COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

Barbara J. Fields

A preeminent scholar in the history of the American South and a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant," you have won multiple awards for your books. Your latest, Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life, is written with great elegance and lucidity; the beauty of the writing is matched only by your vast imagination and remarkable historical sensibility. Your writing not only demonstrates scholarly interest, but also deep social engagement, which clearly inspire your teaching as well. You teach the students in your classes to think, write, and act with curiosity and whole-hearted integrity.

You are one of the Department of History's most revered educators, standing out among superb scholars and professors for your uncompromising devotion to the craft of teaching. Your students begin their historical training by learning how to write correctly, which, as they soon discover, fosters precise thinking, lively skepticism, disciplined research, and civil discussion. You provide active and engaged mentoring while helping them to meet these rigorous requirements, making them better scholars in the process.

You put into effect the essential things that a university should do for its students: give them the instruments they need to think clearly and intelligently about their pasts, thereby providing them with the instruments they need to make free and intelligent choices about their futures. Your graduate students, many of whom have gone on to fill positions at leading universities, speak of you as the ideal they strive for as they mentor their own students. All your students speak of you in the most inspiring terms, and it is a pleasure to join them by presenting you with the 2013 Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Lee C. Bollinger
President
May 22, 2013