Henry Graff Receives Award of Excellence for Lifetime of Service and Achievement

When Ronald Reagan started his term as president, Henry Graff claimed, "He has a chance to make some history. As an English teacher, one thing I am certain he has is talent. He has a chance to make some history."

Graff, who retired from Columbia's History Department in 1992, said he plans to use the award money to support his research for a biography on President Grover Cleveland. The book is part of a series on American Presidents, which is being edited by historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. and published by Henry Holt and the New York Times. Graff, who taught at Columbia for 46 years, expects the Cleveland biography to be published in 2002. The Kaul Foundation, based in Tampa, Florida, said Graff’s career had been one of “service to the highest ideals of scholarship as a historian and expert on American presidency, the American presidency.”


Barzun’s “From Dawn to Decadence,” an 800-page survey of Western civilization, was one of five books for 2001 National Book Critics Circle Award’s criticism category.

The Kaul Foundation, established in 1986, awards excellence in the field of the humanities, fine arts, public health and safety and education. It was created by entrepreneur Ralph Kaul for the purpose of encouraging and rewarding excellence of national significance in a variety of disciplines.