
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 (National History Day in Michigan) on Saturday, April 24. The annual event is sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan and was hosted this year by The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. The Michigan History Day state finals were made possible through financial support from the Michigan Department of History, Arts & Libraries, Altacor Inc., Michigan Labor History Society, Siemens Inc., Holland Area Historical Society and The Henry Ford.

Over 170 students, from as far north as Hancock, as far south as Quincy, and from Holland in the west to Detroit in the east, participated in Michigan History Day. Finalists chosen at the state finals in 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.

“We had a record number of participants at the state finals this year.” commented Larry J. Wagenaar, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Michigan. “Their enthusiasm for history and commitment to finding the truth of what happened in the past was very exciting to see.”

Students in grades 4-12 competed at the state competition in Dearborn. They brought to the Henry Ford Museum the most outstanding entries from each of 10 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 2004, *Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History*.

Finalists in the Senior Division, grades 9-12, will compete at National History Day in College Park, Maryland, June 13-17. These students are:

Paper: Allie Obermeyer, 11th grade, Detroit Country Day , “LAYING THE TRACKS FOR A NEW COUNTRY: THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD” and Andrea Greb, 12th grade, Detroit Country Day, “SPACE PEACE: THE APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST PROJECT AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS.”

Individual Exhibit: Graham Stevens, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, “THE APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST PROJECT: EXPLORATION OF SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENCOUNTERS DURING THE COLD WAR AND EXCHANGE OF GOOD WILL” and Cheryl Bouwkamp, 9th grade, Grant High School, “CHERNOBYL: THE WORLD’S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH NUCLEAR DISASTER.”

Group Exhibit: Alyssa Long, Mary Catherine Steiner, and Katie Swanson, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, “CHARLES DICKENS: EXPLORING SOCIETY THROUGH LITERATURE” and Ashley Carpenter and Katie Wagner, 9th grade, Traverse City West Jr. High, “DR. SEUSS.”

Individual Documentary: Jeremy Thompson, 9th grade, Traverse City West Jr. High, “HARRY TRAVER – KING OF THE FIRST COASTER BOOM” and Korey Force, 9th grade, Quincy High School, “ENCOUNTERING ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION WITH THE EXCHANGE OF OIL: THE EXXON VALDEZ.”

Group Documentary: Jason DeSantis and Gail McCormick, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “UNLOCK THE CODE, EXPLORING THE HUMAN GENOME.”

Individual Performance: Elizabeth O’Neill, 12th grade, Grand Haven High School, “HARRIET MARTINEAU.”

Group Performance: Collin Dickey, Nitesh Singh and Curtis Wilkund, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, “ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN” and Lindsay Carnick, Christine Harder, Tori Minton, & Kim Perwerton, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, “I AM AN ITALIAN IMMIGRANT: ENCOUNTERING THE PROGRESSIVE ERA AND ADAPTING TO CULTURAL EXCHANGE.”

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: Steve Delie, 8th grade, Paragon Charter Academy, “THE MANY ENCOUNTERS OF LEWIS & CLARK” and Jeff Sorenson, 8th grade, Ada Christian School, “THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE: ORIGINS OF RACIAL EQUALITY.”

Individual Exhibit: Christopher Copple, 8th grade, Northeast Middle School, “THE FIFTY-STAR FLAG: A HISTORY PROJECT THAT CHANGED THE FACE OF A NATION” and Jamie Gamby, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “FIGHTING FOR WOOD: FORT MICHILIMACKINAC AND THE FUR TRADE.”

Group Exhibit: Kathy and Lisa McNeil, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “A SPOT FROM THE PAST: THE ENCOUNTER OF SMALLPOX” and Stephanie Fluegeman and Danielle Layne, 8th grade, Eaton Rapids Middle School, “THE GREAT DISCOVERIES OF DR. ROBERT D. BALLARD.”

Individual Documentary: Marcus Coleman, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “THE ENCOUNTER THAT CHANGED ROCK N’ ROLL” and Samuel Soukup, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “THE SPACE RACE: THE RACE THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.”

Group Documentary: Kramer Doyle and Andrew Gras, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “HIGHER, FASTER, FARTHER: THE EXPLORATION OF THE SKIES” and Emily Bell and Kaitlyn

Hard, 8th grade, Quincy Middle School, “THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON: ENCOUNTERING RACISM AND EXPLORING CIVIL RIGHTS.”

Individual Performance: Brian Tremml, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS: THE THIRTEEN DAYS WHERE THE WORLD STOOD STILL” and Stuart Gagie, 8th grade, Gagie School, “JEFFERSON AND THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE.”

Group Performance: Ingrid Slette, Brooke Steenwyk, Kayla Vloedman, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, Kalamazoo, “FRIDTOJF NANSEN” and Kendra DeKuiper and Kelsie O’Connor, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “MARTHA GRAHAM MOVEMENT NEVER DIES.”

State winners in the Youth Division, grades 4-6 include:

Group Exhibit: Chantal Franklin, Jeanette Moore, Kasandra Morales, and Katie Underwood, 5th grade, Milwood Elementary School, “EARLY NORTHWEST COAST NATIVE AMERICANS ENCOUNTER WITH NEW LAND,” Lance Harris and Timothy Myer, 5th grade, Chime Elementary School, “STORY OF THE TITANIC” and Tibin T. John and Jacob P. Stapleton-Reinhold, 5th grade, Arcadia Elementary School, “EXPLORATION: THE VIKING EXPLORERS.”

Individual Exhibit: Kelsey Ryan, 4th grade, Symons Elementary, “DOG OF DISCOVERY: THE STORY OF SEAMAN,” William Bowers, 5th grade, Symons Elementary, “FIRST STEPS” and Brynna McGraw, 4th grade, Symons Elementary, “HARRIET TUBMAN: ENCOUNTERS ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.”

Group Performance: Tyler Bridgman, Thomas Davis, and Mitch Singleterry, 5th, Southeastern Elem. School, “MATTHEW HENSON: NORTH POLE EXPLORATION.”

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 Junior division Jamie Gamby, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, “FIGHTING FOR WOOD: FORT MICHILIMACKINAC AND THE FUR TRADE,” and in the Senior division Sarah Olmsted, Melissa Peterson, Sally Strohm and Jennifer Winfield, 12th grade, Gwinn High School, “VROOM! VROOM!”

Best Entry in Michigan Women’s History, awarded by the Michigan Women’s Study Association: in the Senior division Elizabeth O’Neill, 12th grade, Grand Haven High School, “HARRIET MARTINEAU.”

In the best entry for Arab and Arab American History, a plaque awarded by the Arab World & Islamic Resources Services, the Junior division winners were David Ding, Brett Harrison, Rohit Raghunathan and Alex Witoslawski, 8th grade, East Middle School, “INNOVATIONS AND TRADE OF IDEAS IN THE CRUSADES.”

Best use of Oral History, given by the Michigan Oral History Association, In the Junior division, the prize went to Emily Bell and Kaitlyn Hard, 8th grade, Quincy Middle School, “THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON: ENCOUNTER IN RACISM AND EXPLORING CIVIL RIGHTS,” and in the Senior division Mara Kieren and Danae Wheat, 9th grade, Grant High School, “WORLD WAR II: A NURSE’S ENCOUNTER OF WAR, A SOLDIER’S EXCHANGE OF LETTERS.”

The Family History award for Best Entry, given by the Michigan Genealogical Association, in the Junior division Kate Johnson and Hannah Lutheran, 8th grade, Traverse City Christian Middle School, “ENCOUNTERING THE DECADES: AN EXPLORATION OF THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES,” and to Senior division students Lindsay Carnick, Christine Harder, Tori Minton, & Kim Perwerton, 9th grade,

Rochester Adams High School, Rochester, "I AM AN ITALIAN IMMIGRANT: ENCOUNTERING THE PROGRESSIVE ERA AND ADAPTING TO CULTURAL EXCHANGE."

The Best Entry for Science and Technology, given by Lawrence Technological University, for the Youth division went to William Bowers, 5th grade, Symons Elementary, "FIRST STEPS." The Junior award went to Kathy and Lisa McNeil, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, "A SPOT FROM THE PAST: THE ENCOUNTER OF SMALLPOX." The Senior division award was given to Jason DeSantis and Gail McCormick, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, "UNLOCK THE CODE, EXPLORING THE HUMAN GENOME."

Best Use of Primary Sources sponsored by the Michigan Archival Association: for the Youth division: Lance Harris and Timothy Myer, 5th grade, Chime Elementary School, "STORY OF THE TITANIC," the Junior division Brian Tremml, 8th grade, Holland West Middle School, "THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS: THE THIRTEEN DAYS WHERE THE WORLD STOOD STILL," and the Senior division Alicia Koeppen, 11th grade, Grant High School, "DEAR THERESE...THE EXCHANGE OF MY GRANDPARENTS' LETTERS DURING WORLD WAR II."

Best Entry, Innovation in History, awarded by the Siemens Corporation, was given to: in the Junior division Marissa Suwyn, 8th grade, Ada Christian Middle, "LOUIS BRAILLE'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE WORLD OF DARKNESS, HIS EXPLORATION OF NEW WAYS FOR THE BLIND TO READ AND THE WORLD'S EXCHANGE OF SYSTEMS" and in the Senior division to Graham Stevens, 10th grade, Rochester Adams High School, "THE APOLLO-SOYUS TEST PROJECT: EXPLORATION OF SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENCOUNTERS DURING THE COLD WAR AND EXCHANGE OF GOOD WILL."

Best Entry in Transportation History sponsored by the Michigan Roundtable, Lexington Group in Transportation History was given to Youth division students Tyler Bridgman, Thomas Davis, and Mitch

Singletery, 10th grade, Southeastern Elem. School, “MATTHEW HENSON: NORTH POLE EXPLORATION” and in the Junior Division the winners were Ingrid Slette, Brooke Steenwyk, and Kayla Vloedman, for “FRIDTOJF NANSEN.”

Several generous donors who assisted the Society this year made Michigan History Day 2004 possible. They included the Michigan Department of History, Arts & Libraries, Alticor Inc, the Michigan Labor History Society, Siemens Inc., the Holland Area Historical Society, the Henry Ford and the membership of the Historical Society of Michigan.

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.