



NHC Alumni News

Nebraska Humanities Council

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Conservative William Safire attacks Patriot Act

This story was broadcast by the Nebraska Public Radio Network (NPRN) after William Safire gave the 2003 Governor's Lecture in the Humanities. The lecture was presented Sept. 18 at Creighton University in Omaha.

You're listening to NPRN's "Weekend Edition." I'm Jerry Johnston.

New York Times columnist William Safire was in Omaha this week to deliver the 8th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities, sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council.

Safire, a self-described conservative, has been writing columns for The New York Times since 1973. Before that he was head speechwriter for President Nixon. Safire won the Pulitzer Prize for his political commentary in 1979 and also writes the "On Language" column for the Sunday Times and has published four novels.

Before the formal evening lecture, he met with about 75 students from Creighton University and Omaha Central High School on the Creighton campus for a question-and-answer session. The topics



Jane Renner Hood, William Safire, Carol Russell and Wanda Gottschalk, during a reception for Safire Sept. 18 at Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha.

ranged from civil rights to distrust of government to the California recall vote. Safire joins critics from both the left and right in criticism of the U.S.A. Patriot Act passed soon after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 at the urging of the Justice Department and Attorney General John Ashcroft.

"The Patriot Act is named not after a patriot; it's an acronym for seven words beginning with P-A-T-R-I-O-T, and the reason it was so named is to make anybody who disagrees with it seem unpatriotic."

The law, which eases restrictions on government information gathering by wire-tapping and other covert means, is unbalanced, according to Safire.

"You have to find a happy medium where you'll give up some privacy, you'll give up some civil rights in order to get security, but you cannot do what Lincoln did in the Civil

War or what we did with the Japanese in World War II. You just can't go overboard and let the Justice Department do whatever it wants."

Safire says he can understand why many people distrust the government. He says when citizens write their representatives they often get stock answers in return

(Continued on page 2)



Gene and Ann Spence



Suzanne Wise and Bob Nefsky



Diane Oldfather and Elaine Spire

(Continued from page 1)

leading to a sense of estrangement.

We in journalism feel the same way. That's why the press secretary or the State Department spokesman is hounded, and we go after them and get nowhere. So there is a tendency by the government to resist the answering of questions. Indeed, President Bush has held fewer press conferences than any-



Jack Campbell and G. Woodson Howe

body I can remember.

But when people take democracy into their own hands directly with petition initiatives, Safire sees mixed results.

Once in a while, for example in Prop 13, people kind of rise up and say, "Hey, wait a minute. Nobody is paying attention to us and you've got to pay attention." It's their shot across the bow of the Legislature.



Jack and Carol Maddux, Carol Russell

On the other hand, he says the current California recall petition is unjustified.

I don't like the notion of recalling an unpopular governor. I think you tell the voters you make a big mistake, you're stuck with it. Be careful the next time. I realize this helps the Democrats in California, but what the hell.

Sower Award winner Naugle praises the humanities

Ronald Naugle, professor of history at Nebraska Wesleyan University, made the following remarks Sept. 18 in Omaha, on receiving the 2003 Sower Award. He was honored for his work with Nebraska students through National History Day and educators through his American and Nebraska history teacher institutes, in addition to his scholarship in Nebraska history. NHC Chair Kit Dimon presented the award at the Governor's Lecture in the Humanities.

I feel honored to be recognized in this way, yet the recognition is not solely deserved. In whatever small way I have contributed to the spread of the humanities in Nebraska, I owe it to the support of many others.

I am deeply appreciative of the great humanities resources we have in our state.

We are blessed to have a strong humanities council, that truly believes that the humanities are for all people and has worked to build effective public programs in the humanities throughout the state. I and many others have been able to spread the humanities through public programs with their support.

This is a state that has a rich history and we are, indeed, fortunate to



Kit Dimon and Ronald Naugle

have many great historical sites, libraries and museums, and particularly a strong state historical society with an amazing collection of Nebraska resources and a strong, professional staff dedicated to, and serious about, its educational mission. I am particularly appreciative of their partnership with Lincoln Public Schools and my institution, Nebraska Wesleyan University, in striving to strengthen American history education in Nebraska.

I have been fortunate to be a part of an institution that values the humani-

ties. I am particularly grateful for supportive colleagues, in and out of the history department, as well as teachers in both public and parochial schools across Nebraska who have helped make the National History Day program a vital part of the education of our young people for nearly 25 years now. Their excitement year after year is reward enough for any effort involved.

I have also been blessed with a family that has supported me, and even seemed to understand me when writing projects, teaching and involvement with History Day and other projects at times became all-consuming. So I also want to express my gratitude to my wife, Gretchen, and our daughter, Meredith, who flew back to Nebraska yesterday to be here tonight.

Any one whose interests are in the history and culture of a state and its people would be fortunate to have any one of the aforementioned. I have been fortunate to have pursued my interests in Nebraska. The humanities are well-positioned in Nebraska. We have a rich history and culture which has time and time again intersected with both regional and national events. We have institutions and people dedicated to making Nebraska's stories a public trust. For that we can all celebrate.

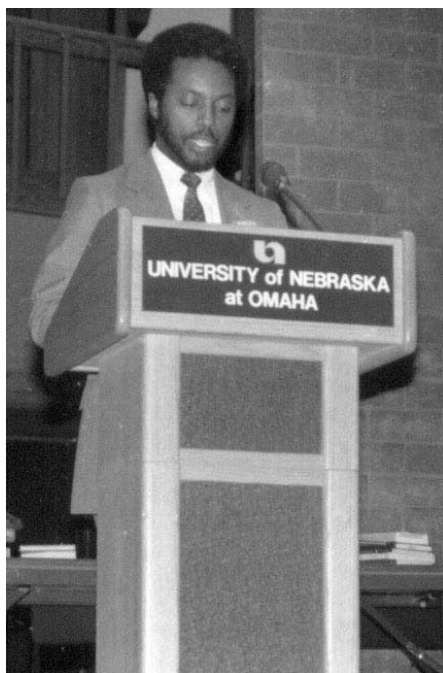
Garrison: Volunteer service is national treasure

Alumnus George R. Garrison, professor of Pan African studies at Kent State University in Ohio, wrote the following essay after serving as chair of the Ohio Humanities Council. He was chair of the Nebraska Humanities Council in 1993-94. The essay originally appeared in the 2003 edition of *Pathways*, an OHC publication. It is reprinted here by permission.

By George R. Garrison

One of the nation's greatest assets and best-kept secrets is its throng of volunteers. Across the country and throughout this state individuals serve in myriad ways, by volunteering for public school systems, hospitals, Little League sports teams, places of worship, mentoring and tutorial programs, neighborhood community centers, in efforts to help the poor and homeless, and in the cause of peace and goodwill on this planet.

Service of this kind must be viewed as part of a state and national treasure, for it represents not only a utilitarian value for the moment, but is also a reservoir of po-



George R. Garrison

tential resources that has yet to be fully tapped. The question naturally arises as to the motive for such acts. The answer is found in one's sense of civic duty and recognizing the following imperatives:

- Life in general, and human life in particular, is inextricably con-

nected across all artificial lines of demarcation;

- There is a basic ontological equality of all human beings;
- All must respect the fundamental rights, life, history, culture and value of others;
- The very essence of humanity encumbers us all with social responsibility;
- All have the same rights and deserve the same opportunities;
- Through the efforts of individuals, society has the capacity to grow and evolve in positive ways;
- Within national, state and local discussions, politics and associations, the inclusion of diverse representation and perspectives is a necessity.

The survival and preservation of a free, open and democratic society that continuously improves itself is probable only if citizens consciously embrace their civic duties and realize that volunteer service is integral to meeting the diverse needs of a complex society. This reality, in many ways, is connected to the philosophi-

(Continued on page 4)

Halberstam to deliver Governor's Lecture Sept. 9 in Lincoln

Journalist, author and historian David Halberstam, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on Vietnam for *The New York Times*, will deliver the **9th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities** on Sept. 9 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln.

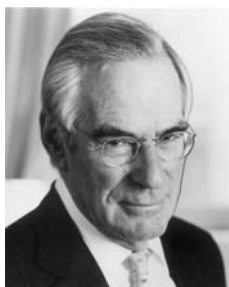
The timely lecture is entitled "War and the Modern Presidency" and is free and open to the public.

Author of 19 books and a prolific writer of magazine articles, Halberstam is a legendary figure in American journalism. He first came to national prominence in the early '60s as part of a small group of American reporters who refused to accept the official optimism about Vietnam and reported that the war was being lost.

His landmark trilogy of books

on power in America, "The Best and the Brightest," "The Powers That Be" and "The Reckoning," helped define the latter part of the 20th century and won Halberstam innumerable awards and broad critical acclaim.

The breadth of Halberstam's work is demonstrated by the vastly different subjects of his best-selling books. "Summer of '49" (1989) is a nostalgic look at the pennant race. "The Next Century" (1991) defines the American agenda in the journey toward the year 2000. "The Fifties" (1993) examines a decade



Halberstam

seminal in shaping the America of today. His most recent books include "War in a Time of Peace: Bush, Clinton and the Generals" (2001); "Firehouse" (2002), the story of his local firehouse, which lost 12 men on 9/11; and "The Teammates" (2003), a moving account of the 60-year friendship among four Red Sox players.

The lecture is presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council, the University of Nebraska and the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, a cooperative project of the Cooper Foundation, the Lied Center for Performing Arts and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has a mission of promoting better understanding of world events and issues to all Nebraskans.

(Continued from page 3)

cal question raised by William James, "Is life worth living?" For millions of people life is given worth and meaning by the opportunity to contribute to humanitarian efforts; to participate in the physical, social and spiritual development of our youth; and to help those who are in great need but are unable to adequately help themselves. Others work to enhance the understanding and appreciation of the historical and cultural legacy of the people on this planet.

The Ohio Humanities Council (OHC) is one of this state's greatest assets. Over its 30-year history, hundreds of Ohioans have volunteered as Board members and in various other capacities. These dedicated individuals possess an array of talents, skills, expertise and levels of education and training. They include representatives from all races, religions, and political perspectives, equally committed to the proposition that volunteer service provides the opportunity to make a difference.

Volunteering is one of the highest forms of human activity, and is a necessary prerequisite to a well-ordered, enlightened, healthy and progressive society. Volunteerism leads to a greater sense of personal fulfillment and self-worth in the individual. It is a win-win situation for all

concerned.

Over the last three decades, volunteer experiences have taken me to the post of mathematics instructor in the inner city of Buffalo; to tutoring and coaching experiences on the Navajo Nation; to numerous community and statewide organizations and neighborhood centers in Omaha; and to a community center and several local and statewide organizations here in Ohio.

My volunteer work with Humanities Councils in two states, however, has been very special. Every state in the Union and its five territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands) has State Humanities Councils. I have had the good fortune of serving maximum terms in Nebraska (six years) and Ohio (seven years), and being elected Chair of both Boards of Directors. This service has afforded me a rare opportunity to see our nation, and those states, in a way that would not be possible otherwise.

I have always viewed the National Endowment for the Humanities and the community of State Councils, of which the OHC is a vital and significant part, as both a safety net and important elements in a Movement for Enlightenment in this country. It is a safety net, in that its focus

and concern for the human experience and predicament give this nation a way to reflect and enter into dialogue on all of the great issues of our time—including the ones that stir controversy within our state, nation and global village. This is like a safety valve for the state, nation, and potentially the world. It aids and abets the forces for democracy, in that the OHC becomes a vehicle through which the many voices of our community speak.

Humanities praxis, as it can be called, has become a part of the historical Movement for Enlightenment in this country, which can be traced back to the early days of the Republic and the first call for public education by Thomas Jefferson and others. An interesting thing about education, whether it is done in a classroom setting or through public programs sponsored by the OHC, is that when it is effective, it empowers the individual. It gives him or her knowledge, skills, sensitivities and an awareness that were not there previously.

This can be considered the practical value of the Humanities. Simply put, it changes the individual, and generally makes him or her a better human being; consequently, society changes and evolves to increasingly higher levels of civility.

The opportunity to be a part of such an important movement—one that has the potential to impact positively the heart, soul, and consciousness of the nation—has been irresistible to me. Any work of this kind is its own reward, and the citizens of this state and nation are beneficiaries of these selfless gifts of service, coming from the thousands who usually go unnoticed.

At the end of the day, the ultimate payment is the sense of satisfaction derived from working with a group of dedicated and committed volunteers, along with a professional, loyal and highly competent staff, with the common purpose of making meaningful contributions to this state and nation.

I hope all who read this—if you have not already—will get involved with some volunteer service that has meaning and value to you.

Council and Foundation lose four alumni

The Nebraska Humanities Council and Foundation have lost four alumni since the last Alumni Newsletter.

Judge Robert Moran of Alliance (NHC 1994-'97) died July 11. He also served on the boards of Nebraska Public Radio and the Alliance Public Library after a long career on the Box Butte County District Court and as a visiting judge for the State Supreme Court.

Bob Bogue (NHC 1977-'81 and former NHC chairman) was former publisher of the Oakland Independent. He and his wife, Shirley, founded the very successful Oakland Swedish Festival before their retirement to Crofton.

Robert Reilly of Omaha (NHC 1978-'81 and NFH 1983) died April

14. A former journalism professor at UNO, his latest book was co-authored with his son and daughter. It traces the history of Omaha using historic photographs and was published in late 2003. In an Omaha World-Herald editorial at his death, the editor noted: "Few can remember Bob Reilly without smiling. It's a beautiful legacy. Few can claim it."

Jean Andersen of Omaha died March 21. Jean technically was not an alumnus, but with the death of her husband, Bob, in 1988, she took up his cause, serving on council and foundation committees. She also continued his commitment to the Great Plains Chautauqua and was a generous benefactor of the traveling humanities-under-the-tent program.

Chautauqua visits Neligh and Beatrice in July

The **2004 Great Plains Chautauqua** will visit Neligh July 2-6 and Beatrice July 9-13.

Again the theme of the regional event is "From Sea to Shining Sea," which focuses on the period 1790-1850, including the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the opening of the West and encounter with native peoples.

Among the participating scholars and the characters they portray are Jeffrey Smith as William Clark, mapmaker and co-leader of the Corps of Discovery; Charles Everett Pace as York, a slave and the only African-American member of the Corps; and Selene Phillips as Sacagawea, a Shoshone Indian and the only woman on the expedition.

Other scholars include Tonia Compton as Dolley Madison, the First Lady for 16 years and the most important woman in American social circles for 50 years; Jerome Kills Small as Tecumseh, the Shawnee leader who worked for an independent Indian territory; and Jerome Tweton as John Jacob As-



Nebraskans gather under the familiar blue-and-white striped Chautauqua tent.

tor, who was the richest man in America at his death in 1848.

Neligh, in northeast Nebraska, will host the event at Riverside Park. Beatrice, in southeast Nebraska, will host the event at the Southeast Community College campus.

At both locations, Chautauqua scholars will conduct daytime workshops for children and adults. Local sponsors also will schedule an array of activities.

Evening events include local entertainment and keynote presen-

tations by the Chautauqua scholars. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, William Clark as interpreted by Jeffrey Smith

Saturday, Tecumseh as interpreted by Jerome Kills Small

Sunday, York as interpreted by Charles Pace

Monday, John Jacob Astor as interpreted by Jerome Tweton

Tuesday, Sacagawea as interpreted by Selene Phillips

For more details on the Great Plains Chautauqua, visit www.nebraskahumanities.org.

Alumni News

Alumni enjoy recent arrivals, awards, travel and more

Two former staff members had baby girls this past year: **Lois Wies** (1998-2000) and her husband, Jim, (who also solves all of the NHC's computer glitches) welcomed Ella in August, and **Lisa Franklin** (1997-2000) and her husband, Brad, added Rachel in September.

In October **Bryan LeBeau** (NHC 1997-2002) received the Mildred Bennet award at the Nebraska Book Festival. Bryan is academic vice-president at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His new book on Madalyn Murray O'Hair also came out in 2003.

Also in October, we heard from **Shirley Greenberger** (NHC 1974-78; NFH 1993) saying that she "was privileged to hear a lecture by Dr. Martin Marty at the North Shore Senior Center," because she had missed his talk when he gave the NHC's Governor's Lecture.

Jo Taylor (NHC 1986-92; NFH

1996) e-mailed after reading our web site (www.nebraskahumanities.org) saying that the "various pages brought back great memories—good talk, good food (even the brown baggers) and great programs." Jo has been assisting University of Puerto Rico faculty in writing NEH grants: "I'm paid to do science, but do the other because it is my life and my love."

Jack Maddux (NFH 1993-99) served on Nebraska's Water Task Force this past year, and his wife, **Carol**, reported that "Water policy issues have been a passion of his for years and water usage is a big problem in Nebraska."

We heard from several alumni at the holidays. **Anne and Gene Spence** (NHC 1980-82; NFH 1996-2001) had traveled to the Canary Islands, Morocco and Spain. "What really knocked our socks off was the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao,

Spain." **Kathy and Ron Sanchez** (NHC 1991-97; NFH 1994-97) were heading to Utah to ski at the end of the year and had celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at a Dave Brubeck concert in Kansas City.

We are all envious of the travel former Associate Director **Molly Fisher** (1986-2000) and her husband, **Jerry**, are doing. Her latest postcard came to the office from the tallest lighthouse in America at Cape Hatteras on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where they were camping.

Send us news about your work, your interests and your passions so that we can share your news with other alumni. Write or e-mail us at jane@nebraskahumanities.org.

And don't forget to visit the NHC website at www.nebraskahumanities.org for your own alumni page.



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Thanks for alumni's generous support

We thank the alumni and their families who have provided support to the Nebraska Humanities Council. Not only has your hard work shaped the direction and future of the NHC, but your financial support is making your vision a reality. Your response to our first alumni gift letter, sent by Gretchen Lainson and Elaine Spire, resulted in more than \$14,000 to support the programming and operation of the NHC.

George & Colleen Adam
Keith & Mary Ann Blackledge
Bess Brodkey
Jack & Sally Campbell
Deb Cawley
Dr. Barbara J. Coffey
Mr. & Mrs. N.P. Dodge
Dick & Harriet Egertson
Jerry & Molly Fisher
Elvira Garcia & Gordon Mundell
Michael & Wanda Gottschalk
Shirley Greenberger
Raymond & Hilde Haggh
Evelyn Harris Haller
Steve Hilliard & Jessica Coope
Dr. Ross Horning
Andrew and Ellan Hove
Tom Ineck
Jim & Elaine Johnson
Robert & Virginia Knoll
Hal & Gretchen Lainson
Jim & Amy Lamphere
Arthur & Eunice Langvardt
Darrel & Roberta Lloyd
Joseph & Ellen Macek
Jack & Carol Maddux

Dr. Donald Mash
Angie & Eric McClelland
Randy & Jane Moody
Francis & Maxine Moul
Bob & Mary Nefsky
Bac-Sy & Kim NguyenleHieu
Robert & Helen Nichols
Paul & Frances Olson
John & Jo Dell Payne
Richard & Marilyn Peterson
Dr. Oliver & Karen Pollak
Jack & Beverly Pollock
Marguerite Radcliffe
James & Ann Rawley
Harold & Marilyn Rock
Norman & Sarah Rosenberg
Jim & Susan Rosowski
Ron & Kathee Sanchez
Gene & Ann Lindley Spence
Elaine Spire
Mike & Helen Stauffer
Kathryn A. Thomas
David Whitaker
Dr. & Mrs. John W. White
Joachim & Laura Wunderlich
Dr. John & Linda Yost

Calendar of NHC

July 2-6

"From Sea to Shining Sea," Great Plains Chautauqua, Neligh

July 9-13

"From Sea to Shining Sea," Great Plains Chautauqua, Beatrice

Sept. 9

The 9th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities, featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Halberstam, "War and the Modern American Presidency," 8 p.m., Lied Center for Performing Arts, Lincoln. Sponsored by the NHC, the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues and the University of Nebraska. A benefit dinner at Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center begins with a 5 p.m. reception. Reserved lecture seating is available with purchase of dinner tickets. Call (402) 474-2131 ext. 102.

Sept. 17-18

The 13th Annual Nebraska Book Festival, University of Nebraska at Kearney campus. The festival features writers from the book "A Different Plain: Contemporary Nebraska Fiction Writers." For the latest details, visit the festival website at www.nebraskabookfestival.org.