OGA Welcomes New Teacher Consultants

OGA recently completed another successful summer institute on the topic, “The Geography of Oregon”. In addition to content lectures, model lessons, working with standards, fieldwork, and a daylong workshop on integrating technology into teaching geography, participants developed a bank of lessons using the new Student Atlas of Oregon. These lessons will soon be available on the OGA website and also be part of the Atlas Workshops. The highlight of the institute was a visit to Bull Run, the pristine watershed for Portland’s water supply, at the foot of Mt. Hood. The weather was perfect, the views magnificent, and a black bear was sighted! The new TCs, who hail from all corners of the state, include, Jane Bennet (Preservice), ShiloBlankenship (Joseph), Monica Cape-Lindelin (Scio), Keely Clock (Sherwood), Sister Mary Duyck (Beaverton), May Fifth (Portland), Rolf Hanlon (Portland), Jeremy Hirsch (Astoria), Barbara Houghton (Aloha), Nancy James (Coos Bay), Elaine Nelson (Beaverton), Kerri O’Brien (Keizer), Mary Ellen O’Larey (Wilsonville), Carrie Palenske (Astoria), Debra Salmons (Preservice), Jason Seivers (Preservice), Marilyn Soares (Wallowa), Kathleen Trimpey (Grants Pass), and Katie Willie (Preservice). The TC instructors were Judy Lowery and Nikki Putnam.
Last Mail Version of GEOBYTES

As a prudent budget strategy, future editions of GEOBYTES will only be available electronically. They will be sent as attachments on the OGA distribution list and also be available on the OGA Web Site. In addition to savings from postage, photocopying, paper, and time, switching to an electronic version will allow us to include more photographs and images. We are particularly interested in posting images from your classrooms, including student work. Anyone submitting photos will need to provide evidence of permission from students’ parents or

_Sometimes I think war is God’s way of teaching us geography_”

Paul Rodriguez

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** at Sprague High School, Salem. 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. Those unable to attend a Student Atlas Workshop at their own schools can attend the workshop at this conference. Atlases will also be on sale at the OGA Table. Details of the conference can be found at: http://www.oregonsocialstudies.org/

Time to Update the OGA Directory

This past year, there has been an increase in the number of GEOBYTE mailings being returned to OGA because the addresses are no longer valid and this is one reason why we decided to move to an electronic version only. It is important for us to have your correct home, school, and e-mail address if we are to keep you informed about the organizations and opportunities that often arise. If you have moved, changed schools, have a new e-mail address, or wish to be taken off the OGA, please contact Melinda Glover at the OGA Office geogall@pdx.edu
OGA Annual Conference Date and Location Set

The 2009 OGA Annual Conference will be held at Portland State University on Saturday, March 6. Anyone interested in presenting at the conference should contact Gwenda Rice at riceg@wou.edu. Save the date.

2009 NCGE Distinguished Teacher Award

Congratulations to Nick Clawson, a social studies teacher at Houck Middle School, Salem, the 2009 recipient of the National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teaching Award. Nick has a long and distinguished history of service to OGA, including membership on the OGA Steering Committee, serving a lead TC at two institutes, and representing OGA at various conferences. He will receive his award at the Awards Banquet of the NCGE annual meeting at San Juan Puerto Rico. Nick is shown (above) participating in the OGA Summer Institutes to Botswana.

Free Workshop on Teaching the Geography of Oregon Using The Student Atlas of Oregon

The Oregon Geographic Alliance will provide free workshops to 4th and 5th Grade teachers on “Teaching the Geography of Oregon using The Student Atlas of Oregon. Teachers from other grade levels are welcome. This workshop will include classroom-ready activities, lessons on map skills, and strategies for integrating math, reading, and science literacy skills through geography. We are especially interested in targeting Title I schools. Each participant will receive a free copy of the atlas as well as a CD ROM of activities, lesson plans, and other resources. Refreshments will be provided. Anyone interested in hosting this workshop should contact Gwenda Rice at riceg@wou.edu. 541-754-0309

New Administrative Manager for OGA

OGA has a new Administrative Manager, Melinda Glover, who replaced Sandy Christopherson who left to take a full time job at PSU. Melinda was thrown in at the deep end beginning her new job just before the summer institute began! She coped admirably, quickly mastering the intricacies of this sometimes bewildering job with her

“You can travel the seas, poles and deserts and see nothing. To really understand the world you need to get under the skin of the people and places. In other words, learn about geography. I can’t imagine a subject more relevant in school. We’d all be lost without it.”

Michael Palin, actor, writer, traveler.
New Steering Committee Members Elected

Thank you to all who participated in the OGA Steering Committee Election. Congratulations to Laura Oeffner, Chris Highfield, and Judi Mar-Zaleski on their election. Elections are held each spring, and if you are interested in being nominated, please contact the OGA Office. In creating the slate, the Steering Committee tries to provide balance in terms of regional representation and teaching authorization level.

Upper Right, Judi Mar-Zaleski in the Okavanga Delta, Botswana, lower left, Laura Oeffner, 2008 NCGE Annual Meeting Michigan, and lower right, Chris Highfield at a diamond mine, Botswana.

TCs in the News

June Satak attended National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) seminars in Philadelphia and another in Chicago. The Chicago one in particular did a great job of tying together history and the geography of place. In April, June will be going to Russia for two weeks, staying with teachers and visiting schools outside of Moscow.

Gail Vander Heide traveled to the SW coastal city of Kannur, Kerala, India this spring to teach business English at Krishna Menon Women’s College. Teaching in the pre-monsoonal heat was challenging, but exploring the backwater spice plantations, working with women of diverse backgrounds (the result of cultural diffusion over 2,000 years of the! pepper trade), seeing working elephants, and acquiring a wardrobe of multi-hued saris trumped the discomfort!

Sara House participated in a Korean Studies Workshop this summer for two weeks to help build geography curriculum focused on Korea. The workshop included lectures on all aspects of Korea at Yonsei University in Seoul, excursions to the DNZ (where they actually crossed into North Korea!) an exposure to different aspects of Korean culture.

Caryn Connolly was selected to attend The Goethe Institute in Germany this summer. The institute included visit to historical sites,
Continued…..including a concentration camp, presentations on topics such as Germany Today, trade unions, and Duetsche Bank’s history and visits to schools. The institute included visits to Berlin, Dresden, Munich and Frankfurt.

Chuck Skinner attended the National Geographic Society on Leadership, In Chicago. He was involved in developing lesson plans and materials for Geography Awareness Week.

OGA is always interested in learning about TC professional development ventures, especially if they have a geographic dimension. We would like to hear from you and will share your news in future editions of GEOBYTES. We can even include photographs.

2009 National Conference on Geography Education, San Juan, Puerto Rico,

Several Oregon TCs will be participating in the conference in various capacities. Meghan Johnson, Shirley Lomax, Laura Oeffner, Judy Lowery and Gwenda Rice will be presenting sessions on such topics as integrating geography into the math curriculum, enhancing geographic literacy in ELL classroom, and making geography content visible in an NCLB world.

Gail VanderHeide and Janelle Wren will be part of a panel discussion on promoting spatial literacy at the primary level. The conference will also include workshops for teaching AP Human Geography, an NGS ‘Geofest’ for teachers, and an exciting array of fieldtrips, including Kayaking at the Bioluminescent Bay.

Giant Floor Map of Oregon Now Available

OGA has purchased three giant floor maps (approximately 22’ by 15”) of Oregon using maps from the Student Atlas of Oregon. Two are housed at PSU and one at WOU. The maps are 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 can be found on the OGA web site and at the OGA Office.

In the picture below, institute participants create a Population Dot Map of Oregon!

“Anybody who believes that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach flunked geography.”

Robert Byrne
OGA Annual Conference: Date and Location Set

OGA Annual Conference Date and Location Set

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OGA Calendar: Key Dates to Remember

September 23-27  NCGE National Conference on Geographic Education, Puerto Rico
October 9  OCSS Fall Conference, Sprague High School, Salem
October 15  Registration for 2010 National Geography Bee
November 9-January 11 School Level Geography Bee
November 13-15  NCSS Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
November 15-21  Geography Awareness Week
November 18  GIS Day
March 6  OGA Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon
April 9  State Level Geography Bee, Western Oregon University
April 14-18  AAG Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
May 25-26  National Geographic Bee, Washington D.C.