

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2020

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Delaware National History Day Winners Announced *Contest Held Online Due to Pandemic*

Wilmington, DE: COVID-19 did not stop Delaware students from researching and preparing projects for the Delaware National History Day state contest, which for more than 20 years has been organized by the Delaware Historical Society.

Each year, the national organization selects a theme to help students direct their research. This year's theme was "Breaking Barriers in History" and students focused on the familiar like Rosa Parks or Susan B. Anthony, to more obscure topics like Hollywood Actress Anna May Wong and ocean acoustics.

Faced with cancellation because of the pandemic, DHS quickly switched gears and created a virtual contest. Though many projects were already uploaded into a registration system, others had to be submitted via email or shared through Google Drive. Students sent exhibits as PowerPoints or Google slide presentations, PDF papers, scripts for performances, documentaries and website links.

"Students stepped up to get their projects in, despite hurdles due to Covid-19," said Rebecca Fay, Director of Education for DHS. "These students deserve special recognition." (See below for list of category winners and the special awards winners, which are sponsored by local organizations and institutions that help support the program) The contest is normally a day-long, large event held at a school with students presenting their projects to dozens of librarians, historians, and other volunteers who serve as judges. The contest was to have been held earlier this month.

"The Delaware Historical Society staff and volunteer judges look forward to National History Day each year as an opportunity to see how students bring their own fresh perspective to the theme," said David Young, executive director of DHS. "We are always excited to see the creativity involved in the projects and we invariably learn something new.....Thank you teachers, thank you students, and thank you parents who, despite the challenges of online learning, uncertainty, and fear, carried on with National History Day projects and participated in our 2020 contest. Your perseverance is admirable and deeply appreciated."

National History Day is a non-profit education organization based in College Park, Maryland. NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Since 1974, NHD has continuously improved history education by providing professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators.

Delaware National History Day 2020 Virtual State Contest Winners



Junior Paper

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Ariana Ali	The First Antibiotic: Breaking the Bacterial Infection Barrier	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Andrew Bedell
2 nd	Danielle Leach	Destroying the Spanish Grip	Wilmington Christian School	Trey Speers

Junior Individual Performance

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Aubrey Eppes	Forever Shining: One Radium Girl's Barrier-Breaking Legacy	PS DuPont Middle School	Kelly Whitaker

Junior Individual Website

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Alexandra Irwin	The Haitian Revolution	Towle Institute	Sara Chick
2 nd	Cole Barnyak	Pong	PS DuPont Middle School	Kelly Whitaker
3 rd	Daniel Qi	US vs. Virginia: Breaking the Gender Barrier	PS DuPont Middle School	Kelly Whitaker

Junior Group Website

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Gemma Calabria, Alice Yan	"Fairy" Set Ablaze Ends Superstition	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Andrew Bedell
2 nd	Erin Fuhs, Farhana Khan	Elizabeth Stanton & How She Helped Women Get Rights	Talley Middle School	Howard Bechler
3 rd	Holly Osman, Maggie Vitsorek	Seneca Falls Convention	Talley Middle School	Howard Bechler

Junior Individual Documentary

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Akhil Yarlagadda	Joseph Warren: The First Martyr of the Revolutionary War	PS DuPont Middle School	Kelly Whitaker

Junior Group Documentary

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Siddhi Dinavahi, Helen Xiang	We Are United!	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Andrew Bedell
2 nd	Aubrey Gunther, Sabrina Vierra, Bridget Yerger	Yuri Gagarin - Breaking Barriers	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Andrew Bedell

3 rd	Samrangi Deb, Chloe Li	Let Her Come: The Women's Suffrage Movement and the National American Woman Suffrage Association	PS DuPont Middle School	Kelly Whitaker
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Junior Individual Exhibit

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Sammie Coffey	Rosa Parks: Breaking the Barrier of Segregation	Talley Middle School	Howard Bechler
2 nd	Aidan Tokarski	Marconi	Wilmington Christian School	Trey Speers
3 rd	Jackson Bluemle	Judy Johnson: Breaking Barriers So Others Could Play Ball	PS DuPont Middle School	Kelly Whitaker

Junior Group Exhibit

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Saisha Bhatia, Anjali Mahinth, Suhani Nangia, Sophia Wolff	The 1806 Election Consequences	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Andrew Bedell
2 nd	Andrew Holmes, Miguel Zavala	The Harlem Hellfighters	Talley Middle School	Howard Bechler
3 rd	Eliana Gillespie, Samima Rahman, Elise Steinbrecher	Susan B. Anthony	Talley Middle School	Howard Bechler

Senior Paper

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Joelle Lennick	Beyond the Underground Railroad: Harriet Tubman	Padua Academy	Andrew Bozanic
2 nd	Alexander Chen	The Fall of Constantinople: Breaking Religious and Physical Barriers and the Beginning of a New Era	Archmere Academy	Alexandra Greider
3 rd	Jessica Grier	The Loving v. Virginia Case and Its Monumental Ruling Towards the End of Segregation in America	Archmere Academy	Kristin Witte

Senior Individual Performance

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Kristin Mikles	William R. Grace: An Irishman's American Dream	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Erin Sullivan
2 nd	Connor Reagan	What We Don't Remember: Students of Color Who Broke Barriers of Racial Inequality at Jackson State	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Erin Sullivan

Senior Group Performance

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Karl Matthew Ebron, Daniel Lee, Lisa Penfield	An Empty Win	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Erin Sullivan

Senior Individual Website

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Melanie Heider	Catastrophe of the Century: How Chernobyl Broke Barriers	Newark Charter High School	Lisa Prueter
2 nd	Kiera McCormick	The Impact of the APOLLO 11 Moon Landing: One Giant Leap For Space Exploration	Padua Academy	Andrew Bozanic
3 rd	Kate Menzer	Elizabeth Blackwell: Breaking Barriers for Women	Newark Charter High School	Lisa Prueter

Senior Group Website

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Raphael Kim, Sreeya Pittala	To Kill A Mockingbird	Newark Charter High School	Brent Freccia
2 nd	Mili Kher, Saankya Suresh	100 Warhols: Commercializing Pop Art	Newark Charter High School	Brent Freccia
3 rd	Katherine Collier, Madison Hilferty	Lucille Ball: Surpassing Television and Comedy Barriers	Padia Academy	Andrew Bozanic

Senior Individual Documentary

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Abhishek Hatkar	Emmy Noether: Breaking Barriers	Dover High School	Dianne Beck
2 nd	Lauren Roberts	Rachel Carson: The Mother of the Environmental Movement	Newark Charter High School	Brent Freccia
3 rd	Megan Garrison	Reclaiming "The Rock": The Native American Occupation of Alcatraz Island	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Erin Sullivan

Senior Group Documentary

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Kyle Dennis, Joshua Dix, Tanya Rawal	Dorothea Lange: The Art of Seeing	Newark Charter High School	Brent Freccia
2 nd	Kylie Leung, Shahreen Qazi	The Actress Who Died A Thousand Deaths: Anna May Wong and Racism In Hollywood	Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Erin Sullivan
3 rd	Isabella Donovan, Amber Gamgort	Sliding Home to Feminism	Newark Charter High School	Brent Freccia

Senior Individual Exhibit

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Kyra Dove	The Hidden Heroine of Genetics: Rosalind Franklin Breaking Barriers in Genetics, Female Education & Sexism in Science	Padua Academy	Daniel Mahler
2 nd	Abigail Counihan	Unbreakable Code: The Navajo Code Talkers	Padua Academy	Daniel Mahler
3 rd	Matthew Hickman	The Creation of Destruction: Breaking Barriers with the Atomic Bomb	Towle Institute	Sara Chick

Senior Group Exhibit

Place	Name	Project	School	Teacher
1 st	Olivia Stankewicz, Kara Turner	Breaking Barriers: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	Padua Academy	Daniel Mahler
2 nd	Emma Desmond, Marin Krenzel	The Life and Legacy of Marie Curie	Padua Academy	Andrew Bozanic
3 rd	Megan Chen, Avery Young	Turning a New Leaf: The Rise of Environmentalism and the Creation of the German Green Party	Newark Charter High School	Lisa Prueter

2020 Special Award Winners

2020 Suffrage Centennial Award: Sponsored by 2020 Women's Vote Initiative

Student	Topic	School
Eliana Gillespie	Susan B. Anthony	Talley Middle School
Samima Rahman	Susan B. Anthony	Talley Middle School
Elise Steinbrecher	Susan B. Anthony	Talley Middle School
Samrangi Deb	Let Her Come: The Women's Suffrage Movement and the National American Woman Suffrage Association	P.S. DuPont Middle School
Chloe Li	Let Her Come: The Women's Suffrage Movement and the National American Woman Suffrage Association	P.S. DuPont Middle School

American History Award: Sponsored by the University of Delaware History Department

Student	Topic	School
Megan Garrison	Reclaiming "The Rock": The Native American Occupation of Alcatraz Island	Cab Calloway School of the Arts
Sophie Rozanski	Thomas Garrett	Cab Calloway School Of The Arts

Delaware Colonial History Award: Sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware

Student	Topic	School
Roberto Thompson	The Establishment of Pennsylvania	Cab Calloway School Of The Arts

Delaware Digital Newspaper Project Chronicling America Award: Sponsored by University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press Delaware Digital Newspaper Project

Student	Topic	School
Kristin Mikles	William R. Grace: An Irishman's American Dream	Cab Calloway School of The Arts

Delaware History Award: Sponsored by Delaware Historical Society

Student	Topic	School
Sophie Rozanski	Thomas Garrett	Cab Calloway School Of The Arts
Helena Hendrixson	Bulah Gebhart: How a Small Girl Changed America	Cab Calloway School Of The Arts

Dr. James Tilton Medical History Award: Sponsored by the Tilton Society of Delaware

Student	Topic	School
Maansi Pant	Medicare and Medicaid Are Bringing Change	Newark Charter High School
Kate Menzer	Breaking Barriers for Women	Newark Charter High School
Elizabeth Blackwell	Breaking Barriers for Women	Newark Charter High School
Danielle Leach	Destroying The Spanish Grip	Wilmington Christian School
Ariana Ali	The First Antibiotic: Breaking the Bacterial Infection Barrier	Cab Calloway School
Julia Watts	Florence Nightingale: Breaking Barriers for Women	Towle Institute
Marin Krenzel	The Life and Legacy of Marie Curie	Padua Academy
Emma Desmond	The Life and Legacy of Marie Curie	Padua Academy

Economic History Award: Sponsored by the University of Delaware Center for Economic Education & Entrepreneurship

Student	Topic	School
Kyle Dennis	Dorothea Lange: The Art of Seeing	Newark Charter High School
Tanya Rawal	Dorothea Lange: The Art of Seeing	Newark Charter High School
Joshua Dix	Dorothea Lange: The Art of Seeing	Newark Charter High School

Global Studies/Area Studies Award: Sponsored by University of Delaware History Department

Student	Topic	School
Amber Gray	Bamboozled by Bananas	Newark Charter High School
Logan Blackburn	Bamboozled by Bananas	Newark Charter High School
Luke Irvine	Bamboozled by Bananas	Newark Charter High School
Alexandra Irwin	The Haitian Revolution	Towle Institute

James M. Baker Award for African American History: Sponsored by Delaware Historical Society

Student	Topic	School
Zakevia Lacey	Unbossed in the Political Arena- The Story of Shirley Chisholm	Cab Calloway School
Payton Owens	Unbossed in the Political Arena- The Story of Shirley Chisholm	Cab Calloway School
Aaron Stanford	Unbossed in the Political Arena	Cab Calloway School

Jackson Bluemle	Judy Johnson: Breaking Barriers so Others Could Play Ball	P.S. DuPont Middle
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Maritime History Award: Sponsored by the National Maritime Historical Society

Student	Topic	School
Jared Murray	Sonar Significance: Revolutionizing Technology with Ocean Acoustics	Newark Charter High
Megan Anderson	Beyond breaking barriers	Talley Middle School
Georgia MacDonald	Beyond breaking barriers	Talley Middle School

Military History Award: Sponsored by Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation

Student	Topic	School
Emily Howard	The Great Invasion: Attack on Utah Beach	Cab Calloway School
Eric Pennington	The Great Invasion: Attack on Utah Beach	Cab Calloway School
Alex Culley	New Look: New Rules	Cab Calloway School

Revolutionary War History Award: Sponsored by George Washington Society

Student	Topic	School
Akhil Yarlagadda	Joseph Warren: The First Martyr of the Revolutionary War	P.S. DuPont Middle

Sports History Award: Sponsored by Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame

Student	Topic	School
Noelle DiVirgilio	Jackie Robinson Breaking the MLB Color Barrier	Padua Academy

Women's History Award: Sponsored by American Association of University Women

Student	Topic	School
Kylie Leung	The Actress Who Died A Thousand Deaths: Anna May Wong and Racism in Hollywood	Cab Calloway
Shahreen Qazi	The Actress Who Died A Thousand Deaths: Anna May Wong and Racism in Hollywood	Cab Calloway

About the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the National Historic Landmark Read House & Gardens located in New Castle. For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org, or visit www.dehistory.org.

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