www. pcssonline.org

PCSS News and Views

Volume LX No. 2 Year end 2013

To keep you informed

To keep you in touch

To keep you involved

Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies

Highlights of Harrisburg Conference

More than 50 sessions and over 300 educators young and old came together in Harrisburg October 16-18. Check out http://pcssonline.org/pcss-annual-conference-60-in-harrisburg-October-17-19-2013

Following a pre-conference session on Service Learning, the Annual Awards ceremony took place with a full house. Among recipients were: **President's Award** winners- **Robert Kreider,** Mannheim Central H. S.; **Wendy Toole,** NHD Coordinator Region 9; and **Beth Specker**, Arcadia University. Former Pennsylvania Governor **Ed Rendell** surprised the PCSS audience by coming to share his vision of the need for civic education and to talk about the new Rendell Center for for Citizenship and Civics at Arcadia University.

Middle School Teacher of the Year Award- Joshua Yoder,. Owen J. Roberts M.S.; Co-recipients of the **Secondary Teacher of the Year Award-Amy Cheresnowsky,** Athens H.S.; Justin Reese, McCoskey H. S.

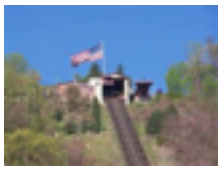
Student Teacher Award Co-Recipients - **Ruth Kromko** and **Teddi Valeski,** both of IUP

(See Awards on Page 4)

President' s Page	2
Masthead	3
Conference Recap	4-5
Core Controversy	6-7
Funding cuts & Testing	8
Why I Teach	9
Burn out	10
MSCSS Conference	11

Johnstown Pasquerilla Conference Center Site of October 16-18, 2014 Conference

C3 and the Civic Mission of Schools is the theme of the 2014 conference to be held at the Pasquerilla Conference Center in Johnstown, PA next October. Developed after nearly a decade of cooperative meetings of a variety of history and other social studies organizations, the C-3 Framework offers a guide for developing state standards for social studies programs that are compatible with the Common Core. The College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework guides educators on concepts, skills and disciplinary tools necessary to prepare students for college, career and civic life.



From the President

Dear brothers and sisters, we must not forget that millions of people are suffering from poverty, injustice and ignorance. We must not forget that millions of children are out of schools. We must not forget that our sisters and brothers are waiting for a bright peaceful future. So let us wage a global struggle against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism and let us pick up our books and pens. They are our most powerful weapons.

One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education First.

--Malala Yousafzai, speech before the United Nations, 12 July 2013

"Would you take a bullet for education?"

That is the question posed by the experience of Malala Yousafzai, the young woman who was targeted by a Taliban assassin in an effort to squelch her advocacy of education for her peers. It was also the question asked by a group of immigrant children in Sofia Rashid's 7th grade ESL class at Ditmas Intermediate School 62 in Brooklyn on November 19, 2013. Ms. Rashid created a tremendous lesson by having her students rewrite the words of Malala's United Nations' speech in their own words, through the filter of their own experience. Here were children whose lives already had taught them the importance of standing up for something, children who were finding their

David Trevaskis

voices in a new language thanks to a gifted teacher.

Ditmas has a number of talented teachers and a great principal working in a heavily Title 1 school with lots of immigrant children and they are doing some fabulous integrated social studies projects with one of my longtime colleagues, Dr. Rose Cherie Reissman. Dr. Rose, as everyone calls her, is a character whose talent lies in helping young people find their voices through writing and more. Reissman is Head of the Writing Institute at the Ditmas Education Complex. She is an ongoing classroom public school educator who has successfully taught and continues to teach literacy, project-based learning, special education, gifted and talented students, and ELL students K-12. Reissman has taught and published extensively in the field of multicultural education, literacy, middle school literacy, law-related education, technology integration, and writing across content.

I visited Ditmas as part of my presidential initiative to try to reconnect PCSS with the Middle States Council for the Social Studies. I plan to reach out to a unique school in each MSCSS state over the next two years and connect that school with schools in Pennsylvania. I am looking for partner schools for Ditmas in Pennsylvania; if your school might like to partner on such projects as the ones described in this article, please reach out to me. Partnering with Ditmas would mean being open to some common activities, perhaps through Skype, and maybe facilitating a visit of some students and teachers from Ditmas to your school.

I was able to see the product of many bright young minds during my visit to Ditmas as students did oral histories of the Kennedy assassination (those of us old enough to have that experience will always remember where we were when we heard the news and those stories were the ones the students were collecting), read original poetry, shared group projects and explored history through such prisms as the evolution of currency. The students also shared a number of self-published books of student work that are now part of the PCSS archives.

The PCSS webpage will soon have a Ditmas corner where some of this innovative learning will be shared as Ditmas becomes our first PCSS "Affiliated" school, formally partnering PCSS with Ditmas. PCSS is an organization

(Continued on Page 4)

PCSS NEWS AND VIEWS

(ISSN 0894-8712)

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies [PCSS]

EDITOR

Leo R. West • Retired • 11533 Clematis Blvd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15235-3105 • 412-243-8186
E-mail: wlrw@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT

David Trevaskis • Pennsylvania Bar Association • 222 Paxson Avenue • Glenside, PA 19038 • 717-571-7414 • E-mail: david@leapkids.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Ira Hiberman Executive Director of the Jacobsburg Historical Society. • Nazareth PA • 610 984 5996 • E-mail: hiberman@verizon.net

PCSS Mission

PCSS promotes quality Social Studies education from kindergarten to higher learning by:

1. Advocating the Social Studies at all levels of education in Pennsylvania.
2. Promoting the analysis, dissemination and evaluation of Social Studies materials.
3. Examining and recommending certification requirements for teachers.
4. Assisting educators in organizing local Social Studies councils for professional development.
5. Cooperating with schools, districts, intermediate units and other interested parties on Social Studies projects.

Technology is used to enhance Supreme Court lesson in Pa. school

Laptops and iPads were key to a recent game of "Fantasy Supreme Court" in Central York High School in Pennsylvania. Social studies students used technology to research a case and posted their opinions on a class wiki. Social studies teacher Erin Walker said using iPads has helped lessons become more inquiry-based and centered on students, who become more responsible for their learning.
York Daily Record (Pa.) (12/1)

PA Contract Dispute Shines Light On Teacher Advanced Degree Debate.

The Lehigh Valley (PA) Express Times (12/3) reports that a contract dispute over pay for teachers with advanced degrees in Pennsylvania's Saucon Valley School District "is echoing a national dialogue about whether teachers should be paid more for earning master's degrees." The piece notes that many districts increase pay or offer tuition reimbursement for teachers' with or earning their master's degree, but adds that research "shows a master's degree doesn't necessarily translate into better classroom results.

A wise man sees as much as he ought, not as much as he can."
-- Michel de Montaigne, French writer

PAST PRESIDENT
Joseph Labant
Millersville University

PRESIDENT ELECT
Nicole Roper
Archdiocese of Phila. Schools

RECORDING SECRETARY
Khristy Snider
Pocono Mt. School District

DIRECTORS 2012-2015
Keith Bailey
Physicians for Social Responsibility Philadelphia

Rachel Finley Bowman
Elizabethtown College

Robert Kreider
Manheim Central High School

Christopher J. Zanoni
Somerset Area School District

James Wetzler
Consultant- PA Alliance for Citizenship Education

DIRECTORS 2011-2014
Marc Brasof
Arcadia University

Georgette Hackman
Cocalico S.D. Denver

Jill Beccarris-Pescatore
Montgomery County C.C.

PatrickKelly
Central Bucks S.D.

Robert Stamp
Lancaster City Schools

DIRECTORS 2013-2016
Amy Camerdese
Westminster University

Amy Cheresnowsky
Athens School District

Jessica Schocker
Penn State Berks

Jonathan Rutledge
Westmont Hilltop S.D.

Crystal Swanson
Cabrini College

JOURNAL EDITOR
Jodi Bornstein,
Arcadia University

ARCHIVIST
Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen
Indiana Univ. of PA

AWARDS
Christpher Zanoni
Somerset Area School District

From the President

Continued from Page 2

that has had a long tradition of supporting all the social studies related disciplines throughout the state and region. As an advocate for social studies at all levels of education, PCSS promotes the analysis, dissemination, and evaluation of instructional materials and programs for effective social studies education in the Commonwealth. In addition, the organization makes recommendations on certification requirements for educators involved in teaching social studies. Most importantly, PCSS assists local social studies councils in organizing professional development and cooperates with schools, school districts, intermediate units, and other interested parties on social studies projects.

While at Ditmas, I presented these awards:

PCSS President's Award for Curriculum Innovation

Heather Barron- Project Based Title 1/ESL/Immigrant Literacy Project- for ABCs Book of American History- including quotes, poetry and showcasing as anchor work Coretta Scott King Award Winning Hand in Hand poetry and student models, historical trivia, songs, and multimedia research.

PCSS President's Award for 21st Century Technology and Learning

David Liotta and Angelo Carideo- Media Studio- for utilizing a neighborhood based television shows to teach digital and career ready/college preparatory social studies and literacy in an authentic way that fosters citizenship.

PCSS President's Award for Social Studies Project Innovation

Michael Downes- Lawyer and Educator- for bringing the law to life through social studies and literacy programming.

PCSS School Leadership in Law, Community and Service

Barry Kevorkian- Principal- for outstanding leadership in creating and maintaining a wonderful learning environment.

I hope that we will be seeing Ditmas teachers and young people at future PCSS events and I look forward to making more connections with schools in our region.

David Trevaskis, President, PCSS

AWARDS (from Page 1)

Outstanding Project Award for **Misa'sFugue, Fleetwood H.S. Sean Gaston** and **Jen Goss.**

Outstanding Elementary Social Studies Teachers

(Primary) **Jennifer Basler, Melissa Ross, Amy Spencer, Angela Weimer, Michele Witman,** Donegal Intermediate School.

(Upper Elementary) **Stephania Mellott, Krista Thompson, Tracy Lavetan, Karl Hilt, Kyle Kasebo,** Sinking Springs Elementary School.

AWARDS (from Page 4)

Friend of social Studies Award
Rendell Center for Citizenship and Civics, Arcadia University

Future Leaders Award
(Co-recipients) **Darren Samuels, Annalise TalleyAbby Xie, Daphne Schlessinger, Lani Cupo, Katie Brown,** Mt. Lebanon H.S.

Three long time active members of PCSS were honored by having Awards named for them. **Kay Atman**, retired professor at the University of Pittsburgh who continues to be involved with innovative programs; **Ruth Stas,** retired from Manheim S.D. and long time supporter of inter-district co-operation in the Lancaster area which **sustained** excellence in social studies; and **Leo West**, retired from East Allegheny H.S. and Editor of *News and Views* for keeping awareness of social studies and promoting it through various activities. Life-time memberships were bestowed on all three. The first of these awards were presented at the ceremony of Thursday evening.

Leo West Award for Social Studies Awareness and Promotion
Myron Yoder, (Retired) School District of Allentown**.**

Ruth Stas Award for Social Studies Sustainability
Justin Reese, Lisa Hardwig, Heidi Trexler, McCaskey H.S.

Kay Atman Award for Social Studies Innovation
Darla Gerlach, Shaler Area Middle School.

Mryon and Joshua Yoder and family

Social Studies Future Leader Award-Mt Lebanon H.S.
Mt. Lebanon teacher, Peter DeNardo and students with President Joseph Labant.

Amy Toole receives Outstanding Community Leadership Award for her work with National History day in saving the Lancaster, Lebanon, York, and Berks Regional NHD Program.

Robert Kreider recieves the Outstanding Commitment to Social Studies Education Award for his work with Rho Kappa in Lancaster County and linking S. S, groups in Lancaster area.

! quiet fool is half a sage."- Yiddish proverb

Looking for Primary Sources ?

Sports Illustrated Vault contains the entire archives of the famed sports magazine dating back to its first issue in 1954. Sports are closely intertwined with societal issues and the march of history, and the Vault is a treasure chest of primary source documents and photographs of some of the most gripping human sagas over the past 60 years.

Ben Franklin and the Church

On the Power of Electricity…and the Church! Blog #24 benfranklinlive.org

Ben's Blog #24 – Ben Franklin, Electricity, and the Church. In my last entry I alluded, with deliberate vagueness, to my having had an adversary in my electrical experiments. This adversary was a conservative element of the Church, the Anglican...

Do You Remember Your First Year of Teaching?

(Finding Common Ground)

When I began teaching, I remember feeling as though the principal was going to walk into my classroom at any time and say he made a mistake by hiring me...or that parents were going to think I was a fraud. . . .

Why Teachers Are Fed Up and Burned Out

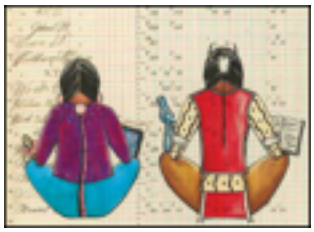
(Walt Gardner's Reality Check)

. . . Teachers are dedicated to their profession, but they are not missionaries. They are also adults who deserve to be treated accordingly. Instead, they are constantly vilified and/or infantilized. . . .

New Charter Schools' Policies Stir Debate.

The New York Times (11/8, Smith, Subscription Publication) reports on "the emergence of a new kind of charter school . . . often depend "on infusions of private money and parents' contributions" and seek out "students seeking intensely focused academics in a collegiate atmosphere." Such schools, . . . tend to have "disproportionately affluent and white" students. They charge fees of up to $1,000 per student annually and require parents to provide their own transportation, offering obstacles to those with limited financial means. These fees and other policies "have amplified an already contentious debate over charter schools' role in the public school system."

Education in Indian Country: Running in Place



Like many Native American students, Legend Tell Tobacco, a 10-year-old on South Dakota's Pine Ridge reservation, must outrun the odds against his educational success. (Education Week)

Classroom Shock: What I Am Learning as a Teacher in Finland

As an American teacher in his first year working with 5th grade students in Finland, Tim Walker reflects on the lessons he would bring back to an American classroom. One example: Take more breaks.

SAVE THE DATE!

MIDDLE STATES COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES

Delaware . District of Columbia . Maryland . New Jersey . New York . Pennsylvania

111th Annual Conference

February 21st –22nd, 2014

The Westin Hotel and Conference Center at Tyson's Corner, Virginia

C3, Social Studies: A World of Inquiry

The MSCSS Annual Fall Conference Offers:

- Outstanding Learning Opportunities
- Dedicated Vendor Session
- Great Door Prizes and Conference Gifts
- Free Pre-Conference Event at the Mount Vernon Library
- Reduced Rate of $89.00 at the Westin Hotel
- Nationally Recognized Keynote Speakers
- An Opportunity to Spend the Day with Other Social Studies Educators from across the region

Keynote Speakers

Cokie Roberts

Library of Congress Living Legend

In her more than forty years in broadcasting, Cokie Roberts has won countless awards, including three Emmys. She has been inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame, and was cited by the American Women in Radio and Television as one of the fifty greatest women in the history of broadcasting. Roberts has also written three bestsellers: *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters*, an account of women's roles and relationships throughout American history, and two histories of women in America's founding era—*Founding Mothers* and *Ladies of Liberty*.

Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington

Scott Casper, Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences and Professor of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Scott Casper, Ph.D., has long been active in promoting professional development for teachers. He has been an instrumental faculty member of Mount Vernon's George Washington Teachers' Institute for over a decade. In 2008, Dr. Casper served as co-author of *We The People: The Citizen & The Constitution Teacher's Edition Level 3*. He is the author of Sarah Johnson's Mount Vernon: The Forgotten History of an American Shrine in which he restores the lives and contributions of African Americans to the legacy of Mount Vernon.

Dr. Casper will explore best practices for incorporating C3 and Common Core into the classroom using George Washington as an example.

Tour the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington

Co-Sponsored by

THE FRED W. SMITH NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE STUDY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AT MOUNT VERNON

Register now and Submit a Proposal !

MSCSS is accepting conference proposals until November 30th. The Conference Proposal Form is available http://www.mscssonline.org

NHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Do you have questions about the rules for the National History Day contest?

On Tuesday, December 10, 2013 from 4:00-6:00pm ET, NHD held an online discussion about the NHD contest rules where staff members addressed questions from teachers, students and parents. If you were not available during this time, don't fret! All questions and answers will be posted on NHD website (http://www.nhd.org) for your convenience.

Attendees enjoy session presentations at the annual conference.