

Michigan United Nations Association



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LANSING MODEL UN STUDENTS WIN BIG IN STATEWIDE HISTORY CONTEST! NATIONAL COMPETITION LOOMS AHEAD



The Historical Society of Michigan holds an annual competition to generate student interest in history. For 2009, Michigan History Day was held at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) on April 25. There were 300 students involved. Each had previously qualified during preliminary Michigan regional competitions.

Those qualified included two Model UN students at Lansing Eastern High School: Senior **Shukri Husein** (female) and Junior **Abdelaziz Adawe** (male).

Their exhibit titled, "21st Century Immigrants: From the Horn of Africa to the Mitten of America, Somalia to Lansing, 1990 to 2010", is almost self explanatory: Two Somalian kids and their families left one environment and are succeeding in another.

At GVSU, the Somalia/Lansing exhibit was awarded "best entry for use of family history" (sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council). Quite an achievement! But there is more!

In addition to excellence as family history, the Somalia/Lansing exhibit was one of the two senior group exhibits selected to represent Michigan at the National History Day competition to be held at the University of Maryland, June 14-18, 2009.

The student researchers have been busy during the past several months. They held interviews (in three languages) and collected other information that they summarized on presentation board. But the task is not complete. Part of the Michigan judging responsibility was to advise how the winning Michigan presentations could be made even better.

Thus Abdelaziz and Shukri and other Michigan students have until June 14 to take the advice and incorporate additional improvements to help assure that the Michigan presentations will be the best possible as they compete against the best from other states and territories.

Winning at the State level and competing at the national level is prestigious for students, Lansing Schools and for UNA.

The prestige will be multiplied if the students do well in Maryland, but first they have to get there. Participation costs money, and financial support is needed (roughly \$1200 total for travel, registration, and four days room and board.) If you would like to help support the trip, make your check payable to GLUNA (Memo: Maryland trip) Send to Treasurer Lee McAllister, 1275 Harbor Cut, Okemos MI 48864. Your contributions will help pay the bills and at the same time demonstrate that UNA members appreciate the students' efforts.

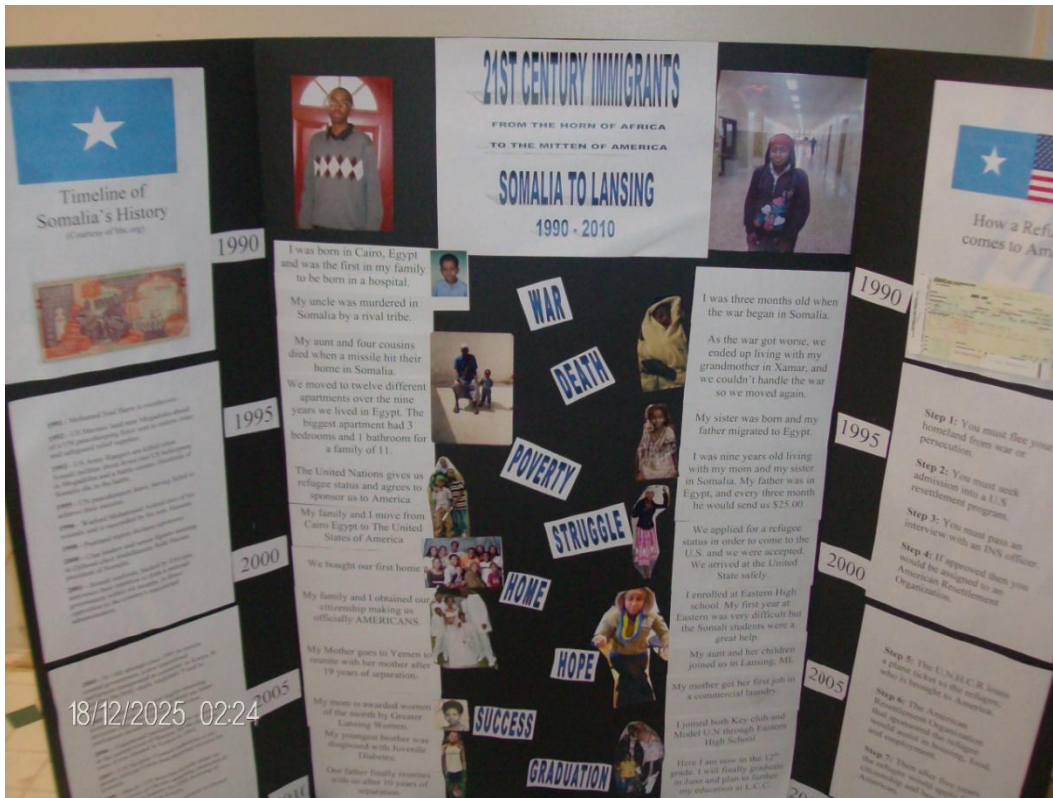
If you want to learn more about the Michigan and National History Days, read the following press release and/or go to <http://www.hsmichigan.org/mhd.php#StateFinals>.

Shukri/Abdelaziz fans can watch the NHD Awards Ceremony webcast live on June 18, 8:30-11:30am: <http://www.history.com/classroom/nhd/>

Lyndon Babcock, President, Michigan UNA

PS. Three cheers for the successes of Shukri and Abdelaziz, but refugees in Michigan or anywhere else painfully illustrate that the United Nations must continue and expand its efforts to eliminate the conflicts that continue to create so many refugees.

PS.: Faithful readers of this newsletter will recall that back in November, 2008, the same Lansing high school student, Abdelaziz Adawe, was just getting warmed up when he correctly predicted that Susan Rice would become the USA Ambassador to the United Nations. Abdelaziz got \$50. USA and the UN got an impressive representative.



HISTORY DAY STATE FINALS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

A full list of winners can be found at <http://www.hsmichigan.org/mhd.php>. Students from the following communities were awarded: Ada, Ann Arbor, Bay City, Bloomfield Hills, Comstock Park, Detroit, Eaton Rapids, Farmington, Gladwin/Beaverton, Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Grant, Hancock, Hastings, Holland, Howell, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Muskegon, Painesdale, Plymouth, Sault Ste. Marie, South Haven, Traverse City, West Branch, and Whitehall.

Over six hundred people were present as Michigan students received top honors at the Michigan History Day (National History Day in Michigan) State Finals on Saturday, April 25th in Allendale at Kirkhof Center at Grand Valley State University.

This year an estimated 5,500 students competed in the History Day program statewide in Michigan. After competing in ten regional districts statewide in March, over 300 of

these students reached the state finals representing schools from all across the state. Finalists chosen at the state finals in the Junior and Senior categories now head to College Park, Maryland in June to compete in National History Day with their peers from the other forty-nine states and several US territories.

Michigan History Day is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan and hosted this year by Grand Valley State University. Lead sponsors of History Day include Meijer Inc., the Cook Charitable Foundation, the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation, the Detroit Salt Company, and Amway. In addition, financial support was provided by the Holland Area Historical Society, the Algonquin Club of Detroit & Windsor, the Michigan Chapter of the Society for the War of 1812, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Michigan Oral History Association.

Special award prizes were also given to students and sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History, the Michigan Women's Studies Association, the Michigan Roundtable of the Lexington Group in Transportation, the Michigan Archival Association, the Michigan Oral History Association, the Michigan Genealogical Council, the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History, and the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services.

"This was my first year as the State Coordinator for Michigan History Day and I was so excited about the outstanding quality of the entries" commented Shannon D. White, Education and Awards Coordinator for the Historical Society of Michigan. "Students put in tremendous effort researching their topics and it shows throughout the day as they are interviewed by our volunteer judges."

Winners at the National History Day Michigan State Finals included students from Ada, Ann Arbor, Bay City, Bloomfield Hills, Comstock Park, Detroit, Eaton Rapids, Farmington, Gladwin/Beaverton, Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Grant, Hancock, Hastings, Holland, Howell, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Muskegon, Painesdale, Plymouth, Sault Ste. Marie, South Haven, Traverse City, West Branch, and Whitehall.

Entries may be in any one of seven categories. They include Research Papers (individuals only), Individual or Group exhibit, Individual or Group performance, Individual or Group documentary, and Websites. Groups may be from 2 to 5 students. Students compete in one of three age divisions: Youth (grades 4-5), Junior (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-12). Junior and Senior entrants are eligible to proceed to the national finals at National History Day in College Park Maryland in mid-June. Each category in a division is judged separately.

All entries in the competition were tied in some way to the National History Day theme for 2009, the Individual in History.

Michigan History Day is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan, the state's oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828.