Samuel Isaac Ulmschneider

EDUCATION

M.A., American Government, Ashland University, 2023

M.A., History, with fully funded graduate teaching position, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2008 B.A. with Honors: University of Mary Washington, 2006, History and Philosophy Double Majors Additional Education and Certifications: University of Richmond, Education MA courses: 2011-2012, Virginia Teaching Certification: June 2012-Current, Gifted Education Graduate Course, Virginia Commonwealth University 2014-2015, Virginia Gifted Education Certification: June 2015-Current.

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

August 2011 to Present

<u>Full time faculty</u>, Global Studies/History Department, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. Courses taught: AP US Government and Politics, AP US History, Modern Political Theory and Philosophy, We The People, American Popular Culture and History in the 20th Century, Politics and Policy Seminar. *June 2009 to August 2009, and August 2010 to June 2011*

<u>Adjunct Instructor/Lecturer</u>. John Tyler Community College, Richmond, VA. Wrote class syllabi, lectured, evaluated students for American History, 1400 – 1865 and 1865-Present.

January 2010 to June 2010

<u>AP US History long-term substitute</u> at Maggie Walker Governor's School, Richmond, VA. Three sections of AP US history, and significant work with the We The People program.

February 2017 to Present

<u>Campaign Chair and Treasurer</u>, Schuyler VanValkenburg For Delegate. Participated in launching and managing delegate campaign; write remarks and statements, aid field, communications, policy planning. *June 2017*

<u>Consulting Teacher</u>, Virginia Public Access Project Civics in the Classroom Initiative. Creating lesson plans and student initiatives for the Virginia Public Access Project's classroom initiatives. *June 2015*

<u>Leader/Mentor Teacher</u>, James Madison Legacy Project. One of two mentor teachers at week-long workshop at the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

RELEVANT ACADEMIC AND TEACHING EXPERIENCES, AWARDS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- Graduate Alumni Achievement Award, VCU History Department, Awarded Jan 2025
- Senior Fellow award recipient of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship, 2020.
- Pays for the full cost of a future master's degree program for a current teacher.
- Presented papers at Telos Paul Piccone Institute Conference in New York:
 - o Mar 2024, "James Wilson, Benjamin Rush, and the Elite-Democratic Consensus."
 - o Feb 2018, "The (Cultural) Vices of the Political System: James Madison's Early Work as a Mirror into Constitutional Culture"
 - o Feb 2019, "Pamphleteers, Preachers, and Politicos: The Role of Ministers in Three Early Republican Elections"
 - o Feb 2020, "Mutual Aid or Public Good: VA Constitutionalism and Republican Ideology"
- Coach, Maggie Walker's We The People competition team, which achieved successes including:
 - o 10 State Victories
 - o 3 National Victories
 - o 10 national top-10 finishes
- Funded participant in seminars at the Robert H Smith Center for Constitutional Studies:
 - o Inventing the Presidency with Dr. Lindsey Chervinsky, Oct 2024
 - o Due Process and the Bill of Rights, September 2023
 - o The Mind of Madison, November 2018
 - o Immigration and The Constitution, July 2017
 - o Comparative Constitutions Roundtable, Oct 2014
 - o of the Constitution, 2013
- Research Intern, Virginia State Supreme Court Historical Commission, Aug-Dec, 2007.



FAX (804) 354-6939

Website www.mlwgs.com

30

Confidential Recommendation

May 13, 2025

To the Selection Committee, American Lawyer's Alliance Re: Teacher of the Year Award

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you on behalf of my colleague, Mr. Sam Ulmschneider, a candidate for your Teacher of the Year Award. I have taught with Sam for 14 years and know him quite well. His passion for the Constitution, the inner workings of our democracy, and the pivotal role of the legal profession is the strongest I have seen in my 33 years in the classroom.

As a former department chair, I hired Sam to first teach U.S. Government. It did not take long for me to realize what a wonderful choice I and the rest of our selection committee had made. Students immediately raved about his passion and I could readily identify a new depth of understanding among those who took his course(s). After only four years in our program, Sam stepped up to become the instructor for the prestigious *We The People* program and in that role, he has helped our students secure 3 national championships focused on their understanding of constitutional foundations, law and application. Under his tutelage, it has become the most difficult course in our school to get into and it has spawned a generation of lawyers, political activists and informed citizens.

Beyond the classroom, Mr. Ulmschneider has led numerous initiatives to deepen the experiences of our students (and faculty) in the fields government, politics and law. Only a year or so into his time here, he stepped up to arrange a full day of immersion in Virginia government for the *entire* sophomore class. This day included a visit to the Virginia State Capitol, interaction with legislators and a meeting with a judge from the Virginia State Supreme Court. Mr. Ulmschneider coordinated this effort for several years. In addition, he has continued to bring numerous government and law-related speakers to our school including constitutional scholar, A.E. Dick Howard; U.S. Director of Policy Planning, Richard Haas; and a panel discussion of three former Solicitor Generals of the United States.

Mr. Ulmschneider is representative of efforts that go well beyond those of even "strong" teachers---he is exemplary and a most-deserving recipient of your award. It is a pleasure to give him my highest recommendation. Respectfully,

John T. Wilkes, Social Studies Department

John T. Wreker

American Lawyer's Alliance Teacher of the Year

I am honored to recommend Sam Ulmschneider for the *American Lawyer's Alliance Teacher of the Year* award. Sam has been a teacher here at Maggie Walker since 2011. Maggie Walker Governor's school for Government and International Studies is a nationally ranked, regional public high school in Richmond, Virginia. "Our mission is to provide comprehensive educational opportunities that advance gifted students' understanding of world cultures and languages. Our diverse and supportive community develops students' character and ability to contribute, collaborate, and lead." In the Social Studies Department, we integrate a global perspective and awareness across many disciplines. As a teacher of A.P. American Government, A.P. United States History, We the People Citizen and Constitution, Modern Political Theory and American Pop Culture, Sam has been extremely effective in creating connections with colleagues and a creative learning environment for his students.

Sam and I have worked together and shared an office at Maggie Walker for more than thirteen years. I am so very impressed not only with his intellectual abilities, but his compassion and natural ability to connect with our students. Sam is a graduate of Maggie Walker and has a unique perspective of knowing how our students think. Every day, I find him either researching on-line or reading from an ever-changing pile of books from VCU's Cabell Library. We often discuss teaching strategies, content, and assessment strategies. I always come away from our conversations a better and more thoughtful teacher. Sam has proven himself to be a devoted teacher of students at various levels and in multiple subjects. Prior to Maggie Walker, Sam taught in differing capacities. He very quickly adapted his strategy to reach students of various levels as a community college instructor. He is also very sensitive to the needs of non-native speakers. Based on our conversations, I could conclude that Sam must have been a dynamic and popular teacher in Dalian, China.

In addition to his demanding teaching schedule, Sam is the sponsor and coach of the We the People team at Maggie Walker. Sam has continued Maggie Walker's long tradition as a nationally recognized competitive team. Every year, Maggie Walker has represented the Commonwealth of Virginia in the national competition. Under Sam's leadership, we have never placed lower that fifth in the nation. In 2017, 2021 and again last year, Sam's team won the national competition.

Sam is also a genuine student of Madisonian thought. Not only does he arrange to take his We the People team to James Madison's Montpelier each year, but he has also attended several weekend and summer teacher seminars held there over the past few years. Sam is an extremely well read, hard working and devoted teacher. He is an asset to our program now and will be in the future. Thank you for considering his application.

Sincerely,

Brenda A. Ericson, PhD Social Studies Teacher Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Richmond, VA 23220 (804)-354-6800 ex. 3055 bericson@gsgis.k12.va.us

Summary of Law-Related Education Activities

Samuel Ulmschneider American Lawyer's Association Law Related Teacher Award 2025

During my 13 years as an educator at the Maggie Walker Governor's School For Government and International Studies, I have put constitutional law front and center as a focus of my activities both in the classroom and out, connecting students to both formal academic study of the Constitution and to external opportunities to explore the field of constitutional law and legal policymaking processes more generally.

My first major undertaking in my second year of teaching was to arrange a trip for the entire sophomore class of the school – 120 students – to the Virginia General Assembly and the Supreme Court of Virginia to meet and speak with several of the justices. Although financial and curricular constraints shuttered the yearly trip after only four years, it served as a very early introduction to the machinery of state level legal interpretation and policy for students, many of whom then went on to contact their local legislators or explore Virginia's criminal and state constitutional law in future courses.

Though the state law and politics trip was my first major law-related activity for Maggie Walker, my work in our school's We The People competition has been the most varied and important such activity. The course is not an entirely law-focused class, but constitutional law forms a much larger part of its curriculum than in something comparable like an AP Government course. This is especially true when you consider the degree to which historical studies demanded by originalism and philosophical ones demanded by political theory inform constitutional law more than other areas of legal practice, and both of those are fields which We The People demands significant engagement with. As part of the students participation in the class, we regularly continue (on a smaller scale) visits to or with justices of the State Supreme Court, attend lectures and events at the nearby University of Richmond School of Law and the

Virginia Museum of History and Culture which deal with constitutional law. I also arrange daylong trips to James Madison's Montepelier, a three-day excursion to several museums in Philadelphia especially the National Constitution Center, and visits to the John Marshall house and other local constitutional locations. This helps the students see the way our in-class discussions of constitutional precedent, legal principles, and civil liberties or constitutional change have real life impacts and connections to the world around them.

In preparation for the competitions which are part of the We The People class, I also arrange 'mock competitions' with outside experts acting as judges. I've had more than two dozen lawyers, law students, law professors, political scientists, constitutional historians, state lobbyists, Congressional aides, state legislative aides, and other external experts come to work with these students both during and after the mock competitions. In addition, the formal competitions feature a similar roster of external legal and constitutional experts, although the formal competitions are arranged by Virginia Civics and those judges rarely follow up afterwards or work with students on preparation as the 'mock competition' judges which I reach out personally to do.

As part of the broader school community, I participate in preparing students for Maggie Walker's mentorship/internship program, which has very strong ties to the judicial, legal, and policymaking community in the state. I have placed or assisted students who have used the program to work in state legislator's offices, commonwealth attorney's offices, Virginia Legal Aid, numerous local immigration, public interest, and family law firms and more. These activities combine with the curricula of classes like We The People, AP US Government and Politics (in which I usually include a moot court activity) and my electives on Political Theory & Philosophy (including a unit on philosophy of law) and policy development to give students a

real glimpse of the role of law in shaping and being shaped by politics and policy. Just this year, among the approximately 40 eligible students in my AP Government and We The People class, three were engaged in a mentorship at a local law firm, three with judges or commonwealth's attorneys, and two in the offices of state elected officials – a fairly typical number!

Our school's programmatic focus on government and politics, and my role in helping to promote that focus, has yielded dozens of students who practice law or even sought careers in the judiciary. Among my own We The People students since I began teaching the class ten years ago (meaning there have been about 200 We The People students under my coaching), I can count more than two dozen in legal careers and at least that many in public policy, government, or politics. Our school's excellence in preparing students for such trajectories and my part in it is crucial to our mission and to my own pride in my role as a teacher in law-related education.



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PBS Series Shows UMW Alum Taking High School Team to National Civics Competition

JANUARY 17, 2025 BY JILL LAIACONA

Before Sam Ulmschneider '06 attended the University of Mary Washington, he put his political prowess to the test in the nation's premier civics competition for high school students.

In We the People, "we were asked to consider complex questions of public policy and political theory," said Ulmschneider, who participated with his classmates in simulated congressional hearings before a panel of judges during the competition. "That experience is the reason I was motivated to study history and philosophy at Mary Washington."

Today, Ulmschneider teaches those subjects and more at his alma mater, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, where he has coached the school's team to state championships and led it to three of its five national wins. While preparing for last year's event, his class was spotlighted in <u>Citizen Nation</u>, a four-part PBS documentary series that followed teens and their teachers as they vied to secure a spot among the top 10 schools in the country – and win it all

"I took We the People when it was a fairly young course," Ulmschneider said. His teacher, Phil Sorrentino, "challenged us to think critically and argue our own views with a great deal of passion and engagement."

The class primed him for the challenging coursework he found at UMW, where he read Plato's Republic in a first-year seminar with Professor Emeritus of Philosophy David Ambuel, who he said had a "powerful impact" on his decision to major in the subject.

Ulmschneider said that Professor of History Susan Fernsebner inspired him to consider pursuing a Ph.D. "In her classes, we were reading popular novels and cultural and anthropological theory, which demonstrated how you could integrate other fields of study into history. That seemed new and enthralling to me as an undergraduate."

After graduation, Ulmschneider planned to go into academia, earning a master's degree in history from Virginia Commonwealth University. Yet, in 2011, he returned to Maggie L. Walker, which serves academically gifted students with an emphasis on government and international studies. He earned the <u>James Madison Fellowship</u> in 2020, a \$24,000 award that helped him obtain a second master's degree in American government and history from Ohio's Ashland University.

Ulmschneider currently teaches Advanced Placement courses, American popular culture and political philosophy, as well as his favorite, We the People, which is part of a comprehensive curriculum developed by the **Center for Civic Education** in 1987. Under his guidance, students hone skills in oral argument and rhetorical writing and engage in legal, political and philosophical research to prepare for state and national competitions.

"Of all the classes I teach, it's the one that alumni have told me is the most valuable, even years and decades later," said Ulmschneider, whose students have gone to prestigious law schools such as Harvard and Columbia and embarked on careers in public policy and serving political campaigns.



students at the Museum of the American
Revolution in Philadelphia), who majored in
history and philosophy at UMW, has led his
students at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
in Richmond to several national championships in
the We the People civics competition. Last year's
event was chronicled in a PBS documentary
series. Photo courtesy of Sam Ulmschneider.

And a few have ended up at Mary Washington, including junior **Ben Dickinson**, who is grateful for Ulmschneider's mentorship. "We the People prepared me academically to major in political science and bolstered my love for constitutional studies," said Ben, who is taking U.S. Constitutional Reform this semester, a course taught by UMW Professor of Political Science Steve Farnsworth.

Ulmschneider said that the PBS series captured the energy and spirit that makes the class and competition such a meaningful experience for high school students. He recently joined a screening and panel discussion with the director, his students, and State Sen. Schuyler VanValkenburg, a fellow teacher and the father of one of his students, whose Richmond-area team also competed in the finals

This story originally ran on Giving.umw.edu.

FILED UNDER: TOP STORIES

TAGGED WITH: DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

UMW IN THE NEWS

Swing state GOP in explosive disarray as Republican's PAC is accused of extortion (MSN; Virginia Mercury; Yahoo; Royal Examiner)

Published: May 2, 2025 - 2:30 pm

Democrats clash over approaches as party still searches for an identity (The National Desk; Komo News; WPDE; CBS Austin; KATV; ABC 45)

Published: May 2, 2025 - 2:29 pm

Youngkin asks John Reid to withdraw from Lt. Gov. race, could this impact the GOP in VA? (WJLA; Loudoun Times-Mirror)

Published: May 2, 2025 - 2:28 pm

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Lehman Publishes Book with De Gruyter May 7, 2025

Hansen-Glucklich Publishes Book with UMass Press May 7, 2025

Foss Presents at Recent Books Showcase and Featured in Author's Corner May 7, 2025

Springston and Towery
Represented UMW and ATI at
Innovation Summit May 7, 2025

Bonds and UMW Student Share Research and Perspective for Virginia Mercury May 7, 2025

Rao Contributes to Article About Al and Academic Integrity May 7, 2025

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Announcing Chief Information
Officer Jonathan Piersol May 7,
2025

Announcing Assistant Director of Athletics for Internal Operations Drew Delaney May 7, 2025

UMW Athletics Leadership Promotions May 7, 2025

Commencement Rehearsal & Parking Info, May 9 - 10 May 7, 2025

Employee Appreciation Week Events, May 12 – 16 May 7, 2025

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Alumnus Earns Competitive Fellowship to Teach Constitution

JULY 2, 2020 BY LAURA MOYER

Persistence paid off for UMW graduate Sam Ulmschneider.

The global studies and history teacher was recently named Virginia's 2020 recipient of the James Madison Fellowship - on his fourth attempt to earn the award.

The \$24,000 prize is given to just one recipient per state each year to promote outstanding teaching of the U.S.

Constitution in secondary schools. It will allow Ulmschneider to pursue a second master's degree while he continues to teach gifted high schoolers at his other alma mater, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond.

Two of Ulmschneider's previous fellowship applications resulted in his being named a runner-up. Undiscouraged, he kept applying, a process that included a lot of essay-writing. "I felt like my students do when they're filling out their college applications," he said.

His own education at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School – and the Advanced Placement credits he earned there – allowed him to focus on his academic interests almost immediately at UMW.

"The advising system was wonderful, and it's one of the things I took away from Mary Washington," said Ulmschneider, who double majored in history and philosophy with a minor in religion, and joined the University's club fencing team.

Professor of History and American Studies Susan Fernsebner encouraged him to follow his intellectual interests, he said. And Professor of Classics, Religion and Philosophy David Ambuel set an example as a scholar and "a wonderful guy."

Ulmschneider graduated with honors in 2006, then enrolled at Virginia Commonwealth University with the intention of pursuing a Ph.D. and career as a college professor. But after earning a master's degree in history, he said, "I had some serious talks with some very smart people about the academic history job market" and decided on a different path.



2006 graduate Sam Ulmschneider (left), a global studies and history teacher based in Richmond, was recently named Virginia's 2020 recipient of the James Madison Fellowship.

He taught college and community college courses in Virginia and spent six months teaching English in China to high schoolers who planned to study abroad, before joining the faculty at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in 2011. The school draws highly academically qualified students from surrounding localities and emphasizes government and international studies.

Ulmschneider teaches modern political theory and philosophy, a politics and policy seminar, and Advanced Placement courses in U.S. government and politics and American history. A favorite is **We the People**, a class focusing on oral argument, writing and research. Students must audition for admission, and participants prepare for state and national competitions that simulate congressional hearings. Ulmschneider has coached the team to several state championships and national finals.





He's also involved with the **Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier** in Orange County, which provides in-person and online programs to promote democracy and understanding the Constitution.

With the fellowship, Ulmschneider will have the chance to sharpen his skills and knowledge, fulfill the continuing education requirement of teachers and pursue his passion for studying interesting subjects, with the challenge and discipline of formal coursework. An academic background in political science, law and public policy, he hopes, will improve his effectiveness as campaign chairman and treasurer for his friend Schuyler VanValkenburg, a fellow government teacher in his second term as a Democratic member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Still undecided where he will pursue his fellowship-funded graduate studies, Ulmschneider is leaning toward a program for educators, allowing him to continue teaching full time while working toward a degree during the summer.

In that regard, he's carrying out a main goal of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, to "ensure that the spirit and practical wisdom of the Constitution will guide the actions of future generations of American citizens."

FILED UNDER: TOP STORIES TAGGED WITH: DAMBUEL, DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION, SFERNSEB

UMW IN THE NEWS

Swing state GOP in explosive disarray as Republican's PAC is accused of extortion (MSN; Virginia Mercury; Yahoo; Royal Examiner)

Published: May 2, 2025 - 2:30 pm

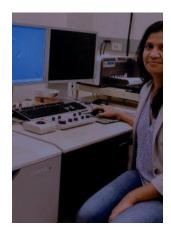
Democrats clash over approaches as party still searches for an identity (The National Desk; Komo News; WPDE; CBS Austin; KATV; ABC 45)

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Swati Agrawal

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Sam Ulmschneider, a VCU history alum, has coached three Maggie L. Walker Governor's School teams to national titles in the annual We the People competition. (Kevin Morley, Enterprise Marketing and Communications)

APRIL 2, 2025

Meet-a-Ram: History Department alumni honoree was a close call – geographically

At the Maggie Walker School near VCU, teacher Sam Ulmschneider is instilling wisdom and winning titles in a national civics program.

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By Haley Tenore

Meet-a-Ram is an occasional VCU News series about the students, faculty, staff and alumni who make Virginia Commonwealth University such a dynamic place to live, work and study.

V

irginia Commonwealth University's **Department of History** didn't have to look far to find its alumni honoree this year: Sam Ulmschneider works just down the street.

Ulmschneider, who earned his master's in history at VCU in 2008, has taught at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in the nearby Carver neighborhood since 2011. One of his classes, We the People, is a part of a national civics education program that emphasizes simulated congressional hearings, with students testifying before a panel of judges acting as members of Congress.

Ulmschneider has coached three Walker teams to national titles in the annual We the People competition, and he and a recent class were featured in the four-part PBS documentary "Citizen Nation" last year. On April 3 at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Ulmschneider will receive the VCU Department of History's Graduate Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes a master's recipient who has excelled in the field.

VCU News spoke with Ulmschneider to learn more about his path into a successful teaching career.

What initially drew you to VCU – and then to a career in teaching?

I grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, but my family moved to Richmond partway through high school. I've always been interested in the humanities because I loved reading and writing about ideas and analyzing phenomena from more than one theoretical angle.

VCU was an attractive graduate institution for my master's in history for a number of reasons: the scholarship it offered, the opportunity to work as a teaching assistant, the relatively small size of the program and close work with professors, and the way it allowed me to complete a master's thesis to test the waters for going on to a Ph.D.

The experience of teaching in the MA program was much more engrossing and enjoyable than I thought it would be. Because I graduated during the 2008 recession's worst moments, the thought of a Ph.D. and career in higher education was more daunting than I envisioned, so I pivoted toward teaching. I also had the opportunity to travel to China for a year to teach in a high school there, which further solidified my intuition that teaching was a career path that matched my personality and interests.

Tell us a bit more about We the People and even how your VCU ties have been helpful?

We the People requires research skills, rhetorical writing skills, and oral argumentation and deliberation skills that Advanced Placement courses don't develop, so even strong students coming into the class have a lot of growing to do. We emphasize learning how to seek expert subject guides and extract information from footnotes or bibliographies, the need to go through multiple drafts and polishes of an argument, and practicing communication skills in mock debates.

The students are very dedicated and enthusiastic because the course is an elective for only those who are passionate about constitutional history, philosophy, law and politics, and this means we often meet on Saturdays at local libraries to research and write, or have practice hearings at school late into the afternoon.

One of the best ways I've stayed in contact with VCU's history professors is by having them occasionally come back and function as a judging panel, asking the students high-level and challenging verbal-response questions.

"Citizen Nation" followed We the People competition teams from all over the country preparing for their hearings. Our team at Maggie Walker was only one of many featured in the film, but the experience was energizing. The director-producer had an inspiring vision and mission to show how civic education can bring the disparate political beliefs and regions of our nation together, and how young people have a lot more in common as they grow into adult, civically engaged citizens than they have separating them.

There was some disruption involved, and it made the students' road a little bumpier. But it got the We the People program some additional attention across the country for its approach to teaching kids not just a rote list of terms and concepts but the skills of discourse, deliberation and critical thought to become truly politically and civically literate. That makes the process of filming worth it for sure!

What was your reaction to winning the Graduate Alumni Achievement Award?

Surprise! I've kept up with some of the professors at VCU who helped shape my career and outlook — like Joseph Bendersky, Ryan Smith and Carolyn Eastman — and admired how they combined community engagement, scholarly depth and teaching. But I always thought the mundane and unassuming path of a public school teacher wasn't the kind of thing that won a person awards.

If you had to choose an "un-" word to describe yourself, what would it be and why?

Unassuming — like why I was surprised to get the award! I also try my best to keep a spirit of intellectual curiosity, intellectual humility and open-mindedness. My students certainly help by reminding me I don't know everything!

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ALUMNI EDUCATION

More in Meet-a-Ram

Richmond High School Team Featured in PBS Documentary

VPM

Published October 8, 2024 at 4:45 PM EDT



Moriah Ratner/For Retro Report / For Retro Report

PBS's new documentary series *Citizen Nation* has a local Richmond, Virginia connection.

Premiering on Tuesday, October 8, *Citizen Nation* is an inspiring four-part series that follows teenagers from across the U.S. with diverse personal and political backgrounds as they come together to compete in the nation's premier civics competition, "We the People."

One of the teams in the documentary is from Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, the defending "We the People" champions from the 2022-2023 school year.

Citizen Nation follows eight teams, including Maggie Walker students, over ten months during the 2023-2024 school year as they prepare and rise through regional and state competitions heading for "We the People." The students grapple with critical questions about democracy, respond to judges' challenges in the style of Congressional hearings, reveal their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and politics, and wrestle with what it means to be a citizen today. Along the way, this new generation discovers what it means to show up, be civil and tackle some big issues

straight on. The series culminates in a championship showdown in the nation's capital.

Here's a look at the episodes. Viewers can watch live on VPM PBS, livestream at VPM.org or on the PBS App.

EPISODE 1: CITIZEN NATION "Chasing Victory"

Premieres: Tuesday, Oct. 8, 9-10 p.m. ET

The premiere episode introduces contestants as they begin the school year. Two teams from Wyoming embody the state's independent spirit. A Las Vegas team includes students whose families are recent immigrants from Nigeria, Thailand, and the Philippines. Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, VA, is the defending national champion and the team to beat.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Claims National Championship



By RFM TEAMApril 30, 2017



Maggie L. Walker Governor's School "We the People" team is coached by social studies teacher and alumnus Sam Ulmschneider (class of '02).

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Wins First Place in the 2017 "We the People" Constitutional Scholars' Competition

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School "We the People" team placed first in the nation in The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals, held at the National Conference Center in the Washington D.C. area, April 21 through 24, 2017. The team of twenty-four seniors, coached by Sam Ulmschneider, claimed the regional championship title in a competition at Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center in 2016. Earlier this year, the team won the state championship, which was hosted by University of Virginia. This win marks the third national championship for MLWGS in the 30-year history of this competition. Richmond-area Douglas S. Freeman High School placed sixth in the academic competition, giving the Commonwealth two top-ten teams.

Nearly 1,300 high school students from forty-two states gathered in Washington, D.C., to participate in the thirtieth annual We the People National Finals, administered by the Center for Civic Education. The initial field of fiffty-six classes was reduced to ten finalists based on the combined scores of each class over the first two days of intense examination of their constitutional knowledge. During the competition, students demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional issues before simulated congressional committees composed of constitutional scholars, lawyers, historians and public officials. During the school year, students complete a comprehensive course of study on the Constitution to qualify for the competition.

ABOUT MAGGIE L. WALKER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies is a highly-selective, regional public school that serves students throughout the metropolitan Richmond area. The participating school divisions are Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, King and Queen, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George, and Richmond

Virginia High School Wins National Constitution and Bill of Rights Competition



NEWS PROVIDED BY **The Center for Civic Education** 28 Apr, 2021, 06:00 ET SHARE THIS ARTICLE

LOS ANGELES, April 28, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- From April 24-26, 47 classes from throughout the United States competed in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals, held once again as an online competition on the U.S. Constitution. The results were announced during an awards ceremony held April 27, where competitors learned the top finishers in the competition. The competition was sponsored by T-Mobile.

After three days of simulated congressional hearings that tested students' knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, three schools took top honors at the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals.

The National Winner: Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies, Richmond, Virginia

Teacher: Samuel Ulmschneider

Second Place: Grant High School, Portland, Oregon

Teacher: Angela DiPasquale

Third Place: Reno High School, Reno, Nevada

Teacher: Richard Clark

More than 1,000 students competed online using Zoom in the academic competition, where students demonstrated their knowledge of the Constitution in simulated congressional hearings and were judged by state supreme court judges, constitutional scholars, lawyers, public officials and We the People alumni.

The panel of judges tested the expertise of the classes on the six units of the "We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution" textbook: What Are the Philosophical and Historical Foundations of the American Political System? How Did the Framers Create the Constitution? How Has the Constitution Been Changed to Further the Ideals Contained in the Declaration of Independence? How Have the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shaped American Institutions and Practices? What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect? and What Challenges Might Face American Constitutional Democracy in the Twenty-first Century?

Information about the National Finals is available at https://www.civiced.org/national-finals-2021 and more information on the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program can be found at https://www.civiced.org/we-the-people.

The We the People Program is administered by the Center for Civic Education. More information about the Center can be found at http://www.civiced.org

The competition results were announced at an online awards ceremony. Tuesday evening April 27, 2021 at 8pm (ET).

For a list of all the other awards and winning schools, please visit: https://www.civiced.org/national-finals-2021-awards

SOURCE The Center for Civic Education

American Lawyers Alliance Teacher of the Year Awards Application

ALA National Teacher of the Year and Lillian B. Jarvis Teacher of the Year Combined Application Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION
Name * Sam Ulmschneider
Mailing Address * 2802 Ginter St Henrico VA 23228
Cell Phone * 804-909-1357
Home Phone 804-909-1357
Preferred Email * samuel.ulmschneider@gmail.com
Number of Classes Taught * 5
Grade Levels * 10-12

Number of Students * Apprx. 100/yr, class sizes 16-24
SCHOOL INFORMATION Name of School Maggie L Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies
School Mailing Address * 1000 N Lombardy St. Richmond VA 23220
Title 1 School? * Yes No
Name of Principal/Headmaster * Michael Smith, Acting Director
Telephone of Principal/Headmaster * 804-354-6800x1001
Email of Principal/Headmaster * msmith@gsgis.k12.va.us
School Email msmith@gsgis.k12.va.us

School Website *
https://mlwgs.com/
School District *
N/A, Self governing public magnet school program
PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENT UPLOAD
Name of Newspaper
Various (see articles in PDF packet). Mostly VCU News, UMW News, VPM News
Address of Newspaper N/A University and public media online publications
Please let us know how you learned about this Award?
Other We The People teachers recommended I apply.
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