

1998

National Teacher of
the Year

Philip Bigler



Professional Resume

Philip Bigler has been involved in public education for over 35 years. He is widely recognized for his innovative methods and teaching abilities. He is currently the author of six books along with numerous articles and educational publications.

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1998 National Teacher of the Year

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"We need more teachers like Philip Bigler and all our other honorees in every classroom in America today, for it is they who can make our schools the best in the world."

President Bill Clinton 1998

"In Phil's classroom learning is real. Phil's students come to love learning on their own terms and that skill will last them a lifetime."

Dr. Ernest Fleishman, Senior Vice President of Education at Scholastic Inc.

Professional Profile

Philip Bigler is a nationally recognized educator. He was named the 1998 National Teacher of the Year during a Rose Garden Ceremony hosted by President Bill Clinton. Mr. Bigler has been recognized for his highly innovative methods in the classroom and has worked extensively in incorporating technology into the curricula. He is the author of six books including *Liberty & Learning: the Essential James Madison*, *Be A Teacher: You Can Make a Difference*, and *In Honored Glory: Arlington National Cemetery: The Final Post*.

Education and Certifications

1984	MA: Early American Studies	The College of William & Mary
1976	M.Ed.: Secondary Ed./History	James Madison University
1974	BA: History	James Madison University

Additional Graduate Studies and Credits at the Following Universities

The University of Virginia
Virginia Tech
Georgetown University

Teaching Certifications

Postgraduate Professional License: History & Social Sciences and Gifted Education Exp. June 30, 2013

Selected Publications

Books

Liberty and Learning: The Essential James Madison. The James Madison Center, 2009

Be A Teacher: You Can Make a Difference. Vandamere Press, 2007

Hostile Fire: The Life and Death of Lt. Sharon A. Lane. Vandamere Press, 1995

In Honored Glory: Arlington National Cemetery, The Final Post. Vandamere Press, 1986, third edition 1999.

Failing Grades: A Teacher's Report Card on Education in America. Vandamere Press, 1992.

Washington in Focus: A Photographic History of the Nation's Capital.
Vandamere Press, 1988.

Selected Articles & Educational Materials

“The Roadmap”: Lesson Plans and Related Materials for Bill Bennett’s *America: The Last Best Hope*

Rev. of *James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights* by Richard Labunski. *Madison Magazine*, Winter 1997, p. 43.

“The Power Which Knowledge Gives,” *Madison Magazine*. Summer 2006, pp. 38-40.

Jamestown Rediscovery: America’s 400th Anniversary (brochure) The James Madison Center, JMU 2005

Make A Difference: TEACH: DVD-ROM, The James Madison Center, JMU 2005 (with Katie Overstreet).

James Madison: The Forgotten Founder (brochure). The James Madison Center: JMU, 2004.

“Grand Illusion.” *Teacher to Teacher: How to Find, Define, and Refine Your Unique Style of Creative Teaching*. ed. Kathy J. Kobliski, Karol Gibson, and Jodee Szakacs. Jacksonville, FL: TEACHINGpoint, 2004. pp. 31-34.

“How to Determine a Quality Teacher.” *Talented Teachers: The Essential Force for Improving Student Achievement*. ed. Lewis Solmon and Tamara Schiff. Los Angeles: Milken Family Foundation, 2004. pp. 49-85.

We the Teachers: Together Making a Difference: CD ROM, The James Madison Center, JMU 2004.

Strengthen Student Achievement in HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES Classes: Cutting-Edge Strategies, Tools and Resources. Medina, WA.: Institute for Educational Development, 2004.

Rev. of *Blood, Money & Power: How LBJ Killed JFK*, by Barr McClellan. *The Hill*, Nov. 24, 2003, p. 17.

Improving Parent/Teacher Relationships. (Support Materials for Teachers) MeadWestvaco Consumer & Office Products, 2002.

Rev. of *Dear Young Friend: The Letters of American Presidents to Children*, ed. by Stanley & Rodelle Weintraub. *OAH Magazine of History*, Fall 2001, pp. 69-70.

“A Voice for Teachers,” *Educational Leadership*, May 2000, pp. 49-50.

“Arlington National Cemetery,” “The White House,” & 5 other Washington, D.C. related articles for *Britannica CD*, 2000.

“The Good Ol’ Days are Here” Nationally syndicated including the *Washington Post & Education Weekly*, Jan. 1999.

Rev. of *Cassie's War*, by Allan M. Winkler. *OAH Magazine of History*, Fall 1996, p. 44.

The Electoral College: America's Way of Choosing a President. Thoughtworks, 1992.

The Electors. Interact Publishers, 1980.

Master's Thesis: "John Leacock's 'The Fall of British Tyranny' in the Whig Propaganda Offensive: The Personalization of the Revolution." The College of William and Mary, 1984.

Selected Media Appearances

Latenight with David Letterman (National Teacher of the Year, 1998)

The Hour of Power with Dr. Robert Schuler (National Teacher of the Year, 1998)

C-SPAN, American Perspectives: Speech at Hollins University (March 1999)

CNN Profile as National Teacher of the Year (April 1998)

C-SPAN, Rose Garden Speech as 1998 National Teacher of the Year (April 1998)

Good Morning America (April 1998)

Nightline with Ted Koppel (featured guest, Memorial Day 1987)

Live with Sonya, CNN (commentary of the funeral of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis)

CBS Newsmark with Charles Osgood (featured guest and consultant on "Where Honor Proudly Sleeps")

Voice of America Radio: "Arlington National Cemetery"; "Yearbooks in American Schools"; "Pres. James Madison"

The Jim Bohannon Show: "The Essential James Madison"

Computer Skills

Software (IBM environments): Microsoft Windows®, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Photoshop, PageMaker, Dreamweaver, Corel Draw, numerous other graphic and software programs

Digital Photography

Employment

2001-Present

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia

Director, The James Madison Center; Assistant Professor

Responsible for all aspects of the Madison Center including academic research, public relations, and teacher training. Developed online resources for teachers and students; created programs and seminars for the public and educators on the Constitution and Federalist Eras. Was responsible for all the Center's publication including newsletters, CD-ROMs, brochures and other materials. Taught courses in American Studies, History, Education and Political Science.

1996-2001

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Virginia

Humanities I & II (World History, U.S./VA. History, AP American Government)

Freshmen Class Adviser, Sponsor of the John Adams Historical Society.

Responsible for numerous public speaking engagements, workshops, and seminars on history education as well as the use of technology in the classroom. Testified before various national, state, and government agencies on behalf of teachers and history education in the public schools.

1991-1995

McLean High School, McLean, Virginia

AP American Government, AP US History, US/VA History, World Civilizations I (GT), Photojournalism I-III

The Clan Yearbook Adviser, Thomas Jefferson Historical Society Adviser.

Conducted numerous workshops on desktop publishing and computer literacy.

1985-1991

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Bethesda, Maryland

AP American Government, US History I & II, NSL (National, State, and Local) Government, Economics, Russian History, Middle East History, Contemporary Issues

John Adams Historical Society Adviser.

John Adams Historical Society Adviser.

1983-1985

Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

Historian responsible for maintaining the cemetery's historical files, preservation of documents and artifacts, preparing briefing papers for visiting dignitaries, conducted tours for government agencies, assisted with the burial of the Vietnam Unknown Soldier along with two Presidential visits and numerous other ceremonies involving heads-of-state.

1980-1982

W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, Virginia

American Government, Geography, Political Science. Indoor track coach.

1975-1980

Oakton High School, Vienna, Virginia

World History, US/VA History, Russian History, Modern European History.

Ticket manager, cross country coach.

Professional Affiliations

- Virginia Professional Educators—Board of Directors
- The Virginia Milken Educator Network--Treasurer
- The Society of the Honor Guard
- The Surratt Society
- National Council for History Education
- The Organization of American Historians
- The American Classical League



Honor Societies

- *Pi Lambda Theta (Education)*
- *Kappa Delta Pi (Education)*
- *Phi Alpha Theta (History)*
- *PDK (Education)*
- *Pi Gamma Mu (Social Studies)*

Awards/Honors Received

National Teacher of the Year
Distinguished Service to Education Award, George Mason University
Disney American Teacher Award, Team Teaching (Humanities)
Milken Foundation's National Education Award
Ronald Carrier Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, James Madison University
Commonwealth of Virginia's Teacher of the Year
United States Department of Education Award for Excellence in Education
Resolution of Commendation: Virginia House of Delegates
Agnes Meyer *Washington Post* Outstanding Educator
Fairfax County Public Schools Teacher of the Year
Certificate of Commendation: Virginia Board of Education
Certificate of Recognition: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
McLean High School Teacher of the Year
Norma Dektor Award for Most Influential Teacher (2 times)
NCPS 4-Star All American Rating for Outstanding Yearbook (2 times)
Virginia High School League Trophy Class Rating for Outstanding Yearbook Publication (2 times)
McLean High School Teacher of the Year Runner-up
Governor's School for the Gifted (Humanities) Outstanding Teacher (2 times)
United States Capitol Historical Society: Outstanding Teacher/Historian 1988 & 1993
Arts and Entertainment Teacher Grant Competition Honorable Mention
The University of Chicago's Outstanding Teacher Award
Monticello-Stratford Hall Seminar Participant
Virginia State Department of Education: Certificate of Commendation (2 times)
US Secret Service Certificate of Appreciation for Contributions in Law

Enforcement

The 3rd US Infantry Certificate of Achievement

Who's Who in Collegiate Faculty

Who's Who in American Education

Who's Who in the South and Southwest

Fulbright Scholarship to the Netherlands



Related Work Experience

Keynote speaker, New teacher inservice at Roanoke City Schools

Presenter/Panelist "Rediscovering the Great House" at Stratford Hall

Commission on the War of 1812

Director: Sixth Annual Teachers of Promise Institute: "Virginia's Future Stars"

Presentation to the Virginia State Legislature Committee on the War of 1812

Stratford-Monticello Seminar on Leadership in Revolutionary Virginia—Associate

Director

Completion of Impact3 training: Leadership

Keynote speaker, Marymount University's Annual Appreciation Dinner for
Graduates & Clinical Faculty

Keynote Speaker: "Effective Teaching: What Really Matters," Virginia
Commonwealth University

Keynote speaker, Seventh Annual South Carolina Charter School Conference

Director and Coordinator Teachers of Promise Institute, "Teachers: Changing the
Future"

Telluride High School In-Service on 21st Century Schools

Convocation Address for Prince George County Schools

Keynote Address, New Teachers, Fairfax County Public Schools

Opening Day Address to staff, Hardy County, West Virginia

Address to the SGA Final Session and Dinner, James Madison University

Town Hall Meeting panelist, Association of Educational Publishers Summit,
Washington, DC

Keynote Address, Milken National Educators Conference, Los Angeles, California

Address to the Student Government Association at JMU

Historical Preservation Presentation to the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors

Director and Co-Coordinator of the Fourth Annual TOP Institute, "Reading the Past,
Writing the Future"

Keynote speaker/presenter at A+PEL Millennium Teacher Symposium, Louisiana

Address to the Historic Vienna Association

Convocation Day speech to JMU Freshman Class of 2010

Keynote Address: Oklahoma APOE Awards Dinner, Oklahoma City, OK

Madison Day Address, Presidential Wreath Ceremony, Montpelier

Director and Coordinator, Third Annual Teachers of Promise Institute, "Virginia's
Brightest Stars"

Historical Consultant: "The U.S. Constitution," Capstone Press, Mankato, MN.

Keynote address: Ready Schools; Success by 6 Coalition of the Shenandoah Valley Educational Consultant: *Creation of the Constitution* (Capstone Press)

Panelist: Student Achievement - The Ultimate Destination, Virginia Department of Education

Keynote address to the College of Education Open House, JMU

Principle speaker to new teachers, Frederick County, Virginia

Discovery Channel: Historical Consultant for Assignment Discovery On-Air History Documentaries

Director and Coordinator, Second Annual Teachers of Promise Institute, “Light the Future”

Keynote Speech: “Embracing the Call,” Prince William County Public Schools

Keynote Speech: The Great Virginia Teach-in, Richmond, Virginia

Address to Future Teachers: Henrico Public Schools

Fulbright Institute: Cairo, Egypt--The Founder’s; Pedagogy in Public Schools

Instructor: George Mason University Teacher Leadership Initiative (graduate level)

County-wide Inservice Keynote: Career & Technical Ed Faculty, Henrico County Public Schools

Opening Day Speech: Osbourne Park High School, Prince William County Public Schools

Bureau of Educational Research--Featured Workshop Presenter (NJ, PA, VA)

Keynote Address, Hernando County Florida Teacher of the Year Banquet

Convocation Address: Graduate School of Education: George Mason University

Keynote Address: Teachers of Promise Institute: James Madison University

Director and Coordinator: Teachers of Promise Institute/”We the Teachers: Together Making a Difference”

AP American History Presenter - Five Day Workshop for NESAs Schools, Bangkok, Thailand

Educational Consultant--Assignment Discovery World and American History Series

Guest Scholar, “The Constitution: A Document for Our Time--Four Lectures,” Franklin, West Virginia

Associate Director, Stratford-Monticello Seminar

Educational Advisory Council—Council for America’s First Freedom

Panelist—Milken National Educator Awards Conference “What Makes an Exemplary Teacher?” LA, CA

Historical Consultant and Editor for book: *James Madison*, Enslow Publishers, Inc.

Research and On-air Historian for WVPT’s *Life of Peace in Time of War*

Moderator—Virginia Department of Education Teacher Quality Conference, Richmond

Evaluator—National Endowment for the Humanities Exemplary Education Grants

Disney American Teacher Award Review Committee, Indianapolis, Indiana

DODEa—Worked with teachers in Hanau, Germany on utilizing computer technology in the social studies classroom, developing class webpages, and creating webquests.

Graduation Commencement Speaker at James Madison University

Prentice-Hall Publishers—Online facilitator for topic: “Technology in the World History Classroom.”

Department of State—Consultant American schools in Crete on standards-based

education in the Humanities.

Department of State—Workshop presenter in Bangkok, Thailand on teaching AP American History and incorporating technology into the Social Studies classroom.

National Teacher of the Year—Served as an ambassador of education to Japan, Germany, and throughout the United States delivering speeches, conducting seminars, and presenting workshops.

DODea—Taught seminar sessions for teachers with the Department of Defense Schools on WEB page construction and implementation of computer technology in the classroom in Aviano, Italy.

TERC—Served as a trainer for teachers from American schools in Hanau, Germany on effectively implementing computer technology in the classroom.

Colonial Williamsburg—Helped write curriculum and develop inquiry based strategies for program entitled, “Becoming Americans: Ties and Tensions.”

ACIS Tour Counselor—Organized and chaperoned student groups on tours of Great Classical Civilizations including visits to Greece, Turkey, and Italy.

The University of Virginia—Developed and taught courses on Colonial Virginia and the American Civil War as part of the University’s Continuing Education program.

Stratford-Monticello Seminar—Worked for the University of Virginia/Monticello as a liaison for teachers studying “Leadership in Colonial Virginia” as part of the summer seminar program.

Discovery Channel—Helped review and edit videos for broadcast along with writing curriculum for use with the Discovery Channel’s *Assignment Discovery* series.

National Geographic Society—Worked as an educational consultant on several filmstrip projects including “The Decades of the 20th Century”, “The American Presidency”, “the US Congress”, and the “People of Civil War”.

