



July 15, 2023—I am happy to announce that this year’s Distinguished Service Award will go to Andrew Shankman, who is completing his fifth and final year as the editor of the *Journal of the Early Republic*. This award is a recognition of Andy's devotion to SHEAR, the *JER*, his colleagues, and the broader field of early American history.

Andy has touched the personal and professional lives of so many of us at SHEAR. His generosity as a mentor and his gifts as an editor have come together during his time with the *JER* to produce both great scholarship, and great joy. Former students remember how unstintingly he offered his time to talk about history and graduate school. Others recall his commitment to making graduate students feel as if they belong here at SHEAR and in so many other parts of our professional world. When he commented on the work of new scholars at a conference, he made a point of putting them at ease.

He has welcomed graduate students who work on the journal into the SHEAR community and into the inner workings of the journal. As he brings them into a community of scholars, he invites them to participate fully into all the conversations, not to wait on the side until their turn comes.

And that of course, brings us to the work he has done with *JER*. As one of his colleagues said, “In a world that is often characterized by contention and competition, Andy is that rarest of birds: a highly skilled scholar who is at his core intellectually and emotionally generous. I have watched him mentor, protect, and raise up young scholars, and pour his time and talent into developing work that benefits from his attention. His genuine care for both the scholar and the work comes through every time.”

It has been a complicated few years for scholarly production, but Andy has made the *JER* better than ever. Under his stewardship, the *JER* launched two new series—“Engaging Historiography” and “Critical Engagements”—and started the hard work of encouraging the editorial team to work together to develop original material. In doing so, he helped diversify the journal in many ways. He actively sought out new authors and new topics, and he embraced an editorial style that emphasized mentoring new scholars and supporting them through the peer review process.

All his colleagues on the *JER* are unanimously grateful for the opportunity to have worked with him. Kind, welcoming, champion of scholars: he has made the *JER* an extraordinary place for scholars to volunteer their time.

Finally, I would personally like to speak to Andrew Shankman's deep ethical standards. Many of you know, I hope, the beautiful and heartfelt letter he published in the *Panorama* in January 2022 on the new *JER* statement on service. His reflections on what we owe each other as colleagues and scholars has stayed with me since I read it. I must say – although this might surprise Andy more – that I deeply value his fierce and unwavering commitment to the integrity of his work and that of the *Journal*. He was not shy about reminding me – and a few other presidents – of the importance of editorial independence. He passionately protected both that principle and the people on the *JER*. But his principled and ethical commitment is precisely what made me and so many others trust him with our scholarship, and indeed, our professional futures.

For his inspired guidance of our journal, for his selfless dedication to bringing other people's ideas to fruition, and for his commitment to SHEAR, we hereby recognize Andrew Shankman with the SHEAR Distinguished Service Award.

—Serena Zabin, President of SHEAR

