Providing Leadership in Critical Moments: Response to the Violence at Charlottesville

In August 2017, the AHA released a statement affirming the importance of historical context in debates about Confederate monuments, which has been invoked in classrooms and public meetings across the United States. The AHA also created a resource page with dozens of interviews, op-eds, and other media conversations featuring AHA members, Council, and staff.

Bringing Historical Thinking to Public Policy

- Led an international scholarly denunciation of the Polish law criminalizing references to Polish complicity in Nazi war crimes
- Added late-breaking sessions to the annual meeting program to create space for historical discussions of current affairs
- Organized congressional briefings to provide historical insight on public policy issues including civil-military relations, automation, and the Higher Education Act

Advocating for the Humanities

- Mobilized members to protect funding for the NEH and other federal humanities programs
- Held a plenary on The State and Future of the Humanities featuring William D. Adams, Earl Lewis, and Claire Potter
- AHA executive director Jim Grossman elected president of the National Humanities Alliance

Spurring Change in Graduate Curriculum with Career Diversity for Historians

- Convened a series of Faculty Institutes to discuss strategies for integrating Career Diversity into doctoral education with participants from 36 institutions
- Awarded 20 Career Diversity Implementation Grants to incorporate broad-based professional development into departmental culture and doctoral curriculum

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The American Historical Review launched a series of podcasts to connect articles from the journal to important issues of the day.
Using Data to Address Challenges Facing the Discipline
- Released a complete version of Where Historians Work, an interactive data set charting the career outcomes of 8,000 history PhDs from 2004-13
- Formulated policies and procedures to address sexual harassment at the annual meeting, drawing on a survey of recent attendees
- Reported data on history majors and course enrollments in Perspectives on History to provide evidentiary foundation for continuing conversations
- Used career outcomes data for history BA and PhD recipients to promote transparency

Sharing Leadership Strategies
- Organized our first Department Chairs’ Workshop for participants to collaboratively explore discipline-centered issues relating to campus-based work

Representing the Diversity of the Discipline
- Added new genres to AHR reviews, including films and graphic novels
- Collaborated with American Philosophical Association to explore how the work of scholarly societies can benefit from greater engagement with HBCU faculty
- Held an inaugural poster session featuring undergraduate students

Supporting the Education and Careers of History Graduate Students
- Subsidized annual meeting attendance for 77 graduate students
- Started a new blog series focused on issues relevant to graduate students
- Mobilized to protect graduate student stipends from unwarranted taxation