NATIONAL FINALISTS YEARBOOK 2015
The staff would like to say “thank you” to all participants, parents and teachers who made National History Day 2015 such a great year. It was our pleasure getting to know all of you and we hope you had as memorable of an experience as we did. You are all winners to us!

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The Fun City and Awesome Town games created some major competition within the bunch (of dancing bananas). Students in both fictitious cities could be seen running around with cotton balls on their noses, or tied to a fellow student with a balloon held tightly behind their backs. Awesome Town took an early lead this year, until Fun City dominated the cotton ball and Vaseline challenge. Both teams showed exceptional teamwork and good sportsmanship. We were glad to see that everyone had a fun (city!) and awesome (town!) time!
The 2015 Junior class had solid topics that related to the theme “Leadership & Legacy in History.” Some well-known topics were strongly represented this year, such as the Freedom Riders, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Sister Kenny. Other students in the Junior Division told the stories of leaders not as well-known, like Edward Jenner, Roger Bannister, and Dorothea Dix. Overall, the Minnesota Juniors left a legacy at Nationals that will be one to remember. (See what we did there?!)
JUNIORS

Aria Norcross
Strom Norcross
Natalie Plant
Kyra Sandness

Hanna Savaerid
Rachel Springer
Carly St. Martin-Norburg
Megan Sulej

Megan Sumera
James Williams
Andy Wong
Allison Zarling

Instagram
This year, the Senior Division contained a variety of interesting topics ranging from local to world history. Local topics included the Morrill Hall Takeover, the Mayo Clinic, and the Eugenics Movement in Minnesota. All project categories in the Senior Division from Minnesota contained at least one world history topic. Some examples of leaders represented are Gandhi, Thomas Paine, Charles de Gaulle, and Hammurabi. The range of topics made for a fun day of Senior project viewing for the Minnesota delegation.
SENIORS

Marie Loye
Lauren Mendoza
Deven Michels
Neesha Moore

Hannah Myers
Angelica Nelson
Emily Nichols
Samuel Orloff

Lily Palenschat
Maddie Pavek
Sarah Schluender
Erik Shirley

Zachariah Sippy
Lauren Strandlund
Christina Vang
Jasmine Wurl

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This year Team Minnesota was louder than ever with plenty of teachers, parents, and siblings cheering on their Minnesota students at National History Day. The support did not end with the competition; the epic “banana dance” could be seen from space as the parents and teachers joined in for the first time ever. Siblings of History Day students also participated while playing numerous FCAT games, trading buttons, and keeping the History Day staff entertained. Thanks to all of the amazing teachers, grandparents, parents, and siblings who made the trip out to D.C. with us!
CHOF School had a strong representation in the drama club this year by having two group performances at Nationals, one on Sister Kenny and the other on President Roosevelt’s CCC. Monica did a performance on Sister Kenny and her methods for treating polio as well. The Minnesota delegation also “oohed” and “ahhed” at Strom and Aria’s group performance on the Mayo brothers, which advanced to the final round of judging at Nationals. Faith had a unique experience performing on her topic, the Morrill Hall Takeover, just down the hall from the African American studies department at the University of Maryland. Hats off to all of the performers that represented Minnesota at National History Day!
Many 2015 AV Club students chose to do their projects on leaders who fought for rights in history. Siena and Pa Ying chose to do their project on Ella Baker and received first place in the nation for their senior group documentary. Another Civil Rights leader, Ida B. Wells, was well-represented in a senior documentary done by Lauren and Maddie beautifully showed the unintended legacy of the nation’s first ant-gay rights movement. Ethan, Jordan, and Zachariah depicted multiple leaders in their outstanding documentary on the Partition of India. We wouldn’t be surprised if some of the Minnesota documentary students are working for the History Channel some day! Congrats to ALL of our documentarians!
SHOP CLASS

All eight exhibit boards made it out to Washington, D.C., safe and sound, and boy, were they a sight to see! Sunrise Park Middle School had two exhibits at the competition, one from James about Theodore Roosevelt, the other from Megan and Allison on Eleanor Roosevelt. Another exhibit student, Jillian, had a board on the Torpedo Squadron 8 at Midway that many members of the Minnesota delegation “wow”ed over. There were two Minnesota exhibits on the Mayo Clinic, one by Emily, and the other by Kathleen, Emma, and Megan. We were proud to have you all representing team Minnesota in the exhibit hall!
The website students came from all around Minnesota to attend National History Day 2015, from Duluth to Mankato. This year the website club contained a lot of world history topics, like Farley’s website on Henry VIII’s power struggle, and Amelia’s project on Josip Broz Tito and Yugoslavia. Chaska students Natalie and Shea chose to discuss two leaders, Steve Biko and Donald Woods, in their junior group website. Women leaders in history were also well represented in this category with a website on Beate Gordon, and another on Julia Child. Way to go, tech kids!
Our four Minnesota paper students all tackled interesting and unique topics this year. In the junior division for papers, Isabella discussed the legacy of Lois Jenson, while Carly wrote a paper on tackling the tobacco industry. Senior paper writer Claire received the Magna Carta special prize for her paper on Thomas Paine. The other senior paper, written by Sam, covered Egyptian foreign policy under leader Anwar Sadat. Thanks for sharing your outstanding work with us!
NATIONAL FINALISTS

Pa Ying Lor, Siena Leone-Getten
Senior Group Documentary
1st Place

Jillian Brenner
Junior Individual Exhibit
National WWII Muesum
“Salute to Courage Award”

Isabella Krueger
Junior Paper, 5th Place,
Outstanding State Entry, Junior Division

Andy Wong
Junior Individual Website
5th Place

Carly St. Martin-Norburg
Junior Paper
6th Place

Emily Nichols
Senior Individual Exhibit
7th Place

Aria Norcross, Strom Norcross
Junior Group Performance
8th Place

Monica Clarke
Junior Individual Performance
11th Place

Shea Kerry, Natalie Plant
Junior Group Website
11th Place

Claire Davis
Senior Paper
12th Place
Magna Carta Special Prize

Hannah Myers
Senior Individual Performance
Outstanding State Entry, Senior Division