

## INTRODUCTION TO A SPECIAL SECTION OF *TEACHING HISTORY*

*Teaching History: A Journal of Methods* was first published in 1976. The purpose of the journal has been to provide history teachers at all levels with the best and most relevant ideas for their classrooms. In recognition of the journal's recent 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Larry Cuban's timely book *Teaching History Then and Now: A Story of Stability and Change in Schools* (2016), we created a special section for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 issues of the journal.

In this Fall 2017 issue of *Teaching History*, Richard Hughes first offers a review of Cuban's book. Next, Hughes provides an analysis of the early years of the journal, focusing on the journal's founding in the context of teaching movements in the 1970s. Finally, we asked history educators across the K-16 continuum to draw upon their personal experiences and assess the evolution of history teaching. Specifically, we asked: To what extent has the teaching of history changed or remained the same in your career?

In this issue, we have synthesized the contributions of individuals who focused on teaching history largely in the context of secondary schools. Our Spring 2018 issue will feature commentary that pertains to teaching history with an emphasis on the college and university context.

—SDB

---

### SPECIAL SECTION BOOK REVIEW

Richard L. Hughes

**Larry Cuban.** *Teaching History Then and Now: A Story of Stability and Change in Schools.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press, 2016. Pp. 264. Cloth, \$64.00.

In October 1957, Larry Cuban was in his second year teaching history at Glenville High, a predominantly African American school in Cleveland, Ohio. That same month, the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik*. The success of the first artificial earth satellite fueled a great deal of anxiety about the state of American education, leading to the 1958 National Defense Education Act and increased calls for reform in history education in the subsequent decade. In December 1957, as *Sputnik* continued orbiting the earth, William Langer, the president of the American Historical Association (AHA), dedicated his annual address to "The Next Assignment," or what he referred to as the innovative "directions which historical study might profitably take in the years to