Celebration Banquet

If you enjoyed last year’s Celebration Banquet, “Charting the Course,” featuring a panel discussion with descendants from three presidential families, you’re definitely going to want to come to this one as well. If you missed last year’s banquet, this is the one you’ll want to start attending as an annual tradition!

Our speaker this year is renown presidential historian and author Doris Kearns Goodwin. Ms. Goodwin is the author of six critically acclaimed and New York Times best-selling books, including her most recent, The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism. And we have a great evening planned!

The banquet will be held Oct. 23 at the Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids. It is the key fundraising event for the Foundation. Table sponsorships are available now at various prices on a first-come, first-served basis. Individual tickets will go on sale August 24 with limited availability. For table sponsorship information, visit HooverPresidentialFoundation.org and click the Celebration Banquet link under the News & Events tab.

During the banquet, we’ll hear about current Hoover Presidential Foundation news and plans for the future, unveil the 2016 exhibit line-up, and honor the 2015 Uncommon Public Service winners. Doris Kearns Goodwin will, of course, be our keynote speaker!

• World-renowned presidential historian
• Author of 6 New York Times best selling books
• Pulitzer Prize winner
• Network television personality

Ms. Goodwin was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in history for No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II, and is the author of the bestsellers When the World Was Young, Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream and The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys, which was adapted into an award-winning five-part TV miniseries.

Ms. Goodwin is well known for her appearances and commentary on television, where she is seen frequently on NBC, MSNBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, CNN, The Charlie Rose Show and Meet the Press. Other appearances include Oprah Winfrey Show, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, The Colbert Report, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, and many more. Ms. Goodwin has served as a consultant and has been interviewed extensively for PBS and the History Channel’s documentaries on LBJ, the Kennedy family, Franklin Roosevelt, Abraham and Mary Lincoln, and Ken Burns’ The History of Baseball and The Civil War.

Biographical information provided by DorisKearnsGoodwin.com.

Celebration Banquet Table Sponsorships

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<tr>
<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>Statesman</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<td>Third or Fourth row table, prominent sponsor recognition and more *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Fifth or Sixth row table, prominent sponsor recognition and more *</td>
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*All tables include seating for 10. See page 2 for registration details.

* Go to HooverPresidentialFoundation.org and click the REGISTER FOR AN EVENT banner at the top of the page for complete details.

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Message from the President

Charlie Becker, president, Board of Trustees

We’re excited about the buzz being generated from the Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit. We’re seeing vehicles in the parking lot from across the United States – even visitor registrations from as far away as Hawaii. If you’re tuned into the Foundation Facebook and Twitter pages, you may have seen some of the video testimonials. “We never knew that about Hoover,” “There’s more here than what we expected,” “It’s an impressive layout,” are a few comments we’ve heard so far.

If you’re not following the Foundation on social media, please consider doing so. There’s a lot going on and the posts are timely and very interesting. Did you catch the Twitter reenactment of Hoover’s effort to aid 120,000 Americans stranded in Europe? You can see it all on Twitter at @HooverHeads. You can follow us @HooverPresEnds, and find us on Facebook by searching for HooverPresFoundation.

Hoover led an exemplary life. The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and WWI gives you a taste of how he became a renowned humanitarian. You’ll want to make sure to put this on your ‘must do list’ before the exhibit closes on Oct. 25.

Oct. 23 is another important date to remember. The Foundation’s biggest fundraiser of the year, the Celebration Banquet, is that night. Our featured speaker for the evening is Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of six critically acclaimed New York Times best-selling books. New York Magazine calls her, “America’s historian-in-chief.” Look for more details about the banquet in this newsletter.

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 things like this newsletter. As you can tell, there’s a lot happening at the Hoover Presidential Foundation, and we’re glad you have taken a part in with your membership!

— Charlie Becker, president, Hoover Presidential Foundation

Celebration Banquet

Table Sponsorship Order

☐ YES! I’d like to sponsor a table at the Celebration Banquet, Friday, Oct. 23!

<table>
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<th>Quantity</th>
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3 ways to register!

• MAIL your payment to:
  Celebration Banquet, Hoover Presidential Foundation
  PO Box 695 • West Branch, IA 52358

• REGISTER ONLINE
  www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org
  and click the REGISTER FOR AN EVENT banner in the top right corner of the page

• CALL US
  at 319-643-5327 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. central time

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City ____________________________ State ______ Zip _______
Phone ____________________________ Email __________________________

Meet the Trustees

Robert N. Downer

In this issue of The American Road, we continue our series with an introduction of Robert Downer of Iowa City. For those who received our last issue, you may recall reading about the John Hughes award Bob received from the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce in February. An active Foundation board member for 14 years, no doubt we’ll be hearing more about Bob’s efforts in the future!

An Iowa City attorney, Bob is married to Jane G. Downer and has two children, Elsie and Andrew. His interest in the Library-Museum campus and the work of the Foundation arose from a variety of sources. His family, from central and southwest Iowa, had always been admirers and supporters of President Hoover. “At that time I did not know of his earlier relief efforts, exhibits, having more special events and exhibits and creating more ‘partnerships’ with entities such as the University of Iowa would be ways in which such a vision might be accomplished. “Because each new Presidential Library and Museum seems to be trying to outdo those already in existence, I don’t see a significant expansion of the present campus as being a priority, but we do want to make certain that visitor experiences are positive, and I believe that has been the case. This is a way in which the campus can stand out.”

Bob has been active on many boards and community foundations. He recently retired from the Iowa Board of Regents, has been active in ROTC Club, Optimist Club, Iowa City Public Library and First United Methodist Church in Iowa City. He’s also earned numerous distinctions throughout his career, having been recognized among the Best Lawyers in America, Who’s Who in America and American Law, and the Iowa State Bar Association.

Robert N. Downer, 14-year member, Hoover Presidential Foundation Board of Trustees
Most people who observe National Doughnut Day by eating a doughnut probably do not realize that the celebration had its origins in World War I.

**Doughnuts & Doughboys**

By Thomas F. Schwartz

Among the footnotes in Herbert Hoover’s four-volume *An American Epic*, detailing his global hunger relief efforts in the first half of the Twentieth Century, he directs readers to consult Evangeline Booth and Grave Livingston Hill’s *The War Romance of the Salvation Army* for their numerous contributions to help soldiers and civilians during The Great War. One of the more unique passages in the book is a detailed description of the first doughnuts made by the “lascars” of the Salvation Army for the soldiers at Montiers, France. Seeking to counteract the homesickness of soldiers as well as misery brought about by 36 days of continuous rain and trench foot that resulted from the damp exposure, the women of the Salvation Army decided to use the apples in the surrounding orchards to bake pies. They soon discovered that they lacked an oven in which to bake the pies. Plan B was to make doughnuts. But even this alternative proved difficult.

The numerous problems they needed to overcome are outlined by the authors: “Flour was obtainable only in small quantities. Now and then they could get a sack of flour or a bag of sugar, but not often. Lard also was a scarce article.” Moreover the women “had no rolling-pin and no cake-cutter in the outfit. Nevertheless, they bravely went to work. The little tent intended for such things had blown down, so the lascars had to stand out in the rain to prepare the dough.” Eventually someone found an empty grape juice bottle that became the rolling-pin and a knife was used to cut out each doughnut. An open fire with a fry pan was set up and an assembly-line could fry up to seven doughnuts at a time resulting in 150 doughnuts for the first day. Their ingenuity was a remarkable achievement that did not, however, satisfy the 800 men who desired one of the tasty morsels. The next day more improvements were made by using the top of the baking powder can for the doughnut shape and the inside tube of the coffee percolator to make the doughnut hole. Production rose to 300 hundred. More than comfort food was being provided to the soldiers. A smiling face and an understanding ear to listen to the soldiers also accompanied each donut served. Booth and Hill joked about the impact of their efforts: “The girls prayed over the doughnuts, and then got the maximum of grace out of the minimum of grease.”

Continued improvements raised the total production to 5,000 doughnuts a day with the use of a very tiny French stove. With the increase in doughnut output, the authors noticed “some of the unresting workers developed ‘doughnut wriggle’ from sticking to the job too long at a time.” This condition is better known as carpal tunnel syndrome or repetitive strain syndrome.

National Doughnut Day takes place the first Friday of June every year. It was created in 1938 by the Salvation Army in memory of workers in Montiers, France who began the practice of making doughnuts for the young soldiers. Most people, who observe the day by eating a doughnut, probably do not realize that the celebration had its origins in World War I.

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**Mark your calendars for 4th weekend in October**

With the dog days of summer behind you and the holidays looming ahead, there will be a lot going on in October at the Hoover Campus to fill your schedule.

On Thursday, Oct. 22, join us for a gravesite program in remembrance of Herbert Hoover’s state funeral 51 years ago. We are finalizing arrangements with a very interesting keynote speaker, and will announce that selection in the *American Spirit* e-newsletter as soon as details are finalized. We will also have a ceremonial wreath laying and several musical selections to be performed live. The program will begin at noon at the gravesite. The public is invited to attend this free event.

Andy Hoover and Leslie Hoover-Lauble prepare to lay the third of three wreaths during last year’s 50-year commemoration ceremony.

Friday, Oct. 23, marks the Celebration Banquet with keynote speaker Doris Kearns Goodwin. Table reservations are now open online at www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org or by clicking the

REGISTER FOR AN EVENT link at the top right corner of each page. Individual ticket sales will open on Aug. 24 at the same web location.

The Uncommon Students Award program runs all day Saturday, Oct. 24 in the Figgie Auditorium. The public is invited, and will witness presentations on 15 exciting projects as students vie for one of three $5,000 scholarships.

Sunday, Oct. 25 marks the official closing date for *The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and WWI* exhibit. There have been rumors that it could be held over by popular demand, but if you haven’t experienced it yet, do it soon! We know for sure – the Belgian Village portion of the exhibit will close Oct. 25, as it must be removed before winter weather returns to West Branch. ★
Executive Director’s Message

Jerry Fleagle, IOM, CAE

This summer has brought the excitement of the long anticipated Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and World War I special exhibit to the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and National Historic Site. I am not going to go into detail on the exhibit here (we have extensive coverage in this issue of the American Road)—besides, I want you to come and see it!

From the moment you enter West Branch and see the Belgian Village straight in front of you, to entering the Figgie Auditorium, replete with five projectors and 35 screens, to the Hotel Savoy/Humanitarian exhibit, the sheer terror of bombs going off in the World War I trench, and then sampling an authentic “Hoover Relief Lunch,” you will know this is an exhibit unlike any you’ve seen on the Hoover Campus before! So, come see it! Better yet, tell your friends and neighbors about it! So often, we hear, almost in apologetic tones, “We haven’t been to the Museum in years,” or worse, “We have driven by, but never stopped.” The story being told is one of value and pride in what one American who came from humble beginnings accomplished during his lifetime.

This summer, more than any other, makes a trip to the Hoover Campus a “Staycation/day-trip,” all for less than $50, including lunch! Here on the Hoover Campus, anecdotally, we are seeing more vehicles with out-of-state license plates visiting than Iowa plates—and we know people are travelling more this year. So, come and see it! Explore and experience the Hoover Campus this summer and give one person this copy of the American Road, and encourage them to come to West Branch! I guarantee they will thank you for the suggestion after their visit!

Here’s the best insider tip I can give: If you want to get the most bang for the buck, come on Saturday, August 8 for Hoover’s Hometown Day! In addition to the Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit, the Foundation holds a Cookout Picnic for all members under the shade trees at the Yellow House on the Hoover Campus, where you can chat with several members of the Hoover family who are back for the weekend. The Life Celebration on the Hoover Stage at 1PM features Eric Weinik from the Hoover Institution in Palo Alto, California. The 28th Annual National Hoover-Ball championships are held all day, and the Park and downtown district teens with activities for both young and old! The day caps off with an impressive fireworks show, visible from the front lawn of the Library. All of the outdoor activities are free, so, (say it with me) Come and see it!

I look forward to seeing you in West Branch this summer! ★

—Jerry Fleagle, Executive Director,
Hoover Presidential Foundation

Employee Spotlight

Leah Baas
Communications Intern

Leah Baas, native of Le Mars, I.A., is the summer 2015 Communications Intern at the Hoover Presidential Foundation. She will be graduating from the University of Iowa in December 2015 with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. She has enjoyed being involved on the UI campus as a Career Peer Advisor and Marketing Street Team blogger at the Pomerantz Career Center. She is a member of the Career Leadership Academy and is on the student staff at the Center for Conferences.

Growing up, Leah always thought she would follow in her mom’s footsteps and become a CPA, “I took all the elective business classes my high school offered and even attended Accounting Camp one summer at the University of South Dakota,” she said. But when she got to college, she quickly realized her mom was more excited about her economics, calculus, and statistics courses than she was. Realizing she possessed more of her dad’s creative genes, Leah switched her major to Journalism and Mass Communication after the fall semester of her sophomore year and hasn’t looked back since. “I began to actually enjoy my classes and looked forward to assignments and projects. That’s when I knew I was pursuing the right major,” she said.

When she isn’t working or attending school, Leah spends her free time exploring eastern Iowa with friends. “Biking, hiking, and canoeing are some of our favorites,” she said. She also enjoys spending time with family, despite being five hours away from most of them. “Both my immediate and extended families are very close. Whether it’s them coming to me, me going to them, or us meeting up somewhere, we always have a lot of fun,” Leah said.

Leah is never one to say “no” to trying something new. Most recently, she took a crack at Hoover-Ball, the sport Hoover played with his cabinet on the White House lawn to stay fit. A part of Leah’s duties this summer include the planning and promotion of the 2015 Hoover-Ball National Championships. “While I do lack coordination and athleticism, Hoover-Ball isn’t as easy as one might think,” she said. “Nonetheless, I am looking forward to having fun and seeing that all runs smoothly during the Hoover-Ball Championships on August 8.”

Leah would like to extend her most sincere gratitude to all members of the Foundation in making her internship at the Foundation a reality. “I am gaining valuable, real-world experience this summer which is setting the stage for success in my future career in communications,” all while learning just how amazing Iowa’s only president was,” she said. “Thanks to the generous support from Foundation members, I am able to gain this experience while still saving some money for my last semester of college in the fall!” ★
World War I saw many firsts for combat; steel helmets, automatic machine guns, tanks, heavy field artillery, wireless communications, even the use of planes. The WWI battle trench incorporates all these into its attack sensation. In fact, if you try to peek up over the trench wall, a soldier will order you to “KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!”

Visitors have the option to choose the green or red button trench experience. The green button initiates an “educational” trench experience, complete with machine gun fire and artillery attacks. Educational material is displayed on video monitors located in a dozen trench scopes.

Pushing the red button adds 3 minutes of heavy attack on the trench. Explosions get closer and air raids become more frequent as the battle escalates. “The trench attack is fascinating, it really puts you on the battlefield,” said Jeff M. of Elkhart, Indiana.

“It’s the most involved trench design in the world,” said trench designer and builder, Dan Yeager. It took several months to build in his warehouse and was then broken down and transported to the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. Once there it was reassembled within a three-week time period. One of the biggest challenges – “It had to fit through the doors,” added Yeager.

The lighting and sound effects are timed by a computer, taking over 6,000 lines of code to sync it all up. It utilizes 18 speakers and two 24” subwoofers at 400 watts of power. LED lights and strobes are used as well as five different actor voices for the animatronic soldiers. Short burst, high-speed fans add a gust of wind to provide the shock wave blast when an explosion happens nearby.

“Based on the crowds and timing of the effects, visitors could have a different experience each time they enter the trench,” he said. We think it’s an experience you won’t soon forget.

“APRILINES ARE INTERESTING TOYS BUT OF NO MILITARY VALUE.”

- Marshal Ferdinand Foch, French military strategist, 1918. He was later a World War I commander.
Stories within the Story

The current special exhibit, *The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and WWI*, tells the story of how Herbert Hoover rose to fame as a humanitarian, eventually landing him the role of president of the United States. Along with that story, visitors can expect to learn more about WWI and life in the early 1900’s. Here are some highlights of what you will see in the special exhibit, *The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and WWI*:

**Sinking of the Lusitania**

The Lusitania, a British liner, made its maiden voyage in 1907 and quickly became a favorite form of transportation for the Hoovers when they traveled. On May 1, 1915 the Lusitania set sail from New York City, bound for Liverpool. The liner carried 1,924 passengers and – unknown to the passengers – munitions and contraband. On May 7, the ship was struck by a German-fired torpedo near the coast of Ireland. Of those on board, 1,198 died. Americans were outraged. Seeds of animosity were sown. Within two years the United States had entered the war.

**Propaganda plays major role in war efforts**

WWI was the first war fought by entire nations, not just trained professional armies. Anyone that is at all familiar with WWI knows the role propagandas played in recruiting combatants and supporting war efforts. The current special exhibit includes a wall featuring two original and 11 replica propaganda posters encouraging men and women to join in war efforts, whether it was enlisting or rationing food.

**Selling all they can for safety**

Many Americans who had been traveling abroad during the onset of WWI fled to London for safety, only to realize the war was spreading quicker than anticipated. Most banks closed their doors. American currency was not accepted many places, leaving travelers stranded with nowhere to stay and no means of getting back to the United States. There are many personal accounts of the drastic measures taken to receive funds. *The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and WWI* features one such story from an Indian tribe from Oklahoma. The tribe was performing as part of a Wild West show. When the war broke out, they narrowly made it to the safety of London with only the clothes on their backs. They sold their baggage, show props and animals along the way, keeping only the most valuable part of their costumes—their headdresses. See the replica headdress on display as part of the exhibit.

**Iowans’ roles in the war**

When the United States entered WWI in 1917, many Americans answered the call to stand up and fight for their country. Iowans were no different. *The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover and WWI* tells the story of two important Iowa soldiers. Merle David Hay, a Glidden, Iowa native, was a farmer and store clerk when the United States entered the war. At the same time, just 237 miles southeast of Glidden, Marion Cranwell, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa native, was teaching French at St. Katherine’s School in Davenport, IA. Both entered the war, not realizing they would later become the faces of brave and selfless Iowan heroes. To learn about the contributions and sacrifices this man and woman made for their country during WWI, visit the Library Museum and see how we have honored them in the special exhibit. ★
How Do You Feel About That?

You hear the cliché all the time, “Where history comes to life.” While true, there is some element of truth in it. At The Making of the Great Humanitarians exhibit, we do our best to immerse you into “Hoover history” in memorable, meaningful ways. You’ll feel 3D immersion in the Figge Auditorium as five projectors fill 35 screens and wrap your senses of sight and sound during a nine-minute short film. And don’t forget, the World War I trench immerses you into a simulated battlefield.

Research has shown that when you can touch and feel an object, you learn more about it. And opportunities abound for learning at The Making of the Great Humanitarians exhibit! One of the first items you’ll encounter is a case containing $1 million. As you lift it, can you guess its weight? Ever wonder what a stack of $1 million in dollar bills looks like? Take a selfie in front of a $1 million pile of cash and post it to #HooverHelps and #ThisIowa.

Artillery shell casings were abundant during and after the war. Artisans would craft the spent brass into ornate vases and other decorative items. Often called ‘trench art,’ the works include decorated shell and bullet casings and items carved from wood and bone. Trench art is any decorative item made by soldiers, prisoners of war or civilians where the manufacturing is directly linked to armed conflict.

The pieces offer insight not only to the creators’ feelings and emotions about the war, but also their surroundings and available materials.

You have to work hard to get the full impact of the loading dock exhibit at the back of the indoor display. By hand work, I mean you have to move 50 pound flour sacks from one side to the other by hand. The exhibit shows that unloading relief supplies 100 years ago was tough manual labor. The lucky workers would get hand carts but a strong shoulder was the norm. Once on the dock, horse drawn carts would carry the goods away. Can you imagine moving those sacks all day, every day, with little to eat when you returned home?

The WWI Communications exhibit at the front of the gallery is very hands-on! Visitors may stand at one of two podiums, configure a message and then send it to the second station for decoding using semaphore flags or Morse Code. The receiving end decodes the message and may send a reply. Special code sheets are provided to assist with the effort.

Decode this! Use the key below

Children from a school group practice sending a message across the room with signal flags.
The Belgian Village

The special exhibit, The Making of the Great Humanitarian: Herbert Hoover & WW1, is the largest exhibit the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum has ever presented. Along with the sights and sounds inside the library museum, an outdoor feature is also included. The Belgian Village boasts four buildings. The warehouse contains a 1/8 scale replica Belgian Relief ship, which Hoover used to transport food and relief supplies during his work with the Commission for the Relief of Belgium (CRB). At the Hoover Office, visitors can purchase souvenir t-shirts, Hoover cookies, ice cold water, wristbands, keychains, biographies of Herbert Hoover’s life and more. Tickets for the Hoover Lunch can be purchased in the Hoover Office, as well. Visitors will enjoy their Hoover Lunch in one of the two schoolhouses. You might be wondering what a Hoover Lunch is.

During WW1, food supplies were cut off to many European countries. Belgium was a top priority because the tiny kingdom imported 80% of its food supply. Hoover’s CRB provided school children with a hot meal at school, typically consisting of a bowl of soup, a roll, and a cup of milk. Often it was their only meal during the day. Our made-from-scratch recreation is hearty and filling. It all starts with fresh ingredients. Each morning, fresh carrots, potatoes and other veggies are prepared for the daily meal. Meat is cooked to a tender perfection. The meal, veggies, a grain, broth and a combination of spices are then combined and allowed to simmer just long enough to bring out all the flavors. It all happens right outside the back door of the Hoover Presidential Foundation office in a state-certified mobile kitchen. The soup travels a short 200 feet to the Belgian Village, where it is served hot and fresh with an apple, a roll, and a drink. For $3 plus tax, guests experience a meal similar to that of which Hoover fed to the starving children of Belgium during WW1. ★

We think the Hoover Lunch is delicious. But don’t just take our word for it. Here’s what guests are saying about it.

“It was very good and very filling. I couldn’t eat all of mine, but then again I had breakfast today.”

“The combination of veggies, potatoes, and meat is delicious.”

Come see for yourself what the Hoover Lunch is all about!

#TestimonialTuesday

We meet lots of interesting visitors at the Belgian Village. If they allow us, we videotape these conversations and post them on YouTube and Facebook as part of our social media campaign. #TestimonialTuesday.

Here are a few of the people we met recently:

John B., Tucson, AZ

“Everything about Hoover’s activities during and immediately after the first world war are something I think educationally are terribly overlooked. I don’t think it’s even a foot note in a kid’s history book, never mind eluded to, and it was fascinating, really interesting.”

Ann M., Tulsa, OK

“I thought the movie (The Making of the Great Humanitarian) was very inspiring. It’s a reminder of all that President Hoover did, for the country and for the world. I thought the wrap-around screens...made it come alive.”

Emma, Pewaukee, WI

What is a humanitarian? “A humanitarian is a person who cares for other humans.”

How did Herbert Hoover behave like a humanitarian? “He gave a lot of people food and other help like that.”

Robert W., Lafayette, IN

“The exhibit is quite unique. My favorite part was the food. It was enjoyable to sample what the people of Belgium had – the food that was available – and it was very tasty and enjoyable. It’s an impressive layout here.”
2015 CLASS OF UNCOMMON STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

This year, 75 applications were received for the Uncommon Student Award, an annual program that identifies and honors up to 15 Iowa high school juniors who propose and then accomplish a project of their own choosing and design. In April, USA Committee members, educators, and a past USA recipient sorted through the applications. It was not an easy decision to come to, but the 15 Uncommon Student Award recipients have been named.

“‘This year’s class is really outstanding. They bonded from the very beginning and are working quite well together,’” Delene McCannaha, membership and academic programs manager at the Hoover Presidential Foundation said. Each of the 15 students will receive a $1,000 award.

In June, the students spent a weekend in West Branch meeting their fellow 2015 USA recipients, building lifelong friendships, learning about Herbert Hoover, and refining their presentation skills. In October, each student will return to West Branch to give a 12 minute presentation about their project to a panel of five to seven judges. Three students will then be chosen to receive an additional $5,000 scholarship to be put towards their education at any four-year school, two-year school, or trade school. The presentation event is free and open to the public.

The USA program builds important life skills: leadership, volunteerism, collaboration, character, and self-esteem. “Students truly become uncommon—if they weren’t already,” McCannaha said. Below is the 2015 class of Uncommon Students including their hometown, high school name, and project title.

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<th>Hayley Buettell</th>
<th>Erin Kuba</th>
<th>Joshua Pautz</th>
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<td>Autism is a Family Affair</td>
<td>Strike Out Cancer</td>
<td>A Peer Tutoring Program for Muscatine High School</td>
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<td>Hannah Dettman</td>
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<td>Bean Ragland</td>
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<td>Nutrient Management for Better Crops and Better Water Quality</td>
<td>Connecting Marshalltown Youth with Iowa Veterans</td>
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<td>Knocking Out the Facts About Concussions</td>
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<td>Almendra Marquez</td>
<td>Bethany Schmieder</td>
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<td>Harlan Community High School</td>
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<td>Paving the Road to Lifelong Health for Everyone</td>
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<td>Layel Hofmaster</td>
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<td>Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
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<td>Home School</td>
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HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION
GETS SOCIAL

The Hoover Presidential Foundation is using a popular social media platform to tell a story from history.

When WWI broke out in late summer 1914, many Americans that had been traveling abroad fled to London for safety. They were met with chaos as they soon discovered the war had spread to London. Because of the war, banks closed their doors and merchants would not accept American currency. That left many Americans without food, shelter, and clothing (besides what was on their backs), as they had no way to trade their currency. The United States Ambassador to Great Britain contacted Hoover to ask for his help.

We will reenact this point in history as if the participants had Twitter. On Monday, July 13, the first tweets in a series of about 40 went out. Using multiple Twitter accounts, we told the story that began Hoover’s career as a humanitarian. During the week of July 13-17, a number of tweets was released daily. Each tweet contained #HooverHelps at the end. The tweets can be found by searching #HooverHelps and will appear in reverse chronological order. Our story only took a week to tell. It took much longer than that to get all Americans returned to the United States. Dates were included at the beginning of tweets in order for readers to get a sense of how long it took the 120,000 Americans to return to the United States. The story is based on actual facts and events with some dramatizations. Those following the story can look forward to some humor. Photos of actual documents will make the story come to life.

The following are the characters included in the story and their Twitter handles:

Herbert Hoover, @HerbertHoover31
Lou Henry Hoover, @TheMrsHoover
Walter Hines Page, United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom during WW1, @AmbassadorPage
Cesare Ritz, Savoy Hotel Manager, @SavoyMrRitz
Harry Gordon Selfridge, Owner of Selfridges Department Store, @HarrySelfridge
The Furlong Family, a fictional family, @Furlong_Family
The Cotter Family, a fictional family, @TheCotterFamily
Lady Lamenski, a fictional woman, @LadyLamenski

Walter Hines Page @AmbassadorPage
Aug 4, 1914 - @HerbertHoover31
Mr. Hoover, we have a serious & urgent problem & need your help. #HooverHelps

HerbertHoover @HerbertHoover31
I am honored to have been contacted by the US Embassy to aid Americans stranded in London. #HooverHelps

Walter Hines Page @AmbassadorPage
German invasion of Europe has left Americans in trouble. Banks closed, stores no longer accept American currency. Several families have lost luggage. Thousands of Americans scared and unsure of what to do. We must act quickly. Can you help? #HooverHelps

HerbertHoover @HerbertHoover31
Yes I can! I have just 2 conditions: no government involvement, and no pay #HooverHelps

See how this story ends and learn more about the important role Hoover played in the American’s safe return to the United States, search #HooverHelps on Twitter
Hooever's Hometown Days is a celebration of Herbert Hoover's life. It's a time when we reflect on a small town Iowa boy, orphaned at a young age, who would go on to amass a fortune in the mining industry, feed a billion people and become the 31st President of the United States. It's always held during the first weekend in August, close to his Aug. 10 birthday.

This year, Hometown Days falls on Aug. 7 and 8. There will be a parade, Hoover-Ball games and bage tournaments, inflatables, concerts, a car show, street vendors and more. There is one special event in particular that we encourage everyone to attend – the Life Celebration.

During this event, we are inspired by the lives of Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou Henry Hoover, and the legacy set forth in their lifetime. The keynote speaker for this year’s celebration is Eric Wakin, associate director and research fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Eric will present, “Herbert Hoover and the Founding of the Hoover Institution” at 1 p.m. Saturday on the Hoover Stage.

Eric will be joined on stage by library director Tom Schwartzz, park superintendent Pete Swisher, Foundation executive director Jerry Fleagle and a member of the Hoover family.

Registration is now open for the 28th Annual Hoover-Ball National Championships

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 9 a.m. for the Hoover-Ball National Championships. We are looking forward to the tournament and are anticipating great participation and crowd attendance. If you are looking for the chance to show your strength and endurance want to be part of a fun-filled day, this is the event for you. Anyone is welcome to play and no previous experience is required. For those who prefer spectating, bleachers will be set up and we welcome you to cheer on your favorite teams.

Teams consist of three to five players. Three players are on the court at once. A four-pound medicine ball is tossed back and forth over a volleyball net. The court resembles a tennis court with a front and back half. Scoring is kept tennis-style. Hoover-Ball is not for the faint of heart. It requires physical strength and endurance. But, those who rise to the occasion and take on the challenge are hooked.

For more information, official rules, and to register visit www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org/news/events/hooverball.php. Registration can be completed online or completed registration forms including full payment can be mailed to the Hoover Presidential Foundation at P.O. Box 696 West Branch, IA 52358.

New this year!

On Friday, August 7 at 5 p.m. the 1st Annual Youth Hoover-Ball National Championships will take place on the Village Greens. The West Branch Lion's Club is sponsoring and organizing eight teams of boys and girls ages 8 to 12 to participate. Two teams consisting of four girls each will compete for the Girl's Youth National Championship title. Two boys teams consisting of four players each will compete for the Boy's Junior National Championship title. The event is free and open to the public.

Member Picnic Aug. 8!

Remember the credit card company whose TV commercials said “Membership has its reward...”? Membership with the Hoover Presidential Foundation could say the same thing. Long-time members have taken advantage of many ‘perks’ of membership like VIP preview parties, advance registration for special events, members-only newsletters and more. One of our most favorite membership perks is drawing near – the annual members picnic at the Yellow House!

This will mark the third year for the picnic, which continues to grow each year. The first year brought 120 members, followed by 170 last year. Our membership base has grown over 50% in that time period, which could easily draw over 225 members back to the Yellow House.

“These picnics are more like an old-fashioned family reunion,” said Foundation executive director Jerry Fleagle. The family-style seating provides an excellent opportunity to visit with fellow members, friends and neighbors at the event. “You might even find yourself seated next to a member of the Hoover family,” Jerry added.

Portable grills are catered in, along with picnic fare such as potato salads, chips, ice tea and such. It's a casual, come as you are atmosphere and it's free for all current Foundation members. Guests (future members), may come as well for a $10 contribution. Register online at the Foundation website, HooverPresidentialFoundation.org, and click the Members Picnic link under the News & Events tab or call 319-643-5327.
Calendar of Events

Aug. 7
- 1st Annual Youth Hoover-Ball Tournament, 5 p.m., Village Green

Aug. 7 & 8
- Hoover’s Hometown Days, Downtown West Branch

Aug. 8
- Hoover-Ball National Championship Tournament
- Member Picnic, 11:30 p.m. at the Yellow House
- Life Celebration, 1 p.m. at the Hoover Stage

Aug. 9
- Speaker Program — Sophie de Schaefdrijver presents, “A Female Spy in the Great War: Gabrielle Petit, The Story of an Ambition.” 2 p.m., Figge Auditorium

Sept. 7
- Tallgrass Prairie Walk, led by a park ranger, 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. starting at the gravesite parking lot
- Speaker Program — Pamela Smith Hill, editor of the newly released book, Pioneer Girl will speak at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Sept. 17
- Constitution Day — Join us in welcoming new citizens as they take the Oath of Allegiance

Sept. 26
- Plant your Park — volunteers can help national park staff plant native prairie plants. 8:30 a.m. at the Visitor Center

Oct. 18
- Book Talk — Dr. DeGowin will speak about his book, The House of Moffit. Watch our website for details.

Oct. 22
- Gravesite Ceremony, Noon at the gravesite

Oct. 23
- Celebration Banquet, 6:30 p.m., Kirkwood Center, Cedar Rapids. Advance registration required.

Oct. 24
- Uncommon Students Award presentations, 9 a.m., Figge Auditorium

Our Mission:
The Foundation will foster the collection, interpretation and preservation of historical resources relating to the life, ideas, values, and times of Herbert Hoover, thirty-first President of the United States; we will promote education about and appreciation for Herbert Hoover, support the Hoover Presidential Foundation and the National Historic Site at West Branch, Iowa, effectively garner and prudently manage foundation resources, and serve Foundation members.

Hoover Presidential Foundation
PO Box 696
West Branch, IA 52358
Phone: 319-643-5327
www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org
info@HooverPF.org

Hoover Presidential Library-Museum
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information call 319-643-5301 or visit www.HooverArchives.gov

Herbert Hoover
National Historic Site
Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information call 319-643-2541 or visit www.nps.gov/heho