

## Lawrence J. Friedman

“Larry” Friedman, professor of history and philanthropic studies, retired from the IU faculty in December 2006 after 13 years of service in the Department of History. In addition to a distinguished legacy of scholarship, Larry was instrumental in shaping fields of study in U.S. history, cultural history, and the history of philanthropy, as well as specializations in ethnic and intellectual history.

Having received a Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1967, Larry began his professional journey in academia with an appointment as assistant professor of history at Arizona State University in the following year. By 1971, he had accepted a tenured appointment in the history department of Bowling Green State University, where he remained until 1993. During the intervening years Larry served as coordinator of graduate studies in history, editorial advisor for the Black Abolitionist Paper Project, visiting scholar in the history of science department of Harvard University, and distinguished professor of history. In the fall of 1993 Larry accepted an appointment as professor of history and philanthropic studies at Indiana University.

Larry’s publication record is far too long to chronicle here, but the highlights illuminate the truly remarkable breadth and impact of his scholarly contributions to the study of history. His first book, *The White Savage: Racial Fantasies in the Postbellum South* (1970), insightfully delves into the troubled racialized terrain of the South following the Civil War, revealing the power of racist ideologies in the wake of emancipation and Reconstruction. *Inventors of the Promised Land* (1975), his second monograph, is a sensitive portrait of the ways in which Americans imagined U.S. national identity during the half-century following independence from Britain. Larry’s book on the antislavery movement, entitled *Gregarious Saints: Self and Community in American Abolitionism, 1830–1870* (1982), is still one of the most influential works on the subject, weaving together biography, grand social transformations, and the ever-changing politics of activist organizations. *Menninger: The Family and the Clinic* (1990) was a new intellectual departure for Larry, firmly situating his later scholarship in the twentieth century and within the realm of historical biography. His magisterial study of Erik Erikson (*Identity’s Architect*, 1999) not only interpreted Erikson’s writings and life, but historicized the psychoanalyst in a fashion that captured the timeless appeal of his thoughts on identity construction and human development. Larry’s current book project promises to do the same for Eric Fromm, another twentieth-century thinker whose life will be made much more accessible by this forthcoming biography.

In addition to producing a rich corpus of writings, Larry has also been the recipient of numerous awards. Just to name a few, he has received three research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, was elected a fellow of the Society of American Historians in 1995, served as a fellow of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine in London in 1999, and was honored with the Fulbright Distinguished Chair to Germany in 2001–2002. Along with these honors, Larry has been recognized with several awards for his research and pedagogical achievements, including the Ohioana Library Association Book Award in History (1983), the Teaching Excellence Recognition Award of Indiana University (2000), and a citation as International Writer of the Year by the International Centre for Bibliographic Studies in 2003.

In the classroom Larry has distinguished himself as a very able instructor and mentor of both graduate and undergraduate students. Consistent with his far-ranging research interests, he has taught an array of classes, including American Cultural History, U.S. and European Intellectual History, Philanthropy in American Culture, War and Society, Biography, and Baseball History. During his time at Indiana University Larry served on several graduate examination and dissertation committees, as well as search committees and in other capacities. In tandem with in-class instructional duties, Larry has delivered dozens of scholarly papers and lectures hosted by the Organization of American

Historians, the Midwest Conference on History, the American Association for the Study of Medicine, and other scholarly entities.

For both countless students and many of his faculty colleagues, Larry has been an inspirational teacher, mentor, and scholar. We all wish him well in retirement and look forward to the fruits of his current research project, as well as (we hope) a definitive history of American baseball.

*Claude Clegg*