Greetings!

Anniversaries are great. They provide a pause, a socially sanctioned moment to stop and recognize our accomplishments—and one another—that just doesn’t happen often enough. Really great anniversaries, like the CWWH’s twenty-fifth, celebrated in Salt Lake City, go a step further. They encourage members to take stock of what is important to their organization and generate conversations on what we need to do to remain successful.

One area in which we will focus is raising funds to support awards for outstanding work in Western Women’s History. Paula Petrik’s article in this newsletter asks members to contribute to the new Armitage-Jameson Book Prize endowment, and I hope each and every one of you will do just that, in whatever amount you can afford.

We will also direct more attention to graduate students, encouraging them to become an active part of our organization. Melody Miyamoto’s Mentor Program is designed to connect established scholars with students or young scholars working in departments that might not have faculty specializing in Western Women’s or Gender history. In order to stay connected with graduate students (and each other), check out our Facebook group, Coalition for Western Women’s History, and post news, photos, links to relevant sites, or queries. The CWWH is also encouraging members to “Take a Grad Student to Breakfast—or Lunch.” Help break the ice for up-and-coming scholars by purchasing a ticket for a grad student and introducing them around. If you are in the mentor program, step up to the plate, literally and figuratively, by purchasing a ticket for yourself and your mentee.

Looking beyond our own backyard, the CWWH has taken the initiative to help the WHA in its mission to provide a more welcoming environment for graduate students at its conferences. A check-off proposal to help fund free breakfast and/or lunch tickets for grad students, with the CWWH providing oversight for distribution of the tickets, has been constructed by Lori Lahlum and Lynne Getz, and will be presented to the WHA at their business meeting at the OAH in Seattle. The CWWH has also encouraged the WHA to add a “Grad Student Corner” to their much anticipated new website that would provide links to less expensive hotels and restaurants, information on travel scholarships and awards, a bulletin board for finding roommates, and information on how to become a recipient of a free breakfast or lunch from the Grad Student Support Fund.

The success of any organization depends on the individual efforts of its members. The CWWH is truly fortunate to have a history of talented and dedicated individuals pulling together to meet difficult goals, and I expect this history will repeat itself.

Renee Laegreid
CWWH Celebrates 25th Anniversary!

The Coalition for Western Women’s History celebrated 25 years at the Western History Association meeting in Salt Lake City. More than 70 people attended the annual Women’s Breakfast, reminisced about the beginnings of the group at the “Sun Valley Conference,” and told stories about putting the organization in place. Several participants from that first conference were in attendance as well others who conspired at various WHAs to build the organization, including the annual breakfast, the Jensen-Miller Award, the Irene Ledesma Award, and the pre-conference events that take place before the official start of the WHA’s annual meeting.

Those who attended the breakfast received commemorative notepads with the poster for the Sun Valley Conference as a logo—a woman hanging up clothes on a line and watching storm clouds gather over the mountains. Paula Petrik tracked down the artist, Mary Beth Percival of Missoula, who was ecstatic that we all value her work, “Western Winds.” There was discussion about reprinting the poster as a possible fundraiser for the Coalition. We also recollected each of the CWWH conferences since 1983.

The CWWH Steering Committee announced a new prize—the Armitage-Jameson Award for the best book about western women’s history. That prize will be awarded for the first time in 2010. The Steering Committee also announced that CWWH is launching a fund drive to endow this prize. Kathleen Underwood and Paula Petrik will spearhead the campaign (see article on page 3).

By Kathleen Underwood

The CWWH Mentor Program

The CWWH mentor program began in the fall of 2008. A number of our members generously shared their time and advice by volunteering their services, and graduate students and junior scholars willingly paired with mentors who matched their interests and needs. A number of mentors/mentees had already met through CWWH breakfasts, the silent auctions, and other conferences. Those who had not, met for the first time at the WHA Conference in Salt Lake City. So far, all reports have been positive, and we hope to make this a continued success.

We currently have more mentors than mentees. If you, your students, or anyone else you know is interested in joining the CWWH Mentor Program, please contact Melody Miyamoto at mmiyamoto@coe.edu. Those who seek mentors but are not members will be asked to join the CWWH.
ARMITAGE-JAMESON AWARD FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

CCWH is embarking on a fundraising project to support the Armitage-Jameson Award announced at the 2008 breakfast. Kathleen Underwood and I are co-chairs of the $10,000 endowment drive. While the sum might appear large, it becomes much more manageable if it is spread across all of us who care about the Coalition, its friends, and institutional associates. Contributors have, in fact, already raised one-tenth of the amount. We cannot, however, "nickel and dime" our way to making this prize viable, so let’s look at fund raising in a different way.

If 18 people contribute $500, the prize is funded; if 36 people contribute $250, the prize is funded. If you can persuade your department, university, or university press to contribute, so much the better. (For institutions, it’s always good to ask for matching funds. You go to your fiscal agent and say, “I’m contributing $100 of my own money. Will you match or exceed my contribution?” Always name a figure that is 150% of your own.)

If a lump contribution is beyond your means, think in terms of an informal pledge: $250 in October 2009 and $250 in 2010. If 45 people pledge $200 over two years, the prize is funded.

Contributing to this fund drive provides graduate students a way to develop a habit of giving. Think of a modest donation, say $25 to $50. We all know it’s tough to contemplate, especially in this economic uncertainty, but everyone has a place in making this award a reality.

By funding the Armitage-Jameson Award, we commemorate the careers and contributions of two women’s historians, we honor women’s scholarship past and future, and we gain professional credibility.

So, please send your contribution now to CWWH Treasurer Susan Wladaver-Morgan (be sure to indicate it is for the Armitage-Jameson Award), or remember your checkbooks for the next WHA. I’ll have a list and will be checking it twice.

Best, Paula Petrik
Demand for tickets to the always popular CWWH Breakfast and the Sue Armitage Retirement Luncheon was so high that both events sold out. Thanks to Kevin Fernlund, Executive Director of the WHA, for making last minute arrangements to open up the events to additional people. Both events had very good turnouts.

The CWWH had another successful silent auction. The auction brought in a little more than $1500 to fund the Ledesma Prize and other CWWH initiatives. The baked goods sold out quickly. Thanks to Betsy Jameson and Jessie Embry for their hard work organizing the 2008 silent auction.

The 2008 CWWH Roundtable on Wednesday was a first-rate session. Chaired by Joan Jensen, panelists Gretchen Lemke-Santangelo, Karen Leong, Andrea Radke-Moss, Sandy Schackel, and Mary Ann Villarreal discussed “The Pleasures and Perils of Conducting Oral History Research.” The lively exchanges between the panelists and the audience created a session full of energy. Many in the overflow crowd, at times more than 40 sat and stood in the room, stayed to continue conversations after the session had formally ended.

Dr. Melody Miyamoto for making the match.

Andrea Radke-Moss's book, *Bright Epoch: Women and Co-education in the American West*, was published in November 2008 by the University of Nebraska Press. *Bright Epoch* examines the experiences of women students at four coeducational land-grant colleges in the Midwest and West between 1868 and 1918.

Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith have been busy since the publication of *Full-Court Quest: The Girls from Fort Shaw Indian School, Basketball Champions of the World* (University of Oklahoma Press, October 2008). In October and November, right after the WHA annual meeting, they participated in a number of readings/recognitions/signings on four of Montana's seven reservations and at various historical societies and bookstores. According to Linda, “The attendees seemed to enjoy the events almost as much as we did, and expressions of gratitude from the descendants and tribal kin whose sharing of memories and memorabilia enabled us to bring the girls to life helped us remember why we gave over a decade of our lives to researching and writing this book.” Linda and Ursula have recently returned from another trip to Montana, where they joined the more than 400 people (over 300 of them descendants and tribal kin of members of the Fort Shaw team) who gathered in Great Falls on Thursday, February 12, for the theatre premier of “Playing for the World,” the John Twiggs documentary based on their research for *Full Court Quest*. They attended a second theatre premier the following evening in Missoula, and the film aired statewide on PBS Montana on February 15. More information on “Playing for the World” can be found at www.montanapbs.org/PlayingfortheWorld/.

Sherry Smith, the current president of the Western History Association, will be the Los Angeles Times Distinguished Fellow at the Huntington Library, 2009-10. As Sherry puts it, “So, California, here I come!” Her book, "Indians and Energy: Exploitation and Opportunity," which she is co-editing with Brian Frehner, has been accepted by the School of Advanced Research Press and should be out spring/summer 2010.

Suzanne Kelley (freelance book editor and PhD History Candidate, North Dakota State University) appreciates knowing Dr. Michael Lansing (Asst. Professor of History, Augsburg College) as a mentor through the CWWH mentoring program. He has been willingly subjected to angst and joy—often expressed in the same emails! Keep up the good work, CWWH, by thinking up these great ideas, and thank you to
Join CWWH

CWWH welcomes the membership of anyone interested in the history of women and gender in the North American West. New members may join at any time. An application form can be found on page 6 or at: www.WesternWomensHistory.org/mbrshp.htm.

Our membership year runs October to October, from annual meeting to annual meeting (which is held in conjunction with the WHA’s annual meeting). We encourage members to renew their membership by coming to the CWWH Annual Meeting, especially the CWWH Breakfast. Dues are pro-rated to members’ annual income. No one will be excluded from membership in CWWH because of inability to pay.

Dues schedule:
Students: $15
Income under $40,000: $30
Income over $40,000: $45
Institutions: $100

Membership dues and contributions to the Armitage-Jameson Award fund or the Irene Ledesma Prize fund should be sent to:
Susan Wladaver-Morgan
Treasurer, CWWH
487 Cramer Hall
Portland State University
Portland, OR 97207-0751

Membership Committee Update

Lynne Getz has started a membership drive for new CWWH members. She is sending out personalized e-mails inviting anyone interested in western women’s history to join the organization. With an improved CWWH website, potential members should find it easier to sign up. Lynne is also looking for volunteers to form a Membership Committee. Anyone who is interested in working on this should contact her at getzl@appstate.edu.

Sandy Schackel, Patti Loughlin, and Ursula Smith

News from Members, cont.

Donna Schuele has been selected to participate in the symposium “On the Borders of Love and Power: Families and Kinship in the Multicultural West," co-sponsored by Southern Methodist University, the University of New Mexico, and the Autry National Center. Her project, "At the Boundaries of Legal Culture: Californio Families and the American Probate System, 1850-1878," draws on the Los Angeles County Probate Court archive at the Huntington Library.

Congratulations to Caroline Schimmel. She was recently elected a member of the Council of the Grolier Club, the international book collectors club based in NYC—which must be a tribute to her collection of women in the American wilderness (now over 17,000 items; she did an exhibition there in 1992). Caroline notes, “having been a member for 30 years, everyone already knows I can’t keep my mouth shut, so sometimes ‘clubable’ only in the baseball bat sense.”

Send news on member activities to Lori Lahlum at lori.lahlum@mnsu.edu.
COALITION FOR WESTERN WOMEN’S HISTORY

Membership Information

CWWH welcomes the membership of anyone interested in the history of women and gender in the North American West. New members may join at any time. Our membership year runs October to October, from annual meeting to annual meeting (which is held in conjunction with the WHA’s annual meeting). We encourage members to renew their membership by coming to the Annual Meeting, especially the CWWH Breakfast. Dues are pro-rated to members’ annual income. No one will be excluded from membership in CWWH because of inability to pay.

Annual Dues (Dues are the same in U.S. and Canadian dollars.):

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Contribution:

- Armitage-Jameson Award
- Irene Ledesma Prize
- Unrestricted

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Please send to:

Susan Wladaver-Morgan, Treasurer, CWWH
487 Cramer Hall
Portland State University
Portland, OR 97207-0751

last updated: March 6, 2009
The CWWH History Corner is going to be a regular feature of the newsletter. Alas, no one submitted any items for this issue so I am including some photographs from the Sue Armitage Retirement Luncheon. Please send your CWWH stories to me so they can be included in this column. To get things going, for the fall newsletter, I would like people to share memories of the 1983 Sun Valley Conference.

Editor

All photos on this page by Linda Peavy and taken at the Sue Armitage Retirement Luncheon.

l-r: Betsy Jameson, Joan Jensen, Brenda Jackson-Abernathy, Sue Armitage

Emily Wardrop, Mandy Taylor-Montoya, Brian Frehner

Steven Fountain, Renee Laegreid, Sandy Schackel, Patti Loughlin

Mary Murphy with the quilt she made for Sue Armitage. Foreground: Joan Jensen, Brenda Jackson-Abernathy, Sue Armitage

Rebecca Hunt, Bob & Nancy Taniguchi, Gordon Bakken
CWWH ARCHIVE

The Coalition for Western Women’s History Records is archived at the Arizona Collection, Department of Archives and Special Collections, Arizona State University Library in Tempe.


The Department of Archives and Special Collections welcomes your own collection of CWWH files, papers delivered at conferences, photographs, or anything that documents the activities of CWWH.

Become a donor of CWWH materials. Send them to:

Dr. Christine Marin, Archivist
Department of Archives and Special Collections
Hayden Library, Arizona State University
PO Box 871006
Tempe, Arizona 85287-1006

Or call Dr. Marin or send an e-mail:

Office: 480/965-2594
Christine.Marin@asu.edu

Step up to the Plate—Take a Grad Student to Breakfast (or Lunch)

The Coalition for Western Women’s History is sponsoring a program, and working with the WHA, to encourage graduate student participation at the WHA annual meeting. (See Renee’s letter on page 1.)

The CWWH invites you to “step up to the plate” and help graduate students become actively engaged in the WHA and its affiliated groups. The concept is really very simple:

Buy an extra ticket to your group’s breakfast or lunch, either as an individual or as a group (the CWWH, for example);

Find a grad student interested in your group and bring him or her as your guest to the meal;

Introduce the grad student to other members of your group.

The goal is to help reduce the cost of attending the WHA for grad students, break down the younger/established scholar barrier, and create connections with your individual groups and the WHA—and all without endless red tape.
2009 Irene Ledesma Prize

For Ph.D. graduate student research in western women’s history.

Deadline for submission: June 1, 2009.

The $1,000 prize supports travel to collections or other research expenses related to the histories of women and gender in the American West. Applicants must be enrolled in a Ph.D. program and members of the CWWH. The prize honors the memory of Irene Ledesma whose contributions to Chicana and working-class history were ended by her untimely death in 1997.

The CWWH will award the prize at the CWWH Breakfast during the 49th Annual Western History Association Conference in Denver, Colorado, October 7-10, 2009. The recipient will be the CWWH’s guest at the breakfast.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- How well the applicant stated her/his research question and the significance of the overall project.
- How well the applicant demonstrated her/his knowledge of the primary source materials related to the proposal.
- How well the applicant framed her/his project in terms of the broader theoretical/historiographic issues significant to the topic.
- How well the proposal addressed issues of gender and/or women’s history in the U.S. West.
- How well the proposed budget dovetails with the applicant’s stated research agenda.

To apply submit three copies of the following: a CV; a brief description of the research project and an explanation of how the prize funds would support the research (not exceeding three pages, double-spaced), a line-item budget, and a letter of support from the student’s major advisor by June 1, 2009 (postmark) to:

Maria Raquel Casas
Chair, Ledesma Prize Committee
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Department of History
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Box 455020
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-5020

For more information, contact Dr. Casas at maria.casas@unlv.edu

2009 Jensen-Miller Award in Women’s and Gender History

The Western History Association offers the Jensen-Miller Award for the best article in the field of women and gender in the North American West. No time period restrictions apply, and essays will be judged on their significance to the field, their contributions to knowledge and their literary quality. Any WHA member, as well as the publisher or author of the essay, may nominate an essay. A copy of the journal, an off-print, or a photocopy must be submitted to each member of the Award Committee. The Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University funds this $500 cash prize and provides a plaque to the author of the winning essay. The publisher of the winning essay will receive a certificate.

To be eligible for the award in 2009, the article must have been published during 2008 in a scholarly journal or edited volume.

Application Deadline: July 31, 2009

2009 JENSEN-MILLER PRIZE COMMITTEE

Dee Garceau-Hagen, Rhodes College (Chair)
Sarah Carter, University of Alberta
Elizabeth Escobedo, Denver, CO

Dee Garceau-Hagen
Rhodes College
History Department
200 N. Parkway
Memphis, TN  38112

Sarah Carter
University of Alberta
Department of History
2-28 H. M. Tory Building
Edmonton AB  T6G-2H4
Canada

Elizabeth Escobedo
2621 S. Adams
Denver, CO  80210
On October 13-16, 2010, the WHA will gather at Lake Tahoe in Incline Village, Nevada, for its annual conference. In this spectacular natural setting, we will chart the pasts and futures of our field and draw upon western history’s rich and varied insights, one of the most profound of which is the realization that there is not just one but many Wests. We are interested in the parallel and diverse ways in which histories, literary traditions, and popular images of the peoples of the American, Canadian, and Mexican Wests have evolved over time. We also want to look beyond North America to the Wests of Australia, South Africa, Brazil, New Zealand, Argentina, China, Russia, Europe, and elsewhere for illuminating comparisons.

And while reaching outward for a broader international context for western history, we also want to ponder the West from within and revisit its many reincarnations from the Old to the New West, from the successive Cis-Mississippi Wests to the Far West, and from the mythical to the modern, globalized West. Wherever we place it on our physical and mental maps, the American West has been a contested entity, whose very meaning changes when the angle of vision shifts from rural to urban, from heartland to border-lands, from straight to queer, or from one ethnic group to another. Comparative international or local histories of Indigenous peoples, gender, and the environment are similarly essential. Thus, we invite contributions that not only illuminate these—and many other—Wests, but also place them in dialogue with one another. The Wests of North America emerged not in isolation but in interaction—a fitting model for our future endeavors in order to understand this evolving and multifaceted place.

Submissions may be for an entire session of papers, a panel discussion, or an individual paper. When submitting an entire session or panel, include a brief abstract that outlines the purpose of the session and designates one participant as the contact person. Each paper proposal, whether individual or part of a session, should include a one-paragraph abstract and a one page c.v., including the address, phone, and email address for each participant. Indicate equipment needs, if any. The committee will assume that all listed individuals have agreed to participate. Email each submission, with supporting materials, as a single document (Word or PDF) to: wha2010pro-posals@gmail.com or send by mail service to: Pekka Hämäläinen, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Submissions should be postmarked by September 1, 2009. The 2010 Program Committee Co-chairs: Pekka Hämäläinen, University of California, Santa Barbara; Susan A. Miller, Norman, Oklahoma; and Sarah Carter, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
CFP: The Iowa Studies Center at DMACC

The 2nd Annual Iowa Studies Forum on Friday, April 3, 2009, at Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny Campus

Experiencing the Strength of Our Heritage

The 2nd Annual Iowa Studies Forum on Friday, April 3, 2009, at Des Moines Area Community College will feature lectures, roundtable discussions, reenactments, multi-media presentations, workshops, etc. – all focusing on Iowa’s history and heritage. This festival will be a multi-generational event held in the morning and afternoon at the Ankeny DMACC campus conference center. This will be a precedent-setting event, and our hope is to make this an annual or semi-annual celebration of Iowa’s past and present. Zachary Michael Jack, editor of Letters to a Young Iowan (2007) is scheduled as the keynote speaker. Dr. William Friedricks, winner of the Iowa Historian Award named by Humanities Iowa, will also be presenting at the day’s gathering.

This new Iowa Studies Center at Des Moines Area Community College will provide the collaborative piece between elementary schools, high schools, four year colleges, other community colleges, businesses, government departments, non-profit agencies, museums, and the general public to better coordinate and promote the continuing exploration of Iowa’s history, science, literature, politics, and art.

Proposals are invited on various Iowa topics, especially the conference theme of heritage, from high school students and teachers, college students and instructors, museums, genealogical societies, local history organizations, and other interested parties. Please email or send via post a one-page proposal which summarizes the presentation along with contact information (e-mail, address & number) by Monday, March 2, 2009. Stipends will be provided for selected presenters.

Dr. Lisa Ossian, Co-Director Ms. Joanne Dudgeon
Iowa Studies Center Iowa Studies Forum Project Mgr.
Des Moines Area Community College
jkdudgeon@dmacc.edu
2006 South Ankeny Blvd., Building #2
Ankeny, IA 50023 Please see our DMACC site
llossian@dmacc.edu 515/964-6568 dmacc.edu/iowastudies

Although the CFP deadline has passed, I thought some people might be interested in knowing about the forum. Editor

CFP: Northern Great Plains History Conference

44th Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference

October 14-17, 2009 St. Cloud, Minnesota

Papers and panels in ALL AREAS OF HISTORY are welcome. Graduate students are especially encouraged to send proposals. Please send proposals for individual papers or for panels to:

Betsy Glade
Department of History
St. Cloud State University
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498
Email: beglade@stcloudstate.edu

The deadline for proposals is April 3, 2009. A prize will be awarded to the best graduate student paper presented at the conference.

Presenting a paper (please attach proposal, a brief vita, list of equipment needed, suggestions of names of chair, commentator).

Proposing a session (please attach proposal, a brief vita, list of needed equipment, names of chair, commentator, other presenters, or suggestions for same in any).

Conference Website: www.stcloudstate.edu/history/NGPHC

CWWH co-sponsors sessions at the NGPHC. Contact Lori Lahlum if interested in being a part of such a session.
From the Editor

Dear Members and Friends:

With this third issue of the CWWH newsletter, the purpose continues to be facilitating communication between CWWH and its members and to keep members abreast of CWWH initiatives, members’ activities, conferences, seminars, fellowships, funding for graduate students, and job announcements. Thanks to everyone who has cheerfully provided articles for this issue. The newsletter wouldn’t be a success without you. A special thanks to Linda Peavy for sharing the photographs she took at the retirement luncheon for Sue Armitage. They add much to the newsletter, and they document CWWH history.

As always, please pass on information for inclusion in the newsletter. I would also like short articles, book reviews, and film reviews that are related to western women’s and gender history. I also want to see the CWWH History Corner become a place for collecting some of the Coalition’s history. Share your memories with colleagues and friends.

If you have suggestions for content or organization, please let me know. I welcome suggestions.

Best regards.

Lori Lahlum
lori.lahlum@mnsu.edu