OGA Spring Conference: Mark Your Calendars!
The OGA 2009 Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, March 7th at Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon. We are pleased to be returning to Monmouth as this will allow many preservice teachers to attend. The keynote speaker is Dr. Tom Harvey of Portland State University who will speak on “The Canadian Difference”. There will be lessons and lectures on the Geography of Canada. Lynn Songer and Bill Hamlin will present sessions on integrating technology into geography. As we continue to celebrate 150 years of statehood, there will be lessons from the Student Atlas of Oregon, including poster sessions by preservice teachers who designed lessons for the ‘Oregon 150 Project’. Teacher’s Curriculum Institute (TCI) will present sessions on Social Studies Alive! for the elementary level and Geography Alive! for the middle and high school level. Workshops will include the popular grant writing workshop by Teresa Bulman, how to conduct a ‘Family Geography Night’, Geography Action! The Americas and Europe sponsored by the National Geographic Society (NGS), and much, much more. This promises to be an exciting conference and we urge you to spread the word and recruit participants. Mark your calendars, share this information with your colleagues, and go to the OGA website for updates and registration materials.
http://geog.pdx.edu/oga/.

2009 OGA Summer Institute
The 2009 OGA Summer Institute will be held at Portland State University from July 6-17. The theme is the Geography of Oregon in keeping with the ‘Oregon 150’ commemoration and the launching of the Student Atlas of Oregon. No matter what you teach in geography, lessons can be enhanced by making connections with local Oregon examples. There will be content lectures, fieldwork, including a visit to the pristine Bull Run Watershed, a focus on technology integration, participation in standards based lessons, and exposure to key geographic resources. Five graduate credits in Geography or Education, will be available and a stipend will help defray the cost of tuition or any other expenses. Start recruiting among your colleagues. This organization depends very much on your publicity efforts. Check the OGA website for deadlines and application deadlines http://geog.pdx.edu/oga/.

The facts ma’am, just the facts”
Dragnet
Giant Globe Balloon Comes to Oregon
During Geography Awareness Week, the Earth Balloon, a 20' inflatable globe that students can enter, came to Western Oregon University (WOU) and the University of Oregon (UO). Students from the classrooms of TCs Marika Conrad, Chris Highfield, and Janelle Wren got to be part of this exciting learning environment. Celeste Fraser, a world geography textbook author and former teacher, Exhibit Developer, and Geography Specialist at Chicago Children's Museum, brought the globe and conducted several lessons for the students. Students got to look at the world from the inside out and make discoveries about how the world works and to understand the web of relationships between people and Earth's physical systems. At WOU, preservice teachers worked with the students and took them to the lab to explore the My Wonderful World website while those visiting UO got to be part of a GIS Day celebration. If you are interested in having the Globe visit your school, check the “Whereabouts Inc.” web site at www.whereaboutsinc.com

National Conference on Geography Education Comes to Portland
The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) will hold its 2011 annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. OGA will be actively involved as the ‘Local Arrangements Committee’ and we will be calling on all members to help with the event. This is a unique opportunity to showcase our state and our alliance. Tentative arrangements are for the conference to be held in late July or early August in order to make this a family-oriented event. The conference theme will be ‘Sustainability’. Stay tuned for more information.

2009 National Conference on Geography Education, Puerto Rico
NCGE’s 2009 annual conference will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 23 - 27. The theme of the conference is “Crossroads of Cultures” reflecting the location, history, and connections across the Caribbean region and within Puerto Rico. Planned
conference strands include, South and Middle America and the Caribbean, Climate Change, Ecotourism and Sustainable Development, and Geospatial Technology. The deadlines for submitting proposal to present in April 13, 2009 and instructions will be available at www.ncge.org in late January.

TCs to Serve on Social Science Content and Assessment Panel
The Oregon Department of Education has created a panel to review and revise Oregon’s Social Sciences Content Standards during the 2008-2009 school-year. Members of the panel will have an opportunity to have a significant impact on both Social Sciences content standards and assessments in the state of Oregon. TCs Ernie Soward, Rick LaGreide, Steve Travis, Jeff Neal, Tony Crawford, Laura Oeffner, and Tricia Polsinelli have been selected to serve on the panel. This is a unique opportunity to make sure that geography is well represented. Recent events in the world have illustrated very clearly the importance for students to have an understanding of geography. Global literacy is one of the Essential Skills, part of the new high school diploma requirements.

Professional Opportunities and Resources
Korea Foundation: The Korean Studies Workshop for American Educators, sponsored by the Korea Foundation, provides U.S. social studies educators with fully-funded study tours of Korea. The workshop is designed to enhance mutual understanding between the people of Korea and the United States by inviting certain U.S. educators to visit Korea and then share their experiences with fellow Americans upon their return. In the summer of 2009, up to 60 secondary school social studies educators from across the United States will be selected to travel to Korea for the 12-day workshop. The workshop will include lectures, tours to cultural and industrial sites, and a meeting with Korean educators and students. The deadline for the 2009 Korean Studies Workshop is February 25, 2009. Those interested should visit our website at www.iie.org/ksw to access the online application. To request materials or if you have any questions, contact 1-800-270-4317 or ksw@iie.org.

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO): GEEO is a non-profit organization that helps educators travel abroad to gain a better understanding of the world. Check the website, www.geeo.org, to see expanded tour offerings for 2009, which include Peru, India, Tunisia, Tanzania, Ecuador, and Thailand. The trips are all between 2-3 weeks in duration and are customized especially for teachers. Participants can earn professional development/graduate school credit while traveling. If you have any questions after reviewing the website, call 1-877-600-0105.

Oregon Council for Social Studies (OCSS): OCSS will hold its annual spring conference on Saturday, April 4. The exact location of the conference is still to be finalized and we will inform you as soon as that information becomes available.

National Geography Challenge: The Challenge is an annual competition sponsored by NCGE and administered by the Continental Mathematics League. The registration deadline for the 2009 Challenge is February 10. It can be given in schools anytime form April 20 through May 1, 2009. Questions are standards-based, multiple choice format
covering topics in physical and human geography. Each test is proctored and administered by the school. The highest-scoring student in each grade level in participating school is awarded the National Geography Challenge Medal. The next ten highest-scoring students are recognized with a Certificate of Achievement. For sample questions, registration fees, and instruction, visit www.continetalmathematicsleague.com/ngc.html or call 631-584-2016

**Hard Copy of the Student Atlas of Oregon Available:** A hard copy edition of the *Student Atlas of Oregon* will be available in February. The atlas will cost $5.00 and can be purchased from the OGA Office. Copies of the atlas will also be available for purchase at the OGA Spring Conference. The project, funded with support from the John D. and Elizabeth N. Gray Endowment Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, National Geographic Education Foundation, and Portland State University, is OGA’s birthday present to the state and will be presented to the Governor on February 14, 2009, the day that Oregon commemorates 150 years of statehood. The atlas is designed primarily for upper elementary and middle level classrooms but many of the maps are appropriate for high school level. The atlas is currently on-line and free. www.studentatlasoforegon.pdx.edu, OGA will also make classroom sets and teachers’ editions of the atlas at cost. Efforts are underway to secure funding to make classroom sets available for ‘high need’ schools. Lesson plans based on the atlas map will soon be available on-line on the OGA website.

**Family Geography Night Manual:** The manual for hosting a Family Geography Night has been completed and will soon be available on the OGA website. Drawing on the expertise of TCs, Karen Adams, Marika Conrad, Nancy Hunt, Becky Wandell, Jennifer Wheatley, and Janelle Wren, who have conducted successful programs, the manual includes information on how to organize such an event, ideas for activities, a list of resources, templates for announcements, evaluation, and publicity, and ideas for securing funding. It also includes sample programs illustrating different ways for organizing the event. Janelle Wren and Nancy Hunt will be presenting a session on conducting a successful Family Geography Night at the Spring Conference and copies of the manual will be distributed at their session.

**Teacher’s Guide to Modern Geography:** The American Association of Geographers’ (AAG) *A Teacher’s Guide to Modern Geography* includes instruction and resource materials designed to improve the preparation of teachers to teach geography. The materials include an interactive, multimedia CD containing geography lessons and teachers’ notes that use an inquiry-based approach to instruction using geographic questions, a set of overhead transparency masters promoting spatial thinking skills, and a Teaching Geography textbook by Guilford Publications. The Teaching Geography CD-ROM may be purchased for $25 from the AAG Online Store at http://communicate.aag.org/eseries/ScriptContent/Custom/AAGOnline/AAGShop/Preview of the CD modules can be fund at http://www.aag.org/tgmg/materials.htm

**Project GeoSTART:** GeoSTART materials will help middle and high school students learn state-of-the-art approaches to geography, earth science, and spatial thinking using
the NASA Earth Observing Missions remote sensing imagery and related data. Each activity is designed to engage one of the eight major modes of spatial thinking that are the focus of the NASA-funded curriculum project. The activities use this approach to study hurricanes and include background information, instructions, and satellite imagery. Activities include: Hurricane shapes, Hurricane Frequency, Hurricane Paths, Hurricane Stories, Hurricane Winds, Hurricane Strength, and Hurricane Impact. Visit www.aag.org/geostart to download these free materials.

Have you….

- Updated your information with OGA? If you have moved, changed schools, or have a new e-mail address, please inform Sandy Christopherson at the OGA Office. This is vital if you are to receive the most current information about opportunities and resources. E-mail Sandy at: sandc@pdx.edu or geogall@pdx.edu

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