

2007 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

A lot has happened in the last five years! Starting in 2002 as the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley Heritage Area, the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College has emerged as one of the premier regional studies centers in the country. A hallmark of the Institute is active partnership with national, state and regional leaders from both the public and private sectors who share our mission of showcasing the Hudson River Valley's unique history, culture, beauty and economic assets to the country and the world. Underpinning this mission are nine initiatives that have become signature activities for the Institute. I would like to highlight these for you, and then invite you to read more about each in the pages that follow. In the past five years, the Hudson River Valley Institute has focused on:

Branding the Hudson River Valley through an innovative Digital Library and Archives – the only such portal site dedicated to a National Heritage Area. This has proven to be a unique and effective way to promote the Hudson River Valley's significant historical, cultural, environmental and economic dimensions.

Promoting heritage tourism in support of national, state, and local efforts to position the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area as an outstanding destination. HRVI's website, www.hudsonrivervalley.org, is an electronic gateway to the Hudson River Valley and a model portal for counties of the region to promote heritage tourism.

Publishing a journal that creates a permanent forum for preserving new scholarship on all aspects of the Hudson River Valley's unique history and culture. *The Hudson River Valley Review*, the scholarly journal of the Hudson River Valley, is enjoying rapid growth in circulation, and is now assisted by a nationally prominent editorial board.

Educating the next generation by helping students gain an understanding and appreciation of the significance of the region of the country where they live. This has been

a major focus of HRVI, with nine summer institutes sponsored at Marist College involving 200 Hudson River Valley teachers, impacting thousands of children in their classrooms.

Commemorating the American Revolution in New York State by highlighting New York's leadership role in winning the Revolution and by fostering public support of related historic sites and activities. To advance this, HRVI made a seven-year commitment to leading the state's flagship program called Patriots' Weekend (2002-08). In its first five years, 8,000 people have participated in themed programs involving scholarly lectures, military re-enactments, historic site rededications and local historical society events.

Creating an online repository for Hudson River Valley history that includes rare books, manuscripts, scholarship, educational curricula and images related to the region's history, culture and environment. HRVI's Digital Library & Archives, coupled with the Marist College Library's Hudson River Valley Collection and Hudson River Valley Heritage, are an outstanding resource for preservation and world-wide dissemination of materials related to the region.

Working with the Hudson River Navigator. Housed in the Hudson River Valley Institute. The Navigator works with the American Heritage Rivers Initiative planning programs that engage people, communities and local governments in the life of the Hudson River. The American Heritage Rivers Initiative complements New York's efforts to restore and protect the Hudson River's natural, scenic, historic and economic resources in partnership with local governments and organizations along the Hudson River.

Sponsoring a distinguished lecture and conference program that provides a forum for intellectual discussion on the Hudson River Valley's history, culture and environment. Among those participating in major HRVI lectures have been Richard Brookhiser, Edwin

Burrows, Edward Countryman, Kenneth Jackson, Tom Lewis, Willard Sterne Randall, Barnett Schecter, Robert Selig, Russell Shorto, and Joseph Tiedemann.

Fostering an in-depth understanding of the Hudson River Valley's rich history, culture and environment through academic study and research among future educators and public historians. A chief means for advancing this objective is through the undergraduate and history curricula at Marist College, where classes annually prepare more than 150 history and education majors to teach local history. The addition of the recently developed Hudson River Valley Regional Studies minor will add to the educational experience. The Hudson River Valley Institute is proud of its efforts to create new programs that promote the study and enjoyment of the region's history, culture and natural beauty. As you can see, it has been a very productive five years. If you have been with us since the Institute's formation, we thank you for your participation and support. If the Hudson River Valley Institute is new to you, we hope you will join us in preserving and promoting the aspects of the Valley that make it a such a special place to live, work and learn.



Thomas S. Wernuth, Ph.D.
Director, HRVI at Marist College

Thomas W. Casey Fellowship

Before the Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College had Professor Thomas W. Casey as an advocate for regional history. Professor Casey was a devoted scholar of our region and offered numerous courses in Valley history. After his passing in 2001, his wife, Professor Irma Blanco Casey and her children, Karen and Robert, established an endowed fund to support the Thomas W. Casey Fellowship stipend for research about the Hudson River Valley. Recent award recipients include Professor Mark Morreale, for his article about the Hudson River Valley's contributions to the Union cause in the American Civil War published in the Autumn 2005 issue of *The Hudson River Valley Review*, and Professors Donald Anderson and Judith Saunders for their work in producing the Autumn 2006 issue of *The Hudson River Valley Review* devoted to Edith Wharton.

Digital Library

HRVI Digital Library is the gateway to information on the Hudson River Valley, serving educators, students, residents of the Valley and heritage tourists. The Digital Library and Portal Site contains thousands of pages of historical records and materials, educational curriculum, books, articles and historical images of valley, all of which are searchable in the electronic archives. In its five years of operations, almost 1 million visitors have used the Digital Library, downloading almost 500,000 MB of historical records, pamphlets, books, articles, and images. The site has recorded over 8.5 million "page hits." That presently translates into nearly 1,900 page hits, 1,500 visitors, and 1,500 MB of "downloads" every day. HRVI interns have digitized thousands of pages of historical

articles and pamphlets, including major out-of-print books related to Hudson River Valley history, back issues of *The Hudson Valley Regional Review*, and the two volumes of *The Hudson-Fulton Celebration 1909*. In addition, scholarly articles have been published on the Digital Library; offering an alternative forum for new and noteworthy scholarship.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency, and the DJ McManus Foundation have provided generous support for the development of the Digital Library; www.hudsonrivervalley.org.

Distinguished Lecture Series

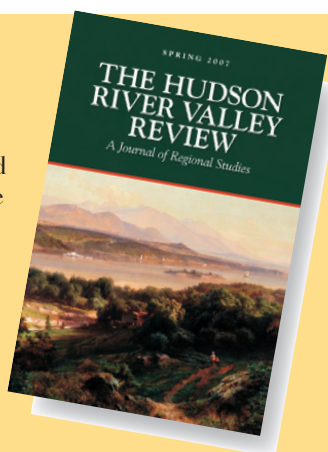
The Hudson River Valley Institute sponsors an ongoing lecture and conference series on the Hudson River Valley's rich history and culture through the generosity of the Charlotte Cunneen-Hackett Charitable Trust. To date, more than a dozen lectures and three conferences have been offered in locations throughout the Valley. Among the speakers have been such noted historians and authors as Richard Brookhiser, Edwin Burrows, Edward Cashin, Edward Countryman, Kenneth T. Jackson, Tom Lewis, James Kirby Martin, Willard Sterne Randall, Barnett Schecter, Robert Selig, Russell Shorto, and Joseph Tiedemann.



James Kirby Martin speaks on Benedict Arnold and the Hudson River Valley at Marist College

SCHOLARLY JOURNAL OF THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

The Hudson River Valley Review provides recent research and writing on all aspects of the Hudson River Valley's history, culture and people. Special themed issues have focused on significant topics such as the American Revolution, architecture, the Civil War, and writer Edith Wharton. The most recent issue, Spring 2007, features articles on women's history. HRVI assumed publication of the journal from Bard College in 2003, and the number of subscribers has grown by over 300%, revealing the ongoing interest in the region's history. Subscribers range from university libraries and historic sites to scholars and local history enthusiasts. The editors of HRVR are now assisted by a nationally prominent Editorial Board. Additional subscription information is available at www.hudsonrivervalley.net/hrvi/subscribe/index.php.



Issues of The Hudson River Valley Review have been underwritten by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, C.H. Energy Group, Inc., U.S. Cavalry Security Group, Sotheby's, Brinckerhoff-Newville, Inc. and the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel.



The Replica Ship The Half Moon

Quadricentennial

2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the historic voyage of Henry Hudson's ship, *De Halve Maen*, up the majestic river that would soon bear his name. Planning is well underway to provide the appropriate historic interpretation and celebratory attention this event so richly deserves. The Hudson River Valley Institute, in cooperation with the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, is working with the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission to plan for the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage and discovery. Director Thomas Wermuth is the Co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Quadricentennial Commission. The bicentennial of Robert Fulton's *North River Steamboat of Clermont*, will be remembered in the Autumn 2007 issue of *The Hudson River Valley Review*, the Steamboat Bicentennial Celebration at Clermont State Historic Site, and an special exhibit at the Albany Institute of History & Art.

AHRI/Navigator

The Hudson River became one of the nation's first American Heritage Rivers in 1997. In 2003 Governor George Pataki appointed Vinny Tamagna as the Hudson River Navigator and asked the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist to be the regional home of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative (AHRI). The Navigator is the liaison between federal, state and local agencies, governments and communities. AHRI has complemented New York's efforts to restore and protect the Hudson River's natural, scenic, historic and economic resources in partnership with local governments and organizations along its banks. The Navigator



Director Wermuth, Dr. Frank T. Bumpus, Navigator Tamagna, Executive Director Johnson

with the Hudson River Congressional Caucus on important issues relating to the Hudson River. He has also assisted the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission in planning the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery in 2009. On January 15, 2004, First Lady Laura Bush presented a Preserve America Award to the Navigator and the Hudson River Valley Institute in the East Room of the White House; Putnam County was honored for its continued commitment to protecting and to promoting the rich heritage of the Hudson River Valley. Navigator Tamagna continues to coordinate efforts with new communities along the river and to promote a Preserve America Passport, map and signs, most recently for Dutchess County. He also hosted a regional conference on Air Quality: Smart Fuels & Technology in 2006. The Navigator is involved in the Hudson River Lighthouse Trail and "Fresh Off the Barge," a floating farmers' market; both offer an educational component to heritage and natural resource protection.

The Hudson River Navigator is funded by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service in cooperation with the New York State Department of Conservation.



Dr. Thomas S. Wermuth, and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton at Marist College

Gifts and Honors

Hudson River Valley historian and Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts **Lincoln Diamant** donated over 500 rare and out of print books to the Hudson River Valley Institute. The texts span pre-history, New Netherland, Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary Hudson River history and explore memorable Hudson Valley towns, counties, industries, and individuals. Lincoln Diamant is the author of *Chaining the Hudson; DIVE! The Story of David Bushnell and His Remarkable 1776 Submarine (and Torpedo); Yankee Doodle Days; and Revolutionary Women*. Mr. Diamant's contributions to the region's history have enriched the field, and the Hudson River Valley Institute will utilize his generous donation to continue studying the Valley and its past.



HRVI Advisory Board

On April 26, 2007, the Open Space Institute, an organization devoted to protecting scenic, natural and historic landscapes, honored HRVI Advisory Board member **Barney McHenry** with the Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Awards, funded by an endowment raised by OSI. As general counsel of the Reader's Digest Association, Inc., he was the principal architect of the Wallace Funds, which supported the arts, education, humanities, health and the environment. In addition to his work for HRVI, he serves as Commissioner of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Chairman of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Co-Chair of the Hudson River Valley

National Heritage Area, President of Boscobel Restoration, and as a Trustee of the Open Space Institute.

These annual awards will provide financial support to promising young leaders and exemplary projects that make



Michael Diaz, Marist '06, former Secretary of State James Baker III, and Barney McHenry, HRVI Advisory Board

significant contributions in three main areas – environmental conservation, historic preservation, and the arts – in the Hudson River Valley. Among the recipients for historic preservation was **Michael Diaz**, '06 and former HRVI intern.

Former intern coordinator **Neil Bhatiya**, '06, received the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society's National Undergraduate Award for his paper, "The View from Moscow: George F. Kennan, Franklin Roosevelt, and the Problems of Russian-American Relations, 1944-45."

HRVI board member Denise Doring VanBuren has been announced as one of two Honorees for The Community Foundation of Dutchess County's 2007 Garden Party for her commitment to improve quality of life in the Hudson River Valley.

Hudson River Valley Education Programs

HRVI is entering the fifth year of two grant-funded opportunities for Valley teachers. Working with Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange County BOCES, the Institute hosts several week-long workshops each summer and one three-day workshop in collaboration with the

UNDERGRADUATE INTERN PROGRAM

As the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College completes its sixth school year, its team of interns has produced outstanding work. The internship program at HRVI has graduated 69 interns —history, business, communications, computer science, English, writing, environmental and political science majors. Internship duties include: digitizing historical documents; researching and writing articles for the Review, the monthly electronic newsletter, and digital library; assisting at events such as Patriots' Weekend and other historical celebrations throughout the Hudson River Valley. The Internship program provides an assortment of opportunities for undergraduate students.

Students have the opportunity to work on independent projects, which are "published" on-line at www.hudsonrivervalley.org. Each semester, a senior is chosen as Intern Coordinator, acting as a liaison between the interns and the program director. Students involved in this program get class credit, internship credit, and valuable work experience.

The D. J. McManus Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education grants have assisted with the funding of interns.



Marist interns at West Point with General George Washington

Hudson River Valley Education Programs (cont.)

National Park Service and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

HRVI's **Teaching American History Institutes** are funded by the United States Department of Education. Thus far, more than 180 secondary education teachers have participated in week-long, intensive examinations of the rich history of the Hudson River Valley. Members of the Marist faculty offered seminars on the American Revolution, slavery and the Underground Railroad, the political and social world of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, commerce, industry, and immigration in the nineteenth century. Future workshops will focus on: "Henry Hudson and the Clash of Cultures in the New World" and "Social Movements, Social Justice & the Expansion of American Democracy." Overall, thousands of students and hundreds of teachers throughout the region are using the educational curricula being developed. Although the initial focus has been on teachers and students in Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties, the goal is to expand programs providing every elementary and secondary school teacher in the Hudson River Valley with the opportunity to participate.

Teaching the Hudson Valley Institutes focus on place-based education and our region's historic resources. The program is a collaboration of HRVI, the National Park Service, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Teachers who attend the workshops develop lesson plans that are anchored on field trips to historic sites throughout the Valley. Finished, tested lessons are also available online. The Summer 2007 session will be organized around the theme, "Exploration, Innovation, Inspiration Teaching the Hudson Valley Past & Present." 250 teachers have attended these three-day conferences since 2003.

The Teachers' Institutes have been made possible by two grants of almost \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Education. Additional funding is provided by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the National Park Service and the Reese Charitable Lead Trust.



Teachers visiting Val-Kill during the 2006 summer institute

THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE SEVEN PATRIOTS' WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS, 2002-2008



The sloop Clearwater and bateau carry troops across the Hudson

The Hudson River Valley Institute has organized and coordinated lead events for the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution in New York State in partnership with the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Each year through 2008, HRVI has promoted and will promote Patriots' Weekend, which focuses on significant historical events relating to the Revolutionary War in the Hudson River Valley 225 years ago.

The Hudson River Valley Institute supported Congressman Maurice Hinchey's and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's initiative to gain passage of the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act on November 20, 2004. President George W. Bush signed the act into law on December 8, 2004. This legislation put the celebration of the 225th anniversary of America's War for Independence in the national spotlight.

Most recently Patriots' Weekend 2006 celebrated "Washington and Rochambeau in New York: The March to Victory, The Crossing at King's Ferry." In 1781 Generals Washington and Rochambeau's armies crossed the Hudson River on their way down to what was the decisive battle of the American Revolution, Yorktown. Over the weekend of August 25-27, nearly 600 reenactors and over 500 spectators came together to commemorate the Hudson Valley's pivotal role in this important campaign. The centerpiece of the weekend occurred on Saturday afternoon when reenactors representing American and French soldiers boarded several bateaux and the sloop *Clearwater* and crossed the Hudson at King's Ferry from Verplanck's to Stony Point. Past Patriots' Weekends have remembered Fortress West Point's contribution to the American Revolution and the dedication of Fort Montgomery State Historic Site (2002), General George Washington's Encampment at Fredericksburgh (Pawling) (2003), the battle of Stony Point (2004), and the Benedict Arnold-John André Conspiracy at Tappan and Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown (2005). Patriots' Weekend 2007 will commemorate the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the Continental Army at New Windsor Cantonment and Newburgh to observe the British Army in New York City in October 1782.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the M&T Bank Charitable Foundation, and the Charlotte Cunneen-Hackett Charitable Trust have provided the funding to make Patriots' Weekend and other 225th anniversary events possible.



At left: Congressman Hinchey reviews troops at Washington's Headquarters. Above and below: Gov. Petak and other officials at Ft. Montgomery, State Historic Site.

