (NRC) recently released its rankings of the nation’s liberal arts Ph.D. programs. Several Penn State departments, including History, were ranked in the top 25 percent nationally. According to this survey, the history department at Penn State now ranks third in the Big 10. This represents a tremendous achievement for Penn State’s College of the Liberal Arts under the leadership of Dean Susan Welch. Welch recounted, “in the last NRC report, in 1995, only two departments were ranked in the top quarter of their disciplines, but now we have eleven programs there. By any standard, we did very well.” The 1995 survey was based largely on reputational assessments by academics across the U.S. The 2010 survey used twenty quantitative measures, including faculty research productivity, degree completion rates, financial support for graduate students, and faculty and student diversity. This ranking places the history department as the eighth top program among public institutions, which compares quite favorably with programs at the University of Michigan, Wisconsin, and the University of Virginia, among others.



Introducing *The Journal of the Civil War Era*

In March 2011 the Richards Center, in partnership with the University of North Carolina Press, will introduce the first issue of *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, a new journal that incorporates a broad view of the Civil War era. Center director William Blair serves as founding editor and Karen Fisher Younger, the Center's managing director, assumes the role of managing editor. Tony Kaye, associate professor of history at Penn State, and Aaron Sheehan-Dean, associate professor of history at the University of North Florida, serve as associate editors, commissioning review essays, which is one of the unique features of the journal. Judith Giesberg, associate professor of history at Villanova University, is the book review editor.

The Journal of the Civil War Era offers fresh perspective on military, political, and legal history of the era as well as attends to such subjects as slavery and antislavery, capitalism and labor, popular culture and intellectual history, expansionism and empire, race and national memory, gender and more. The journal aims to create consistent dialogue and scholarly interactions among historians in disparate subfields in order to stimulate fresh, new scholarship and, in the words of Blair, "galvanize the larger field of nineteenth-century history intellectually and professionally."

The response to this new venture has been quite positive; the journal has been adopted as the official publication of the Society of Civil War Historians. Members of the Society receive a subscription to the journal as a premium for membership. The creation of the new journal was made possible by the generous support of Carol and John Paulus and the NEH *We The People* Challenge Grant. For more information, see the journal's website at www.journalofthecivilwarera.com/.

McCOURTNEY FAMILY ENDOWS PROFESSORSHIP IN MILITARY HISTORY



Ted McCourtney, Professor Carol Reardon, and Tracy Winfree McCourtney

Penn State alumna Tracy Winfree McCourtney ('65), and her husband, Ted, made a \$1 million gift to the University to endow the George Winfree Professorship in American History in memory of Tracy's great-grandfather. "Ted and I are very excited to support the nationally prominent faculty who create such cutting edge scholarship at the Richards Center," said McCourtney. "The seed of our gift was planted by [Carol Reardon's] talk on Pickett's Charge" during the executive tour of the Gettysburg battlefield in 2008.

Professor Carol Reardon was awarded the professorship in recognition of her record of scholarship, teaching, and service to Penn State and the profession. In awarding the professorship to Reardon, Susan Welch, dean of the College of the Liberal Arts, praised "her incredible accomplishments as an award-winning teacher of undergraduate and graduate students and as a nationally prominent scholar in Civil War era and military history. I am grateful to the McCourtneys for providing the wonderful gift to enable us to recognize Carol in this way."

Reardon has published five books on military history, has taken part in developing a PBS TV series on West Point and an A&E TV series on Ulysses S. Grant, and has appeared in book lectures for C-SPAN TV. She was the first woman to serve as president of the Society for Military History and as a member of the U.S. Secretary of the Navy's advisory subcommittee on naval history.

This is the second endowed professorship created by the McCourtneys. As longtime supporters of the College of the Liberal Arts, they also have established three undergraduate scholarship funds, a graduate scholarship, and three graduate fellowships. They also have supported the Moore Building project and the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center at Penn State. The couple received the Arthur Welsh Award for Outstanding Support of the Richards Center in 2007–2008.



Executive tour at the Lincoln Cottage in Washington, D.C.



Professors Mark Neely and Carol Reardon at the Congressional Cemetery



Steve Brose at the Capitol

EXECUTIVE TOUR OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Following on last year's executive tour of Springfield, Illinois to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, this year's tour brought the group to Washington, D.C., to continue its examination of Lincoln during his presidential years. With the guidance of the Richards Center team of top scholars, the group explored the city Lincoln called home during the nation's darkest hour.

"It is truly a delight to prepare and plan and then finally experience a tour with this group," said managing director Karen Fisher Younger. "This year's tour was made that much sweeter because we were able to celebrate the momentous accomplishment of reaching the \$3 million NEH *We the People* Challenge Grant."

The group battled traffic, crowds, and unseasonably hot weather to visit such notable sites as the Capitol Building, Ford's Theatre, the National Museum of Health and Medicine, and Lafayette Square. Other notable events were the behind-the-scenes tour beneath the Lincoln Memorial and dinner at Lincoln's picturesque hilltop retreat.

In the spring, the group will travel to Charleston, South Carolina, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter and the beginning of the Civil War.



Center Director William Blair and Steve and Janice Brose with James O. Horton

BROSE LECTURES FEATURE JAMES O. HORTON

James O. Horton, the Benjamin Banneker Professor Emeritus of American Studies and History at The George Washington University and historian emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, delivered lectures on slavery and Civil War memory for the 2010 Steven and Janice Brose Distinguished Lecture Series, on October 21, 22, and 23, in the Business Building on the University Park campus.

Anticipating next year's 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War and the commemorations that will occur throughout the country, Horton's lectures stressed the responsibility of public historians to highlight the role of slavery in causing the war and the contributions of African Americans to Union victory and the demise of slavery itself.

The lectures, given just days after the news that a fourth-grade textbook in Virginia had argued incorrectly that black southerners had enlisted in the Confederate army, Horton passionately contended that such claims are rooted in a desire to divert attention away from slavery as the main cause of secession and war, and highlights the importance of making upcoming commemorations inclusive and unsparing in their recounting of the grave causes and experiences of the war.

The lecture series is made possible by the generous support of Steven and Janice Brose.

Battlefield Study Tour Explores Vicksburg

The Penn State Alumni Civil War Weekend focused its three-day program on Vicksburg and the siege of the city. The faculty, led by Richards Center Scholar-in-Residence Carol Reardon, included retired Brigadier General Parker Hills and Vicksburg Military Park historian and Penn State alum Terrence Winshel ('77). Participants learned about the maneuver campaign to capture the city as well as explored the leadership skills of U.S. Grant.



Tad Watson of the Watson-Brown Foundation and Dan Sutherland

Dan Sutherland Wins Inaugural Tom Watson Brown Book Award

The Watson-Brown Foundation announced Daniel Sutherland, professor of history at the University of Arkansas, the recipient of the foundation's inaugural \$50,000 book prize for *A Savage Conflict: The Decisive Role of Guerrillas in the American Civil War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009). Sutherland argues that "irregular" conflicts plagued much of the Confederacy (and parts of the Union) during the war, eventually eroding the Confederate public's confidence in their national government when it proved unable to restrain guerrilla activity.

The Tom Watson Brown Book Award, among the largest book prizes offered in the country, is awarded annually to the author of the outstanding book on the causes, conduct, and effects of the Civil War. The award is judged and presented by the Society of Civil War Historian. The Tom Watson Brown Book Award recognizes the late Walter J. Brown, a Georgia journalist and broadcaster, who established the Watson-Brown Foundation. The foundation primarily provides college scholarships for underprivileged high school students.



Penn State grad students pictured: First row: Rachel Moran, Kelly Knight. Second row: Andrew Prymak, Sean Trainor. Third row: Tim Orr, Anne Brinton, Will Bryan, Timothy Wesley. Fourth row: Antwain Hunter, Alfred Wallace, Jonathan Steplyk.

CENTER HOLDS FOURTH ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

On February 5–6, 2010, the Center hosted its fourth annual graduate student conference, titled *In Search of the State: the U.S. and Its Citizens in the Long Nineteenth Century*. The conference took place at the Days Inn at Penn State and featured ten presenters, including the Center's own Timothy Orr and Andrew Prymak. Participants came from such well-regarded graduate programs as Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Michigan. The conference also had a broad appeal, attracting students from California to Georgia to New York City. Richards Center graduate student Rachel Moran organized the conference with assistance from fellow Center students Anne Brinton (a past organizer), David Greenspoon, Timothy Orr, Andrew Prymak, and J. Adam Rogers.

This year's conference, *Landscapes of Freedom: Freedom Struggles throughout the Nineteenth Century*, will take place at the Days Inn Penn State on April 1–2, 2011. The graduate conference is supported by funds from the NEH *We The People* Challenge Grant.

Society of Civil War Historians Conference

The Society of Civil War Historians (SCWH) hosted its second biennial conference on June 17–19, 2010, at the Marriott Richmond in Richmond, Virginia. The program included nearly twenty-five panels and seventy presenters. The keynote speakers included Edward L. Ayers, president of the University of Richmond, and Gary W. Gallagher, John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia. The Society's next conference will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, June 2012.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM EXPANDS



Campbell

Thanks to additional resources from the NEH Challenge Grant and the generosity of Lynne and Larry Brown, the Richards Center expanded its undergraduate internship program this year by adding a second internship at Gettysburg National Military Park in the museum service branch of the park. Kristen Campbell, a senior history major and a 2009 Gettysburg summer intern in interpretive operations, was awarded the newly created internship. Caitlin Kostic, a junior history major, worked in interpretive operations. As with so many interns, the experience exceeded Kostic's expectations. "This summer has been amazing!" she said. "Honestly, it was the best experience of my life, and I am so grateful to everyone who helped make it memorable!"



Spellman

F. Robert Spellman echoes Kostic's enthusiasm. Spellman, a junior education major, spent twelve weeks—often wearing period costume—educating students at Harpers Ferry National Battlefield Park. Reflecting on his experience he said it was "the first time I [was] consistently teaching and... I love[d] my job." The Center also supported junior Amanda Fellmeth at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where she helped process collections in the Civil War era.

Blair Appointed College of Liberal Arts Professor of American History

Richards Center director, William Blair, was appointed College of Liberal Arts Research Professor of American History in recognition of his excellence in research and teaching and his leadership as director of the Richards Center. Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Susan Welch, presented the award to Blair during the executive tour in Washington, D.C., on May 1, 2010 at the Willard Hotel.

Blair was also awarded the College's Class of 1933 Distinction in the Humanities Award for 2009. He joins several other Richards Center faculty who are past recipients of the award including Carol Reardon, Anne Rose, and Wilson Moses. The annual award is given to a member of the faculty whose outstanding work in the field of humanities has proved an inspiration in their field of study.



Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Susan Welch presenting the award to Blair at the Willard Hotel

THE NEXT GENERATION



Timothy Orr and advisor Professor Carol Reardon

Timothy Orr accepted a tenure track position in military history at Old Dominion University after graduating in May 2010.

Barbara Gannon recently became assistant professor of military history at the University of Central Florida.

Richards Center graduates **Andrew Slap** ('02) and **Michael Smith** ('05) announced that they will be editing a collection of essays by former students



Professor William Blair escorts Ph.D. graduates Matt Isham and Timothy Wesley

of Professor Mark Neely, appropriately titled *New Perspectives on the Civil War Era North: Essays in Honor of Mark Neely*. The collection will include essays by **Matthew Isham** ('10), **Robert Sandow** ('02), **Timothy Orr** ('10), **Christian Keller** ('01), **Karen Fisher Younger** ('06), and **Barbara Gannon** ('05). The book will be published by Fordham University Press as part of their renowned Civil War North series.

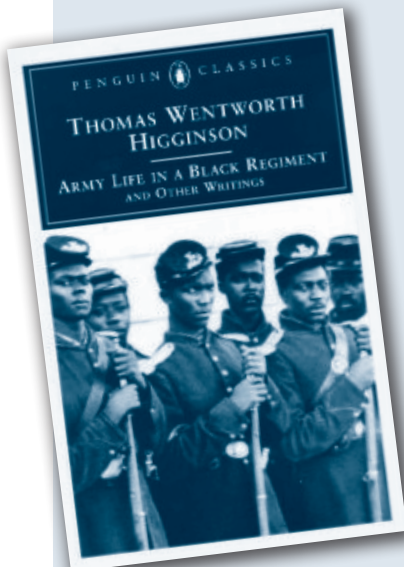
IN PRINT

Graduate student **Will Bryan**'s article manuscript on environmentalism and poverty in coastal South Carolina has been accepted for publication in *Environmental History*.

Amy Greenberg found time to publish several articles this past year, including, "Mexican War Veterans," in *The Encyclopedia of American Veterans* (ABC-Clío, 2009); "Mexican-American War," in *The Princeton Encyclopedia of American Political History* (Princeton University Press, 2009); "Soldado o don nadie: una revisión de la recepción de William Walker en los Estados Unidos, 1855 al presente," [Soldier or Cipher: The Contested Reception of William Walker, 1856- Present] in *Filibusterismo y Destino Manifiesto en las Américas* (Museo Histórico Cultural Juan Santamaría, 2010); and "1848/1898: Memorial Day, Places of Memory, and Imperial Amnesia," *PMLA* 124 (October 2009).

Doctoral candidate **Rachel Moran**'s article, "Consuming Relief: Food Stamps and the New Welfare of the New Deal," will appear in the March 2011 issue of the *Journal of American Historians*, one of the country's two leading historical journals.

Karen Fisher Younger wrote the introduction for a new Barnes and Noble edition of Thomas Wentworth Higginson's *Army Life in a Black Regiment and Other Writings* (December 2009), published "Philadelphia's Ladies' Liberia School Association and the Rise and Decline of Northern Female Colonization Support" in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (July 2010) and "Women's Sphere and the Public Sphere: The Beecher Sisters' Dilemma Over Slavery" in the *International Congregational Journal* (December 2009).



IN THE NEWS

Faculty News

Professor **Nan Woodruff** recently chaired the H. L. Mitchell Book Prize Committee for the Southern Historical Association. The Mitchell Prize is awarded to the most distinguished book on the southern working class published in the previous year. In October, she presented a paper titled "Fluctuating Memories," which examined the legacy of racial terror in Mississippi, at the University of Paris. During the summer, Professor Woodruff also delivered an Organization of American Historians distinguished lecture on southern history at the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. She concluded 2010 by chairing a scholar's panel at the annual Southern Historical Association Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina in November.

This summer, the paperback edition of **Lori Ginzberg's** *Elizabeth Cady Stanton: an American Life* was published. In the spring, Professor Ginzberg spoke about Stanton at the Free Library of Philadelphia and Villanova University, as well as the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. She returned to Massachusetts in October as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Suffolk University in Boston. In between, she appeared over the airwaves on C-SPAN's "Book TV" and Philadelphia Public Radio's "Radio Times."

Professor **Amy Greenberg** served on the program committees for the prestigious Society for Historians of the Early American Republic and Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations this past year. She has crisscrossed the country, delivering invited lectures on American opposition to the U.S.-Mexican War at Oregon State University, Temple, George Washington University, and Louisiana State University. Professor Greenberg also spoke at the annual conferences for the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic and the American Historical Association.

Professor **Anthony Kaye** is contributing an essay to the Freedmen and Southern Society Project's *Land and Labor, 1866-1867*, volume 2, series 3 of *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation* (Cambridge University Press and University of North Carolina Press). This is part of an ongoing project that has been publishing documents about emancipation since 1983. This year, he also is a member of the Organization of American Historians Avery O. Craven prize committee, which confers an annual award for the best book in Civil War history published in the previous year. Professor Kaye's recent research into the 1831 Nat Turner rebellion led him to report on his findings at a conference on "The Politics of the Second Slavery" at the Fernand Braudel Center at SUNY Binghamton in October. He will make a similar presentation at the Organization of American Historians annual meeting in March.

Professor **Mark Neely** has been very busy on the lecture circuit over the past several months. On August 19, he delivered the inaugural Omar N. Bradley Memorial Lecture at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, speaking on the topic of how the Union and Confederate constitutions shaped their respective war efforts. As a token of the college's appreciation, Neely received a bust of General Bradley. On September 13, he delivered the 22nd annual James Neal Primm Lecture in History at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. The Library conducts the lecture series in conjunction with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and recent speakers have included Sean Wilentz and David Blight. Neely's lecture, "Secession: the Constitution De-Ratified," explored the constitutional implications of secession. Neely also spoke at the Citadel on December 3-4, 2010 on the legacy of secession.

Graduate Student News

Doctoral candidate **Will Bryan** presented "'Ecology Emotion': The Fight Against Industrial Pollution and Environmentalism in Beaufort, South Carolina, 1969-70" at the American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference in March of last year in Portland, Oregon.

Doctoral candidate **David Greenspoon** gave a conference paper at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Conference (SHEAR) in July 2010. He also published a book review of *The Nineteenth-Century Child and Consumer Culture*, edited by Dennis Denisoff, for H-Childhood. This past year, David received the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Graduate Scholarship, and the Ezra Jack Keats/Janina Domanska de Grummond Children's Literature Collection Research Fellowship at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Doctoral candidate **Kelly Knight** presented a paper, "'The Whole Gospel is to be Preached': The American Missionary Association and the use of Foreign Missions to Undermine Slavery at Home," at the Society of Civil War Historians annual conference in June 2010.

Doctoral candidate **Rachel Moran** presented a paper on the relationship between food stamps and the marketplace at the prestigious annual conference of the Organization of American Historians in Washington in April of 2010.

Doctoral candidate **Alfred Wallace** won the Ted H. and Tracy Winfree McCourtney Family Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in American History. He also wrote a review of *Yankee Warhorse: A Biography of Peter Joseph Osterhaus*, published in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

New Graduate Student



Rothera

The Richards Center welcomes **Evan Rothera** as its newest graduate student. Evan is a 2010 graduate of Gettysburg College. He also is the recipient of the McCourtney graduate fellowship for 2010-2011.

CONTACT US

Richards Civil War Era Center
Department of History
The Pennsylvania State University
108 Weaver Building, University Park, PA 16802

814-863-0151
RichardsCenter@psu.edu
www.richardscenter.psu.edu

Richards Civil War Era Center
Department of History
The Pennsylvania State University
108 Weaver Building
University Park, PA 16802

This publication is available in alternative media upon request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; tel. 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY. U.Ed. LBA 11-96 MPC112113