History

took first place in the individual exhibit category in their respective regions. Lake-Lehman was chosen as the NHD Outstanding School in the senior division at their regional competition in March on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus Lehman, while Dallas competed

at the Hazleton campus. Students had the option of developing papers, exhibits, documentaries or performances, individually or in groups.

Under the guidance of John Comitz, Lake-Lehman has sent students to states the last five years of the seven they have been competing. In the last two years, Comitz has had the pleasure of seeing his kids take the Pennsylvania NHD Outstanding School and go to national competition in both years. They took second place in the country in Group Documentary in 2000. The A.P. History instructor

took the Pennsylvania NHD Teacher of the Year award in 2001. The secret to Comitz's success? "He really likes it, so that is what makes it different," says his wife, Donna. However, Comitz and his kids might tell you differently. "The first night at Penn State, after dinner, we all go over to the Creamery," he laughs. "Because everybody knows Mr. Comitz is nuts about ice cream."

Comitz recently spent a weekend at a research seminar/workshop on NHD at the Library of Congress, one of only two high school teachers invited, along with 30 college professors.

"It's my old stomping grounds," he says. "But I've never done research before at the Library of Congress," Comitz adds. Last year, Salla, placed third in the nation and won a specialty award in labor from the AFL-CIO with a \$500 prize plus a bronze medal. He looks to go to nationals again. This is his third year to compete in NHD. Salla, who thinks he will major in history in college, loves the "little things" he finds out. "I was actually able to touch documents from the early 1900s," Salla said with



"Keeping the Pledge: Women on the Home Front in WWII." Kim Reisch shows her exhibit.

that they sterilize before you can even touch anything and you have to be in a climate-controlled room."

Dallas High School teacher Marianne Storz and her kids have been active in NHD for several years and went to states last year also. They went to the Creamery too, says Kim Reisch, who took first place in individual exhibits at regionals. Reisch is going to states, and the Creamery, again this weekend with eight schoolmates. A team player, she hopes someone from Dallas makes it to nationals this

"I learned a lot at states last year that is helping me this year," Reisch said. "It was a fascinating experience." She said seeing other people's projects and their layouts and topic range improved her project and confidence this year. One of the rules of the NHD competition is that a certain number of sources be "primary," coming from the origi-

awe. "I had to wear white gloves nal person or document of the topic. Reisch's primary sources a woman from included Delaware who worked as a welder during World War II that she personally corresponded with. Her contact is not unusual for NHD students.

Like Salla and so many other NHD students, Reisch is active in a myriad of other activities, including track, the school newspaper, the Honor Society and was included in a recent edition of Who's Who In American High

Whether these young scholars win at the state competition or not, their NHD experiences will stay with them for a lifetime. They have learned invaluable researching skills and discovered little secret bits of history on their topics that only a rare few know. Moreover, they will savor sweet ice cream at the Penn State Creamery.

Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus in Lehman Regional Winners

Individual Historical Paper: John Yam-Individual Exhibit: Jared Salla, 1st place Ryan Bloom, 2nd Place Matt Shiskowski, 3rd place

Group Exhibit: Aaron Pagoda, Elizabeth Ambrose, 1st place Caleb Piatt, Robert Schobert, Brian Individual Documentary: Leigh Dodson,

Group Documentary: Angelo Georgetti, Justin Boyer, Jared Janiczek, 1st place Nick Callahan, Heather Prescott, Stephanie Bendik, Matt Navin, Sara Pegarella, 3rd place Individual Performance: Christina Cory Brin, 2nd place

Penn State Hazleton Campus Regional Winners

Individual Exhibit: Kim Reisch, 1st place James Welch, 2nd place Group Exhibit: Whitney Adams, Eric Loefflad, James Haberkern, 2nd place Individual Documentary: Jered Wein-

Joseph Bednack, 2nd place Group Documentary: Jonathan Baker, Adam Snyder, 1st place



These Lake-Lehman High School National History Day regional winners will be going to the state competitions at Penn State, May 8-9. From left, seated: Justin Boyer, Heather Prescott, Leigh Dodson, Liz Ambrose, Christina Lumbis, Sara Pegarella, Stefanie Bendik. Middle Row-Caleb Piatt, Nick Callahan, Ryan Bloom, Rob Schobert, Matt Navin. Back Row-John Yamrick, Jared Janiczek, Jared Salla, Matt Shiskowski, Aaron Pagoda, Angelo Georgetti, Cory Brin, Nation History Day faculty advisor and PA Nation History Day Teacher of the Year 2001, John Comitz.



The Dallas School Board honored their 9 regional National History Day winners with certificates of congratulations at a recent board meeting. From left, back row: Faculty advisor Mrs. Mariann Storz, James Welch, James Haberkern, Eric Loefflad. Front row: Jered Weinstock, Jonathan Baker, Dallas High School Principal Frank Galicki. Other winners not pictured are Kim Reisch, Joseph Bednack, Whitney Adams and Adam Snyder.



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