OGA Advanced Summer Institute: Turkey 2012

The Oregon Geographic Alliance will hold an advanced summer institute in Turkey from June 19th to July 5, 2011. Any Oregon teacher who has completed an alliance institute is eligible to apply. The itinerary includes visits to Istanbul, Izmir, Kusadasi, Antalya, and Cappadocia (with various side trips along the way). The trip will also include home stays, school visits, and a three-day coastal cruise on a traditional gulet boat. A brochure, which outlines the program and application process, was sent out to all TCs on the OGA distribution list. For further information, contact OGA at geogall@pdx.edu. Note that applications are due in the OGA office October 31st, with a $25 application fee (check payable to “PSU”). Applicants will be notified of acceptance on or about November 7th.

OGA Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Alliance Network

At the recent National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) annual conference in Portland, OGA TCs celebrated 25 years of membership in the National Geographic Alliance for Geographic Education. In addition to playing an important role in organizing the Portland conference, TCs marked the occasion by posing for a group photo with National Geographic Education Foundation Executive Director and Vice President for Education Programs, Daniel Edelson,
and Geography Alliance Network Director, Bob Dulli. TCs also attended a TC Reunion Celebration.
Congratulations to 2011 NCGE Award Winners
OGA received four awards at the national conference. TCs June Satak, West Albany High School, and Christopher Highfield, Corvallis Waldorf School, received NCGE’s Distinguished Teacher Award. Co-Coordinator, Teresa Bulman, received the NCGE Distinguished Mentor Award. The NCGE Local Arrangements Committee, Judi Mar-Zaleski, Therese Clark, Judy Lowery, Teresa Bulman, and Gwenda Rice, received a special award for their efforts in coordinating the conference. In addition, OGA nominee, Dr. Dawn Wright, Oregon State University, received the Outstanding University Teacher Award.

Award Winners: June Satak, Tersa Bulman, and Christopher Highfield

OGA Welcome Table a Hit!
Thank you to Judi Mar-Zaleski and Therese Clark for organizing the OGA Welcome Table at the NCGE Conference and to all TCs who helped out at the table. There was a steady stream of visitors to the table and a brisk trade in OGA T-shirts and Student Atlases. Large maps from the atlas were used to give visitors an informal geography lesson on Oregon. The exhibit also featured Mayoral Proclamations from all corners of the state.
 Helpers and Presenters

Marty Stevens

Judy Lowery and Jackie Waite

Nancy Hunt

Brant Mellor
Welcome New OGA TCs
This summer, 45 new TCs became members of OGA. In a unique opportunity, both groups of institute participants were able to attend the NCGE Conference as part of their institute training. They participated in the field trips and technology workshops by Google and ESRI, attended sessions, and joined in the NGS celebrations. Institute 1 focused on ELL learners and the lead TCs were Nancy Hunt and Christopher Highfield. Institute 2 focused on Geographic Literacy and the lead TCs were June Satak and Jeremy Hisch. These new members come from all corners of the state, including Plush, Fort Rock, Pendleton, Brookings, Madras, Merlin, Newburg, Warrenton, Ashland, Grants Pass, Eugene, Roseburg, Corvallis, Albany, Salem, Portland, Monmouth, and Bend. Both institutes also included preservice teachers.

Disappointing Results for National Geography Test

American students showed little improvement in geography test scores over the past decade, according to results of the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in geography, whose results were released on July 19. The NAEP exam, often called the Nation’s Report Card, is given to a representative national sample of students in grades 4, 8, and 12. About one-fourth of students performed at or above the proficient level, including 21 percent of 4th graders, 27 percent of 8th graders, and 20 percent of 12th graders. Proficiency is “solid academic performance and competency over challenging subject matter.” Geography scores, and those in civics and U.S. history, create a “picture of stagnating or declining overall achievement among U.S. students in the social sciences,” said a National Assessment Governing Board press release accompanying the Report Card. Nearly a third of 12th graders failed to achieve even a basic level of achievement on the 2010 geography assessment.
Celebrate Geography Awareness Week, Nov. 13-19, 2011
Since 1987 one week in November has been used to celebrate geography through educational initiatives and public outreach efforts. This year’s Geography Awareness Week (GAW), will focus on the theme “Geography: The Adventure in Your Community”, and will revolve around a series of “missions” that encourage individuals or teams of students, families, or friends to explore their own communities through geographic eyes, and challenge them to look at things from a geographic perspective. By completing a varied series of missions, individuals or teams can earn “badges” in the four sub-theme categories: photography, storytelling, mapping, and taking action. If they complete every badge, they are demonstrating that they are able to see their community and the rest of the world with deeper understanding. A GAWeek Toolkit, which includes downloadable missions, alignments with educational standards, media project guides, a poster, logos, press releases, tips, and more, is available at: http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/collections/geographyawarenessweek/

Oregon Social Sciences Academic Content Standards Adopted
The Oregon Social Sciences Academic Content Standards were adopted by the Oregon State Board of Education on August 15, 2011 (ORS 329.045). School districts will be expected to align instruction to the new standards by the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. The new Social Sciences standards have been developed using the Core Standards format, ‘Core Standards’, the knowledge and skills expected of a prepared Oregon high school graduate, and ‘Grade Level Standards’, developmental knowledge and skills that will lead to successful acquisition of the knowledge and skills in the Core Standards. These standards define the content knowledge thinking skills, and “habits of mind” that all Oregon students are expected to acquire in K-8 and three years of high school and are organized by the content areas mandated in state statute: Civics and Government, Economics, Geography, and History (Historical Knowledge).

Passport Club
The Passport Club is an individualized, sequential, geography program for schools. Its main purpose is to help students learn some, or all of the world's countries over the course of a school year, and to meet essential academic learning requirements for geography. The program promotes strong parent involvement in the school. Finally, the program introduces postage stamps as a valuable educational tool for teachers, and an interesting and enjoyable hobby for students. At J. Clyde Hopkins Elementary, Sherwood the program is run by the PTAC Board and parent volunteers. They hold 1-2 “Check Days” per month for students to test their knowledge on the countries they study. For information on setting up a Passport Club in your school check: www.thepassportclub.net
Students Conduct Fieldwork in Portland

Each spring students in Marika Conrad’s 5th grade students at J. Clyde Hopkins Elementary, Sherwood, conduct fieldwork in downtown Portland. With the aid of parent volunteers, students, working in groups, receive a map of downtown Portland, highlighting the boundaries of where they will be going, and receive an "Amazing Rose City Race" travel passport. The passport contains street coordinates they need to locate and questions to answer about everything from the names of buildings and what they observe when they ride the MAX. Students also visit the library and ride the streetcar. The highlight of this spring's fieldtrip was a visit to the Portland Police Museum where students got to dress up as officers and ride the motorcycle. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the passport, contact Gwenda Rice at ricesare@comcast.net

“REALITY” TO BOOST 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

A blend of reality world travel plus technology will make geography come alive in classrooms. Starting in January 2012, Trekking the Planet (TTP) will provide 60 weeks of on-the-spot around-the-world travel materials, to be accessed FREE by participating school classrooms. Two Trekking the Planet travelers will embark on a 400-day expedition to explore the cities, peoples, history, economics, topography, nature and customs of 50 countries on six continents, along with treks into 11 of the world’s most remote and unspoiled places of natural or cultural significance. Special focus will be on the environment and on sustainability practices, highlighting where the world is being threatened or improved. The mission of this non-profit venture will be to provide materials to help schools all over the world to better educate students about human and physical geography in new and exciting ways. Teachers will be able to access each of the 60 planned weekly four-page modules online and TTP’s travelers will also provide emails, photography, interviews, audio and video while traveling around the world. Maps and coordinates will highlight these locations. Students can formulate and post questions to be answered by the travelers in the subsequent week’s materials. Educators may enroll to participate at not cost at http://www.trekkingtheplanet.net/educators
Welcome Nancee Hunter, OGA Graduate Assistant

Starting this month, there is a new but familiar face at the OGA Office helping out as OGA’s Graduate Assistant. Nancee Hunter, who will be working on her PhD at Portland State, was the OGA Graduate Assistant when she worked on her Masters in Geography. After graduating, Nancee went to work for the National Geographic Education Foundation and then returned to Oregon to work at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. Welcome Nancee!

NCGE Webinars
NCGE is offering a series of Professional Development webinars in the next few months. These webinars are free to NCGE members and are available at a modest cost for non-members. Upcoming topics include “AP Human Geography Survival Kit” (October 20) with Jody Smothers-Marcello, “Weird Earth: Analyzing the Unusual and Mysterious” (October 26) with Joseph Kerski, and “MISSION: Explore the Adventure in Your Community” (November 2) with Daniel Raven-Ellison. For a full listing of webinar options, check www.tinyurl.com/ncgewebinars

Reminders
*Check out the New National Geographic Education Beta Website http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/program/education-foundation/
*Join OGA Facebook (Oregon Geographic Alliance http://www.geogres.pdx.edu/oga/) and NCGE Facebook (NCGE - The National Council for Geographic Education)

* If you have changed your school, email address, telephone number, or retired, please inform Melinda Glover at geogall@pdx.edu