



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY
Hudson River Valley Institute
The Academic Arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

“As Time Goes By...”

This winter marked the close of the first year of the Hudson River Valley Institute’s second round Teaching American History workshops. High school history teachers from Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties were invited to improve knowledge and understanding of United States history in an effort to raise students’ historical comprehension.

A US Department of Education grant given by the Teaching American History Program allows HRVI to hold workshops, seminars, and research opportunities for the participating teachers. These events are designed to aid teachers in the development and improvement of lesson plans to better educate their students about American History of the Hudson River Valley.

The program is held at Marist College in the summer: Marist history professors spend the mornings addressing fellow educators with the goal of improving the content they will be able to teach their students, as well as learn techniques to help deliver

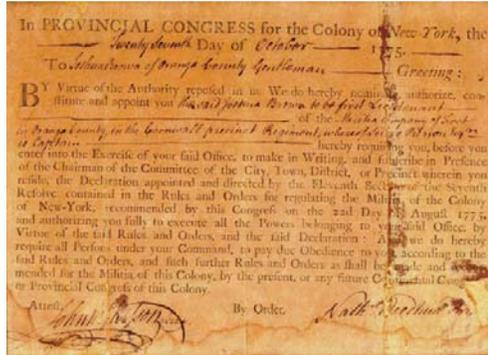
information more effectively. The afternoon sessions are spent doing research on a given topic that will culminate in lesson plans to be used in their respective classrooms.

between one another and participating college professors, and meet formally once per semester to share their work with one another.

At the conclusion of this process, the lesson plans are presented to members of HRVI and are then posted as an online source for others to use in their own classrooms.

The Dutchess County Historians Conference was held in late December. The event consisted of municipal historians from the area where participants were presented a wide spectrum of audio and visual sources, from popular YouTube links to content from the Library of Congress. Tessa Killian from Hudson River Valley Heritage gave a talk about standards of given historical articles, as well as the opportunities presented through their digitized collection of primary sources, some of which consist of HRVI’s own contributions.

By RJ Langlois



Joshua Brown’s Notice of Promotion

Photo credit: http://www.hrvh.org

Lessons from the 2005 session of the program, American History Through the Lens of the Supreme Court, included topics such as Supreme Court Vocabulary Lesson Plan and Schenck v. United States Lesson Plan, whereby participants utilized HRVI’s digital library as well as combined resources from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. New lesson plans will be added to this in time.

The days that participants of the project met are not all that the project entails; they converse throughout the year

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Special points of interest:

- For Black History Month, there are lectures and concerts happening at the Poughkeepsie Library Auditorium. For more information, visit the Poughkeepsie Library site here
Meet more of HRVI’s outstanding interns and the office assistant on page 4.

## Meet the Historian — Karlyn Knaust Elia

Karlyn Knaust Elia truly loves her job. Not only does she carry out the duties of both the Ulster County Historian and the Town of Saugerties Historian, but she does it all as a volunteer, with a very limited budget. Ms. Elia's love of history stems from her interest in historic preservation. In 1951, Ms. Elia's grandfather Herman Knaust founded [Iron Mountain](#), which, according to Elia, is "the world's leading record storage facility." The founding of the storage facility came after Mr. Knaust aided in the rescue of 1,300 displaced Jewish persons whom he relocated to the Hudson River Valley from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia after World War II.

Along with preservation, the duties of the Ulster County Historian include interpreting the past through research and writing, organizing and directing historical anniversaries, and answering the historic inquiries of the citizens of Ulster County. Ms. Elia also receives many requests for family histories, which she forwards to the [Ulster County Genealogical Society](#), an organiza-

tion she strongly supports due to its "wonderful collection of reference materials."

Before becoming the Ulster County Historian, Karlyn Knaust Elia received her B.A. in American History from [Hartwick College](#), and her M.S. in Social Studies from [SUNY New Paltz](#). Ms. Elia followed up her schooling with work in libraries and teaching, but ultimately her main focus was raising her three children, Anthony, Matt and Sarah.

Ms. Elia has written and published many articles in local papers, such as "Brother against Brother: Saugerties and the Civil War" in *The Saugerties Times* and "Remembering Alf Evers" in *Kingston Life Magazine*. Ms. Elia's involvement extends to her community, where she founded "Saugerties History Day" in 1995 and, just two years later, co-authored the esteemed book, *Saugerties*. At the moment, Ms. Elia is working on an exhibit to debut this coming summer at the Ulster County Office Building, which

will focus on Hudson River Steamboats in order to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert Fulton's maiden journey up the Hudson in 1807.

Ms. Elia considers it her job to encourage students to learn more of the local history in the Hudson River Valley area. She encourages people to explore the area and recommends an extensive list of sites to visit, which preserve the history of the Hudson River Valley and illustrate the role that the area has played in the life of the nation. Some of these must-see sites include the [Historic Hudson River Lighthouses](#), the [D&H Canal Museum](#), the Fireman's Museum in Kingston and the [Bevier House Museum](#) in Marbletown.

For more information on Ulster County, Karlyn Knaust Elia can be reached at (845)246-4754 or [Ulsterhistorian@aol.com](mailto:Ulsterhistorian@aol.com).

By Maria Zandri

## Featured Historic Town — Newburgh

The city of Newburgh has been a great place of artistic inspiration to the Hudson River Valley and is about to open a new chapter in its history with the Newburgh Waterfront Project, designed to revitalize thirty acres of abandoned waterfront property. The city is one of many smaller cities through the United States that has taken an active interest in revitalizing its neighborhood. In the last few years, the city has attracted more visitors via recreational boats and the new ferry service that runs from the Metro-North train station. Many of those who visit the area see the potential of this river city, gradually bringing the waterfront back to life. It has become a place for people of all ages to shop, dine, stroll and sightsee.

Beginning January 31<sup>st</sup> through February 6<sup>th</sup>, the city of Newburgh will hold a charrette that is open to the public. This forum will contain planning sessions



in which architects, engineers, environmentalists and local officials collaborate with citizens on the best way to use the land. There will be lengthy discussions about connecting the new neighborhood with the rest of the city as well as tours of the property that will be developed. On the final day of the presentation, a plan for the Waterfront Project will be unveiled to the public. City manager Jean-Anne McGrane believes that the development will bring positive changes throughout the urban community. McGrane and Mayor Nicholas J. Valentine believe that the community of Newburgh must contribute to the development process in order to create a plan that successfully serves its interests.

Leyland Alliance and Duany Plater-Zyberk, the two major developers selected by the city to transform the waterfront and its surrounding area, have been nationally recognized for their work in communities, as their designs provide a balance between a comfortable neighborhood feel and a more modern style. Steve Maun, the president of Leyland Alliance, believes that public participation in neighborhood planning is essential. Duany Plater-Zyberk concurs that when a community is planned properly, it can have a positive impact on the quality of life. Throughout the week of the charrette, these two businesses will be working in conjunction with one another to better assist the community of Newburgh.

For more information on the charrette or to participate, please visit [www.newburghwaterfront.com](http://www.newburghwaterfront.com).

By Paul Contarino

## Featured Historic Site—Jasper Cropsey Museum

Nestled within the historic village of Hastings-on-Hudson on scenic Route 9 lies the Jasper Cropsey Museum, dedicated to the prominent Hudson River School painter, Jasper Francis Cropsey. The Hudson River School consisted of a group of painters who followed the lead of Thomas Cole, who believed in the preservation and representation of America's natural splendor. Cropsey (1823-1900) was born on Staten Island, New York; while stricken with periods of poor health in his youth, he taught himself how to draw, focusing on landscapes of the northeastern United States. He was later known for his vivid and experimental use of color in his paintings.

As life after the Civil War proved unprofitable for the painters of the Hudson River School, Cropsey and his wife sold their mansion *Aladdin* in Warwick, New York, and purchased *Everest* in 1885. Cropsey added an artist studio to his home on the Hudson and would spend the remainder of his life there.

*Everest*, or the Jasper Cropsey Homestead, was built in

1835 and is listed on the New York State Register of Historic Places. The home itself has been kept in its original fashion and it provides a lasting glimpse into life in the Hudson River Valley as it existed two centuries ago. Ms. Teresa Bernert oversees its care and the homestead displays work done by Cropsey.

The [Newington Cropsey Foundation](#) maintains the Jasper Cropsey Museum and *Everest* homestead and is home to one of the longest-lasting compilations of Cropsey's work in the world. The painter's pieces are located in the [Gallery of Art](#), which was completed in 1994.



The Cropsey Galley is constructed to look like his studios at *Everest* and *Aladdin*. The Gallery of Art also hosts temporary exhibitions, galleries, lectures and conferences.

The Foundation also funds other historical activities. The [Cradle of Genius](#) is a Foundation production that looks into the divine influence on composers Puccini, Strauss, and Brahms and is offered free of charge to organizations. The [Academy of Art](#), founded in 1991, seeks to train talented students of drawing and sculpture who share the same vision as artists of the Hudson River School.

The galleries and website are accessible year-round, while the *Everest* Homestead is open from 10am-1pm Monday through Friday, and closed during the months of December, January, and August. Appointments can be made by contacting Ms. Bernert at (914) 478-1372. The Foundation itself is located at: 25 Cropsey Lane, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. For other information, please visit [www.newingtoncropsey.com](http://www.newingtoncropsey.com).

By: Tracy Dunstan

## Featured Historic Website—Institute of Ecosystems Studies

[The Institute of Ecosystems Studies](#), one of the largest ecological programs in the world, is committed to the idea that “the world is a changing place.” On the Institute's 1,924-acre tract of land in northern Dutchess County, researchers, scientists, and educators study the structure and changing nature of our Earth's ecosystems. Their mission is to use their research to provide unbiased scientific knowledge about the Earth's ecological process for use in environmental policy, management, and education.

The IES grounds in Millbrook, New York, were once the estate

of [Mary Flagler Cary](#), beneficiary of part of the Standard Oil fortune. Upon her death in 1967, she left her property to a trust, intending it to be used by a charitable organization “engaged in the conservation, maintenance, and preservation of natural resources.” In cooperation with the [New York Botanical Garden](#), renowned ecologist [Dr. Gene E. Likens](#) founded the Institute in 1983.

Since its inception, researchers with IES have made such breakthroughs as uncovering the ecological conditions that regulate the risks for contracting Lyme disease, providing key insights into protecting and managing the Hudson River, and paving the way for new fields of ecosystem studies. Committed to edu-

cation as well, the Institute's innovative [Ecosystem Literacy Initiative](#) has helped to spread ecological information to students of all ages. Over the past twenty-two years, the initiative has changed the curricula and teacher training programs in K-12 education, while at the same time providing training to undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral ecosystem scientists.

Online, the Institute continues its mission of disseminating its ecological research. The IES homepage allows users from all over the world to access the latest news and updates.

(Continued on page 4)

# Featured Historic Website— Institute of Ecosystems Studies

(Continued from page 3)

Simply click on one of the research summaries for links to publications, photo galleries, and other highlights from ongoing studies.

Interested in the Hudson? The Institute's study of the [Hudson River Ecosystem](#) has yielded nearly two decades worth of data essential to determining the river's biological populations, ecosystem, and the changing interaction between them over time. Users looking for more specialized data

can also search the Institute's publications database. Here, researchers can access theses, books, published papers, book reviews, even unpublished reports, dating back to the Institute's inception. According to data collected by the Institute for Scientific Information, the IES is currently among the most highly-cited institutions in the ecological sciences, ranking in the top five institutions worldwide for total number of citations.

For those who are interested in visiting the Institute, the IES grounds feature numerous hiking trails and the

historic [Gifford Garden](#). The Scientific Seminars program also allows visitors to attend weekly guest lectures on topics such as the "Ecological Implications of Climate Change." The trails are closed from November 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>. However, visitors can still visit the over 1,300 species of plants found at IES Greenhouse, open daily 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Access is free of charge. For more information or to plan a group trip to IES, call 845-677-5343 or visit <http://www.ecostudies.org/index.html>

By Amanda Hurlburt

## Meet the Editor — RJ Langlois

Richard Langlois (a.k.a. RJ) is a junior at Marist College with a double major in English and Philosophy and plans to attend law school. Despite these lofty hopes and dreams that seem to dance across the wind... RJ is the editor of two publications at Marist. The first being HRVI's very own monthly newsletter, which is coupled with his internship for the English major. RJ is also responsible for editing the Mosaic, the semester-ly publication published through the Literary Arts Society that consists of students' writing and artwork from "stick-figure drawings" to performed poetry. RJ also participates in the Chess and Anime clubs and dabbles here and

there in the History Club and LGSA, leaving behind him collateral damage in the form of missing street signs, unexplained loud noises, and a massive shortage of peoples' left shoes.

When not on the job, RJ enjoys every way possible of distracting himself from the unethical amount of reading and writing he does to keep up with the demands of his majors. This semester, RJ is hoping to confound his boss, initiate as many coup d'états as mathematically possible, reform and perfect the newsletter as much as can possibly be done, and to not only be published in the HRVI review with his article about Clearwater (sailboat, need he say more?) but to also have one of his short

stories polished, finished, and eventually published somewhere down the road.

On a lighter note, RJ

enjoys quoting movies whenever possible given any situation ("...of all the gin-joints in all the towns in all the world...") and sitting by the Hudson down at the docks, wasting the night away and getting lost.

By RJ Langlois



## Meet the Sergeant Major — Jessica Friedlander



Marist College senior Jessica Friedlander says "It's good to be back!" as she embraces her re-vamped office and kicks her heels to her desk. An intern for HRVI last semester, she'd researched Hudson River School artist Thomas Cole for publication in the Hudson River Valley

Review, managing to jinx herself at his grave in Cedar Grove and aggravating a suspicious flock of sniper-like crows perched on a nearby monument. Nevertheless, the project was a success and she

has been able to avoid any paranormal activities since, actually managing to convince the HRVI directors that she would make for an excellent Internship Coordinator, a.k.a. Sergeant Major of HRVI.

With her writing skills, artsy charm and wit, Jess plans to sway everyone in the office, eventually allowing her to attain full control of the "Hub of the Hudson" with the goal of conquering the Hudson River Valley itself and becoming its queen.

In the meantime, Jess will keep a close eye on the Spring 2007 interns (especially that feisty newsletter editor, in whose pocket currently resides her left shoe), editing and revising their

search projects and overseeing their newsletter, and generally keeping them in line. Occasionally she will offer bits of divine guidance in the form of ruthless grammar and rhetoric lessons, but for the most part she aims for them to excel in their writing capabilities, allowing them to project their skills to bigger and better things (as well as justifying them as perfect subjects for her inevitable reign, of course).

Jess is looking forward to the new semester and, perhaps inspired by the ghost of Thomas Cole himself, is excited to enhance the creative immortality of history. She's also anticipating her crown come May, and she'll generously accept flowers as congratulatory gifts.

By Jessica Friedlander

# Contact Us

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Hudson River Valley Institute  
Marist College  
3399 North Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1387

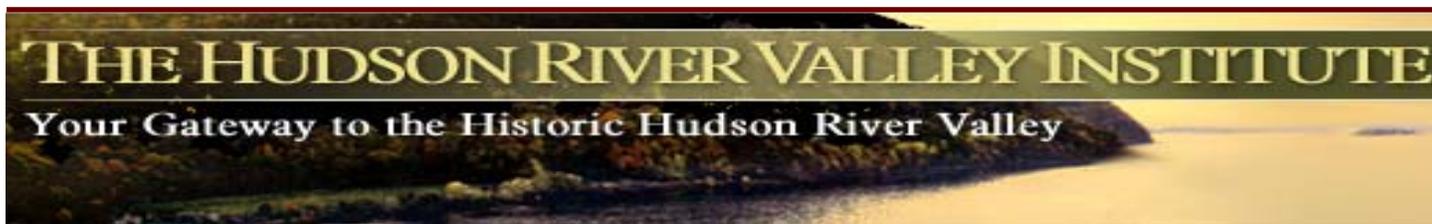
Phone: 845-575-3052  
Fax: 845-575-3176  
E-mail: [hvi@marist.edu](mailto:hvi@marist.edu)

*The Hudson River Valley:  
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

[www.hudsonrivervalley.net](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net)

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 23 Congressionally designated National Heritage Areas in the United States. As one of the most important regions in the United States, it is the fountainhead of a truly American identity. Recognizing the area's national value, Congress formed the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in 1996 to recognize, to preserve, to protect, and to interpret the nationally-significant history and resources of the Valley for the benefit of the nation.

As the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) at Marist College is the central hub for information about the region. HRVI serves heritage tourists, scholars, elementary and secondary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public seeking to know more about the region that Congress called "the Landscape that defined America."



## Staff

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Dean of the Marist College School of Liberal Arts Thomas Wermuth, PhD, Director Hudson River Valley Institute

Professor Colonel James Johnson (U.S. Army, ret.), Executive Director Hudson River Valley Institute

Christopher Pryslopski, Program Director

Ann Panagulias, Office Manager

Jessica Friedlander, Internship Coordinator

## Contributors to this issue:

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RJ Langlois, Editor-in-Chief

Amanda Hurlburt, Intern

Paul Contarino, Intern

Maria Zandri, Intern

Tracy Dunstan, Intern

Jessica Friedlander– Sergeant Major