



IPI Update Summer 2005

Quarterly Newsletter of the Independence Park Institute

Benjamin Franklin and the American People Summer Institute for Teachers of Grades K-12



Teachers participating in the 2005 Summer Institute for Teachers

From July 11-22, 2005, 25 teachers participated in this year's Summer Institute for Teachers of Kindergarten through 12th grade. These participants toured the homes and public buildings that Franklin visited, they listened and talked to Franklin historians, and they got to see original artifacts that belonged to Franklin. By the end of the Institute, these 25 teachers were Franklin experts themselves!

Each teacher received continuing education credits for their participation and was required to create a detailed teaching project about Benjamin Franklin that they will implement in their classroom during the 2005-2006 school year. They used the information that they learned throughout the two weeks along with ideas from fellow classmates and master teachers to come up with creative ways to teach about Benjamin Franklin. Their new lessons will

prepare students for Franklin's 300th birthday which is in January 2006!

This two-week workshop was presented by the Independence Park Institute in partnership with the Capital College of Penn State University and was funded by a "We the People" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Teachers work on a cross-curricular lesson plan involving history and geography during the 2005 Institute.

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



I'm so excited to be a part of the team that's creating the Independence Park Institute. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Genius without education is like silver in the mine." I truly believe that the education programs, materials, and facilities of the Independence Park Institute will enable students and teachers to mine the wealth of resources that Independence National Historical Park has to offer.

Our hands-on programs make history come alive for students as they investigate primary resources, take on the role of Philadelphians from the 1790s, travel through African American history, become archeologists and explore historic urban excavations, and experience Benjamin Franklin's life by trying their hand at operating a printing press or playing a glass armonica.

These education initiatives have been made possible through the generosity of the William Penn Foundation, and through the commitment and perseverance of the senior management staff at Eastern National, Independence National Historical Park, and the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service. I am so grateful for their continued support of the Independence Park Institute.

New Staff Joins the IPI Team

Rick Starr, a Park Ranger (Interpretation), joined the IPI staff as an Education Program Developer on May 2nd. Since that time he has done great work with planning and facilitating the 2005 Summer Teacher Institute, *Benjamin Franklin and the American People*. He was also involved with the field test for the *Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia* program. Rick is doing a great job and we are happy to have him on board!



Rick Starr, Education Program Developer

Another new addition to the IPI team is Ruth Bakker from the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services. The IPI is receiving part-time clerical support from Ruth. This assistance has allowed the IPI to answer teacher inquiries in a timely manner, and schedule school groups for the IPI Education Center programs. We are glad that she is part of the team!



Ruth Bakker

Creating the Independence Park Institute is a Team Effort!



Independence Park Institute

Museums and historic sites are unique environments in which to educate. Both allow students the opportunity to experience and learn directly from historic objects, documents, and buildings. Cross-departmental collaborative efforts between educators, curators, and professionals from other departments are essential in the developmental process and provide the opportunity to produce highly successful programs.

To this end, the Independence Park Institute has teamed up with Assistant Curator, Isabel Jenkins, to produce education programs that incorporate artifacts not just for reference, but as core teaching tools. Isabel's knowledge about learning history through artifacts has been essential as the IPI staff teaches students how we interpret history and how historians learn about the past.

Isabel has assisted with both the planning and implementation of many IPI projects including the field test and web-site for the *Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia* program, the learning labs that will be in the Independence Living History Center, and the *Benjamin Franklin and the American People* Summer Institute for Teachers of Grades K-12.

Isabel brings another level of expertise to the education department. As a curator, she provides a unique perspective and helpful insights about using objects from the park's collection to create meaningful and relevant education programs for students and teachers.

Isabel has been working at Independence National Historical Park in the division of Cultural Resource Management for three and a half years and has a background in archeology.

Thank you to Doris Fanelli, Chief of Cultural Resource Management, and Karie Diethorn, Chief Curator, for allowing Isabel to work with the Independence Park Institute on the development of our education programs, materials, and facilities.



Isabel Jenkins talks to a group of students about what historians can learn from archeology.

Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia Field Test

In the *Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia* program, students participate in web-based lessons and activities before their park visit and take on the role of a person living in 1790s Philadelphia. While at the park, students experience a hands-on program where they work as teams of historians to learn about the daily life and the significant achievements of several diverse people who lived and worked in Philadelphia during the 18th century.

This ranger-led program allows students to investigate portraits, artifacts, and historical records as they learn more about 18th century Philadelphians like Benjamin Franklin, Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and Dolley Todd. A Teacher Guide with pre-visit and post-visit lessons has been created to accompany this program.

Field testing was conducted for the *Daily Life and Diversity in 18th Century Philadelphia* education program in May 2005. Thirteen 3rd through 8th grade teachers taught the web-based pre-visit lessons in their classrooms, and then brought their classes to the park where they experienced a hands-on program.



Students also toured several park sites and participated in ranger-led house tours with a focus on daily life of 18th century Philadelphians.



The field test was very successful and the IPI staff received a lot of great feedback through surveys and written comments from teachers and students. This feedback led to the creation of additional resource sheets that will help teachers become familiar with the 18th century Philadelphia households that feature prominently in the education program. Teacher feedback will also be used to revise the lesson plans and the web site.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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.

Trip to Colonial Williamsburg

In April, IPI staff took a trip to Colonial Williamsburg to talk to educators and observe their archeology programs first hand. While there, the IPI Team also got a chance to take a tour of the archeology lab and talk to archeologists about what they would most like students to learn about their profession.

The trip was very successful and very helpful in solidifying our ideas for the programs we are going to offer in the fall. The Williamsburg staff was extremely helpful and we appreciate that they shared their knowledge and experience with us.



Archeology Program in Williamsburg



Archeology lab at Williamsburg



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The IPI at the Independence Living History Center



Renovations at the Independence Living History Center (located at the corner of 3rd and Chestnut Streets) are moving right along. The Archeology Lab and the Once Upon a Nation areas are already operational. The space for the three Independence Park Institute Learning Labs is on its way to being operational by the Fall of 2005. Many exciting education programs are in the works! When these three learning lab spaces are completed, they will provide hands-on learning

opportunities for over 20,000 school children per year.

The **Historians in the Making Learning Lab** and the **Archeology Learning Lab** should be operational in October 2005. The **Benjamin Franklin Learning Lab** will be operational in January 2006. These new educational programs will be a great addition to Independence National Historical Park.

Spread the Word

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

