The OGA Local Arrangement Committee has been busy preparing for the 2011 National Conference on Geography Education in Portland, Oregon from August 1-7 at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel. A major feature of the conference is the large number of full day and half day fieldtrips organized by OGA. All day trips (August 2nd and 3rd) include, the Columbia Gorge, Fort Clatsop and Astoria, the Willamette Wine Region, Oregon Garden and Silver Falls, Mt. St. Helen’s, and Coastal Oregon, including Haystack Rock and Seaside. Half day trips include, Portland Green City, the Japanese and Rose Gardens, and Mt. Hood and Timberline.

Over the next few months, we will keep you informed about events, opportunities, and requests for help. In the meantime, here are some things to consider:

- Receive graduate credit for participating in the conference.
- Present a paper, workshop, or poster session.
- Organize a session, panel, or round-table.
- Learn about resources, teaching strategies, professional development activities, and consulting opportunities.
- Participate in fantastic field trips.
- Leave with new teaching resources, innovative instructional approaches, and renewed energy!

Check the NCGE website, [www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org) for registration details.

**Need Some Good Oregon Photos!**
As part of the opening session for the conference, we would like to present a narrated visual journey across our state using the ecoregions map in the *Student Atlas of Oregon* as an organizing framework. We are looking for good physical and cultural images from all parts of the state as well as humorous and whimsical images. We have many good photographers in OGA, so please look through your collections, or take some new photos of your area, and send them to Teresa Bulman [bulmant@pdx.edu](mailto:bulmant@pdx.edu) as jpegs. Once
we have a large enough collection, we will make a final selection and then write a script to accompany the images and maps. We are planning to use TCs to do the narration as well as some of your students.

**Congratulations 2010 TC Award Winners**

Congratulations to Caryn Connolly (below), recipient of the 2010 National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teacher Award. Caryn, who teaches at Sprague High School, Salem, received her award at the National Conference on Geography Education in Savanna, Georgia.

![Caryn Connolly](image1.jpg)

Congratulations to Joyce Garland (below), recipient of the 2010 Oregon Small Schools Teacher of the Year. Joyce teaches at Sheridan High School and the superintendent credits Garland for growing the Advanced Placement program at the high school. Garland also serves as a team leader for the school’s Professional Learning Community and mentors young teachers.

![Joyce Garland](image2.jpg)

**OGA Presence in Savannah Meeting**

A strong contingent of Oregon TCs attended the National Conference on Geography Education in Savanna, Georgia including, Nancy Hunt, Caryn Connolly, Gail Vander...
Heide, Judy Lowery, Shirley Lomax, Therese Clark, Judi Mar-Zaleski, Teresa Bulman, and Gwenda Rice which included an Oregon Breakfast. An important OGA presence was OGA’s booth in the Exhibitor Hall, where TCs gave out information on the 2011 National Conference in Portland Oregon. Thanks to the entrepreneurial skills of the TCs, the booth was a big draw. At the closing banquet, the Oregon delegation officially welcomed participants to Portland in August 2011 and announced the winners of the raffle for three Oregon Baskets from ‘Made in Oregon’, ‘The Oregon Gardens’, and ‘Harry and David’ (See photos below).
Status Report on Draft Social Science Content Standards
The Oregon Department of Education is currently reviewing comments from the recent on-line survey and will be taking suggested edits to the Content and Assessment Panel and to some outside review groups for guidance. An improved draft will be made available for additional public comment before the final draft goes to the State Board of Education for approval. The goal is to have the process completed in late spring. In the meantime, if any of you have comments on the draft standards, you can email them directly to Andrea Morgan, Education Specialist Social Sciences Curriculum at andrea.morgan@state.or.us. Progress on the second draft will be posted on the Standards Review web page at http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2429.

Spanish Language Version of the Student Atlas of Oregon
The following TCs have been appointed to the Spanish Language Student Atlas Task Force. As a team, they represent a wide range of experience and expertise. Karen Adams and Judi Mar-Zaleski are the veterans who worked on the original atlas task force. Karen is from Madras where she coordinates the ELL program for her district. She is also an adjunct faculty member at WOU working in the Bilingual/ESOL endorsement program. Judi Mar-Zaleski is also an adjunct faculty member at WOU and recently completed her Master’s thesis on spatial learning in Oregon’s primary classrooms. Dawn Holmstrom teaches in Salem and has considerable expertise in working with both at-risk and ELL students. Nancy Hunt is a literacy coordinator in Lebanon who brings both literacy and ESOL training to the task. One of OGA’s goals is to include new, young teachers into the alliance’s various projects. Chelsea Fuller and Courtney Wehner first became involved with OGA as preservice teachers. Chelsea teaches in Salem and just completed her Masters degree which included an endorsement in ESOL. She brings a middle level perspective to the project. Courtney teaches kindergarten in Dallas with expertise in SIOP strategies.

The goals of this task force are to select pages from the on-line atlas and identify text for translation into Spanish and to decide which maps should be included in a hard copy.
version of the atlas. They will also be providing feedback on lessons plans for the OGA website to support this atlas.

**NGS Giant Travelling Map of the Pacific**
The vast blue depths of the Pacific Ocean await students’ inquiring minds and adventurous spirits! Releasing in October 2011, this new Giant Traveling Map will introduce students to the marvels of the planet’s largest ocean, which occupies over one third of Earth’s surface. Students will learn how the Pacific has been both a barrier and a highway throughout human history. They will explore the deepest place on earth - the Mariana Trench - as well as the world’s tallest mountain (measured from the seabed), Hawaii’s Mauna Kea. Most of all, students will experience the Pacific as a living thing: active volcanoes giving birth to new islands, deep-sea vents supporting unique life forms, phytoplankton blooms providing over half of the planet’s fresh air, and the Great Barrier Reef – the largest living structure in the world.

Accompanying the Giant Traveling Pacific Ocean map are activities and props for teachers to lead students (grades K-8) on enriching and fun explorations. Whether they are tracking a whale migration, acting out the movement of El Niño, tracing the routes of Polynesian seafarers, or circling the “Ring of Fire,” students will be supplied with accurate and compelling information cards, lavish photography, as well as several props, including cultural artifacts, geological models, large foam dice, colored cones, and colored hoops. The map measures approximately 26’ x 35’ and is available starting October 3, 2011.

**TC Nancy Hunt on the NGS map of South America**
Starting in January 2011 you may request Giant Traveling Maps for your schools. Available in 2011-12 are maps of Africa, Asia, North America, South America, and the Pacific Ocean. Maps book quickly, so it is recommended that you submit a request early. To request a map and find information on all the maps go to [www.nationalgeographic.com/giantmaps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/giantmaps)

**OGA Giant Maps Available**
In addition to the three Giant Oregon Maps (18’x20’), OGA has purchased two smaller maps, the World and U.S., approximately, 8’x10’ and 6’x10’. All these maps are available for loan. We are working on a handbook of lessons and activities to accompany these maps and will soon place these on the OGA website. If you are interested in loaning one or more of these maps, please contact Melinda Glover in the OGA Office at: geogall@pdx.edu
**Atlas Workshops for Preservice Teachers**
The Atlas teams are providing atlas workshops to preservice teachers in Colleges of Education. Workshops have been held at Northwest Christian University, Eugene, and at Western Oregon University (see photo). Next moth, one team will travel to Southern Oregon University in Ashland. If there are Colleges of Education near you, please contact the social studies methods instructor and let them know that these workshops are available and free. Each participant will receive a free atlas and a CD ROM of supporting resources, including lesson plans. If your school or district is interested in hosting a workshop for teachers, please contact Gwenda Rice ricesare@comcast.net.

![WOU Preservice Teachers Simulating the Path of Oregon Rain!](image)

**The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA)**
NCTA, funded by the Freeman Foundation, is a multi-year initiative to encourage and facilitate teaching and learning about East Asia in elementary and secondary schools nationwide. NCTA is a premier provider of professional development on East Asia. Launched in October 1998, this nationwide program is a collaboration of the East Asian Studies programs of seven universities. NCTA seminars target teachers of world history, world geography, other social studies courses, and language arts/world literature as the primary audience of its programs. Participants interact with East Asia specialists, receive extensive readings and other materials, and discuss effective strategies for bringing East Asia into their classrooms. There are opportunities to learn about study tour prospects. For more information check out: National Website: [http://www.NCTAsia.org](http://www.NCTAsia.org) and the Oregon specific page: [http://www.nctasia.org/states/OR/index.html](http://www.nctasia.org/states/OR/index.html)

**Social Networking and OGA**
A task force comprising Jeremy Hirsch, Marika Conrad, Caryn Connolly, and June Satak are working on developing a Facebook Page for OGA. They will
present their recommendations to the Steering Committee at the January 22nd meeting.

**Keep Us Informed**

Please let the OGA Office geogall@pdx.edu know of any awards, special events or projects that may be of interest to TCs, and announcements. Using the web makes it easy to showcase exemplary student work or students at work. Remember that you will need to have students’ permission before posting either student work or their photos in GEOBYTES. Also be sure to inform us of changes in address, school, or email address.