American Heritage River Initiative

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) at Marist College is the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, serving as the central hub of information about the region that gives the Institute its name. Its mission is to study and promote the Hudson River Valley. As the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, HRVI is increasing public awareness about the region's history. Subscribers range from university libraries and historic sites to scholars and local history enthusiasts.

Issues of The Hudson River Valley Review have been underwritten by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area,Furthermore, the Poultkeepsie Grand Hotel, and C.H. Energy Group, Inc.

National Recognition of Hudson River Valley Institute

The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College received national recognition in Washington, DC, for its role in preserving the history of the Hudson River Valley.

On January 15, 2004, First Lady Laura Bush presented a Preserve America Community Award to Hudson River Valley Institute's Executive Director James M. Johnson and Hudson River Navigator Vincent Tamagna in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House. The award designated Putnam County, New York, as one of the first eight Preserve Americas Communities in the United States honored for their commitment to protecting their heritage. At the same time, the Hudson River Valley Institute's Greenway nominated the Hudson River Valley Institute for one of the two Preserve America Presidential Awards.

Jim Johnson, HRVI, and Vinny Tamagna, Putnam County Legislator, received the Preserve America Award from First Lady Laura Bush in the White House.

The 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 featured significant topics such as the American Revolution in the region.

The most recent issue, Autumn 2004, features the Valley's architecture. HRVI assumed publication of the journal from Bard College in 2003. Review, the number of subscribers has grown by almost 50%, revealing the ongoing interest in the region’s history. Subscribers range from university libraries and historic sites to scholars and local history enthusiasts.

A Message from the Director

As the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College celebrates its second full year of operations, we want to share this update of some of our recent activities and projects. It has been a very productive two years, as HRVI has taken a lead role in facilitating new programs promoting the study and enjoyment of the region’s history and culture. The Hudson River Valley Digital Library has emerged as a leader in delivering information on the Valley, and the

The 225th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution

The Hudson River Valley Institute has organized and coordinated lead events for the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution in New York State in 2003. Through 2008, HRVI will promote partnership with the Hudson River Valley communities along the Hudson in 225 years ago.

The Hudson River Valley Institute

The Hudson River Valley Institute has served as the central hub of information for the study of the Hudson River Valley. As the HRVI at Marist College is the center for the study of the Hudson River Navigator, Governor George Pataki nominated the Hudson River to become one of the nation’s first American Heritage Rivers in 1997, and, at the Governor’s request, President George W. Bush extended the Hudson River’s heritage designation through July 2006. In 2003 Governor Pataki appointed Mr. Vincent Tamagna as the Navigator and asked HRVI to host

Patriots’ Weekend 2004 began with the dedication of the Stony Point Battlefield’s refurbished museum on July 15, 2004.

About Us

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HRVI is the entering the third year of two grant-funded opportunities for Valley teachers. Each summer we host two week-long workshops funded through the U.S. Department of Education, and one three-week workshop funded by the National Park Service.

HRVI’s Teaching American History Institutes are funded by a Department of Education grant program. Thus far, we have graduated over 200 secondary education teachers in week-long, intensive examinations of the rich history of the Hudson River Valley and its significance for the history of the United States.

Members of the Marist faculty have developed and offered seminars over the last two summers on the American Revolution, slavery and the Underground Railroad, and the political and social world of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Digital Library

HRVI Digital Library continues to serve as the gateway to information on the Hudson River Valley. The Library contains thousands of pages of historical records and materials, educational curriculum, books, articles and historical images of valley, all of which are archived and searchable in the electronic archives.

In its two years of operations, more than 300,000 visitors have used the Digital Library, downloading close to 60,000 historical records, pamphlets, books, articles, and images. The site has recorded over 5 million “hits.” That translates into 6,498 hits, 365 visitors and 66 “downloads” every day. Web users from 95 countries have visited the site and used its resources.

HRVI interns have converted into digital format thousands of pages of historical articles and pamphlets this year, including materials relating to the West Point Chain and the Bicentennial of the American Revolution (for commemoration planners), major out-of-print books related to Hudson River Valley History, and the personal journal of renowned Hudson River Valley author Susan Warner from the collection of the Constitution Island Association. In addition, new scholarly articles have been written and published for the first time on the Digital Library.

225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act

On November 20, 2004, the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act introduced by U.S. Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Sue Kelly (R-NY-19), John Sweeney (R-NY-22) passed both houses of Congress as a part of the omnibus appropriations bill. Twenty-two co-sponsors joined Congressman Hinchey in his efforts in the House and six Representatives, including fellow Hudson Valley Representatives Michael McNulty (D-21-NY), Sue Kelly (R-NY-19), John Sweeney (R-NY-20), and Nita Lowey (D-NY-18), Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and John W. Warner (R-VA) had introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

The Hudson River Valley Institute had been working with Congressman Hinchey and Legislative Director Paul Brotherton since 2002 to pass legislation to establish a program in the National Park Service to promote the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution since New York and its Hudson River Valley were instrumental in the winning of the American Revolution with the help of Governor George Pataki, New York has led the campaign since 2000 to remember and to celebrate our Revolutionary heritage.

Undergraduate Internship Program

As the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College enters its fourth school year, the newest team of interns is working hard. The internship program at HRVI has graduated 30 interns — history, communications, computer science, English, environmental science, and political science majors.

Internship duties include: scanning historical documents; researching and writing articles for the Review, the monthly 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 at Marist. Students have the opportunity to work on independent projects, which are “published” on-line at www.hudsonrivervalley.org. Interns digitize documents and work on their projects during weekly office hours. 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.

Service authorizing the additional resources and partnerships necessary to improve their stewardship of Revolutionary War sites and treasures through improved interpretation, education, outreach and protection.

225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act

Before the Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist had professor Thomas W. Casey.

Professor Casey was a devoted scholar of our region and offered numerous courses in Valley history. After his passing, 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.

Thomas W. Casey Fellowship in Hudson River Valley Studies

Professor Mark Morreale, Department of English, was the first recipient of this stipend to support his research about the Hudson River Valley’s contributions to the war effort in the American Civil War. Professor Morreale presented a preliminary discussion of his research on October 6 at the monthly Hudson River Valley Colloquium.

HRVI is serving as the gateway to information on the Hudson River Valley, serving educators, students, residents of the Valley and heritage tourists. The Digital Library contains thousands of pages of historical records and materials, educational curriculum, books, articles and historical images of valley, all of which are archived and searchable in the electronic archives. In its two years of operations, more than 300,000 visitors have used the Digital Library, downloading close to 60,000 historical records, pamphlets, books, articles, and images. The site has recorded over 5 million “hits.” That translates into 6,498 hits, 365 visitors and 66 “downloads” every day. Web users from 95 countries have visited the site and used its resources. HRVI interns have converted into digital format thousands of pages of historical articles and pamphlets this year, including materials relating to the West Point Chain and the Bicentennial of the American Revolution (for commemoration planners), major out-of-print books related to Hudson River Valley History, and the personal journal of renowned Hudson River Valley author Susan Warner from the collection of the Constitution Island Association. In addition, new scholarly articles have been written and published for the first time on the Digital Library. 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