OGA Annual Conference a Great Success

More 150 participants registered for the conference and experienced an impressive array of sessions. Thank you to all who attended, presented, and helped with the Annual Conference at Portland State University. More 150 participants registered, participated in many excellent and varied sessions and went home armed with ideas, new skills, and materials. It was especially gratifying to see so many Teacher Consultants (TCs) from past years and a strong contingent of preservice teachers. A special thanks to our keynote speaker, Dr. Susan Hardwick, who set the tone for the conference with a thoughtful and stimulating presentation on the impact of Russian and Ukrainian immigration in Oregon. As always, the biggest thanks go to Melinda Glover in the OGA Office and the two graduate assistants, Lily House Peters and Kevin Rancik, whose hard work and organizational skills made the whole conference run so smoothly.
U of O to Offer Online Course for Teaching AP Geography

Register before June 30 for the summer 2010 *Preparing to Teach AP Human Geography* course offered by the University of Oregon. The online graduate-level course, *Preparing to Teach AP Human Geography*, is designed for high school and community college educators who are interested in teaching AP Human Geography. All assignments are submitted online, and there are no residency requirements to complete the course. Those who successfully complete the course will earn four quarter-term credit hours. The total cost is $1,110, and there are no additional fees for out-of-state students. Partial scholarships may be available to cover half of the tuition cost. For more information about the course, please contact Sonya Faust in the U of O’s Division of Continuing Education. Phone: (541) 346-4231 or (800) 824-2714. E-mail: disted@uoregon.edu.

Submit Your Best Lesson Plan

The NCGE Publications & Products Committee and the Curriculum &Instruction Committee invite you to submit your best lesson plans for a new NCGE product, *The World’s Greatest Geography Lesson Plans*. Lessons will be made available free of charge to members and at a nominal fee for non-members. A committee of experienced geographic educators will select the lessons for inclusion. Credit to the lesson creators will be given. Contact Beth Kirk-Kent at bethkk@aol.com for the required lesson format along with the submission instructions.

New National Geographic Education Website

This spring, National Geographic Education will launch a research-based, redesigned website that integrates the latest in learning research with new, innovative uses of technology to more effectively reach learners in and out of the classroom. The new site will include: daily current-event connections; standards-based activities, lessons, and other instructional resources; rich multimedia, including videos, photos, and interactive whiteboard content; teaching and learning supports such as guides, how-to’s, and tips; and a growing reference library on geography, social studies, and science topics. The new website will be located at: www.education.nationalgeographic.com.

Global Climate Change Institute at Western Oregon University

WOU is hosting a Global Climate Change Institute for K-8 Teachers (GcIFT), June 21-24, 2010. Participants in the institute will be funded by NASA. The institute includes hands-on activities about global climate change, information about current research on global climate change, the integration of climate change content with geography, science, mathematics and literacy (including children's books), and information about how climate change content aligns with state and national standards as well as the Climate Literacy Principles. Participants will receive $150.00 of equipment and materials in support of teaching about climate change. For more information contact Dr. Adele Schepige at schepia@wou.edu.

OGA Steering Committee News

Three TCs, Jennie Wheatley, Nick Clawson, and Therese Clark, are stepping down from the Steering Committee after three years of service. Each of these individuals has a long and distinguished history of service to the alliance and we owe them many thanks for their hard work and contributions. We also want to thank Tony Crawford who was appointed by the Steering Committee to fill in for Laura Oeffner who has decided on a career change.
**Geography Awareness Week is Back!**

*Geography Action!* will be retired and will convert into a curriculum program to support the growing suite of tile maps, with an emphasis on teaching mapping in the classroom. The popular *Geography Awareness Week* program is being resurrected to become the major annual public outreach focus. The theme for 2010 will be “Freshwater.” As in previous years, NGS will host a national website, which will be part of the new NG Education site—not My Wonderful World. NGS will work closely with partners in the geographic education community such as NCGE, AAG, and ESRI in developing the GAWeek website and materials, as well as with members of Geographic Alliances. Finally, the ambitious 5-year *My Wonderful World* campaign is winding down. Central aspects of the national program, including the My Wonderful World e-newsletter, blog, and website (MyWonderfulWorld.org), will continue. TC Charles (Chuck) Skinner (photo below with Judi Mar-Zaleski) and Melinda Glover will be the OGA Coordinators for the 2010 GAW Program. Stay tuned for more details.

**Mapping State and Community with WEB GIS**

Maps are a powerful way to detect patterns and uncover cause-and-effect relationships. Median age, home value, population change, and household size are just a few variables that can help you understand how your neighborhood differs from others in your community or across the country. A new mapping resource on the ESRI Web site, “Mapping for Everyone”, allow you to pose questions that will help you think spatially at scales from local to state to national. It is an example of the many easy-to-use but powerful GIS tools that are migrating to the Web. To create your own maps, visit [www.esri.com/mappingforeveryone](http://www.esri.com/mappingforeveryone) and click the “Make a Map” link. (Source: NCGE Perspective. February. 2010)

(Continued) Each participant will receive a free copy of the atlas as well as a CD ROM of activities, lesson plans, and other resources. Refreshments will be provided. Anyone interested in hosting this workshop should contact Gwenda Rice riceg@wou.edu 541-754-0309

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**Atlas Workshops Available for Spring and Summer 2010**

The OGA Atlas Team is available to provide free workshops to 4th and 5th Grade teachers on “Teaching the Geography of Oregon using *The Student Atlas of Oregon*”. Teachers from other grade levels are welcome. This workshop will include classroom-ready activities, lessons on map skills, and strategies for integrating math, reading, and science literacy skills through geography. We are especially interested in targeting Title I schools.
Images from the Annual Conference
The National Conference on Geographic Education will be held in Savanna, Georgia from September 29 to October 3, 2010 and the conference theme is “Geography Education: Bridging the Past and Present”. The conference is an annual event where geography educators from across the country and around the world meet to exchange ideas, research, resources, and best practices in geography education. It is filled with opportunities for participants to attend workshops, paper and poster sessions, field trips, and more. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal to present at the conference, should check the NCGE web site, www.ncge.org. Registration and hotel information is also available on the website. The deadline for proposal submission is June 1, 2010. In 2011, the annual conference will be held in Portland, Oregon at the waterfront Marriot Hotel from August 1-7.
Sub-Saharan Africa in the Classroom

Ten essays bring Sub-Saharan Africa, an often misunderstood region, into focus. Topics include teaching strategies, environmental and demographic concerns, cinematic portrayals of the region, and the human and physical landscape. The book is geared toward high school educators, but much of the information can be adapted easily for use with other students. Content is keyed to Geography for Life: The National Geography Standards.

Barry Mowell, Editor. NCGE Member Price: $12.00; Non-Member Price: $15.00

Teaching About the Islamic World

This book explores the human and physical geography of the Islamic World, a region often in the daily news headlines. Topics explored in the book’s twelve chapters include society in Afghanistan, representations of Islam and Muslims, the region’s water resources, the Kurds, ethnic identity in Muslim countries, and women in the Islamic World. Content is keyed to Geography for Life: The National Geography Standards.

Barry Mowell, Editor. NCGE Member Price: $9.00; Non-Member Price: $10.00

Climate Change and Variation: Volume I

This ‘Primer for Teachers’ includes 25 essays by leading geographers who provide an overview of long-term climate change and its impact on human activity, biogeography, and geomorphology.

William A. Dando, Editor. NCGE Member Price: $22.95; Non-Member Price: $24.95.

Climate Change and Variation: Volume II

This volume includes lesson plans, datasets, experiments and activities that can be adapted for use in K-12 and university classrooms.

William A. Dando, Editor. NCGE Member Price: $10.00; Non-Member Price: $12.9

Oregon Geographic Alliance

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