



IPI Update Fall 2005

Quarterly Newsletter of the Independence Park Institute

Opening of the *Historians in the Making* Learning Lab at the Independence Living History Center

The *Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia* program is geared towards students in grades 5-8. In this program, students become historians by analyzing primary source documents, images, and objects to learn about people, events, and life in 18th Century Philadelphia. The *Historians in the Making* Learning Lab has 8 interactive stations where students will get to experience and research history first hand.

Students will be guided through the process by the "Historian's Notebook" located at each station. It will provide background information, questions, and instructions to help ensure students have an engaging learning experience. The notebook will pose a question and then guide the students to resources where they can find the answers and make their own conclusions.



Wall of Portraits in the *Historians in the Making* Learning Lab

Along with primary sources at each station, the students will also be directed to the walls of the learning lab itself. There students will find large maps, paintings, and portraits of Philadelphia inhabitants. There will also be an exhibit case containing original artifacts from the park's collection. The students will learn the importance of preserving historical artifacts for future generations.

For the on-site portion of this program, students will be placed in

groups of no more than 4 to a station in our learning lab. Programs are offered each day at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 2:00 PM.

There are also pre-visit and post-visit lesson plans that go along with this program. These lesson plans can be found at <http://independenceparkinstitute.com/inp/index.htm>.

To book a program or for more information please call 215-597-2760.



Acting Superintendent Dennis Reidenbach with students from Resurrection of our Lord Elementary School

Creating the Independence Park Institute is a Team Effort!



Rosemary Lavin, volunteer at Independence National Historical Park, is an important member of the IPI team! Rosemary is a retired teacher who shares her dedication, love of learning, and experience with IPI staff and classes coming to the park. She has helped with everything from doing research for programs, proofreading education materials that will be printed, and obtaining image permission for the learning labs, to teaching classes that came for the field test of the *Daily life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia* program. Now that the Learning Labs are opening, she will be a great asset to the classes that book programs and participate in IPI programs.

A Note from the Teacher's Desk: Sue Glennon, Supervisory Education Program Specialist

This is an exciting time at the Independence Park Institute (IPI), as we open our learning labs in the Independence Living History Center. Our first school groups have now experienced the *Historians in the Making* learning lab, after completing the lesson plans from the *Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia* education program. The two other learning labs, one focusing on archeology and the other on Benjamin Franklin, will be opening in the next few months.

The IPI is committed to providing high quality, interactive learning experiences for the school children and their teachers who visit the park. Programs are based on the stories and resources of the park, and aligned with the curriculum that teachers must follow in the schools. These learning labs will provide the opportunity for students and teachers to experience history in an engaging, immersive learning environment with many opportunities for hands-on activities and critical thinking while collaborating with their peers.

These learning labs would not be possible without the hard work of the Education Program Developers and the constant help, support, and cooperation from all park divisions and from our partners at Eastern National and the William Penn Foundation.

Thank you for making this happen!

Sue Glennon
Supervisory Education Program Specialist

Independence Park Institute Field Trips

In order to make the programs offered by the Independence Park Institute (IPI) the best they can be, IPI staff and assistant park curator, Isabel Jenkins, took several field trips during the month of September to observe education programs and operations at other historic sites. Talking with staff at each location gave us the opportunity to learn from the successes and challenges of others. The staff at each place the IPI visited was a font of information offering helpful advice on everything from programming ideas and advertising, to sharing handouts, guides, staffing and scheduling tips.

The first trip was to Montpelier, September 13-15. IPI Staff had a chance to talk with Montpelier education staff about their programs as well as observe one on slavery and one on the Constitutional Convention which highlighted the role of James Madison. IPI staff also had the opportunity to meet with the curatorial staff. They were nice enough to share items in their collection relating to Dolley Todd Madison, some she may have even had while she lived in Philadelphia.



Montpelier under renovation

On September 21, IPI Education program developers Rick Starr and Amber Kraft ventured down to the Center for Archeology, Baltimore County Public Schools and met with

George Brauer. The main purpose of this trip was to gather information that can be used when setting up IPI programs in the Archeology Learning Lab. He shared a lot of very useful information about how their archeology program is set up as well as strategies for what activities worked well for them in the past and some others they have tried and have needed to improve. He has a marvelous program and is a fascinating and insightful person to talk to.



Center for Archeology, Baltimore County Public Schools

The final trip for the month was to Lowell National Historical Park and to the Tsongas Center. From September 28-30, IPI staff got to observe five different education programs and speak with Tsongas staff. They had a lot to share about their programs and experiences.



Education Program at Lowell

The IPI would like to thank all of the institutions we visited and all of the wonderful folks we talked with. We thank you for sharing your insight and experience with us.

Promoting the IPI



Amber Kraft talks with educators at the NCC Educators Open House

Independence Park Institute (IPI) staff participated in the National Constitution Center's (NCC) Educators Open House on October 18 and the Teacher's Night at Villanova University on November 1. Both of these events had a great turn out! IPI staff talked with Philadelphia area educators,

handed out folders stuffed with useful information for teachers about visiting Independence National Historical Park with their class, and signed teachers up for the IPI mailing list so that they can receive the IPI Update and information about summer teacher institutes, and other programs.

At the NCC Educators Open House, participants included museums and institutions in the historic Philadelphia area. Teachers gathered information while enjoying appetizers, live music, and a presentation about the upcoming Franklin 300 exhibit which opens at the NCC on December 15, 2005 and runs through April 30, 2006. The exhibit will then travel to St. Louis, Houston, Denver, Atlanta, and end in Paris, France.



Rick Starr and Amber Kraft man the table during Teacher's Night at Villanova University

The IPI was one of the institutions participating in the Teacher's Night hosted by Villanova University and Congressman Curt Weldon. K-12 teachers from Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties came to gather information about field trips and resources for their classrooms.



National Park Service
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The IPI Update is the quarterly newsletter of the Independence Park Institute. The Independence Park Institute offers education programs geared toward wide and varied audiences. Programs connect participants of all ages to the resources and stories of Independence National Historical Park.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

2005 MAAM Conference, Baltimore

On October 31, the IPI team traveled to the 2005 Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM) conference in Baltimore, MD. While there, two of our very own, Sue Glennon, Supervisory Education Program Specialist, and Isabel Jenkins, Museum Curator, presented a session entitled "If Objects Could Talk: Successful Education Programs Through Cross-Departmental Collaboration" with Michelle Ortwein and Bill Troppman from Valley Forge National Historical Park. About 45 people attended their session to learn about the benefits of cross-departmental collaborative efforts in producing successful education programs and the importance of incorporating artifacts into museum education.



There was a full house for Sue and Isabel's presentation during the 2005 MAAM Conference



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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October is Pennsylvania Archeology Month



Family participates in IPI Archeology Month Program

Education Staff from the Independence Park Institute (IPI) presented hands-on archeology programs for families during the October 15 Archeology Open House at the Independence Living History Center (ILHC). Children had the opportunity to learn more about what

archeologists do by examining artifacts and discovering what these fragments can tell us about Philadelphia's past.

The IPI, together with the ILHC Archeology Laboratory, also produced an Archeology Month Activity Sheet for use by parents, teachers, and students.

Spread the Word

Tell all the teachers you know about the fun and exciting programs being offered by the Independence Park Institute!

