

A More Perfect Union *Oklahoma Humanities Magazine* Articles List

Summer 2008

“Truth, Lies and Duct Tape” from Writing in an Age of Silence
An author’s struggle against the forces of silence in post-9/11 America
Sara Paretsky

Fall/Winter 2008

“Amazing Grace: How Poets Helped End Slavery in the Atlantic World”
Reflections on 150 years of poetry and how it communicated the consequences of slavery long before abolition of the slave trade
James G. Basker

“All-Black Towns in Oklahoma: Pride, Prejudice, and Perseverance on the Western Plains”
The promise and legacy of Oklahoma’s all-Black towns
Hannibal B. Johnson

“What America Means to Me”
Manuel Hogan, 5th Grader, Cleveland Bailey Elementary School, Midwest City

Summer 2009

“What it Means to be an American”
Amanda Kouri, 5th Grader, James L. Dennis Elementary, Oklahoma City

“Hugh S. Johnson: The Oklahoman Behind FDR’s First 100 Days”
Why do we pay so much attention to a president’s first days in office? See where the interest began
Larry Johnson

Winter 2009

“Settling Oklahoma—Women’s Journey Stories”
The 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) interviews present a complex story of how women coped with settlement in the Oklahoma and Indian Territories
Dr. Terri M. Baker

“House of Windows”
An Interview with Author and Photographer Yousef Khanfar, by Carla Walker

“Toward a Better Understanding of Islam”

A look at how the humanities can inform discussion and dismantle stereotypes
Dr. Charles Kimball

Summer 2010

“Bridging Cultures”

A call for civil discourse as we strive to understand ourselves and the cultures of the world

Jim Leach

“The Smokescreen of Race in America”

Recollection of a high school interview with singer James Brown offers a frank look at the issues of race and class in America

Rilla Askew

Fall 2010

“Immigration Law—How Did We Get Here?”

The history of U.S. immigration policy gives perspective on current public debate

Adam McKeown

“Historic Preservation—Finding the Human Experience in ‘Place’”

Preservation is as much about memory as structure and space

Katie McLaughlin Friddle

January 2011

“A Funny Thing Happened in Line at the Water Fountain”

Reflections on the importance of studying history

Jay Hannah

Summer 2011

“Dehumanized—When Math and Science Rule the School”

The emphasis on business in the classroom (at the expense of the humanities) may be narrowing, not expanding, opportunities for students

Mark Slouka

“Found in Translation: Revelations from the Peter Pitchlynn Journal”

The journal of a Choctaw chief reveals the secrets of tribal law and the legacy of a dying language

Henry Willis

“Religious Liberty and the Confusion over ‘Separation’”

The separation of church and state is an evolving American ideal

Allen D. Hertzke

“Please Reverend, No Politics from the Pulpit”

With the Bible in one hand a newspaper in the other, this minister preaches the politics of the gospel

Robin Meyers

“Religion in Society: Striking the Balance”

Religious freedom in America—the delicate balance between separation and accommodation

Martin H. Belsky

Fall 2011

“Unforeseen Beauty and Possibility: A Decade of Discovering Islam”

The creator and host of American Public Media’s “On Being” reflects on ten years of radio conversations and what they have taught her about Islam

Krista Tippett

January 2012

“Firoozeh Dumas: Bridging Cultures through Humor”

An Interview by Dr. Scott LaMascus and Carla Walker

“Information Please—The 4-1-1 on Becoming an Informed Voter”

Practical tips for managing media overload

John Greiner

“What’s the Matter with Congress?”

Is the partisan divide too deep to accomplish “the people’s work”?

Cindy Simon Rosenthal and Ronald M. Peters, Jr.

“The Changing Colors of Oklahoma Politics”

The surprising “blue majority” in the reddest of red states

Glen Roberson

“For Better or Worse—Understanding the Electoral College”

A look at how your vote counts

Jan Hardt

Summer 2012

“Slavery’s Castles”

Photographing remnants of the African slave trade

Doug Henderson

“Making Peace with the Past”

A “healing journey” to confront the issues of race and prejudice

Sharon Leslie Morgan and Thomas Norman DeWolf

“A History Long Forgotten: Intersections of Race in Early America”

America is more diverse than we imagined

Arwin D. Smallwood

“Hope for Racial Healing: Rethinking Christian Missions among the Chickasaw”

Models for hope can be found in our past

Otis W. Pickett

“Righting the Wrongs of History: Reparations and the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot”

Making amends calls for action, education, and conversation

Hannibal B. Johnson

“Reconciling Myself to The Body’s Lessons”

Taking ownership of a mixed-race identity

Faith Adiele

Fall 2012

“The Good, the Bad, and the Moral Imagination”

Exercising ethics (and imagination) when choices are difficult

Scott Davidson

“Truth and Consequences: A Lesson in Ethics”

Ethics begins when moral choices conflict

Philip Patterson

“Some Moral Perils of Criminal Law”

The uneasy relationship between morals and the law

Arthur G. LeFrancois

“Are You In or Out? The Process of Integrity”

Integrity is a moving target

Daryl Koehn

“Lottery Night”

The implications of one person’s action—or inaction

Kim Stafford

Summer 2013

“What Isn’t For Sale?”

There are some things money can’t buy—but these days, not many

Michael J. Sandel

“Beyond Partisanship”

Vigorous conflict over competing values, principles, and policies is a strength, not a weakness, of democracy

Mickey Edwards

“One’s Self I Sing: Writing the American Spirit”

How the literature of Emerson, Whitman, Twain, Hemingway, and Kerouac gave voice to the American experience

Lori Lindsey

“Civil Discourse in a Divided America”

Maybe we aren’t so far apart, after all

Scott Gelfand

Fall 2013

“History of Medicine vs Organic Chemistry”

Medicine’s history of missteps and advances offers essential perspective

Sarah Tracy

Summer 2014

“Blessings of Liberty”

The rights and responsibilities of modern citizenship

William E. White

“The Color of Blood”

Chief Standing Bear’s journey for justice

Joe Starita

“Marriage, Religion, and Equal Protection”

What happens when religious doctrine becomes imbedded in the law?

Rick Tepker

“Fiction and Social Responsibility—Where Do They Intersect?”

Using the power of the written word to effect change

Naomi Benaron

“Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home”

Without first securing home, there can be no equality

Anita Hill

Fall 2014

“Chicago, 1919: We are and will always remain HUNS”

Anti-German prejudice in WWI America

Christiane Brandt Faris

“When the Nation Came to Cordell”

The high price of dissent and conscience in Oklahoma

David Lowry, Chip Kooi, and Gary Lindsey

January 2015

“Equal Access to Hometown Teams: Hurdling Race and Gender Barriers in Oklahoma Sports”

Introduction to “Hometown Teams,” a traveling Smithsonian exhibit

Amy Carreiro

Fall 2015

“American Diplomacy—Forging a Continental Nation”

The America built by international relations

Bill Bryans

“Impertinent Questions: Internationalism against American Empire”

Ending U.S. military occupations in Latin America

Alan McPherson

“Where We Find Ourselves: The GPS of Poetry”

A guidance system of words and empathy

Philip Metres

“The U.S. and the U.N.—A Call for Multilateral Leadership”

A strong United Nations requires a committed United States

Thomas G. Weiss

“Isolating America”

The consequences of withdrawing from the world stage

Wendy N. Whitman Cobb

“Being ME (Middle Eastern)”

A Palestinian perspective

Ibtisam Barakat

“The Stranger”

Assembling American identity from afar

James McGirk

Fall/Winter 2016

“Together”

Tribal sovereignty and our American republic

Tom Cole

“Democracy, the Free Press, and the Meaning of Tribe”

Interview with Sebastian Junger

“State of the Vote—Your ‘Right’ Revealed”

Is the right to vote a constitutional inheritance?

Joshua Sellers

“Ideas or Interests? The Founders on Free Speech”

Weighing common values and group interests

Kevin Butterfield

“Power, Privacy, and the Fourth Amendment”

The right of the people to be secure

Arthur G. LeFrancois

“The News Today: Seven Trends in Old and New Media”

Will journalism change our democracy?

Elaine C. Kamarck and Ashley Gabriele

“Postcards from Public Service”

Reflections on a lifetime of civic participation

Robert H. Henry

Spring/Summer 2017

“The Poet has Spoken”

Can words break down social barriers?

Jason Stephenson

Fall/Winter 2017

“Documenting the Vietnam War”
Interview with Lynn Novick by Carla Walker

“Origins of the Vietnam War”
A history of foreign intervention
Mark Atwood Lawrence

“Private Doubts, Public Resolve, and Personal Ambitions”
How Vietnam became America’s war
Fredrik Logevall

“Protesting Vietnam”
Student voices in a time of war
Sarah Eppler Janda

“Vietnam Redux—Retrieving Truths, Revising War”
The pitfalls of American exceptionalism
Christian G. Appy

Spring/Summer 2018

“Democracy and the Informed Citizen”
Interview with Carl Bernstein by Dick Pryor

“Have I Got a Story for You!”
The checkered past of fair and balanced news
Philip Patterson

“Hidden History”
A poem on our multilayered history
Hannibal B. Johnson

“Democracy at Risk: The American Media Under Attack”
Without a free press, democracy is in peril
Mark Hanebutt

“Finding True North”
The power of story
Darryl Tippens

Spring/Summer 2019

“A Perilous Path: Talking Race, Inequality, and the Law”
Interview with Bryan Stevenson by Anthony C. Thompson

“Bending the Arc of the Moral Universe”
Martin Luther King, Jr., embraced the label of extremist
Hasan Kwame Jeffries

“Poetry: Reflections on Justice”
Dorothy Alexander and Paul Bowers

“To Kill a Mockingbird”
Harper Lee’s shifting views of justice
Paul Lehman

“Between You and Me”
Oklahoma—first in mass incarnation
Ryan Gentzler

“Poetic Justice: Incarcerated Women Find Voice, Hope, and Freedom Through Writing”
Ellen Stackdale on taking poetry to prison
Interview by Julie Ann Ward

“Unintended Consequences”
How the Supreme Court shaped federal Indian policy
Lindsay G. Robertson

“Justice Like Waters”
‘Social’ and ‘justice’ create community
Harold Shank

“Quilt of Democracy”
Interview with Clara Luper by Paul R. Lehman

Spring/Summer 2020

“Preserving Home and Country”
Edith Cherry Johnson on women, family, and suffrage
Sunu Kodumthara

“Hardship, Hope, and Home”
Dorothea Lange’s photographs of Oklahoma Dust Bowl refugees

Kimberly Roblin

“Mapping Woody Guthrie”
The influence of time and place
Will Kaufman

“What Home is Not”
On translation—and transformation
Seungho Lee

Fall/Winter 2020

“Election Day”
A vote for hope
Loren Gatch

“What Comes Before Woke?”
On the history of sleep as a form of protest
Franny Nudelman

“A Short History of Campaign Dirty Tricks”
Election meddling before Twitter and Facebook
Elaine Kamarck

“In Pursuit of Presidents and Principal Chiefs”
The arc of dual citizenship
Jay Hannah

“Learning from the Past—Acting for the Future”
Listen, learn, think, act
Ben Alpers

“Leading the Way”
The extraordinary accomplishments of Ida B. Wells & Madam C.J. Walker
Michelle Duster and A’lelia Bundles

“On Civility”
Looking for a sense of belonging
Pamela Chew

“Educating the Troops”
Shaping consensus with ‘democratic propaganda’
Stacy Takacs

“Fixing Our Reality Problem”

The case for common sense

Thomas E. Patterson

“The Truth is Out There”

Exercising media literacy

Kimberly Roblin

“The Assault on Journalistic Ethics”

What happened to trust in the media?

Andy Rieger

“Popcorn, Politics, and the Press”

Real to reel—Hollywood’s take

Kimberly Roblin

Spring/Summer 2021

“Toward ‘One Tulsa’”

Reflections on the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

Hannibal B. Johnson

“Photographing the Tulsa Massacre”

A conversation with Karlos K. Hill

Daniel Simon

“Djeli”

Memories tell us everything and nothing at all

Kalenda Eaton

“Breaking Down Barriers”

George McLaurin and the struggle to end segregated education

David W. Levy

“Reflections on a Beleaguered Symbol”

A cautionary take on history, heritage, and hate

Tonia L. Anderson

“Poetry, Hope, and the Bear in the Backyard”

Hope will find us

Britton Gildersleeve

