### President's Column: Welcome to Our Home

As the new president of ASEH, I begin my term by extending a warm welcome to all those who are new to environmental history. We are glad you are joining our intellectual and professional home, and we hope you will stay with us for the rest of your career.

I have three priorities for my presidency.
1. Diversity
2. Finances
3. Membership

I am focusing my first presidential column on diversity. We prize many kinds of diversity in environmental history. I migrated into the field from biology because it welcomed a diversity of ideas. In my case, that meant synthesizing history with science. I hope we continue to welcome scholars from a wide range of disciplines long into the future.

We also welcome diversity in our members. We have a long way to go before our membership reflects the broader population. I look forward to working toward this goal with, among others, the Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity, chaired by Kathleen Brosnan, and the Women's Environmental History Network, led by Sarah Hamilton and Raechel Lutz.

Although we have a long journey ahead, it is important to recognize steps along the way. We have made progress toward gender diversity in the leadership. The first eight presidents of ASEH were men. Of the subsequent fourteen presidents (including President-Elect Sarah Elkind), six have been women. The elected members of the executive committee, which is the governing board of ASEH, now comprises one man and six women.

At its Columbus meeting, the executive committee took another step toward encouraging a welcoming environment for all members by adopting a revised
Policy on Sexual, Racial, and Other Discriminatory Harassment. When I was vice president, President Graeme Wynn charged Executive Committee Member Conevery Bolton Valencius and me with developing a set of procedures for enforcing the new ASEH Policy on Sexual Harassment. Conevery and I thought it was important to expand the scope of the policy to prohibit all kinds of discriminatory harassment. I thank Conevery for her excellent work on the revised policy, and the executive committee for adopting it.

The new, expanded policy appears below and on the website, and I urge you to read it. Among other things, it designates a Respectful Behavior Committee responsible for (a) educating members on professional behavior, and (b) responding to complaints of harassment. The current members of the committee are Vice President Sarah Elkind, Executive Director David Spatz, and Executive Committee Member Conevery Bolton Valencius.

I want to close with expressions of gratitude. Enormous labor, most of it donated, enables environmental history to prosper. I extend a warm thanks to the people who organized our outstanding conference in Columbus, Ohio, in April. Some of the most important were the local arrangements committee, chaired by Sam White, the program committee, chaired by Melissa Wiedenfeld, and our new Executive Director David Spatz. We are grateful to you all.

Edmund Russell, ASEH President

thank you Lisa Brady

After more than six very busy and successful years, Lisa Brady stepped down as editor of Environmental History in January. The current issue (April) is her last as editor. Lisa has done so much for ASEH over the years.

Editing the journal is a tremendous amount of work, and with it comes a slew of duties and responsibilities that extend far beyond editing articles - building and leading an editorial board and staff, working with authors and the publisher, traveling extensively to represent and promote the journal, and serving on the executive committee. Lisa worked tirelessly to maintain and enhance all facets of Environmental History.

Lisa’s analysis and reports have formed the basis to increase the number of women submitting, reviewing and being reviewed, and publishing in Environmental History. Women remain underrepresented in the journal, but Lisa’s efforts have helped the balance greatly. As a result, increasing diversity of perspectives will remain a top priority in the journal and field going forward.
The April issue of *Environmental History* includes the annual film forum as well as articles on Tsingtao Brewery, black agrarianism, and the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla, and much more. [Click here](#) for more info.

**member news: congratulations Edmund Russell**

ASEH president Edmund Russell received a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2019-2020.

He will spend his fellowship year at the Huntington Library in California, where he will also be the Dibner Distinguished Fellow in the History of Science and Technology. Russell will work on a book on the transcontinental telegraph of 1861.

**hal rothman fun(d) run in columbus**

The 10th annual Hal Rothman Fun(d) Run was held, as always, on Saturday morning at the annual conference.

ASEH is grateful to Jamie Lewis for organizing this annual event, which raises funds for the Hal Rothman Dissertation Fellowship.

* Couldn't make the run this year? You can still donate to the Hal Rothman Dissertation Fellowship by clicking here and selecting the initiative to fund grad students.

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**Farewell to a Beloved Colleague: J. Donald Hughes**

by Marty Melosi, Cullen Professor Emeritus of History, University of Houston

One of the great pleasures of attending the annual ASEH meetings every spring was seeing Don and Pam Hughes. Their smiles alone were heartwarming. Among my fondest memories were hiking with Don and Pam around Lake Louise in Canada way back in 1984, and sharing a drink at the European Society for Environmental History meeting in Zagreb, Croatia in 2017. Each time we met was worthwhile in so many ways, and I'm sure my colleagues have their own reminiscences over the years. No matter what frustrations I had been facing at the university or with my own work, they melted away for a time just by catching up with the Hughes's.

Don—a native of Santa Monica, California—was a pioneer environmental historian and a founder of ASEH in 1976. I could list his many books and articles, but that seems unnecessarily mechanical. To me, it was Don's humanity that shone through so brightly. He was gentle, sensitive, witty, intellectually curious, and enthusiastic about experiencing new things—be it travel or meeting new people. He reveled in the achievements of others, and always looked forward to meeting new and established environmental historians who gave something to help expand the field.

Like several of our colleagues, Don had a varied and fascinating scholarly background that served him well in his chosen field of study. Don's love of nature extended over a lifetime and took him all over the globe. His undergraduate work in botanical genetics at UCLA grounded him in a deep understanding of the natural world. His classical training in Latin and Greek, and his studies in ancient and medieval history at Brown University (and in graduate study at Cambridge, England and Athens, Greece) are suffused throughout his scholarship, and in his teaching at the University of Denver and elsewhere as well as in his many lectures over many continents. He put all of this training and experience together to help lay the groundwork for world environmental history, with interests as far-ranging as Native Americans to the Pacific Islands and South Asia. And usually documenting what he saw with a camera in hand, he truly became a world citizen.

Thank you very much, Lisa, for the countless hours you dedicated to *Environmental History* and ASEH! We are forever indebted to you.
In addition, Don's degree in theology and life as a minister shone through brightly in the several presentation I heard him deliver. He was never doctrinaire nor preachy, but expressed his spirituality with great feeling. His public talks so accurately reflected the man, his life experiences, and his warm regard for his audience. They were beautifully written, engagingly presented, and always uplifting. His fusing of nature and theology gave his work an expressiveness that I have rarely experienced.

Don's devotion to environmental history and ASEH earned him the Distinguished Service Award, and deservedly so. I particularly remember in the early years of the organization, when membership was flagging and funds were hard to come by, that he took the reins of Environmental Review (now Environmental History) -- at the request of then hardworking president Don Worster -- for twelve issues over three years. Don Hughes took on the task without the benefit of a computer! Those early years of the organization were tough times, but we can be grateful to people like Don Hughes for helping all of us see it through. As times improved, and as environmental history grew in stature, Don was there to cheer on the successes and make his own substantial contributions.

I will miss him dearly.

ASEH award recipients

The following individuals received awards on April 13 at our conference in Columbus:


Alice Hamilton Prize for Best Article outside Environmental History: **Christopher Sellers**, "To Place or Not to Place: Towards an Environmental History of Modern Medicine" in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (Spring 2018).


Rachel Carson Prize for Best Dissertation: **Leah Aronowsky**, "The Planet as Self-Regulating System: Configuring the Biosphere as an Object of Knowledge, 1940-1990" Harvard University.

Distinguished Career in Public Environmental
Above: Amado Guzmán, University of Arizona won the best poster award for his poster "Urban Flooding in the Southwest, Albuquerque and Tucson 1940-1990."

Above: Cleveland's Reborn Cuyahoga River field trip on Sunday.

Elevator Brewing Company in Columbus.

More than 30 conference goers took a field trip to the Newark Earthworks Great Circle and Octagon.

History: Libby Robin and Tom Griffiths

Lisa Mighetto Award for Distinguished Service: Stephen Pyne

Distinguished Scholar Award: John McNeill

Click here for the comments from the award evaluation committees.

Above: ASEH President Graeme Wynn presents the Distinguished Scholar Award to John McNeill.

Above: ASEH President Graeme Wynn presents the Distinguished Career in Public Environmental History to Libby Robin, who accepted on behalf of herself and Tom Griffiths.
Above: the urban agriculture tour in Columbus and Mansfield.

The rain let up just in time for the Columbus by bike field trip.

Above: the Women’s Environmental History Network again hosted an reception on Thursday evening.

Above: Joanna Dean (pictured right) joins Graeme Wynn in presenting the best dissertation award to Leah Aronowsky.

Above: Michelle Mart (pictured right) joins Graeme Wynn in presenting the best article prize to Christopher Sellers.
Earlier this year, ASEH awarded the following fellowships:

Sam Hays Fellowship: Michael Weeks, "Colorado and the Making of the Modern Cattle Feedlot: An Oral History"

Hal Rothman Dissertation Fellowship: Kyuhyun Han, "Seeing the Forest Like a State: Forest Management, Wildlife Conservation, and Center-Periphery Relations in Northeast China, 1949 - 1988"

Equity Fellowship: Kyuhyun Han, "Seeing the Forest Like a State: Forest Management, Wildlife Conservation, and Center-Periphery Relations in Northeast China, 1949 - 1988"

ASEH election results

ASEH held elections this winter to elect a Vice President/President Elect, Secretary, four members of the executive committee and two members of the nominating committee. The results are in.

Sarah Elkind has been elected Vice President for two years and will become President in two years.

Peter Alagona has been elected Secretary for a four-year term.

Ellen Arnold, Mike Dockry, Catherine McNeur and Marsha Weisiger have been elected to four-year terms.
The food and drink walking tour in the Brewery District kicked off at the Rockmill Tavern.

Above: the food and drink walking tour in the Brewery District kicked off at the Rockmill Tavern.

Above: Susan Flader, Mark Stoll, John McNeill and Verena Winiwarter.

Above: Jamie Lewis and Patty Limerick.

Thank you very much to the organizers of the Twitter conference, which included participants not present in Columbus. See #ASEH2019Tweets.

Michael Egan and Ling Zhang have been elected to the nominating committee.

We extend our sincere thanks to Emily Greenwald, Christof Mauch, Katherine Morse and Cindy Ott for your dedicated service on the executive committee. Thank you to Brian Donohoe and Jay Turner for their hard work on the nominating committee.

The membership also approved a change in the bylaws to allow the executive committee, in consultation with the nominating committee, to appoint an Assistant Treasurer to aid the Treasurer in his duties. ASEH seeks nominations for Assistant Treasurer. If you are interested in the position, or would like to nominate someone for the post, please contact David Spatz dspatz@aseh.net or Mark Madison at mark_madison@fws.gov for details.

opportunities

Help Wanted: Short term 6-12+ month assignment for a graduate student to research the editorial and related writings on conservation and wildlife management of George Bird Grinnell (1849-1938), and help select the best of Grinnell's writings to be published as an anthology. The individual hired can work from their home base except for some research required at the Yale University Beinecke Library where Grinnell's papers are located. Must have an academic background in the history of natural resources and wildlife conservation. Compensation commensurate with one's experience, academic credentials and availability. Please contact Lowell E. Baier, LEBaier@Lawbaier.com, cell 301-346-9701, and forward your CV, academic credentials and at least two references.

The College of Letters & Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison invites applications for a two-year A. W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in History of Science, Medicine, and/or Environment for the years 2019-2021. Click here for more information and to apply. Applications due May 10, 2019.

With generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the University of Oregon's Center for Environmental Futures announces its first annual "Writing the Environmental Humanities for Public Audiences" workshop, taking place August 5-August 9, 2019. For information about the workshop and how to apply, click here. Applications due May 15, 2019

The Center of the American West at the University of Colorado Boulder with the support of the Andrew W.
The Columbus conference included 582 attendees. We thank everyone who registered and we are especially grateful to the local arrangements committee, program committee, and all the student volunteers who made this conference possible.

Mellon Foundation is implementing an Applied History training program. This program will train History postdocs and adjunct faculty to become applied historians who can draw on the expertise of scholars from a range of disciplines to reach a wider audience. Post-docs, adjuncts, and recent Ph.D. in History graduates are encouraged to apply. The Center will sponsor eight participants throughout the 2019-2020 Academic year. Each participant will take part in their own, three-day "Individual Skills Repurposing" weekend workshop. For information and to apply, click here. Applications due June 30, 2019.

ASEH policy on sexual, racial, and the discriminatory harassment

The American Society for Environmental History seeks to build an inclusive, welcoming, supportive, and diverse community of scholars and professionals. As a community of scholars, ASEH is dedicated to a free, open, and vigorous exchange of ideas.

We deplore harassment, ad hominem attacks, and the harm suffered by individuals and our community when persons rather than ideas become targets. Harassment damages the ASEH community by discouraging participation in our organization and by compromising the free exchange of ideas that is at the center of our mission as an organization.

ASEH welcomes members from a variety of cultures, nations, educational systems, and generations, which can lead to misunderstandings. We emphasize the role of education and conversation in helping a diverse membership develop a shared understanding of the norms that govern our professional interactions.

Scope and Definitions

This policy covers behaviors at ASEH activities, such as conferences. While we encourage respectful behavior in all settings, we are not the appropriate body to address issues that arise outside ASEH activities.

Discriminatory harassment generally (1) demeans individuals based on personal traits, such as race, sex, gender, age, abilities, appearance, ethnicity, citizenship, economic status, or religion; (2) is unwelcome, and (3) is repeated after a request to stop. Harassing behaviors include negative comments about groups based on stereotypes, jokes, gestures, and dismissive or insulting modes of address.

Sexual harassment is behavior likely to demean, humiliate, or threaten an individual or group on the basis
Thank you Columbus!

**future conferences**

**Florianópolis, Brazil**

[EH World Congress]
July 22 - 26, 2019
Click here for conference information and registration.

**Ottawa**

March 25 - 29, 2020
Click here for Call for Papers

**Boston**

April 20 - 26, 2021

**host ASEH 2022**

ASEH invites proposals to host the annual conferences.

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**Respectful Behavior Committee**

The committee comprises the vice president, executive director, and an executive committee member appointed by the president. The president may appoint a fourth member of the committee from the ASEH membership at large with an eye to diversity (especially age, ethnicity, race, and gender identification). If committee members have a conflict of interest on a specific matter, the president has the power to replace them temporarily with another ASEH member.

The committee's first role is to encourage respectful behavior. ASEH assumes that its members want to behave appropriately. It recognizes that individuals may arrive at ASEH events with different ideas about appropriate behavior. People of different ages and cultures may vary, for example, in their understanding of personal space. The committee uses various means to educate the membership. For example, it may publish advice in the newsletter and publish this policy in the conference program.

The committee's second role is to respond to incidents of discriminatory harassment when necessary. The committee need not get involved in every incident. For example, if someone observes or experiences discriminatory harassment, we encourage them to ask the perpetrator to stop. If the perpetrator does so (and...
The annual conference is one of the most important services that our organization provides to the field of environmental history. We invite proposals to host our annual conference for 2022 and 2023. Proposals should be submitted by ASEH members affiliated with a university, agency, or institution.

Hosting an ASEH conference involves forming a local arrangements team, working with a local hotel or conference facility, assisting in forming partnerships with local universities, agencies, and institutions, and helping the program committee form a theme for the conference. If you are interested, please contact Fritz Davis, chair of ASEH site selection committee, at frddavis@purdue.edu or David Spatz, ASEH director, at dspatz@aseh.net. Click here for more information.

Deadline for proposals: August 31, 2019.

A person who has been the target of harassment may lodge a formal complaint.

- Complaints must come from the alleged victim, be in writing, spell out what occurred, and be sent to the Respectful Behavior Committee through the Executive Director within 45 days of the incident.
- The written complaint must go to the alleged perpetrator, who has a chance to respond, in writing, within 45 days of receiving the complaint.
- The Respectful Behavior Committee evaluates the documents and responds in writing to the complainant and the alleged perpetrator. The committee may decide to take no action, or it may forward the complaint to the Executive Committee with a recommendation for action.
- The Executive Committee is responsible for any decisions involving penalties, such as future exclusion from meetings.

Once a year, Review Committee submits an anonymized report to the Executive Committee about its work. The report includes a list of education efforts, the number and types of complaints, and the committee's responses.

This statement is informational and is not a contract.
Does not create legally enforceable protections or obligations on the part of ASEH. It is not intended to, nor should it be used to support a cause of action, create a presumption of a breach of legal duty, or form a basis for civil liability.

See you in Ottawa!

stay connected

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