OGA Spring Conference: Mark your Calendar!
The OGA 2007 Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, March 17th at Seaside High School. As you know, OGA is committed to bringing the conference to different parts of the state, as funding permits, and we are delighted to be returning to the Oregon coast next year. Our hosts will be TCs Jason Boyd and other coastal TCs. We have lined up a strong program with nationally renowned presenters, Dr. Dawn Wright from Oregon State University, an oceanographer, geographer and a national leader in GIS education, and Dr. Phil Gersmehl, Director of the New York Center for Geographic Learning at Hunter College New York. Kelly Shafsky of the Teacher’s Curriculum Institute (TCI) will be presenting two sessions on the new Geography Alive! Curriculum. Other sessions include workshops on grant writing, how to become a National Board Certified Teacher, and the “My Wonderful World” campaign as well as sessions on professional opportunities, integrating literacy, and teaching ideas from the Botswana Advanced Field Institute participants. This promises to be an exciting conference. Mark your calendars, share this information with your colleagues, and watch the OGA website for updates and registration materials.

OGA 2007 Summer Institutes Dates Set (Pending funding)
This summer, OGA will offer two institutes, a basic institute and an advanced one. Both will be held at PSU. The basic institute is scheduled to run from July 9 -20 while the advanced institute will run from July 23 to the 27. The topic for both institutes is the “Geography of Oregon”. In addition to lectures on the geography of Oregon, participants will develop support materials for the new OGA Elementary Oregon Atlas. Lesson plans and activities will be developed, evaluated, and eventually field tested. The advanced institute will serve as a review team. The atlas project team, under the leadership of Judi Mar-Zaleski, has completed its task of selecting the types of maps and materials that needed to be included in the atlas. Our thanks go to Karen Adams, Norie Dimeo–Ediger, Maureen Barnhart, Scott Cameron, Marika Conrad, Dixie (Seibel) Bowler, and Judi Mar-Zaleski. The project, funded by a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), is a
three-year project 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.

**Joint OCSS/COFLT Conference, March 3**

On March 3, 2007 (Saturday) Oregon's Second Language and Social Studies teachers' organizations, COFLT and OCSS, will offer their first joint conference, titled "Pathways to Cultural and Global Understanding", at George Fox University in Newberg. With support from the Oregon Department of Education, Keynote Speaker Dr. Daniel Coste, from the Council of Europe, will discuss "The Common European Framework for Language Learning and its Impact on Cultural Understanding". Other presentations will include "My Wonderful World" by the OGA team and the University of Oregon's MOSAIC program linking languages and content. Details are available at: [www.oregonoic.org](http://www.oregonoic.org), or [www.coflt.net](http://www.coflt.net), or [www.oregonsocialstudies.org](http://www.oregonsocialstudies.org).

**AP Human Geography Testing Numbers Increase in 2006**

AP Human Geography test rates for 2006 are up 49% from 2005. This year, 21,003 students sat for the exam which measures performance in college-level advanced placement (AP). This shows a rapid growth pattern for the test which was first instituted in 2000-01 with 3,272 enrollees. According to Donald Zeigler, chair of the APGH Development Committee, geography professors, including those from Oregon State University, Clark University, Macalester College and Dartmouth University, have commented on students in their classes that are well-versed in geography from their AP class. High school teachers also report on their students who are taking geography courses in colleges around the country because they want to continue to learn more about geography. (AAG Newsletter, December 2006)

**Bringing Earthwatch Home**

Last summer, TC Judy Sweeny attended an Earthwatch Institute in Kenya, an international non-profit organization that brings science to life for people concerned about the Earth's future. Founded in 1971, Earthwatch supports scientific field research by offering volunteers the opportunity to join research teams around the world. In Kenya, Judy worked side by side with scientists studying the Grevy's zebra, largest of all the zebras and an endangered species. Back home in Madras, Oregon, Judy’s class is using the same approach to study Haystack, a wildlife area close to her school. Students are publishing a field guide about the plants and wildlife of this research site. Be sure to check out Judy’s session at the OGA Spring Conference to find out how you can become involved.

**Are You In a Rut? Need New Ideas?**

Check out these two interactive websites. They are full of engaging and current teaching ideas for your students.

- **My Wonderful World**: The website at [www.MyWonderfulWorld.org](http://www.MyWonderfulWorld.org) will get your students hooked on geography starting with the Geo-Challenge survey questions. It seems to have the same
effect on all grade levels, including college students!

**Geography Club:** The brainchild of NCGE’s Steve Pierce, this club is designed to provide activities for the elementary classroom. Every month, Steve creates a new set of activities. Visitors to the site can also view and download activities going back to 2005. This month’s activities center on US state license plate and quarters and can be found at http://www.ncge.org/resources/geoclub/

**NCGE 2007 Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City, October 18-21**
For more information check the NCGE website, www.ncge.org or contact the NCGE Central Office, 256-782-5293 or via E-mail at anewton@jsu.edu. The council is moving proposal submissions online. Those who complete their application online are eligible for $10 in “NCGE bucks” which can be redeemed when purchasing NCGE materials at the Oklahoma meeting. The deadline for all proposals is March 15, 2007.

**NCSS 2007 Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 30-December 2**

**NCGE- CRAM Scholarship**
The George F. Cram Co. will give $750 cash awards to K-12 teachers (or group of teachers) for descriptions of exemplary classroom presentation that they have created. To be eligible, the presentation must reflect current trends in geographic education and present an innovative or original approach to teaching geography. Formats may include lessons, simulations, workshops, or other learning activities. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 5, 2007. For more information check the NCGE website www.ncge.org.

**Botswana Institute Featured in NCGE’s Perspective**
The December issue of Perspective, NCGE’s newsletter, carried a detailed account of OGA’s Advanced Institute to Botswana entitled, “Oregon Meets Botswana, on a Hays-Fulbright Grant”. The story also included photographs of participants visiting schools and a group photo taken at the Tropic of Capricorn.

**Resources**

**Geography Teacher Magazine:** The Geography Teacher, NCGE’s new magazine, will be mailed to all members this spring. In response to the needs of educators, The Geography Teacher focuses on short articles, lesson plans, teaching tips, and news especially relevant to teachers of grades K-12, pre-service teachers, and professors of education and geographic education. Formatted in a colorful and engaging manner, The Geography Teacher speaks directly to audiences that have requested this type of journal for several decades. The spring issue will include a lesson using China’s one-child policy to teach math and reading, a feature on teaching geography to at-risk children, and an essay by a ninth-grader on life after the National Geographic Bee. The Journal of Geography continues to be the premier peer-reviewed journal devoted to geographic education.

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Teaching Geography: From leading geography educator Phil Gersmehl, this 278-page volume presents a conceptual framework and hands-on ideas for effective geography teaching in middle and secondary schools. It includes nearly 100 activities from reproducible masters or the accompanying CD-ROM. The book features standards-based curriculum materials and assessments and is an ideal pre-service or in-service text. Dr. Gersmehl will be presenting activities from this book during his session at the OGA Spring Conference. The book is available from Guildford Press and from the NCGE web site www.ncge.org

Reminders

Apply for an OGA Grant Now
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 resource available to you as a TC!

Update 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

Calendar of Events

○ March 3, COFLT/OIC/OCSS Joint Conference, George Fox University

○ March 17, 2007 OGA Spring Conference, Seaside High School

○ March 30, 2007 State Geography Bee, Western Oregon University

○ April 17-21, 2007 AAG Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA

○ July 9-20 OGA Summer Geography Institute, PSU
○ (Pending)

○ July 23-27 OGA Advanced Summer Geography Institute, PSU
○ (Pending)

○ October 12, OCSS Fall Conference, Salem

○ October 18-21 NCGE Annual Meeting, Oklahoma City

○ November 30-December 2 NCSS Annual Meeting, San Diego