State Geography Bee Winner is Runner-up in National Finals
State National Geographic Bee champion Arjun Kandaswamy, an eighth-grader from Meadow Park Middle School, Beaverton, is the runner up in the 2009 National Geographic Bee held in Washington DC on May 20th. Arjun received a $15,000 scholarship. The tie breaker winning question was: Timis County shares its name with a tributary of the Danube and is located in the western part of which European country? Answer: Romania. To see footage of the final round and other Bee information check this site.

Steering Committee Elections: We Need Your Vote!
It is time to elect three new members to the OGA Steering Committee and a ballot is included with this newsletter. In putting together the slate, the Steering Committee took into consideration regional as well as grade level representation. Our goal is to serve the entire state. The terms of three members, Jason Boyd, of Seaside High School, John Kavanaugh, of Lane Middle School, Portland, and Judi Mar-Zaleski, retired and adjunct instructor at Western Oregon University, will expire on June 30, 2009. We want to recognize and thank these individuals for their hard work and contributions to the success of OGA. The Steering Committee plays a critical role in the health and success of this organization so please participate in the election and send in your votes. If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee in the future, please let us know. We are always looking for a ‘Few Good TCs’!

Giant Floor Maps of Oregon
OGA has purchased three giant floor maps (approximately 22’ by 15’) of Oregon using maps from the Student Atlas of Oregon. Two will be housed at PSU and one at WOU. The maps will be available to TCs for use in your classrooms, for in-service presentations, or for Family Geography Nights. Details on accessing these maps as well as conditions for their use will be made available to you on the OGA web site, once the maps have arrived. Further information will be sent on the OGA e-mail distribution list. Stay tuned for more details.
Geography Professional Development Workshops Available
This fall, teams comprising Gwenda Rice and Judy Lowery (WOU) and newly retired TC veterans, Shirley Lomax and Therese VanReenen, will be available to bring your school district a free OGA workshop on “Using the Student Atlas of Oregon in Elementary and Middle School Classrooms”. The workshop will include the giant OGA Oregon Floor Map, activities and lessons using the atlas, and a free copy of the atlas to all participants. School districts may also purchase classroom sets of the atlas at the very modest cost of $5 per atlas. Our goal is to let teachers across the state become aware of this excellent resource. Please let your building administrators, district curriculum personnel, and Educational Service Districts (ESD) know about these workshops. In these difficult financial times, professional development opportunities are expensive and increasingly rare and OGA can help to fill that void. If your school, school district, or ESD is interested in hosting one of these workshops, please contact the OGA Office.

2009 OGA Spring Conference a Success
Many thanks to those who helped to make the 2009 OGA Spring Conference a success. Reviews from Western Oregon University preservice teachers who attended the conference were resoundingly positive. Those who attended received a free copy of the new Student Atlas of Oregon. TCs who presented included, Shirley Lomax, Janelle Wren, Nancy Hunt, Laura Oeffner, Brian Fenderson, Marty Stevens, Caryn Connolly, Nick Clawson, Courtney Wehner, Stephanie Combs, Eric Mon, Jennifer Swartz, Becky Wandell, Meghan Johnson, and Therese VanReenen. Special thanks to Sandy Christopherson from the OGA office, to PSU Graduate Assistants, Lily House-Peters and Sarah Praskievicz, and to Graduate Assistants, Pam Salmons and Katie Willey, for all of their hard work.

Thinking About Holding a Family Geography Night?
As you start thinking about the 2009-2010 school year, you might want to consider holding a Family Geography Night. The OGA Family Geography Night Manual is now available on the OGA website. http://geog.pdx.edu/oga/. This manual is full of practical ideas for setting up the event, ideas for activities, as well as models of three successful Family Geography Nights conducted by TCs. You can apply for an OGA Family Geography Night Grant to provide funding for the event. Details for grant applications can by found on the OGA web site.

Oregon Council for Social Studies Fall Conference
OCSS will hold its annual fall conference on the statewide in-service day on Friday, October 9, 2009. The conference theme is “Oregon and the Pacific Rim: Reflecting on the Past, Learning in the Present, and Looking to the Future”. The keynote speaker will be Daniel Martinez, an internationally know Pearl Harbor historian. Also speaking at the conference will be Lauren Kessler, author of Stubborn Twig, the first selection of the Oregon Reads program. Details of the conference can be found at: http://www.oregonsocialstudies.org/
OGA Mentor Program to End
It is with regret that we inform you that OGA is phasing out its Mentor Program as a result of budget constraints. The 2008 mentees and mentors will be the last group to complete this program. Although the program is small in terms of numbers, the accomplishments and impact of past and current mentees are impressive. Participants have assumed leadership roles in their schools and school districts, initiated new programs in their schools including, re-instating the state Geography Bee competition, formalizing a school-wide Earth Day celebration, and holding Family Geography Nights for students and parents. They have spearheaded efforts to provide fundraising for the American Cancer Society and coordinated student relief efforts for coastal areas stricken by flooding. Two mentees serve on the OGA Steering committee, three on the Board of the Oregon Council for Social Studies (OCSS) and one on a National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) task force on geographic literacy. Mentees have presented at the OGA Spring Conference, the OCSS Fall and Spring Conferences, and the National Council for Education annual meeting. They have also continued to pursue further education. Two are working on adding an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) endorsement, one is working on a Masters in Geographic Education at the University of Oregon, and another is taking coursework to prepare to teach Advanced Placement in Human Geography. One participant taught a college level class to teachers for Antioch University. They have successfully applied for OGA Family Geography Night, Incentive, and Travel Grants as well as a Marine Discovery Grant from the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport. Finally, there is an international dimension to the leadership efforts of this group. One participant took a group of high school students to China this summer while another attended the Heifer International institute in Honduras. The program though small in number and short in duration was a great success. It will be missed.

National Conference on Geography Education
The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) will hold its annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 21027, 2009. Field trips during the National Conference on Geography Education will explore the geography, history, and culture of Puerto Rico, including visits to the Camuy River Cave Park, where participants can view the cave’s huge stalactites and stalagmites, El Yunque Rainforest, and the historical city of Ponce,. One field trip will include soft water rafting. This year, the conference schedule has been designed so field trips occur when no general sessions are taking place. For information regarding registration, field trips and hotel reservations check the NCGE web site at www.ncge.org. Register before June 22 for lowest registration fees.

OGA Travel Grant Deadline
Anyone who is presenting at the National Conference on Geography Education and is planning on submitting an application for an OGA Travel Grant, must do so by July 1, 2009. This deadline does not apply to OGA Incentive Grants or Family Geography Night Grants. Check the OGA web site for guidelines and helpful tips on submitting successful grant applications.
‘Teaching Geography’ Bill is Back in Congress
The Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act, which would provide funding for geography education, has been introduced in Congress once again. The bills, which have bi-partisan support, have the full title, “To improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.” The full text is available online at http://thomas.loc.gov/. Key points of the bills include a blunt assessment of the country’s lack of geographic literacy, the importance of geographic knowledge, and a description of how funding will be used to enhance geographic education in the United States. Thank you to all who sent e-mails of support to your congressmen and to Oregon’s two senators. (NCGE Perspective, April 2009)

OGA 2009 Summer Institute
There will be 24 participants in this year’s Initial Summer Institute to be held at Portland State University from July 6-17. In keeping with the commemoration of Oregon’s 150 years of statehood, the institute topic is the ‘Geography of Oregon’. Participants, who hail from all corners of the state, will be conducting fieldwork at Bull Run and urban landscapes in the city. They will become very familiar with the Student Atlas of Oregon, including the giant map, be exposed to content lectures, and critique, design, and present model lessons in addition to the usual rituals that accompany this first step into TC-hood.

Map Resources for Enhancing Students’ Global Perspectives
Worldmapper http://www.worldmapper.org/ is a thought-provoking collection of world maps, using equal area cartograms where territories are re-sized on each map according to the subject. There are now nearly 600 maps and 366 are also available in PDF posters. Some of the maps are interactive and many have a time-feature showing changes in the selected topic over time. There is also a hard copy of some of the best maps titled, The Atlas of the Real World: Mapping the Way We Live, by Daniel Darling, Mark Newman, and Anna Barford.

Land Area Map     Population Map
**Children Map the World**: Another excellent resource for introducing world maps and global perspectives to students is a collection of world maps drawn by children aged 7 to 14 from around the world and put out by ESRI (2005). Each map is unique and conveys a different perspective of the world. The maps are selections from the Barbara Petchink Children’s World Map Competition which is held every two years. More recent winning entries and information about the winners can be found at: [http://children.library.carleton.ca/](http://children.library.carleton.ca/)

*It Is Just One World*
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/.

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.continentalmathematicsleague.com/ngc.html](http://www.continentalmathematicsleague.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](http://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/series/ScriptContent/Custom/AAGOnline/AAGShop/](http://communicate.aag.org/series/ScriptContent/Custom/AAGOnline/AAGShop/) Preview of the CD modules can be found at [http://www.aag.org/tgmg/materials.htm](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](http://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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