

## *History Access Reading Group*

Meet with PROFESSOR GEORGE BEHLMER  
to discuss

### Remembering Ahanagan, by Richard White

Thursday, April 17, 2008

2:00–3:30, Smith 306

*This book is widely available at most bookstores and through Amazon.com*

REMEMBERING AHANAGRAN is a remarkable book that defies easy categorization. Part biography, part autobiography, part "revisionist" account, part loving narrative, it deals with the complicated relationship between history and memory. Richard White's story is simultaneously about immigration, about becoming an American, and about the myths we embrace to make sense of ourselves. It is about rural Ireland, 20th-century Chicago, and territory that exists only in the mind.

*Study Questions on Reverse*

Please sign up for this group by contacting History Undergraduate Advising:

Phone: 543-5691 or Email: [histadv@u.washington.edu](mailto:histadv@u.washington.edu)

Or visit our website and click on the RSVP button at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/history/studying/access/reading.html>

## *Study Questions*

Here are five questions that readers of REMEMBERING AHANAGRAN would do well to ponder:

1. Why, according to White, is history the enemy of memory? And why does White characterize his book as an “anti-memoir”?
2. How and why do people such as Sara cling to their stories about the past even when “facts” contradict these stories?
3. Why does land seem to obsess Sara’s father (and most of her Irish family)?
4. What does White mean when he contends that part of being a real American involves celebrating the foreign place you (or your family) came from?
5. Why, according to White, has Irish nationalism “played well” in America?