

Teacher Talk

August 2010

National History Day Kansas City Student Wins First Place in the Nation!

Patrick Lawhon, a student at Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City, won first place at National History Day in June. Patrick competed with a dramatic performance, *"The Box That Made the World Smaller"*. The ten-minute play examined the evolution of the standardized shipping container, which over the past 50 years has reduced shipping costs and transformed the global economy.

In his performance, Patrick portrays a number of different people including union leader, Harry Bridges. Patrick competed in the first round of the contest in March at the Truman Library. He went on to finish first place in the state at the University of Missouri-Columbia and then became the national champion at the National History Day finals at the University of Maryland-College Park.

In July, he was honored at a reception at the Truman Library and received a standing ovation when he reprised his performance in the museum auditorium. Patrick plans to serve as a mentor to middle school students at Pembroke Hill for National History Day this school year.



- A video of Patrick's performance is available online at www.trumanlibrary.org/histday.htm
- Patrick will be showcasing his performance at the Truman Library on October 30 at the National History Day teacher's workshop
- Details about the teacher workshop can be found on page 3
- Read about Patrick's experience with National History Day on page 2

My National History Day Experience By PJ Lawhon

The start of any trip is pretty exciting. You're anticipating what you'll see and do and what it will be like at your destination. Those feelings are even more pronounced when you are heading to the Washington, D.C. metro area and the University of Maryland campus for the National History Day finals.

There's an amazing sense of energy and activity from the moment you set foot on campus. Sunday is registration day and it is slightly chaotic – kids picking up their packets; finding the rooms where they will set up, perform, or discuss their papers; and moving huge boxes with exhibit boards to the Grand Ballroom. As soon as you get settled in, it's time to head to the Welcome Ceremony on Sunday evening.

I used to wonder what I would do with all the time scheduled for the national competition – Sunday to Thursday. As a contestant in the individual performance category, I'll perform once for ten minutes and answer the judges' questions for about another ten minutes. If I'm lucky enough to make it through that preliminary round and get into the top fourteen for the finals round – there will be another ten-minute performance. Thirty minutes out of five days? What would I do the rest of the time? I soon found out there's plenty to do.

NHD itself keeps things pretty active. The Stamp Student Union on campus is the hub of all activity during NHD and you'll always find lots of people there. It's an especially good place for hanging out around the food court and meeting other kids from all over the country. There's a lot of trading your state pin for others (every contestant at the national contest gets a large supply of state pins to trade with others – the unofficial contest within the contest is to come up with the most state pins by the end of the week). There's a dance for the kids on Monday night and events for parents and teachers too.

When I'm not rehearsing or performing, I like to watch other performances. You can learn a lot from the people who've gotten to this stage of the competition and get good ideas that might help you in the future too – a neat way to do a costume change without taking much time, for example. It's also just fun to learn about other topics and to see how other students interpret the theme. I also like to wander around the exhibits – people do some amazing things with the small space they have for exhibits. With a day or two off, it's fun to take advantage of the location – the Mall in Washington, DC, with all its great monuments, museums, and galleries, is only 10 miles from campus. There's plenty of history nearby for history buffs.

Tuesday evening is when the anticipation starts to build. That's the night (for senior division, at least) that finalists are posted. It seems that everyone is hanging around Stamp Student Union just waiting for the lists to go up. You want to look, but you're a little afraid to as well. This year when the results went up on the wall and I saw that I had made the top fourteen finalists, I was ecstatic. My goal this year was to get into the finals, so I was thrilled (and of course pretty surprised) that I made it. I also knew that it meant I needed to get back to work – back to my room to rehearse my lines to get ready for the finals round the next day!

The finals were pure fun, at least for me. First, there are more spectators and that helps to give you energy. Second, there's a ten-minute performance like usual, but no question-and-answer session with the judges afterwards as in prior rounds. Not having to be prepared for questions after the performance was a great relief!

Thursday morning and the awards ceremony comes before you know it. Everyone wears his or her state's official t-shirt and gathers together to enter the Maryland Field House in a parade of states – sort of like the parade of nations in the Olympics, but one that looks more like an unruly mob than a parade after the second or third trip around the floor. It's a great way to start the Awards Ceremony. Everyone has fun and it puts you in a good mood.

The top three finishers in each category are announced and walk across the stage to pick up a bronze, silver, or gold medal. When they got to the senior individual performance category, I admit that I was pretty nervous. I was happy to just to make the top fourteen, but wouldn't it be cool to make the top three too? It would, but I tried not to get my hopes up. When my name wasn't called for third place, I figured this just wasn't my year. When my name wasn't called for second place, I knew it was over for sure. But then the announcer said, "And in first place, from Kansas City, Missouri...." And that's all I heard. I guess she said my name after that, but I never heard it. It took a moment, but the people around me in the Missouri section were cheering and I knew there was nobody else in my category from Kansas City, Missouri, so it had to be me!

It took quite a few days for everything to sink in. I'm not really sure that it has fully sunk in yet. I do keep in mind, however, that everyone who makes it to nationals does a good job and anyone in the final round is capable of winning. The final result can be affected by the luck of the draw of the panel of judges you have that day. Three other judges on the panel that day might have loved the history of Barbie dolls and not clicked with my containerization topic at all. That helps me keep it all in perspective.



National History Day Workshop

Truman Library
October 30, 2010
9:00 am – Noon

Each year, more than half a million students participate in the National History Day (NHD) contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research. Students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators.

The Truman Library coordinates the first round of competition in the Greater Kansas City area (Missouri).

In addition to discovering the exciting world of the past, NHD also helps students develop the following attributes that are critical for future success:

- critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- research and reading skills
- oral and written communication and presentation skills
- self esteem and confidence
- a sense of responsibility for and involvement in the democratic process



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2011
DEBATE & DIPLOMACY IN HISTORY:
SUCCESSSES, FAILURES, CONSEQUENCES

The workshop will feature National History Day first place winner, Patrick Lawhon.

Other speakers will include teachers who have attended the national finals and experienced National History Day coordinators and judges. They will share ideas on topics and give tips on how to implement the program into your classroom.

The workshop is free. To sign up email mark.adams@nara.gov.

Important Dates

Teacher Workshop

October 30, 2010. Truman Library

Deadline for entries

February 11, 2011.

Regional Contest

Saturday March 5, 2011 at the Truman Library.

Missouri State Finals

April 9, 2011, University of Missouri-Columbia

National Finals

June 12-16, 2011, University of Maryland–College Park

If you wish to enter students, email mark.adams@nara.gov for the most up-to-date information.

NHD
NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY

**Mark Your Calendars!
Upcoming Teacher Conferences**

Missouri & Illinois Councils for History Education

Borderlands: Regional Encounters and Forgotten Histories

September 24 & 25, 2010

Springfield, Missouri

www.missouriche.org



Kansas Council for the Social Studies

October 14, 2010

Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas

kcss.info

Kansas Council for History Education

History, Literacy, and Twenty-First Century Skills:

New Directions in K-12 History Education

October 24-25, 2010

Derby Public Library, Derby, Kansas

www.ksche.org/news.htm

National Council for the Social Studies

November 12-14, 2010

Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado

www.socialstudies.org



Missouri Council for the Social Studies

February 25-26, 2011

Embassy Suites on the Plaza, Kansas City, Missouri

mosocialstudies.org

National Council for History Education

The Causes and Consequences of Civil Wars

March 31-April 2, 2011

Charleston, South Carolina

www.nche.net/conference

New lesson plans online

Teachers attending our Teacher Conference in July created more than 30 new lesson plans for the Truman Library website. The conference: "America at War: 1950-2010" was a huge success. Lesson plans on topics such as the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War, Iran Hostage Crisis and the Persian Gulf War can be downloaded at www.trumanlibrary.org/educ/america_at_war.html.

If you have lesson plans you would like to submit email mark.adams@nara.gov.

3rd Annual High School Trivia Contest

“War & Peace: The United States & International Relations”

Categories:

- World Leaders
- 19th century conflicts
- 20th century conflicts
- Geography & Flags
- Potpourri



Monday, October 18, 2010, 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
Truman Library, Independence, Missouri

Name of School

Contact Information (address)

Name of Teacher / Sponsor

Contact Information (e-mail)

Names of Students (please list 6)

Registration Fee - \$25.00; 1 Team per School. Make Checks to: National Archives Trust Fund

Send Registration to:

Mark Adams, Truman Library, 500 West U.S. 24 Highway, Independence, MO 64050

Fax: 816-268-8295; E-Mail: mark.adams@nara.gov

Deadline for registration is **September 30, 2010**. Registration is first come, first served. We will be accepting the first 10 teams to apply and submit their entry fee.

“Memories of Korea”

**On display now at the Truman Library
Exhibit open until December 31, 2010**

June 25, 2010 marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. For the people of Korea, the war was a cause of great suffering as families were separated and as the land was laid to waste. Although American men and women were once more called upon to fight in a foreign land, to most Americans it was a “forgotten war” that intruded only peripherally on their desire to build the good life in a booming post-World War II economy. To American policy makers, the war was the first test of the nation’s new role at the head of the world’s democracies. For President Truman, Korea represented a particular challenge to demonstrate that nations, acting in concert through the United Nations, had the responsibility to halt the kind of aggression that had triggered two world wars in his lifetime.

This exhibition recalls the region, the war, and the war’s legacy through the eyes and memories of the people who lived there, who fought there, and whose lives were permanently changed by the experience. The story of Korea is told with their letters, diaries, photographs, films, and personal memorabilia. Organized around four chronological areas – Culture and History, Antecedents, War, and Legacy – the exhibition explores the rich culture of Korea, the political winds that led to the conflict, and the sixty years of division and divergence that have characterized the two Koreas since the war. One of the last remaining vestiges of the Cold War, divided Korea is a reminder of the clear political boundaries that once divided the world itself into East and West.



Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously to Sergeant Charles R. Long of Independence, Missouri.

Key artifacts include:

- Notification of arrival of U.S. forces in Korea to accept surrender of Japanese forces south of the 38th Parallel, 1945
- Letter Syngman Rhee to President Truman, November 20, 1948, expressing concern over the removal of American troops
- Framed photograph of Syngman Rhee inscribed to President Truman, Christmas 1949
- Typewriter used by Vernice Anderson to type the Wake Island Communique, the official statement issued by President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur following their meeting in the Pacific on October 15, 1950.
- Medallion: The National Order of Merit for National Foundation Joong Jang, awarded to former President Truman on June 25, 1964 by the Korean Ambassador to the United States, on behalf of Korean President Park Chung-Hee
- Video and audio interviews with Koreans and Korean Americans

Reserve a school tour to see this exhibit now!

Teachers can schedule tours of this exhibit now. You will receive extensive teaching materials geared towards your students grade level to help prepare them before your visit to our museum. Call 816-268-8221 to reserve your tour or book online at: www.trumanlibrary.org/reservation.php.

Remembering the Korean War: 60th Anniversary

Teacher Workshop

October 15 & 16, 2010; Truman Library

- When** Friday October 15th (5pm - 9pm) and Saturday October 16th (8am - 5pm)
- Description** This teacher workshop is sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Institute and the Harry S. Truman Library. Guest presenters will include staff from the National Archives at Kansas City, the U.S. Army Command at Fort Leavenworth, historians from local universities, Korean War veterans and others. Topics will include the importance of teaching the Korean War, causation, military overview, Harry Truman's firing of General MacArthur, and the legacy of the war.
- Location** Truman Library, 500 West U.S. Hwy 24, Independence MO 64050
- Cost** \$65.00 (includes Friday evening light snacks, Saturday breakfast and lunch)
- College Credit** One hour of continuing education graduate credit is offered through the University of Missouri - Kansas City for an additional fee of \$75.00. Sign up directly with UMKC before the conference. **Course Requirements** - Attendance for the entire workshop and a 1 1/2 -2 page reflection paper or lesson plan.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, October 12th. Reservations will not be accepted after this date. Refund requests must be received no later than Tuesday, October 12th. The final workshop schedule and UMKC registration forms will be e-mailed to participants one week prior. Questions? Call Tom Heuertz at 816-268-8241.

Send completed registration below with a check for \$65 payable to the Truman Library Institute or charge card information to: Tom Heuertz, Harry S. Truman Library, 500 West US Highway 24, Independence, MO 64050. No school purchase orders.

Hotels: For suggestions go to the bottom of our web site www.trumanlibrary.org and click on "lodging". There are hotels a few miles east near the Independence Shopping Center at I-470 and I-70 such as the Fairfield Inn, Hilton, Sleep Inn, Holiday Inn, Microtel (25-30 minute drive to the Truman Library).

Remembering the Korean War: 60th Anniversary

Name _____ School _____

School address: Street _____

State _____ Zip _____ District _____ County _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Courses/Grades taught _____

Credit card type: _____ Number _____ Expiration date _____

E-mail (required) _____

Harry S. Truman Library & Museum Educational Programs

Grades	Program	Description
8-Adult	White House Decision Center	Students role play President Truman and his advisors as they face major decisions in post WWII history. A five module experiential curriculum with a day in the White House Decision Center. A unique, skill building experience. An adult version is also available on request for companies, agencies, and civic groups. (contact Tom)
K-12	Footlocker (Free)	The footlocker contains Truman-related artifact replicas, documents, photographs and teaching activities. It is available for a two-week loan period and maybe picked up on weekends & evenings by arrangement. (email: Truman.education@nara.gov)
4-Adult	Website (Free)	The award-winning site (www.trumanlibrary.org) contains 27,000 pages of primary sources, photographs, & teaching activities for many audiences. (contact Mark)
4-9	Truman Places Map (Free)	Students locate KC area sites linked to Truman on a colorful map. An outstanding map interpretation skill lesson. A set of maps and activity templates sent upon request. (email: Truman.education@nara.gov)
4-12	Guided tours	Arrange a docent led tour and receive a museum curriculum guide. The admission fee for school groups is \$2.00 per student with one free adult per 10 students. You must call four weeks in advance to book a guided tour. (call 816-268- 8221 or 1-800-833-1225 x88221)
6-12	National History Day (Free)	Missouri students compete regionally each March at the Truman Library. Finalists in the four categories proceed to the state and national levels. (contact Mark)
8-12	Spy's Dilemma (Free)	Students serve as members of a 1945 Soviet spy ring reading and analyzing once secret U.S. documents. Teaching guide and student templates available upon request. (email: Truman.education@nara.gov)
8-12	Top Secret: WWII (Free)	Students in this activity act as U.S. World War II intelligence agents as they classify documents related to U.S. actions in the war. Teaching guide & templates available upon request. (email: Truman.education@nara.gov)
8-12	Presidential Decision Making Kit (Free)	Students review a critical situation. Students analyze the crisis from several points of view and make a recommendation to "President Truman." (email: Truman.education@nara.gov)
Teachers	Video Library (Free)	More than 120 videos related to Truman, WWI, WWII, the Cold War, and the 1940s & 1950s are available for a two-week loan. A list of available videos is online at: http://www.trumanlibrary.org/educ/video.htm

Grades	Program	Description
8- College	Student Research Files (Free)	These primary documents cover 53 topics. Twelve student research files are available online and all are available at the Truman Library, UMKC, Longview Community College, Graceland University-Independence Campus, and the Mid-Continent Library System. (Email: Truman.education@nara.gov)
9-Adult	Special Presentations	Presentations are available on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Thomas Hart Benton's Mural · Truman's Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb · Truman and Boss Tom Pendergast · Harry Truman: A Man of Character · Captain Harry Truman in WW I · Truman's Planes, Trains, and Automobiles · Harry S. Truman and civil rights · Give 'Em Hell: The 1948 Election Upset · Behind the Scenes Tour of the Truman Library · Truman and Atomic Energy · Truman in Retirement · Truman Places: Independence & Kansas City · The Love Story of Harry and Bess Truman · Truman's Senatorial Campaigns · Harry Truman At School 1892-1901 (contact Tom)
Teachers	<i>Teacher Talk</i> (Free)	This printed newsletter, containing education related news, is published twice during the school year. To add your name to the list contact Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov
Teachers	E-Talk (Free)	This e-mail bulletin presents the latest educational news, exhibit openings, upcoming public programs and more. To add your name to the list contact Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov
Teachers	In-Service	We offer teacher in-service programs. Presentations at the Truman Museum include activities using our exhibits. We are available to share our resources at school district in-services and resource fairs. (contact Mark)
Teachers	Workshops	See our workshop information in this issue

Need more information? Contact:

Mark Adams (Mark.adams@nara.gov) 816-268-8236 or 1-800-833-1225 x88236

Tom Heuertz (Tom.heuertz@nara.gov) 816-268-8241 or 1-800-833-1225 x88241

Students Experiencing History at the White House Decision Center

Since 2001, more than 45,000 students and thousands of adults have taken part in the White House Decision Center (WHDC) experience. It is not a regular student field trip but rather a mini-curriculum with pre- and post-classroom components and an on-site session. For adult groups, the WHDC serves as a great team building experience.

In a West Wing setting, students and adults role-play Harry Truman or one of his advisors as they face one of these real historical scenarios:

- Ending the War Against Japan
- Berlin Airlift
- Desegregation of the Military or
- The opening days of the Korean War

In the WHDC, students and adults analyze primary source documents; problem solve; work in cooperative groups; advise the President, and deliver speeches in the specially built press room.



Student groups - the exercise is intended for students in grades 8 and up. The cost per student is \$12.00 (minimum fee of \$360.00 for a group smaller than 30). This price includes a visit on the same day to the museum exhibits.

Adult groups - we also offer the on-site experience for university students and other adult groups. We have had military staffs, teacher groups, university instructors, hospitals, civic groups, CIA, elder hostels, corporations, federal and state agencies, etc. use this experience as a team builder. The fee for an adult group is \$25.00 per person and this includes a visit on the same day to the museum exhibits. Catered meals and snacks are an option. The adult session takes 3.5 hours.

If you would like more information, please contact Tom.heuertz@nara.gov.

"Bus Stops Here" Scholarship Program



White House Decision Center and Museum Tour Scholarships are available through the end of the 2010-11 school year. These provide free admission to the White House Decision Center and free museum tours. They can also cover bus costs.

Scholarships cover most schools in the Kansas City metro area. Contact mark.adams@nara.gov for more information and eligibility.

Presidential Timeline

Educational activities for the Presidential Timeline focus on using original documents, photographs, audio and video to provide students with an in depth understanding of historical events related to the presidents. The Resources section includes a collection of links and resources related to teaching with primary source documents, presidential history, and technology-related issues. The Multimedia section provides links to download all multimedia (audio and video) assets from the Presidential Timeline for use in educational activities. To learn more access the Timeline at www.presidentialtimeline.org.

White Rose Student Essay Contest

The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education is pleased to announce its sixteenth annual White Rose Student Essay Contest, open to 8th through 12th grade students in the 18 county Greater Kansas City area.



Honoring the Past • Protecting the Future®

Theme: Kansas City Survivors: History and Lessons of the Holocaust

Survivor testimony is our most valuable resource for personalizing the history of the Holocaust. Learning how these events affected one person, one family or one community makes the Holocaust more immediate and more relevant. In honor of the 10th anniversary of the Portrait 2000 Project and the 18th anniversary of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, the 2010-2011 White Rose Student Essay Contest asks students to study the Holocaust through the perspective of a local survivor. Students must choose one survivor from a list provided by the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education.

The White Rose Student Essay Contest offers 8th-12th grade students in the Greater Kansas City area the chance to conduct historical research and draw connections between the Holocaust and contemporary issues.

Visit MCHE's website: <http://www.mchekc.org/WhiteRoseStudentEssayContest.htm> for more information. Questions? Contact Jessica Rockhold at 913-327-8195.

Please print. You will receive education news updates.

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“ The papers of the presidents are among the most valuable sources of material for history. They ought to be preserved and they ought to be used. ”

Harry S. Truman

Harry S. Truman Library & Museum *Free Admission for Educators*

One coupon required for each educator.
Must show valid school identification and complete the information on the reverse of this coupon. Non-educator members of party will be required to pay museum admission.

500 West U.S. Highway 24
Independence, Missouri 64050-1798
816-268-8200

Museum Hours
Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Museum Admission
Adults: \$8 Seniors: \$7 Children (6-15): \$3 Under age 5: Free

Duplicate Coupons Accepted

Expires December 31, 2010