

# MICHAEL T. BENSON



President and Professor of History

Coastal Carolina University

Conway, South Carolina

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<https://www.coastal.edu/president/>

## Education

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Doctor of Philosophy (D.Phil.) in Modern History

June 1995

University of Oxford, St. Antony's College - Oxford, United Kingdom

Faculty of Modern History

Dissertation: "Sympathy or Strategy: President Harry S. Truman's Decision to Recognize the State of Israel, May 1948"

Dissertation committee: John Lewis Gaddis, Chair; Robert Dallek; Daniel Walker Howe

Master of Liberal Arts (M.L.A.)

August 2021

The Johns Hopkins University - Baltimore, Maryland

Master of Non-Profit Administration (M.N.A.) *cum laude*

January 2011

University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business - Notre Dame, Indiana

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Political Science *cum laude*

April 1990

Brigham Young University - Provo, Utah

Minors: English and History

## Chief Executive Experience

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President

January 2021 to present

Coastal Carolina University - Conway, South Carolina

Academic appointment: Professor of History

**President** August 2013 – January 2020  
Eastern Kentucky University – Richmond, Kentucky  
Academic appointment: Professor of Government

**President** December 2006 – July 2013  
Southern Utah University – Cedar City, Utah  
Academic appointment: Professor of Political Science

**President** December 2001 – December 2006  
Snow College – Ephraim, Utah  
Academic appointment: Professor of History

## Other Selected Professional Experience

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**Visiting Professor** January 2020 to January 2021  
The Johns Hopkins University – Baltimore, Maryland  
Department of History of Science and Technology  
Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences

- Researched, wrote, and lectured on *Daniel Coit Gilman and the Birth of the American Research University*

**Professor of Non-Profit Administration (adjunct)** November 2011 – November 2016  
University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business – Notre Dame, Indiana

- Taught course on public policy within the Master of Non-profit Administration (M.N.A.) program

**Secretary to the University** February 2000 – November 2001  
**Special Assistant to the President** June 1999 – January 2000  
**Associate Director of Major Gifts** December 1998 – May 1999  
**Major Gifts Officer** December 1995 – November 1998  
University of Utah – Salt Lake City, Utah  
Academic appointment: Associate Professor of Political Science (adjunct)

**Consulting Historian** August 1997 – December 1998  
Harry S. Truman Library – Independence, Missouri

**Academic Advisor and Essayist** July 1997 – May 1998  
Skirball Cultural Center – Los Angeles, California

**Research Assistant** May 1990 – May 1991  
United States Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources – Washington, D.C.

## Service to Education

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<b>Member, Council of Presidents</b> Association of Governing Boards (AGB)	July 2023 – present
<b>Independent Peer Reviewer</b> Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts	July 2023 – present
<b>Chair-Elect, Board of Directors</b> National Leadership Honor Society of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK)	April 2023 – present
<b>Mentor, NCAA Pathway Program</b>	March 2023 – present
<b>Member, Committee on International Education</b> American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)	October 2022 – present
<b>Independent Peer Reviewer</b> University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky	September 2022 – present
<b>Member, USOPC/NCAA Para-College Inclusion Project</b> Para Track & Field Tactical Team	June 2022 – present
<b>Member, NCAA Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity</b> FBS presidential representative on 13-person association-wide committee	October 2021 – present
<b>Member, Sun Belt Conference Membership Committee</b> Sun Belt Conference added four institutions in Fall 2021: Southern Miss, Old Dominion, Marshall, and James Madison	September 2021 – present
<b>Member, Board of Directors</b> National Leadership Honor Society of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK)	May 2021 – present
<b>Independent Peer Reviewer</b> Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland	September 2020 – present
<b>Chair, Reaffirmation Committee</b> On-site Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) reaffirmation committee University of North Carolina, Asheville – Asheville, North Carolina	March 2023
<b>Chair, Substantive Change Committee</b> On-site Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) substantive change committee Midwestern State University – Wichita Falls, Texas	March 2021
<b>Chair, Substantive Change Committee</b> On-site Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) substantive change committee Appalachian State University – Boone, North Carolina	February 2020

<b>Member, NCAA Division I Presidential Forum</b>	<b>July 2019 – January 2020</b>
<b>Chair, Advisory Conference of Presidents</b> Kentucky Public Universities & Colleges	<b>June 2017 – January 2020</b>
<b>Member, Task Force on University Partnerships</b> American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)	<b>April 2017 – January 2020</b>
<b>Co-Chair, Teacher Preparation Task Force, Kentucky Rising</b>	<b>July 2015 – January 2020</b>
<b>Member, The Presidents’ Trust</b> Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)	<b>November 2012 – January 2020</b>
<b>Chair, Substantive Change Committee</b> On-site Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) substantive change committee Miami International University of Art and Design – Miami, Florida	<b>September 2019</b>
<b>Chair, Substantive Change Committee</b> On-site Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) substantive change committee Texas A & M University – Corpus Christi, Texas	<b>February 2019</b>
<b>Chair, Substantive Change Committee</b> On-site Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) substantive change committee Georgia Southern University – Statesboro, Georgia	<b>September 2018</b>
<b>Co-Chair, Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium</b>	<b>July 2014 – August 2018</b>
<b>Chair, NCAA Honors Committee</b>	<b>January 2016 – January 2018</b>
<b>Member, NCAA Honors Committee</b>	<b>November 2014 – January 2018</b>
<b>Presidential Representative</b> On-site Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) substantive change committee Middle Tennessee State University – Murfreesboro, Tennessee	<b>September 2017</b>
<b>Presidential Representative</b> On-site Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) reaffirmation committee College of Charleston – Charleston, South Carolina	<b>March 2017</b>

## **Service to Business and Community**

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<b>Member, Conway Advisory Board, Coastal Carolina National Bank</b>	<b>January 2023 – present</b>
<b>Vice Chair, Partnership Grand Strand Foundation Board</b>	<b>July 2022 – present</b>
<b>Member, Board of Directors, Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce</b>	<b>March 2022 – present</b>
<b>Co-Chair, Partnership Grand Strand, Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce</b>	<b>December 2021 – present</b>
<b>Member, Board of Directors, Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation</b>	<b>January 2021 – present</b>
<b>Member, Advocacy Council, Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce</b>	<b>January 2021 – present</b>

Member, Executive Committee, North Eastern Strategic Alliance	January 2021 – present
Member, Bluegrass Tomorrow Board of Directors	January 2016 – December 2020
Member, Kentucky Rising Steering Committee	January 2015 – January 2020
Member, Richmond Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors	January 2014 – January 2020
Member, Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation Board of Directors	September 2013 – January 2020
Member, Leadership Kentucky Class of 2015	June 2015 – December 2015

## Awards, Honors, Fellowships, and Grants

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Honorary Member, EKV Society of Foundation Professors	May 2023
Distinguished Patron, Horry-Georgetown Technical College	May 2023
Horne School of Music Hall of Fame, Snow College	November 2022
Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs National Honor Society	April 2022
Master of Liberal Arts Fellowship Johns Hopkins University	Summer 2021
Master of Liberal Arts Marshall K. Wiley Fellowship Johns Hopkins University	Spring 2021
Master of Liberal Arts Fellowship Johns Hopkins University	Summer 2020
Vision Award for Excellence in Education, Bluegrass Tomorrow	February 2020
Prepared for Life Leadership Award, Boy Scouts of America, Palisades District	May 2018
Honorary Member, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity	February 2017
American Cancer Society Lexington KY Chapter “Belles & Beaus” Honoree	May 2016
Recent Alumni Service Award Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame	September 2013
Father Theodore Hesburgh Founder’s Award Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame	May 2011
Master of Non-Profit Administration Fellowship Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame	2009 – 2010
Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society	April 2009
Utah Music Educators Association Administrator of the Year	May 2005

<b>The Pew Charitable Trusts (\$3.5 million grant; co-principal investigator)</b>	<b>November 2001</b>
Awarded to the University of Utah to establish the Intermountain Center for Campaign and Media Legal Reforms in conjunction with the Hinckley Institute of Politics	
<b>Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship</b>	<b>1993 – 1994</b>
University of Oxford and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem	
<b>University of Oxford Graduate Studies Research Grant</b>	<b>1992 – 1994</b>
<b>Harry S. Truman Presidential Library Institute Research Grant</b>	<b>1993</b>
<b>Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society</b>	<b>1990</b>

## Publications

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### Books

*Daniel Coit Gilman and the Birth of the American Research University.* Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2022. [Johns Hopkins University Press website](#)

*College for the Commonwealth: A Case for Higher Education in American Democracy* (co-authored with Hal R. Boyd). Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2018. [University Press of Kentucky website](#)

*Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel.* Westport, CT: Praeger, 1997. [Praeger website](#)

### Monographs (selected list)

“Kentucky’s Higher Education Tradition and the Role of the University,” *Kentucky Humanities Magazine*, Fall 2019.

“Michael Bloomberg is Channeling his Inner Johns Hopkins,” *Inside Higher Ed*, January 17, 2019.

“We Can Do Hard Things,” *Trusteeship*, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, Volume 26, Number 1, January/February 2018.

“Big Dreams,” *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*, Volume 16, Fall/Winter 2015.

“The Public University: Recalling Higher Education’s Democratic Purposes,” with Hal R. Boyd, *Thought and Action: NEA Journal on Higher Education*, Volume 31, Summer 2015.

“Five Keys to Success,” *Global Study Magazine*, Fall 2004.

“The Puzzle of Palestine: Harry S. Truman and the American Recognition of Israel,” *Harry S. Truman and the Recognition of Israel*, Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, MO, 1998.

“Harry S. Truman and the Modern State of Israel,” *Amit Magazine*, Summer 1998.

“The Modern-day Cyrus: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel, May 1948,” *On Moral Grounds: President Harry S. Truman and the Birth of the State of Israel*, Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA, April 1998.

## Non-peer reviewed articles (selected list)

“The Plucky Chanticleer,” *Post and Courier*, August 31, 2022.

“In conference realignment, academics – not athletics – are king,” *Deseret News*, August 6, 2021.

“Lessons from the 1918 flu: Are we investing in scientists and doctors we need now?” *Lexington Herald-Leader*, March 18, 2020.

“Kentucky’s Higher Education Tradition and the Role of the University,” *Kentucky Humanities Magazine*, Fall 2019.

“Michael Bloomberg is Channeling his Inner Johns Hopkins,” *Inside Higher Ed*, January 17, 2019.

“We Can Do Hard Things,” *Trusteeship*, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, Volume 26, Number 1, January/February 2018.

“Big Dreams,” *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*, Volume 16, Fall/Winter 2015.

“The Public University: Recalling Higher Education’s Democratic Purposes,” with Hal R. Boyd, *Thought and Action: NEA Journal on Higher Education*, Volume 31, Summer 2015.

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“Harry S. Truman as a Modern-day Cyrus,” *Brigham Young University Studies* 34 (Fall 1994).

## Invited Presentations (selected list; 2013 – present)

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“*Daniel Coit Gilman and the Birth of the American Research University*,” University of Notre Dame Graduate School, South Bend, Indiana, May 1, 2023.

“Johns Hopkins University Press Meet and Greet – *Daniel Coit Gilman and the Birth of the American Research University: Michael T. Benson in Conversation with President Ronald Daniels*,” Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, April 14, 2023.

“*What’s the Big Deal with Daniel Coit Gilman?*” Coastal Carolina University Inaugural Faculty Scholar Lecture Series, Conway, South Carolina, March 28, 2023.

“Book Session: Michael Benson’s *Daniel Coit Gilman and the Birth of the American Research University*,” respondent, History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, November 5, 2022.

“*Workforce Preparation and Talent Recruitment*,” panel discussant, CEO Roundtable, Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, July 14, 2022.

*“The New Virtual Workforce: The benefits and challenges of operating in the virtual environment,”* panel discussant, Charleston Defense Contractors Association Annual Convention, Charleston, South Carolina, December 8, 2021.

*“We have come up hither to the house of our expectations”:* Daniel Coit Gilman and the Birth of the Modern American Research University, keynote speaker, Johns Hopkins University Master of Liberal Arts Annual Symposium, May 24, 2021, [link](#).

*“Every Epoch Requires a Fresh Start: Daniel Coit Gilman and the Birth of the Modern American Research University,”* presenter, Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs, Washington, D.C., October 11, 2019.

*“Strategies for Kentucky’s Postsecondary Education Institutions,”* moderator, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Symposium, Louisville, Kentucky, December 18, 2018.

*“Heirs of the Founders: The Epic Rivalry of Henry Clay, John Calhoun and Daniel Webster, the Second Generation of American Giants,”* discussion moderator with author H.W. Brands, Kentucky Book Fair, Lexington, Kentucky, November 17, 2018.

*“Building a Truly Diverse Governing Board,”* panel discussant, Council of Presidents Annual Meeting, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), Washington, D.C., October 22, 2018.

*“Presidential Perspectives on Higher Education,”* panel discussant, Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) Annual Meeting, Knoxville, Tennessee, October 8, 2018.

*“The Wright Brothers, EKV Aviation, and the Magic of Flight,”* co-keynote speaker, 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kentucky Aviation Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, September 27, 2018.

*“Higher Education Trends in 2018: A View from the Experts,”* panel discussant, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), 2018 National Conference on Trusteeship, San Francisco, California, April 24, 2018.

*“Why I Picked Kentucky,”* plenary speaker, Governor’s 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Local Issues Conference, Commonwealth of Kentucky Department for Local Government, Louisville, Kentucky, August 25, 2017.

*“Partnership Profile: Eastern Kentucky University and How We Have Accomplished Our P3 Projects,”* featured presenter, American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), Partnership Meeting, Washington, D.C., June 14, 2017.

*“@CollegePresident - Becoming a Social Media Leader the Campus Community Will Follow,”* workshop presenter, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE Region III Kentucky Annual Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, December 8, 2016.

*“Current Issues Facing Higher Education,”* keynote speaker, Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium Academic Leadership Academy, Lexington, Kentucky, May 15, 2015.



“*Student Success Strategies at Eastern Kentucky University*,” keynote speaker, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Student Success Summit, Louisville, Kentucky, March 31, 2015.

“*Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*,” keynote speaker, Eliezer Society of Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, November 14, 2014.

“*The Role of the Morrill Land Grant Act and G.I. Bill in Shaping American Higher Education*,” featured speaker, Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut, November 14, 2014.

“*Why Plans are Important Even if You **Are** Punched in the Mouth*,” inaugural speaker, Chautauqua, Lecture 2014-15 series at Eastern Kentucky University entitled *Strategy*, Richmond, Kentucky, August 26, 2014.

“*Truman and the Recognition of Israel*,” featured speaker, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, U.S. Presidents and the Middle East: Truman to Obama, Summer Teachers Conference, Independence, Missouri, July 15, 2013.

“*The Thunderbard Project: Embedding the Utah Shakespeare Festival Into the First-Year SUU Orientation Experience*,” workshop presenter, American Association of Colleges and Universities, AAC&U Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, January 25, 2013.

## Media Appearances (selected list; 2019 – present)

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The Gilded Age and Progressive Era Podcast to discuss Daniel Coit Gilman biography (September 12, 2023)  
[Gilded Age Podcast discussion with Michael Cullinane](#)

Interview with Paul Finebaum for “The Paul Finebaum Show” on ESPN (August 6, 2021)  
[Paul Finebaum Show discussion around conference realignment](#)

Interview with Tom Martin for “Eastern Standard” on WEKU, Kentucky Public Radio (September 12, 2019):  
[Eastern Standard interview to discuss Daniel Coit Gilman book \(segment three\)](#)

Interview with Bill Bryant for “Kentucky Newsmakers” on WKYT, CBS affiliate (August 18, 2019):  
[Higher Education Issues interview and ECU happenings](#)

Interview with Renee Shaw for “Connections” on KET, Kentucky Public Television (January 18, 2019):  
[College for the Commonwealth and other higher education issues](#)

## Courses Taught

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<i>Graduate Seminar on the History of World War One</i>	Coastal Carolina University
<i>History of the American University</i>	Coastal Carolina University
“ <i>Only the Dead Have Seen the End of War</i> ” <i>A Century of Living with World War One and its Consequences</i>	Eastern Kentucky University

<i>Checks and Balances: The U.S. Congress and the Evolution of the U.S. Presidency</i>	Eastern Kentucky University
<i>Public Policy in the Non-profit Sector</i>	University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business
<i>The President, Congress, the Constitution, and Foreign Policy</i>	Southern Utah University
<i>Capstone Course in Public Administration</i>	Southern Utah University
<i>International Conflict: The Middle East</i>	Southern Utah University
<i>International Relations</i>	Southern Utah University
<i>American National Government</i>	Snow College
<i>Introduction to International Relations</i>	Snow College
<i>Campaigns and the American Presidency</i>	University of Utah
<i>Introduction to International Politics</i>	University of Utah
<i>The U.S. Presidency</i>	University of Utah
<i>Theories of International Relations</i>	Brigham Young University

## Additional Skills and Experience

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### Athletic Accomplishments

- **Head Coach and Full Blue, University of Oxford Basketball Team** 1993 – 1994
- **Member, University of Oxford Basketball Team** 1992 – 1993
- **Member, Brigham Young University Basketball Team (JV)** 1987 – 1988
- **Competitive distance runner**
  - Deseret News Marathon (2:57; fourth in age division)
  - St. George Marathon (2:41; first in age division)
  - Boston Marathon (2:52; finished in top 30% of all runners)

### Religious Service

- **Voluntary Representative:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints      **May 1984 – May 1986**  
Rome, Italy

**Languages:** Fluent in spoken and written Italian

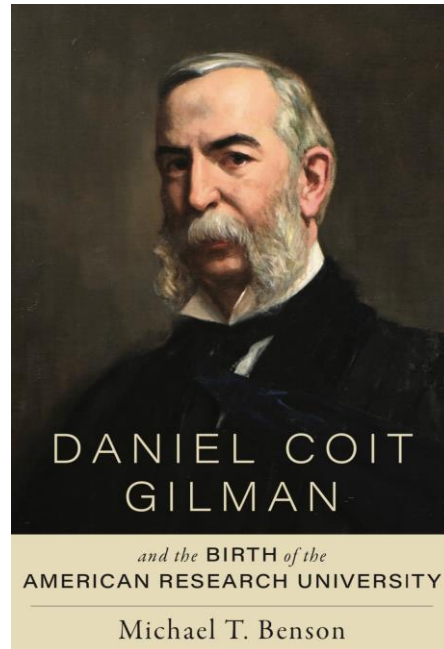
### Family and Personal Interests

- Enjoy golf (10 handicap), travel, skiing, and music; trained as a classical pianist
- Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America
- Married to Debi Woods Benson; five children: Emma, Samuel, Truman, Tatum, and Talmage

## Reviews and Endorsements of Books

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*Daniel Coit Gilman and the Birth of the American Research University.*  
Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2022.



**Jonathan R. Cole, John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University, Provost and Dean of Faculties, Columbia University (1989-2003):**

“With the opening of Johns Hopkins University in 1876, a century after Independence, the American research university was born. The force behind the great transformation was Hopkins’ founding President, Daniel Coit Gilman. Until now too little has been written about Gilman. Now, finally, Michael T. Benson has written the definitive biography of the man who changed our educational paradigm almost single-handedly. Gilman started the revolution.

With grace, insight, and rich description, Benson takes us along on the travels of Gilman. This book will allow you to rethink the history of the culture, values, and individual creativity that allowed our research universities to produce scholars and scientists of the first rank. Many of these people made pathbreaking, innovative, and useful discoveries produced at our universities from the last quarter of the 19th century until today. This book should be read by anyone interested in the history of education and the evolution of American society. You’ll find it a treat to read.”

**Mary Sue Coleman, President Emerita, University of Michigan (2002-14, 2022) and Association of American Universities (2016-2020):**

“Michael T. Benson has brought to life Daniel Coit Gilman and his extraordinary impact on American higher education. As the founding president of Johns Hopkins University, Gilman set into motion features that are integral to today’s research university: graduate fellowships, an academic press, academic journals and learned societies, and the training of exceptional scholars. Benson shows how, more so than

any other university, the early graduates of JHU shaped the academy as it entered the 20th century. Benson's impressive biography is a welcome addition to our understanding of a most unique institution: the American research university."

**E. Gordon Gee, President, West Virginia University, author of *What's Public about Public Higher Ed? Halting Higher Education's Decline in the Court of Public Opinion*:**

"The history of Johns Hopkins University is the history of the modern American research university. And, the architect of that modern university was Johns Hopkins President, Daniel Coit Gilman. Michael Benson has written a much-needed biography of Gilman, while at the same time providing a very insightful history into the growth and development of the American research university. This may be a biography about Gilman but, more importantly, it also represents a critical contribution to the history of higher education in twentieth century America."

**Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, author of *The Empowered University: Shared Leadership, Culture Change, and Academic Success*:**

"In his latest book, Benson chronicles the life of a true pioneer in American Higher Education. In doing so, he tells the story of one of our country's great universities and shows how its emergence after the Civil War helped transform the educational landscape. Readers will appreciate the chance to learn about Daniel Coit Gilman's life and his leadership, and they will come away with new insights regarding research universities and how they can – and must – adapt to society's changing needs and interests."

**Sally Mason, President Emerita, University of Iowa (2007-2015):**

"For those who might be curious about how our American Research Universities evolved to become the best in the world, the history of Daniel Coit Gilman's rise to the presidency of Johns Hopkins and his visionary leadership are key to setting the stage for the evolution of research and creative activities as integral parts of American higher education. A man well before his time, Gilman was clearly gifted with vision and strength of conviction, both of which have inspired generations of growth and upward mobility in the much larger enterprise of higher education generally and the intimate intertwining of research and scholarly endeavors."

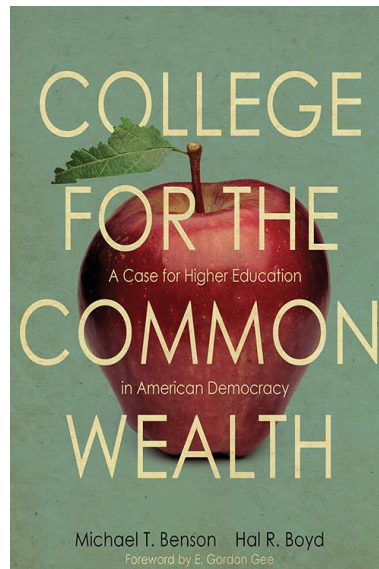
**James K. Stimpert, Senior Reference Archivist, Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries:**

"Michael T. Benson fleshes out the knowledge surrounding Daniel Coit Gilman by providing the first full-scale biography of Gilman in over 100 years. Given that no single individual is more responsible for what Johns Hopkins University became—and is now—than Gilman, this book contributes to an understanding of the forces that shaped our founding president and, through him, JHU. Historians of higher education should find this book fascinating, as would anyone interested in the early history of Johns Hopkins."

**John Thelin, Professor, University of Kentucky, author of *A History of American Higher Education*:**

"Michael Benson's fresh biography of Daniel Coit Gilman shows how an inspired president helped to transform the ideal of a great university into a reality with the founding of the Johns Hopkins University."

*College for the Commonwealth: A Case for Higher Education in American Democracy*  
(with Hal R. Boyd). Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2018.



**From the Foreword by E. Gordon Gee, President, West Virginia University:**

“There is no shortage of books about higher education. There may be, however, a shortage of concise, insightful, relevant, and useful books about higher education. Benson and Boyd’s fine work goes a long way toward filling that gap. Thanks to them, now whenever I think and talk about the importance of value of public higher education to American democracy, I will have an excellent resource on which to rely.”

**Daniel Walker Howe, former Rhodes Professor of American History, Oxford University, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*:**

“Michael Benson and Hal Boyd present a convincing case for why higher education needs and deserves public support. From practical examples they demonstrate how investment in higher education enables a society to rise to the opportunities presented by the future. Their argument is focused on Kentucky, but its lessons are as applicable to the United States as a whole. As these two wise men put it, ‘Kentucky is at a crossroads, but so is the nation.’”

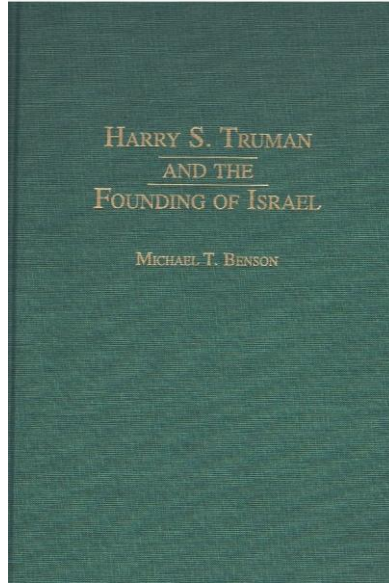
**Robert M. Daines, Pritzker Professor of Law and Business, Stanford University:**

“A vigorous and thoughtful defense of the public value of education. It is definitely worth reading in an era where it is sometime thought fashionable or prudent to reduce expenses on education.”

**The Bowling Green Daily News:**

“Benson and Boyd’s analysis and critique of a vital sector of our society [is] remarkably articulate and thought-provoking. Even if you have never set foot on a college campus, if you live in Kentucky, your future is inexorably tied to the viability of the higher education opportunities we make available to the citizens of our great state. *College for the Commonwealth* makes a very convincing, data-driven case that we truly are all in this together. Highly recommended.”

*Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel.* Westport, CT: Praeger, 1997.



**From the Foreword by Stan A. Taylor, Professor of Political Science, Brigham Young University:**

“Benson has blended the best of political and historical research skills in this work. In clear and lucid writing, [he] makes a powerful argument that neither *raison d’etat* nor the exigencies of domestic politics are adequate to explain President Harry Truman’s decision to recognize Israel.”

**Robert Dallek, Professor Emeritus, UCLA; author of *The American Style of Foreign Policy: Cultural Politics and Foreign Affairs*:**

“A worthwhile and interesting book which makes a strong case for Harry S. Truman’s moral considerations in deciding to recognize Israel. Benson’s research and writing are exemplary.”

**Noah Lucas, Emeritus Fellow Oxford University Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies:**

“Benson’s enthralling narrative captures the drama of high politics while richly portraying the human greatness of Harry Truman. A salutary work which will enlighten and move the reader.”

*Updated September 2023*