



# PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

> Volume 22, Number 4

> Summer 2002

## ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

by David G. Vanderstel  
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In early March, I attended a lecture in Indianapolis by author David McCullough, probably America's best-known public historian. It was the first time that I had experienced him "live" and it was indeed quite an event. I discovered first hand that the public truly respects this man and his work – and each of us probably wishes that we had the "history groupies" that he possessed . . . as well as the fee that he commands for speaking! Besides discussing his recent book on John Adams, McCullough spoke about the importance of history and the role that historians play through their research and telling the stories of the past. He also recognized those historians who work in historical societies, museums, archives, and historic sites, and applauded their work of making history available to and understandable for the larger public. It was wonderful to hear, in a large public setting, the acknowledgement of our work and the public's appreciative response for that work as well, thus confirming the value of what we do, even if we don't receive the recognition personally. All in all, that evening renewed my faith in at least part of the public who demonstrated that "history matters" to them and that history enriches our lives in many different ways – thus confirming what we historians already knew.

I am pleased to present this report for the year 2001-2002. NCPH continues to be in excellent shape, though, as I have noted in the past, we face challenges ahead to realize the growth that we envision and to ensure the continued stability of the organization. The year also witnessed some major accomplishments for the organization, which reflected the strength of the public history profession.

**STAFF.** Although the heart of any organization is comprised of its members, the success of an organization usually rests with the

ability of the staff to perform its tasks in an efficient and timely manner. NCPH has been very fortunate to have a dedicated and hard-working staff in the Executive Offices at IUPUI. Since joining the NCPH staff in November 2000 as the Assistant to the Executive Director, Dana Ward has been a wonderful asset to the organization. She has done much to enhance the efficiency of the office and accomplished numerous things to improve the overall operations of the organization. Of particular note has been her work on redesigning and maintaining the NCPH website, assisting with board and annual meeting planning, and working with UC Press customer service representatives to ensure quality service to our members and to resolve problems with membership lists. Ryan Hanson, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, was this year's graduate intern. Though new to public history, Ryan demonstrated his enthusiasm and commitment to NCPH through his hard work on several projects. He took on the responsibility of editing the quarterly newsletter, assisted with the web page, and provided valuable assistance in completing the new *Guide to Graduate Programs* and doing research on graduate programs in public history. Dana and Ryan have been a true pleasure to work with, and I extend my personal thanks to them for their work for NCPH.

**FINANCES.** NCPH remained in stable financial condition for 2001-2002. Revenue from membership, which constitutes one-half of the operating budget, was on track for the year. NCPH also received a boost with the money earned from the very successful 2001 annual meeting in Ottawa, an amount that exceeded our goal by \$5,000. Thanks go to Sharon Babaian and her local arrangements committee for producing such an enriching annual meeting. Also, with the release of the updated *Guide to Graduate*

## NEW MEMBERS

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## Volume 22, Number 4 Summer 2002

A Quarterly Publication of the **National Council on Public History** in cooperation with the Department of History, Indiana University at Indianapolis.

Rebecca Conard, President  
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*Programs*, we began to see revenue from an area that had been declining in recent years. NCPH continues to receive support from a faithful group of institutional sponsors and patrons (see list elsewhere in this newsletter). Of particular note, The History Channel

> See Annual Report page 2

► *Annual Report ... continued.*

renewed its support for NCPH at the \$10,000 level.

Additional support from the IUPUI History Department underwrites a portion of the administrative assistant's salary and has led to the purchase of a new computer system for the director.

Expenditures have, in most cases, been below projections. A more detailed financial report will appear in the fall issue of *Public History News*.

**MEMBERSHIP.** NCPH continues to have a broad-based membership that represents the diversity of the public history profession. Individuals constitute the largest segment – about 55 percent – of our 1,600 members. Some 200 students are members. Our renewal rate remains quite strong—89 percent for individuals; 94 percent for institutions; and 69 percent among students.

NCPH has, however, not experienced the desired rate of growth. One of the greatest challenges remains converting our student members to individual members when they graduate and enter the profession. To assist in that transition, the Membership Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the creation of a New Professional membership category. Similarly, the Membership Committee began work on a special membership brochure for students to emphasize the educational and professional benefits of membership in a professional association.

Each year, the Executive Offices staff handles assorted problems associated with the timing of membership renewals or new memberships. To address these issues, UC Press, which handles NCPH membership applications and renewals, has agreed to adopt a “rolling start” membership process. This means that individuals will be able to join or renew at any point during the year and receive a full year membership from that date (including a year's subscription to *The Public Historian* and *Public History News*). While most members will still subscribe on a calendar year-basis, the “rolling start” program will be particularly beneficial for student members who traditionally join in August or September.

**PROGRAM 2002.** The annual meeting was held jointly with the Organization of American Historians in Washington, DC. Although we are awaiting final figures at this writing, attendance appeared to be quite good and we anticipate a fairly good return from the conference. The program was solid and clearly demonstrated how public history is thoroughly integrated into the discipline. Special thanks go to program co-chair Dwight Pitcaithley and fellow committee members Barbara Franco and Don Ritchie for their hard work and their service as representatives of this organization.

NCPH hosted several special events throughout the meeting—a joint reception with the Oral History Association; the presidential luncheon with awards ceremony; and an endowment fundraiser at The Capitol City Brewing Company. Thanks go to Martha Norkunas, chair of the Endowment Committee, for coordinating this highly successful event.

OAH has extended an invitation to meet jointly again in Washington, DC in 2006. The NCPH Board will consider this invitation at its fall meeting after assessing the final attendance and revenue numbers and evaluations from the 2002 meeting.

#### **FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS.**

Several years ago, the Board decided to work towards planning annual meetings at least three years out. To date, we have two annual meetings in the planning stage and two other sites under consideration:

- The Program 2003 Committee, chaired by Robert Weyeneth, worked during the first half of 2002 to organize the program for Houston, Texas. Tom Kelly of HRA/Gray & Pape in Houston is serving as chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. *Look for details later this year regarding the 2003 meeting.*
- The NCPH Board agreed to hold its 2004 annual meeting jointly with the American Society for Environmental History in Victoria, British Columbia. We have reached an agreement with the Fairmont Empress, a historic hotel similar to the Chateau Laurier, which

hosted our 2001 meeting in Ottawa. The call for papers and session proposals will appear in late 2002/early 2003.

**NEW INITIATIVES.** In its ongoing effort to improve communications with its members and provide them with the most current information from the profession, NCPH is exploring the possibility of launching an electronic version of its quarterly newsletter *Public History News*. Given the rapid movement towards electronic publishing and dissemination of information, the Board is studying whether such a transition would be beneficial for the membership. If adopted, NCPH would disseminate *Public History News* electronically on a quarterly basis and offer a monthly news update with the latest job, conference and workshop, and advocacy news. I welcome your comments on this matter.

I am also pleased to announce that an updated version of *Careers for Students in History* will be available later this summer. Prepared by the Public History Program of the University of South Carolina under the direction of Constance Schultz and Page Putnam Miller and published by the American Historical Association, the new *Careers* will provide a fresh update on the variety of career opportunities within the historical profession.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that NCPH has been accepted into membership in the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the association representing the nation's leading scholarly organizations. Around 1990, David Kyvig sought to obtain NCPH admission into ACLS, but the application was rejected on the basis that public history had not proven itself and was perceived as a temporary employment opportunity. During his presidency, Michael Devine resurrected the application process and followed through with a new application in the summer of 2001. NCPH's membership in ACLS places it among the leading scholarly organizations in the nation and opens new opportunities of collaboration as well as promoting the public history profession to new audiences.

**H-PUBLIC.** The NCPH-sponsored listserv continues to be an important means of disseminating news and exchanging ideas about the public history profession. H-PUBLIC regularly distributes job announcements, calls for papers, workshop and internship opportunities, and assorted announcements, including NCC Washington Updates from Bruce Craig. I encourage you to contribute news and discussion items to the list by sending your messages to H-PUBLIC@h-net.msu.edu

**ENDOWMENT.** The NCPH Endowment continues to grow towards its initial goal of \$200,000, thanks to the generous contributions of NCPH members and the highly successful fundraising events at our annual meetings. The fund, which is dispersed across several Vanguard accounts, now totals approximately \$125,000. As you well know, this past year has been particularly harsh on investments, so our funds have not grown at the rate that we anticipated. In addition, NCPH applied for an NEH Challenge Grant in late spring 2002; if successful, this grant will help NCPH in building its endowment by providing a 1-to-3 match in funds for the NCPH endowment.

**COLLABORATIONS.** NCPH continues to explore ways of working with other historical organizations. It has met jointly with OAH and cooperated with the American Historical Association in the production of a new *Careers for Students in History*. Many NCPH members are working as consultants at the state and local level for projects associated with the Teaching American History Grant program of the US Department of Education, a program established by Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia.

NCPH is also seeking ways of working more closely with our fellow public historians in the American Association for State and Local History. Many NCPH members serve on assorted AASLH committees, and NCPH will have a visible presence on the AASLH annual meeting program to be held in Portland, Oregon in late September. Furthermore, breaking from their long-standing tradition of holding fall board meetings in Washington, DC, the NCPH

Board of Directors and *The Public Historian's* Editorial Board will convene during the AASLH meeting in Portland, all in an effort of building stronger ties between fellow public historians.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES.** Each year, I include in my report to the Board a description of my professional activities, as well as those pertaining to my other half appointment at IUPUI. I intend for that report to demonstrate how public history permeates all aspects of my life and how NCPH gains exposure through my various activities.

My responsibilities as NCPH Executive Director since August 1994 have been half time. The other half of my position has been with The Polis Center, an urban research center at IUPUI. After devoting six years to a major research project on religion and urban culture, I have spent the past academic year (half time) as project manager for the planning phase of Indiana Online™, an electronic encyclopedia for the state of Indiana. This phase was supported by a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. However, with the expiration of funds at the Center, I ended my nearly twelve-year association effective 30 June. The other half of my appointment at IUPUI will now be filled with teaching responsibilities for the Department of History, thanks to the efforts of chair Philip Scarpino.

I remain very active in public history at the national, state, and local levels. I have been an active member of the Professional Development Oversight Committee of AASLH and chaired a subcommittee on graduate education. I wrote the article, "And I Thought Historians Only Taught": Doing History Beyond the Classroom" for the *OAH Magazine of History*, Winter 2002, a special issue on public history. I have offered a workshop on doing historical research for the Indiana Historical Society and served on the Meridian Street Preservation Commission (Indianapolis) as an appointee of Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon. I am also the current president of the Indiana Association of Historians, the first public historian to hold that position. And, I have presented several talks to assorted professional and public audiences.

**CLOSING REMARKS.** It has indeed been an unsettling and stressful year in many ways for all of us. We have been touched by the tragic events of September 11th and we continue to deal with the repercussions of that day. The nation is at war, which has contributed to the uncertainty, especially among those who have family or friends in the military. Here in Indiana, the state is trying to address a \$1.3 billion "budgetary shortfall," a situation that other states are also experiencing and which may have a major impact on education as well as history- and humanities-related projects. The instability of the stock market has led to major fluctuations—and disappointing returns—for many investors, including NCPH. The future, of course, remains uncertain.

In closing, I wish to express my appreciation to Dean Herman Saatkamp of the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI who continues to provide strong support and financial underwriting for the organization. I also appreciate the sage advice and continued support from colleagues Phil Scarpino, Elizabeth Brand Monroe, and Robert G. Barrows in the IUPUI History Department. At long last, I am particularly appreciative to NCPH and its Board of Directors for honoring me with the opportunity of serving as Executive Director since 1994. I have truly valued my affiliation with this organization as we have worked to strengthen the public history profession and its community and to promote the uses of history among larger public audiences. Thank you for the assistance and guidance that you have provided me and for entrusting me with the daily operations of the Executive Offices. I look forward to working with all of you to realize the great potential that this organization has within our profession and for the audiences whom we serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
David G. Vanderstel, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

July 2002

# NCPH GAINS MEMBERSHIP IN ACLS

In May 2002, NCPH received word that it had been accepted into the membership of the American Council of Learned Societies, a distinguished organization of scholarly associations. This is indeed a significant accomplishment for NCPH and demonstrates that public history has become more widely accepted.

This was NCPH's second attempt to gain membership in the ACLS. David Kyvig coordinated the initial application in 1990. That effort was unsuccessful because the reviewers believed that public history scholarship was not developed sufficiently and considered public history to be a temporary employment option. During his tenure as NCPH president, Michael Devine resur-

rected the effort to join ACLS, noting that membership in the organization would bring increased recognition for public history and place the organization among the leading scholarly organizations concerned with developments and challenges in the humanities. Devine oversaw the application process throughout 2001.

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), founded in 1919, is a private non-profit federation of over sixty national scholarly organizations. The mission of the ACLS is "the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning in the humanities and the social sciences and the maintenance and strengthening of relations among the national societies

devoted to such studies." The ACLS promotes scholarship in the humanities, encourages collaborations among disciplines, advocates for the cultural significance of the humanities, and provides a variety of fellowships to support research.

With the admission of NCPH into the ACLS, NCPH President Rebecca Conard appointed Michael Devine, executive director of the Truman Library and Museum, to serve as the NCPH delegate to the ACLS Council. NCPH Executive Director David G. Vanderstel will represent the organization in the ACLS Conference of Administrative Officers.



**The National Council on Public History** promotes the application of historical

scholarship outside the university in government, business, historical societies, preservation organizations, archives, libraries, professional associations, and public interest groups.

For details contact NCPH President Rebecca Conard, Dept. of History, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; (615) 898-2423; Email: rconard@mtsu.edu; or David G. Vanderstel, NCPH, Cavanaugh 327, IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140; (317) 274-2716; E-mail: ncph@iupui.edu.

For change of address, write UC Press, 2000 Center St., Suite 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223.

**Submissions to Public History News** should be sent to David G. Vanderstel, Editor, at the address above.

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

**Maura Phillips Mackowski** graduated from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, on 9 May 2002 with a doctorate in history. She also earned a certificate in scholarly publishing from ASU's public history program and completed the Preparing Future Faculty program sponsored by the Graduate College. Mackowski's scholarly fields were modern US history and comparative history with an emphasis on scientific exploration. The title of her dissertation was "Human Factors: Aerospace Medicine and the Origins of Manned Space Flight in the United States."

**Dwight Pitcaithley**, Chief Historian for the National Park Service and former president of NCPH, has been elected to the Council of the American Association for State and Local History.

**David G. Vanderstel**, NCPH Executive Director, has been elected to the AASLH Nominating Committee.

## NEW NCPH PUBLICATIONS

**Careers for Students in History** – This newly updated edition discusses the career possibilities within the historical profession. Compiled by the Public History Program of the University of South Carolina, in cooperation with NCPH and the American Historical Association.

\$7.00 for members; \$9.00 for nonmembers

**A Guide to Graduate Programs in Public History, 2002 edition** – The volume details more than 50 public history graduate programs in the United States and Canada. An excellent resource for faculty, students, and career counselors.

\$20.00 for members; \$25.00 for nonmembers

Send check or money order made out to NCPH to:

NCPH Executive Offices  
425 University Boulevard – Cavanaugh 327  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

## CONSULTANT'S CORNER

*The NCPH Consultants' Committee is dedicated to promoting the interests of NCPH members who provide historical services as consultants or contractors. The committee wishes to highlight professional accomplishments among contract historians, contract firms, and other independent researchers. Forward news of finished projects, contract awards, contract report publications, ongoing oral history projects, or anything else that might be of interest to practicing historians. E-mail items to: Amy Dase, [adase@paiarch.com](mailto:adase@paiarch.com) or Mathia Scherer, [mathia.scherer@amec.com](mailto:mathia.scherer@amec.com). Be sure to include your full name, address, and contact information*

**Mead & Hunt, Inc.** of Madison, Wisconsin, completed a two-phase project documenting general aviation development in Nebraska, 1907-1960, for the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) and the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics (NDA). This project involved multiple products, including the development of a historic context and publication manuscript, a survey and evaluation of selected Nebraska airports, a National Register nomination, and a Multiple Property

Documentation Form for general aviation-related resources in Nebraska.

Efforts began with the development of a historic context tracing the Nebraska's civil aviation history focused on municipal airport development. Increased development of general aviation facilities by local, state, and federal governments following World War II resulted in the constructed or improvement of municipal airports across the nation. Municipal airports across Nebraska are now reaching the 50-year guideline of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and may qualify for listing. The survey identified architecturally and historically significant properties, including potential historic districts, which may be eligible for listing in the National Register. The context provided a guide for the development of a manuscript for future publication by the NSHS and NDA.

Mead & Hunt's architectural historians identified municipal airports developed before 1960 with the potential of historic resources. Survey reports document the history of each airport inventoried, identifies resources surveyed, discusses aviation

building design and construction, describes historic aviation technology, and presents recommendations for properties potentially eligible for the National Register. Nebraska contains a multitude of historic aviation resources ranging from standardized post-World War II metal buildings to architect-designed Art Moderne terminal buildings.

The NSHS and NDA commenced the historic context and survey to lend a greater understanding of the state's historic aviation resources and to assist in the Section 106 Review process. The survey results benefit both agencies by identifying historic resources, which provides a valuable planning tool and guides individual airports in compliance issues.

Mead & Hunt includes a staff of seven historic preservation specialists, including Matthew Becker, Mary Ebeling, Chad Moffett, Christina Slattery, and Amy Squitieri who assisted in completing this project.

For more information, contact: Chad D. Moffett, Architectural Historian, Mead & Hunt, Inc., 6501 Watts Road, Madison, WI 53719-2700; phone: 608.273-6380; email: [chad.moffett@meadhunt.com](mailto:chad.moffett@meadhunt.com)

## NEW MEMBERS

► continued from page 1

Japanese American National Museum,  
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John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD  
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Michael Hosking, Independence, MO  
Jennifer Fish-Kashay, Tucson, AZ  
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Caridad de La Vega, Washington, DC  
Robert Whetsell, Elkins, WV  
Anne Whisnant, Chapel Hill, NC  
Kathryn Wilson, Philadelphia, PA  
Sally Yerkovich, Newark, NJ



## NCPH Membership Survey Coming!

Watch your mailboxes for a survey from the NCPH Membership Committee.

Please take a few minutes to complete the form and return it in the postage-paid envelope. Your responses will help NCPH improve its members' services and plan for future initiatives.

# PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



by **Rebecca Conrad**  
rconrad@mtsu.edu

My father turned eighty this spring, and I spent a week in June with my parents helping my mother prepare for a large family gathering to mark the occasion. As I shuttled between working indoors to reclaim a guest room from overgrown storage space and outdoors to reclaim my mother's flowerbeds from burgeoning weed populations, I found myself randomly thinking about chaos, order, organic systems, and the inherent meaning of turning eighty.

My own family is not as wacky as those of an Anne Tyler novel, but any major gathering calls to mind the chaotic essence of family that spins throughout her fiction. The elaborate genealogical nomenclature devised to track familial relationships across and through the generations imposes a kind of order on what, in reality, is a fairly untidy organic system.

Although modern medicine has lengthened the average lifespan to the point where eighty no longer seems aged, it still takes a combination of strong genes and chance to reach the mark. Multitudinous photographs were taken to remind us of this unassailable fact and to create documentary evidence of one elder's momentary triumph over disease, environmental hazards, acts of god, and acts of other humans—lest the triumph not extend to age ninety, or even to the next week. Conviviality was the theme of the event, quickened by the knowledge that

no one could predict who among us might depart before the next assembly.

By comparison, a garden is an orderly system. Michael Pollen and others have used the garden as a metaphor for respectful management of the natural environment, but it could also be a metaphor for human achievement through collaborative effort.

**“As NCPH nears the quarter-century mark, I wonder what combination of management and wildness will keep the organization vital and vibrant to age eighty and beyond.”**

My mother's garden is a mix of ornamentals and wildflowers, and many of the ornamentals are the progeny of plants that flourished in the gardens of her mother and her sister and who knows how many generations preceding them. As we weeded side-by-side one evening and I listened to her recount where this and that plant had come from, I realized that the peonies and lemon lilies and irises are, in some ways, spaces of managed memory. Amid these memory islands, she allows, or accepts, a level of chaos in her garden, most of it in the form of controlled swaths of daisies, columbine, violets, and wild geraniums. But sometimes a bit of wildness pops in with a surprise. This summer it was an unfamiliar flower nestled into a bed of hostas that, with the aid of a field guide, we discovered to be Virginia waterleaf, no doubt sprouted from seeds carried in by birds.

As NCPH nears the quarter-century mark, I wonder what combination of management and wildness will keep the organization vital and vibrant to age eighty and beyond. Social organisms, like gardens, require constant tending to sustain their core identity and yet encourage the emergence of new ideas that bring change. A successful professional organization is not the work of a solitary manager, as is sometimes the case with a productive garden. Rather, it can thrive only if there is collaboration among the individual members who serve as officers, as board members, and on committees—the leadership system that moves the organization forward a year at a time. NCPH operates with excellent but minimal staff support, which places a heavy burden of responsibility especially on those who voluntarily undertake committee service. So I would like to open my year by thanking the many members who volunteered or agreed when asked to serve on one of the committees that individually and collectively provide the points of core identity and the paths of change that sustain this particular system.

As I write, the 2002 meeting is barely two months behind us, yet some committees are already hard at work, the program for the 2003 meeting in Houston is nearly finished, plans are underway for the 2004 joint meeting with the American Society for Environmental History in Victoria, B.C., we have an application pending for an NEH Challenge Match Grant to help boost the Endowment Fund to the \$200,000 level, and NCPH has been accepted for membership in the prestigious American Council of Learned Societies. All things considered, this year's garden is off to a good start, and I look forward to a productive year and perhaps a surprise or two.

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS FOR  
FUTURE NCPH  
ANNUAL MEETINGS**

**April 23-27, 2003**

**Houston Texas**

**March 31-April 4, 2004**

**Victoria, British Columbia**

A joint meeting with the American Society for Environmental History

# 2001-2002 Patrons and Sponsors

The following patrons and sponsors have demonstrated their commitment to NCPH in 2001-2002 by providing additional funds to help support our programs and operations. Their generosity subsidizes publications, supports members' services, and sustains our operating budget. NCPH greatly appreciates the continued support of these individuals and institutions. Besides receiving complimentary copies of all publications, NCPH patrons and sponsors receive recognition in the annual report, the NCPH newsletter, and the annual meeting program.

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The History Channel

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ELECTED 2001

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# ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

## ADVOCACY

Michael J. Devine, chair

The Advocacy Committee worked this past year to revise an application for full membership in the American Council of Learned Societies. The proposal was submitted to the executive director of NCPH and, following his additions and further revisions, the application was sent on to the ACLS offices in September 2001. [Editor's note: NCPH received notification in May that its application for membership had been approved.]

The committee also worked to develop drafts of recommended qualifications for professionals working in the public history profession and guidelines for college and university public history programs.

The chair of the committee continues to represent NCPH on the board of directors of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History. At the January 2002 meeting, items discussed included broadening the funding base of NCC, issues related to Smithsonian's funding, and possible actions related to the President's executive order on the opening of papers at certain presidential libraries, and the forthcoming name change of NCCPH to the Coalition for History. The board also expressed its pleasure with the good work provided during the year by NCCPH director Bruce Craig.

## AWARDS

James B. Gardner, Chair

The Awards Committee's principal activity has been promoting the NCPH awards program and selecting award recipients. The following individuals received awards at the annual meeting in Washington, DC:

The Student Project Award went to Connie Walker Gray and Raymond W. Rast for their project, National Historic Landmark Nomination, Egleddale Ferry Dock, Bainbridge, Washington.

Edward Salo of Geo-Marine, Inc. of Plano, Texas, was this year's recipient of the HRA New Professional Travel Award.

The G. Wesley Johnson Award was awarded to Ginetta Candelario of Smith College for her article "'Black Behind the Ears' – and Up Front Too? Dominicans in the Black Mosaic," which appeared in the fall 2001 issue of *The Public Historian*.

The Robert Kelley Award was given to the Public History Program at the University of South Carolina for its twenty-five years of excellence in public history education.

A key challenge for the committee continues to be increasing the visibility of the awards program. The committee urges NCPH members to take a more active role in promoting the awards and recruiting nominations.

The committee is also exploring the feasibility of establishing awards for exhibitions, books, and other areas of public history as a way to recognize excellence within the profession.

## CONSULTANTING HISTORIANS

Judith Wellman, Chair

During the year, the committee made progress in two key areas:

- Developing a proposal for a contracting handbook for consulting historians.
- Exploring how NCPH might develop stronger relationships with consultants in New Zealand, Australia, and Canada. The chair of the committee met with Claudia Orange, editor of the New Zealand biographical dictionary and member of TPH Editorial Board, to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of consulting historians' professional situations in New Zealand and the US. One idea that emerged was the need to revisit a statement of professional ethics, both as guidelines and protection for consulting historians.

The committee continues to explore new means of promoting the work of consultants within the profession.

## CURRICULUM AND TRAINING

Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Chair

With the release of the updated *Guide to Graduate Programs in Public History*, the committee suggested that NCPH require an up-front fee for inclusion in the *Guide*; sponsors would get this as a benefit of sponsorship. This way, NCPH would cover any costs involved in putting the information together and placing the guide online. We believe that most students would use it online and that the number of hard copies would be relatively minimal. With the up-front fee, the costs of having an up-to-date *Guide* would be covered.

The committee sponsored its annual Careers in Public History Workshop at the annual meeting in Washington, DC. Jay Price of Wichita State coordinated the program.

The committee has also discussed guidelines for public history programs. The Executive Offices provided aggregate information about the types of programs currently in existence in order to assist the committee in clarifying what appears to be the norms regarding course offerings, degree requirements, etc.

## ENDOWMENT

Martha Norkunas, Chair

The Endowment Committee once again sponsored a successful fundraising event at the annual meeting in Washington, DC. Over 100 people attended a Friday evening reception at the Capitol City Brewery, near Union Station. A plentiful buffet table of assorted hors d'oeuvres and samples from the microbrewery provided the background for a time of conversations and mingling with fellow public historians.

NCPH is especially grateful to several sponsors of this event: The History Channel, the National Park Service, and Mr. Alan Newell.

## ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

Dwight T. Pitcaithley

Last year at this time, I reported a 6.74% increase in the Endowment for calendar 2000. For calendar 2001, the Endowment once again turned in positive returns, this time of 2.1%. In light of the Dow Jones ending the year -5.36% and the S&P at -11.89, I think we should be pleased that our allocation among Vanguard Prime, 500 Index, and Wellesley Income funds serves the organization well. The general picture was as follows:

### Total Vanguard Portfolio

12.31.00	2.31.01
\$112,876.06	\$115,282.99

Plan 2005 envisions the Endowment growing to \$200,000 by the year 2005. The dismal market of the past two years has put the Endowment well behind any reasonable projection that would allow us to reach this goal. Should the S&P post 2002 returns close to its ten-year average of 12.84% or its five-year average of 10.66%, the Endowment would be in better shape. It would take a total annual return for the Endowment of 10% plus an annual investment of \$8,000 for the next four years to grow the Endowment to \$201,537.

## LONG TERM PLANNING

Alan Newell, Chair

Each year the Long Range Planning Committee reviews the status of NCPH's Long Range Plan and recommends new tasks or changes in emphasis. This past year (2001-2002) represented our second year of operation under the organization's second five-year plan. Plan 2005, adopted by the Board of Directors in March 2000, delineated five goals for the organization. This report summarizes NCPH's progress on each of those goals.

### GOAL 1: CONTINUE TO BUILD A LARGER MORE DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP BASE

For more than ten years, the NCPH board has recognized the need to increase and broaden individual membership in the organization. We established ambitious goals in 2000 – aiming to raise the number of individual members from 720 to 1000 and student members from 200 to 400 by 2005. Figures from UC Press indicate that we have a long way to go to reach this goal. Current individual membership has actually decreased to 671. Due to the efforts of our revamped membership committee, student membership has increased slightly to 219. However, at the current pace, the NCPH will fall far short of the membership goal set in 2000. In fact, without greater emphasis on retention, there is a possibility that our individual membership will actually decline. The recommendation of the committee is that the organization place greater emphasis on 1) retention of individual members and 2) converting student members to full individual members as they complete their graduate training.

Plan 2005 also established a target of 80 sponsors and 20 patrons, all of whom would eventually pay higher rates. To date, we have 32 sponsors, 4 patrons and 1 super sponsor. Clearly more effort needs to be directed towards sponsorship.

### GOAL 2: PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

One of the principal goals of Plan 2005 was to overhaul the NCPH web site and to provide additional services and information to members. The committee is pleased that the revised site is far more attractive and "user friendly" than the earlier site and it contains more current information.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the NCPH's annual meeting is one of the principal services that we provide to members. This year, we met again with the OAH in Washington. Although pre-registration for the conference had a slow start, it appears at this writing that the overall conference attendance should be quite good. The Board will need to consider the attendance

factor when it evaluates OAH's invitation to meet jointly in the future.

Finally, the committee has looked at the role NCPH might play in offering professional services to its members. As a beginning point, we are looking at a survey of current members to determine what types of seminars, workshops, etc. might be of use to members in their professional lives.

### GOAL 3: PROMOTE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORY AND SERVE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP IN HISTORY

NCPH has made some progress in obtaining a higher profile for the organization over the past year. The organization has been admitted to the American Council of Learned Societies, one of the principal tasks set for the Advocacy Committee in 2001. In addition, the NCPH website has been used as an effective tool in disseminating information not only on the NCPH, but also on issues of interest to all historians. The committee recommends that these efforts continue in 2002-2003 and that the Board consider ways in which it can use the fall meeting in Washington to both obtain and comment on information of interest to public historians.

### GOAL 4: STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL POSITION OF NCPH

NCPH is blessed with a sound financial position. Over the past decade, the organization's revenue and endowment have grown substantially. The Board of Directors and officers of NCPH should take pride in their ability to maintain a financially stable organization given the lower than expected increase in membership. However, without a concerted effort at developing new sources of revenue, NCPH will not achieve a number of important goals. Principal among these is the ability to finance a full-time Executive Director. Although the Board has regularly increased its contribution to the director position, without a dramatic increase in yearly operating revenue, we will not achieve this goal by 2005. The failure to have a full-time director also affects other goals, such as our ability to apply for grant money, pursue sponsors



and patrons, and re-energize the Endowment Campaign. The committee strongly recommends that the Board consider ways in which it can redirect organization resources to provide for a full time Executive Director within the next two years.

#### **GOAL 5: STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE (GOVERNANCE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICE)**

In Plan 2005, the Board identified two organizational changes that were requisite for NCPH to flourish. One of these has been achieved – the employment of a full-time secretary. As noted above, the other objective – retaining a full time executive Director – remains elusive. Once again, the committee's principal recommendation in this regard is to focus more effort on how available organizational funds can be directed towards securing this important position by 2004.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Dee Harris and Amy Wilson, Co-Chairs

The Membership Committee addressed three items for 2001-2002 period.

1. They worked to increase student membership with several different approaches, including creating a "New Professional" rate category at \$35.00; designing a student membership brochure; and planning a "New Professionals Affinity Breakfast" at the 2003 annual meeting.

2. The committee developed a series of proposals to simplify the process of joining and renewing membership in NCPH.

3. The committee also worked with the NCPH Board to develop a comprehensive member survey that would provide information needed by NCPH committees. The survey will be mailed to individual members mid summer 2002

#### **NOMINATING**

Vivien Rose, Chair

The nominating committee identified candidates for three board positions, one nominating committee position, and the vice-president/incoming president position.

The nominating committee identified potential board candidates based on the mix already on the board, the qualifications and backgrounds of board members leaving the board, and geographical distribution. We also considered location within the profession. Noting that board members were located primarily in the US Eastern seaboard and also noting a strong representation of government employees, we searched for candidates from the Midwest and Pacific West and from outside the US and from those in private organizations or educational institutions. Six candidates agreed to run. Several declined due to other professional or NCPH responsibilities. The committee also made strong efforts to identify qualified male and female candidates of varying ethnic backgrounds. The committee hopes that NCPH will undertake a consistent and concerted effort to recruit members more representative of the field as a whole.

As chair of the committee I reiterate recommendations from previous years' nominating committees that the board carefully consider a change in the practice of pairing candidates for board or for nominating committee positions. The pairing system allows specific recruitment, as evident in this past year's election; however, selecting winning candidates from a pool of contestants based on total votes may increase member voting.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Betty K. Koed, Chair

At this time, the Publication Committee has one particular task on its agenda – making past issues of the *The Public Historian* available on the NCPH web site. UC Press is posting current issues of the journal, but the committee believes it would be helpful to have the complete run available electronically. The committee has explored the resources needed to complete the project in-house at minimal cost to NCPH.

Executive Director David Vanderstel raised another publications issue this spring—the possibility of moving from a print & mail newsletter (*Public History News*) to an electronic newsletter e-mailed to members. Another organization with which I am involved -- the Society for History in the Federal Government -- has recently made that transition, mostly as a cost-saving device.

There are pros and cons to this. The pros are obvious. I think -- it is cost-saving, and it is time-sensitive. Members get information more frequently and more quickly, particularly important for job news and conference announcements, etc. On the down side, however, is the fact that members are accustomed to getting the printed newsletter as a perk of membership, and there may be some resistance to giving up that perk. Also, they are certainly those members who are not yet (and probably never will be) e-mail connected. Another disadvantage with an electronic newsletter is the difficulty of keeping up with email address changes.

#### **NCPH AWARDS**

Later in 2002, NCPH will be accepting nominations for the following awards:

- **Michael Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis**
- **Student Project Award**
- **New Professional Award**

Details regarding the nomination process will be available soon.

So visit the NCPH website - [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org) - for details.

In the meantime, consider potential nominees for the awards.

**For more details, contact the NCPH Executive Offices,**

**317-274-2716; [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu)**

# NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE



by **Bruce Craig**  
**National Coordinating Committee  
for the Promotion of History**  
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**House Appropriation Committee Takes Smithsonian to Task** – On 9 July 2002, while considering the FY 2003 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill, members of the House Appropriations Committee expressed displeasure over high salaries being paid to top officials, singling out the \$588,000 annual salary paid to Smithsonian Secretary Lawrence Small. The salary well exceeds that of the President of the United States. The committee also called upon the Smithsonian Institution (SI) Board of Regents to reconsider the decision to drop the name of aviation pioneer and one-time Smithsonian Secretary Samuel P. Langley from the movie theater at the National Air and Space Museum Theater. While the theater has borne the name of Langley since 1981, the current administration at the Smithsonian agreed to rename it for a major donor, the Lockheed Martin Corporation, which has donated \$10 million for the Air and Space Museum Annex at Dulles International Airport in northern Virginia in return for having the heavily-visited theater located on the National Mall named for the corporation.

According to Representative David R. Obey (D-WI), the ranking Democrat on the Committee, members of the committee are growing weary hearing about the shortage of funds for Smithsonian operations and stated, "we need an attitude change at the Smithsonian." In addition, Representative Norman Dicks (D-WA) stated that he found the idea of dropping Langley's name in favor of a corporate sponsor "incomprehensible."

Rep. Dicks added that the theater renaming was "by no means the only such controversy," and noted "confidence in the Smithsonian by many members of Congress and the general public has been shaken."

The committee then adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Dicks calling on the Smithsonian Board of Regents to review the salary scales of top officials and also to conduct a systematic review of all agreements with donors such as the Lockheed Martin. Another agreement that has brought criticism seeks to rename the Hall of Transportation at the National Museum of American History for General Motors Corporation in appreciation for a \$10 million contribution toward the museum's renovation. The Regents are to report back to the Committee by February 1, 2003.

**House Creates Office of History and Preservation** -- The House Administration Committee approved a proposal by Clerk of the House Jeff Trandahl to create an Office of History and Preservation. Under the plan current Historical Services Manager Kenneth Kato will become chief of the new office. Kato will report to the Clerk but will head a department separate from the Legislative Resources Center where, until Trandahl's action, Kato's House Historical Office was placed. According to Trandahl, the new office arrangement not only eliminates one layer of bureaucracy but it "more closely mirrors the organizational status of its counterparts in the US Senate, which reside under the Secretary of the Senate."

The establishment of the office is but another step in Trandahl's quiet yet persistent efforts to rebuild the capabilities of the "Historian of the House" position that was abolished in 1995 by Speaker Newt Gingrich. Under the reorganization, Kato's eight-person office will continue to provide archival services, courtesy consultations for members of the House, and attend to public inquiries. But in addition, Trandahl envisions that the revamped office will provide curatorial services in support of the Clerk's responsibilities to the House Fine Arts Board which oversees the House art collection. With the creation of the Capitol Visitor Center it is also anticipated that demands on the maintenance of the House collections of historical records will increase.

According to House Administration Committee sources, the establishment of an "historian" position under Kato's supervision is also being considered. A provision in the rules of the House of Representatives authorizes the position (presently vacant)

"Historian of the House." On paper, this individual reports to the Speaker and not to the Clerk of the House. Hill insiders report that Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) is contemplating fashioning the position into something akin to "Historian Laureate of the House" (loosely modeled after the Poet Laureate position that rests in the Library of Congress). The position would be given to prominent historians who would hold the honorific title for a period of years. It is unclear what the duties of this position would be.

## **History Office Authorization Proposed in Homeland Security Department Bill --**

In a June 24 letter to House and Senate leaders, the NCC urged members of Congress to authorize the creation of an Office of History in the marked-up version of President Bush's proposed legislation to create a Department of Homeland Security. According to sources inside the House Committee on Government Reform, the establishment of such an office within the office of the Secretary was "embraced enthusiastically." Reportedly, language suggested by the NCC has been incorporated in at least one subcommittee mark of the bill.

In the letter to Congressmen Dan Burton (R-IN) and Henry Waxman (D-CA), Senators Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Conn), Fred Thompson (R-TN), and others, NCC noted that "If there ever was a need for a history office in a government agency, it is in the Homeland Defense Department. The attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11 demonstrated the need to better understand our past both in terms of U.S.-Arab/Muslim relations and previous U.S. responses to terrorism." The letter noted that, "without exception, every one of the other national defense, intelligence, and homeland-defense related departments (the Department of State, Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency) benefit from the professional advice provided by a departmental or agency historical office.... to this end, we envision that staff historians would produce (or cause to produce by coordinating with other government agencies, with universities and think tanks) a range of reference, policy and historical background papers that would benefit both present and future Secretaries."

# NCPH AWARD WINNERS FOR 2002

## NCPH/HRA NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

by Edward Salo

I am very grateful to the National Council on Public History and Historical Research Associates, Inc., for the New Professional Award and the opportunity to attend the joint NCPH/OAH conference in Washington DC. Since June 2000, I have been a historian with Geo-Marine, Inc., in Plano, Texas. I stumbled into the field of public history after several unsuccessful career paths. Unlike many of my friends in the field, I did not start my graduate work with the goal of being a public historian. In fact, when I first entered the graduate program at Middle Tennessee State University, I did not know what public history was, let alone planning on it as a career. In my then narrow focus, historians taught school, and maybe worked at museums. Other than that, there was little opportunity for a historian, I thought. By the time I realized that public history, and historic preservation in particular, was what really interested me and that I could make a living doing it, I had only one semester to go to complete my masters. Rather than restart the program, which was an option. I decided with the assistance of the then director of the program, Dr. Andrew Gulliford, to begin at MTSU in the fall the Doctor of Arts in History program with an emphasis in historic preservation.

Having spent my first years of life in Germany and then growing up in the historically rich mountain communities of East Tennessee, I have always been interested

in historic buildings, and I quickly jumped into the program. My experience, I have discovered, is part of one of the continuing debates in public history: how to make a public historian? For me, the "traditional history" education I received during my Masters program is integral to my understanding of concepts like significance and themes. I do not think that without "traditional history" historic preservation can be done correctly.

After deciding to "switch" to public history, I spent the next two years completing most of my course work for my DA at MTSU. In a move not supported by all my professors, I decided to take a position as a historian with Geo-Marine before I finished my degree. I have a really short attention span, so I found that quick nature and multiple projects of cultural resources management meshed well with my interests. The projects in my work have been not only very diverse in topic and region, but also they have also allowed me to explore many aspects of public history.

The joint NCPH/OAH conference was very helpful in my growth as a public historian and historic preservationist. When I received the schedule of sessions, I was overwhelmed by the choices of sessions. Of course, many of papers I wanted to hear were at the same time. The sessions I attended were beneficial to me in my career and as a young scholar. I heard of new ideas that can be integrated into my CRM work, for example, Dr. Jay Price's concept of a Western Revival architecture

in the 1950s. Since our firm does work in Texas, New Mexico and other western states, there is a good possibility that I can use that idea in future architectural survey. Other sessions introduced the latest scholarship in presenting the history we gather as part of our CRM work to the public. Since public participation is a growing part of CRM work, any new ideas I can present to our clients is helpful. I do wish that more people had shown up for the CRM Roundtable. One of the parts of the conference that I found very exciting was meeting in person those historians that I had read. Like a teenager meeting a favorite rock star. I was in awe as I met and discussed points with historians whose books I had read. It was also so encouraging when they gave me their email addresses and said to drop them a line!

In every profession or job there is always an initial learning curve. For example, for two summers I worked as a counselor at Space Camp in Huntsville, AL. I was very worried about learning all of the science and space history that was required. I remember, however, the day a few weeks into the job when I realized that I was comfortable with the knowledge. I have not reached that level of comfort with CRM work, but I do feel that I am getting closer, and going to the conference really helped in my maturing as a professional. Since the conference, I have had a whole new burst of energy in my professional life.

## NCPH STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

by Ray Rast, Ph.D. Candidate  
University of Washington-Seattle

Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in February 1942, two months after the US entered World War II, he authorized the removal of Japanese and Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast. The US Army incarcerated members of the "enemy race" within internment camps located throughout the interior of the

country, where most of them would remain until 1945. This painful process of removal and relocation, which eventually affected more than 110,000 Nikkei (individuals with Japanese ancestry), began on March 24, 1942, when 227 Nikkei men, women, and children living on Bainbridge Island, Washington, were given six days to prepare for an indefinite period away from their homes, farms, and businesses. On the morning of March 30, the island's Nikkei

crossed a dock and boarded a ferry under armed escort, waved good-bye to their friends and neighbors, and began their journey to an unknown destination and an uncertain future.

As the sixty-year anniversary of their relocation to an internment camp in California's Owens River Valley approached, surviving internees and other island residents initiated a new process—one of publicly remembering internees'

➤ See NCPH Award Winners page 20

experiences, examining the impact of internment policy on a relatively integrated island community, and assessing the significance of internment for the Pacific Northwest and the US in general. When their efforts focused on preservation of the site from which internees left the island, the Washington State Historic Preservation Office and the regional office of the National Park Service recommended preparation of a National Historic Landmark nomination. Accepting the contract for the work, Dr. Gail Dubrow, Connie Walker Gray, and I realized that we faced several challenges. Most scholarly studies of Japanese Americans and of internment have neglected Bainbridge Island's Nikkei, so we needed to draw heavily on archival sources and oral interviews to reconstruct the historical experience of the island's Nikkei community and build our case for its significance. Moreover, the ferry dock used sixty years prior was virtually non-extant. After wrestling with issues related to the site's integrity, we agreed that the landscape and

**"On the morning of March 30, the island's Nikkei crossed a dock and boarded a ferry under armed escort, waved good-bye to their friends and neighbors, and began their journey to an unknown destination and an uncertain future."**

viewshed of the area encompassing the remains of the dock and the parking and waiting areas continued to evoke and convey the site's historic significance. Preservation and interpretation of the site from which the first Nikkei internees left the homes and friendships they had labored to build, we concluded, would help visitors today comprehend the impact of internment and it would complement the preservation

and interpretation of internment camps themselves.

Our work on the nomination was intellectually stimulating and it enhanced our skills in cultural resource management, but Connie and I also were rewarded in unanticipated ways. We were surprised by the warmth with which former internees supported our work and embraced its product. Island residents are exploring several plans for the site, and we look forward to seeing what they decide. I also enjoyed the unexpected opportunity to share my experiences with participants at this year's NCPH/OAH conference. As a graduate student in an academic history program, I have struggled against perceptions of a chasm between academic and public historians' requisite skills, moral obligations, and audiences. I was glad to see so many professional historians confronting these perceptions and continuing to clear space for historians such as myself who wish to work both inside and outside of the academy.



## Public History News

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425 University Blvd.  
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ISSN 08912610

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