Red Tails Squadron Exhibit Coming to NHS

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is bringing the Red Tails Squadron exhibit to West Branch on August 21 through 25. Many activities have been scheduled during this special week which culminates on the National Park Service’s Founder’s Day, celebrated August 25th.

This exhibit educates visitors about the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and includes a full performance in the mobile “Rise Above” travelling theatre. Visitors of this free exhibit will leave with a greater understanding of the hard work and dedication required to form one of the most famous flying squadrons ever created. It is supported in part with a grant from Humanities Iowa, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“While exploring the exhibit, guests can also gain a deeper understanding of Herbert Hoover’s impact on the world and how it extends far beyond his term as our country’s 31st President by visiting the National Park and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum,” said Pete Swisher, NHS Superintendent.

Special activities related to the exhibit are scheduled each day, including concerts on the Village Green, children’s crafting, and a screening of the film Red Tails.

Hoover’s reputation as a “Great Humanitarian” emanates from his role in the Commission for Relief of Belgium (CRB) during World War I, the great Mississippi River flood of 1927, and for his work in post-World War II reconstruction.

### Red Tail Events

**Aug. 21 to 25**
- **Exhibit open**
  10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily
- **Aug. 21**
  - **Veteran’s Recognition Day**
    1 p.m., Visitor Center

**Aug. 22**
- **Children’s Day**
  4 p.m., Village Green

**Aug. 23**
- **Children’s Day**
  4 p.m., Village Green

**Aug. 24**
- **Prairie Walk with a Ranger**
  10 a.m., Prairie Observation Deck at the Greenside
- **Picnic in the Park**
  12 p.m., Village Green
- **Concert in the Park**
  1 p.m., Village Green
- **Movie: Red Tails**
  3 p.m., Figge Auditorium

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Conference Highlight of Hometown Days

Four acclaimed Hoover Historians and authors will examine different aspects of Herbert Hoover’s humanitarian efforts as they present “The Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover,” during a conference focusing on the American Relief Administration. The conference runs from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Figge Auditorium on Saturday, Aug. 3.

The first speaker, George H. Nash, historian and Hoover biographer, will give a general overview of Herbert Hoover’s humanitarian efforts. He will be followed by Mary Elizabeth Cox, from Brasenose Collate at Oxford University. She will speak about Hoover’s efforts to feed women and children in Germany. After a short intermission, Bernard M. Patenaude, of the

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Why I Give: A Donor Profile

By Brooke Ransome

Helen Howe, though currently one of the Hoover Campus’ most generous donors, came from humble beginnings. While her parents were always employed, there were six children in the family. “There was always food on the table but I do remember my mother had a hard time keeping up with buying our shoes,” Helen recalled. Her father was a financial secretary at a bank and her mother was a school teacher. Even in years of feeding six growing children, Helen reports, “My father was always a very giving person.”

Her father grew up on a farm in the West Branch area and was always proud to live so close to the President’s childhood home. The knowledge of the Hoover story was instilled in Helen at a young age, though her personal connection came in later years. When her husband Stan was asked to be a judge for the Uncommon Student Award program, Helen traveled along. It was when she read the incredible scholarships being offered to students who were making a difference in the world that she became enamored with the program. She read the contestant applications and was so thrilled by their ideas that she began to cry. Helen pointed out, “You hear about all the bad things that can be done by young people and you hardly hear about the good things...I think the good things outnumber the bad.”

The following year, Helen became a Hoover Presidential Foundation Trustee. As a trustee, she was able to join the USA program committee. Helen donated in many ways with her time, financial support and networking skills. Helen tells us that she supports because “having been involved with the foundation, it was obvious that the

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Continued on page 11
Chairman's Message

Dave Diecks, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Membership in the Hoover Presidential Foundation offers several advantages. Are you making the most of them?

Our Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum is one of 13 Presidential libraries overseen by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and through membership in our Foundation, you are entitled to certain benefits like discounts in the gift shop, free admission to the Hoover Presidential Museum as well as each of the 13 NARA Presidential Libraries and Museums throughout the United States. Not to mention, we have special exhibit preview receptions where you’re invited to view new exhibits before they open to the public. Please take advantage of these exciting opportunities if you are not already doing so.

And, if you’re not following the Foundation on social media, it’s time to join! There’s a lot going on and the posts are timely and very interesting. You can follow us on Twitter and find us on Facebook by searching for HooverPresFoundation. We’re also building an Instagram presence this summer so like, click, follow and share the Foundation every chance you get! It’s a great way to stay connected.

Oct. 17 is another important date to remember. The Foundation’s biggest fundraiser of the year – our Celebration Banquet. Our special, featured speaker will be announced soon, so save the date for this ‘must attend’ event!

Funds raised at the Celebration Banquet help support many programs the Foundation sponsors. Some of those include funding for school programs and school bus travel grants, the Uncommon Student and Uncommon Public Service awards, and communications to our membership, including this newsletter. As you can tell, there’s a lot happening at the Hoover Presidential Foundation, and we’re glad you are participating through your membership!

During the Celebration Banquet each year, we take time to recognize our outstanding Iowa state legislators--one from the Iowa House and one from the Senate. We call this the ‘Uncommon Public Service Award,’ based on a Hoover speech from 1948. In it, Hoover declares the emergence of the ‘common man’ as the basis of a solid and healthy society. Mr. Hoover maintained that leadership stems from “uncommon people” doing “extraordinary work” – those who go above and beyond the norm. The Uncommon Public Service Award is determined through open nominations from people throughout the state. The legislators selected show ‘uncommon’ public service above and beyond their time in the Capitol. This year we’re proud to recognize Sen. Ken Rozenboom and Rep. John Forbes.

A few of our members are taking advantage of a new opportunity offered by the Foundation. We’ve recently configured a way for you to make automated monthly gifts to the Foundation, or, to increase your membership level through monthly installments. For example, someone who wishes to increase from a $75 family membership to the $100 sponsor level, may opt to do so by signing up for 12 payments of just $8.33 a month! It’s a great way to increase your giving without a large, out-of-pocket expense.

Another perk of membership includes the annual Foundation Tour to Presidential Libraries. Each year we offer members the opportunity to visit other Presidential Libraries and Museums. Indeed, as a consequence we receive red carpet treatment! These trips are well planned and well attended.

In contrast, we regularly receive visitors here in West Branch who are members of other Presidential libraries foundations. In turn, their visits here are free. The recurring comment heard most regularly is, “Wow, I didn’t realize Hoover did all of this,” and “...the Hoover message is really inspiring!”

So to our Foundation members, the people who support the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and the legacy of Hoover’s life, I’d like to thank you for helping us present this message to our neighbors in Iowa and across the globe. And because of that support, I hope that you take pride in your Hoover Presidential Foundation membership and certainly take the time to enjoy those many advantages.

August 10 is Herbert’s 145th Birthday!

Watch your email as we head into August for a special way to celebrate Herbert Hoover’s 145th birthday!

Will you be among 145 Friends of Hoover to give $145 to further Hoover’s mission to share his life story?

This special giving opportunity makes it easier than ever, by setting up a monthly gift of just $12.08 in our secure online portal. You may choose automated withdrawal from your credit card or directly from your checking account--whichever is most convenient.

Your birthday wishes ensure Hoover’s voice is heard strong and clear for a new generation to learn from.

HOOVER’S Hometown Days

August 2nd & 3rd, 2019 * West Branch, IA hooverdays.org

★ Live Music
★ Mayor’s Parade
★ Fireworks
★ Inflatable Rides
★ Historic Chautauqua Tent
★ Hoover-Ball
★ Fire in the Hole Bags Tournament
★ All Events & Rides are Free!
...and much more!
Herbert Hoover and the Historians
Recent Developments: A Review Essay

Part 1

By Ellis W. Hawley

The negative image of Herbert Hoover created in the 1930s in American political and popular culture continues to be widely invoked and accepted. And professional historians continue to rank Hoover relatively low in presidential evaluations. Since the 1960s, however, particularly since the opening of the Hoover Papers in 1966, a wave of scholarly revisionism has challenged that image and sought to give him an important place in America’s political, cultural, institutional, and intellectual development. In the 1970s a more positive image emerged not only from mainstream political historians but also from new leftists, students of American modernism and consumerism, and art historians and of an organizational synthesis intended to explain modern American institutions. As one of that period’s newly inspired researchers, I was amazed both by the richness of the sources that had become available and by the breadth of interest in utilizing them.

In two previous articles in the “American History” published in 1981 and 1988, Thomas P. O’Brien and Philip Ziegler summarized and commented on the main outlines and features of this scholarly revisionism. By 1981, they noted, a revised Hoover had many of the characteristics that had made him attractive to contemporaries in the 1910s and 1920s. While recognizing certain failings and failings and discounting Hoover’s defense of himself, revisionist scholars were now depicting a man of integrity, and humanities, a man deserving respect and historical study for his role as a humanitarian, idealistic visionary, and institutional developer. For new leftists he had become something of a prophet, and other revisionists now saw him as having been a major figure in the evolution of the progressivism, the rise of a new managerial elite, and efforts to develop a substitute for social controls through new structures and new forms of leadership and cooperation in the private sector. His life prior to 1929 had been one of huge successes: as a mining engineer, business organization, wartime administrator, Secretary of Commerce, and presidential candidate. As president he had continued to push reforms and had been an innovative activist in efforts to promote recovery from the Great Depression.

In the 1980s, O’Brien noted, the ongoing revisionism tended to become less positive, as historians pointed out various failures and weaknesses in Hoover’s pre-presidential career and focused more on his political ineptitude and intellectual rigidity as president. Yet despite that tendency, much of the earlier revisionism remained intact and was now being filled out and added to in a variety of areas. A huge biographical gap in Hoover’s early life was now being filled, particularly in the work of George Nash. Fuller accounts were appearing of his work in shaping the emergence of new industries and new regulatory structures. And greater attention was now being given to his relations with racial minorities, his conduct of foreign policy, and his post-presidential achievements. Differences among revisionists persisted, but most continued to agree that Hoover had not been the hard-hearted reactionary, financial churl, and do-nothing president depicted in the earlier derogatory portrait.

Since the 1980s a number of historians have continued to see Hoover as a worthy historical subject, and in a variety of works they have reacted to, revised, redrew, and redirected the earlier revisionism. Among the works of

---Continued on page 4---

Take Advantage of New Tax Laws with Charitable Giving

While the tax laws seem to be ever-changing, Americans distributed an average of $9,200 from their IRAs to charities from 2017 to 2018, according to a new report from FreeWill, the estate planning service. These Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) surged by over 73% during that period, with 92% of nonprofit organizations reporting increases in QCD giving. In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

According to the above-mentioned report, the tax law changes mean that for many donors older than 70, QCDs may be the only way to get a meaningful tax benefit from charitable contributions as they will no longer itemize deductions and so will not have access to the charitable deduction.

**Sample Scenario**

John, who is over 70 1/2, is in the new 24% tax bracket for 2019 and makes a $10,000 gift to the Hoover Presidential Foundation using the QCD. This

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) happens to also be $10,000, then none of that RMD is included in his income.

If John is taking the standard deduction where no charitable contributions are deductible, his $10,000 QCD provides an effective tax deduction and will reduce his 2019 tax bill by $2,400 ($10,000 lower taxable income x 24% tax rate = $2,400 tax savings).

John’s savings are highest when he takes the standard deductions, but due to the lower Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limits, there are still tax savings even for those who itemize their deductions.

**What Kind of Charities Qualify?**
The charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. The Hoover Presidential Foundation meets these criteria.

**Getting Started: Learn More**

To learn more about the benefits of giving a gift as a qualified charitable distribution, contact Mendi McCarthy, Development Director at the Hoover Presidential Foundation, or consult your personal tax professional.

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By the Numbers

- You must be 70 1/2 or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income. This excludes nondeductible contributions.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is $100,000.
- For a QCD to count towards your current year’s required minimum distribution, the funds must typically come out of your IRA by December 31.

Please consult your tax specialist for complete rules and procedures.

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It's the story, stupid!
I don't know if I ever dreamed I would use James Carville's name in a President's message, but I have to give him credit for a line that I am adapting. You that are experienced, or students of Presidential history and campaigns, know that Mr. Carville, the campaign manager for Senator Bill Clinton in the 1992 Presidential race has been famously credited with simplifying Clinton's campaign message to, "It's the economy, stupid!" That ultimately led to Clinton's victory over George H.W. Bush.

So, let's simplify Herbert Hoover's overall message—"It's the story, stupid!" (Apologies to my mother, who told me to never call anyone stupid and I am not except--for me).

If you ask most uninformed people about Herbert Hoover, what's the first thing out of their mouths? "Why, Hoover was the depression President," or worse, "He caused the depression!" The only fact is, he was President WHILE the depression in the United States started (it had already begun in Europe) and continued for several years into the late 30's.

But it's the story that is important about Herbert Hoover. The beautiful National Historic Site, which includes many buildings to replicate what life may have been like in the 1880's when young Bertie called West Branch home, and the Presidential Library and Museum, tells Hoover's life story. And what a story it is!

It's the story of getting knocked down (becoming an orphan at the age of 9) and adventure (taking a train to Oregon carrying a small suitcase and two dimes sewn in his pocket). Of bunking his entrance exam to Stanford University, but passing it on the second try and being in the first graduating class. It's the story of taking a low paying job to prove himself in mining engineering, and becoming known internationally several years later as the "doctor of sick mines" and earning a fortune as a preeminent engineer.

It's the story of organizing and helping over a hundred thousand Americans get back to the states after becoming stranded in Europe at the outbreak of the Great War. It's organizing a nearly impossible job of feeding over ten million people in Belgium and northern France, and saving them from starvation.

It's the story of a man who gave up a very lucrative mining and business career to finish the last 50 years of his life in public service, taking not a dime in pay. It's of a man taking over a sleepy Department of Commerce, and in seven years turning it into a powerful and important department, not just in Washington, but in every home and business across the country.

It's the story of the first man to win the U.S. Presidency without ever winning an elected office or being a military hero. It's about a man who won his first election and lost his last election by a landslide. It's of a man called back into service by President Harry Truman, who knew what Hoover could do, and was not afraid to ask for his help when it was needed at the end of World War II.

It's the story of a man who reconvened with his roots in West Branch, ultimately choosing to place his Presidential Library in his hometown, even though he had donated millions to Stanford University and was on its Board of Trustees for 50 years.

Herbert Hoover's story is as big as you will ever find among all the U.S. Presidents. If you don't know the whole story we have it waiting for you here on the Hoover Campus in West Branch. Frankly, it will just whet your appetite for more. Pick up a biography (or two) on one of the most interesting persons in our country's history. Sign up as a researcher and dive into the archives (Note: Hoover has the best archivists in the Presidential Library system) and learn about the person called the Great Humanitarian by the millions of people he saved from starvation.

Herbert Hoover's story is a story of inspiration—that a boy born in a small Iowa town could become President of the United States. Let's not keep it "the best kept secret" anymore! ★

Herbert Hoover and the Historians
Continued from page 3 —

Major importance have been the final four volumes of the six-volume biography sponsored by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association (HHPLA, now the Hoover Presidential Foundation), new biographies by William Leuchtenburg, Glen Jeanne, and Kenneth Wyrte, a new history of the presidency by Charles Rappleye, and new studies of Hoover's relationship with the press, his agricultural, unemployment, conservation, and trade policies, his intellectual development and vision of a progressive future, and his family and recreational life. This essay will focus on these works, looking particularly at how they have affirmed or modified earlier revisionism and the contributions made to Hoover's current standing among historians.

Of the new biographies, the one most resistant to revision is William Leuchtenburg's Herbert Hoover (2009), published in The American Presidents series edited by Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. and Sean Wilentz. In Leuchtenburg's account, Hoover remains an unattractive character, elusive and wary, cold and overbearing, capable of sharp dealings, and given

to exercises in self-delusion, audacious manipulation, and bureaucratic infighting. His philosophical treatise American Individualism, seen by contemporaries as evidence of ruthlessness, really amounted to a "jeune acced" that could have been heard at most Kiwanis meetings. And as president, his efforts at reform accomplished little and his political ineptitude and distrust of government made it impossible for him to meet the challenges posed by the Great Depression and global disorder. Yet Leuchtenburg does express his gratitude to "the corps of revisionist historians who have labored indefatigably to provide us with a more nuanced portrait of Hoover." (178). And he does incorporate parts of that portrait, notably the progressive side of Hoover's early presidency, his managerial skills, and his success in getting together organizational structures that worked effectively to provide Belgian and postwar European relief, ensure that America's war-time allies were adequately fed, build a new kind of Commerce Department, and cope with the natural disaster created by the Mississippi River flood of 1927.

Also resistant to the positive revisionism on Hoover is Charles Rappleye's Herbert Hoover in the White House (2016). As president, Rappleye finds, Hoover was often surly, frustrated, and vindictive, conflicted and insecure, given to unproductive feuding with Congress and the press, and unable to transform himself from the hugely accomplished diplomat that Americans had elected in 1928 into the political leader, policy innovator, and regenerator of hope that they needed after 1929. His presidency was a failed one—and not just because of fate or poor timing. But, in Rappleye's view, it was also a highly significant one, a presidency torn and tortured by the birth pangs of a new order and therefore one that deserves the detailed scrutiny that he gives it to its political and legislative battles over the emergence of that order. Rappleye's work goes beyond previous accounts in its often gripping detail about those battles. While critical of Hoover, it also credits him with an active and energetic response to the depression, with being right about the dangers of a centrally planned economy, and with being the strongest pacifist ever to occupy the White House. In addition, despite his setbacks toward Hoover, Rappleye concludes that the president was a man of integrity, principle, and wisdom with a strong sense of duty, major pre-presidential and post-presidential achievements to his credit, and ideas that have had continuing resonance.

The new biography most embracing and adding to the positive revisionism on Hoover is Glen Jeanne's Herbert Hoover: A Life (2016). In this work and in his earlier contribution to the biography sponsored by the HHPLA, The Life of Herbert Hoover: Fighting Quaker, 1874–1932 (2012), Jeanne depicts Hoover as "one of the most extraordinary Americans of modern... Continued on page 10
What Do You Collect?

By Thomas F. Schwartz

Collaborating Collectors, the new temporary exhibit at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, explores the collecting habits of Herbert and Lou Hoover. But it ultimately poses the question “What do you collect?” When someone posed that question to me, I gave an unhelpful answer, “Don’t.” A more serious and thoughtful answer would also address the implicit question of “why” you collect certain things.

The Chicago-based interior designer, Nate Berkus, gave a useful way of looking at the exhibit: “I believe your home tells a story about who you are and who you aspire to be. We represent ourselves through the things we own. I don’t believe in trends. I believe in collecting things that you connect with. We should surround ourselves with things we care about, that have meaning. In very real ways, Herbert and Lou Hoover collected items individually but more often collaboratively in things that represented the things and ideas they valued.

In the remarkable home design by Lou Hoover of their residence in Palo Alto, California, the space dubbed the “Belgian Room” was created to display many of the hundreds of decorated flour sacks and lace given to the Hoovers during World War I by grateful Belgians. These items were both deeply personal expressions of thanks by people who would have gone hungry or been deprived of the vital home industry of lace-making, but each item is also an expression of subversion against the German Army of occupation.

Each flour sack and lace item represent the Belgian identity of a free and independent nation. The most frequent images on the flour sacks and in the lace are the Belgian flag. A small number of flour sacks are always rotated on display in the permanent galleries. The new temporary exhibit features oversized items that are too large for the display cases in the permanent galleries. The range of artistic craftsmanship is visually stunning. Some are painted, some embroidered, and some feature elaborate lace borders. All are invested with time, talent, and love.

A section of blue and white porcelains reflect a collaborative collecting passion that began in 1899 with their time in China. As newlyweds, the Hoovers immersed themselves into Chinese culture with Lou even hiring a tutor to teach her how to speak and write Mandarin. It was at this time they began collecting the famed blue and white porcelains, a technique refined and representative of the ancient Chinese culture. It was a collecting habit that Herbert Hoover continued beyond Lou’s death in 1944. Whether these beautiful objects brought back memories of the siege at Tsiening during the Boxer Rebellion or their travels in the lovely Chinese countryside, the pieces are a sight to behold.

A large number of paintings and other artwork represents the wide range of the Hoover’s interests. A number of works showing ships and fisherman not only brings to mind the type of travel the Hoovers used before commercial air travel provided an alternative to ships and passenger liners, but also Hoover’s favorite lifetime passion of fishing. A series of Southwestern American Indian scenes reflects Lou’s fascination with this region and its original inhabitants.

Eleven of twelve paintings commissioned for the United States Food Administration led by Herbert Hoover highlight the importance of food conservation during World War I. The Hoovers were readers and bookers, another passion they shared. Their work in translating De Re Metallica has been detailed in other blog posts. You can see an original copy of Hoover’s work in the current exhibit.

Hoover’s post World War II work, frequently took him to Germany where he was given presentation copies of works by famous German authors in German, a language he could not read. Perhaps the highlight of this section is an illuminated manuscript book created by Belgian nuns reproducing a famous speech given by Cardinal Mercier during the German occupation. Each page features hand-painted calligraphy with decorative borders.

Lou Hoover’s seminal project in documenting the White House history and furnishings led her to descendants of President James Monroe. They allowed Lou to reproduce Monroe’s desk and side table. She made one reproduction set for the White House and kept another for herself. She also purchased a bureau in the 1920s that had decorative scenes of Holland. It went to the White House with them in 1929. These furnishings are shown in pictures from the Hoover White House as they were displayed and used during his presidency.

The exhibit ends with various necklaces with Egyptian motifs, probably purchased during the Hoovers December 1905 vacation in Cairo. A number of still photographs of that trip likely taken by Lou reside in one of her albums. Digital scans are projected on a screen, providing visitors with scenes of the pyramids, the Ruins of Memphis, and the Sphinx.

The exhibit is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through October 27.

Helen learned about generosity as a child. Her mother and father taught her from a young age that if you are fortunate enough to have the resources to help others, you should. “If you were involved with any church or organization, you’ve learned about giving since you were a child,” she said. Helen reports being inspired by Herbert Hoover himself as she told me. “Hoover was a great giver. His talents were many and wonderful.” Helen Howe’s words cannot describe the effect you have on the campus and the USA program. Your talents, like Hoover’s, are also many and wonderful. The Hoover Foundation would not be the same without your continued support. Thank you, Helen.”

Donor Profile

Continued from page 1 —

program needed some money and I could see the real value in it for the students and the state of Iowa.”

The American Road

Summer 2019
2019 UNCOMMON STUDENTS

This marks the 22nd anniversary of the Uncommon Student Award (USA) program and this year's class is once again an amazing group of uncommon students. Choosing this class of uncommon students wasn't any easier than choosing the first class so many years ago.

The students recently spent a busy weekend at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and National Historic Site. During their time there, they learned more about President and Mrs. Hoover, met Leslie Hoover-Laurle, direct descendants of the president, and picked the brains of USA Alumni trying to gather all the pointers they could. They also spent time with Kim Bramer, Director of Development at AGP, who led workshops for the students and their parents; assuring they will have the best possible experience as they develop their projects.

The students will return to West Branch on October 26 to give presentations on their projects. Each student receives an award of $1,500. This year, three students will be chosen to win $10,000 scholarships to be used at a two- or four-year college, university or tech school anywhere in the United States. The public is invited to this event. I suggest a day trip to the Hoover campus to meet our Uncommon Students as they give their final presentations. You’re sure to be impressed!*

The Herbert Hoover Uncommon Students Class of 2019

Jack Anderson
Akron, IA
Akron-Westfield High School
A Touch Of Youth
"A Touch of Youth" is a non-profit cleaning service that offers the elderly, disabled, and handicapped in my community the opportunity to live in a clean environment without putting the pressure on them to clean themselves. My goal is to help out at least 50 people in my community by the end of the summer!

Ashley Behrends
Boone, IA
Boone High School
Aquaponics Program
In this program students get to explore a new and efficient way of growing. Throughout the course of the school year students designed an aquaponics system, created a budget for supplies, grew plants, and sold the products using a business plan. Many goals come along with this project including leadership skill development, advanced learning in biology and STEM fields, and creative idea implementation.

Lauren Barnes
Dubuque, IA
Hempstead High School
Great Kids: Teaching K-5
High school students tutor K-5 graders in a program of reading out-loud and selecting books of their choice. The program goals are for students to achieve and exceed grade level reading by reading daily.

Emma Blair
Ogden, IA
Ogden High School
Bringing Art Back to the Youth of a Small Town
My project's main focus is to get the youth in my community involved in art again. The program would help bring kids together in a fun, creative, and educational way, and would give an opportunity for kids to do art who would otherwise never be able to participate in art. It would help them to be imaginative and show off their talents through various art projects!

Jaci Childers
Mount Union, IA
Mount Pleasant High School
Women's Career & Leadership Conference
I will put together a series of conferences for women who want to take a professional leap and pursue a career. These conferences will be led by qualified female volunteers who will talk any attending women through processes such as building a resume, finding the right career based on their skillset, and how to complete a successful interview. This project hopes to promote confidence and leadership skills, and raise employment among these women.

Isaac Helfman
Neola, IA
Underwood High School
Kids In Conservation: Learn About Wildlife and The Great Outdoors
The goal of my project is to educate and excite youth on the importance of nature and wildlife conservation by guiding day trips to local wildlife areas. By hosting local trips, youth can see places not far from their homes, that they can easily access and enjoy with their families after the program concludes. I will also use additional resources by utilizing the education and expertise of wildlife officials from the local area.
STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

Seth Hoffman
Muscatine, IA
Muscatine High School
Ramps & Pathways To Stem For Muscatine Students
Impacting students early is critical to setting them up for future success. My goal is for each and every Pre-K student in Muscatine to have regular access to an inquiry-based PLAY environment which fosters growth in STEM thinking such that they are all set-up for STEM success as they move into K-12 classrooms.

Anna-Britt Lien
Castalia, IA
South Winneshiek Community School District
STEAM For the Next Generation
My project is to start an after-school program one day a week for the elementary students in my local town of Osian with a population of under 1,000 people. My goal is to offer these students something educational yet fun. In order to do this I plan to offer a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) class one day a week to introduce young children to the importance of science, technology, engineering, art, and math in a fun environment.

Addison Randall
Letts, IA
Louisa-Muscatine Livestock Leadership
My project will offer a grant for young students to be able to afford an animal to show at our local county fair. This grant will help the student in purchasing the animal, assist with feed costs, and will provide a student mentor to help increase their knowledge about the animal, how to show it, and answer any questions they have. I hope to inspire kids to explore the agriculture industry and what it has to offer.

Isha Kalia
Marion, IA
Linn-Mar High School
Composting: Green Tools for Schools
My goal is to introduce composting to my high school. It is a very simple way to divert the amount of trash ending up in landfills. School cafeterias are a huge producer of food waste. The majority of this food can be composted instead of being thrown away. Making changes on a local level can make a great impact on the environment and inspire others throughout the world.

Kate Whitson
Central City, IA
Central City Community Schools
Power of One Vote
I would like to show students how the "power of one vote" can impact how millions of dollars are spent on education. The difference between getting our new gym and finishing our expansion and not getting it was literally one vote. The goals of my project are to provide education on the history of our new school using real life examples on the importance of voting and sharing this information with other government classes in different school districts so that students do know that their opinions and actions are very important.

Marian Keita
Iowa City, IA
Iowa City High School
Belief Empowerment Confidence Optimism Motivation Excellence (BECOME)
"BECOME" will seek to install its members with confidence and energy to go out and become the optimal versions of themselves. At the same time, it will help to create bonds and relationships that might otherwise never have occurred.

Peter Limbert
Early, IA
Newell-Fonda Community School
NF Closet
My project involves collecting gently-used or new clothing items to be available to students in my school who participate in band or choir programs. Many band and choir events require that students dress in a specific manner. This can put a strain on many families economically. Some students do not attend concerts because they don't have the right clothing. I would like to create a program within my school to collect, clean, store, and distribute clothing to students who need it.

Alexi Mast
Ankeny, IA
Ankeny Centennial High School
Filling A Need: Water Aerobics For Adults with Special Needs
My project is a class for adults with special needs. I chose to do a water aerobics class because not enough opportunities exist for adults with special needs, and this project would provide a healthy activity that would also allow these adults to be active in a safe and fun environment, and to interact with their peers. I hope that I can continue to improve and grow my project into a self-sustaining program in the years to come.

Kathryn Wittrock
Urbandale, IA
Valley High School
RINRS - Recycling Instruments for Needy Kids
"RINRS" is a nonprofit I founded to remove unused musical instruments from basements or attics and redistribute the instruments to students in the Des Moines Area whose families cannot afford to rent or buy an instrument. The goal is to lower the financial burden on families, so that every child is able to participate in band or orchestra, regardless of socioeconomic status.

― Herbert Hoover

"To rise to leadership... to be UNCOMMON."

The American Road
Summer 2019
Fighting Recessions:
Hoover, Bush, and Obama

By Kendrick Clements

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, work was transformed in America. Many jobs—including law, medicine, and engineering—which had frequently been learned on the job, came to require formal academic training. Other fields, such as the study of the natural world and human society, which had largely been the callings of amateurs, also became professionalized. During the progressive era, the first great 20th century political reform movement in the United States, politicians called upon the expertise of the new professionals to define new tools for managing and improving government and society.

Stanford graduate mining engineer Herbert Hoover was an enthusiastic proponent of leadership by the new professionals. “The more men of engineering background who become public officials,” he said, “the better for representative government,” and in 1914 he left engineering and business to enter public service. From 1914 to 1917 he organized a food relief program for the people of occupied Belgium; then in 1917 he became U.S. Food Administrator for the duration of the war. In 1921 he became Secretary of Commerce, in which position the President put him in charge of dealing with a serious postwar recession.

At that point conventional wisdom among businessmen and government officials held that the business cycle was beyond human control. Hoover, however, had been talking to and reading the work of young professional economists who questioned that belief and argued that the government could moderate if not control both booms and busts. Springing into action, he mobilized economic experts, government officials, businessmen, and labor leaders in a voluntary program to maintain wage levels, undertake public works programs, and disseminate economic information. When the recession came to a quick end, he concluded that his novel methods had been effective.

As President during the beginning of the Great Depression of the 1930s, Hoover drew upon his 1921 experience to encourage local governments and businesses to fight the downturn, but he also added unprecedented federal action. Reluctantly, he authorized increasing levels of deficit spending and also arranged for the Federal Farm Board to loan money to farm cooperatives, to purchase farm surpluses, and even to offer loans directly to farmers. His Reconstruction Finance Corporation provided federally guaranteed loans to financial institutions, railroads, and local governments, and his Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Act appropriated $5 billion for public works projects to relieve unemployment.

Hoover’s policies seemed initially to steady the economy, but panic in Europe led to runs on the American gold supply that backed the dollar, and the Federal Reserve did little to support the President’s efforts. As Hoover’s term drew to a close, bank failures increased and unemployment exploded. No matter how much the administration had done, voters in 1932 concluded that the President cared more about big business than about people out of work and hungry.

Three-quarters of a century later, when the Great Recession struck the United States, Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama adopted policies that had many similarities to those of Hoover, though neither Bush nor Obama would have admitted any parallel. The Troubled Asset Relief Act of 2008 provided $700 billion to support financial institutions by buying up mortgage-backed securities that had proved largely worthless. In addition, the government loaned $34 billion to General Motors and Chrysler to prevent the auto companies’ bankruptcy. The Federal Reserve, taking a far more active role than it had in the 1930s, loaned generously to shaky businesses and extended other forms of credit as well. Over the next several years, these measures slowed the recession and gradually fostered a recovery. As Hoover had done, Bush and Obama reasoned that if major industries could be rescued from insolvency and credit restored, recovery would follow.

In retrospect, the policies pursued by Hoover, Bush, and Obama seem to have been substantially if not completely effective in halting the economy’s slide into depression, but voters gave them little credit for their achievements. Hoover gained a reputation for callousness to the sufferings of the unemployed, while Bush and Obama have been attacked for bailing out banks and corporations but being unwilling to help mortgage holders in danger of losing their houses or to prosecute bankers seen as defrauding millions of ordinary citizens.

The experience of the Great Recession suggests that political leaders in both parties have learned a good deal about how government can manage the economic cycle but haven’t yet understood that voters hate the “trickle down” approach that provides aid to corporations, banks, and the wealthy, and leaves ordinary people to fend for themselves. Although it is true that the New Deal combined most of Hoover’s policies, it combined those top-down approaches with other measures that had broader popular appeal. Hoover was defeated in 1932; Roosevelt was reelected three times. In a democracy, popular perceptions often matter as much as substance.
Challenges to the nomination of a Justice for the United States Supreme Court are not a new thing. Herbert Hoover had the opportunity to place three judges in his single term in office, and also faced challenges of his own, as you'll see in this Hoover Heads Blog by archivist Spencer Howard.

Supreme Court Nominations

by Spencer Howard, Archivist, 
Hoover Presidential Library and Museum

As President, Herbert Hoover had the opportunity to nominate three justices to the Supreme Court. In early 1930, Chief Justice William Howard Taft resigned due to ill health, and to replace him Hoover nominated Charles Evans Hughes. Hughes was clearly well qualified for the job, having had a distinguished legal career as well as serving as Governor of New York, United States Secretary of State, and from 1910 to 1916 as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, but progressives of both parties opposed Hughes' confirmation because of his perceived connections with corporate interests and Wall Street investors. After a bitter fight, Hughes was confirmed by a vote of 52 to 26.

Less than a month after Hughes was confirmed, Justice Edward Sanford passed away. To replace him, Hoover nominated John J. Parker of North Carolina, a widely respected judge on the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. With many favorable endorsements, Parker's confirmation seemed assured. But objections were raised by the American Federation of Labor because of a decision Parker had written regarding "yellow-dog" contracts, and by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People due to remarks Parker had made about African-Americans when he ran for Governor of North Carolina in 1920. Many Senators grew concerned about losing African-American and Labor votes in the mid-term elections, and Parker was rejected 41 to 39.

Hoover then nominated Owen Roberts, one of the attorneys who had investigated the Harding Administration "Teapot Dome" scandal. The Senate was in no mood for another fight. There were no hearings on Roberts' nomination; in fact, there wasn't even a vote! In executive session, the Vice President asked "Is there objection to the consideration of the nomination?" The Chair hears none. Without objection, the nomination is confirmed, and the President will be notified.

Upon the retirement of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. in 1932, Hoover's last appointment was Benjamin Cardozo, a Democrat and a highly regarded judge on the New York Court of Appeals, who was confirmed unanimously by the Senate. On the bench, Cardozo often sided with Justices Brandeis and Harlan Stone on the liberal faction of the Court. Even though Hughes had been characterized during his confirmation as a conservative, he also sided frequently with the more liberal justices. Roberts often provided the key swing vote between the liberal and conservative factions on the court. 🌟

The Senate's rejection of John J. Parker was a personal and political blow to President Hoover. As Hoover later remarked, "This failure of my party to support me greatly lowered the prestige of my administration." (Cartoon by Redlin Kirby, New York World, May 9, 1930)

Now through Oct. 27 at the Hoover Presidential Library Museum.
Learn more on page 5!


Herbert Hoover and the Historians

Continued from page 4 —

In recent years, historians have been uncovering unmade stories about Herbert Hoover. For example, Hoover was a key figure in the development of the modern welfare state, and his policies have been studied extensively in recent years.

In 1913, Hoover was appointed as the head of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), a federal agency responsible for the development of the Tennessee River basin. During his time at the TVA, Hoover implemented many successful projects, including the construction of the Muscle Shoals Dam, which provided electricity to millions of people in the region.

Other historians have focused on Hoover's role in the development of the modern food system. Hoover believed that a well-fed population was essential to national security, and he established the American Relief Administration during World War I to provide food to starving Europeans.

In recent years, scholars have also examined Hoover's role in the establishment of the United Nations. Hoover was a strong advocate for an international organization that could promote peace and cooperation. In 1943, he was appointed as the chairman of the American Committee for UN Participation, which played a key role in the establishment of the United Nations.

Overall, Hoover's legacy has been the subject of much debate and scrutiny in recent years. Some historians view him as a progressive leader who was ahead of his time, while others see him as a conservative who was out of touch with the needs of the American people.

The American Road

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Summer 2019
Trustee Profile:
Diana Gradert

by Brooke Ransom

Diana Gradert grew up with a strong farming background. She was raised on a hog, cattle, and crop farm in Muscatine, Iowa. Her family moved to Wilton, Iowa when her father sold his farm and bought a telephone company. The company, known as Wilton Telephone Company, became the family’s legacy. Upon graduating high school, Diana immediately went right to work for her father at the Wilton Telephone Company’s bookkeeper. From there, she continued to climb the corporate ladder. At age 46, Diana took over the telephone company as president.

The business, now titled WTC Communications, is a family business through and through. Diana ran the company for 16 years, then passed the torch to her son-in-law who now manages the business. Currently, she has two sons-in-law, a daughter, and a grandson - all working at the family business her father built. Diana is still involved with WTC Communications as a board member for the company.

The first time Diana visited the Herbert Hoover Museum and Library was an experience she will never forget. She recalls, “We had a foreign exchange student in 1984 from Germany. We had never gone before, so we took her to the Hoover campus and learned what a great man he was.” Diana recounts her shock of the true story of Herbert Hoover’s life. “The story is so interesting and not what people hear normally.” Diana became a trustee when she realized the importance of spreading the often-unheard story of Herbert Hoover’s legacy.

It is now Diana’s second year as a Hoover Presidential Foundation trustee. She loves the museum and is dedicated to ensuring it will be an excellent experience for generations to come. Her favorite aspect of the foundation’s work includes the Uncommon Student Award (USA) program. “You don’t find many programs like that. It is so unique and very worthwhile.” Diana is also passionate about maintaining and improving the Hoover campus as a trustee. Her future interests for the museum include creating more interactive displays and continuously keeping the exhibits up to date. She also encourages those involved with the Hoover Presidential Foundation to continue to “do all we can to publicize the campus and make people more aware.”

Currently, Diana resides in Muscatine, Iowa. Whenever possible, she loves to attend any event the Foundation puts on, and enjoys the lectures in particular. Diana is a joy to everyone she meets and the Hoover Presidential Foundation is beyond thankful for her impact as an engaged trustee.

the public interest or seemed so confident of his ability to improve life for everyone” (289). But the catastrophic would soon show him in another light.

The most recent of the new biographies of Hoover is Kenneth Whyte’s *Hoover: An Extraordinary Life in Extraordinary Times* (2017). Whyte draws on much of the revisistionist scholarship on Hoover, adds significant insights gleaned from previously unutilized accounts by Hoover’s associates, and provides an engaging and detailed account of a life that moves from a difficult childhood through roles as a successful businessman, life-saving humanitarian, innovative public servant, embattled president, and conservative policymaker. The challenge for Hoover biographers, Whyte says, has been “to find a coherent personality amid the nonsensical action.” To a greater degree than in other biographies, Whyte delves into Hoover’s conflicting impulses and the consequences of his efforts to reconcile them. Featured in particular are the clashes between Hoover’s modesty and his ambition, his ruthlessness and his humanity, his defense of freedom and his search for order, his sense of vulnerability and his faith in control. For the shaping of these impulses, Whyte assigns more credit than other biographers to Hoover’s Oregon experiences in the household of his uncle Henry Minsho. But also involved was a life that made him a kind of embodiment of the period’s national conflicts, particularly those between tradition and modernity, rural and urban, individual and collective, rich and poor, wet and dry, isolationist and internationalist.

In places Whyte is critical of what revisistionist scholarship has produced. He finds the “six-volume official Hoover biography” to be masterful in parts but “of uneven quality overall” and “generally defensive about Hoover.” In his own depiction of Hoover’s business career, he portrays a man who could be ruthless with “an element of savagery” in pursuit of his interests and one who would later seek to obscure the record of that. Yet when it comes to the presidency, Whyte’s portrayal tends to be closer to Jeaneanne to Leachaburg. He notes Hoover’s weaknees as a political leader but also credits his presidency with important successes, notably in the areas of conservation, social research, and prison reform. And as Hoover faced the depression, Whyte credits his presidency with an unprecedented intervention program that produced economic upticks on no fewer than six occasions. Like Jeaneanne, moreover, Whyte is inclined to see the last upturn as having a potential to continue had it not been undercut by Roosevelt and the New Dealers. Like Jeaneanne also, he sees the post-presidential Hoover as an important figure in helping to develop a new conservation that could serve as an antidote to the New Deal. Politically, he concludes, Hoover can be seen both as a progenitor of New Deal liberalism and as a father of modern conservatism.

Watch for the remainder of this article in the November issue of American Road.

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Conference Highlight of Hometown Days

Continued from page 1 —

Hoover Institution will then speak about Hoover’s efforts during the Russian Famine of 1920-23. He will be followed by Hoover biographer Hal Wett, who will speak about Hoover’s efforts to feed Poland and Finland at the onset of World War II.

Abstracts

George H. Nash
*Master of Emperors*: The Humanitarian Career of Herbert Hoover

Nash will examine the humanitarian theme in the life of Herbert Hoover, from the outbreak of World War I through the remainder of his long career, with emphasis on his extraordinary relief work in Europe in 1919.

Mary Elizabeth Cox
*Hunger in War and Peace*; *Women and Children in Germany*, 1914-1924

This talk specifically examines Herbert Hoover’s role in feeding Germany. At the outbreak of the First World War, Great Britain quickly took steps to initiate a naval blockade against Germany. As the grip of the blockade strengthened, Germans complained that civilians—particularly women and children—were going hungry because of it. The issue beguited someone to step in and relieve German women and children with food aid.

Bertrand M. Patenaude
*Sap It, She! No, Comrade!* Hoover’s Aid to Lenin’s Russia

When a devastating famine descended on Bolshevik Russia in 1921, Herbert Hoover’s American Relief Administration responded with a massive two-year relief campaign that battled starvation and disease and saved millions of lives. Today, it is largely forgotten.

Hal Elliott Wett
*Hoover Battle for the Hunger of Europe*, 1939-42

Hoover, Roosevelt and the battle over aid to Europe unravel the complicated story of those who supported supplying those unfortunates who found themselves under Nazi occupation or victims of Nazi aggression and those who were adamantly opposed. Hoover representatives in London persistently badgered the British government to allow food shipments through the blockades. For over three years Hoover dug in his heels and he and supporters battled for hungry Europeans on a half-dozen fronts.
SAVE THIS DATE
Thursday, Oct. 17

Join us in a celebration of Herbert Hoover's life and legacy, with Hoover family members, recognition of Uncommon Iowa legislators, and fascinating speakers!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT HOOVERPRESIDENTIALFOUNDATION.ORG

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**Events**

**July 24**
Youth Hoover-Ball Camp, 4th & 5th grade
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hoover-Ball courts

**July 25**
Youth Hoover-Ball Camp, 6th & 7th grade
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hoover-Ball courts

Family Movie: The Greatest Showman
1 p.m. Figge Auditorium

**Aug. 2**
Hoover's Hometown Days Begins
4 p.m. All over West Branch

Youth Hoover-Ball Tournament
4 p.m. Village Green

**Aug. 3**
Hoover's Hometown Days - all day

Hoover-Ball National Championships
9 a.m. Hoover-Ball courts

Foundation Member's Picnic
11:30 a.m. Next to Birthplace Cottage

Hoover Life Celebration
12:30 p.m. Next to Birthplace Cottage

Hoover Conference
The Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover
2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Figge Auditorium
(See story page 11)

2:10 p.m. George Nash: The Humanitarian Career of Herbert Hoover

2:50 p.m. Mary Elizabeth Cox: Hunger In War and Peace: Women and Children in Germany

3:45 p.m. Bertrand M. Potenoud: Say it Ain’t So, Comrade! Hoover’s ARA in Lenin’s Russia

4:25 p.m. Hal Elliott Wert: Hoover Battles for the Hungry of Europe

**Aug. 15**
Genealogy Workshop
2 p.m. Hoover Presidential Library

**Aug. 16**
Family Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean
6:30 p.m. Figge Auditorium

**Oct. 17**
Celebration Banquet
5 p.m. Kirkwood Hotel, Cedar Rapids