The American Road

Fall 2019

Hoover Uncommon Students Take Home Over $51,000 in Awards

Fourteen Uncommon Students presented the results of their summer service projects during the 22nd Annual Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award Stanley and Helen Hoover Presentation Day, held Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch. Each student earned a $1,500 award.

High school juniors from across Iowa apply to the program in March of each year, detailing a public service project they’d like to lead in their community. If selected for the program, they then work their project over the summer and present the results before a panel of judges during Presentation Day. Three are chosen to receive a $10,000 scholarship to be used at a college, university or tech school of their choice.

The recipient of the Pec and Meredith Hoover $10,000 scholarship was Seth Hoffman of Muscatine. His project, Ramps and Pathways to STEM for Muscatine Students was developed to get pre-kindergarten students off to a strong STEM start. “I raised over $26,000 of support and launched an on-going research-based proven program (from UNI) at our schools,” Hoffman said. His program is an inquiry-based play environment which fosters growth in STEM thinking so that students are prepared for STEM success.

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Three join Hoover Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Hoover Presidential Foundation have elected three new members to the board by unanimous vote during a recent meeting held on Oct. 25. Their terms begin January 1.

Brett H. Barker, a Nevada, Iowa pharmacist, has been a member of the Foundation for many years and is excited about sharing Hoover's ideals. “I think Hoover was one of our most misunderstood Presidents. He was an incredible humanitarian with a story that Iowans should be proud to tell,” Brett said. “I have a passion for preserving Iowa history and a particular interest in the National Archives and Records Administration network of Presidential Libraries and Museums.”

Brett is a graduate of the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and has interests in public service, having served civic duties in the city of Nevada, including service on the Nevada City Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission, Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council. Last year he became the Mayor of Nevada. He has a long list of honors and awards.

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Chairman's Message
Dave Diekrs, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

More Members Means More Fun!

Have you ever heard the saying, “There's strength in numbers?” It's true, and it applies to members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation, too! Don't get me wrong, our Foundation members are more than numbers! In my years here on the Foundation board, the members I've met at functions and on the annual Presidential Library Trips have become dear friends. Our members are our neighbors and make great travel partners.

As our member base grows, however, so does the Foundation's ability to improve programs, bring in top-rated speakers, and reach out to more and more people who have not yet heard about the only U.S. President born in Iowa. I liken it to building a home: the more members we have at the base means our foundation will be stronger and the structure can be built with a higher level of quality.

Membership in the foundation provides many perks the average visitor will miss—such as free admission to the Library and Museum and all the programs offered. Members also receive free admission to ALL the National Archives and Records Administration presidential libraries and museums. Hoover Presidential Foundation members get a 10% gift shop discount every day.

I mentioned the annual trip earlier. I’ve been on a number of these tours, each organized through the Foundation and a travel bureau. I’ve never been disappointed. Each year, the Foundation targets a group of Presidential Libraries in a regional area. One year, it was the Bush and LBJ libraries in Texas. Another it was Nixon, Reagan, and the Reagan Ranch in California. Two years ago, we traced Hoover's steps in London, France and Belgium! Kennedy and the Roosevelt Libraries... been there, done that. No matter where we go, the Foundation has arranged for behind-the-scenes private tours typically unavailable to the average visitor.

By the way, did you know that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s famous ‘Day of Infamy’ speech before Congress was supposed to be ‘Day of History’? Our Foundation members saw the actual draft of President Roosevelt's remarks. On his way to Capitol Hill on the morning of December 8, 1941, he crossed off (in pencil would you believe) the word ‘history’ in exchange for ‘infamy.’ Now, that is what I mean by getting to see unique experiences not available to the majority of library visitors.

And because we’re from another Presidential Library, we’re treated like royalty! The Foundation is planning two short trips in 2020—one to the Carter Library and the other to the Clinton Library. Watch for those announcements soon. Won't you join us?

There is a long list of other perks new members receive, each with increased value based on the membership level chosen. There are also several special events each month for you to enjoy on the Hoover campus or in and around West Branch. Visit the Foundation website at hooverpresidentialfoundation.org to learn more about becoming a member and part of our Hoover family.

Our Mission

The Hoover Presidential Foundation promotes and supports the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, National Historic Site, and other programs that enhance the understanding of Herbert Hoover as president and humanitarian.

One thing is for sure, as board chairman, I can tell you that the board and the Foundation staff are committed to providing an excellent membership experience. If you are currently a member, thank you. If you’re thinking about membership, rest assured it’s a good value and worth consideration. And it’s not too soon to be thinking about a membership holiday gift—it’s one that will last all year! Please call the Foundation office at 319-643-5327 or visit Hooverpresidentialfoundation.org if you have any questions about joining the Foundation and supporting our mission.

2019 Celebration Banquet a Crowd Pleaser

"As banqueters go, this was another winner," said Jerry Feagle, president and CEO of the Hoover Presidential Foundation. "We filled the ball with great guests, great speakers, and a delicious meal."

The event took place at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids on Oct. 17. Margaret Hoover, host of the PBS news show Firing Line with Margaret Hoover, provided the keynote address. Margaret explained how her show was different and one of the key factors to its success, “I give my guests time to fully discuss their ideas,” she said. While she is quick to challenge some of those ideas, she believes a cordial discussion of exploration is the best way to learn about her guests’ ideology.

Foundation trustee, Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg, introduced Margaret and then joined her on stage after her talk to ‘interview the interviewer.’ They also took questions from the audience. “Like how you show is more than 10 second sound bites,” one person said during a question and answer session.

Prior to the keynote address, Lt. Gov. Gregg, assisted by board chairman David Diekrs, presented crystal awards to the 2019 Uncommon Public Service winners, Iowa State Rep. John Forbes and Iowa State Sen. Ken Rozenboom. Six other state legislators were in the crowd to cheer on the duo.

The Uncommon Public Service Award was created by the Hoover Presidential Foundation to honor those public servants who demonstrate uncommon service to the people of Iowa above and beyond their legislative responsibilities.

The Hoover Presidential Foundation requests the public to nominate legislators who exemplify Herbert Hoover’s ideals of honesty, integrity and uncommon public service. An online nomination form can be found online at hooverpresidentialfoundation.org under the GRANTS & AWARDS tab. The nomination deadline is March 1. The nominees are judged on their public service and humanitarian projects.

Board trustee and past president Charlie Becker provided the invocation, and board chairman David Diekrs discussed the importance of supporting the Uncommon Student Award program, and other programs that are supported by the Foundation. Uncommon Student alumni JJ Kapar described how the Uncommon Student Award made a difference in his life via a video message which led the crowd in awe of his presentation. Later that evening, Lt. Gov. Gregg remarked, “I’m glad someone else came up before me – JJ is a tough act to follow!” You can view JJ’s speech on the Foundation’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

We hope that if you attended the banquet that you enjoyed the evening, and if you missed it, that you’ll join us next year! If you’d like to make a gift in support of the Foundation, you may do so online or by mailing it to: Hoover Presidential Foundation, PO Box 696, West Branch, IA 52358.
Hoover Uncommon Students

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they move into K-12 classrooms.

Kathryn Wittrock of Urbandale also earned a $10,000 scholarship for her project, Recycling Instruments for Needy Kids (RINKS). "I started a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization named RINKS to distribute instruments from basements or attics into the hands of students who could not otherwise afford to participate in band programs," Wittrock said. Her goal is to eliminate the financial barriers preventing underprivileged students in Central Iowa from participating in school music programs.

The third $10,000 recipient was Alexi Mast of Ankeny. She created a program called, Filling a Need: Water Aerobics for Adults with Special Needs. Her project brings together adults with disabilities to build relationships while having the chance to be physically active in a welcoming environment. "My inspiration was to provide an activity for my special needs siblings and other adults with disabilities who often struggle to find a place where they can be part of the community," Mast said.

Emma Blair of Ogden attends Ogden High School and was recognized as the Mariah Becker Volunteer Leadership Award winner for her project, Bringing Art Back to the Youth of a Small Town. This award is presented by the Uncommon Student Alumni group in memory of Mariah Becker, a member of the Hoover Uncommon Student Award Class of 2000. Becker was a student at the University of Iowa in 2002 when she lost a long and courageous battle with cancer. Blair received a plaque and her name was added to a permanent display at the Hoover Presidential Library. To ensure her advocacy for art programs in Ogden elementary and middle schools carries on, $500 will be donated to the schools next year after she steps down to attend college.

The Uncommon Student Awards program annually identifies and honors up to 15 Iowa high school juniors who propose and then accomplish a project of their own choosing and design. Grades, test scores, essays and financial need are not evaluated. Application is open to all Iowa high school juniors and is due by March 15.

Mariah Becker Award Winner: Emma Blair of Ogden receives the Mariah Becker Volunteer Leadership Award from the past Academics Program Manager, Pat Hand, at the Hoover Uncommon Student Award program. The award recognizes a student project that embodies the spirit of volunteerism and leadership.

New Trustees

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“I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this important mission,” Jennifer said. “Specifically, I am interested in helping tell the Hoover story, not only within Iowa, but also with national and international audiences.”

Jennifer’s volunteer activities include membership in the Governor’s Empower Rural Iowa Initiative, Iowa State University’s Ivy College of Business Women in Business Advisory Council, and various political campaigns.

Tyler DeHaan of Urbandale, Iowa brings his financial expertise to a potential upcoming capital campaign. “It is always exciting to me to help raise money for a fundraising goal and see what can be accomplished,” Tyler said.

Tyler earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, and went on to a graduate MPA program at Drake University, followed by a Master’s in Financial Planning at the College of Financial Planning in Denver. He has earned the CFP, AAMS, CRPC and CRPC designation. He is currently the Director of Retirement Solutions at the Principal Financial Group in Des Moines.

Tyler is very active in his community as well, currently serving as a commissioner on the District 5A Judicial Nominating Commission, as a board member of the Historical Society of Iowa and as a fundraising board member of Waukee Area Christian Services. In 2014 he was named among 40 Under 40 by the Des Moines Business Record and earned the Waukee Leadership Institute President’s Award.

Dave Dierks, Hoover Presidential Foundation board chairman, said, “The Hoover Presidential Foundation will benefit greatly from the many skills that each of these individuals bring to the organization. We are delighted to have them on board.”

Membership Matters!

Members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation enjoy a private reception before each exhibit opening and free entry to all exhibits and programs. Exclusive annual member trips have visited almost every NARA library and even traced Hoover’s steps in London, France and Belgium.

As a member, you support the Foundation Mission, and help share his story with all who visit the Hoover campus.

Join or renew online today at HooverPresidentialFoundation.org!
President's Message
Jerry Fleagle, President and CEO

We Love Our Hoover Presidential Foundation Members!

"Whatever you pay attention to grows." That was one of the first phrases I remember hearing as I attempted to learn any trade of note. I’ve got into managing non-profit organizations over 25 years ago.

At the Hoover Presidential Foundation, we have placed a special emphasis on membership. Over the last four years, we have averaged over 20% annual growth. Although that’s an impressive number, it is more about getting people to know the Herbert Hoover story, understand it and experience it. If you are not currently a member, consider it!

Anyone can join— at any time throughout the year! Some people have told me they thought they had to be "formally invited" to join. Not true. I’m not that formal— consider this your invitation!

Membership in the Foundation is important to the entire Hoover campus— the Presidential Library and Museum, the National Historic Site and the Foundation, which is the private not-for-profit that helps support special exhibits, projects and programs throughout the campus.

What’s in it for you? Lots! For starters, free admission to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum— anytime. Plus, all of their special programs! Plus, free admission to all 13 National Archives and Records Administration Presidential Library-Museums nationwide (just present your Hoover membership card). Plus, a 10% discount at Hoover Library and Museum Gift Shop. Plus, communications detailing all events happening on the Hoover campus. We have: The American Road, the Hoover Presidential Foundation’s printed newsletter with in-depth articles of interest, and the American Spirit, our monthly electronic newsletter to keep you up on the recent happenings, as well as upcoming events. It all adds up to one great deal! You need to know what happens on campus and being an HPPF member is the best way!

We want you to come back to the Hoover campus as much as you can! We hold three special VIP Receptions for members— only exhibit openings each year at no charge to members. Event goers typically enjoy complimentary light appetizers, wine, cheese, punch or other treats. We also coordinate with the Library and the Historic Site for special programs that are all complimentary to our members as well.

Our Annual Member Presidential Library Trips are very popular and continue to grow since we started offering them nearly seven years ago. In 2020, we will take two trips! First, we’ll visit the Carter Presidential Library and Museum in Atlanta, Carter’s hometown of Plains, Warm Springs, and other locations in early April for a 5 day/4 night trip. Then in late summer, we’ll travel to the Clinton Library and Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas on a four day bus trip and see other historic sites along the way. Satisfaction? Over 60% of our travelers are repeats! As Hoover Presidential Foundation members, we typically get ‘special treatment’ on our library tours and experience a tour not available to the general public.

You can become a member or renew your membership by calling the Foundation, registering at the Admissions desk in the Library and Museum, or online at www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org.

Your membership will help support Hoover campus events and programs, and provide you with numerous benefits to further your learning and enjoyment!

The number of our membership renewals are some of the highest among Presidential Library Foundations. If you are not a member, why not try us out this year and see for yourself? You will be glad you did! ★

Herbert Hoover and the Historians: Recent Developments: A Review Essay
Part Two
Ellis W. Hawley

Also helping to make the case for Hoover’s standing as a conservative was the appearance in 2011 of Hoover’s own Freedom Betrayed, the "magnus opus" that he had worked on during much of his post-presidency but which his heirs had kept in storage until George Nash persuaded them to allow it publication. In what amounted to a combination of memoir, diplomatic history, and documentary collection, Hoover had pulled together and expanded upon right-wing critiques of Franklin Roosevelt’s foreign policy, especially his alleged role in helping to start and getting the United States into World War II, his appeasement and strengthening of the Soviet Union, and his responsibility for the subsequent Cold War. The work provided further evidence of Hoover’s efforts to document a conservative antidote, not only to the New Deal’s domestic policies, but to its foreign policies as well.

Despite such evidence, Hoover’s standing in conservative historiography remained lower than one might expect.

The supply-side heirs of the Reagan era tended to idolize Andrew Mellon and Calvin Coolidge rather than Herbert Hoover. And a long-standing libertarian critique of Hoover, associated particularly with Murray Rothbard, continued to find expression, most notably in Amitay Shalev’s The Forgotten Men: A New History of the Great Depression (2007).

Other recent studies contributing to or seeking to reshape Hoover revisionism have examined particular aspects of his policies, ideas, and behavior. In the first category, for example, recent works have dug deeper into and offered additional insights about his agricultural, unemployment, and trade policies.

In From New Day to New Deal: American Farm Policy from Hoover to Roosevelt, 1928–1933 (1991), David Hamilton provides the fullest and best-documented account yet of the origins, workings, and failure of Hoover’s Federal Farm Board, a study he shows, that was substantially shaped by Hoover’s simplistic view of agriculture and rigid conceptions of associationism. In Herbert Hoover, Unemployment, and the Public Sphere (2005), Vincent Gaddis re-examines what came out of the President’s Conference on Unemployment in 1921 and shows, to a fuller extent than elsewhere, how and why it set the tone and model for Hoover’s later response to the Great Depression. And in Peddling Protectionism: Smoot-Hawley and the Great Depression (2011), Douglas Irwin provides a more comprehensive account of the politics behind and economic consequences of the Smoot-Hawley tariff, concluding that it was not responsible for the Great Depression but that it did contribute to the decline in world trade and deserves most of its reputation as a combination of bad politics and bad economics. Taken together, these works focus on three areas of policy failure. But since these were areas of failure generally acknowledged in the earlier revisionism, they leave its larger view of Hoover substantially intact.

Among recent works offering further illumination of Hoover’s ideas and visions are Bradley Tick’s, Herbert Hoover’s Intellectual Development (2004) and Edward Aygus’s, Herbert Hoover and the Commodification of Middle-Class America (2016). Tick analyzes the values embodied in Hoover’s, De Re Metallica. Principles of Mining, American Individualism, and The Challenge to Liberty, finding in them a combination of

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by Jim Schlens

In 2011, after working as the Director of Administration for the Law Department of the US Postal Service for over 15 years, I left the Postal Service to "refocus" on my life-long interest in photography. Since high-school, I have been doing photography and have sold my photos at numerous exhibitions and galleries. I have a combined interest in history, nature and the National Parks. In fact, I have now visited 96 NPS sites and in 2018 had a solo exhibition at the ArtSpace Gallery in Herndon, VA dedicated to our National Parks. Around 2014, I learned of a program sponsored by the National Park Service (NPS) called Artist in Residence (AIR). About 40 NPS sites have such programs. Since 2016, I have been very fortunate to be selected as the AIR at 8 different National Park sites in a very competitive process.

I read several biographies about Herbert Hoover in 2017-18 and was surprised with the incredible achievements of his life and was soon after applied for the AIR program at the Hoover Site. In previous years, I hiked to Camp Rapidan, his Presidential cabin, now part of the Shenandoah National Park on several occasions. In the spring of this year, the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa, notified me that I would be the sole Artist-In-Residence for the month of August and along with my wife Gail we started our adventure. For the better part of the month, we would wander around the park, taking images of the village, Hoover Hometown Days, Hoover Hall, the cottage, the grave sites and the blooming flowers on the adjacent prairie at sunrise and sunset. I came to appreciate the saying, "No two walks on the prairie are ever the same." At the Visitor Center, on an almost daily basis, I often heard many visitors say something along these same lines, "I had no idea he accomplished so much."

This park site is where President Hoover was born and raised in the early years of his life and later buried. As with most Americans, I had only associated Mr. Hoover with the Great Depression of the late 1920s and 30s and never realized how full the rest of his life truly was.

The National Park Service manages this site, which consists of the Visitor Center, a small historic village, and an adjacent prairie. This land contains the tiny 2 room cottage that Mr. Hoover was born and raised in. I attempted to capture those parts of his life in my photography. Through his own determination and grit, he graduated in the very first class at Stanford University and became one of the most sought-after mining engineers in the world.

But what I learned was that Mr. Hoover never forgot his modest and humble roots and Quaker background of service to others. With the United States involvement in WWI, he initially helped coordinate efforts to get tens of thousands of stranded American visitors and tourists out of Europe and back to America. From that point on, he would be known as the "Great Humanitarian," who would save tens of millions of people from starvation during and in the aftermath of WWI and WWII. So in awe of his work by the people he saved, many fountains, streets, and plazas in Europe are still named after him, which puzzles most American tourists who are not aware of his work outside of his presidency.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum is located within the National Park site, and houses a great deal of information, papers, letters, special exhibits, displays and an excellent movie on his life. All of the staff and volunteers at the National Park, the Presidential Library and the community of West Branch were just great in giving us information and details about Mr. Hoover and his life's accomplishments. One of the best parts of the AIR program is getting to meet so many interesting and knowledgeable folks at the parks and the "behind the scenes tours" that are sometimes offered. And we certainly can attest to the Midwestern hospitality with all of the wonderful people we met in Iowa. *

*To see more of Jim’s work as an Artist-In-Residence, check out photos.mrs.africa.com
Gravesite Ceremony Marks 55th Year Since Hoover’s Passing

Each year, the Hoover Presidential Foundation, Presidential Library and Museum, and National Historic Site hold a wreath laying ceremony at President and Lou Henry Hoover’s gravesite atop the hill overlooking the Birthplace Cottage. The Oct. 25th event marked 55 years since Hoover’s internment at the site.

The gravesite ceremony featured many interesting speakers, including Library Director Thomas Schwartz, National Historic Site Superintendent Pete Swisher, Brigadier General Steven Osborn of the Iowa National Guard, Patrick Van Nevel, Honorary Consul, Kingdom of Belgium, and keynote speaker, Allan Hoover III, President Hoover’s great grandson. Jerry Fleagle, president and CEO of the Foundation acted as emcee, and the Extension Chords of Iowa City sang a few patriotic songs.

During Allan’s speech, he gave away some of young Herbert Hoover’s secrets to the students in attendance. “But only after Superintendent Swisher promised to cover his ears,” Allan said. “He and his friends would build forts and tunnels down along the creek here. He also had a make-shift fishing pole and would fish for sucker fish and carps in that creek. I’m not sure the park service would be happy if you did that today, I’m sure there are places nearby where you can do that.”

Allan then asked West Branch Mayor Roger Laughlin to cover his ears for the next secret. “It seems young Herbert had a strong interest in the local storm sewers, and we’ll leave it at that so as not to put ideas into young minds who might be reading this!”

Following the speeches, wreaths were laid by Brig. Gen. Osborn on behalf of the White House, by Patrick Van Nevel on behalf of the Kingdom of Belgium, and by Leslie Hoover-Lauble and Allan Hoover on behalf of the Hoover family.

In the distance and out of sight of the audience, taps was played by West Branch high school student, Caleb Sexton, to conclude this solemn event. ★

Food Drive at Hoover Gravesite nets 100 Pounds and Cash Gifts

Over 100 students from Hoover Elementary in Iowa City attended the annual wreath laying ceremony on Friday, Oct. 25 at the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, also the site of the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum. Herbert Hoover, known as the Great Humanitarian, spent 50 years of his life bringing food to starving nations. The Hoover Presidential Foundation used the event as a learning opportunity of what it means to be a humanitarian by asking visitors to bring a can of food to the ceremony in honor of the late president.

In all, over 100 pounds of food items were given at the event including over $250 in cash donations. “Foundation member, Mary Plyler of North Carolina, contacted us to ask if there was a program that mirrored Hoover’s humanitarian spirit. She gave a very generous donation to this cause,” Jerry Fleagle, Foundation president and CEO, said. Mary is a great fan of Mr. Hoover and has many stories of family connections to the President. “Mary told us she made her gift because she remembers being hungry as a child and wants to help other hungry children,” Jerry said.

The donations were delivered to the West Branch food pantry. Carol Jones, a volunteer at the pantry, was pleased to accept the items. “It means a great deal to us,” Carol added. “We were really running low until it came in.”

“As soon as I restocked the shelves, three families came in with an immediate need,” said Deb Pardy, who also volunteers at the pantry. ★

Students from Hoover Elementary of Iowa City place donations of canned goods as part of the Great Humanitarian Food Drive.
Member Profile:

Pauline Antons

By Brad Reimers

I recently joined Deleene McConaughy, the Foundation’s membership manager, on a trip to Center Junction, located about an hour north of West Branch, to visit Mrs. Pauline Antons at her century farm home where we were greeted with a lovely tea and sandwich reception in true German heritage tradition.

As we began our talk, Pauline told us about a traditional German tea service called ‘Ostfriseland.’ Always the consummate host, she began by placing a rock of sugar, similar to a ball of sugar rock candy, in each tea cup. Hot tea followed and was finished with a tiny ladle of fresh heavy cream, which produced a flower shape not unlike a blossoming rose as it settled in. It was delicious! But I digest...

Velma Huebner, a friend of Pauline’s, introduced her to the Hoover campus. “She thought a visit there might be something that I’d like,” Pauline told us. “So I’ll meet her in Mechanicsville and we’ll go down there together.”

Pauline has been a member of the Hoover Presidential Foundation since 2006 and enjoys all the benefits membership has to offer.

One of her favorite activities is visiting other presidential libraries—she’s seen them all, with the exception of the Carter Library. “We haven’t announced it yet, as we’re still looking in the details,” Deleene said. “But our next Foundation Member Library trip will be to Georgia and the Carter Museum in April!” Deleene has organized all the Foundation Presidential Library trips and will complete the full list in 2020 with separate trips to the Carter and Clinton Libraries.

Pauline is a repeat traveler on those Foundation trips, having joined the group tours of the Kennedy and Roosevelt trips in 2015. The Ford Presidential Museum in 2016 and the Texas trip to visit both Bush Libraries and the Johnson Library earlier this year. “The trips are interesting, they’re fun, educational, and you get inside the archives for a look at their personal lives,” Each Foundation trip includes some ‘extra perks’ at the libraries that are typically unavailable to the general public.

Living an hour away doesn’t prevent Pauline and her sister Marilyn from coming to West Branch for special events. “I’ve always had an interest in the Presidential Libraries,” she said. “But really, I like your Uncommon Student scholarship program.” Two of her grandchildren were accepted in the program in the early 2000’s, although one had to decline due to scheduling conflicts.

Pauline’s favorite exhibit was the 2015 Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit. “I don’t know how you got that trench in the building!” she said. She liked the Belgian Village set up on Downey Trace. The daily meal offerings based on the recipes used in 1914 was ‘something special,’ according to Pauline.

She also enjoyed the special speakers who described how the relief effort worked, and attends Hoover lectures in West Branch whenever possible.

“I like the picnics,” Pauline said when asked about Hoover’s Hometown Days events. “We had so much fun the last time because we knew so many people who had been on the trips with us. We filled a whole table.”

Pauline and Marilyn enjoy the VIP Exhibit Preview Receptions, held three times a year at the launch of each new special exhibit. Marilyn’s husband Ken does the driving and the three arrive early enough for the summer exhibit to have lunch in the park and time to explore the outdoor exhibits, prairie trails and gravestones. “Whenever I have friends visit, that’s the one place I take them,” Pauline said of the Hoover campus.

“Membership is a wonderful deal,” Pauline said. When asked what she would say to someone considering membership, she replied, “I would tell them about all the things we get to do—it’s really worth the money!”

LEGACY...

YOUR GIFT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

When you leave a legacy, you leave a little bit of yourself behind, giving meaning and purpose to your life while providing for future generations.

Your planned gifts reveal your values and speak for you after you’re gone. The choices are yours—the impact is measurable.

What if you could leave a legacy that expresses your values by sharing those of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover, where context and history meet at the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch? The Hoover Presidential Foundation can help you outline a planned giving gift that shares your values and supports a shared legacy on the Hoover campus for years to come.

Contact Mudi McCarty, Director of Development, at 319-643-5327 or by email at MMCarty@HooverPF.org to learn more about planned giving and the legacy you’ll leave.
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Deep-seated historical consciousness, a kind of managerial progressivism, a form of liberal corporatism, and an enduring concern with statist encroachment on fundamental liberties. The four works, he argues, reflect the “essence of the man and constitute a chronological map of his intellectual development” (63). Again brings cultural analysis to bear on Hoover’s writings and activities, seeing them as having a central place in equating national progress with the expansion of a new, consumer-oriented middle class, and argues that, despite the setbacks that made Hoover a pariah in the 1930s, he proved to be more prophetic than misguided and could still be relevant for those currently concerned about the shrinkage of the middle class.

Two recent works shed new light on particular aspects of Hoover’s behavior: Louis Liebvich’s, Bylines of Desire (1994) and Hal Elliott Werck, Hoover, the Fishing President (2005). Liebvolich re-examines in detail the deteriorating relations between President Hoover and the news media, noting how that exacerbated a national calamity and attributing much of the deterioration to Hoover’s misconceptions about objective reporting, his faulty expectations of what the press should do, and his view of it as something to be distrusted and manipulated. Werck illuminates the recreational side of Hoover’s life, particularly his passion for fishing as a relief from stress and a source of renewal, his enthusiasm for getaways to Camp Rapidan and Bohemian Grove, and the role that recreation played in his family life. Hoover, Werck argues, was a man pulled in two directions at the same time. His ambition and achievements pulled him into the public spotlight while he, retiring part of his character pushed him to seek solaced private retreats in the wilderness” (134).

Finally, any list of recent contributions to Hoover historiography must include Uncommon Americans: The Lives and Legacies of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover (2003), edited by Timothy Walch and published in the hope of “exciting more historians to West Branch” to continue research on these “extraordinary individuals” (5). One of its major contributions is to show the extent to which, in fact, Hoover and Lou Henry Hoover were a team with complementary skills and talents. In addition, it brought together a number of essays examining particular aspects of Hoover’s life and offering further insights on how his career and presidency should be interpreted. Deserving particular note are George Nash’s explanation of how Hoover became a “political orphan,” David Hamilton’s showing of how Hoover’s “New Day” vision kept him from dealing effectively with depression emergencies, David Quigley’s argument that Hoover’s failed recovery efforts were part of a larger national failure, and Richard Norton Smith’s discussion of Hoover’s efforts to formulate and implement a “third way” that would preserve the benefits of individualism yet bring forth the new managerial tools and welfare structures needed for further economic and social progress. That vision, Smith concludes, still has appeal and now seems “less nostalgic than prophetic” (263).

Clearly, recent years have witnessed a continuing effort to understand Herbert Hoover. For much of his life and career, the revisionist picture that emerged in the 1960s and 1970s has become more firmly established. That is particularly true of his early life and his achievements prior to becoming president. On these some disagreements persist, notably over Quakerism as a shaping influence, Hoover’s early business conduct, and the nature of his interactions with others. But the recent works on him are inclined to recognize him as a truly extraordinary figure, one who had a major impact on the mining industry, the engineering profession, the evolution of relief organizations, the shape of American government during and after World War I, the workings of the American business system in the 1920s, the rise of a consumerist culture, and America’s evolving vision of national progress. The “smear” books of the 1930s have been almost totally discredited, and the pre-presidential Hoover now being depicted comes relatively close to the one appearing in the campaign biographies of 1928. Recent years have also seen more praise of his post-presidency and what appears to be a growing acceptance of some of the earlier revisionism on Hoover as president, most notably in regard to his activism, his progressive side, and his disdain for and inaptitude at conventional politics.

In assessing his presidency, however, a growing division seems to be taking shape. Some interpreters are now stressing the positive side of his legislative record, seeing him as a needed transitional figure in America’s political development and crediting him with recovery programs that helped to save America’s economic and political system and were on the road to ending the depression in 1932. At the same time, however, other recent interpreters have continued to see his presidency as a failure and his role as a political leader as being sadly deficient, some going so far as to argue that a man of his type and disposition was simply unsuited to the presidential office and what was expected of it after 1929. The latter view, moreover, has remained dominant among scholars of the presidency and has continued to be reflected in their presidential evaluations. Hoover was ranked thirty-sixth, both by the C-Span survey of historians in 2017 and by the American Political Science Association poll in 2018.

Another kind of continuing disagreement has to do with Hoover’s role helping to create the New Deal. This is the view found, for example, in David Kennedy’s, Freedom from Fear (1999), the volume in the Oxford History of the United States that covers the years 1929 to 1945. The other view locates Hoover not in this kind of state-building but in another long-standing American tradition, a search for a workable alternative to governmental expansion by entrusting needed regulatory powers and social duties to instrumentaries created from civil society and an enlightened private sector. Some would argue, moreover, that this kind of state-building would reassert itself once the New Deal began to recede and that the outcome would be welfare and regulatory systems that could be regarded as extensions and elaborations of what Hoover was attempting to create during his presidency. It is this view of Hoover’s state-building that one finds in works like Brian Balogh’s, The Associationist (2018) and Gary Gerstle’s, Liberty and Coercion (2015).

As things stand at present, then, historians studying and depicting Herbert Hoover are inclined to see him as a great man and an interesting historical figure but not as a great president. Some, to be sure, would make him a candidate for near-greatness. But given the strength of the opposing argument, that seems unlikely to become the common view. More likely are continuing debates about his place in history and, as contexts change, still more revisions. ★


The Impeachment of Herbert Hoover

By Spencer Howard,
Hoover Presidential Library Archivist

Some recent news articles have noted previous Presidents who have faced impeachment, including Herbert Hoover. In a narrow sense this is true – on Dec. 13, 1932 and Jan. 17, 1933, Rep. Louis Thomas McFadden, a Republican from Pennsylvania, offered resolutions on the floor of the House calling for the impeachment of President Hoover. It’s not clear what McFadden hoped to gain, other than perhaps to embarrass the President. At that time, of course, Hoover had already lost the 1932 election and was a lame duck, virtually powerless with an opposition Congress. McFadden’s resolutions were tabled, and the impeachment of Herbert Hoover never got off the ground.

Rep. McFadden was a former banker who had chaired the House Committee on Banking and Currency from 1920 to 1931. (The Republicans lost their majority in the House after the 1930 election, so Democratic Rep. Henry Steagall became the new committee chair in 1931.) McFadden was best known for the 1927 McFadden Act, which helped national banks better compete with state chartered banks. McFadden was also a vocal critic of the Federal Reserve System, and blamed the Fed for causing the Great Depression. McFadden’s main complaints against President Hoover centered on Hoover’s handling of the international debt stemming from World War I. It was a complex issue with no easy solution, and McFadden accused Hoover of overstepping his constitutional role in a variety of ways.

To summarize the situation – at the end of World War I, the Allied Powers forced Germany to accept blame for the war and to pay crushing reparations. At the same time, eight nations including France and Great Britain owed huge sums that they had borrowed from the United States. The French made the connection official – they would pay their debts to the U.S. with reparations money from Germany. The U.S. never accepted this connection – reparations and debts were two separate issues, and public sentiment in the U.S. was adamant that the Allied nations were obligated to repay the money they had borrowed, regardless of Germany’s reparations. But in reality, without the reparations, the French (and the British as well) could not pay their war debts. By 1924 the German economy was near collapse and threatened to bring down the international financial system. The Allies appointed a commission, chaired by Charles Dawes, an American banker and politician, to resolve the issue. The resulting Dawes Plan reduced German reparations payments and encouraged U.S. banks to loan money to Germany to help rebuild German industry, on the assumption that a stronger German economy would make the reparations payments more manageable.

By 1929, it was clear that additional adjustment was needed and a new committee, chaired by U.S. industrialist Owen D. Young, further reduced Germany’s obligations. But in May 1931, the collapse of the Austrian bank Creditanstalt sent shockwaves throughout Europe and the international financial system again teetered on the brink of disaster. In Hoover’s view, it was this financial storm from Europe that turned what had been a modest economic downturn into the Great Depression. Most critically, a German financial collapse threatened the U.S. in two ways – failing to pay the reparations would mean that France and probably Great Britain would be unable to pay their war debts to the U.S. Government, while at the same time German defaults on the private sector industrial loans would bring down the U.S. banking system. In June, President Hoover called for a one-year pause in all international debt payments, which saved the international banking system from complete collapse. But the “Hoover Moratorium” only delayed the inevitable, as the world economic situation continued to deteriorate.

Over the next 18 months, Hoover worked feverishly to devise a plan to address the debt problem and to address rising unemployment and the collapse of American agriculture at home. Holding office at such a time, said Hoover, was akin to being a fireman behind a fire. “No sooner is one leak plugged up then is it necessary to dash over and stop another that has broken out. There is no end to it.”

Many economists and bankers agreed that the best solution to the debt problem was to cancel much or all of the war debts and reparations – if nothing else, cancellation might stop the vicious spiral of defaults – but public opinion both in the U.S. and abroad was divided. By December 1932, both Britain and France announced they would likely be unable to make their next debt payments, and on December 14, the French Chamber of Deputies made it official.

McFadden had opposed Hoover’s Moratorium from the start, as well as other Hoover policies. McFadden’s impeachment resolution charged President Hoover with endeavoring to illegally cancel the war debts, undertaking secret conversations with foreign bankers, violating the Constitution by seeking to “usurp” Congress’s role in foreign policy and finance, and “inflicting suffering on the American people through the moratorium for the benefit of the debtor nations.” For good measure, McFadden added charges concerning several Presidential appointments he disagreed with and accused the President of treating the veterans who marched on Washington in the summer of 1932 with “contumely.” Lawmakers in both parties were appalled. As the clerk of the House droned through a reading of McFadden’s resolution, the House leadership huddled around the Speaker’s desk. When the reading was concluded, Democratic Representative Edward P. of North Carolina immediately moved to table the resolution, to load cheers and enthusiastic applause from both parties. The motion to table the resolution passed 361 votes to 8. McFadden was denounced by Republicans for his “contemptible gesture.” One of the seven Democrats who voted with McFadden against tabling the resolution, Rep. Anthony Griffin of New York, noted that he did not necessarily agree with the charges, but thought any such resolution should be reviewed by the Judiciary Committee, and not just tabled.

On January 17, McFadden again offered an impeachment resolution, hoping to be allowed an hour for debate. McFadden’s second resolution repeated most of the same charges and was again immediately tabled by a vote of 344 to 11, and his request for debate was denied by the Speaker. Six weeks later, Franklin D. Roosevelt was President, and Hoover was on his way home to California.

As for the war debts, by 1934, every debtor nation except Finland had defaulted. ★

This story, and other interesting historical Hoover news items, can be found in the "Hoover Heads Blog," under the "VISIT" tab at HooverArchives.gov.
Director of Development's Message
Mundi McCarty, Director of Development

Your Membership Matters at the Hoover Campus

I hope you had the opportunity to get to know Pauline Antons, a treasured member of the Hoover Presidential Foundation since 2006 and featured in an article in this issue of American Road. Pauline, like so many of our members is truly engaged on the Hoover campus in so many ways and takes full advantage of the benefits of membership.

You are likely reading this article as a current member—or perhaps someone interested in membership. Be sure to explore the many benefits of membership detailed throughout this newsletter!

Members make an investment in our heritage and a pledge to keep history—and the Hoover story—alive for future generations.

Pauline's story and experience on the Hoover campus doesn't end there. She also impacts the park and library/museum with her philanthropic support via an annual gift to the Hoover Presidential Foundation. Generous donors like Pauline provide resources for mission-related work that promotes and supports the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, the Hoover National Historic Site and programs that tell the story of Hoover as president and humanitarian.

Your gifts do so much!
- School bus travel grants bring students to the Hoover campus for tours of the park, and library/museum; teaching them history and the Hoover story
- Resources for conservation and preservation of the Hoover collections make certain these items are around to benefit future generations
- Support for amazing Iowa students who vie for service project awards in the Uncommon Student Award program (see article on page 1) teaches students the importance of giving back to your community, state and the world
Thank you! Your continued support allows us to achieve more together. More students impacted, more history preserved, more positive impact on our communities by youth people. We could not do it without you!

If you are a current member or considering joining us as members, we're grateful for your support and we are always excited to host you on the Hoover campus. We are also grateful as you prioritize your year-end giving to include the Hoover story as worthy of your support. You have the opportunity to become a valued donor to the Hoover Presidential Foundation with your gift—or give the gift of membership to a like-minded friend or family member today. Visit our webpage HooverPresidentialFoundation.org to donate and/or become a member today! ★

Trustee Profile:
Karen Suchomel

by Brooke Kausen

Karen Suchomel was raised in the heart of West Branch, Iowa, in a home directly across the street from the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum.

Karen's family has a deep-rooted history with the Hoover Presidential Foundation at its core. Karen's grandfather, L.C. Rummells, was a founding member of the Hoover Birthplace Society and one of 31 individuals to sign the Articles of Incorporation. These articles were filed with the Cedar County Recorder in Tipton, Iowa, on April 18, 1939. On that day, the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society was officially established.

In 1955, Rummells was named a trustee of the facility when Congress passed the Presidential Libraries Act. He was present in 1959 when the first ground was broken to build the library and museum, and held many roles in the formation of the Hoover campus over the years.

The house Karen grew up in is located on the Hoover campus, and is now known as the P.T. Smith house. It was an extraordinary location during Karen's childhood. She has fond memories of time spent with her family in this home. Karen reflects, "We climbed the trees and watched the crowds of people when Hoover came." She even had the privilege of seeing Herbert Hoover in 1962 when he came to West Branch to celebrate his 88th birthday. She was just six years old, but Karen always had a profound appreciation for supporting history.

This appreciation for history did not waver over the years. Karen has been a Hoover Presidential Foundation trustee since 2003. She originally joined the trustees at the suggestion of her mother, Audrey Kofoid, who is a trustee emeritus. Karen has been a proud member for 16 years. She explains, "I really like the special exhibits—they keep the museum fresh." She tells us that it is important to support the Hoover campus as it is a great opportunity for our small town of West Branch.

Karen serves as the chair of the Travel Grant Committee for the Foundation. The Travel Grant program helps scholars defray costs of traveling to West Branch to conduct research in the Hoover Presidential Library archives. Additionally, she is president of the West Branch Heritage Museum and in homage to her family's Danish roots, is treasurer of the Museum of Danish America, located in Elk Horn, Iowa.

Karen's passion to support history is truly inspiring. The Hoover Foundation is blessed to have trustees that care so passionately for education and their community. Karen, thank you for your continued support of the Hoover campus! ★

Join the Hoover Presidential Foundation!

You can support our mission to preserve the ideals, values and legacy of Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States. Your annual membership or gift to the Foundation is an investment in our heritage and a pledge to keep history alive for future generations.

Membership benefits include:
- Free admission to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum and all 13 National Archives & Records Administration Presidential Library-Museums
- 10% discount at the Hoover Presidential Library Gift Shop
- Invitation to all VIP Members-only exhibit opening receptions and other member programs
- Free book about the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site
- Additional guest passes and perks based on membership level

Explore all the benefits at HooverPresidentialFoundation.org and sign up online today—or call 319-643-5327 during regular office hours!
Restoring History

by Deb Pieti

I have worked with Adobe Photoshop for over eleven years retouching and colorizing photos. I have always been intrigued with old photos and the history behind them. Subscribing to Ancestry.com further intrigued me, which set the stage perfectly for restoring and colorizing photos.

Photoshop handles the challenges of photo restoration extremely well. Beyond tears or missing parts, there are other things usually needing repair such as color tones, dust and scratches, discoloration from old adhesive tape, and creases from being folded.

Depending on the damage to the photo, completion time varies with restoration work. For example, the photo of Charles Ingalls (Laura Ingalls Wilder’s father) took about two days to complete since it was only missing part of the background, whereas the photo of Rocky Ridge Farm took almost a week to restore since it was torn and damaged. Restoration involved “recreating” sky and removing the branches from the tree on the left side since most of the tree wasn’t visible in the photo, but was a distraction to the photo overall.

Photo colorization isn’t intended to replace the original black and white photo, but to complement it. Placing the original side-by-side with the colorized version creates a “wow” moment. This gives people today a different perspective of how people saw things in their day.

After restoring a photo, the first step I take is doing historical research for accuracy in colorizing an image. Google is terrific for this step. It can take a while to find the specific uniform color of the day, what style bow ties men wore during certain time periods, etc., but it’s worth the time spent in the end when you have historical accuracy. It’s helpful if the photo is dated, but often that’s not the case. If an image with unknown colors is to be colorized, such as a portrait with unknown clothing colors, doing research into the materials that were available at the time is very important for authenticity. Vibrant colored clothing in a photo from the 1800s, for example, wouldn’t be realistic.

Depending on the complexity of the photo, completion time varies. For example, the photo of Laura and Gilbert Lane (Rose Wilder Lane’s husband at the time) and Rocky Ridge Farm each took about a week to retouch and colorize.

The photo of figures presented to Laura Ingalls Wilder took about three weeks due to the detail on the clothing and card and removing the holes in the styrofoam.

Photo restoration and colorization is very time consuming and requires a great deal of patience. In the end, though, family, friends, and clients appreciate the love and time put into restoring and colorizing old photos.✨

All photos are retouched and colorized by Deb Pieti. Ms. Pieti is frequently contracted for restoration work on photos and objects in the Hoover archive collections. Your support for this type of work is vital to the preservation of Hoover history. Please contact the Hoover Presidential Foundation to learn how you can help! To see additional photos related to Laura Ingalls Wilder, please visit http://fsb-photo.com/laura-ingalls-wilder-project-2/.

Uncommon Public Service Award Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now open for the Uncommon Public Service Award, created by the Hoover Presidential Foundation to honor those public servants who demonstrate uncommon service to the people of Iowa above and beyond their legislative responsibilities. The Hoover Presidential Foundation requests the public to nominate state legislators who exemplify Herbert Hoover’s ideals of honesty, integrity and uncommon public service. The nominees are judged on their public service and humanitarian projects. The awards are presented during the last week of March in the state House and Senate chambers during the morning session. Additional recognition is given at the annual Foundation Celebration Banquet in the Fall.

Nominations are accepted through March 1 and are open to the public.

Submitting a nomination is quick and easy with our online form. You may also print and mail your submission to the Foundation. For complete details visit hooverpresidentialfoundation.org and click the GRANTS & AWARDS tab.

“Being a politician is a poor profession. Being a public servant is a noble one.”

— Herbert Hoover
Banquet Highlights


The Benefits of Membership

To borrow a phrase from a well-known credit card provider, ‘Membership has its privileges!’

New members receive many benefits and special gifts when their membership is processed. Members who renew at a higher level will receive the special gifts associated with that level above and beyond the gifts previously received at the lower level.

Memberships are valid for 1 year and membership cards must be presented for admittance to any NARA Library-Museum. To join the Foundation, call our office at 319-643-5327 during business hours, register online at www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org, or sign up in person at the Hoover Library Gift Shop.

All new members will receive:
- Free admission to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum and all 13 National Archives & Records Administration Presidential Library-Museums (must present membership card)
- Free admission to all VIP members-only exhibit openings and other member programs
- A free book about the Hoover National Historic Site and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum
- A 10% discount at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum Gift Shop
- The Hoover Presidential Foundation newsletter, The American Road

Membership Levels

New or renewing members may choose from these membership levels which include the following additional benefits:

**PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE - $5,000**
All Benefactor benefits plus placement of your name on the donor wall and a special viewing of historic materials with archivists for up to 10 people (by appointment)

**BENEFACTOR - $1,000**
All Patron benefits plus a VIP tour of the Library and Museum for up to 10 people (by appointment)

**PATRON - $500**
All Associate benefits plus a lapel pin (for new and upgrading members)

**ASSOCIATE - $250**
All Sponsor benefits plus a total of 10 guest passes and an Uncommon Man print signed by a member of the Hoover family

**SPONSOR - $100**
All Family benefits plus a total of 8 guest passes

**FAMILY - $75**
For 2 adults and 1 or more children from immediate family, all Dual member benefits plus a total of 4 guest passes

**DUAL - $50**
For 2 adults, includes all Individual member benefits plus 2 guest passes

**INDIVIDUAL - $35**
All benefits listed under general membership benefits

**STUDENT - $10**
For any student, includes all benefits listed under general membership benefits

**EVENTS**

Now through Aug. 23
iViva Hoover! The 1928 Good Will Tour
Newly elected, not yet inaugurated, the Hoovers visit several South American countries to build a stronger relationship with the U.S.

Now through Jan. 5
A Merry Hoover Christmas
Learn how and where the Hoover family celebrated Christmas.

December 6 and 7
Christmas Past
Join this special celebration held on the Hoover Campus and throughout West Branch to get you into the holiday mood.

December 25
The Hoover Presidential Library and Museum will be closed on Christmas day.

January 1
The Hoover Presidential Library and Museum will be closed New Year’s Day.