



Summer 2011

Special points of interest:

- **Common Core in the works**
- **History Day winners!**
- **Getting ready for the NCSS conference**
- **Abundant opportunities**

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MDCSS Chronicle

Common State Standards in Social Studies: College, Career, and Civic Ready by Marcie Taylor-Thoma, Ph.D.

Maryland has joined with twenty other states and a Task Force of fifteen professional organizations to develop the Common State Standards for Social Studies. This state-led initiative began over a year ago after discussions regarding the History/Social Studies Literacy Standards in the English/Language Arts Common Core were finalized. Social Studies educators were pleased to have a presence in the new Common Core, but realized the reading and writing processes through the content of social studies was not sufficient. The integrity of the disciplines needed to be represented in the Common State Standards, with the content, skills and process of social studies clearly articulated.

A previously functioning organization called the Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction (SSACI) regrouped under the leadership of Beth Ratway, a former Social Studies Supervisor in Wisconsin and Dr. Kathy Swan from the University of Kentucky. The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) has agreed to provide input and support to the process while working directly with Dr. Swan and Susan Griffin from the National Council for Social Studies. This multi-state collaborative is dedicated to ensuring that state and local education agencies have the resources and professional development they need to evaluate, revise or maintain their standards, instructional

materials, assessments and best practices in social studies.

The Common State Standards for Social Studies will establish thinking goals for student performance based on evidence about what is required for success. The standards will raise the bar for all students; as such, they seek to ensure all students are prepared for college and careers by developing high level critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The objective is for all students to enter colleges and careers ready for success and prepared for effective participation in our American democracy and global society.

Dr. Keith Barton from Indiana University has been selected as the lead writer of the project. Dr. Barton will begin working with the history, civics, economics, and geography writing committees and the teacher collaborative councils this month. Dr. Sari Bennett of the Maryland Geographic Alliance and I met with other members of the SSACI and Task Force in Charlotte last month to draft the conceptual framework.

The development of Common Core Standards for Social Studies is an exciting addition to this new era of educational reform and it is one that Social Studies educators across the nation and throughout Maryland should embrace.

Dr. Taylor-Thoma is the Coordinator of Social Studies, MSDE



A Message from the President



A Council in Transition

We're not the council we used to be! Every organization can make that claim, of course. After all, as the Zen teaching reminds us, you never step into the same river twice.

Yet, the Maryland Council for Social Studies is qualitatively different from what we used to be. We have new leaders, as all councils do, but we also have a different interpretation of our mission. Previously, it was felt that the best way to promote social studies education in Maryland was to communicate to our members, put on an annual conference, and sponsor professional development sessions. We will continue to do that, but nowadays, that isn't enough.

We will also increase the amount of advocacy that we do. Under the inspired and inspiring leadership of Scott McComb, the Maryland Council has raised its profile as the voice of social studies professionals. As we go to press, a blue ribbon advisory board for social studies will hold its initial meeting. That board, which is a direct result of our council's activism in response to the HSA cancellation, finally gives us a way to formally influence the state's policy making machinery. We will share that group's activities in this newsletter and in email announcements. Your continued membership in MDCSS will give you access to those reports, so don't let your membership lapse!

Communication, however, must be a two-way street. In order to be effective spokespersons for our members, we need to hear your opinions on the issues related to social studies education. Phone calls and emails are encouraged. For a lively discussion of our professional needs, be sure to attend our annual meeting on October 21st in Anne Arundel County. In addition to the usual workshops and displays, we will have a special strand devoted to policy. We expect to have sessions discussing such issues as assessment, curriculum, technology, and the like. If you would like to be heard, be sure to attend the annual meeting (and bring others along!). My experience with such sessions is that I always learn from my colleagues, even if I don't always agree with their views.

Please spread the word that our council has evolved in response to a changing political and economic landscape. Perhaps you know a former or non-member who would subscribe to our renewed mission. Invite him or her to get in touch with me, and to attend the annual meeting. We need everyone, now, more than ever!

Jeff Passe, President

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for Social Studies
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2011-2012

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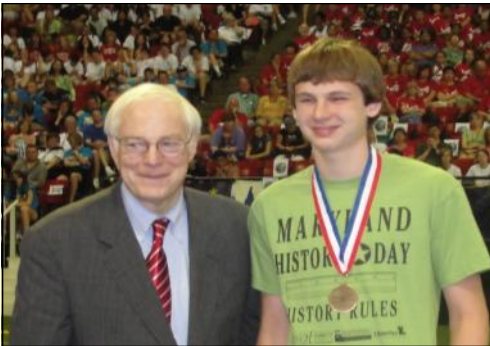
Bruce Damasio
Towson University

If you have any questions,
comments or submissions,
please contact the Editor at
kpopetz@mdp.state.md.us.



Maryland Students Make History at National History Day

Of the 18,800 students who participated in the History Day program across the state of Maryland, 59 advanced to the national competition which took place June 12-16 at the University of Maryland, College Park. For the first time, a Maryland student took home a gold medal! We also have a bronze medal winner, a special prize (college scholarship) winner and two Outstanding State Entry award winners. Six Maryland students made it to the final round of competition.



Ethan McComb with Jim Leach, NEH Chairman

Ethan McComb, a student at Plum Point Middle School in Calvert County, received the gold medal (1st place) in the junior individual exhibit category for his exhibit titled “The Marshall Plan: America’s Soft Power Diplomacy Saves Europe from Economic and Political Chaos Following World War II.” His teacher is Merry Ellen Fallica.

Michael Keen, a homeschool student from Montgomery County, received the bronze medal (3rd place) in the Senior Paper category for his paper is titled “Lost Opportunities for Peace: Vietnam, 1945 -1950.” His teacher is Christine Keen.

Camila Uechi, a student at the Bullis School in Montgomery County, won a scholarship to Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii for her senior individual web site entitled, “The Bay of Pigs: A Diplomatic Turning Point.” Her teacher is Sara Romeyn.

Maria Viera, of Mayfield Woods Middle School in Howard County, won the Outstanding State Entry award (Junior division) for her junior individual web site “The Cuban Missile Crisis.” Her teachers are James McVey, Charla Phillips, and Tim Grafton.

Emily Galik, of Marriotts Ridge High School in Howard County, won the Outstanding State Entry award (Senior division) for her senior individual exhibit “Patients or Prisoners? Dorothea Dix & the Debate Surrounding the American Asylum Movement.” Her teacher is Richard Malt.

Alexandra La Pierre, a student at Broadneck High School in Anne Arundel County, was selected to display her senior individual exhibit “Diplomacy of Appeasement: The Munich Agreement of 1938” at the National Museum of American History, Behring Center. Her teacher is Traci Anderson.



Maryland’s NHD student competitors

The six Maryland students whose projects advanced to the final runoff round of competition were Kane Herrick of Bullis School in Montgomery County, Duncan Rheingans-Yoo of Oakland Mills Middle School in Howard County, and four students who earned other distinctions: Ethan McComb, Michael Keen, Maria Viera, and Emily Galik.

In addition to these exceptional students, two Maryland teachers were honored at the National History Day awards ceremony. The two recipients of the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year award joined Ms. Behring and other state award winners on stage for a photo. They were Rebecca Castle of Isaac Gourdine Middle School in Prince George’s County and Amie Sanner of Calvert High School in Calvert County.

You can read more about the National History Day experience on the Maryland Humanities Council blog (<http://www.mdhc.org/blog/>) or Maryland History Day Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maryland-History-Day/55186169281>). For a complete list of National History Day winners, see <http://nhd.org/AwardsWinners.htm>. If you are interested in participating in Maryland History Day in the fall, please contact Judy Dobbs at the Maryland Humanities Council (jdobbs@mdhc.org) for more information.



NCSS★WASHINGTON DC



DECEMBER 2-4 ★ 2011

National Council for the Social Studies 2011 Snapshot

Dates:

Friday, December 2nd - Sunday, December 4th

Tours and Clinics will be held on Thursday, December 1st

Washington DC Convention Center

For Students:

We will be showcasing *Students Doing Social Studies* (Saturday). Please make preparations for area students to be a part of this event. More details to follow.

For Maryland Council for the Social Studies:

The Maryland Council for the Social Studies will receive approximately \$5.00 for each MDCSS member who attends NCSS. We want to ensure that teachers who attend are also part of MDCSS so we can continue to build our state council.

Maryland Teachers and \$\$:

- There will be a special conference rate for MD teachers (including group rates). More details to follow.
- There will be 1st Timer Scholarships available for MD and VA teachers from underrepresented groups (includes inner-city, rural, and elementary teachers). Try to secure funding from area resources (estimate \$300.00 per scholarship).
- Volunteers will receive discounted rates.

Volunteers are Vital to the Success of the Conference:

Registration preparation begins on Wednesday, November 31st (pizza arrives at 11:00 a.m.) and people will start registering Wednesday evening. We need people who don't have classes (supervisors, resource teachers, education students, retired educators, etc.) to volunteer on Wednesday and Thursday. We will need other people to volunteer throughout the conference as well. Please complete the Early Bird Volunteer Form or email Shannon Pugh: spugh@aacps.org.

Renew Your NCSS Membership Now!

All attendees, presenters, volunteers, etc., must be current members of NCSS. Please renew your membership today! www.socialstudies.org. Remember, teachers in their first 3 years of teaching can become a member for \$37.00. Membership for retirees is also \$37.00 and regular memberships start at \$66.00. Check online for institutional or office memberships.



NCSS Welcomes Your Participation -

Students Living Social Studies



SAVE THE DATE!

Students are invited to participate in the 91st Annual NCSS Conference on Saturday, December 3, 2011 by demonstrating how they *live* social studies. This is the venue where students showcase social studies!

Reserve your space today! Special preference will be given to those who register early. If you have a student or a small student group who would like to speak with NCSS attendees and guests about something special they have done (i.e. service learning, civic participation, classroom/school/community activity, historic site/museum support, and/or club activity, etc.) Special consideration will be made for students who want to demonstrate their learning through a **TCI instructional resource**.

To reserve your space and receive an early bird registration form & confirmation, contact Mary Davis, *Students Living Social Studies* co-chair at mjdavis2@aacps.org





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Congratulations!

Severna Park Elementary 5th Grader Places in First Amendment Cartoon Contest!

Fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Amanda Finnis, is pleased to announce that her student, Devyn Daugherty is a winner in the First Amendment Cartoon Contest, co-sponsored by the California Administrative Office of the Courts and the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Devyn's illustration was selected for an honorable mention in the Elementary School, Single Panel, category. The judges were impressed with both the creativity and the understanding of the first amendment expressed in the cartoon. As a winner of this national contest, Devyn's artwork will be featured on the website, www.courtsed.org, starting May 1. Mrs. Finnis' class (Anne Arundel County) participated in the *We the People's* simulated congressional hearings in early June and we are sure that Devyn contributed nicely during her team's testimony.



Web Tools for Teachers

Last fall Monticello revamped their website with a new look and feel. Check it out at <http://classroom.monticello.org>. Once there you can choose to go to either a kids' section or one designed for teachers. One of the nice things about the kids' section is the way the "Learning Resources" section is designed. By choosing from a menu bar at the top of the page, every document can be viewed in a format most appropriate to the student—elementary, middle or high school.

As a teacher you can explore lessons available on the site or use their tools to create your own and post them for others to use. There are also sections on Jefferson's quotes, a Jefferson Encyclopedia, interactive posters, images and so much more.

If you know of other great sites that you'd like to share, please let us know about them! Contact Kim Popetz at kpopetz@mdp.state.md.us.



"If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed." — Thomas Jefferson



THE Jewish Museum OF MARYLAND AT THE HERBERT BEARMAN CAMPUS

Opportunities

The Holocaust: Persecution to Nuremberg

Summer Teachers Institute at the Jewish Museum of Maryland

August 1-3, 2011

The program includes presentations by Holocaust scholars, master teachers, and survivors. Topics covered include: a history of anti-Semitism, using Holocaust films in the classroom, and an exploration of the significance and impact of the Nuremberg Trials. One day (Tues. Aug. 2) will be spent at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum where participants will tour the permanent and special exhibitions and meet with Museum scholars.

\$25 registration fee includes light refreshments and lunch on Aug. 1 and 3 and bus transportation to Washington DC. Participants are eligible to receive 1 MSDE credit.

For more information and to register, contact Deborah Cardin at 410-732-6400 x236 / dcardin@jewishmuseummd.org.

Chautauqua Series Commemorates Civil War Sesquicentennial

In 2011 the Maryland Humanities Council (MHC) will join many other historical and cultural organizations throughout the state in observing the Civil War Sesquicentennial. MHC's Chautauqua living history series "The American Civil War: A House Divided" will feature three key figures of the Civil War: Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman and Jefferson Davis. Audience members will hear about the lives of these famous characters and will have an opportunity to ask them questions about their experiences.

Performances are free and open to the public and take place at six sites throughout the state: Garrett College in McHenry (July 5-7), the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata (July 5-7), Montgomery College in Germantown (July 6-8), the Community College of Baltimore County in Catonsville (July 8-10), Cecil County (July 8-10) and Easton (July 11-13). Join MHC for these free events and engage in spirited conversation with celebrated figures from the past. For more information, go to the Chautauqua 2011 homepage: <http://www.mdhc.org/programs/chautauqua/chautauqua-2011/>.



MARYLAND HUMANITIES COUNCIL
Opening eyes. Opening ears. Opening minds.



And More Opportunities

September 11: Teaching Contemporary History

On Wednesday, August 3 and Thursday, August 4, 2011, the National Museum of American History, National September 11 Memorial and Museum, Pentagon Memorial Fund, and the Flight 93 National Memorial will offer a *free* online conference, [September 11: Teaching Contemporary History](#), for K-12 teachers. Designed to provide educators with resources and strategies for discussing the September 11 attacks at the 10th anniversary, the conference will include roundtable discussions with content experts and six workshop sessions. These sessions and the conference website highlight [resources available at each organization](#), provide [background information on September 11](#), and encourage conversations on how to document, preserve, and interpret recent history and current events.

To register for this free online conference, please visit:
<http://smithsonianconference.org/september11/register/>

Program Outline:

August 3

10:00 am Roundtable: *The Past, Present, and Future of September 11*, 75 minutes

Participants:

[Sharon Leon](#), Director of Public Projects at the George Mason Center for History and New Media
[James Gardner](#), Senior Scholar in the Office of the Director, National Museum of American History

[James Loewen](#), author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*

[Joan Broodsky Schur](#), educator

11:30 am *Story of the Memorial* (National September 11 Memorial & Museum), 50 minutes

1:00 pm *Introduction to Resources from the Pentagon Memorial*, 50 minutes

2:15 pm *Writing the First Draft of History*, 50 minutes

August 4

10:00 am Roundtable: *Conducting Difficult Conversations with Young People*, 75 minutes

11:30 am *Small Children, Tough Topics: A Literature-Based Strategy*, 30 minutes

1:00 pm *Memorial as Storyteller*, 50 minutes

2:15 pm *The Curator's Challenge*, 50 minutes

To read conference session descriptions, please visit

<http://smithsonianconference.org/september11/>

Please contact thinkfinity@si.edu with questions.

This conference is generously funded by the [Verizon Foundation](#), in collaboration with the [National September 11 Memorial and Museum](#), [Pentagon Memorial Fund](#), and the [National Park Service's Flight 93 National Memorial](#). The program is produced by [Learning Times](#).



Smithsonian
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And Yet More Opportunities



Creating Collections with Young Children

A one-day seminar presented by the
Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

The Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center is proud to offer a one-day training seminar to examine how you can use collections to enrich your classroom experience.

Young children are natural born collectors. Toys, dolls, coins, or nature's treasures such as rocks and shells appeal to young children and help them understand the world around them. Develop this innate curiosity by creating collections and exhibits that combine literature, art and objects to introduce children to the magic of museums.

Through hands-on experiences and museum visits, this one-day seminar will show educators how to use collections to help children develop skills to sort, classify, observe, and analyze. Enrich your teaching by developing collections that incorporate math, science, history, and language arts. That is what "Creating Collections with Young Children" is all about.

Cost: \$200
Date: July 19, 2011
Time: 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History
Federal Triangle Metro Stop (Orange or Blue Line)

For information: Anna Forgeson; forgesona@si.edu 202/ 633-2945
Sharon Shaffer; shaffers@si.edu; 202/ 633-1394
Fax (202) 786-3153

PO Box 37012 MRC 184
National Museum of Natural History
Washington, DC 20013-7012

A confirmation letter will be mailed to each participant. Space is limited.

Smithsonian
Institution





www.mdcss.org

MDCSS is dedicated to supporting social studies education in all of its forms in order to promote an educational experience for young people that encourages cultural understanding and a fundamental respect for human dignity, while preparing students for success in the 21st century.

Goals:

- To promote and support social studies education in Maryland and the United States
- To build a community of social studies educators in the state of Maryland
- To advance cultural understanding through social studies instruction that teaches respect for human differences and an appreciation of diversity
- To provide high quality professional development and instructional resources for Maryland social studies teachers
- To recognize excellent social studies teachers and programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels

Calendar of Events

July 2011:

July 4 - State Holiday

July 5-13 - [Chautauqua](#), locations throughout the state

July 10-14 - [George Washington Teachers' Institute](#), week-long workshop at Mt. Vernon fully-funded for Maryland teachers grades 3-5

July 19 - [Creating Collections with Children](#), teacher training at National Museum of Natural History

July 21 - [Speaker Series: Tim Horsley](#), Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

July 27-29 - [African American Colonial and Antebellum America](#), course for MSDE credit at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum

August 2011:

August 1-3 - [The Holocaust: Persecution to Nuremberg](#), teacher training at the Jewish Museum of Maryland

August 1-5 - [Clarice Smith National Teacher Institute at the Smithsonian American Art Museum](#) explore the connections between art, technology, and content in this institute for secondary teachers.

August 3-4 - [September 11: Teaching Contemporary History](#), free online conference

For even more events go to <http://www.mdcss.org/opportunities.php>.