



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Colonial America - Shawn Smith 2011 **Name:** Shawn Smith
Other Team Members:
Program: Oklahoma Program
Trip Dates: 07/15/2011 - 07/28/2011 **Location Visited:** United States East Coast, United States
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: My trip began with a visit to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. I then travelled north to the Washington, D.C. area where I visited the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Smithsonian Museum of American History, the Jefferson Memorial, and the National Archives. Along with these sites I was also able to tour the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Museum of Air and Space, and the Museum of Natural History. Though some of these sites were not of interest vis a vis Colonial America, as a U.S. History teacher I felt that visiting these sites would be helpful as well. Visiting the sites in the D.C. area gave me more insight into the formation of our government and the early history of our nation, and has afforded me the opportunity to view primary sources from the colonial era and Revolutionary War era. Upon leaving D.C., I travelled up the East Coast to New York City where I was able to tour the cultural capital of our nation. To be able to view sites such as the lower East side, Ground Zero, Brooklyn, and the Statue of Liberty gave me a greater appreciation for how our nation has developed since its beginning almost 250 years ago. I then went to the Boston area where I toured the Freedom Trail and was able to walk the actual footsteps of so many of our Founding Fathers. As a history teacher I was transported back in time to the days of Samuel Adams, John Adams, and Paul Revere. This part of the trip was definitely the most inspiring segment. In summary, I spent my fellowship touring three cities that are the caretakers of so much of our nation's great history.

Career Impact: * I have been challenged as an educator to bring the world of U.S. History home to my students in a more "hands-on" way.

* I was able to overcome the obstacle of making about a month's work of travelling fit into a two week period.

* I have returned from my fellowship with a renewed fervor for learning about U.S. History and imparting that knowledge to my students.

* I have started using more primary source documents in my teaching and have been able to use more relevant examples, gleaned from my fellowship in my classroom as well.

* I have been able to introduce materials gathered during my fellowship in my classroom.

Classroom/Community Impact:* As a result of the fellowship, I have a deeper sensitivity for wanting my students to be as excited about U.S. History as I am.

* As someone who has travelled more than most of our school community I now have more credibility when it comes to discussing my subject than before.

* My students are excited to hear about my journey, what I saw, what I learned, and how it can be applied in our classes.

* I have started using more primary source documents in my teaching.

Open Response: I will be doing an in-service with all of our teachers in our school later this semester. This in-service will cover how to write grant proposals. I will also be doing an in-service with our social studies teachers and elementary school teachers on the material that I gleaned from the fellowship. At this in-service I will be presenting several lesson plans (curricular units) for each grade level to use vis a vis U.S. History.

Quote: "The Fund For Teachers trip was one of the landmark experiences of my life. I will forever be thankful for this opportunity!"

Photos:



On the National Mall with Washington Monument in background



At the White House - just finished touring the White House



With statue of Jefferson at Monticello



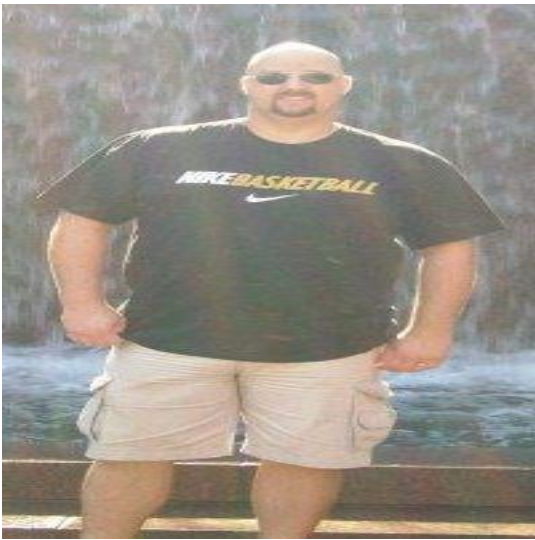
In front of Monticello



Statuary Hall in the US Captiol with President Reagan



Statuary Hall in the US Capitol with President Lincoln



In front of the Korean War Memorial



At Monticello - Jefferson's tomb