OGA is 25 Years Old This Year!
In 1986, National Geographic Society (NGS) helped to build a national network of K-12 teachers, college geographers and educators, school administrators, and others dedicated to improving geography education. Oregon was one of 8 founding alliances (sort of like the original thirteen colonies!). OGA’s first Coordinator was Dr. Carl Brandhorst and the Alliance was based at Western Oregon University. That same year, five Oregon teachers, Dick Arnold, Dick Painter, Joanne Flint, Sheri Ruegsegger, and Ed Wiesehan attended the first NGS summer institute in Washington DC, thereby becoming the ‘Founding TCs’ of the Oregon Geographic Alliance. Much has happened over the last 25 years and, over the course of year, GEOBYTES will revisit key events. In the fall we are planning a commemorative issue and hope to include memories, photos, and short pieces from TCs (old and new) and former coordinators across the span of 25 years. So unearth your old institute photos and anecdotes and be prepared to share. Stay tuned!

OGA Receives Grant from the Oregon Community Foundation
OGA has received a $150,000 grant from OCF. The grant is for the summer institutes, continued work on the atlases, incentive and travel grants, and rewards for volunteer work for OGA.

Strategic Planning Underway
The OGA Steering Committee has been hard at work on the Strategic Plan under the leadership of Dahnesh Medora, Director of Programs and Senior Consultant for The Nonprofit Association of Oregon. The committee recently met at PSU (see photo) and the decision was made to postpone OGA Steering Committee elections until the strategic planning process was completed. This prevents disruptions arising from a change in the committee composition following new elections. Furthermore, it is possible that the composition of the Steering Committee will change as a result of decisions recommended in the Strategic Plan. GEOBYTES will keep you informed of developments and decisions.
Thank You for Photograph Submissions
Thanks to all who sent photographs of Oregon for possible use in the NCGE Opening Ceremony. Nick Clawson is now organizing the photos by ecoregions and the local arrangements committee will be meeting to make a final selection and write the accompanying script. Unfortunately, we only have a very short time allotted to this segment of the opening session so we will not be able to use all of the images. Nonetheless, we are truly appreciative of your submissions and perhaps we can create an archive of those images on the OGA website for possible use in your classrooms. The collection would be a valuable resource.

Spanish Student Atlas of Oregon Progress Report
The task force has completed the first phase and the text has been translated. The atlas is now in the hands of David Banis, the cartographer. The task force decided that it was important for the English and Spanish hard copy versions to be identical so that teachers could use both versions in a classroom if needed. They are now working on adapting existing atlas lesson plans for use in ELL/Bilingual classes and will identify new lessons that need to be created. The plan is to use some of these lessons at the first summer institute.

2011 Oregon State Geography Bee Winner!
On April 1, 2011, the State Geography Bee was held at Western Oregon University. The winner, Harish Palani, is 11 years old and a fifth grader at Findley Elementary in Beaverton. He won the championship by correctly naming the country that was dethroned by China last year as having the largest economy in Asia. Harish is one of the youngest competitors in the Oregon Geographic Bee and will represent the state in the national competition in Washington DC. Sixth-
grader Danny Little, from Robert Frost Elementary in Silverton, won second place. Preservice teachers from WOU provided assistance as runners, scorekeepers, and other needed tasks.

**Update on the 2011 National Conference**

![2011 National Conference](image)

Check out this YouTube Promotional Video for the conference!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq_BwW5G-S4

**2011 NCGE Call for Proposals**

NCGE is currently accepting session proposals for The National Conference on Geographic Education, August 3-7, 2011 in Portland OR. The deadline is **May 15, 2011**. The 2011 Conference "Going Green for Geography" will feature hands-on workshops, field trips, presentations, and exhibits that cover all areas of geography education with an emphasize on teaching and learning about human interaction with environmental systems and processes. AP Human Geography is another major focus and we encourage submissions geared towards APHG!

In addition, other 2011 conference strands will include: Geotech, Fieldwork & Citizen Science, Natural Hazards, GeoHistory, GeoLiteracy, and more. NCGE can and will add additional strands upon review of submissions. Check the NCGE website [www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org) for details. You must register for the conference before submitting your proposal abstract.

**NCGE 2011 Map Gallery Contest Information**

The 2011 NCGE Map Gallery Committee invites you to submit a map for display during the 2011 Conference. All maps created with a GIS which include analysis are welcome. The maps will be judged by a panel of peers, with the exception of the People’s Choice Award, which will be voted on by the conference attendees. The Map Contest will feature two award categories (Best Cartographic Design and Best Analysis - Higher Ed., K-12 & People’s Choice) and the winners will be announced at the closing session on Saturday, August 6, 2011. Please review the minimum requirements and categories carefully when designing the content of your map entry at [www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org). Map Submission Deadline is **May 15, 2011**.
Four NCGE Professional Development Opportunity Webinars

Teaching About Global Climate Change
Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 8pm EDT/7pm CDT
Susan Gallagher Heffron, Association of American Geographers
‘Teaching about Global Climate Change’ provides free, online professional development modules for geography and social studies teachers at middle and high school levels. The two modules provide information and materials for teachers who are preparing to teach about global climate change. This project was developed by the Association of American Geographers in collaboration with Denver Public Schools with funding from the NASA Global Climate Change Education Program.
Register now: https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/220539966

Fast and Fun Geo-Web 2.0 Activities for End of the School Year
May 11, 2011 at 9pm EST/8pm CST
Joseph Kerski, Esri, Redlands, CA
Explore engaging, one-day, classroom activities that use cutting-edge Geo-Web 2.0 tools. We’re highlighting the web-based mapping tools that will inspire students to learn, even with the last days of school fast approaching.
Register now: https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/913102350

Space, Place & Relationships: Exploring Spatial Cognition in 2011 and Beyond
Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 8pm EDT/ 7pm CDT
Diana S. Sinton, Director of Spatial Curriculum and Research, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA and Nora S. Newcombe, Professor of Psychology & James H. Glackin Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
This session guides you through the explorations of space, place and relationships. Psychologists, geographers, and educators have long studied how children and adults understand and use space, such as how we navigate, read maps, and manipulate objects in 3D. This session we will review some of these complex questions and answers, and preview where this research agenda is going next.
Register Now: http://www.ncge.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3462

Patterns, Trends & Analysis: Utilizing Current Events in the Classroom
Tuesday, June 7, 2011, 8pm EDT/ 7pm CDT
Neal Lineback, Geography Faculty Emeritus, Appalachian State University, NC
Join Neal Lineback as he guides participants through examining patterns and trends and analyzing causes and impacts of geography on current events.
Register Now: http://www.ncge.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3462
GILBERT M. GROSVENOR, a passionate advocate for geography education, retired as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Geographic Society at the end of 2010. Under Grosvenor’s leadership, the Society established the Geographic Alliance Network and the National Geographic Bee. Countless geography educators and American students have reaped the benefits of these and other programs. Grosvenor is now chairman emeritus and will continue to serve as chairman of the National Geographic Education Foundation.

–Tim Hill (NCGE Perspective)

NGS Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Alliance Network
The Portland NCGE Meeting will be an opportunity for National Geographic to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the creation of the NGS Alliance Network. Planners are hoping that TCs and Coordinators, old and new, will come to the meeting to participate in the celebrations to revitalize and renew the push for geographic education. We will keep you informed of plans once they have been finalized. Stay tuned!

Invitation to Preview the new NGS Education Website
The National Geographic Education Team is inviting all TCs to take a sneak peek at their NEW beta website, NatGeoEd.org. Here is a message from the team:
“We are very excited to offer this special opportunity. On the new website you’ll find all the iconic photos, videos, articles, and research you expect from National Geographic, along with activities, an interactive mapping portal, a growing reference library, and more. We hope these free educational materials will inspire
you to care about the planet—whether you're an educator, student, or parent. But don’t take our word for it: Take a sneak peek at the beta website today, and complete our brief survey to tell us what you think of this early preview of the new website. New things will continue to roll out in the coming months—and your opinion matters. Thanks for your ongoing support of National Geographic Education. We can't wait to hear your feedback! “

Theme Selected for Geography Awareness Week 2011
The 2011 theme is, "Discovering Geography through Community Exploration."
The 2011 Geography Awareness Week website will be part of the new NG Education site currently accessible at:
http://beta.education.nationalgeographic.com/education/programs/).

Google Site: Please visit the Geography Awareness Week Google Site if you have not already, or if it’s been a while since you have accessed it. It is a fantastic resource for seeing what other Alliances around the country are doing and for sharing ideas.
https://sites.google.com/a/ngs.org/geography-awareness-week-2010/ Email Justine Kendall (jkendall@ngs.org) if you have any trouble accessing the site. GEOBYTES will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Check out New NGS Videos on YouTube
National Geographic magazine continues a yearlong series examining the specific challenges and solutions we face as the worldwide population reaches 7. Two YouTube videos are part of a communications campaign for the magazine’s population series. The first one went viral with more than 3.3 million views on YouTube and Yahoo combined since it was launched March 2. Now a second one has been released.

"Seven Billion: Are You Typical?"

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B2xOvKFFz4

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sc4HxPxNrZ0

Travel Opportunities for Teachers
Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is a non-profit organization that runs summer professional development travel programs designed for teachers. GEEO is offering 13 different travel programs for the summer of 2011: India/Nepal, China, Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey/Syria/Jordan/Egypt, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana, Morocco, Argentina/Uruguay/Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica and Guatemala/Belize/Mexico. Registration deadline is June 1st, 2011, however some of the programs will be full before then. Educators have the option to earn graduate school credit (3 credits through Indiana University) and professional development credit while seeing the world. The trips are 8 to 23
days in length and are designed and discounted to be interesting and affordable for teachers. Detailed information about each trip, including itineraries, costs, travel dates, and more can be found at www.geeo.org.

In other News……..

The Association of Geographers (AAG) has launched AAG SmartBrief, a summary of the most important industry news delivered to your inbox weekly. Visit (and bookmark!) their Web site for breaking industry news and an archive of past issues: http://www.smartbrief.com/news/aag

Here is a sampling of recent entries:

**Geography advocates hope huge globe will get the ball rolling**
Geography advocates rolled a 22-foot-wide inflatable globe through the Massachusetts State House to persuade lawmakers to back plans to boost geography education. A bill under consideration would create an annual Geography Education Week, and would mandate formal geography lessons at all levels of grade-school education. "Right now, U.S. geography is taught in fourth grade and world geography in sixth or seventh. Otherwise, it's not a focus," said teacher Erin Stevens. "We think it should be taught in every grade." The Boston Globe (free registration) (4/4)

**A map of our fears**
People in Mediterranean nations show the highest level of fear when asked about issues such as terrorism and medical accidents, a study found. The geographic regions showing the least amount of fear were the Netherlands, Finland and Austria. What is the biggest factor in determining fear? The number of citizens who believe in hell, the study found. Wall Street Journal, The (03/19)

**California at risk of tsunami strike, geographers warn**
The California Geological Survey is rushing to revamp its "worst-case scenario" maps to help coastal communities plan for a hypothetical tsunami strike. A tsunami easily could occur on the U.S. West Coast, geographers and geologists say, and hundreds of cities are in the potential danger zone. "Could a devastating tsunami hit here? The answer is a resounding yes," warns federal research geographer Nathan Wood. San Francisco Appeal, The (03/21) Los Angeles Times (03/17)

**Chinese mapping site offers hand-drawn charts**
TheAtlantic.com (03/21)

**Mapping tool helps track Japanese, Libyan crises**
Human rights and disaster-relief workers are using an open-source software tool called Ushahidi to map data about unfolding crises in Japan, Libya and elsewhere. The system lets volunteers add location-linked data points via mobile phone, and features a social check-in layer that allows the tool to be used for group reporting and
tracking individual rescue workers. Experts say the maps also will serve as historical documents, helping to detail relief efforts and allowing future aid workers to learn from workers' successes and failures. MIT Technology Review (3/2011), National Public Radio (text and audio) (3/28)

Government geographers pin median center of U.S. population at an Indiana cornfield
Evansville Courier & Press (Ind.) (free registration) (3/29)