

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

Those Who Can...

They say “*Those who can’t do, teach.*”

Well, apparently “they” have never been involved with Teaching the Hudson Valley. In July, I was fortunate enough to attend the three day institute sponsored by THV-- “In Conflict & Crises: Teaching the Hudson Valley from the Civil War to Civil Rights and Beyond”-- and I can assure you, I was surrounded by “*do-ers.*”

The institute took place at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Museum and Presidential

Library. As someone who loves local history, being there is exciting enough. On the first day, the Henry A. Wallace visitor’s center hummed with activity. The place was charged with the energy of educators from all walks, eager to find new ways to communicate critical issues to students, and of lecturers ready to show them how. The hallway leading to the presentation rooms (where workshops would take place later in the day) was lined with posters, booklets, flyers, and books about the Hudson River Valley, as well as information about local historic and

environmental sites and opportunities with Teaching the Hudson Valley. The sheer amount of information on the tables was wonderfully overwhelming and I could have taken an hour just to acquaint myself with all of it, however, the table on the other side of the hallway had free coffee and bagels.

I grabbed some coffee, and took a seat in the presentation room and waited for the day to begin. I expected a subdued, interesting, but typical opening lecture – I was wrong. Before I

Continued on page 4

Inside this Issue:

Is Public History the Profession for you?!	2
HRVI Website Updates	2
HRVI and the OCLC Database	3
Meet the Intern	6
Contact Us/ Staff Listing	8

Hudson
River
Valley
Institute

Is Public History the Profession for you?!

Do you enjoy long nights? Have you ever been fascinated about something and had the urge to research it so you can tell the world about it? Well I have good news for you! You can join me at Marist College and tack on a Public History concentration to your History major with no fuss or forty credits of extra classes. Marist College offers a concentration in Public History at the expense of an extra internship. One recommended course for this concentration is Introduction to Public History.

I had the pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Steven Garabedian, the professor in charge of Internships

at Marist, to better understand what to expect when taking on the concentration. He is an excited man when it comes to talking about the prospects of students entering the Public History area of study. Dr. Garabedian believes it's the best thing for a student who wants to understand what other professions are out there that are not normally associated with history. He sees it as "a window into the whole world that they [students] might not know about. Museum studies and archivists, these things are behind the scenes. They think, what am I going to do with a history degree? Become a Professor? You get to learn and translate history for the public and

for a larger audience besides academia. Oral History, archival work, these are all worlds that the



history student doesn't know about and well, public history is a way to learn about it."

Other schools may offer minors and majors in public history, but it is only offered as a concentration at

continued on page 3

HRVI Website Updates

A large part of the day to day work at the Hudson River Valley Institute is creating and distributing our biannual publication, the Hudson River Valley Review. This journal was originally published by Bard College in 1984 as the Hudson Valley Regional Review. HRVI acquired publication in 2003 and changed only the name. Each issue of the review focuses on a different topic pertaining to the region, through such varied works as essays, pictures, poems, and book reviews. New copies of the review are available via subscription or individual purchase.

Excitingly, new updates have now allowed us to place digital copies of all issues of the Hudson Valley Regional Review as well as sold-

out copies of the Hudson River Valley Review on our website, HUDSONRIVERVALLEY.ORG.



Adding thousands of searchable pages, anyone with an interest can now access articles and book reviews with a simple internet connection. Articles can be quickly

found by author, title, topic, or issue. Content from thirty-eight issues of the regional review is available and six issues of the Valley review are available in addition to all book reviews.

As more issues are published, more updates will be made. HRVI is excited to expand our literature for our readers and to continue promoting the uniqueness that the Hudson River Valley has to offer.

By Samantha McNerney

Is Public History the Profession for you?!

Marist. Dr. Garabedian believes Marist can expand this field. He would like to see it turned into a minor because of the school's location. As a part of the Hudson Valley, there is a rich connection to the past. There are fantastic resources including the FDR Presidential Library and other research areas around the county. Marist has, without a doubt, some

of the best resources for students to learn about public history. The job market is competitive when it comes to history in general, but Dr. Garabedian believes a degree in history will prepare job seekers for any career. "I believe a history degree will prepare you for life and career generally, no matter what job you get. What you have from a skill set

ability to think critically and the skills to be highly literate. In an information age, you have to be highly literate and discerning. You have to be a good reader and a good writer. That's what's going to set someone apart in terms of competitive edge in any profession I think, being a good communicator." For more information you can contact Dr. Steven Garabedian at Steven.Garabedian@marist.edu.



is the

By Andrew Mikolajczyk

FDR Library Photo Courtesy of <http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/>

HRVI and the OCLC Database

The Hudson River Valley Institute is excited to announce our library is now part of the OCLC database as of the summer of 2012. This database, also known as the online computer library catalog, was started in the 1960's in an effort to enhance access to library information while reducing the cost to spread that information. OCLC members run and maintain WorldCat, the most comprehensive library database available today. WorldCat is accessible through the Marist College Library. For more information about OCLC, you can visit their [WEBSITE](#).

As part of this database, the HRVI library is listed as a special collection and can be searched from any location with an internet

connection. Our library can be a great resource for those looking for literature about the Hudson River Valley and its history. We have hundreds of titles that can be quickly researched by author, title, or subject, and range in publication from the early 1900's to today. Also included in this project was a reorganization of the HRVI library itself; every title is organized into a main category and then alphabetized or organized by topic. People wishing to access something from our collection can come and find what they are looking for quickly and easily.

Our library collection has grown thanks to the generous donations we've received since the establishment of our institution.

These donors are now recognized in each manuscript with a unique bookplate that is inscribed with the collection from which it was donated.

As part of OCLC, the many resources the Hudson River Valley Institute has to offer will benefit anyone who wishes to use them. Updates will be made as our library continues to expand. With this project and future updates, access to our knowledge of the Hudson River Valley will continue to grow.

By Samantha McNerney

Those Who Can (continued from page 1)

knew it we were up and dancing, singing songs of hope and conflict, being forced to yell and make silly faces at the people around us. In that instant, a room full of strangers broke down their walls and became friends. Once you've stuck your tongue out at someone, there's really no room left for shame or inhibition. This high energy, informative, and incredibly engaging experience would set the tone for the rest of the institute.

After a short break, the crowd dispersed into various rooms to attend their first of three workshops for the day. The options for morning workshops included "*Evaluating Scientific Claims: A Method for Exploring Controversial Environmental Questions*"; *Listening to History: Podcasting the Local Experience of National Events*; *Romance v. Reality: The Common Soldier's Civil War Experience*; and *Sue Lansing: Abolitionist, Religious Reformer, Maiden Aunt, or Women's Rights Pioneer?*" While I appreciated the range presented by the workshops-- environmental issues, war, women's rights, art, etc., I'm a military history buff and chose the Civil War option. I had a great experience at this seminar and figured I would gravitate towards the history options for all of the subsequent workshops, as I had less of an interest in environmentalism, art, and the like – again, I was wrong. I decided to take a chance and step out of my comfort zone by attending Kim & Reggie Harris's session on music and the Underground Railroad, and

a session on the Storm King Case and the environmental movement. I am truly happy I made this choice. I came into the day with one passion, and left with two more.

That is what this institute does—it opens your mind to different ideas and interests, woven together by the common thread of educating and inspiring. To bring such a diverse group of people together for a common cause inevitably sparks curiosity, creativity, and, in the best possible way...*conflict!*

At the end of the day, we gathered all of the resources we had been generously given by the various



presenters, and left awaiting day two— field experience day.

Thursday was dedicated to "field experiences." These immersive adventures took place all over the Hudson Valley, including the Columbia County Museum, Mount Gulian Historic Site, the Katherine W. Davis River Walk Center, and more. I attended the field experience at Val-Kill, the home of Eleanor Roosevelt. The program was called "A New Deal

for Youth" and focused on Eleanor's contributions to human rights and improving life for youth during the Depression. We got a tour of Val-Kill and the property and were given a history of Val-Kill industries and a glimpse into Eleanor's life. We watched videos and did activities catered toward secondary level education that taught us about human rights. I was amazed at how issues like conflict and human rights could be taught in such an approachable way. After a lunch break, we returned to the Wallace center for a workshop focused on teaching conflict through expressive arts.

There was poetry.
There was interpretive dancing.
There was a bag of props.

Needless to say, the less "creatively flexible" members of our group were hesitant. However, the presenter had such a dynamic personality, that soon we were all drawing our feelings and lighting candles in a circle, dancing with scarves and reading poetry, like it was the most natural thing in the world—and to a point, *it was*. A group of individuals from all



Continued on page 5

Those Who Can (continued from page 4)

different backgrounds, of all ages and experience levels, stepped out of our own self-consciousness to cooperate and experience something new. To me, this conveyed the entire point of the institute. When we drop our prejudices, transcend our self-image, and embrace new experiences and challenges, conflict can create community. As we all stood in a circle surrounding the “mandalas” we just created, we each lit candles and stated what we took away from the workshop - *“Art is a universal language. It speaks through emotion, and gives a voice to the oppressed.”*

Day three started with an intense panel on the evolution of Civil Rights in the Valley. Emotions of the seemingly docile crowd were stirred, questions and comments were popping up around the room, and a lively discussion was taking shape. I’m sure this was the goal of the distinguished presenters, which included Myra Armstead, professor of history & education, Bard College; La Tasha Brown, professor of black studies, SUNY New Paltz; and Delia Mellis, associate director of Writing and Academic Resources and staff manager of the [Bard Prison Initiative](#), with moderator Daniel Wolff, author and activist. A sense of astonishment and intrigue swept over the room, as we sat in silence listening to stories of the little known impact of the Civil Rights Movement in the Hudson Valley. That sentiment carried



over during a presentation on the Bard Prison Initiative; a program that gives prisoners in various N.Y. prisons the opportunity to earn a liberal arts degree. This program enables these individuals to be valued as “more than a jumpsuit,” as one inmate stated in the video. Graduates of the program go on to be productive members of society, and prove to have dramatically decreased chances of facing incarceration again.

After a powerful opening presentation, we were tasked with choosing our day’s first workshop. I chose to attend *“Irrepressible Conflict: The Empire State and the Civil War.”* State Historian and chief curator of the [New York State Museum](#), Robert Weible and Professor Jason Schaaf of Marist College aimed to highlight the role of New York State, and especially the Hudson River Valley, in the Civil War. The presentation was incredibly informative, bringing to light the stories of individuals from our region, and truly bringing the Civil War home. After the presentation, a question was posed to the group as to what the New

York State Museum could provide in terms of educational resources. The room full of educators was immediately energized, coming up with a host of ideas for field trips, projects, digital resources, and more, so that New York’s role in the Rebellion could be brought to life for their students.

After a quick lunch break (with great food provided, I might add), it was time for the last workshop of the institute. I was torn between *The Missing Chapter: Untold Stories of the African American Experience in the Hudson Valley*,

presented by Susan Stessin-Cohn, education director of [Historic Huguenot Street](#) and *Exploring Environmental Risk: Using Conflict to Achieve Consensus*, presented by Tom Shimalla, environmental educator for [NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#), and Paul Adams, retired biology and environmental science teacher, and naturalist at [Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center](#). I decided to “explore environmental risk.”

The workshop was highly interactive, focusing on our own experiences with risk assessment in daily life, and using our judgment to solve hypothetical environmental issues. We worked in groups to determine whether monetary value can be associated with species and landscape preservation, leading to a lively discussion about the worth of our natural resources. I left with a certificate, a Project

Continued on page 6

Those Who Can (continued from page 6)

Learning Tree workbook for environmental education, brochures, and even a few contacts.

After the final workshop, we were able to visit the bookstore, talk to presenters and other attendees, and get our certificates stating that we had completed the institute.

I am an Education Major, minoring in Hudson River Valley Regional Studies with a concentration in Public History. This institute fit exactly into my interests, seamlessly combining history,

regional concerns, and education. However, with such a wide range



of presentations and an incredibly diverse group of participants, I encourage anyone with a desire to inspire, or to be inspired, to attend. I strengthened my passions and opened my mind to new interests.

My questions were answered by experts in their fields, and I left with a renewed sense of purpose as a future educator, armed with books, lesson plans, and a friendly invitation from Teaching the Hudson Valley to explore their endless resources.

For more information, visit:

www.teachingthehudsonvalley.org

Images courtesy of THV

By Christina Ritter

Meet the Intern

Joe Palaia is a senior at Marist College with a History and Education Major. He was born in Seaford, Long Island where he lives when he is away from school.

He comes from a family where science is the standard profession. His father is a scientist, his mother teaches biology and chemistry, and his brother is in medical school. So he did the most rational thing and changed his major right away. Joe Palaia has always had a passion for history. In school it was his favorite subject and was a major factor that played into his decision to study aboard. He wanted to see ancient ruins and medieval cities so he went to Florence and took an archeology class. While abroad, he explored many legendary sites such as Pompeii. As you can already guess,

Indiana Jones is his favorite movie.

At Marist, Joe Palaia attempts to find the perfect balance of social life, work, and fitness. If he is not



reading for leisure or doing homework during his free time, he will usually go running to explore or go to the gym. And when he does not have anything else to do he likes to hang out with all his friends, either watching a movie or having a “friendly” competition at the N64.

This is his first year working for the Hudson River Valley Institute and he believes that it will be a very good experience for him. He is currently updating the website’s Hall of Fame page and is also working on a paper about life of a typical soldier in the war of 1812.

Contact Us

The 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

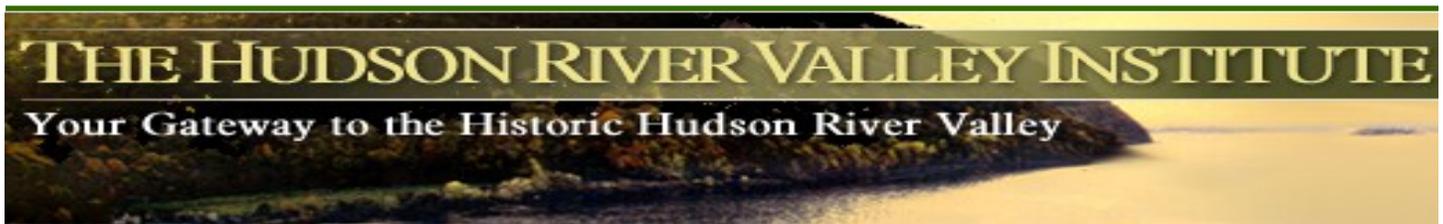
*The Hudson River Valley :
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

www.hudsonrivervalley.org

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 49 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, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally-significant history and resources of the valley for the benefit of the nation.

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Its mission is to study and promote the Hudson River Valley and to provide educational resources for heritage tourists, scholars, elementary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public. Its many projects include the publication of *The Hudson River Valley Review* and the management of a dynamic digital library and leading regional portal site.

As the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is the central hub for information about the region that Congress called "the Landscape that defined America."



Staff

Dr. Thomas Wermuth, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Director, Hudson River Valley Institute

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

Christopher Pryslopski, Program Director

Jason Schaaf, Educational Supervisor

Andy Villani, Coordinator

Contributors to the Issue:

Jennifer DeLisle, Editor/Intern

Jason Schaaf, Staff Editor

Christopher Pryslopski, Staff

Andy Villani, Staff

Joe Palaia, Intern

Taylor Mullaney, Intern

David Babetski, Intern

Andrew Mikolajczyk, Intern

Christina Ritter, Intern

Samantha McNerney, Intern
