Welcome New TCs
OGA held two successful summer institutes on “The Geography of Oregon”, an initial and an advanced institute. In addition to learning about the geography of our state from content lectures, model lessons, and fieldwork, a major focus was to develop lesson plans to support the alliance Oregon Atlas Project designed for elementary and middle grades and funded by the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF). Participants evaluated and gave feedback on the draft maps produced and made recommendations for additional maps. Participants of the initial institute also produced activities for The Oregonian’s Newspapers in Education Insert, to be published during Geography Awareness Week, November 11-17. The theme of this year’s insert is the “Geography of Oregon”.

The new TCs come from all corners of Oregon, a one-room rural school, large urban schools, private schools and public schools. They include preservice teachers, first year teachers, and experienced veteran teachers. They are, Charity Adolf, Kathryn Boyea, Anthony Cantwell, Erica DeBellis, Shelley Eddleman, Ann Exell, Jessi Gisi, Nancy Hunt, Eric Keller, Carrie Kondor, Judy Kraft, Cameron Mitchem, Laura Oeffner, Casey Petrie, Nikki Putnam, Raymond Reeves, Charles Skinner, Marty Stevens, Deborah Swope, Helaine Truthstone, Wendy Wadnizak, Drew Wilson, Chad Wolyn, and Janelle Wren. The lead TCs. were Jason Boyd, Shirley Lomax, and Judi Mar-Zaleski.

OCSS Fall Conference
The Oregon Council for the Social Studies (OCSS) presents its fall conference, “Bridges to Global Understanding”, on Friday, October 12, 2007 at South Salem High School in Salem, Oregon. Sessions will include Beverly Pratt and Andrea Morgan from the Oregon Department of Education who will answer questions about ‘Highly Qualified Teacher’ requirements. Sessions that cross the grade levels will include presentations from Classroom Law, Oregon Geographic Alliance, World Affairs Council, National Guard, Oregon Teachers of Economics, Teachers’ Curriculum Institute (TCI), American Promise, and many more. The keynote will be delivered by a representative from Mercy Corps, which has been very active in sending relief to Darfur. The in-coming president of OCSS is OGA TC, Judy Lowery. Registration will begin at 7:30 A.M. and your registration will include lunch and a continental breakfast. Pre registration is encouraged and registration forms and further information can be found on the web site:
OGA Spring Conference Date Set
The OGA 2008 Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, March 8th at Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon. OGA is committed to bringing the conference to different parts of the state, as funding permits, and we are delighted to be returning to Monmouth next year. This will allow many preservice teachers to attend. A major focus of the conference will be the Oregon Atlas project, a three-year enterprise that will result in the publication of an atlas which will be published on the Internet for free access to all teachers; hard copies will be available at cost for classroom sets and special orders. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please contact Gwenda Rice riceg@wou.edu Mark your calendars and watch the OGA website for updates and registration materials.

My Wonderful World Campaign
The Oregon National Geographic-led My Wonderful World Campaign, together with coalition partner 4-H, sponsored a booth at the Oregon State Fair in Salem. On opening day three members of the MWW-OGA team, Shirley Lomax, Judy Lowery, and Gail Vander Heide, served as judges for the GIS-Community Mapping event. Armed with newly-developed scoring guides provided by Dechutes County 4-H Extension Agent Sarah Cofer, they poured over entries from all regions of Oregon. Four hours later they awarded ribbons for Grand Champion and a Reserve Champion in the individual and team classes. The projects, completed by high school students, many of whom are English language learners, were impressive. This school year 4-H and My Wonderful World will sponsor 15 grants for community mapping projects in Oregon counties. Check future Geobytes for opportunities to assist 4-H leaders with this project. What a way to further your own knowledge of GIS and promote geography education in Oregon!

Geography Action! ASIA
This summer, Terri Simons attended the National Geographic's 2007 Geography Outreach Institute along with TCs from around the United States. The participants, which included members of the DC Geographic Alliance and coordinators for the Geography Action! and My Wonderful World programs, took part in a full week of workshops and lectures at the National Conference Center in Landsdowne, VA, exploring ways to incorporate Geography Action! and My Wonderful World into classrooms and communities.

This year's theme is, "Asia--A Continent of Contrasts." Participants were kept busy learning about the geography of the continent, its environments, and cultures. They learned how to use activities, lesson plans, and resources featured on the National Geographic Web site as well as geographical approaches toward teaching and discussing current global issues. One of Terri’s assignments was to prepare a ‘Tool Kit for Oregon Teachers’ for how to plan, organize and conduct a Geography event in schools. This
toolkit is available on the NGS website: http://www.ngsednet.org/community/index.cfm?community_id=7 Terri will be sharing ideas and resources form this institute at the OCSS Fall Conference and the OGA Spring Conference.

**Third Group of TCs Added to OGA Mentor Program**
Funding from OCF has allowed us to expand our mentorship program to include three new mentees, Casey Petrie, Nikki Putnam, and Janelle Wren and three mentors, Maureen Barnhart, Shirley Lomax, and Gail Vander Heide. The three new mentees will attend the NCGE Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City in October 2007.

**NCGE Distinguished Teacher Award for Two Oregon TCs**
Congratulations to Terri Simons and Norie Dimeo-Ediger, this year’s recipients of the 2006 NCGE Distinguished Teacher Award. Terri teaches at Cal Young Middle School Eugene while Norie is the K-12 Education Program Manager for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). Both Terri and Norie have a long and distinguished history of service to OGA, including membership on the OGA Steering Committee and representing OGA at various conferences. They will receive their award at the Awards Banquet of the NCGE annual meeting at Oklahoma City.

**News from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)**
In August, NCGE headquarters moved from Jacksonville, Alabama to Washington, D.C. NCGE’s new address is 1710 Sixteenth Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 2009-3198. We encourage you to become a member of this geography education organization. Check out the web site www.ncge.org for membership details as well as information about other activities and resources. Those of you who teach at the elementary level should check out the Geography Club.

Kimberly Crews, who managed outreach activities and educational partnerships during a nine-year career with the U.S. Census Bureau, has been named NCGE’s executive director. She succeeds Dr. Michal LeVasseur of Jacksonville State (AL) University. OGA has used many of the materials that Kim developed during her tenure at the Population Reference Bureau and Census Bureau, in our summer institutes. Kim has also presented at one of our summer institutes.

Annual Conference: There is still time to register for the 92nd NCGE annual meeting to be held **October 18-21, 2007** in Oklahoma City. Highlights include a gala at the new Oklahoma History Center, a field trip to the National Weather Center and a Presidential plenary session with Gilbert Grosvenor, Chairman of the National Geographic Society. There will be six session strands to allow in-depth exploration of topics such as climate change, curriculum and instruction, Asia, and Latin America. Contact Allison Newton at anewton@ncge.org for all questions related to the 2007 Annual Meeting.

**OGA Steering Committee News**
Four TCs, Judy Lowery, Shirley Lomax, Dixie Seibel, and Nancy Jolstead have completed their term on the OGA Steering Committee. We want to thank these individuals for giving up time from their very busy lives to serve on this committee. We would like to welcome new members, Caryn Connelly, Marika Conrad, and June Satak. Gail Vander Heide will replace Nancy Jolstead as the representative for retired TCs. Other current members of the committee are, Norie Dimeo-Ediger, Nick Clawson, Therese VanReenen, Jennifer Wheatley, Jason Boyd, John Kavanaugh, Judi Mar-Zaleski, Bryan Forbes, Charan Cline, and Meghan Johnson. The Steering Committee plays a vital role in the governance of this organization. If you are interested in being nominated to serve on the committee, please contact Carolyn Perry at the OGA Office.

**National Geographic State Bee Coordinator to Retire**

After many years of dedicated service, TC Sheri Ruegsegger is stepping down as the state coordinator for the National Geographic Bee. Sheri has been the state coordinator since the inception of the competition and has been instrumental in making this event an important feature of the geographic education calendar in Oregon. Sheri, who was part of the first group of TCs in this organization, has also been active in promoting AP Human Geography in the state. Sheri was recognized for her work, at the July meeting of the OGA Steering Committee. The new coordinator is Tabitha Richards.

**Grants**

Congratulations to Donna Brent who recently received an OGA Incentive Grant. Information about OGA Incentive Grants, Family Geography Grants, or Travel Grants is available on the OGA website. In order to serve you better, we now have a rolling deadline. This is a valuable but underused resource available to you as a TC!

**Reminders and Resources**

Have you….

- Registered for the 2008 National Geographic Bee for students grades 4-8? [www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee)
- Checked out the National Geographic Education Foundation EdNet web site? [http://www.ngsednet.org/index.cfm](http://www.ngsednet.org/index.cfm). A feature of this site is EdNet Communities which provides a for discussion and collaboration hubs for large groups of educators and others with a common interest, such as state geographic alliances, National Geographic programs like Geography Action!, and other educational initiatives.
- Checked out the monthly Oregon Social Science Teacher Update? [http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/subjects/socialscience/curriculum/update/](http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/subjects/socialscience/curriculum/update/) This monthly, comprehensive, and current resource is designed for social studies teacher in the state. It is put together by Andrea Morgan, Oregon’s Department of Education’s social studies specialist. It contains information on professional development opportunities, grants, conferences, and specific testing and other state requirements for social studies. Contact Andrea Morgan, andrea.morgan@state.or.us if you wish to be added to the distribution list.
- Updated your information? If you have moved, changed schools, or have a new e-mail address, please inform Carolyn Perry at the OGA Office. This is vital if you
are to receive the most current information about opportunities and resources. E-mail Carolyn at: carolyn@geog.pdx.edu

Mark your Calendars:

- October 12, 2007 OCSS Fall Conference, Salem
- October 15, 2007 Deadline for registration for the National Geographic Bee
- October 18-21, 2007 NCGE Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- November 30-December 2, 2007 NCSS Annual Conference, San Diego, California
- March 8, 2008 OGA Spring Conference, Western Oregon University
- April 4, 2008 State Geography Bee, Western Oregon University
- April 15-19, 2008 AAG Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- May 20-21, 2008 National Geographic Bee, Washington, D.C.