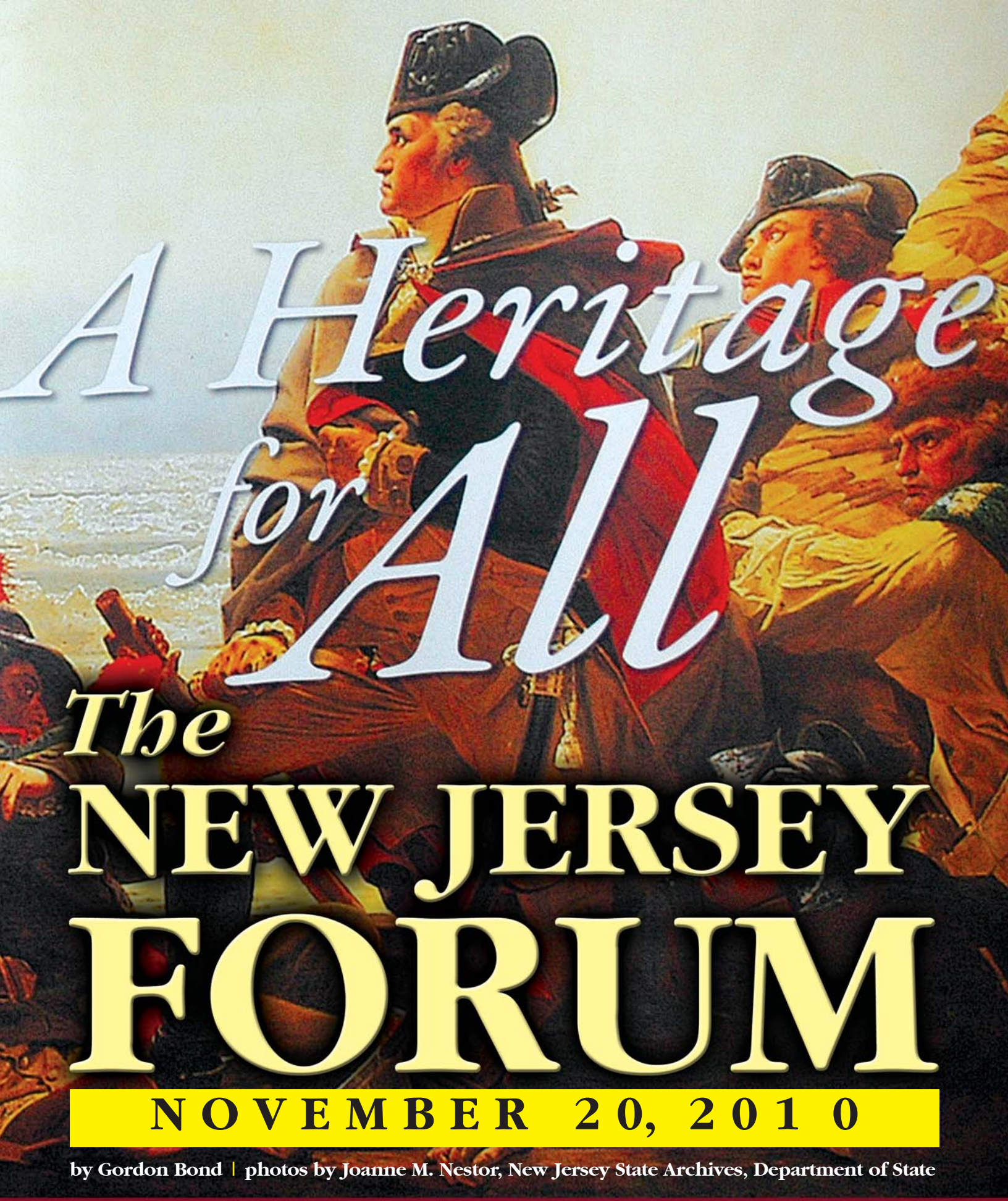


A Heritage for All

The NEW JERSEY FORUM

NOVEMBER 20, 2010

by Gordon Bond | photos by Joanne M. Nestor, New Jersey State Archives, Department of State

W. Barksdale Maynard

Every other year, devotees of New Jersey history gather to immerse themselves in a day celebrating the Garden State's heritage–the Historical Commission's "New Jersey Forum." The 2010 event was held on November 20th at Monmouth University's Wilson Hall in Long Branch.

The building itself is stunning. Built in 1929 as the palatial estate of F.W. Woolworth Company president, Hubert Templeton Parson–to the tune of $10.5 million–it easily rivals the decadent glory of the Newport, Rhode Island Gilded Age "cottages." It was designed by Philadelphia architect Horace Trumbauer and his assistant, Julian Abele, the first African-American professional architect. It stands on the land previously occupied by a colonial-era mansion, Shadow Lawn, which, when owned by New York department store

tycoon, Joseph B. Greenhut, served as a summer White House for President Woodrow Wilson in 1916. Monmouth University acquired the present three-story, 130-room mansion in 1955, when it was still known as Monmouth Junior College.

Aside from just being an awesome space, the fact it held a connection to Woodrow Wilson was apropos. The day was kicked off by keynote speaker, **W. Barksdale Maynard**, author of *Woodrow Wilson: Princeton to the Presidency* (Yale, 2008), Honor Book of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and recipient of the Richard P. McCormick Prize from the New Jersey Historical Commission. Maynard's presentation focused on Wilson's early years and time as President of Princeton University, giving insights into how his experiences shaped his political career to come.

Following the keynote came the

Patricia Anne Salvatore

awards. **Patricia Anne Salvatore** received the Commission's highest honor, the Richard J. Hughes Aware for her life-long contribution to NJ history and preservation. Salvatore, along with her husband, Dr. Joseph Salvatore, established Historic Cold Spring Village in 1973, served on the New Jersey Historical Commission (2000—2007), worked as the Commission's liaison with state legislators (2009) and has been active with several South Jersey history and heritage tourism groups.

James J. Gigantino with Sara Cureton

James J. Gigantino, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Arkansas, received the Alfred E. Driscoll Prize for his dissertation, *Freedom and Unfreedom in the "Garden of America": Slavery and Abolition in New Jersey, 1770—1857*. He was also a speaker later in the day, where he spoke on the complexities of the gradual emancipation acts and how the American Revolution, for all its cries of "freedom," actually strengthened the institution of slavery.

Yvonne Beatrice with Marc Mappen

Walter Choroszewski with Susan Coen

Yvonne Beatrice of Mahwah High School received the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Award for New Jersey. Beatrice was honored for her approach of immersing her students in local history and encouraging their participation in researching historic sites in their neighborhood.

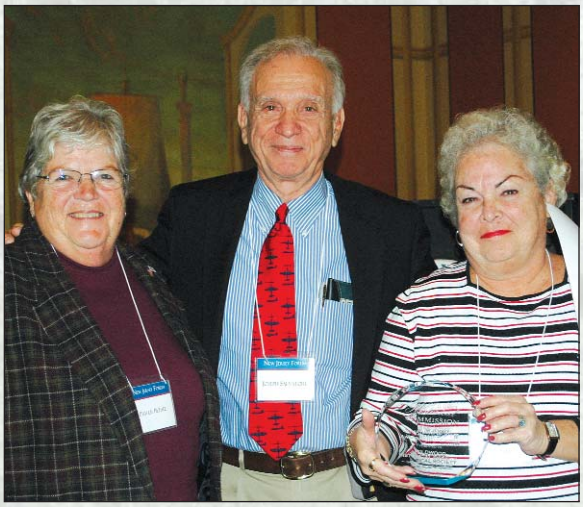
Five Awards of Recognition were given out, including one to this author, **Gordon Bond**, for Garden State Legacy and my book, *James Parker: A Printer on the Eve of Revolution*. **Walter Choroszewski** was honored for his lifelong efforts to promote New Jersey through his photography. He was the primary photographer for the promotional campaign, "New Jersey & You . . . Perfect Together!" in the 1980s and 1990s. His "Timeline New Jersey" multimedia lecture

Gordon Bond with Catherine Cassidy

Margaret Westfield with Carol Wehran Greene

Maxine Laurie with Michael Siegel

has introduced children and adults to NJ prehistory. **Carol Wehran Greene** was honored for her leadership in historic preservation and recent book, *Ramapough Chronicles: A 300 year history of Mahwah, New Jersey*. Rutgers University Staff Cartographer, **Michael Siegel**, was honored for his contributions to *Mapping New Jersey: An Evolving Landscape* and *The Encyclopedia of New Jersey*. **The Wildwood Historical Society** was also honored for their work since 1962 preserving and promoting the town's unique history.



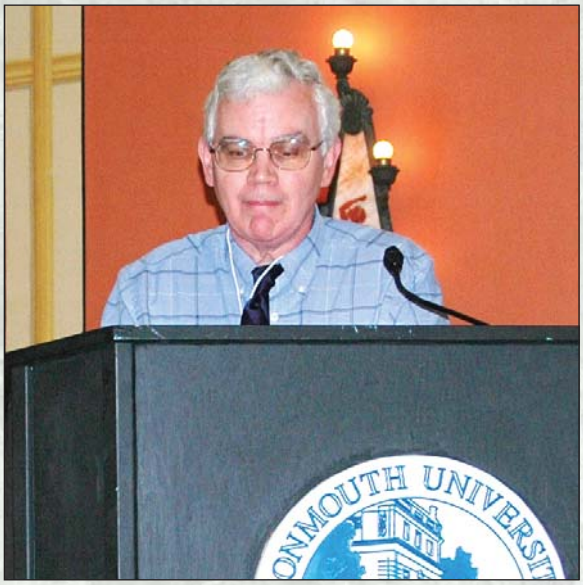
Phyllis Bethel, Joseph Salvatore & Mary Ellen Shields of the Wildwood Historical Society

The rest of the day was spent with panels of speakers covering everything from the role of slavery to corruption to women's issues. Speakers included:

Michael Adelberg is a historian who focuses on the impact of the American Revolution on ordinary New Jerseyans. He has authored three peer-reviewed, scholarly essays and two reference books on the topic. His scholarly work has earned the Jane G. Clayton Award (2002) and recognition from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Society for Military History, and the David Library of the American Revolution. He holds master's degrees in history from Rutgers University (1991) and public policy from Northern Illinois University (1994). Adelberg lives in suburban Washington, D.C. with his wife of seventeen years and three sons.

Suzanna Barucco

Suzanna Barucco has more than twenty years of experience in historic preservation. She has served as the principal investigator and author of preservation plans, historic tax act certifications, facade easement documents, and National Register nominations. Her projects have been recognized with local, state, and national awards. She received her M.S. in historic preservation from Cornell University and a certificate from the Attingham Summer School for the Study of the British County House. She is currently a lecturer in the historic preservation programs at the University of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia University.



Bruce Bendler

Bruce Bendler earned his Ph.D. in U.S. history at the University of Delaware (2000). His dissertation is entitled "The Emergence of Rural Federalism: Political Culture in Delaware, 1760—1812." He is an adjunct professor of history at the University of Delaware, Newark, and Wesley College in Dover, Delaware.

Rebecca Brebric was born in California and has been a resident of New Jersey since 1990. She graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a B.A. in economics. After a nine-year career as a commercial insurance underwriter, Ms. Brebric completed the New Jersey teaching certification program at St. Peter's College. She has taught at the secondary level in both urban and suburban school districts. Ms. Brebric was awarded an M.A. in history from William Paterson University in 2009 and is currently completing the math endorsement program. She lives in Wood-Ridge, New Jersey with her husband Thomas and children, Alex and Tara.

Nogin Chung

Nogin Chung received her doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota in 2008. She is an assistant professor of art history at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania where she teaches modern and contemporary art. She has published articles on Norman Rockwell and

American popular culture and is currently studying ideas about the body and domesticity at the Mrs. America pageant.

Michael J. Gall

Michael J. Gall is a senior archaeologist at Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. in Cranbury and a registered professional archaeologist. He is an adjunct professor in the history and anthropology department at Monmouth University, where he teaches archaeology. He has conducted archaeology in New Jersey for over a decade, concentrating in historical archaeology with a focus on the state's early industrial and rural settlement history, consumer behavior, foodways, and the built landscape.

James J. Gigantino received his B.A. from the University of Richmond in 2004 and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in 2010. His dissertation examined slavery and its gradual abolition in New Jersey and its elongated end in the states north of the Mason-Dixon. In 2009, the New Jersey Historical Commission awarded him a Samuel Smith Dissertation Fellowship. He is currently an assistant professor of history at the University of Arkansas.

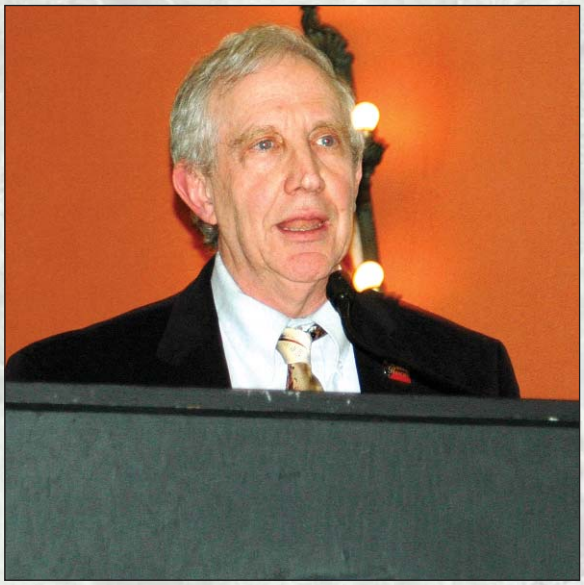
Skylar Harris

Skylar Harris is an adjunct professor at Rowan University, a Ph.D. candidate at SUNY–University at Buffalo and a part-time employee of the New Jersey Historical Commission. Her ongoing dissertation work, "The House I Live In': Bodies & Healthcare in the Delaware Valley, 1800—1920" examines the evolu-

Teresa Hutchins

tion of bodily metaphors and their relationship to healthcare choices in the nineteenth-century Delaware Valley.

Teresa Hutchins earned a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1989 and a B.B.A. from the University of Miami in 1978. She is currently an assistant professor of economics at Ramapo College where she teaches courses in American economic history, industrial organization, international economics and microeconomics.



Marc Mappen

Marc Mappen is the former executive director of the New Jersey Historical Commission. He has five books to his credit, as well as over one thousand articles, reviews, and essays in publications that include the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and New Jersey Heritage. He has a Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University and was previously an associate dean at the University.

Thomas A. McCabe

Thomas A. McCabe is a visiting professor in the history department at Rutgers University in Newark. He teaches race and ethnicity in the United States, American cities and suburbs, the history of soccer, and the history of Newark. McCabe received his Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University in 2006. His book on the history of St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark will be published this fall by

Jonathan Mercantini

Fordham University Press. He also worked as an administrator and teacher at St. Benedict's for over 15 years.

Jonathan Mercantini, an assistant professor of history at Kean University, is currently working on a variety of projects related to the Kean family papers in the Liberty Hall Museum manuscript collection. These papers will soon be made available to the public through a digital archive and in-person research visits.

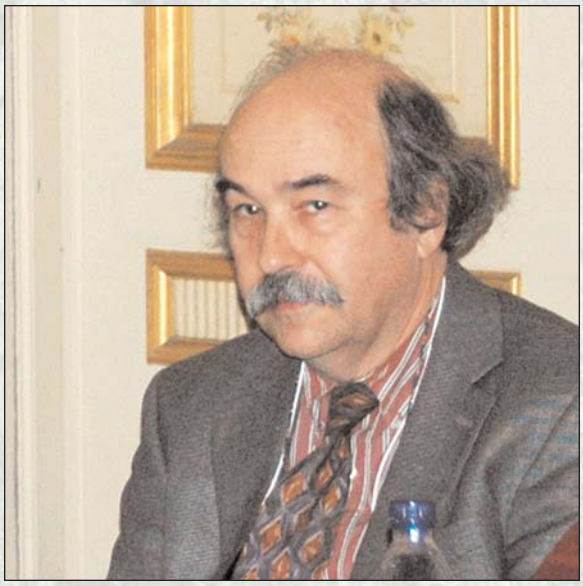
Eileen K. Morales

Eileen K. Morales has been the curator of collections at the Historical Society of Princeton since June of 2005. Ms. Morales organized the recent exhibitions, "Stony Brook: Gateway to Princeton" and "Rex Goreleigh: Revisited in Princeton." She previously worked at the Museum of the City of New York in a number of collections-related capacities, including as head of the research department. Her educational background is in art history at Bryn Mawr College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Ms. Morales resides with her husband and daughter in Edison, New Jersey.

Chris Rasmussen

Chris Rasmussen is an associate professor of history at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck where he teaches New Jersey history, among other topics. His research focuses on American cultural history in the early twentieth century. He is currently completing a book manuscript, Automatic Age, which is a history of slot machines, vending machines, pinball games, and jukeboxes.

Gary D. Saretzky has worked as an archivist for more than forty years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Educational Testing Service, and the Monmouth County Archives, where he has been county archivist since 1994. Saretzky teaches the history of photography at Mercer County Community College and serves as coordinator of the public history internship program for the



Gary D. Saretzky

Rutgers University History Department. He has published more than 100 articles on the history of photography, photographic conservation, and other topics, including "Nineteenth Century New Jersey Photographers," in the Fall/Winter 2004 issue of *New Jersey History*.

Daniel Sidorick

Daniel Sidorick is the author of *Condensed Capitalism: Campbell Soup and the Pursuit of Cheap Production in the Twentieth Century,* published by Cornell University press and recently the recipient of the 2010 New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Award for Scholarly Non Fiction. The dissertation on which the book is based was awarded the Alfred E. Driscoll Prize by the New Jersey Historical Commission. Sidorick earned his Ph.D. at Temple University, where he now teaches courses in the American history'of the world economy.

Stephanie Smith

Stephanie Smith earned her M.A. in historic preservation planning from Cornell University. She received a B.A. with honors in history at the College of New Jersey in 2007. In 2007 and 2008, Smith was employed at the New Jersey Historical Commission as a grants assistant and the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office. In 2010, Smith worked as a historian for KSK Architects Planners Historians, Inc. in Philadelphia. Her research interests include New Jersey

social and ethnic history and historic preservation policy issues.

Margaret Stevens is an associate history professor and director of the Urban Issues Institute at Essex County College. Her personal biography is an admixture of academic scholarship, teaching experience, military service, and community leadership. Newark's urban environment nurtured her intellectual growth from primary through secondary school and into the present. She has a doctorate from Brown University and is a veteran of the military. She served in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1997 to 2004 providing military support post-9/11.

Gregory F. Walsh

Gregory F. Walsh is a Ph.D. candidate at Boston College. His dissertation, "Loyalties: The Revolutionary War in Essex County, New Jersey," examines the conflict between popular ideological beliefs and economic interest and how this conflict shaped people's Revolutionary experiences. His research illustrates the divisive nature of the Revolution and the sacrifices and compromises necessary to achieve independence and rebuild war-torn communities. He has received research grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy. Walsh is currently a Teaching Fellow at Boston College.

Mary Walton

Mary Walton is the author of *A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot*. She is the author of four previous works of nonfiction. For twenty-two years, until 1994, she was a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, where she was a staff writer for the *Sunday Inquirer* magazine. She has also written for the *New York Times, Washingtonian, Washington Monthly* and the *American Journalism Review*. After graduation from Harvard University, and a turn at social work and community organizing, she began her journalism career in 1969 as a reporter at the *Charleston Gazette*. She currently lives in Ocean Grove.

Christina A. Ziegler-McPherson

Christina A. Ziegler-McPherson earned her Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her book, *Americanization in the States: Immigrant Social Welfare Policy, Citizenship, and National Identity in the United States, 1908—1929,* was published in 2009 by the University Press of Florida. Ziegler-McPherson has written several immigration articles and her second book about Hoboken's immigration history will be published by the History Press next summer. She is an advisor to the Hoboken Historical Museum and a curator at the Museum of the City of New York helping design a new gallery devoted to social activism.
Panel moderators included:

Meredith Arms Bzdak holds a B.A. in art history from Mount Holyoke College and a Ph.D. in art history from Rutgers University. She works in Princeton as the architectural historian and director of business development for Farewell Mills Gatsch Architects, LLC. Dr. Bzdak is a lecturer at Rutgers University in the art history department and currently serves on the board of directors of the Cultural Landscape Foundation. She is a member of the advisory board for Drew University's historic preservation program and chair emeritus and a member of the board of advisors of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. She is the author of Public Sculpture in New Jersey. Monuments to Collective Identity.

Nicholas P. Ciotola

Nicholas P. Ciotola is curator of cultural history at the New Jersey State Museum. During fifteen years as a museum professional, he has directed numerous exhibitions, collection initiatives, public programs, and oral history projects dealing with aspects of U.S. history and American material culture. A past officer of the American Italian Historical Association, he is the author of numerous scholarly and popular publications on immigration history.

John Fea

John Fea is an associate professor of history at Messiah College. He has a Ph.D. in history from the State University of New York at Stony Brook (1999) with a specialization in early American history. He writes about the intersection between ideas and everyday life in American history, the relationship between "cosmopolitanism" and "place," the history of the early mid-Atlantic and New Jersey, and the connections between religion, politics and American culture. His first book, *The Way of Improvement Leads Home: Philip Vickers Fithian and the Rural Enlightenment in Early America* was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2008.

Christopher Fisher is assistant professor in the African-American and History departments at the College of New Jersey in Ewing. He received his doctorate from Rutgers University in 2001. His dissertation, "The Hopes of Man," focused on race and modernization theory during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. He has delivered papers on topics that range from the creation of the national security state in the Truman administration to the relationship between black power and the modernization theory paradigm in the 1960s. He earned a B.A. in history and political science from Rutgers University in 1993 and is a graduate of Long Branch High School.

Donald Linky

Donald Linky coordinates the Rutgers Program on the Governor, a project to encourage study of the office of the governor in the 50 states. He has been a visiting professor at Rutgers University and an adjunct faculty member at Princeton. During the administration of Brendan T. Byrne, he served as chief counsel to the governor and director of the Governor's Office of Policy and Planning. He is the author of "The Governor," a chapter in The Political State of New Jersey. He holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College and a J.D. from Harvard and also studied political philosophy at the London School of Economic and Political Science.

Maxine N. Lurie

Maxine N. Lurie is a professor of history at Seton Hall University and an early American historian who has extensively worked on New Jersey history. She is the author of numerous articles, co-editor (with Marc Mappen) of the *Encyclopedia of New Jersey* and (with Peter O. Wacker), *Mapping New Jersey*. Dr. Lurie is the editor of two editions of *A New Jersey Anthology*. Over the course of her career she has taught at Marquette, Rutgers, and Seton Hall Universities.

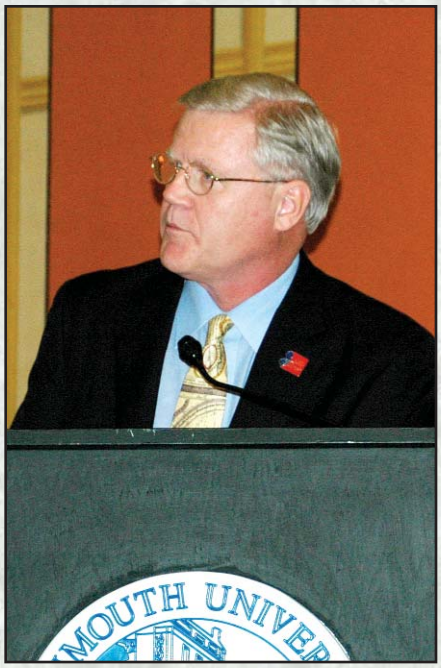
Lucia McMahon is an assistant professor of history at William Paterson University, where she teaches courses on early national and women's history. She has been the recipient of numerous research grants, including a New Jersey Historical Commission research grant, a Spencer Foundation dissertation fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Humanities post-doctoral fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia. She is currently completing a book that examines women's educational and social experiences in the early American republic. Her article on women's educational history was recently published in *New Jersey History*.

Mark Nonesteid has been a staff member of the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission since 1991, serving as educational outreach coordinator as well as assistant curator for the Cornelius Low House/Middlesex County Museum. He is currently the director of exhibits and programs at East Jersey Olde Towne Village in Piscataway. Mr. Nonesteid has co-authored articles that have appeared in *Ceramics in America* on Middlesex County's role in the brick, tile, and terra cotta industry. He is the author of *East Brunswick,* published by Arcadia Press and co author (with Richard Veit) of *New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones: History in the Landscape* (Rutgers University Press 2008.)

Between panels, attendees visited the tables in the main hall, set up by various history-related groups and enjoyed refreshments.

The Forum is organized by the Historical Commission and, this year, the NJ State Archives helped with invitations, running the a.v. equipment–even the name badges.

As demonstrated by the above list of biographies, the Forum gathers together some of the leading members of the New Jersey history community and provides an opportunity to hear about the wide variety of research going on. But it also gives a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, as we share in the passion for our state's rich heritage.



TOP LEFT: Author and keynote speaker, W. Barksdale Maynard (r) autographs his book on Woodrow Wilson for Marc Mappen
TOP RIGHT: DARM Director Karl J. Niederer
MIDDLE LEFT: (l-r) Ellen Mappen, Marc Mappen, Lorraine Williams and James Turk
MIDDLE RIGHT: Kristen Crate at the registration desk
BOTTOM LEFT: Representatives of NJ Arts at their display in the central hall