



JAMES MADISON
MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP
FOUNDATION

James Madison Jr.

Madison Memo For all those teaching the Constitution in America's classrooms

Issue: # 2

September, 2011

In This Issue
[From the President](#)
[Focus on the Fellows](#)
[Constitution Corner](#)
[Teaching Tips](#)
[Opportunities](#)



Constitution Day Resources

[National Constitution Center](#)

[The Bill of Rights Institute](#)

[National Archives](#)

[Edsitement](#)

From the President, Lewis Larsen

Every new school year is filled with promise and possibility. For Madison Fellows, Fall presents renewed opportunities to help your students better understand and appreciate our constitutional legacy. I know that all of you make a special effort to celebrate Constitution Day on September 17. Please check out the recommended Constitution Day resources (to the left) for great ideas and materials for your classroom commemoration.



Support the Education Fund

Click [here](#) to support your fellow Fellows.

I hope you will consider an [invitation](#) from Ken DeMasi, '98 (AZ) to either present at the Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies, or to submit a lesson plan for distribution. Madison Fellows are constitutional and pedagogical experts, and sharing with colleagues at gatherings such as NCSS is a wonderful way for you to deepen your professional connections. I hope to see many of you there.

The Foundation is updating its database in preparation for the publication of the Fellows' Directory, as well as for the next edition of the *Madison Notes*. For the first time, we are handling this update electronically. Please go to the [website](#)>Fellows Only section>Fellowship Forms>Madison Fellows Contact Information Update. We would appreciate your completion of this form by October 15, even if none of the information has changed since last year. (If you do not remember the password for accessing the Fellows Only section, please email Anne Marie at akanakkanatt@jamesmadison.com)

The Foundation is considering a variety of initiatives to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first fellowship competition in 1992. As always, I welcome your ideas, and encourage you to share this *Madison Memo* with your friends and colleagues.



Share With
Your Friends

Focus on the Fellows

Christy Marella, '03 (NJ)



Since becoming the New Jersey Fellow for 2003, I have come to realize that the James Madison Foundation does more than just award money to teachers-- it gives the true gift of scholarship. There are not enough words in the dictionary to explain this gift-but I'll try.

My school is organized into learning communities, and although my students think of this structure as simply a housing system, I see it as a way for students to step pass the confines of the four classroom walls and take learning to a new level. When I started pursuing my Masters in American History, my students benefited as well.

My students were the true James Madison Fellows because *they* were the ones who directly benefited from my historical metamorphosis. They were the ones who began to see history not as a path to a destination but as an endlessly fascinating journey. They are no longer just students of history but, rather, young historians. They have become a true community of learners-enlightened statesmen inheriting our legacy.

The James Madison Fellowship set me on the adventure of a lifetime. After graduating from Villanova University, I started a National History Day team at my school, began serving as an adjunct at the local college, and started providing in-service opportunities for teachers in our district. Although my walls are now adorned with many medals and plaques from the journey I began once I received the fellowship, there is one memento I am most proud of--my James Madison pin. It is a constant reminder of how the Foundation gave my students and me the gift of scholarship and helped me create a true family of learners.

Let us hear what you have been up to since receiving your Fellowship. Submit a brief article (150-200 words) along with a high-resolution photo to cgriffin@jamesmadison.com for possible inclusion in future newsletters.

Constitution Corner



Dr. Eric Chaput, '03 (RI)

Since its publication in 1971, Ralph Ketcham's magisterial work on the life of James Madison has served as the definitive biography of the Father of the Constitution. Ketcham's most recent work is an engaging study of James and Dolley Madison's final days at their plantation in Virginia. *The Madisons at Montpelier: Reflections on the Founding Couple* (University of Virginia Press, 2009) covers the period from the end of Madison's second term in the White House to Dolley Madison's death (1817-1849). Ketcham details daily life at Montpelier by examining long-neglected chronicles and sketches by visitors. Particular attention is paid to the loving relationship between James and Dolley, as well as Dolley's tragic loss of Montpelier in 1844.

Ketcham is at his best when discussing the intractable problem of chattel slavery. Madison supported the American Colonization Society, an organization dedicated to transporting freed slaves to Africa. He eventually became president of the society, leaving \$2000 to the organization upon his death. However, his financial plight, exacerbated by the spendthrift ways of his stepson, prevented him from freeing his own slaves. He held 38 slaves when he died in 1836.

Fellows will enjoy Ketcham's deft handling of Madison's constitutional ideology, especially his reaction to the use of his 1798 Virginia Resolutions and his Report of 1800 by supporters of the doctrine of nullification. Avoiding the pitfalls of adulation and denunciation, Ketcham has given us a subtly nuanced James and Dolley Madison. *The Madisons at Montpelier* is indispensable for all James Madison Fellows.

Teaching Tips

Adam Krauss, '10 (NH)

In his [Farewell Address](#), Washington warned against the "baneful effects of the Spirit of Party," but some say we're still ignoring the message. Have your class read the Address and then, in groups, have them identify and report what Washington thought were the causes of these "baneful effects" as well as the best ways to guard against them. Survey the class for consensus.



Discuss the current political climate in light of Washington's advice. A stimulus for discussion is [Political dysfunction, factionalization threaten our republic](#), written by John Farmer, Dean of the School of Law at Rutgers-Newark.

Working in groups, students should then discuss these questions: Is compromise disappearing from contemporary public life? Does Washington offer any guidelines for bringing it back? Is Washington's advice practical? Should we follow it? Groups could post their written responses around the classroom and then all can circulate and comment on the responses.

Do you have a favorite pedagogical approach for teaching about the Constitution? Submit a brief article (150-200 words) to cgriffin@jamesmadison.com for possible inclusion in future newsletters.

Opportunities



Ken DeMasi, '98 (AZ) invites Fellows to co-present with him at the Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies, held December 4-6, 2010 in Washington, DC. He also would like you to submit lesson plans (which he will compile and distribute at the Conference.) Click here for Ken's [invitation](#) and here for additional [information](#).



[Ashland University \(OH\)](#)

offers a variety of professional development opportunities for teachers throughout the year and during the

summer.



The [Bill of Rights Institute](#) offers seminars, webinars, and summer programs.

Let us know about professional opportunities that would be of interest to Fellows. We plan to include 3-4 timely notifications in each edition of the newsletter. Information can be sent to cgriffin@jamesmadison.com

From the Foundation

Payments: While closing out our fiscal year Sept. 15-30, no payment request forms will be processed. Any completed payment requests received by September 12 will be processed promptly; others will be processed beginning on Oct. 3.



Applications: Each year, Madison Fellows consistently identify, mentor, and recommend outstanding applicants for the Fellowship. Do you know someone who would be a good candidate? Send them to the [website](#) to get started, and then consider how you might guide them through the application process.

Update: Please update your contact information no later than October 15 by going to the [website](#)>Fellows Only section>Fellowship Forms>Madison Fellows Contact Information Update. (If you do not remember the password for accessing the Fellows Only section, please email Anne Marie at akanakkanatt@jamesmadison.com)

© 2011 by James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. All rights reserved



Try it FREE today.