



# MDCSS CHRONICLE

## Social Studies Teachers Honored

### ***Baltimore and Worcester Counties both choose social studies teachers as the "best of the best"***

WORCESTER COUNTY—Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher Amy Gallagher of Stephen Decatur Middle School earned the 2008 Worcester County Teacher of the Year title. A Nationally Board Certified Teacher, Gallagher has been teaching Social Studies at Stephen Decatur Middle School for six years.

As a Grade 8 U. S. History teacher, Gallagher asks her students to approach her class with an open mind, ready to approach history in a new way – in a way that makes history relevant. "U.S. history is more than a series of facts and dates," she explained. "It is a collection of stories that help define our culture. Through my lessons which incorporate teaching strategies and activities that bring history alive, my students become actively engaged in learning while developing a deep interest in Social Studies."

Gallagher believes that she must continually challenge herself professionally. In addition, she believes that the teaching profession needs to be championed by everyone who is passionate about it. "By mentoring new teachers, continuing growth through professional development, using data to examine student growth and performance, and collecting outstanding samples of student work, the profession will strengthen and attract men and women who love teaching and learning."

BALTIMORE COUNTY—John Billingslea, an Advanced Placement social studies teacher at Franklin High School in Reisterstown, has been honored as Baltimore County's Teacher of the Year. Representing more than 8,000 educators for the next year, Billingslea has the opportunity to be the most visible teacher in the county and to appear in dozens of venues to champion what he calls "the artistry of teaching."

"For John, as for so many of our past Teachers of the Year, it is clear that teaching is far more than a profession," said Superintendent Dr. Joe A. Hairston. "He writes and he speaks about the tremendous power of the teaching profession, referring to it as a "calling to bring good into the world.' He notes that while one person can only do a small part to influence the world, as a teacher, your influence is magnified time and time again through your students."

As an educator who has devoted much of his professional life to assisting colleagues in the classroom, Billingslea says he hopes to use his time in the spotlight to help improve teacher recruitment and retention.

"I want to remind teachers of the artistry of teaching, the power of a finely crafted lesson and the ability of self-directed classroom research to promote professional growth," he said. "(I want to remind them) that quality instruction focused on teaching students to think - to think - can surpass the inevitable challenges posed by standardized testing."



## Organization of American Historians Honors Baltimore County Educator

Bruce Lesh, a teacher at Franklin High School in Baltimore County, has received the Tachau Teacher of the Year Award, given annually for contributions made by precollegiate teachers to improve history education by the Organization of American Historians (OAH). On Saturday, March 29, OAH President Nell Irvin Painter and President-Elect Pete Daniel presented the award in New York City during the 101st Annual Meeting of the Organization.

Bruce is an outstanding classroom teacher whose colleagues and students praise his history instruction, professional leadership, and scholarship. Mr. Lesh not only inspires and excites students, he also challenges them to think critically and historically. One student writes of an especially rewarding project: "Students had to decipher through all of the evidence available, and deal with many of the ambiguities . . . . In order to develop a sound thesis, students had to understand the nuances of their case and the different interpretations." Mr. Lesh involves students in the process of forming good questions, analyzing primary and secondary sources, determining cause and effect, developing historical argumentation and engaging in historiographic debate. As cofounder of the Center for History Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, he has demonstrated a commitment to bringing scholarship and quality professional development to classroom teachers. Mr. Lesh's leadership positions at local, state, and national history education organizations, curriculum work, numerous presentations, and publications further highlight his tremendous contributions.

Founded in 1907, OAH is the largest learned society and professional organization dedicated to the teaching and study of the American past. OAH promotes excellence in the scholarship, teaching, and presentation of American history, and encourages wide discussion of historical questions and equitable treatment of all practitioners of history. Members in the U.S. and abroad include college and university professors; students; precollegiate teachers; archivists, museum curators, and other public historians employed in government and the private sector.

**social studies** *n.pl.*: 1: the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence 2: a school program that provides coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics, and natural sciences 3: a program whose primary purpose is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.



## Call for Proposals

### ***Proposals for presentation at the 2008 MDCSS Annual Conference are now being accepted***

The MDCSS Annual Conference is a forum for social studies colleagues around the state of Maryland to share, interact, learn, and develop ideas, skills, and programs that increase their own successes and those of their students.

The 22nd MDCSS Conference will provide multiple opportunities for exploring the choices that we as educators make daily, and that our students must make now and in the future. In planning your presentation, please consider how you might best address *one* of these conference focus areas.

#### **Reading and Writing in Social Studies**

The social studies textbook, while significant, is not the sole source of information for students in social studies. Newspapers, documents and other primary sources, atlases, guest speakers, videos, field trips, and the internet provide the information needed for students to understand and organize the ideas and key concepts of social studies. As a curriculum area driven by content unlike any other, social studies teachers face a particular challenge in helping students access and make sense of content.

#### **Instructional Strategies**

NCSS defines powerful social studies teaching as "meaningful, integrative, value based, challenging, and active." How can we design instruction and assessment that promote critical thinking and deep understanding of complex issues?

#### **Social Studies Content**

Thomas Jefferson, among others, emphasized that the vitality of a democracy depends upon the education and participation of its citizens. While such active civic participation includes becoming informed about issues and voting in elections, it can take many other diverse forms relating to the United States government, its history, its people, and its neighbors around the world.

#### **Standards and Assessment**

The importance of social studies ensures that policymakers, educators, parents, and citizens of all kinds will want to know what students should be taught, how they will be taught, and how student achievement will be evaluated.

#### **Application Deadline**

Three (3) copies of the attached proposal form must be post-marked no later than June 20, 2008. Mail Proposals to:

Amy Rosenkrans  
Maryland Council on Economic Education  
Towson University, Stephens Hall 112  
8000 York Road  
Towson, MD 21252

# CONFERENCE PROPOSAL FORM



MARYLAND COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES  
**22nd Annual Fall Conference – “CHOICES”**  
**October 17, 2008**  
G. James Gholson Middle School, Prince George’s County



## FOCUS AREAS

- Reading and Writing in Social Studies
- Instructional Strategies
- Social Studies Content
- Standards and Assessment

**Proposal Form Due  
June 20, 2008**

- All presentations are 50 minutes in length.
- Title of proposed session (10 words or less please):

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- Person submitting proposal: \_\_\_\_\_
- Organization or county: \_\_\_\_\_

Address

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City State Zip

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Phone (h) Phone (w)

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Email Fax

- Are you exhibiting at the conference?  Yes  No

- **Proposal Abstract** – In the space below, type or legibly print a description of your presentation as you wish it to appear in the printed program. You must describe both the content and the format, and identify the audience. Limit your description to 50 words or less; abstracts may be edited for content and length. You may attach as a separate document.

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# CONFERENCE PROPOSAL FORM

2 of 3

- Indicate audience to be served:  
 Early Childhood/Primary       Intermediate       Elementary       Middle       High  
 Other (K-12, university, supervisors)       All
- Focus Area:  
 Social Studies       Global Studies       World History       U.S. History  
 Geography       Economics       Psychology       Civics/Govt.  
 Law-Related Education       Sociology       Interdisciplinary       Current Events
- **Proposal Description** – Please be as specific as possible in describing the proposed presentation. Pay special attention to the usefulness and importance of the content as it relates to the audience. Use only the space below:

A. How does your presentation relate to the Conference Focus Area that you have selected?

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B. Goals/Objectives:

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C. Content/Skills Developed:

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D. Presentation Strategies to be used:

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E. Materials/Resources to be distributed:

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# CONFERENCE PROPOSAL FORM

3 of 3

If you also intend to be a presenter in the session, repeat your name below and add the names of any co-presenters. Attach additional names if necessary.

- Presenter \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization or County \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_
- Presenter \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization or County \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_
- **Conference Registration** – All presenters must register and pay for the conference. Notification of acceptance will be emailed in July.
- **Audiovisual Equipment** – Overhead projectors and screens will be provided. You are responsible for bringing your own additional audiovisual equipment.
- **Special Technology Needs:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For the purpose of avoiding any misunderstanding, please read the following statement of intent and sign in the space provided:

*I have completed the application to present at Maryland Council for the Social Studies Fall Conference 2008, and I have submitted a proposal description. I certify that the named participants have agreed to take part in this conference. I understand that it is my responsibility to notify each of the presenters regarding the status of the proposal and the date, time, and location of the presentation, should it be accepted. I understand and agree to provide my own audiovisual equipment beyond an overhead projector, and at least **50 copies** of any handouts to be distributed. I understand that I must work with the computer support technician at G. James Gholson Middle School to prepare for a technology session.*

Signature of person submitting proposal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Please mail three (3) copies of this Proposal Application to the person listed below. Proposals must be postmarked on or before **June 20, 2008** to be considered for the program. All three pages of the Proposal Application form must be fully completed and signed before the form will be considered. Send proposal applications to:

**Amy Rosenkrans**  
**Maryland Council on Economic Education**  
**Towson University, Stephens Hall 112**  
**8000 York Road**  
**Towson, MD 21252**



**SAVE THE DATES!** **HOUSTON CONFERENCE**

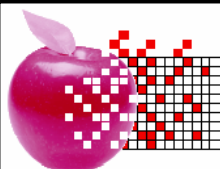
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EMBRACE THE FUTURE 08

National Council for the Social Studies

**EMBRACE THE FUTURE**



**Maryland Council on Economic Education**

**Congratulations to our 2008 Poster Contest Winners**

The 2008 Poster Winners have been chosen. Below are the schools and teachers of this year's winners. The winner's names will be posted on our website, [www.econed.org](http://www.econed.org), in a few weeks. Thank everyone who participated in this year's contest. Copies of the calendars featuring the winning artwork will be available in September.

Tiffany Delk  
 Linda Caron  
 Bill Kenney  
 Leah Halley  
 Valerie Lomax  
 Judith Lee  
 Debbie Ridenour  
 Carolyn vanRoden  
 Mary Yerkie  
 Casey Hanback  
 Stephanie Sheron  
 Jena Thomas  
 David Dewan  
 Deborah Clemens  
 Lisa Hunter  
 Lorna Burdick

Dr. Carter G. Woodson Middle  
 Middletown Middle  
 Patapsco Middle  
 Seven Oaks Elementary  
 North Dorchester Middle  
 Magothy River Middle  
 Middleborough Elementary  
 Southampton Middle  
 Millington Elementary  
 Dowell Elementary  
 Lakelands Park Middle  
 Easton Middle  
 Oklahoma Road Middle  
 St. Michaels Elementary  
 Perryville Middle  
 Conococheague Elementary

Baltimore City  
 Frederick County  
 Howard County  
 Anne Arundel County  
 Dorchester County  
 Anne Arundel County  
 Baltimore County  
 Harford County  
 Kent County  
 Calvert County  
 Montgomery County  
 Talbot County  
 Carroll County  
 Talbot County  
 Cecil County  
 Washington County



Welcome to Election Year 2008! As part of the Pearson Social Studies products, a **free Online Election Kit** is now available. This online resource contains four color posters that you can download and a Teacher's Guide full of ideas and resource sheets. With the Online Election Kit, you can help your students follow the 2008 primary and general elections.

**May the best candidate win!**

[www.pearschool.com/electionkit](http://www.pearschool.com/electionkit)

## Summer Reading with an Historical Flair

***Spend the summer with a little known conspirator in one of the nation's most famous murders***

In *The Assassin's Accomplice*, historian Kate Clifford Larson tells the gripping story of Mary Surratt, a little-known participant in the plot to kill Abraham Lincoln, and the first woman ever to be executed by the federal government of the United States. Surratt, a Confederate sympathizer, ran the boarding house in Washington where the conspirators-including her rebel son, John Surratt-met to plan the assassination. When a military tribunal convicted her for her crimes and sentenced her to death, five of the nine commissioners petitioned President Andrew Johnson to show mercy on Surratt because of her sex and age. Unmoved, Johnson refused-Surratt, he said, "kept the nest that hatched the egg." Set against the backdrop of the Civil War, *The Assassin's Accomplice* tells the intricate story of the Lincoln conspiracy through the eyes of its only female participant. Based on long-lost interviews, confessions, and court testimony, the text explores how Mary's actions defied nineteenth-century norms of femininity, piety, and motherhood, leaving her vulnerable to deadly punishment historically reserved for men. A riveting narrative account of sex, espionage, and murder cloaked in the enchantments of Southern womanhood, *The Assassin's Accomplice* offers a fresh perspective on America's most famous murder. Ms. Larson will be speaking about the research that went into this book during the MDCSS Annual Fall Conference on October 17<sup>th</sup>.



### **Do you have your MDCSS Gear?**

The MDCSS logo is available at Land's End. Follow the directions below to order products with the MDCSS logo.



1. Go to Land's End Business Outfitters at <http://ocs.landsend.com/corpsales>.
2. Click on "Register" button. Provide registration information and create YOUR OWN username and password.
3. Input MDCSS logo # 0682081W and customer #4165112.
4. Log in with username and password. Order your product!!!

## **MDCSS Chronicle**

The Maryland Council for the Social Studies publishes the MDCSS CHRONICLE each year in the spring and fall.

Members who would like to have items published in the fall issue of the MDCSS *Chronicle* should submit them to:

**Tina Nelson**  
tnelson@bcps.org  
by September 1, 2008

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