

Announcing the New Encyclopedia of Connecticut History Online

The Humanities Council made its first venture into the Internet world back in 2001 with the launch of *Connecticut's Heritage Gateway* (www.ctheritage.org), an online resource for Connecticut history and a portal to the state's many historic resources. The Gateway features an encyclopedia of Connecticut history with hundreds of articles written by historians, an extensive bibliography for additional reading and links to online sources for historic photographs, maps and documents. For culture seekers, there's a searchable directory of over 400 cultural organizations in the state and a calendar listing hundreds of cultural events. The Gateway was a groundbreaking use of the information superhighway at the time and remains popular to this day, receiving around 400,000 visits per year.

A lot has changed in the six years since we launched the Gateway, both in terms of how people use the Internet and the technologies available to present information on the web. So, we're pleased to announce that the next generation of the Gateway is in development under a partnership with the Office of the State Historian and the University of Connecticut's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dubbed ECHO, the *Encyclopedia of Connecticut History Online* will take over 3 years to complete at a cost of more than \$700,000. All of the current content will be reviewed and updated and



we'll be adding hundreds of new articles under the direction of an editorial board of nationally-known historians.

We're also working with Connecticut Public Broadcasting and the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies to create curriculum units for teachers that will use ECHO to teach American history through stories from Connecticut's past and with the Connecticut State Library to align ECHO with important archives of historic documents and images.

We'll be building ECHO in stages, with the first round of the most important articles set to go live late next year. We plan at least two additional rounds of new content but, given the enormous potential of the Internet and the thousands of stories from Connecticut history, there's no end in sight. In the meantime, don't miss out on the many Connecticut history resources we already offer on *Connecticut's Heritage Gateway* at www.ctheritage.org. ■

Council-Funded Teacher Institutes Help Meet the Needs of Today's Teachers

Changes over the past few years in what gets taught in Connecticut's schools have left many social studies, history and other humanities teachers faced with transforming traditional content-based lesson plans into those that focus on the three R's: "reading, writing and 'rithmetic". And, since teaching today is so closely tied to skills measured on the Connecticut Mastery Test, humanities teachers are finding it's no longer enough to teach the facts without also concentrating on their students' critical thinking, writing and problem-solving skills.

It's a challenge to be sure but over a hundred teachers this summer will have a chance to discover that it's also a chance to forge stronger partnerships with the state's cultural community and create exciting new cross-discipline approaches to teaching. They'll be attending summer institutes funded by the Humanities Council's *Humanities in the Schools* program and hosted by some of the state's exceptional cultural institutions.

The *Humanities in the Schools* program has awarded a total of \$87,000 to seven organizations for hands-on institutes this summer that will bring together teachers from all grade levels with museum education staff and

(continued on page 4)



955 SOUTH MAIN ST., SUITE E
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
T 860.685.2260 F 860.704.0429
WWW.CTLCULTURE.ORG

Board of Directors

- James Robertson (Chair)
- Brenda Williams (Vice Chair)
- Frank Turner (Treasurer)
- William S. Lavine, D.M.D. (Secretary)
- Jaclyn Bernstein
- Sharon Brettschneider
- Marianne Caldarella
- Carolyn Cicchetti
- Lawrence J. DeNardis
- Booker DeVaughn
- Barbara Fernandez
- Sandra Bender Fromson
- Judge William Garfinkel
- Howard R. Greene
- Eunice S. Groark
- Marcia Howard
- Katherine Kane
- Thomas Shachtman
- Ann Y. Smith
- Kate Steinway
- Jessie Stratton
- Patricia Sweet
- George J. Willauer
- Walter W. Woodward

Staff

- Bruce Fraser, Executive Director
- Cora Anthony, Administrative Assistant
- Carolyn Buchholz, Financial Manager
- Betsey Chadwick, Director of Development
- Jim Charbonneau, Office Manager
- Lisa Comstock, Program Director
- Jennifer Eifrig, Assistant Director of Heritage Programs
- Susan Muro, Program Director, Book Voyagers
- Christine Pizarro, Administrative Coordinator, Reading Programs
- Rachel Pollak, Program Assistant, Reading Programs
- Laurie Rayner, Director of Heritage Programs
- Sandra S. Santy, Director of Reading Programs
- Brett Thompson, Director of Communications
- Marcia Trotta, Program Director, Reading Programs for Adults

Five Honored at 2007 Wilbur Cross Awards

200 guests gathered at the Beinecke Library at Yale University on May 10th to honor this year's recipients of the Council's Wilbur Cross Awards for 2007. This is the 23rd year the Council has celebrated the achievements of those outstanding people and organizations whose work with and on behalf of the Council benefits communities statewide. Council board chair Jim Robertson hosted the evening that paid tribute to Connecticut Senator Donald Williams, the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, Old Lyme's Florence Griswold Museum, West Hartford's Noah Webster House and 2007 graduates of the Council-funded *Gateway to the Humanities* program at Trinity College.

This was the third year the Council hosted the event at the Beinecke Library under the sponsorship of Yale University. In addition to providing us with a wonderful space for the awards, the Beinecke also hosted an elegant reception for our guests.

2007 Wilbur Cross Awards

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Senator Donald Williams



Senator Williams has a long record of support across a wide range of initiatives that preserve and strengthen Connecticut's rich heritage. Senator Williams is a student of Connecticut's history himself with a deep academic and personal appreciation of the events and forces that have shaped our past. As important, he has long displayed a comprehensive understanding of the complex organizational interconnections and missions that preserve and define our "sense of place."

FOUNDATION PARTNER FOR FAMILY LITERACY

Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust

When the Council expanded its successful *Motheread* family literacy program into southeastern Connecticut, the Cox Charitable Trust stepped in with a substantial, multi-year grant that provided the financial means to train facilitators, purchase books and materials and conduct 10-week programs for low-income parents with young children. This was a first-time award from Cox and its duration and amount indicated a level of trust and commitment that is increasingly rare in the philanthropic world. Thanks to the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, *Motheread* is currently operating in 10 schools and social service agencies in the New London area.



HERITAGE PROJECTS OF THE YEAR (2 AWARDS)

The Reinterpretation of the Florence Griswold House as a Country Retreat for Artists, circa 1910 Florence Griswold Museum

In June of 2006, the Florence Griswold House reopened to the public after an extensive five year restoration and reinterpretation project. The exceptional results indicate the careful and meticulous study the museum staff and consultants undertook that led them to the restoration decisions and public presentation that visitors enjoy today. The reinterpretation follows best practices and careful scholarship to ensure continued stewardship of the structure, the collections it houses and the stories it tells.



Bristow: Putting the Pieces of an African-American Life Together Noah Webster House/West Hartford Historical Society



The Bristow exhibition contains all the key elements of excellent public programming: a compelling story that resonates with contemporary audiences, an engaging script that both answers and asks questions and a strong educational component that connects with both the local community and school children. After a six-month stop at the Noah Webster House's exhibition gallery, Bristow will be permanently installed at the Bristow Middle School, where it will serve as an ongoing testament to the importance of history for new generations.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HUMANITIES

2007 Graduates of Gateway to the Humanities Trinity College

The 2007 graduating class of the *Gateway to the Humanities* program at Trinity College embodies the enduring power of the humanities to enrich our lives. Ranging in age from 18 to 66 and representing a variety of backgrounds and origins, the class spent eight months studying history, philosophy, creative writing and literature with Trinity faculty. None had ever attended college before and all faced formidable personal circumstances that were overcome with persistence, dedication and courage. All deserve recognition for pursuing "the life of the mind" with passion and determination.



Stay Connected

Subscribe to the Humanities Council's email newsletter

Want an easy way to keep current on cultural and literary events in your area, plus the latest news on our programs? The Humanities Council's E-Update is for you. Six times a year, we'll send a great newsletter via email that will update you on new CHC-funded exhibits, book discussion programs, and much more.

To subscribe, visit our website at www.ctculture.org

Teacher Institutes

(continued from page 1)

master teachers to learn new ways to teach the humanities in today's classroom environment.

At the Mattatuck Museum, for example, teachers will explore slavery as an economic engine in Connecticut during the 17th and 18th centuries and its impact on individuals as told through first person narratives. UCONN's program will show teachers how to effectively incorporate film into the classroom to promote historical understanding, how to choose films to show in class and evaluate a variety of current methods teachers use with film to develop students' historical understanding.

To learn more about the institutes and how to register, visit our website at www.ctculture.org and click on the "Cultural Resources for Teachers" button on the navigation bar at the top of the page. ■

2007 HUMANITIES IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAMS:

Art and Writing, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, July 28–29

Beyond Antiquity: The Legacy of the Classical World, Classical Association of New England, July 9-14

Black Hands, Blue Seas: The Maritime Heritage of African Americans, Mystic Seaport Museum, July 9–13**

Constructing Meaning: Image and Narrative, Yale Center for British Art, July 10 – 13

Discovering 1930s America through Visual Arts, The New Britain Museum of American Art, June 26–28**

Fortune's Story and Slavery in Connecticut, Mattatuck Museum and History Center, July 16 – 20**

Teaching American History with Film, The University of Connecticut's NEAG School of Education, July 16 – 20**

**A We the People project of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Annual Fund Update

Our spring Annual Appeal invites you to join our many generous donors who share a deep belief in the educational power of the humanities and a commitment to supporting learning opportunities for others. Your gift to the Annual Fund supports the full range of the Council's programs but is especially important to our family literacy programs. Donor-supported programs like *Motheread/Fatheread* are helping parents bring the joy of reading into their children's lives while *Book Voyagers* discussion programs at local libraries, schools and other educational settings give kids a chance to express their feelings and ideas through books.

We thank our many Friends whose gifts bring extraordinary cultural and educational experiences to hundreds of thousands of people across Connecticut each year. Whether you've supported our work in the past or are a first time donor, we hope you'll join this year with a gift to the Council's spring Annual Appeal. You can download a gift form from our website at www.ctculture.org or send your donation to:

Friends of the Connecticut Humanities Council
955 South Main Street, Suite E
Middletown, CT 06457

2007 Annual Fund Donors

Gifts received through April 30, 2007.

\$1000 or more

Carol S. Clapp
Bruce Fraser
Sandra and Howard Fromson
Dorothy Goodwin
Dr. William S. Lavine
James K. Robertson, Jr.
George J. Willauer

\$500 to \$999

Jaelyn Bernstein
Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Cicchetti
Barbara Fernandez
Howard R. Greene
Eunice S. Groark
Marcia B. Howard
Ann Y. Smith
Patricia B. Sweet
Dr. Brenda and Mr. Ronald Williams

\$250 to \$499

Beverly and Arnold Greenberg
Patrick and Ann Kenny
Thomas R. Shachtman
Edward W. Sloan
Kate Steinway and Paul Zolan

\$100 to \$249

A Friend
Jeffrey Andersen and Maureen McCabe
Dora S. Blinn
Sharon Brettschneider
Susan M. Bullock
Constance Clark
Drs. Booker and Elena DeVaughn
James F. English, Jr.
Harvey M. and Susan Feinberg
Walter Fiederowicz
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Fruch
Hon. William Garfinkel
The Grants

Ms. Astrid T. Hanzalek
Edward M. Harris, Jr.
Ronald D. Jones
Katherine Kane and John Kelsey
Mrs. George Loveless
Conrad L. Mallett
Elizabeth Normen and Paul Eddy
Maureen Rodgers
Patricia M. Schaefer
Tony and Charline Shaw
David Sloane
Milton and Harriet Stern
Martin and Gloria Stewart
Jessie Stratton
Sara E. Thal
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Tilney
Allen M. Ward, Jr.
Walter W. Woodward

\$50 to \$99

Anonymous
S. Ardis Abbott
Clotecan H. Brayfield
Barbara D. Bryan
Dorothy Cantor
Fred A. Cazel, Jr.
Ted and Rebecca Crosby
Cornelia H. Dayton
Karyl K. Evans
Yakira H. Frank
Bette and Jerry Geci
Ellis A. Hagstrom
Marcia B. Howard
Charlotte and Bud Jason
Philip Jones/Jones Tree Farm
Marion Leonard
Thomas and Valerie Lewis
Glen MacLeod
Marianne Mazan
Middlesex County Community Foundation
Gay Myers
William R. Pinch
Catherine Riordan

Martha Solnit
John and Elizabeth Spaulding
Torrington Historical Society
Frank M. Turner
Gay Wagner
William Wasch
Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Whittemore

Other Amounts

Dr. Arthur S. Abramson
E. M. Anderson
Joan Armstrong
Rachel Bashevkin
Anne and John Bickford
Maria P. Brandriff
Edith M. Carlson
Blair Childs
Henry Cohn
Lee Swift Cook
Kendra Dahlquist
Christine Fazzina
Carol Gabrielson Fine
Mary Goodwin
William W. Hallo
Constance B. Hieatt
Loren and Sheila Kahn
Alice Kane
Caroline Knox
Barbara E. Lacey
Alice V. Meyer
Carol B. Moakley
Bruce and Mary Jane Monahan
John and Eda Moroney
Alfred and Nancy Mueller
Helen Reeve
Barbara D. Roberts
Nancy Rogalsky
Robert A. Rosenbaum
Clare Rossini and Joseph Byrne
Edward B. Rowe
Harold Shapiro
Deborah Tajmajer
Bernice Ullmann
Marie Ruth Wall