



## George Mason University's History News Network is Celebrating Ten Years!

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George Mason University's History News Network, one of the Web's leading history sites with over 300,000 visitors a month, is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year with a new website!

It's been a great decade for us. HNN is a veritable treasure trove for historians, writers, and the general public. More than 450 books, academic and popular alike, cite articles published on HNN. Three thousand websites link to us. "The History News Network is one of the strongest reasons to cheer for the rise of the World Wide Web," raves Princeton historian Sean Wilentz. "[It's] indispensable," echoes Pulitzer Prize winner Eric Foner.

The concept behind HNN is simple: We provide historians with a national platform so that they can help shape public debates about vital issues in the news. Every Monday we feature a dozen new articles on the latest news and trends. In our ten years we have published more than 5,000 original articles. Most are written by PhDs.

HNN has undergone a complete site redesign, with improved menus, integrated social networking features, and a brand new comments system powered by Disqus. It's never been easier to read, share, or talk about articles on the History News Network! We're also constantly striving to continue to provide the best historical commentary and news. Last month, we broke the story that [Tim Naftali](#), the controversial director of the Richard Nixon Library, is stepping

down. In September, we debuted an interactive feature on historical [questions people are Googling](#) and welcomed new blogger [Jim Loewen](#), the author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*. In August, we conducted a landmark interview with legendary journalist [Bill Moyers](#), in which he announced his return to television; in July we hosted [a roundtable](#) on whether Democrats have a double standard for Barack Obama; in June we featured experts [debating the historical knowledge gap](#) among U.S. high school students. And all this came *in addition* to our regular features!

The History News Network leads the pack in breaking news about historians. Back in 2002, we led the way in reporting the [Michael Bellesiles scandal](#) and became a clearinghouse for news about the plagiarism charges leveled against Doris Kearns Goodwin and Stephen A. Ambrose. In 2004, we published an informal poll of historians which rated [George W. Bush as one of the worst presidents](#) in American history. [In a similar poll on President Obama](#) earlier this year, only 11 percent of HNN's readers graded his presidency an "A" (31 percent, in contrast, judged him a failure).

HNN was founded in 2001 by journalist and historian Rick Shenkman. "I was standing in the shower when it hit me," he recalled. "There ought to be a site dedicated to historians putting current events in an historical context. So I established the website. Six months later HNN joined the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, the largest digital history program in the United States."

For more information about the History News Network, please contact editor David Walsh at [editor@hnn.us](mailto:editor@hnn.us).

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