

Edward L. Ayers

Tucker-Boatwright Professor of the Humanities
University Professor
President Emeritus
University of Richmond

Books

- The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America*
(W. W. Norton, 2017)
- What Caused the Civil War? Reflections on the South and Southern History,*
(W.W. Norton, 2005)
- In the Presence of Mine Enemies: Civil War in the Heart of America, 1859-1863,*
(W.W. Norton, Fall 2003)
- The Oxford Book of the American South: Testimony, Memory, and Fiction,*
edited with Bradley Mittendorf (Oxford University Press, 1997)
- All Over the Map: Rethinking American Regions,* co-editor and co-author, (Johns Hopkins
University Press, 1996)
- The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction* (Oxford University Press, 1992;
15th Anniversary Edition, 2007)
- Vengeance and Justice: Crime and Punishment in the Nineteenth-Century American South*
(Oxford University Press, 1984; paperback edition, 1986)

Awards for Scholarship

- Lincoln Prize for best book on the Civil War era, Gilder Lehrman Institute, 2018
- Avery Craven Prize for most original work on the Civil War, Organization of American Historians,
2018
- Albert J. Beveridge Award, American Historical Association, for the best English-language book
on the history of the Americas since 1492, 2004
- Bancroft Prize for Distinguished Book in American History, Columbia University, 2004
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences, elected to membership, 2001
- E-Lincoln Prize for Best Digital Project on the Era of the American Civil War, Gilder Lehrman
Institute and Gettysburg College, 2001
- Frank L. and Harriet C. Owsley Award for the best book in Southern history, Southern Historical
Association, 1993
- James Rawley Prize, best book on the history of race relations in the United States, Organization of
American Historians, 1992
- National Book Award, Finalist for Nonfiction, 1992
- Pulitzer Prize, Finalist for History, 1992
- J. Willard Hurst Award for Best Book in American Legal History, cowinner for 1984-1985, Law and
Society Association

Awards for Teaching and Service

- National Humanities Medal, awarded by the President of the United States, "for making American
history accessible to all Americans," 2013
- National Professor of the Year for Research and Doctoral Universities, Carnegie Foundation for the
Advancement of Teaching, and Council for Support and Advancement of Education,
(CASE Award), 2003
- Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal, School of Graduate Studies Award for Outstanding Achievement, Yale
University, 2003
- James Harvey Robinson Prize for Outstanding Aid to Teaching History, American Historical
Association (AHA), 2002
- State Council of Higher Education in Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award, 1991

National Service

President, Organization of American Historians, 2017-8
Chair, Committee on Digital Scholarship, American Historical Association, 2014-15
American Council for Education, executive committee, 2008-12
National Humanities Center, board, 2007-11
National Council for the Humanities, 2000-2004, appointed by the President of the United States to advise the National Endowment for the Humanities

Digital and Broadcast Media

Executive Editor, *Bunk: American History Rewired*, a digital media network
Co-Editor of *American Panorama*, a digital atlas of American history, Digital Scholarship Lab, University of Richmond
Director: "The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War," an electronic archive (<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu>)
Co-host, *BackStory, with the American History Guys*, a nationally syndicated podcast, Virginia Humanites

Education

BA, University of Tennessee, summa cum laude, American Studies, 1974
PhD, Yale University, American Studies, 1980

Academic and Leadership Positions

President, University of Richmond, 2007-2015
Buckner W. Clay Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, 2001-2007; Hugh P. Kelly Professor, 1993-2007; professor, 1992-1993; associate professor, 1986-1992; assistant professor, 1980-1986
Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto, 1999-2000
John Adams Professor of American Studies, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, 1995

Major accomplishments of the University of Richmond during term as president

Grew applications from 6,600 to 10,000
Increased students of color from 11 percent to 28 percent
Improved average SATs 40 points
Raised first- to second-year retention rate from 88 percent to 95 percent
Doubled percentage of students receiving Pell Grants to 19 percent
Doubled percentage of international students to 10 percent
Covered full cost of attendance for all Virginia students with family income below \$60,000
Grew endowment by \$800 million, to \$2.3 billion
Established a fund to manage the endowments of other non-profits, at \$1.3 billion in 2015
Constructed six new buildings and initiated transformative campus master plan
Strengthened connections to city with UR Downtown, transportation, and civic engagement
Created First-Year Seminars for all students, taught by faculty from all five schools
Raised Law School 30 positions in rankings
Created the Richmond Guarantee, a paid summer fellowship for all undergraduate students
Won awards in our city for inclusivity, supplier diversity, Jewish life, and LGBTQ advocacy
Named a "Great College to Work For" by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*

Current Board Service

American Civil War Museum, Richmond, founding chair of board, 2010-present
Robins Foundation, Richmond, 2015-present
Organization of American Historians, Executive Board, 2015-present
Virginia Humanities, 2015-present

Contact information:

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