
NEHTA

Newsletter and Forum

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New England History Teachers Association
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Special Issue: NEHTA Celebrates its 110th Anniversary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is truly an honor to write this president's message as our organization celebrates its 110th anniversary. This organization continues to be a vibrant force in the teaching of history in New England. As members know, we had held exceptional fall conferences the past two years. NEHTA is a vital presence at the Northeast Regional Social Studies conference: some of you will be reading this at NERC, and will be taking part in either the afternoon luncheon or the evening reception sponsored by our organization. At both of these events annual awards sponsored by NEHTA will be presented; our organization gives recognition to outstanding teaching at both the university and secondary level. We honor outstanding service to the field of history, and through the Vera Laska award we recognize an outstanding New England undergraduate in the field of history. In addition, during the spring of 2008 our organization will be sponsoring a STUDENT conference for the first time in several years: the topic of this conference will be the Cold War. More details will be announced shortly.

It is astonishing to study the 11-year history of our organization as well. An incredible number of New England history educators at both the university and secondary levels have been members of our organization; a large number have written articles or reviews for our organization's publications. Recently I spent time in the archives of NEHTA, located at Bentley College. Found in various file folders are publications, announcements, and correspondence dating back to the organization's founding in 1897. For this special issue, we have included a number of articles and surprises that have appeared in our organization's publication ("The New England Social Studies Bulletin") during the past 110 years; these include:

Article #1: From the report of the organization's very first annual meeting, a discussion of "Practical Methods of Teaching History"

Article #2: From NEHTA's second annual meeting, a report on various forms of teaching history in the secondary schools
1910 and 1931 advertisements for history textbooks

Articles #3, #4, #5: Articles from the February, 1945 journal on the role of educators in time of war and how educators can prepare students for the postwar world

Article #6: An article from the November, 1945 journal on the difficulties of democracy

Article #7: Another article from that same issue, explaining how the "mass media" can be utilized in the study of history

Article #8: A wonderful essay by Edmund S. Morgan from the December, 1953 issue on the challenges faced by historians in the postwar world

Article #9: An attack on existing social studies methodology from the spring, 1965 issue of the NEHTA journal

Article #10: From the winter 1975-1976 issue of the journal, a report on new historical trends existing at the time

Article #11: From the winter 1984-1985 issue of the journal, the president's message written by George Watson. George has recently retired from his position of executive director of the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies. His countless hours of service to social studies in New England are hereby noted.

I hope you enjoy reading these as much as I enjoyed digging them up. As I stated above, there is an incredible history to this organization, but we are still at the forefront of history education in New England today. By the way, our fall conference will be held on November 10 in Salem, Massachusetts; more details to come.

Stephen Armstrong, NEHTA President

RICHARD P. DAUER FELLOWSHIP

Last spring the passing of an outstanding member of the New England History Teachers Association was noted in the organization's newsletter. At the time, it was mentioned that a scholarship foundation had been organized to honor the memory of Dr. Richard Dauer. The trustees of that fellowship wanted to memorialize Rick with a fellowship which would go to a Connecticut teacher who most closely resembled the type of teacher that he was. First, it was decided that the fellowship would go to an in-service teacher who was pursuing an advanced degree (preferable a doctorate) in history, since Rick was doing the very same thing while being an extremely active teacher, leading community activist, and all-around individual. Other criteria would include other qualities Rick had and/or activities he was involved in. Rick coached sports (starting the baseball and basketball programs) while at Williams School in New London, Connecticut; he was involved in all aspects of the school's extra-curricular activities, including Harvard Model Congress, participating in performances and singing events, along with many other activities. Outside of school Rick was involved in community activities, such as singing in the church choir, participating on the town's library board, and being very involved in the town of Clinton's historical society. Besides being so involved Rick was also an avid sports participant and fan, being a runner, an avid golfer and playing organized baseball player into his sixtieth year. No one is expected to be Rick Dauer in involvement, but the more criteria that the candidate has, the more desirable the candidate is.

The grant is for \$1,500 and is to be awarded annually. There are no limits to the number of times a candidate may apply. Candidates should write for information and forms to: **Keith Dauer, 19 Bates Road, Chester, CT 06412**

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations to NEHTA member **Rebecca Duda** for receiving the **William Spratt Award for Teaching Excellence in Social Studies at the Middle Level**. This award is presented annually to a middle school Social Studies teacher in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies. The award was presented May 5 at the Publick House in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

Ms. Duda has continued her pursuit of excellence in the field by being selected as only one of 25 educators from around the nation to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Institute this summer. Held at Salem State College, the institute was titled "The Visual Culture of New England." Participants studied 17th and 18th century visual culture of New England and wrote original curriculum units to utilize in their classrooms this fall. Rebecca's unit focused on the colonial economy and its development.

Rebecca Duda is an 8th grade U.S. history teacher in her third year at Lakeview Junior High School in Dracut, Massachusetts.

NEHTA member Dr. Charles Mitsakos of Rivier College was recently honored as the recipient of the Sr. Mary Jane Benoit Outstanding Educator of the Year Award. The award is named in honor of Sr. Mary Jane Benoit, Rivier classes of 1953 and 1956. It is given to an individual in recognition of distinction made through teaching and mentoring of students in education and/or mental health.

Dr. Mitsakos served in the Lexington, Chelmsford, Andover and Winchester public school systems for 1961 to 1992. He currently serves as Rivier College's divisional chair for Education. He has authored numerous articles and publications, including textbooks.

Have you recently published an article? Have you reached a professional milestone? Or, have you made a recent professional change? The NEHTA would like to celebrate the accomplishments of its members. Please let us know your news by contacting our Membership Coordinator at membership@nehta.net.
