Columbia University announced on March 17 the 2004 winners of the prestigious Bancroft Prize, an award given to the authors of books of exceptional merit in the fields of American history, biography and diplomacy.

The winners, all distinguished history professors, are Edward L. Ayers, for In the Presence of Mine Enemies: War in the Heart of America, 1861–1865 (WW. Norton & Co.); Steven Hahn, for A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political秒 It History in the South From Slavery to the Great Migration (Belknap Press/Harvard University Press); and George M. Marsden, for Jonathan Edwards: A Life (Yale University Press).

One of the most coveted honors in the field of history, the Bancroft is awarded annually by the Trustees of Columbia University. The 2004 awards are for books published in 2003.

Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger will present the awards to the recipients at a formal dinner on March 26 at the University’s Low Library, hosted by the Department of History and the University Libraries. "The Bancroft Prize singles out for distinction the most influential and scholarly books of the year that address the complexity of our country’s past and show how its events and leading figures helped to shape our present world," President Bollinger said. "Without this prize, we wouldn’t be navigating today’s challenges without a compass."

For the first time since the award’s establishment in 1948, the monetary amount of the Bancroft Prize will increase, from $4,000 to $10,000, according to James Neal, vice president for Information Services and University librarian at Columbia, who administers the prize. The grant increase will "bring even greater visibility to this prestigious recognition of historical research and writing," he said. Neal also noted that 180 books were nominated for consideration by the Bancroft jury this year, an unusually high number.

Ayers is the Hugh P. Kelly Professor of History and dean of the University of Virginia. In the Presence of Mine Enemies charts the course of the Civil War in a specific geographic location as neighboring communities become enemies in the Shenandoah Valley, an area bisected by the Mason-Dixon Line. According to the Bancroft jury: “Few books have ever captured as well the connections between home front and battlefront.” Ayers’ first book, The Promise of the New South, was a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist.

Hahn is the Roy F. and Jeannette Nichols Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. Bancroft juror described A Nation Under Our Feet as “a work of breathtaking ambition and scope (in which) Hahn traces the tortuous route followed by African Americans as they emerged from slavery and traveled through Reconstruction to Jim Crow and beyond.” An earlier book, on the roots of Southern populism, received the Allan Nevins Prize from the Society of American Historians and the Frederick Jackson Turner Award from the Organization of American Historians.

Marsden is the Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. In his biography of Jonathan Edwards, Marsden brings to life the controversial American theologian, who was committed to frustrating religious sensibilities in the increasingly secular world of his time. Bancroft juror stated, “Moving easily from the expansionist realms of transatlantic thought to the narrow precincts of town and gown squabbles, Marsden captures both the man and his times in all their color and complexity.” His other books include The Soul of the American University and The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship.

The 2004 Bancroft Prize–winning works were Marsden’s “Jonathan Edwards,” Hahn’s “A Nation Under Our Feet” and Ayers’ “In the Presence of Mine Enemies.”

From left, Bancroft awardees George M. Marsden, Steven Hahn and Edward L. Ayers.

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At the SIPA awards ceremony were, from left, President Lee C. Bollinger, Felix Rohatyn, Lisa Anderson, H. Dale Hemmerdinger, Diana Fortuna, Henrique de Campos Meirelles and Michael Hoffman.

### SIPA Present Global Leadership Awards at Plaza Hotel Gala

**By Katherine Moore**

The 2004 Global Leadership Awards ceremony was March 21 at the Plaza Hotel. This year’s honorees were Edward L. Ayers, for In the Presence of Mine Enemies: War in the Heart of America, 1861–1865; John C. Whitehead, for Economic Development in the American South (The University of North Carolina Press); and Albert Liu, for Globalization: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press).

The winners were chosen by a panel of SIPA alumni who have been honored with the award in the past. SIPA President Lisa Anderson said, “SIPA recognizes that the world needs leaders who are experienced in public service.”

This year’s honorees were recognized for their leadership in international affairs and their contributions to global economic development. Ayers was cited for his work as a historian and as an administrator of the University of Virginia, where he has served as president since 2002. Whitehead was honored for his research on the economic development of the American South, and Liu was recognized for his work on globalization.

At the evening event, SIPA’s students and alumni were invited to participate in a panel discussion on the current state of the world and the role of global leadership. The panel featured former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

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### SIPA Presents Global Leadership Awards at Plaza Hotel Gala

**By Alissa Kaplan Michaels**

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For the first time, the awards ceremony will include recognition of the recipient of the Bancroft Dissertation Award, which supports the publication of a Columbia doctoral student’s dissertation. This year’s winner is David Suisman, who received his doctorate in history and whose dissertation, “The Sound of Money: Music, Machines and Markets, 1890–1925,” explores the birth of music as big business in the U.S.

The Bancroft Prizes were established at Columbia in 1948 with a bequest from Frederic Bancroft, the historian, author and librarian of the Department of State, to provide steady development of library resources, to support instruction and research in American history and diplomacy and to recognize exceptional books in the field.

To see a list of past winners, visit www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguides/americanhist/bancroftlist.html.

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SIPA Students Yohe Ghoor, Nené Nicolson, Betty Wu, Wendy Anderson and Matthew Welch also spoke at the ceremony. Past SIPA global leadership honorees include former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Secretary George Mitchell, Ted Turner, Human Rights Watch, former Columbia University President George Rupp, Ambassador-at-Large for Argentina Martin Varasvay and the Nature Conservancy.