No. 23
Winter 2014

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

MADISON NOTES

From the President

The appointment of Dr. Jeffry Morrison as Director of Academics is the most significant news of 2013. His academic credentials coupled with his many years of work with the Foundation ensure that current and future Fellows will be intellectually challenged, academically supported, and professionally enriched as they pursue their degrees.

We are pleased to announce that the 2014 Summer Institute will again be directed by Dr. Morrison. Joining him are Dr. Daniel Dreisbach, Dr. Marion Nelson, and Dr. Kevin Hardwick, a professor at James Madison University and a former member of the Summer Institute faculty from 2002 to 2008.

New outreach initiatives in 2013 included our E Pluribus Unum (state council) program as well as our Madison Ambassadors program. Whether or not you participate in these programs, please remember that each individual Fellow is an “ambassador” for the Foundation and can play a significant role in recruiting and mentoring Fellows.

It seems as if each issue of the Madison Notes is longer than the previous one, but that is because so many Fellows are making so many significant contributions to the field of civic education. Whether you are earning national recognition for a career of excellence, or are working with students in your very first class, you continue to define and exemplify what it means to be a “Teacher-Scholar of the Constitution.”

Lewis F. Larsen
President

New Director of Academics

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation is extremely pleased to name Dr. Jeffry Morrison, Associate Professor of Government at Regent University, as the Foundation’s third Director of Academics. Succeeding Dr. James Banner (1991-1995) and Dr. Herman Belz (1995-2013), Professor Morrison brings to the Foundation a wealth of scholarly work, extensive teaching experience, and a deep understanding of the mission and activities of the Foundation.

Dr. Morrison, who graduated with distinction from Boston College and received his Ph.D. at Georgetown, has taught at Regent University since 2001, where in 2007 he received the Chancellor’s Award as the University Professor of the Year. He has also held teaching positions at Georgetown, Princeton, and the US Air Force Academy. He is co-editor of The Founders on God and Government (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004), John Witherspoon and the Founding of the American Republic (University of Notre Dame Press, 2005), and The Political Philosophy of George Washington (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009). He has also written numerous journal articles about American political thought.

Dr. Morrison has been a member of the Foundation’s Summer Institute faculty for more than a decade. “Having taught for the Foundation since 2002, I am very gratified to be the incoming Director of Academics. I deeply believe in the mission of the Foundation, and this is a great opportunity to further its work with the best teachers in the country. Dr. Belz is of course irreplaceable, but he has left a rich legacy of leadership of nearly twenty years to build on. And I am especially glad to be working with Lew Larsen and our fine staff.”

Fellows’ observations about Dr. Morrison’s work at the Summer Institute echo the Foundation’s confidence in our new Director of Academics:

- His lectures are great! He is very good at delivering content and posing engaging questions.
- His extensive feedback on our papers is very helpful. He is always approachable and his lectures are informative!
- Dr. Morrison really makes an effort to know the Fellows during the Summer Institute. Many of us notice and appreciate this.
- Dr. Morrison’s lectures are extremely valuable. The connections he makes between religion, rebellion, and the Constitution are just fabulous.
- Dr. Morrison is fantastic. I thoroughly enjoy his discussion section.
- Dr. Morrison is one of the best professors I’ve encountered. He maintains a great balance between infinite wisdom and approachable “regular guy.” I thoroughly enjoy his teaching style and personal touches.
- I really appreciate the pre-planning that Dr. Morrison puts into his lessons and his discussion group questions. His dedication and respect for the Fellows encourages me to put forth extra effort to be well-prepared.

Madison Fellows had many connections with Dr. Maier. In July 2011 she was the speaker at the Foundation’s annual symposium. Her address was based on her outstanding work, *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788*. Later that year, Dr. Maier was appointed by President Obama to serve on the Board of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. In Spring 2013, Dr. Maier accepted an invitation from Christine Chu, ’10 (MA) to speak to the US History students at Framingham High School in Wellesley, MA about her current research on the history of the Bill of Rights. “Over 200 students attended the event and enjoyed her thought-provoking lecture.”

Dr. Maier’s legacy resides in her family, in her research, and in the impact she had on countless students (as reflected in these comments from Madison Fellows):

- Dr. Maier was obviously enthused about her topic to the point that she spoke with me for over five minutes about some topics I’d been considering for over a decade. Talking with so esteemed a historian helps to make me a better scholar and teacher.
- I enjoyed meeting Dr. Maier. She really is a historical “heavy weight” and I greatly admire her scholarship.
- I love Pauline Maier. Truly one of the highlights!
- Pauline Maier was awesome and engaging. What a great day!
- Professor Maier’s lecture was engaging and had a direct connection to the course topic.
- Her talk was really interesting and educational.
- Hearing from Dr. Maier was extremely beneficial for the Fellows.
- Her presentation was excellent!

The Madison Ambassadors initiative promotes the idea of active recruitment by Madison Fellows in university classrooms and department offices. Recruitment began in late September 2013 and within a few days, 27 Fellows in 17 states volunteered as Ambassadors. Madison Ambassadors will:

- Visit at least one local university or college to promote the James Madison Fellowship.
- Visit various offices of at least one local university or college to distribute fellowship material.
- Ask university staff to post information about the fellowship on departmental websites.

The Foundation anticipates that these Ambassadors will play a significant role in increasing the number of applications for Junior fellowships.

The purpose of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation State Councils program is to assist the Foundation in achieving its mission of strengthening teaching of the Constitution. Recruitment began in March 2013 and by the end of September, 43 Fellows in 27 states volunteered to coordinate activities in their states. These activities will include the following:

- Communicating regularly with Fellows in their state
- Recruiting applicants for Senior and Junior fellowships
- Mentoring active Fellows
- Providing professional development for other teachers
- Meeting Fellows face-to-face

Some state councils have already met and many more expect to become active in the months to come.
Cheryl Cook-Kallio, ’97 (CA), Susan Piekarski, ’08 (CA), and their We the People students from Irvington High School in Fremont, CA visit the Foundation offices and discuss Madison’s views about the role of the federal government. Said Cheryl, “Thanks so much for all that you did today. Our kids really enjoyed the experience. These students love to learn. Lew, you made these kids think teaching is something special. In a room full of kids who are pressured to be scientists and engineers, a number of them left saying ‘I really would like to be a Madison Fellow.’”

Our House Is Your House

The Foundation welcomes all Fellows, their families, and their students to the Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr. Conference Room at our offices in Alexandria, VA. The Dickinson Foundation provided a generous gift to decorate the room with period furniture, historical artifacts, and appropriate window treatments. The area can be configured to comfortably seat 30 people, and the latest electronic technology makes the space flexible, versatile, and conducive to constitutional conversations. Several individual Fellows—Stacy Moses, ’92 (NM), Brian Gunn, ’93 (WI), Rique Ochoa, ’00 (UT), Mike Wilmoth, ’08 (KS), and Kristi Barbee, ’09 (TX)—have stopped by in the past year to say “Hi.” The welcome mat is out for everyone.

Christy Marella-Davis, ’03 (NJ) and her students stop by the Foundation offices while in town for the annual National History Day competition in College Park, MD. “My students placed 13th in the nation with their documentary, From Tyranny to Triumph: Turning the Tides at Saratoga.”
Fellows from around the nation gathered at Georgetown University in July 2013 for the twenty-first annual Summer Institute. Dynamic lectures and energetic discussions about the Constitution were supplemented by excursions to historical sites; meetings with federal officials, including Associate Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor; and a new community service project (cleaning up the gardens at Arlington National Cemetery.) As one Fellow noted: More than sitting in a classroom, more than learning under great professors, more than learning from colleagues, more than meeting new friends, more than new content learned and more than new places seen, I gained a new sense of spirit in teaching and in America. The Summer Institute was, in so many ways, a renewal of my passions for teaching and for the Constitution.

Reading primary sources from the Colonial period gave me a much, much greater understanding of our nation’s Founding.
--Jason Hunt, '11 (OH)

Where else but at the Summer Institute would I get the chance to discuss modern applications of the arguments of the Federalists and Antifederalists while watching 4th of July fireworks from a rooftop balcony? I loved being surrounded for a month by passionate, talented, enthusiastic educators, eager to continue learning and pass that excitement along to the next generation. --Trish Everett, '12 (FL)
Was it like professional development?
- No, it was much more personal than that.
Was it like going to work?
- No, it was much more fun than that.
Was it like vacation?
- No, it was much more work than that.
Were they like colleagues?
- No, they were much more like friends.
What was it like, then?
- Like nothing I’d ever done before.
--Jason Butler, '12 (GA)

The excursions to historical sites enable you to bring that practical experience and knowledge back to your own classroom. --Nathan Walters, '12 (AK)

This was an unforgettable opportunity to study with the best professors and teachers from across the US, to be immersed in a historic university, and to see and do so many things in the Washington, DC area.
--Tony Brey, '12 (MI)

The Summer Institute was the crown jewel in my graduate experience. I appreciated the opportunity to get away from every day distractions and to focus intensely on my constitutional education. --Sharon Wilson, '11 (TX)
Honor Flight to Honor Veterans

Shawn Hornung, ’11 (KS)

One final mission for several World War II and Korean War veterans from Wamego, Kansas began very early on Tuesday, May 21, 2013. After flying to Washington, DC, the veterans participated in a ceremony at the WWII Memorial and toured the Korean War Memorial. A visit to Arlington National Cemetery followed the next morning. The mission was completed later that evening when the former soldiers, airmen, corpsmen, and sailors flew back home and were welcomed with flag-lined streets, patriotic music from the Community Band, and a heartfelt emotional outpouring by family, friends, and citizens alike.

This was the inaugural flight of Kansas Honor Flight – Wamego High School. The Honor Flight Network is a national organization whose mission is to take veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam to see their memorials. Veterans do not pay for this opportunity; they paid their price long ago. Kansas Honor Flight – Wamego High School became a nationally-recognized hub in November 2012. It is an intergenerational program providing life-changing opportunities for the students and the veterans.

Accompanied by two sponsors, nine students from Wamego paired with nine veterans. It was a very emotional journey for all involved. For many of the veterans, it was the first time they were treated like the heroes they are. From the standing ovations given at both airports as we disembarked, to the line of sailors from the U.S. Naval Academy who were on hand to salute the veterans at the Memorial sites, to the people who asked to have their pictures taken with a “real hero” – the mission truly was a success from beginning to end.

Wamego students provided assistance and humble service as each got to know her veteran. The admiration and friendship developed will no doubt be a memory to have and cherish. A volunteer who greeted the Honor Flight at Thurgood Marshall-BWI Airport commented, “The students took their responsibilities seriously and respectfully. The affection going both ways was obvious.” As one student said, “I am truly blessed to have been able to be a part of this life-changing experience, and to have made a connection with one of our nation’s heroes. Though the trip is over, my friendship with [WWII Veteran] Mr. Horton is just beginning.”

Our goal is to make an annual flight every spring. We look forward to once again providing the opportunity for America’s next generation to connect with her “Greatest Generation.”

A pod of dolphins, a mob of emus, a murder of crows...but what do you call a collective gathering of Madison Fellows? AP US History exam readers, of course. Joining their colleagues from around the nation, the Fellows pictured here (as well as a few who missed the photo shoot) spent several days in July scoring exams. Another smaller group of Fellows also read for the AP Government exams. Our thanks to Deborah Pettingill, ’09 (FL) for sending the photo.

2014 James Madison Symposium
Thursday, July 3, 2014
Copley Formal Lounge
Georgetown University
2:00 pm

R. (Richard) B. Bernstein
Distinguished Adjunct Professor
New York Law School
speaks about

The Founding Fathers Reconsidered

Fellows, friends, and family are invited to join Summer Institute participants at this annual event. Please mark your calendar now.
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**Madison Fellows Coach Winners at We the People National Competition**

As our nation concluded its 1987 celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Constitution, the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution played a role in creating two institutions which have since had a profound impact on secondary school teachers and their students: the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation and the *We the People* (WTP) program of the Center for Civic Education. For nearly 30 years and in almost all 50 states, Madison Fellows have shared their constitutional expertise with students participating in the WTP program, helping them to better understand and better articulate the connections between the citizen and the Constitution.

WTP teams coached by Madison Fellows excelled at the 2013 National Finals, held in April at the US Capitol:

- Fourth Place: Vestavia High School coached by Amy Maddox, ’97 (AL)
- Fifth Place: Cathedral High School coached by Jill Baisinger, ’11 (IN)
- Tenth Place: Plainfield High School coached by Chris Cavanaugh, ’94 (IN)
- Winner of Unit Six Award: Howell High School coached by Mark Oglesby, ’02 (MI)
- Other Fellows whose outstanding teams represented their state at the 2013 National competition were Dave Alcox, ’00 (NH), Kevin Rippe, ’04 (NE), Natalie O’Brien, ’05 (RI), Holly Kartchner, ’07 (ID), and Heather Loeschke, ’10 (MN). Fellows who judged at the 2013 WTP National Finals included Claire Griffin, ’92 (HI), Tom Vontz, ’92 (WI), Shawn Healy, ’01 (WI), and Tim Moore, ’99 (WI).

Fellows whose teams have done well at state or national competitions in recent years include Cheryl Cook-Kallio, ’97 (CA), Kevin Fox, ’06 (CA), Michael Gordon, ’08 (IN), Milton Hyams, ’04 (NV), Susan Piekarski, ’08 (CA), Jennifer Reidel, ’02 (WA), and Craig Uplinger, ’04 (NJ).

**2013 James Madison Symposium**

On July 8th at Georgetown University, the word of the day was *couverte*. Madison Fellows, Board Members, staff, and guests learned about the significance of this 18th century concept during a lively presentation by Professor Catherine Allgor, Foundation Board member and speaker for the 2013 James Madison Symposium. Her talk, *Ghosts in the Machinery: Women and the Constitution*, addressed the willingness of the Founders to minimize or ignore the role of women in the new republic. Professor Allgor asserted that, by failing to address gender-related issues at the Founding, the Framers left multiple conflicts and controversies for succeeding generations to address or resolve.

Dr. Allgor is currently the Nadine and Robert A. Skotheim Director of Education for the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in Pasadena, CA. She previously worked at the University of California at Riverside where she taught courses on early America, politics, and the history of women’s lives. Dr. Allgor received a prestigious appointment as a Presidential Chair for the University of California and is the author of several award winning books: *A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation* and *The Queen of America: Mary Cust’s Life of Dolley Madison*.

Professor Allgor’s first book about Dolley Madison was made into an *American Experience* film, so it seems only fitting that her Symposium lecture should also have a media component. For the first time in its eighteen year history, the Symposium speech was made available to the general public via the Foundation’s YouTube channel: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVk2FwK1rk8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVk2FwK1rk8).

All in attendance received her presentation enthusiastically:

- Catherine Allgor’s talk was my favorite part of the institute. By incorporating the voice of women she put Constitutional study into its full perspective.
- The information provided to us by Dr. Allgor is extremely relevant to me as a history teacher. The standard narrative of the Constitution and the Founding is, well, standard. It requires additional work to investigate other perspectives; to discover that there is more than one story; and they are all important.
The Foundation extends its gratitude to the Fellows who wrote letters of recommendations for applicants during the 2013 competition. We expect to have received many more such letters in the 2014 competition.

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<td>David Alcox, ’00 (NH)</td>
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<td>William Boegeman, ’11 (MN)</td>
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<td>Jason Bryant, ’99 (NJ)</td>
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<td>Delbert Carrillo, ’97 (NM)</td>
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<td>Michael Ellery, ’10 (WI)</td>
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<td>Aaron Hinton, ’04 (WY)</td>
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<td>Michelle Holowicki, ’10 (MI)</td>
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<td>Patience LeBlanc, ’10 (TX)</td>
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<td>Heather Loeschke, ’10 (MN)</td>
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<td>Kimberly McKinley, ’11 (OK)</td>
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<td>Benjamin Knight, ’09 (IA)</td>
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<td>Stacy Moses, ’92 (NM)</td>
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<td>Suzanne Moss, ’07 (KY)</td>
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<td>Tom O’Hare, ’00 (SC)</td>
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<td>Rose Paluch, ’11 (VA)</td>
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<td>Pat Ramsey, ’95 (AR)</td>
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<td>Jennifer Reiter, ’07 (OK)</td>
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<td>Gracieta Small, ’09 (MA)</td>
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<td>Thomas Vontz, ’92 (NE)</td>
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<td>Jeremy Yenger, ’07 (IA)</td>
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<td>Anne Kelsey-Zibert, ’07 (SC)</td>
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<th>Finalists</th>
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<td>Joseph Biron, ’10 (CA)</td>
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<td>Erich Carroll, ’00 (MA)</td>
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<td>Brandi Cook, ’10 (SC)</td>
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<td>Tom Glaser, ’01 (FL)</td>
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<td>Charles Kannapel, ’01 (IA)</td>
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<td>Rick Reed, ’99 (KS)</td>
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<td>Paul Schneider, ’00 (WA)</td>
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<td>Regina Stuck, ’04 (FL)</td>
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<td>Eric Wall, ’10 (UT)</td>
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<td>Jennifer Wallace, ’02 (MN)</td>
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<td>Gennie Westbrook, ’00 (TX)</td>
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<td>Kymberli Wregglesworth, ’11 (MI)</td>
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<th>Honorable Mentions</th>
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<td>Roger Desrosiers, ’01 (MA)</td>
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<td>Gary Shearer, ’98 (CT)</td>
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<td>Brian Stevens, ’98 (MI)</td>
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Two Madison Fellows joined President Barack Obama at the Rose Garden ceremony recognizing State Teachers of the Year for 2013: Nancie Lindblom, ’11 (AZ) teaches AP US History at Skyline High School in Mesa, AZ and Eileen Sheehy, ’92 (MT) teaches at Billings West High School in Billings, MT. As President Obama noted, “Teachers [such as Nancie and Eileen] are teaching things like character and compassion and resilience and imagination. They’re filling young minds with virtues and values, and teaching our kids how to cooperate and overcome obstacles.”

Both Nancie and Eileen have received previous recognition for their teaching excellence, and both are very active in professional organizations: Nancie works with the Arizona Council for the Social Studies and the Arizona Council for History Education, while Eileen spent many years as a Board Member of the National Council for the Social Studies. Each of them personifies the highest ideals of James Madison Fellows. Says Nancie, “Practicing excellence in my classroom every day is an example to my students.” Eileen notes, “I want every student to feel competent and confident in participating in his or her government.”

See Nancie in action at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDdNNXkGzik and hear Eileen’s reflections on her teaching career at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEsOKWhZGtw.
Congressional Fellow Observes *E Pluribus Unum* in Action

Kimberly Huffman, '08 (OH)

The motto *E pluribus Unum* has a simple yet paradoxical meaning: out of many, we are one. What an applicable motto for James Madison Fellows! We come from many different backgrounds yet we all share a common reverence for the Constitution. I returned this summer to Georgetown, but while my new friends were immersing themselves in the Founding, I went to work at the United States Capitol in the office of my congressman, Representative Jim Renacci (R-OH.)

Upon my arrival in his DC office, Congressman Renacci personally welcomed me and offered his assistance for anything I might need. He and his staff afforded me autonomy and independence to explore whatever I would find most beneficial. I attended as many hearings, briefings and panel discussions as my schedule would allow.

I witnessed government in action while attending the mark-up for the Elementary and Secondary Reauthorization Act; sitting in on several House Ways and Means committee hearings about the Affordable Health Care Act; and watching the floor debate in the House on the FARM bill. I met with the House Chaplain for an interview, attended a party conference, took notes at legislative briefings on *Greece v. Galloway*, and researched the impact of a 1929 Maritime law affecting fisherman on Lake Erie.

From citizens, members of Congress learn the desires of their constituents; from their staff they learn the historical facts and data; from their party’s leader they receive encouragement to vote together while, from across the aisle, they receive pressure to be nonpartisan; from the President they are challenged to work cooperatively; and from the courts they receive scrutiny to ensure they act constitutionally. Single individuals represent 435 districts from across the country, but *E Pluribus Unum* prevails. We the people: that is where it begins and ends.

The job of Congress is certainly more comprehensive than any textbook can share, and the biggest lesson to take back to my students is that out of a Representative’s one vote come many opinions, concerns, and focuses. I intend to share my experiences and give my students confidence in their own political efficacy. They really do listen and they really do care.

Fellow’s Students Realize Their Dream

Erik Johnson, ‘11 (CT)

In May, students from Bridgeport, CT participated in the Annual Connecticut Bar Association Law Day Ceremony. After sending in audition tapes, five eighth graders were chosen to represent Park City Magnet School at this year’s event, *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*. After much practice, they joined fellow students from throughout Connecticut to read important excerpts from the *Declaration of Independence*, the 14th and 19th Amendments, the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legendary *I Have a Dream* speech. Each student received a special State Citation from Secretary of State Denise Merrill on behalf of Governor Daniel Malloy. Judge Alexandra DiPentima of the Appellate Court remarked that the “words from our Founding documents paired with the power from our next generation was the best way to celebrate.” Students concurred. “I knew that equality was important, but it’s cool to see all these people who are here to celebrate,” said one eighth grader. Her classmate added, “I think I want to be a lawyer.”
A Twenty Year Partnership

Since 1993, the Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr. Foundation has partnered with the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation to annually support an additional fellowship for an outstanding New Jersey teacher. In 2001, the Foundation began its sponsorship of the attendance of at least one Cuban (or Cuban-American) citizen at the Summer Institute. Finally, in 2012, the Foundation made a generous gift to help complete and decorate the Madison Foundation’s new conference room.

The Summer Institute had a significant impact on my personal and professional lives. In Cuba, I help a vast array of democratic activists to advocate for greater respect for universally recognized human rights standards and a peaceful democratic transition.

—Aimel Rios Wong, 2008 Cuban Fellow

The Summer Institute is profound, engaging, and eye-opening. For a Latin American and especially a Cuban, the month in Washington is a powerful experience in favor of much-welcomed improved relationships between our nations. There is nothing more important than understanding our history and where we come from so we can engage in constructive dialogue towards where we are going.

—Carlos Fernández-Abállí, 2013 Cuban Fellow

The Summer Institute on the Constitution was a turning point in my career. It opened up new windows from where to observe and reinterpret history and political phenomena. Consequently, I moved to an academic field where exploration and critical analysis of social/cultural and political phenomena focus on questions of power and representation.

—Marelys Valencia, 2008 Cuban Fellow

Receiving the Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. Foundation’s funding in 1999 gave me the financial support to pursue and gain in-depth content knowledge and grow professionally. The Fellowship has been the single most important professional development opportunity of my career and continues to shape my teaching and benefit the students and educational community that I serve.

—Jason Bryant, ’99 (NJ)

I had a basic understanding about the Founders, but I wanted to know more about them and to be like them. Understanding the history of the US will help me to make things better in my country.

—Yociel Marrero, 2012 Cuban Fellow

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The Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr. fellowship provided me with numerous opportunities to enrich the classroom experience for my students. I have received subsequent fellowships to develop primary source lessons for elementary and secondary school students, as well as an interactive website for students and educators.

--David Reader, ’07 (NJ)

The Summer Institute validated for me the principles of the American constitution and allowed me to see how I can shape the future of Cuba. The Summer Institute provided invaluable lessons that I will continue to use throughout the remainder of my life.

--Yanet García, 2009 Cuban Fellow

I really appreciated the opportunity to learn about the history and the Constitution of the United States. Studying at Georgetown and living in Washington, DC was a great exposure to the history and democracy of the United States.

--Ricardo Pelegrin, 2007 Cuban Fellow

The Fellowship has offered me the opportunity to go back to school where I have been challenged to think critically about the Constitution. This opportunity has been a benchmark in my life, and is “the gift that keeps on giving” as all my future students will be the beneficiaries of what I am learning.

--Leah Jerome, ’13 (NJ)

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--Leah Jerome, ’13 (NJ)

The James Madison Fellowship supported by the Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr. Foundation allowed me to earn my masters at Dartmouth. I studied with some of the most inspiring faculty in the country there and at the Summer Institute in Georgetown. My students benefited from what I’ve learned, and I am deeply grateful for having had this opportunity.

--Ron Schildge, ’05 (NJ)

Fairleigh Dickinson Fellows 1993-2013

Douglass Partee, ’93
Robert Glover, ’94
Carol Porter, ’95
Erica Carrasquillo, ’96
Peter Daly, ’97
Jason Bryant, ’99
Richard Ginn, ’00
John Baxter, ’01
Meghan Mikulski, ’02
Sarah Figlewski, ’03
Felice Pagnotta, ’04
Ronald Schildge, ’05
Gary Klotzkin, ’06
David Reader, ’07
Marc Lifland, ’08
Craig Uplinger, ’09
Stuart Wexler, ’10
Jerry Chambers, ’11
Andrew Vernon, ’12
Leah N. Jerome, ’13
Fellow Brings Change to Ghana
Jennifer Gembala, ’10 (CT)

I am the advisor for Canton High School’s “Be the Change” club. In July 2012, I organized a service trip to Ghana with a group of Canton High School students through an organization called Projects Abroad. We spent two weeks working in an elementary school, where we sanded and painted the walls (inside and out). We also sang songs, played games and taught lessons to four and five year olds in a day care center. It was an incredible experience, one which I will repeat in the summer of 2014, when I take 12 students from Canton High School to Kathmandu, Nepal for another care and community trip.

Fellow Honors His Students
Drew Wendt, ’10 (WV)

Science, math, English, and other departments can boast of having honor societies for their disciplines, but history has long gone without a national organization framework to honor our scholars— but no longer! The National Council for Social Studies established the first national social studies honors society, Rho Kappa, in 2011 to stimulate a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of all the academic disciplines comprising the social studies curriculum. Since then, over 180 chapters have sprung up around the nation. In 2012, the first chapter in West Virginia, the Nitronian Chapter, organized itself and was formally chartered on September 17th at Nitro High School. The inaugural year for the chapter was a busy one. In August, 2013 Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) (a former Board Member of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation) accepted an invitation from our Rho Kappa Chapter to address both the AP/Honors students as well as the entire senior class. He discussed the legislative process, the Senate, student loans, the economy, and other current affairs. At the conclusion of the event, Senator Manchin was made an honorary member of Rho Kappa. Our chapter also facilitated voter registration for 100% of the seniors and eligible juniors at Nitro. In the coming years we plan to encourage other schools in West Virginia to establish their own chapters.

If your students wish to join others across the nation in dedicating themselves to a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the social studies curriculum, let us know if we can help! At Nitro High we are willing to share our induction ceremony, by-laws, chapter heraldry, membership invitations and certifications, and virtually any other resource you might need. You can get detailed information about Rho Kappa at www.rhokappa.socialstudies.org.
During the 2013 annual campaign, Summer in the City: Remembering Twenty Years of Summer Institutes, the Foundation encouraged Fellows to contribute in multiples of $20 to commemorate two decades of summer study of the Constitution in Washington, DC.

154 Fellows contributed a total of $8,435 to the James Madison Education Fund, Inc. Gifts ranged in size from $10-$500, with an average donation of $54.72. Twenty-five Fellows donated for the first time, and contributors came from every single class and all but five states.

The Class of 2010 had the highest participation, with fourteen Fellows contributing; the Classes of 1996, 2000, and 2001 each had eleven donors. The Class of 1996 led in the total dollar amount donated ($683) followed by the Class of 1992 ($680.) Florida, with eleven contributors, had the most donors per state followed by California with nine. All contributions support the Fellows’ Fellow.

Victoria Pang ’13, (OH), the 2013 Fellows’ Fellow, was a Lang Opportunity Scholar and Chester Community Fellow at Swarthmore before enrolling in Brown University’s graduate teaching program. “I’m passionate about education equity, and believe that committing to the urban teaching profession is the best way that I can contribute to making public schools sites of opportunity.”

The goal of each annual campaign is to raise $24,000—enough to completely fund one fellowship. If all James Madison Fellows were to contribute at least $20, that goal would be achieved.

In March, the Education Fund will launch the 2014 campaign, 1789-2014: Honoring 225 Years of Constitutional Government. The next Fellows’ Fellow will be counting on your support.

Fellows Contribute to NCSS

Robert Sandler, ’04 (NY) receives the 2013 NCSS Outstanding High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award.

Jeffrey Hinton, ’07 (NV), the 2012 NCSS Christa McAuliffe Reach for the Stars Award winner, shares his students’ “Voices of Vegas” oral history project.

Lynne O’Hara, ’03 (PA), the National Director of Programs for National History Day, chats with a conference attendee.

Director of Curriculum and Professional Development for the Bill of Rights Institute, Gennie Westbrook, ’00 (TX), welcomes attendees to her booth.

James Madison Fellows made significant contributions at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference for the Social Studies, held last November in St. Louis, MO. The meeting’s theme, Gateway to the Core of Learning, provided multiple opportunities for Fellows to present sessions, to network, to spend time in the Foundation’s booth, and to enjoy each other’s company. We hope that all those who attended (see below) and others will join us in Boston for the 2014 Conference, Let Freedom Ring.

Class of ’92: Claire Griffin (HI), Stacy Moses (NM), Scott Szeverly (MO); Class of ’94: Carl Oberholtzer (ND), Gordon Sisk (TN); Class of ’95: Allison Taylor (MO); Class of ’96: Robert Edison (TX), Lynette Wallace (IN); Class of ’98: Ken de Mas (AZ), Lyinda Loureiro (IA); Class of ’00: Dave Alcox (NH), Tom McCarthy (OH), Rique Ochoa (UT), Gennie Westbrook (TX); Class of ’01: Tom Glaser (FL), Shawn Healy (WI); Class of ’02: Peggy Jackson (NM), Jennifer Minnick (PA); Class of ’03: Marc Lundquist (WI), Lynne O’Hara (PA); Class of ’04: Brandie Benton (AR), Robert Sandler (NY), Regina Stuck (FL), Jill Villasana (MO); Class of ’07: Jeffrey Hinton (NV); Class of ’08: Mary Angelo (FL), Sarah Brown (NV); Class of ’09: Robb Virgin (MN); Class of ’11: April Vos (VT); Class of ’12: Jeff Lobo (IL); Class of ’13: Mark Matthews, IN.
1992

Claire McCaffery Griffin (HI) recently completed a multi-lesson curricular resource about the victims of communism, *Communism: Its Ideology; Its History; and Its Legacy*. She also co-edited a series of essays about the *Federalist Papers*, *The Roots of Liberty: Unlocking the Federalist Papers*, and wrote the accompanying Discussion Guide.

Heather Latham Porter (DE) is teaching history for the first time in over a decade. “I am enjoying the experiences and am weaving references to the Constitution into each unit of instruction. An added bonus is that my son is one of my students.”

Cindy Bell Stilwell (KY) has been teaching in her school for fifteen years. “Being a Madison Fellow was instrumental in getting this position. My status as a Fellow has helped me to obtain professional development opportunities for which I might not have otherwise been selected.”

Todd Meyer (SD) taught social studies for twelve years; served as a middle school principal; and now is the Superintendent of Schools at Jackson Country Central School District. “We have three wonderful kids: Liberty, Glory, and Chance. Can you tell I taught US History?”

Ginger Packert (OH) retired in June after teaching high school for 31 years, and “I’m currently teaching at BGSU-Firelands. My experience as a Madison Fellow made this possible.”

Carla Scuzzarella (MA) earned both her MA and Ph.D. from Boston College, eventually becoming a high school principal. “I volunteer at the JFK Library in Boston to share my passion for history. I have been watching with great anticipation the building of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate here in Boston.”

1993

Jeff Blair (WA) is back teaching at the Northwest School in Seattle “after a four-month stint teaching in Addis Ababa. I taught at a brand new school, the International Leadership Academy of Ethiopia.”

Laura Hickman (NE) recently earned her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Creighton University.

1994

Brad Tennant (SD) is an Associate Professor of History at Presentation College in Aberdeen, SD. “I am currently President of the Board of Trustees of the South Dakota State Historical Society, and was just reappointed to the Board by the Governor.”

1995

Cynda Eades (GA) received her Education Specialist Degree in Social Studies Teaching and Learning in May 2013 from Georgia Southern University.

As Director of Law Related Education for North Carolina, I spearheaded the document, *The NC Constitution Explained* and accompanying teaching guide. I crafted a video resource, “Big Bad Wolf Mock Trials,” that helps all levels of students understand the connection between the Bill of Rights and the courts. I also serve as the state coordinator for We the People, Project Citizen, and iCivics.

Four years ago, I began the Justice Iredell Middle School Mock Trial Tournament. It has grown in the past six years from six teams to twelve, then thirty, and now over fifty teams from throughout the state compete.

I am especially proud of our Lawyers 4 Literacy program, launched as a pilot in Wilmington, NC for K-3 students. Legal professionals go into struggling schools and work with struggling readers using non-fiction books such as works of history or biography.

Even though I am no longer a classroom teacher, I am having a large civics and legal educational impact in our state by holding the position that I do at the North Carolina Bar Association. I would not have been hired without an advanced degree, or felt confident to apply without the Madison Fellowship. In addition, without the financial support, I wouldn’t have been able to complete my graduate degree and for that I am forever grateful.”

--Diane Wright, ’00 (NC)

1996

Andrew Conneen (IL) reports that he, “Dave Elbaum, ’10 (IL), and Shawn Healy, ’01 (WI) worked to change Illinois law so that all general election voters can vote in primaries, even at the age of 17. The governor signed the law last July.”

Heather Mc Murray McCurdy (IL) earned her Ph.D. and serves as the Director of Curriculum and Technology in her school. “I was recently named a National Board Certified Teacher.”

1998

Andrew Frye (OR) is Department Chair, grades for the College Board, serves as an adjunct at two colleges, and occasionally consults on history education for publishers.

Bonnie Laughlin-Schulz (MO) is an Assistant Professor of History at Eastern Illinois University. Her book, *The Ties that Bound Us: The Women of John Brown’s Family and Radical Anti-Slavery*, was just published by Cornell University Press.

1999

John Reynolds (SC) teaches Eighth Grade Social Studies and travelled to China last November with the Chinese Bridge Delegation.

Donald Barzowski (DE) serves as the Presiding Commissioner of Iron County. He has one year remaining in his four-year term.

Mary Kate Blaine (DC) is the new principal of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School and is “excited to return to a school environment after serving two years as Chief of Staff to the Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York.”

2000

Wendy Ewbank (WA) continues her service on the Board of the Washington State Council for the Social Studies. “I am a peer educator with Facing the Future; a teacher liason with the World Affairs Council; and I helped write the curriculum for Street Law’s Supreme Court Institute for Teachers.”

2001

Sally Hobler, ’97 (CO), Meaghan Todd, ’07 (WY), Gennie Westbrook, ’00 (TX), Daniel Helms, ’11 (NC), and John Wallace, ’13 (NM) attend a summer program, Economic Liberty and the Constitution, sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute. Gennie facilitated the program.
2003

Lynne O’Hara (PA) is now the National Director of Programs for National History Day. “My position involves coordinating resources and training for teacher and students around the world. My fellowship was a key in opening doors and learning about amazing opportunities available to teachers.”

John Daniel “Dan” Roach (MS) brought an officer from the local ACLU to his American Government class. “Despite any pre-conceived impressions regarding the ACLU, most students were impressed to learn of its mission to defend the constitutionally guaranteed rights of all.”

2004

Lisa Dishongh (TX) spends her summers working for the Talent Identification Project at Duke University. “The students I teach in the Mock Trial class are among the nation’s most gifted academically, and I have the incredible opportunity to teach them about the judicial system.”

Aaron Hinton (WY) brought both Wyoming Senators to his Eighth Grade US History class where they “visited with the kids about the constitution.”

Jim Sisler (WV) is “RETIRING this year after 35 years of teaching!!”

2005

Kristy James Kuehn (MI) teaches Eighth Grade Social Studies. “If you ask my students who my man is, they will tell you ‘Jimmy Mad.’ I talk to his likeness every day in my class. Sure, my kiddos probably think that I am crazy, but they won’t forget who wrote the Constitution.”

Ron Schildge (NJ) completed his MBA last spring at the UMass-Amherst Isenberg School of Management. “My understanding of the leadership models of our Founders helped in the completion of my degree.”

2006

Matthew Beiriger (NE) served this past year as a member of the Millwood Public Schools Curriculum Planning Committee.

Mary Browning-Huntington (TN) brought her students to the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville where they viewed the original Emancipation Proclamation.

Amy Fagnilli (OH) gave birth to Esme Yee on September 8, 2013.

2007

Christina Cote (MT) is the only social studies teacher in a small Montana town. “I teach all courses in Grades 7-12 and also coach the Speech and Debate Team. My kids won the state championship this year.”

Nichole Evans (AZ) is developing a new Eighth Grade Honors Curriculum for social studies. “We have been putting a tremendous amount of emphasis on the analysis of primary sources and in helping students make connections to textual evidence.”

Emily Juckett (GA) relocated to Eastern Idaho to help take care of her grandparents. “I am teaching the same classes as in Georgia, and I’m loving it. But, we’ll have to see about winter and all the snow!”

Anne Kelsey-Zibert (SC) was selected as the 2013-14 Greenville County School District Teacher of the Year.

Heather Lowe (SD) worked for several months at Riverbend Academy, a charter school for at-risk students. “I taught a Death and Grieving elective when it became apparent that many students had experiences with death, but had never discussed their grief in a large-group setting.”

Denise North (MN) teaches six classes in a small rural district in Minnesota. “I did a legislative simulation that went really well with my eighth grade students.”

2003

Gary Peters (CA) retired from high school teaching, and currently supervises student teachers at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.

2005

Curt White (KS) is piloting a textbook for his district. “This is in addition to the responsibilities of teaching the eighth grade curriculum to 182 students.”

2006

Matthew Turner (NY) helped to improve student performance on the New York State Regents’ Exam; served as a new teacher; coordinated efforts to improve student performance on the New York State Regents’ Exam; and diving teams in his school.

2007

Matthew Roy (PA) helped to establish a new campus of the successful magnet school, SLA. “My wife and I also welcomed our third child in October 2013.”

Blanca Sermak (WI) translated all 2012 election materials and ballots into Spanish for the Lake County Clerk’s office. “I also worked with Latino civic organizations and local communities to encourage participation among Lake County’s Spanish-speaking citizens.”

Valerie Carnevale, ’07 (RI) and Natalie O’Brien, ’05 (RI) study the civil rights movement in Birmingham. “Visiting such a historical region during the 50th anniversary for many of the events was a powerful experience.”
Robyn Verbois (LA) attended several colloquia co-sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute and Liberty Fund. She also participated in a Liberty Today Talented Teacher Forum.

Karen Dz. Cox (NM) coordinated a semester-long leadership and career module with members of the New Mexico National Guard.

Eric Dameron (OH) teaches as an Adjunct Instructor in Political Science at Columbus State Community College. “At my high school, I am creating an elective course on the American Civil War.”

Tiffany Frane (AZ) taught six AP classes. “180 of my students took the AP exams.”

Michael Gordon (IN) participated in a panel discussion on civic education as art of the Indiana ACLU’s First Wednesdays program on public radio.

Cari Gray (TX) reports that “Now that I have my Master’s Degree, I am teaching dual-credit American Government at New Braunfels High School in affiliation with San Antonio College.”

Ray Hawkins (SC) and his colleagues in the Social Studies Department raised the US History end-of-course test scores by 20%.

Monty Johnson (WA) and his school have implemented changes to increase the graduation rate. “Three years ago, fewer than 50% of our seniors were graduating, but I’m happy to report that more than 80% graduated last June.”

Vanessa Lierley (KY) successfully defended her thesis: Badges of Slavery: The Struggle between Civil Rights and Federalism During Reconstruction.

Hannah Dykes Markwardt (FL) is the curriculum specialist at The English Teacher’s Friend, a nonprofit organization which provides support to secondary English teachers to improve the literacy of their students through innovative programs. “I serve as the social studies ‘connection’ to English-language arts and facilitate cross-curricular instruction, interdisciplinary collaboration, and writing across the curriculum.”

William McGowan (DE) developed more student-centered objectives and activities for his classes. “Many students focused on constitutional cases and learned that, although times may have changed, our Constitution remains the backbone of our nation.”

Maureen McGuirl (RI) teaches an elective based on Project Citizen. “Empowering students who start the year thinking they had no voice has been a powerful lesson in civic rights and responsibilities.”

Ryan Richman (NH) co-chairs the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network in New Hampshire.

Elliott Rotvold (ND) completed his capstone project at Ashland University: an analysis of the writings of Publius and Brutus about the judicial branch.

Maria Savini (PA) created an 18th century salon for her class. Madame Gioffe (AKA Maria) led the guests (AKA her students) to tables around the classroom, where they engaged in lively and heated debate. “The student representing Madison did a particularly fine job.”

Theresa Silvester (ID) graduated in December from Ashland University. She also took her students to the Hunt Japanese Internment Historical site. “It was a great experience and we plan to repeat it.”

Rob Taylor (IL) completed his first year teaching dual-enrollment US History. “It was a great experience and the Summer Institute helped me to prepare for the course.”

Hardy Thames (TN) conducted an “Economic Tour” of Gulfport for his students, and was featured on the local news. “Poverty is a huge problem and deserves the attention of my students. They are the ones who’ll be in a position to do something about it.”

Corey Vasek (NE) took a Statistical Methods and Data Analysis class as well as courses on the judicial and the executive branches. “I learned so much about these two branches of government. I also learned why people read statistics classes.”

Mike Wilmoth (KS) was chosen as the 2012-2013 Outstanding Teacher for USD 353.

Andrew Assini (NJ) created “a DBQ that requires students to explain how democratic government and principles grew along with racialized slavery throughout the colonial period.”

2008

Cathy Alderman (CA) earned her MA from Ashland, and received the Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Capstone Project.

Mary Angelo (FL) travelled with 100 eighth graders on a Revolutionary War fieldtrip. “We visited Fort Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Boston, Lexington, and Plymouth.”

Brevet Bartels (MI) campaigned for his sister-in-law, Bridget Mary McCormack, in her successful campaign for the Michigan State Supreme Court.

Erica Bray-Parker (IL) worked with the League of Women Voters to hold a school-wide mock election in November.

Melanie Clark (IA) teaches dual-credit course in US History and American Government at her high school/college community college.

Sharolyn Griffith, ’08 (WY) studies Ottoman history and culture as part of an NEH Summer Institute. “We traveled part of the Silk Road, visited many mosques and historic places and palaces, and traced the Ottoman Empire’s history from its beginning to its break-up after WWI.” Her blog can be found http://globalgriffith.blogspot.com/

Brittany Barnett (IN) is finishing her thesis about the contributions of the Indiana Women’s Section of the State Council of Defense during WWI.

Jaime Carbonell (FL) is an advocate for on-line learning. “I went to the Bay Delegation Town Hall meeting on behalf of the Florida Virtual School. I have also led a number of professional development opportunities to help teachers set high standards in their classes.”

Shari Conditt, ’09 (WA) receives the Founders’ Award from the Association of Faculty Women at Washington State University. “I also received the Nancy Roelker Mentorship Award in January from the American Historical Association.”

2009

Mary Cosby (VA) serves on the board of Parson’s Case, a non-profit organization that supports reenactments of Patrick Henry’s Parson’s Cause as well as his famous speech at St. John’s Church in Richmond, VA.
Richard Guiremand (CA) completed his thesis at Ashland University: The Root of Lincoln: An Analysis of Elizah Root’s Observations of the 16th President’s Leadership Qualities.

Cari Harris (OR) also completed her thesis for Virginia Tech University: Civics in American Public Schools: State Constitutions and the Right to an Education.

Styler Irigoin (NV) remains active in the Northern Nevada Council for the Social Studies and the Search and Rescue division of the Civil Air Patrol for the USAF Auxiliary.

Tina Kolz (NM) reports that “Almagordo High School had a 92% pass rate on the end-of-course exam in US History.”

Todd Landeen (UT) attended the Utah State Republican convention in May 2013.

David Mayne (MO) teaches in a school opened only two years ago. “It is exciting to join in the development of a new school culture.”

Nicholas Moyte (WY) “moved from a farming community in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming to a small community just off the Navajo Nation in Holbrook, AZ.”

Derek Anderson (ME) participated in a Gilder-Lehrman teacher seminar in Philadelphia about the Civil War.

Tiferet Ani (MD) serves on a panel of teachers revising curriculum. “I had the chance to collaborate with Pearson publishing on their new digital social studies resources. Exciting developments.”

Scott Bradley (CA) reports that “I teach all level of US History. Last year, we had the highest AP exam pass rate in school history.”

Dominic Caserta (CA) led a voters’ registration drive at his high school and also volunteered for a city council candidate.

Christine Chu (MA) organized a presentation for over 200 students by Foundation Board Member Pauline Maier about the history of the Bill of Rights.

Keith (Charlie) Cooper (NV) works to “make the Constitution the center of my classes. This helps my students to be more engaged.”

Shawn Delaney (WY) is happy to be teaching Ninth Grade US History.

Donna Devlin (KS) presented a lecture, James Henry Lane: Popular Sovereignty Advocate for Territorial Kansas, in Lecompton, KS.


Lewis Dean (ID) is teaching the first AP courses at his high school. “I have been excited to really put into practice with these students all I have learned in my graduate program.”

Margaret DeWeese (OK) presented at the NCHE Annual Conference in Richmond, VA. She also brought thirty students to Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Washington, DC.

Jason Beavers, ‘09 (OH) won the Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Thesis at Ashland, helped his students to excel on the Ohio Graduation Test, and required his students to engage in community service to help maintain local historical monuments. Most significantly, he welcomed Josiah Andrew into the world. “He was born 23 days premature, but he beat the odds. We named him Josiah, which aptly means ‘the Lord helps me.’”

Brenda Diaz (MD) was a long-term substitute, teaching AP American Government and AP Comparative Government. “At the end of my stint, my students literally gave me a standing ovation.”

Paige Fennell (SC) is active in her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. “My chapter serves the community in various ways: feeding the homeless, planting trees, mentoring young women, and raising money for Heifer International.”

Roxann Gagner (AK) took a group of students to Washington, DC. “On the second day, one of my students said, ‘Wow! We studied this all year and now we get to see it!’”

Kurt Knierim, ’09 (CO) beams proudly as one of his AP US History students receives Third Place in the Civil War essay contest sponsored by Gilder-Lehrman.

Tracy Allen, ’10 (TX) spends the summer on the roof of the world while teaching Tibetan refugees in Nepal.
Michelle Hubenschmidt (FL) has had an “exceptional” year. “I’ve been awarded two very special honors: National History Teacher of the Year for the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Florida History Teacher of the Year for the Daughters of the American Revolution.”

Charles Kannapel (IA) offers quarterly presentations to the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Adam Krauss (NH) is involved in Constitutionally Speaking: How Does the Constitution Keep Up with the Times. “I’ve collaborated with mentors and colleagues, and took great pride in introducing myself as a Madison Fellow in a conversation with Yale Professor Akhil Amar.”

Patience LeBlanc (TX) received the Middle School Teacher of the Year Award from the American Lawyer’s Alliance.

Heather Loeschke (MN) and her We the People team represented Minnesota at the National WTP Finals in Washington, DC.

William Lorigan (IN) completed a directed study on the historical background of Everson v. Board of Education. “It was fascinating and interesting to follow Supreme Court rulings throughout the decades.”

Tim McCall (NJ) reports that “A number of my students are international, so I frequently enjoy great conversations comparing America’s political development to political traditions in other countries.”

Martene Mourning (AR) coached her Student Congress team to a first place finish in the State Student Congress. “A bill which one of my students authored was considered by the Arkansas State Legislature, incorporating many of his arguments and statistics, and was passed!”

Amber Quinn (NY) received an Excellence in Teaching Award from the New York State Archives for her use of historical documents and primary sources.

Susan Reinheimer (ND) worked on the campaign of Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND). “I helped to get out the vote of Native Americans in Indian Country.”

Tiffany Rhodes (NC) was named 2012-2013 Richlands High School Teacher of the Year.

Trevor Shalon (NE) was “consistently working on finding new methods” during his first year of teaching.

Marisa Silva (NM) completed her MA in May and moved to Virginia where she now teaches. “I am thrilled to be so close to our nation’s capital.” She was recently selected as a recipient of the 2013 Presidential Luminaria Award from the University of New Mexico.

Melinda Sloan (VA) reports that she was “inspired to incorporate what I learned in the Summer Institute into my classes, so I taught my AP World History students about the convergence of ideas from the English Civil War/Glorious Revolution.”

Eric Wall (UT) opened a new high school and built an AP program from the ground up. “My students have worked extremely hard and challenged themselves. It’s been an honor to play a small role in their success.”

Jacquelyn Wamsler (MO) taught American Government to an ELL (English Language Learners) class. “Though it was challenging, it was so motivating and affirming as a teacher to see my students working through and grasping the contents of the Constitution.”

Stuart Wexler (NJ) was featured in a USA Today article about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Margaret Wielkening (MN) organized five weeks of Saturday Mock AP testing to allow students in all AP subjects the opportunity to take a practice full-length exam.

Rebecca Beard Zaloudek (TN) participated in Fortnight for Freedom: a series of talks and debates about current issues having an impact on religious freedom.

2011

Jill Baisinger (IN) trains We the People Teachers. “My students placed Fifth in the National WTP Competition in Washington, DC last April.”

Adena Barnette (WV) serves as president of her local NEA affiliate. “I reestablished the Ripley High School Young Democrats Club and served as a delegate to the West Virginia State Democratic Convention.”

Pete Bartels (MI) received his MA from Ashland “after many years of taking one or two summer classes at a time. . . . Civic education is a part of every course I teach.”

Dennis Bullock (CA) teaches AP American Government and serves as Dean of Students. “I also assist our Campus Ministry in charitable ventures. We deliver toys to needy children through the Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles. We also bring food to the Burbank Temporary Aid Center.”

Jena Burke (MT) began teaching in July 2013. After the Summer Institute, “I went from being a reserved, shy student who often questioned my ability to participate in an academic setting, to being a leader in my MA program. Friends, family, and professors all noticed this new confidence.”

For my thesis, I plan to re-examine what seem to be neglected aspects of the writings of the primary authors of The Federalist. My work looks at Madison and Hamilton outside of the political parties with which they are most commonly associated. It is a conversation about their consistency between theory and practice, between tradition and modernity, about the possibility of an enlightened citizenry, and about the relationship between faction and representation. Taking an epistemological look into Madison, my thesis challenges scholarship’s proclaimed contradictions. I hope that my work will continue the conversations begun by Madison and Hamilton and upon which so much depends today.”

Joseph Collins, ’10 (CO)
Christopher Carl (FL) attended a weekend workshop on Presidential Leadership and the Constitution at James Madison’s Montpelier.

Brigette Cascio (MD) received her MA from the University of Maryland, Baltimore after completing her thesis, The More Civil War: The Impact of the Civil War on Marriages.

Jason Danielson (IA) increased participation in AP exams by over 50% in his AP US History and AP American Government courses.

Richard Reserve (ME) took four students to Washington, DC where they “dropped off a completed Veterans’ History Project at the Library of Congress.”

Rose Paluch (VA) volunteered in the Obama presidential campaign.

Jennifer Powell (FL) was selected as one of the five finalists for Leon County Teacher of the Year. “This is a testament to the work my role models have done in the Tallahassee school system.”

May Wong (WA) teaches AP American Government and Contemporary World History. “This year, two of my students (both freshmen) advanced to the state National History Day competition. They were the only two from our school to advance.”

2012

Brock Anderson (WA) takes students every spring to somewhere “warm and historic. Last year, we went to Puerto Rico.”

Whitney Barnes (CO) is excited about taking courses through a “live classroom” at the University of Nebraska in Kearney. “The live sessions we log into really help to compensate for the lack of discussion typically experienced in an online classroom.”

Gregory Brenner (MO) performs in Lee’s Summit Symphony Orchestra. “We typically play four or five community concerts each year.”

Anthony Brey (MI) was honored by his students as the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year for Garber High School.

Mark Brunton (TN) teaches two semester-length electives: Environmental History and Strangers in a Strange Land: Ethnicity, Diversity, and Immigration in the United States.

William Sutherland (DE) teaches Advanced-track, Honors, and AP American Government. “This year, my students participated in a ‘Fantasy Congress’, tabulating scores for the legislative activities of a team of Senators and Representatives.”

Elizabeth Todd (KY) was named Graduate Student of the Year and received the Dean’s citation for her academic success and leadership at the University of Louisville.

April Vos (VT) completed her MA at the University of Southern California and began teaching at Sequoyah School in Pasadena, CA. “I am excited to be working in this progressive private school.”

Charles Williams (AR) had four students compete at the National History Day competition last June in College Park, MD. “Two of my students were recognized for the Outstanding Entry from Arkansas.”

Susan Earl (PA) reports that “For the first time since I started teaching, I have been able to work with my civics students to develop a more in-depth focus on the operations of government and the constitutional basis for specific powers and responsibilities.”

Ashley Heyer (LA) served on the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Common Core Curriculum Development team.


Kimberly McKinley (OK) attended the NCHE Conference in Richmond, VA in March. “I was also very active in the final year of our Teaching American History grant.”

Michael Melick (IL) is creating a “Hall of Fame for our high school, to recognize local constituents who have made civic, academic, or athletic contributions to the district.”

Katherine Hagee (PA) relocated from Pennsylvania to become the History Chair at Rolling Hills Preparatory School. “It has been a wonderful transition.”

Stephen Hansen (FL) teaches AP US History and American History Honors.

James Huston (WI) finds that “the coursework from my Political Philosophy graduate course is particularly useful when I teach my own Law and Government courses.”

Brent Jurgensen (WY) “really enjoys studying constitutional law. It provides a great platform for studying the balance of powers.”

Laura Koroski (IL) enjoyed a course on gender and the Constitution. “It was both fascinating and frustrating to examine issues from a legal perspective, and to analyze how the courts have interpreted the Constitution over the years with respect to issues of gender.”

Tricia Kremke (MI) had a great year. “I had many instances in my Civics class where students ‘got it.’”

Jeffrey Lobo (IL) brought candidates for local office into his classroom during the 2012 election. “The students were extremely positive and sincerely interested, and some of them signed up for internships with the candidates.”

Shannon McLean (MN) is pursuing an MA in Political Science at Marquette University. “I particularly enjoyed the 20th Century American Politics Course.”

Patricia Everett (FL) teaches three different levels of American Government. “I am keenly aware of the difference in interest levels among students, but I was exceptionally pleased at the level of knowledge and discourse I was able to elicit from my AP students.”

Joseph Gioffre (DE) is pleased that “though the national average score of the AP US History exam last year was slightly over 2, my forty students averaged 3.94 (out of 5).”

Maureen Gray (TX) taught American History and AP American Government.

May Wong (WA) teaches AP American Government and Contemporary World History. “This year, two of my students (both freshmen) advanced to the state National History Day competition. They were the only two from our school to advance.”

2012

Brock Anderson (WA) takes students every spring to somewhere “warm and historic. Last year, we went to Puerto Rico.”

Whitney Barnes (CO) is excited about taking courses through a “live classroom” at the University of Nebraska in Kearney. “The live sessions we log into really help to compensate for the lack of discussion typically experienced in an online classroom.”

Gregory Brenner (MO) performs in Lee’s Summit Symphony Orchestra. “We typically play four or five community concerts each year.”

Anthony Brey (MI) was honored by his students as the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year for Garber High School.

Mark Brunton (TN) teaches two semester-length electives: Environmental History and Strangers in a Strange Land: Ethnicity, Diversity, and Immigration in the United States.

William Sutherland (DE) teaches Advanced-track, Honors, and AP American Government. “This year, my students participated in a ‘Fantasy Congress’, tabulating scores for the legislative activities of a team of Senators and Representatives.”

Elizabeth Todd (KY) was named Graduate Student of the Year and received the Dean’s citation for her academic success and leadership at the University of Louisville.

April Vos (VT) completed her MA at the University of Southern California and began teaching at Sequoyah School in Pasadena, CA. “I am excited to be working in this progressive private school.”

Charles Williams (AR) had four students compete at the National History Day competition last June in College Park, MD. “Two of my students were recognized for the Outstanding Entry from Arkansas.”

Susan Earl (PA) reports that “For the first time since I started teaching, I have been able to work with my civics students to develop a more in-depth focus on the operations of government and the constitutional basis for specific powers and responsibilities.”

Ashley Heyer (LA) served on the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Common Core Curriculum Development team.


Kimberly McKinley (OK) attended the NCHE Conference in Richmond, VA in March. “I was also very active in the final year of our Teaching American History grant.”

Michael Melick (IL) is creating a “Hall of Fame for our high school, to recognize local constituents who have made civic, academic, or athletic contributions to the district.”

Katherine Hagee (PA) relocated from Pennsylvania to become the History Chair at Rolling Hills Preparatory School. “It has been a wonderful transition.”

Stephen Hansen (FL) teaches AP US History and American History Honors.

James Huston (WI) finds that “the coursework from my Political Philosophy graduate course is particularly useful when I teach my own Law and Government courses.”

Brent Jurgensen (WY) “really enjoys studying constitutional law. It provides a great platform for studying the balance of powers.”

Laura Koroski (IL) enjoyed a course on gender and the Constitution. “It was both fascinating and frustrating to examine issues from a legal perspective, and to analyze how the courts have interpreted the Constitution over the years with respect to issues of gender.”

Tricia Kremke (MI) had a great year. “I had many instances in my Civics class where students ‘got it.’”

Jeffrey Lobo (IL) brought candidates for local office into his classroom during the 2012 election. “The students were extremely positive and sincerely interested, and some of them signed up for internships with the candidates.”

Shannon McLean (MN) is pursuing an MA in Political Science at Marquette University. “I particularly enjoyed the 20th Century American Politics Course.”
Jason Milczewski (OH) attended a seminar held in Boston about the Massachusetts Ratifying Convention as well another program at Montpelier about Madison and the Bill of Rights.

Kylie Miller (NV) teaches Tenth Grade World Cultures and AP European History.

Kimberly Moore (MD) engaged her classes in discussions about the candidates for the student member of the local school board. “My students were able to recognize the importance of voting.”

Steve Moynihan (MA) works with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston. “I collaborate with other educators and designers to create a tablet-based experience for school groups that combines technology with group interactivity.”

Cody Nesbit (UT) notes that “I have come to love teaching students about the Constitution, but I remain surprised at the limited knowledge they have of this great document. I have also seen the fascination of students grow as they learn actually what is in this document.”

Bryan-Keith Nordan (RI) teaches Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Grade Social Studies as well as two AVID courses. “Our school’s Rotary Interact Club raised over $300 for clean water in Africa and over $700 for a student struggling with cancer.”

Robert Ovsak (KS) teaches Seventh Grade Social Studies as well as two AVID courses. “Our school’s Rotary Interact Club raised over $300 for clean water in Africa and over $700 for a student struggling with cancer.”

Brandi Philippis (NC) and her colleagues teach at “one of the few schools in the state to test drive the new North Carolina Essential Standards and Common Exams.”

Brett Pritchett (KY) was named the Outstanding Teacher of American History for the Kentucky chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Juan Resendez (CA) reports that “my deeper understanding of Constitutional history has served me throughout the semester. Much of my graduate work has forced me to re-envision the way I present my AP Government students with the concepts of political behavior.”

Kevin Rhoads (GA) has been twice selected as the STAR teacher: “the teacher with the most influence on the student with the highest SAT score in the school.”

DeAnna Roessling (MS) sponsors the Mock Congress club in her school. “Students use this as an avenue to create public awareness of issues.”

Kate Stephens (CA) was honored to receive the Samuel Marx Endowed Scholarship for the Outstanding M.Ed. student at the University of Virginia.

Michael Stevenson (MO) completed his first year at Northwestern University and was honored as the recipient of the Carol W. Keenan Fellowship.

Jennifer Venable (TX) notes that “my study of the Constitution has helped me provide a greater depth of understanding for my students.”

Stephen Vetack (NH) “participated in a series of seminars entitled ‘Constitutionally Speaking’ sponsored by the Supreme Court Society.”

Nathan Walters (AK) “participated in a door-to-door ‘Vote No’ campaign to support gay marriage in Minnesota.”

Kathryn Wathen (MD) teaches World History and “reviewed the American Revolution while comparing it to the French Revolution and the English Civil War.”

Samantha Western (NJ) teaches US History and has been able to “bring a new energy and perspective to constitutional issues as a result of my fellowship.”

Jennifer Wilkosz (CT) co-moderates her school’s Habitat for Humanity club. “During Spring Break, we went to Tennessee to help build homes. My students helped others and learned new skills.”

Please send any updates about your professional activities to Claire Griffin at cgriffin@jamesmadison.com.