
The Historical Society of Michigan

Established in 1828

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MICHIGAN STUDENTS RECEIVE TOP HONORS FOR HISTORY

Over sixty Michigan students received honors for their outstanding history projects at Michigan History Day on Saturday, April 26. The annual event is sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan and was held this year at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. It was held in cooperation with GVSU and the Michigan Department of History, Arts & Libraries.

Nearly 60 students, from as far north as Hancock, as far south as Quincy, and from Holland in the west to Detroit in the east, were finalists and special wards winners at Michigan History Day. Finalists at the Junior and Senior High levels will now head to College Park, Maryland, in June, to compete in National History Day with their peers from the other forty-nine states.

“I was overwhelmed at the quality of the entries this year,” commented Larry J. Wagenaar, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Michigan. “It was an eye opener to see how advanced many of our Michigan students are in their understanding of history. Their enthusiasm for history and commitment to finding the truth of what happened in the past was very exciting to see.”

Approximately 150 students, grades 4-12, a record number, competed at the state competition in Allendale. They brought to the Grand Valley campus the most outstanding entries from the district competitions held throughout Michigan. Entries were in seven categories - Individual Paper, Individual Exhibit, Individual Documentary, Individual Performance, Group Exhibit, Group Documentary and Group Performance. In the group categories, two to five students work together on the project. All entries

in the competition were tied in some way to the National History Day theme for 2003, *Rights and Responsibilities in History*.

“For someone who has spent my entire career in history, Michigan History Day is an energizing and reinvigorating experience”, commented Hugh Gurney, State Co-coordinator for the annual competition. “To feel the level of energy and see the enthusiasm of our students renews my faith in the future of our country. Through activities such as Michigan History Day, we are training the leaders of tomorrow.”

Finalists in the Senior Division, grades 9-12, will compete at National History Day in College Park, Maryland, June 15-19. These students are:

Paper: Savina Aneja, 11th grade, Detroit Country Day School, “RIVALRY, RIOTS, AND RUINATION: THE NEW YORK CITY DRAFT RIOTS” and Elizabeth O’Neill, 11th grade, Grand Haven High School, “THE DRED SCOTT DECISION: THE RIGHT TO PROPERTY OVER THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY.”

Individual Exhibit: Caitlin Copple, 10th grade, Midland High School, “THE PURSUIT OF BETTER GOVERNMENT: THE 1944 REVISION OF THE MIDLAND CITY CHARTER” and Mike Kitchen, 11th grade, Hancock High School, “WALKING TO JUSTICE – THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT.”

Group Exhibit: Graham Stevens, 9th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN VIETNAM” and Angela Miller & Glenna Wink, 10th grade, Morley Stanwood High School, “THE PULLMAN STRIKE.”

Group Documentary: Adam Renico, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “RESPONSIBILITIES OF AIRLINE SECURITY” and Erica Lin, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “ANIMAL RIGHTS.”

Individual Performance: Corrie Poelman, 9th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “CARRYING THE CODE IN A WAR OF WORDS.”

Group Performance: Amy Guffey, Jessica Newman, Julia Rudolf, & Katie Swanson, 9th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “I WON’T BE A SLAVE: THE LOWELL STRIKE OF 1836” and Lindsay Carniak, Christine Harder, Tori Minton, & Kim Perweron, 9th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “NO ROOM FOR HATE.”

Finalists in the Junior Division, grades 6-8, will also go to College Park in June to compete with students from the other forty-nine states at National History Day. They are:

Paper: Alexandra Dodds, 8th grade, Ada Christian School, “THE INTEGRATION OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL” and Luke Leisman, 8th grade, Ada Christian School, “THE JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT.”

Individual Exhibit: Hannah Green, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “UNVEILING THE LIVES OF AFGHAN WOMEN: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES” and Steven Smith, 7th grade, Home school, Farmington Hills, “THE RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER & THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT COME WITH IT. HOW THE ROUGE RIVER HAS CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT OF 1972.”

Group Exhibit: Cori McAuliffe & R. Sam Taylor, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “TINKER V. DES MOINES – STUDENT PROTEST” and Mathew Maatman & Joel Schermen, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.”

Individual Documentary: Justin Hollister, 8th grade, Quincy Middle School, “RIGHT TO FREEDOM IN GOVERNMENT: PROTECTED BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY” and Catherine Rich,

8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “THE TRIAL OF JOHN PETER ZENGER; RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY.”

Group Documentary: Nicole Gollnick, Elisa Myers, & Kailey Rider, 8th grade, Quincy Middle School, “THE LITTLE ROCK NINE: THE FIGHT TO THE RIGHT OF EQUAL EDUCATION” and Shazia Latif, Christine Numan & Becky Slogeris, 8th grade, Avondale Middle School, Rochester Hills, “MOTOR CITY MADNESS.”

Individual Performance: Jacob Toman, 8th grade, Abraham Lincoln Educational Center, Lansing, “HENRY MATRAU: BORN TO SERVE THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ORDINARY MAN” and Gaby Bechard, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP.”

Group Performance: Adam Bradshaw, Robert Granville, Cory Jacobs, & Matt VanBeck, 8th grade, Comstock Northeast Middle School, Kalamazoo, “THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT V. MUHAMMAD ALI: THE DRAFT” and Shannon Dale & Mallory McKnight, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “BEHIND THE VEIL: THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES.”

Finalists in the Youth Division, grades 4-6 include:

Group Exhibit: Brandon Brothers, Michael McGraw, & Joel Michalak, 5th grade, Milan Middle School, “THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOLDIERS IN THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG,” Nicole Bleifeld, Jaclyn Chrzanowski, & Stephanie Hirzel, 5th grade, Milan Middle School, “THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WILLIAM PENN” and Ryan Cranson, Kayla Gimson, Aaris Gruber, Hannah Muckler, & Haylee Weber, 5th grade, Milan Middle School, “DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR & MRS. ROSA PARKS: THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT.”

Group Documentary: James Criswell & Jared Ennett, 5th grade, Milan Middle School, “MR. LARRY EICHOLZ: INTERVIEW WITH A VIETNAM VETERAN.”

Individual Performance: Torri Barry, 4th grade, Northeastern Elementary, Hastings, “SOJOURNER TRUTH,” Gabraelle Eaton, 4th grade, Northeastern Elementary, Hastings, “ROSA PARKS,” and Morgan Stowe, 4th grade, Northeastern Elementary, Hastings, “HARRIET TUBMAN.”

A number of students also won special awards, either a cash prize or plaque, for their efforts.

Special award winners include:

Best Entry, Michigan History, given by the Friends of Michigan History: In the Youth division Gabraelle Eaton, 4th grade, Northeastern Elementary, Hastings, “ROSA PARKS,” in the Junior division Brandi Walsh, 6th grade, Roberts Elementary, Shelby Twp., “MICHIGAN INDIANS: RIGHTS TAKEN AWAY NEW RESPONSIBILITIES GIVEN,” and in the Senior division Caitlin Copple, 10th grade, Midland High School, “THE PURSUIT OF BETTER GOVERNMENT: THE 1944 REVISION OF THE MIDLAND CITY CHARTER.”

Best Entry in Michigan Women’s History, awarded by the Michigan Women’s Study Association: in the Youth division Torri Barry, 4th grade, Northeastern Elementary, Hastings, “SOJOURNER TRUTH.”

Best Entry for Great Lakes Maritime History, given by the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History: in the Junior division Steven Smith, 7th grade, Home school, Farmington Hills, “THE RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER & THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT COME WITH IT. HOW THE ROUGE RIVER HAS CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT OF 1972.”

The best entry for Labor History, given by the Michigan State AFL-CIO for the Senior division went to Amy Guffey, Jessica Newman, Julia Rudolf, & Katie Swanson, 9th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, "I WON'T BE A SLAVE: THE LOWELL STRIKE OF 1836."

In the best entry for Arab and Arab American History, a plaque awarded by the Arab World & Islamic Resources Services, the Junior division winner was Hannah Green, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, "UNVEILING THE LIVES OF AFGHAN WOMEN: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES."

Best use of Oral History, given by the Michigan Oral History Association, in the Youth division went to James Criswell & Jared Ennett, 5th grade, Milan Middle School, "MR. LARRY EICHOLZ: INTERVIEW WITH A VIETNAM VETERAN." In the Junior division, the prize went to Shazia Latif, Christine Numan & Becky Slogeris, 8th grade, Avondale Middle School, Rochester Hills, "MOTOR CITY MADNESS and in the Senior division Corrie Poelman, 9th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, "CARRYING THE CODE IN A WAR OF WORDS."

The Family History award for Best Entry, given by the Michigan Genealogical Association, went to Youth division student Morgan Stowe, 4th grade, Northeastern Elementary, Hastings, "HARRIET TUBMAN," Junior division student Gabriel Rubio, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, "THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY – U.S.A. CITIZENSHIP," and to Senior division students Lindsay Carniak, Christine Harder, Tori Minton, & Kim Perwerton, 9th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, "NO ROOM FOR HATE."

The Best Entry for Science and Technology, given by Lawrence Technological University, for the Youth division went to Ryan Cranson, Kayla Gimson, Aaris Gruber, Hannah Muckler, & Haylee Weber, 5th grade, Milan Middle School, "DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR & MRS. ROSA PARKS: THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT." The Junior

award went to Ryan Gamby & Josh Reinhart, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “JOHN PETER ZENGER – FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.” The Senior division award was given to Sarah Sweers, 9th grade, Comstock Park High School, “WILL YOU TAKE THE BITE? WILLIAM HANAFORD DEAN’S RIGHTS TO BE HONORED AND THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMEND A HERO’S EFFORTS.”

Best Use of Primary Sources sponsored by the Michigan Archival Association: for the Youth division: Brandon Brothers, Michael McGraw, & Joel Michalak, 5th grade, Milan Middle School, “THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOLDIERS IN THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG,” the Junior division Aysha Abiade, Samantha Baker, & Martha Stuit, 8th grade, Mattawan Middle School, “WRONGS AND RIGHTS: JAPANESE-AMERICANS HELD PRISONER IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY,” and the Senior division Elizabeth O’Neill, 11th grade, Grand Haven High School, “THE DRED SCOTT DECISION: THE RIGHT TO PROPERTY OVER THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY.”

Best Entry, Innovation in History, awarded by the Siemens Corporation, was given to: in the Junior division Catherine Rich, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “THE TRIAL OF JOHN PETER ZENGER; RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY” and in the Senior division to Mike Kitchen, 11th grade, Hancock High School, “WALKING TO JUSTICE – THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT.”

Best Entry in Transportation History sponsored by the Michigan Roundtable, Lexington Group in Transportation History was given to Senior division students Joseph Pokora & Kyle Schmuker, 10th grade, Comstock Park High School, “LUMBERING: A MIXED BLESSING.”

Amy Guffey, Jessica Newman, Julia Rudolf, & Katie Swanson, 9th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “I WON’T BE A SLAVE: THE LOWELL STRIKE OF 1836” received the Judges Choice Award.

Several generous donors who assisted the Society this year made Michigan History Day 2003 possible. They included the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, the Frederick S. Upton Foundation, the Michigan Labor History Council, the Holland Area Historical Society, and Republic Bank.

For more information on Michigan History Day contact the Historical Society of Michigan at 1305 Abbott Rd., East Lansing MI 48823 (517) 324-1828 or visit www.hsmichigan.org.