



Submitted Photo

Coventry High's Lisa Johansen was recently named 2012's RI History Teacher of the Year.

Coventry teacher tops in RI

Coventry High's Lisa Johansen is '12 award winner

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COVENTRY —Coventry High School teacher Lisa Johansen was shocked when she heard that she had been named the 2012 Rhode Island History Teacher of the Year.

Johansen was nominated for the award by former student Emily Fisher and Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School social studies teacher Susan Squillante.

The History Teacher of the Year Award is co-sponsored by The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Preserve America and HISTORY.

This non-profit organization helps to boost history education throughout the country by giving resources to teachers.

According to their website, teachers who are nominated have to meet certain criteria including at least three years of classroom teaching experience, demonstrated commitment to teaching American History, evidence of creativity and imagination in the

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Teacher inspired by students

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classroom; and effective use of documents, artifacts, historic sites, oral histories and other resources to engage students with American history.

Johansen started teaching United State History at the high school in 1999 and prior to that she taught at the middle school for eight years.

Because of her love for history, she also co-coordinated the school's History Day and is an advisor for the History Club.

Last June, she and one of her Advanced Placement students, Amanda Hoskins, were one of 15 student/teacher teams for the National History Day project called "Normandy" to travel to Maryland, Washington D.C. and Normandy, France.

They were given the opportunity to visit the beaches of Normandy and visit the sites and honor the soldiers they had studied in class.

"I'm very honored to receive this award and represent all the history teachers in the state of Rhode Island," she said. "I think sometimes history gets a little bit left out of the curriculum when we have lots of focus on STEM and math and science and NEASC testing. It's an important subject and I



File Photo

As a result of a trip she took with 2012 RI History Teacher of the Year Lisa Johansen, Coventry's Brianna Hoskins earned a visit to the nation's capital, where she met members of R.I.'s Congressional delegation like Rep. Jim Langevin.

hope I represent the area well."

Johansen received a \$1,000 prize and entered into the competition to be named National 2012 History Teacher of the Year. The national award is chosen by board of judges made up of former historians, national winners, professors and teachers.

The winner for the national

award was recently announced; Johansen did not win but said she still felt honored to be named history teacher of the year in Rhode Island.

She said she now has the opportunity to participate at a summer teaching institute and in a number of other seminars during the school year.

Also, various history books

and educational material will be donated to the Coventry High School library in Johansen's name.

"My students inspire me every day and I will continue to be an advocate for the promotion of history and civic education," she said.