Executive Board and Council Members

The Executive Board, FY 2013-2014
Members of the Omohundro Institute’s Executive Board determine matters of policy and have responsibility for the financial and general management and for resource development of the Institute. The Executive Board consists of six members: three elected by the Board and three ex officio members (the chief education officer of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the chief academic officer of the College of William & Mary, and the chair of the Institute Council).

- Michael R. Halleran, College of William & Mary
- James Horn, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Sidney Lapidus
- Peter C. Mancall, University of Southern California
- Robert C. Ritchie, The Huntington Library (Chair)
- Paul S. Sperry

The Council of the Institute, FY 2013-2014
Members of the Council are typically drawn from the academic community. Councilors advise the Institute director and the Executive Board on policy, programmatic, and professional matters of concern to the Institute and serve on one of the Council’s three standing committees: the William and Mary Quarterly Editorial Board, the Book Publications Committee, or the Programs Committee.

- Holly Brewer, University of Maryland
- Nicholas P. Canny, National University of Ireland, Galway
- Alison F. Games, Georgetown University
- Philip Gould, Brown University
- David J. Hancock, University of Michigan
- April Lee Hatfield, Texas A&M
- Margaretta Markle Lovell, University of California, Berkeley
- Peter C. Mancall, University of Southern California (Chair)
- Roderick A. McDonald, Rider University
- Jennifer L. Morgan, New York University
- Nicholas S. Popper, College of William & Mary
- Daniel K. Richter, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- Stuart B. Schwartz, Yale University
- John Sherer (ex officio), University of North Carolina Press
- Stephanie Smallwood, University of Washington
- Lorena S. Walsh, Independent Scholar
From the Director

Karin Wulf

What a pleasure it is to review highlights of the past year even as we look forward to new projects and new opportunities in early American scholarship. Conferences in California and Canada, predoctoral fellowships, postdoctoral fellows in residence, new books and book prizes, a new Editor in the chair at the *William and Mary Quarterly*—all of which you can read more about here.

A highlight among highlights was the launch of the Lapidus Initiative, made possible by the generous and innovative philanthropy of Sid and Ruth Lapidus. The Lapidus Initiative helps us to both expand the reach of ongoing programs that have invigorated early American scholars and scholarship for decades, and to innovate with digital technologies.

To be clear, we are not *becoming* digital; we are digital. Although we still print and mail more than a thousand copies of the *William and Mary Quarterly*, the journal is read many hundreds of thousands of times online. Our books are featured in multiple online venues. Current projections indicate that mobile device use will overtake desktop and laptop computing in just a couple of years, and we need to anticipate new ways to make our work accessible.

Through the Lapidus Initiative and with important help from Adobe this fall we released an app with *WMQ* content, the OI Reader on iTunes, and are working to enhance its features and platforms.

But whatever the venue or format, our mission remains clear. The Omohundro Institute is dedicated to supporting and producing excellent scholarship that will last for the (technological) ages. And, as ever, your support for and participation in this community is fundamental.

Sincerely,

Karin Wulf
Leading Early American Scholarship Since 1943
The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture is the oldest organization in the United States exclusively dedicated to advancing the study, research, and publication of scholarship bearing on the history and culture of early America, broadly construed, from circa 1450 to 1820. Our scope includes North America and related histories of the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, and Africa. Since 1943 the Institute has published the William and Mary Quarterly and books, and sponsored conferences and fellowships.

The College of William & Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation founded the Institute of Early American History and Culture and continue to jointly sponsor its work. In 1996 the College and Colonial Williamsburg added Omohundro to the Institute’s name in recognition of a generous gift from the late Mr. and Mrs. Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr.
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Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 Conferences

Modern Studies Institute. Several conference traditions evolved: live Tweets helped participants in Halifax stay abreast of panels while all conferences saw the heavy printed conference programs of the past replaced with smaller, light-weight cards listing panel names and times and directions to detailed websites that were viewable on computers, tablets and phones.

In October 2013, we launched our first-ever Call for Conference Proposals. Chaired by Margaretta Lovell, the Proposal Committee encouraged Early Americanists to propose their own OIEAHC conferences, bearing the following considerations in mind:

- That the proposal reflects an ambitious intellectual agenda.
- That the proposal reflects a reasonable commitment of resources necessary for co-sponsorship of a conference.
- That the likely Program Committee be constituted so as to advance the intellectual mission of the proposed program.
- That the Program Committee reflects the diverse composition and interests of the community of early American history and culture scholars.
- That the OIEAHC welcomes proposals from organizations interested in holding conferences in Williamsburg, Virginia–our home base. Ideally, the OIEAHC would like to hold conferences in Williamsburg every other year or every third year, depending on conference proposals.

September 5–7, 2013
British Group in Early American History Annual Conference
Conflict-Resolution-Conflict
University of St. Andrews and University of East Anglia
Geoff Plank, Program Chair

October 4-5, 2013
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales Québec
The Quebec Act of 1774
François Furstenberg and Ollivier Hubert, Program Chairs

May 30-31, 2014
WMQ–EMSI Workshop
The Age of Revolutions
Sarah Knott, Indiana University, Convener

June 12-15, 2014
20th Annual Institute Conference
Dalhousie University and St. Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia
Justin Roberts and Elizabeth Mancke, Program Chairs

Conference attendance in 2013-2014 was above average with a full 249 attendees joining us in Halifax for the 20th Annual Institute conference. In addition, 120 participated in a rigorous discussion in Quebec while 58 exchanged ideas at the WMQ workshop, co-sponsored with the USC Early
Colloquia

September 10, 2013
Kathleen Duval, University of North Carolina
“Independence Lost: The Gulf Coast in the American Revolution”

September 24, 2013
Anna Brickhouse, University of Virginia
“Mistranslation and Unsettlement: from La Navidad to Plymouth”

October 15, 2013
Bradford J. Wood, Eastern Kentucky University
“Colonial North Carolina and the Limits of the Atlantic World”

November 5, 2013
Daniel Hulsebosch, New York University School of Law
“Being Seen Like a State: The American Constitution and Its International Audiences at the Founding”

November 20, 2013
Ben Marsh, University of Stirling
“A Revolting Fiber? Silk and the Challenges of the American Revolution”
*International Video Seminar with the University of Edinburgh*

February 11, 2014
Allison Bigelow, Omohundro Institute NEH Fellow

March 11, 2014
Laura Keenan Spero, Omohundro Institute Postdoctoral Fellow
“Savannahs, Slavers and Sorcerers: Shawnees and Their Neighbors in the Native Southeast”

April 1, 2014
Christopher Parsons, Northeastern University
“Plants, People, and the Discovery of Difference in Colonial French North America”

April 22, 2014
Carla Gardina Pestana, University of California, Los Angeles
“Why Invade Jamaica?”

September 10, 2013
Kathleen Duval, University of North Carolina
“Independence Lost: The Gulf Coast in the American Revolution”

September 24, 2013
Anna Brickhouse, University of Virginia
“Mistranslation and Unsettlement: from La Navidad to Plymouth”

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November 20, 2013
Ben Marsh, University of Stirling
“A Revolting Fiber? Silk and the Challenges of the American Revolution”
*International Video Seminar with the University of Edinburgh*
On May 3, 2014, award-winning historian Alan Taylor delivered the 1st annual OIEAHC Council Lecture to a standing-room only crowd on the campus of William & Mary.


In 2014, Mr. Taylor won the Pulitzer Prize and was named a finalist for the National Book Award for his book, *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772–1832* (2013). Among his many other notable books is the Pulitzer and Bancroft prize-winning *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic* (1996), which used court records, land records, letters and diaries to reconstruct a vibrant portrait of the economic, political and social histories related to the founding of Cooperstown, New York after the American Revolutionary War.

In August 2014, Mr. Taylor became the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Chair at the University of Virginia after having served on the faculties of the University of California at Davis and Boston University.

We were particularly delighted to welcome Mr. Taylor back to Williamsburg as he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Omohundro Institute from 1985 to 1987 and served on the Council from 2002 to 2005.
Published April 2014
Susanah Shaw Romney
New Netherland Connections: Intimate Networks and Atlantic Ties in Seventeenth-Century America

Susanah Shaw Romney locates the foundations of the early modern Dutch empire in interpersonal transactions among women and men.

“How do you build an empire? Not with armies and might alone; not just with financial clout, or guile, or aggression. As Romney so elegantly demonstrates, the Dutch empire was

built and maintained by individuals. Families, friends, and colleagues stitched together ‘intimate networks’ that stretched across the globe and became the ground-level means by which the colony of New Netherland operated.”—Russell Shorto, author of Amsterdam: A History of the World’s Most Liberal City

Published September 2014
Gregory E. O’Malley
Final Passages: The Intercolonial Slave Trade of British America, 1619–1807

Drawing on a database of over seven thousand intercolonial slave trading voyages compiled from port records, newspapers, and merchant accounts, Gregory O’Malley identifies and quantifies the major routes of this intercolonial slave trade. He argues that such voyages were a crucial component in the development of slavery in the Caribbean and North America and that trade in the unfree led to experimentation with free trade between empires.

“Hundreds of thousands of Africans faced a second slave voyage before they reached their ultimate destination—an experience that scholars have so far inexplicably ignored. Final Passages fills this large gap in the literature with meticulousness and eloquence . . . The definitive work on the subject for many years to come.”—David Eltis, Emory University
Published December 2014
Cécile Fromont
_The Art of Conversion: Christian Visual Culture in the Kingdom of Kongo_

Drawing on an expansive and largely unpublished set of objects, images, and documents, Cécile Fromont examines the advent of Kongo Christian visual culture and traces its development across four centuries marked by war, the Atlantic slave trade, and, finally, the rise of nineteenth-century European colonialism.

“Few people realize that Kongo was a Christian kingdom. Cécile Fromont, using texts and especially images, reveals the complex ways that Africa and Europe met in Kongo and how Kongo made Christianity its own. A tour de force—splendidly documented, carefully argued, and lavishly illustrated.”
—John Thornton, Boston University
New in Paperback

John L. Brooke
*Columbia Rising: Civil Life on the Upper Hudson from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson*

By closely examining the formation and interplay of political structures and civil institutions in the upper Hudson Valley, John Brooke traces the debates over who should fall within and outside of the legally protected category of citizen.

“An important contribution to our ongoing effort to understand nation-building at the turn of the eighteenth century. It offers crucial lessons for the present as well.”—*American Historical Review*

Brett Rushforth
*Bonds of Alliance: Indigenous and Atlantic Slaveries in New France*

Rather than telling a simple story of colonial domination and Native victimization, Brett Rushforth argues that Indian slavery in New France emerged at the nexus of two very different forms of slavery: one indigenous to North America and the other rooted in the Atlantic world.

“A book that will spark debate, scholarship, and conversation for years to come. . . . A brilliant, bold, and remarkable journey into the Indian slave system of New France.”—*American Historical Review*
Recent Honors

Wendy Bellion
Citizen Spectator: Art, Illusion, and Visual Perception in Early National America
Winner of the 2014 Charles C. Eldredge Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art, given by the Smithsonian American Art Museum

John L. Brooke
Columbia Rising: Civil Life on the Upper Hudson from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson
Winner of the 2010 Herbert H. Lehman Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in New York History, awarded by the New York Academy of History on April 1, 2014

Paul W. Mapp
The Elusive West and the Contest for Empire, 1713–1763
Winner of the 2013 W. Turrentine-Jackson Award, given by the Western History Association

William A. Pettigrew
Freedom’s Debt: The Royal African Company and the Politics of the Atlantic Slave Trade, 1672–1752
Finalist for the 2013 Whitfield Prize, awarded by the Royal Historical Society

Susanah Shaw Romney
New Netherland Connections: Intimate Networks and Atlantic Ties in Seventeenth-Century America
Winner of the New Netherland Institute’s Annual Hendricks Award for 2013 (for best manuscript)

Brett Rushforth
Bonds of Alliance: Indigenous and Atlantic Slaveries in New France
Finalist for the 2013 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, awarded by the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition

Recipient of an honorable mention for the 2012–2013 Laurence Wylie Prize in French and Francophone Studies at Duke University

These mark the fourth and fifth honors for Bonds of Alliance.

Gordon M. Sayre, trans.
Recipient of an honorable mention for the 2012 Lois Roth Award, given by the Modern Language Association at their annual meeting in January 2014
William and Mary Quarterly Volume 71

JANUARY 2014

THE KING’S PIRATES? NAVAL ENFORCEMENT OF IMPERIAL AUTHORITY, 1740–76
by Sarah Kinkel

FREEDOM SUITS, AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN, AND THE GENEALOGY OF SLAVERY
by Loren Schweninger

Sources and Interpretations

BRITISH “GHOST” EXPORTS, AMERICAN MIDDLEMEN, AND THE TRADE TO SPANISH AMERICA, 1790–1819: A SPECULATIVE RECONSTRUCTION
by Javier Cuenca-Esteban

“DANGEROUS DESIGNES”: THE 1676 BARBADOS ACT TO PROHIBIT NEW ENGLAND INDIAN SLAVE IMPORTATION
by Linford D. Fisher

APRIL 2014

Sources and Interpretations

BY “TREACHERY AND SEDUCTION”: INDIAN BAPTISM AND CONVERSION IN THE ROGER WILLIAMS CODE
by Linford D. Fisher and Lucas Mason-Brown

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION’S ROYAL GOVERNOR: GENERAL BLANCHELANDE AND SAINT DOMINGUE, 1790–92
by Jeremy D. Popkin

“A DICTIONARY WHICH WE DO NOT WANT”: DEFINING AMERICA AGAINST NOAH WEBSTER, 1783–1810
by Tim Cassedy
JULY 2014

EARLY ENGLISH JAMAICA WITHOUT PIRATES
by Carla Gardina Pestana

ANNAPOLIS AFLAME: RICHARD CLARKE’S CONSPIRACY AND THE IMPERIAL URBAN VISION IN MARYLAND, 1704–8
by Paul Musselwhite

SLAVE REVOLTS, ROYAL JUSTICE, AND A UBQUITOUS RUMOR IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS
by Wim Klooster

FEMALE LIBERTY? SENTIMENTAL GALLANTRY, REPUBLICAN WOMANHOOD, AND RIGHTS : FEMINISM IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS
by Sarah Knott

OCTOBER 2014

WRITING EARLY AMERICAN LIVES AS BIOGRAPHY
by Annette Gordon-Reed

A POLITICAL ECOLOGY IN THE EARLY SPANISH CARIBBEAN
by Molly A. Warsh

LEARNING TO WRITE ALGONQUIAN LETTERS: THE INDIGENOUS PLACE OF LANGUAGE PHILOSOPHY IN THE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY ATLANTIC WORLD
by Sarah Rivett

Sources and Interpretations

"HERE IS MY COUNTRY": TOO NE’S MAP OF LEWIS AND CLARK IN THE GREAT PLAINS
by Christopher Steinke
William and Mary Quarterly
Prizes 2013-14

Douglass Adair Memorial Award
The Douglass Adair Memorial Award is given biennially to the best article published in the *William and Mary Quarterly* during the preceding six years. Given jointly since 1972 by the Omohundro Institute and the Claremont Graduate School, the prize honors the enduring achievements of Douglass Adair, a scholar and editor of the *William and Mary Quarterly* from 1947 to 1955.

The 2014 winner was Katherine Grandjean for “New World Tempests: Environment, Scarcity, and the Coming of the Pequot War,” which appeared in the January 2011 *William and Mary Quarterly*. 

Lester J. Cappon Award
The annual best-article award is named in memory of Lester J. Cappon. Lester Cappon edited the *William and Mary Quarterly* from 1955 to 1956, and again in 1963. He was the Institute’s first editor of the book program (1945–1954) and served as Institute director from 1954 until 1969.

The 2014 winner was Cary Carson for “Banqueting Houses and the Need of Society among Slave-Owning Planters in the Chesapeake Colonies,” which appeared in the October 2013 *William and Mary Quarterly*. 

Richard L. Morton Award
The Richard L. Morton Award recognizes a distinguished article by an author in graduate study at the time of final submission. Offered since 1986, the prize honors the founding editor of the *William and Mary Quarterly’s* third series. Richard Morton was a respected teacher for forty years at the College of William & Mary and a leading colonial historian of his time.

The 2014 winner was Cameron Strang for “Indian Storytelling, Scientific Knowledge, and Power in the Florida Borderlands,” which appeared in the October 2013 *William and Mary Quarterly*. 

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18 THE OMOHUNDRO INSTITUTE
Lapidus Initiative for Excellence and Innovation in Early American Scholarship

On September 2, 2014, the Omohundro Institute announced the creation of the Lapidus Initiative for Excellence and Innovation in Early American Scholarship. The Lapidus Initiative is made possible through a $1 million gift by Sid and Ruth Lapidus and will incorporate innovative programming and outreach. Sid and Ruth Lapidus are longtime supporters of the Omohundro Institute. Mr. Lapidus has served as a member of the Omohundro Institute’s Executive Board since 2008.

The Lapidus Initiative will build on the Omohundro Institute’s tradition of excellence in scholarly programming and publishing and on its newly launched digital and social media platforms to engage scholarly and other audiences.

Ultimately, the Lapidus Initiative will expand the OI’s innovative capacity:

- by increasing the number of scholarly projects the OI can serve through its intensive editorial process;
- by making this process accessible and transparent through social media;
- by creatively employing both existing and developing technology in support of excellence in early American scholarship.

The Lapidus Initiative will enable the development of new projects designed to embrace the Omohundro Institute’s traditional position at the forefront of scholarly communication, while expanding the methods and media used to further participation and communication, including the Scholars’ Workshop and the recently launched OI Reader (see page 21).

Beginning in summer 2015, the Scholars’ Workshop is a two-week, seminar-style experience in Williamsburg that will enable untenured scholars to work both individually and in a group with Omohundro Institute editorial staff on conceptual development, manuscript editing and source verification for either a manuscript chapter or a journal article in progress.

“The Omohundro Institute has a tradition of excellence in early American scholarship, and the Lapidus Initiative builds on that tradition,” says Sid Lapidus. “Where possible, our intent is to do innovative philanthropy. With this gift, we think that we have achieved this through the launch of new digital and social media platforms, including the OI Reader, to engage scholars and others in the Omohundro Institute’s work.”
The OI Reader

In its first 70 years, the Omohundro Institute has earned a reputation for supporting and producing excellent scholarship focused on early America. As we move into our eighth decade, we confirm this commitment even as we explore how to translate our scholarly values and practices for a digital era. The leadership and generosity of Sid and Ruth Lapidus enable us to begin this project in earnest.

On November 10, 2014, the Omohundro Institute announced the OI Reader, featuring digital editions of the two most recent issues of the *William and Mary Quarterly* as well as additional digital projects.

Available through the Apple App Store, the OI Reader offers a distinctive platform for integrating digital content, such as high resolution images that enlarge, audio, and other interactive features, and a note-taking function. All future issues of the *WMQ* will be available in the new format at the usual subscription rates. Additionally, Open *WMQ* will give readers free access to a selection of new and classic *WMQ* essays, each with enhanced digital content.

The OI Reader was developed and published in Adobe's Digital Publishing Suite (DPS), with critical support from Adobe Systems Incorporated. Updates to the package will incorporate new and innovative user features.

Uncommon Sense & The Octo

In April, in recognition of readers’ evolving habits, and environmental and cost sensitivities, the publication of *Uncommon Sense* moved completely online.

Reports from the Director, Editor of the *WMQ* (Quarterly Notes) and Books Editor (Ad Libros) as well as features and reprints of favorite articles from the archives under the category of “Classic Sense” anchor the publication.

But the OI has news to report more than the traditional twice-yearly publication of *Uncommon Sense* and the new format allows us to work quickly so we added a blog at the end of 2014, entitled *Uncommon Sense—the blog*. Weekly posts will feature comments by current *WMQ* authors, newly published book authors, OI staff members, and more. Taken together with the continuing biannual production of our longer format *Uncommon Sense*, we hope readers gain an even richer picture of life at the OI than before.

And, while the combined *Uncommon Sense* provides Early Americanists with a window on the OI, the OI is also providing a broader window on the world of Early American scholarship with The Octo. Edited by historian and blogger Joseph Adelman, The Octo showcases some of the best and brightest online writing available about early America and historical scholarship.
Postdoctoral Fellows

The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture awarded its first postdoctoral fellowship in 1945.

The Institute annually offers a two-year residential postdoctoral fellowship in any area of early American studies. A principal criterion for selection is that the candidate’s dissertation or other manuscript has significant potential as a distinguished, book-length contribution to scholarship. A substantial portion of the work must be submitted with the application. The Institute holds first claim on publishing the appointed fellow’s completed manuscript. Applicants may not have previously published or have under contract a scholarly monograph, and they must have met all requirements for the doctorate, except for the actual conferral of the degree, by the application deadline for the fellowship. Those who have earned the Ph.D. and begun careers are also encouraged to apply.

During the appointment, fellows devote most of their time to research and writing, work closely with the editorial staff, and participate in colloquia and other scholarly activities of the Institute. In addition to a stipend, the fellowship provides office, research, and computer facilities as well as some travel funds for conferences and research. Fellows have access to all research facilities, lectures, and events at the College of William & Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Fellows hold concurrent appointment as visiting assistant professor in the appropriate department at the College of William & Mary and teach a total of six semester hours during the two-year term.

The Omohundro Institute is committed to its two-year postdoctoral fellowship package as the centerpiece of a program of support for young scholars. In addition, the Omohundro Institute has offered, with great success, a one-year fellowship initially funded through the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation but now funded out of the Omohundro Institute’s endowment, including income from the Ronald Hoffman Fund for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture One-Year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

Ryan Kashanipour, 2014–2016
Omohundro Postdoctoral Fellow
"Between Magic and Medicine: Colonial Yucatec Healing and the Spanish Atlantic World"

R.A. Kashanipour is an ethnohistorian of early modern medicine and science and received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Arizona in 2012. He is the founding member of the Southwest Seminar and an assistant professor of Latin American History at Northern Arizona University. An interdisciplinary scholar, his research focuses on ethnicity, race, and gender in the cultural and social production of knowledge in colonial Latin America and the broader Atlantic world. Mr. Kashanipour’s manuscript, “Between Magic and Medicine: Colonial Yucatec Healing and the Spanish Atlantic World,” examines the history of cooperation in local practices of healing and the production of medical knowledge in colonial Latin America. Building on a rich tapestry of archival sources, including


Spanish records of the Holy Office of the Inquisition and Maya manuscript books of medicine, Mr. Kashanipour explores how distinct social and ethnic groups produced and exchanged ideas of sickness and the body in the context of longstanding indigenous knowledge systems and the early modern Enlightenment. Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Yucatán, much like colonial societies throughout the Atlantic world, was replete with sickness, disease, and social disorder. All of the inhabitants of the region—powerful and weak, rich and poor, young and old—existed in a turbulent physical and social world. From these shared experiences, Yucatecos forged material and social networks centered on sickness and healing. Spaniards sought out African healers to treat the perils of everyday sickness. Castas looked to Maya herbalists for remedies for epidemic diseases. The infirmed, in spite of ethnicity or status, entered the unsanctioned realm of healing, where magic and medicine intertwined. This work brings attention to how social groups appropriated, re-fashioned, and employed local knowledge to develop a distinctive system of remediation that lay contrary to the prescribed political order of colonialism. And by detailing these networks of healing, Mr. Kashanipour aims to explore the everyday experiences of cooperation that were critical to the maintenance of colonial societies in the New World. His research has been funded by grants and fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Max Planck Institut-für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Ministerio de Cultura de España, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation.
Omohundro Postdoctoral Fellow

Paul Polgar received his Ph.D. from the City University of New York in 2013. His research and teaching interests include slavery, emancipation, race, and reform in early America. His dissertation, titled “Standard Bearers of Liberty and Equality: Reinterpreting the Origins of American Abolitionism,” examines what he defines as the racially progressive origins of the gradual abolitionism that animated the efforts of antislavery reformers to claim the legal rights of citizenship for free and enslaved black people in the post-Revolutionary era. To counter slaveholders’ tenacious resistance to and the public’s skepticism about encompassing black bondsmen and women within the Revolution’s rhetorical framework of liberty and equality, early abolitionists crafted a program of mutual enlightenment designed to equip former slaves for civic responsibility while winning the support of white Americans for their inclusion as full members of the new Republic’s body politic. By the end of the War of 1812, however, this hopeful vision and the intractable problem of race had begun to collide with increasing frequency. From Mr. Polgar’s perspective, the founding of the American Colonization Society embodied the outcome of that collision because it acknowledged that white prejudice could never be ameliorated enough to allow the incorporation of blacks as citizens. Hence the Society’s logic of removing those of African descent from the United States was pursued.

Even though the early antislavery movement failed to achieve its goals, it should not, Mr. Polgar argues, be defined as “inadequately liberal and racially retrograde.” In “recapturing” the history of early abolitionism Mr. Polgar intends for his study to contribute to a reframing of the American antislavery narrative. He has previously held grants and fellowships from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, The Library Company of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Society for Historians of the Early Republic, and The City University of New York.
Allison Bigelow, 2012–2014
Omohundro Institute-NEH Postdoctoral Fellow
“Mining Empire, Planting Empire: The Colonial Scientific Literatures of the Americas”

Allison Bigelow received her Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2012. Her book manuscript is Cultural Touchstones: Mining, Refining, and the Languages of Empire in the Early Americas. Ms. Bigelow's dissertation began as a comparison of English books of agriculture and Spanish books of mining and has now become two separate projects. In the first project, her book manuscript that will be submitted to the Omohundro Institute, she analyzes the overlaps and divergences in mining and metallurgical systems and discourses in the early Americas – primarily English, Spanish, Inca, and Mexica. In the second project, she plans to return to her roots in language and literature to analyze indigenous agricultural systems and classifications, especially as they bear upon gendered labor and crop names, how colonial writers like Thomas Harriot and Diego de Landa understood and misunderstood those systems, and what Harriot and de Landa’s texts looked like when they were projected into the Atlantic world by editors like Richard Hakluyt, or circulated through manuscript cultures of recopilaciones. Upon completion of her fellowship in June 2014, Ms. Bigelow moved to the University of Virginia, where she is an assistant professor of colonial Latin American literature in the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

Laura Keenan Spero, 2012–2014
Omohundro Institute Postdoctoral Fellow
“Stout, Bold, Cunning and the greatest Travellers in America’: The Colonial Shawnee Diaspora”

Laura Spero lives in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where she is a research associate and adjunct professor at Williams College. She earned her Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010. Her research and teaching interests focus on native North America, women and gender, and colonialism in the Americas. Ms. Spero's dissertation, “Stout, Bold, Cunning and the greatest Travellers in America’: The Colonial Shawnee Diaspora” traces disparate Shawnee groups and individuals from their mid-seventeenth-century dispersal from the Ohio Country to Shawnees' emergence as inter-native diplomats and anti-imperial activists in the middle of the eighteenth century. As far-flung Shawnee communities adapted to a variety of colonial contexts and forged a larger diasporic community, they not only remained connected to each other but also linked diverse peoples throughout a vast swath of native America. In arguing that the emerging Shawnee networks provided foundations for inter-native, anti-imperial movements from as early as the 1740s through the better-known activities of Tecumseh during the War of 1812, this project sheds new light on the development and workings of so-called pan-Indian movements as well as on the experiences of Shawnees in early America in general.

Ms. Spero has previously held grants and fellowships from the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, the University of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the American Philosophical Society, the John Carter Brown Library, and the Newberry Library. Ms. Spero spread her one-year fellowship over two academic years and completed her fellowship on June 30, 2014.
Predoctoral Fellows

Lapidus–OIEAHC Fellowship for Graduate Research in Early American Print Culture
With the commitment of an individual donor, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture offered eight $500 fellowships to support advanced graduate student research related to Early American and transatlantic print culture. The second group of fellowships was awarded in Spring 2014 to the following individuals:

2014 Lapidus-OIEAHC Slavery and Print Culture Fellows
- Nathan Jérémie-Brink, “Distributing African American Antislavery Texts, 1773–1845,” Loyola University Chicago
- Sueanna Smith, “Making Private Traditions Public: Prince Hall Freemasonry and African American Print Culture in the Long 19th Century,” University of South Carolina

2014 Lapidus-OIEAHC Early American and Transatlantic Print Culture Fellows
- Michael D. Hattem, “‘Their history as a part of ours’: History Culture and Historical Memory in British America, 1720–1776,” Yale University
- Heike Jablonski, “John Foxe in America,” University of Heidelberg
- Molly Perry, “Influencing Empire: Protest and Persuasion in the British Empire, 1764–1769,” College of William & Mary
Fellowships in Historical Editing
The Fellowships in Historical Editing offer talented history graduate students who have served as Omohundro Institute apprentices the opportunity to build upon their skills through additional editorial work during the College of William & Mary’s winter and summer breaks. The fellowships recognize exemplary work by apprentices as well as support the OI’s ability to maintain the high standards for which all of its publications are known.

The Colonial Dames of America renewed its annual support for the OI’s Fellowship in Historical Editing for 2014 with a gift of $5,000. Gifts from the Colonial Dames have supported the fellowship program since 1996. A gift of $3,000 from the College of William & Mary’s Christopher Wren Association funded a second Fellowship in Historical Editing in 2014. This gift was the Wren Association’s eighth in support of the editing fellowship. The Order of Americans of Armorial Ancestry (OAAA) renewed its support for a seventh year and provided two $1,000 OAAA Grace DeuPree Fellowships.

The recipients of the 2014 Fellowships in Historical Editing were:
- Colonial Dames of America Fellow Kathleen Scorza
- Christopher Wren Association Fellow Amelia Butler
- OAAA Fellow Caylin Carbonell
- OAAA Fellow Michaela Kleber
The Omohundro Institute appreciates the generosity and dedication of its supporters. Since 1943, we have collectively led early American scholarship through a series of innovations in approach and dissemination while upholding an unwavering standard of scholarly excellence. Annual gifts from Omohundro Institute Associates as well as gifts directed to support specific projects and programs are essential to continuing this mission. Thank you.

**Gifts to Specific Projects**

In FY2014, fund raising for specific projects included expendable and endowment gifts and pledges in support of the Omohundro Institute's one-year postdoctoral fellowship, predoctoral fellowships, and funding for historical editing fellowships for Institute apprentices.

**OIEAHC Postdoctoral Fellowship Fund**

To recognize the retirement of Institute Director Ronald Hoffman on June 30, 2013, the Omohundro Institute's Executive Board decided to honor his two decades of leadership by seeking permanent funding support for the Institute's one-year postdoctoral fellowship. We gratefully acknowledge the donors who made expendable and endowment gifts in support of this initiative between July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014, including gifts in support of the Ronald Hoffman Fund for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture One-Year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the College of William & Mary Foundation. Thank you.

- Bernard Bailyn
- Patricia U. Bonomi
- Eleanor S. Darcy
- Norman Fiering
- Ann and Robert Gross
- Stanley Katz
- Sid and Ruth Lapidus
- Maxine N. Lurie
- Gwenda Morgan
- Jon Sensbach
- Beatrice H. Mitchell and Paul S. Sperry
- Peter H. Wood
- Mel Yazawa
Omohundro Institute-NEH Postdoctoral Fellowship
The Omohundro Institute annually offers a two-year residential postdoctoral fellowship in any area of early American studies, which it has done since 1945. In March 2014, the Omohundro Institute received word that the National Endowment for the Humanities had renewed its support for the Institute's long-term residential postdoctoral fellowship with a $172,200 grant over the period of January 1, 2015–June 30, 2018.

Travel Scholarships for Faculty and Graduate Students from Developing Countries
The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Travel Scholarship Fund for Faculty and Graduate Students from Developing Countries offers an annual travel scholarship award to support participation in an Institute conference. The fund was established in 2010 through the generous support of Paul S. Sperry and Beatrice H. Mitchell.

This scholarship fund enables the Institute to strengthen its connections with outstanding faculty and graduate students in developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas.

Omohundro Institute Conference Fund
The Omohundro Institute does not charge registration fees for its conferences, including its annual meeting, and thus invites conference participants and others to consider making a contribution to help support the costs associated with the Institute's annual scholarly meetings.

In FY2014, 41 individuals contributed $2,185 to the OIEAHC Conference Fund. We thank the individuals listed for their contributions to this fund.

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George Troxler  
Jeffrey Webb  
Nuala Zahedieh
Gifts by Associates

Annual Giving by Associates
We are deeply grateful to the individuals and organizations listed on these pages for your support for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture in 2014. Annual gifts from Associates help sustain the Omohundro Institute’s mission of supporting early American scholars and their work, and these contributions account for 8 percent of the Institute’s budget. From July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, 771 individuals joined the Associates, including 36 new members and 735 renewing members, and made gifts totaling $161,528.

With thanks for your participation as a fellow member of this community dedicated to the enduring value of excellent scholarship,

Roy
Robert C. Ritchie
Chair, Omohundro Institute Associates

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During 2013–2014, Eric Slauter served as Visiting Editor of the William and Mary Quarterly.

The Omohundro Institute and the Quarterly welcomed new Editor Joshua Piker on July 1, 2014.

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