OGA Annual Conference at PSU

OGA will hold its Annual Conference on Saturday, March 6, 2010 in Cramer Hall, Portland State University. The conference theme is “Oregon and the World” and the keynote address will be given by will be Dr. Susan Hardwick, University of Oregon, “Welcome to Global Oregon: Russian and Ukrainian Among Us”. Highlights include sessions on the Census 2010, TCI’s Geography Alive! and Social Studies Alive!, and activities using the ‘Giant Map’ of Oregon. There will also be workshops on setting up a Family Geography Night, using the Student Atlas of Oregon, and Grant Writing. Save the date and recruit your colleagues.

Oregon Council for the Social Studies Spring

OCSS will hold its annual Spring Conference at Rainier Junior/Senior High School, Rainier, OR on Saturday, April 10, 2010. The conference theme is “Journey on the Columbia River: Past, Present and Future”. Anyone wishing to submit a proposal to present at the conference or find registration information should see the OCSS website at:

OCSS Fall Conference Showcases the Student Atlas of Oregon

Three sessions at the conference highlighted the Student Atlas of Oregon. Summer Institute participants, Jeremy Hirsch, Jason Seivers, and Carrie Palenske, presented their model lesson entitled, “Essential Oregon”. Other sessions were presented by Shirley Lomax, Judy Lowery, and Therese Clark., and included the use of the ‘Giant Map’. There was a brisk sale of Atlases at the OGA Table and thanks go to TCs who helped with the sales.
2009 NCGE National Conference on Geography, San Juan Puerto Rico

A strong contingent of OGA TCs attended the conference, sponsored by the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), to present, receive awards, attend meetings, workshops, and task forces, experience fieldtrips, and enjoy the hospitality, landscape, and history of the island. Presenters included, Judi Mar-Zaleski, Meghan Johnson, Judy Lowery, and Gwenda Rice. Nick Clawson received the NCGE Distinguished Teaching Award, Brant Mellor attended the AP Human Geography Workshop, and Judy Lowery attended many meetings as a member of the NCGE Executive Board. Other TCs who attended were Gail VanderHeide, Sara House, and Janelle Wren.

Congratulations OGA Award Winners

**Nick Clawson** (Houck Middle School, Salem), the Oregon recipient of the 2009 National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) Distinguished Teacher Award, received the award at the NCGE annual meeting awards ceremony in San Juan, Puerto Rico to loud cheers from the Oregon contingent.

**Janelle Wren** (Green Acres Elementary School, Lebanon) received the “Promising Young Social Studies Teacher” Award at the OCSS Fall Conference. This one-time award honors the late social studies educator and OCSS Board Member, Tracy Faulconer.
2010 National Conference on Geography Education, Savannah, GA

The 2010 National Conference on Geography Education, sponsored by the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), will be held in Savannah, Georgia from September 29- October 3, 2010 at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront. The conference theme is “Geography Education: Bridging the Past”. Savannah is Georgia’s first city and participants will be able to meander through more than 270 years of history in Savannah’s squares, forts, and river walk and explore the ecology of the Okefenokee Swamp and Georgia’s barrier islands. (OGA will have a table at the conference welcoming participants to the 2011 National Conference on Geography Education which will be held in Portland, Oregon, August 1-7, 2011). Check the NCGE web site, www.ncge.org for registration, proposal deadline, travel, and hotel information for the Savannah meeting. While you are the site, check out the NCGE Movie, “Why

Looking for Powerful Maps and Images

Do you have a powerful image or favorite map you use to illustrate a concept in your geography classroom? The Geography Standards writing team is soliciting contributions of graphics (maps, images, charts, graphs, student work samples, and public domain images) for possible inclusion in the second edition of Geography for Life. Project leaders are looking for resources that illustrate human and physical geography. Graphics will be infused into the Standards document to help illustrate the geography content. You must own the copyright (with no prior copyright restrictions) for any works you submit. If selected for use, you will be asked to sign a copyright release prior to publication in the second edition of Geography for Life. Images will be credited in the document. For more information, contact Susan Gallagher at s.gallagher@aag.org.

Giant Floor Map of Oregon

OGA has purchased three giant floor maps (approximately 22’ by 18’) of Oregon using the General Reference Map of Oregon 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. The Atlas Team is developing a list of activities that can be used with the map. 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.
Atlas Team Travels across Oregon

This fall, Therese Clark, Shirley Lomax, Judy Lowery, and Gwenda Rice, travelled across the state to Enterprise, Crater Lake, Banks, Eugene, Silverton, Monmouth, and Salem to conduct workshops on the *Student Atlas of Oregon*. Participants received a free copy of the atlas, A CD-ROM full of supporting resources, including 14 lesson plans, Oregonian Inserts, PDUs, and refreshments! The highlight of each workshop was the opportunity to do activities on the ‘Giant Map’ of Oregon. The workshops have been very well received. The team will use the winter term to evaluate and refine the workshops and supporting materials and to develop daylong workshops which include a technology component. Workshops will resume in the spring when the team will be visiting Lakeview and perhaps a return visit to Enterprise.
Students from Janelle Wren’s class at Green Acres Elementary School, Lebanon celebrated Geography Awareness Week by travelling to the University of Oregon geography department to learn all about Tibet, meet Tibetan families, and participate in Tibetan cultural activities including dancing. Another highlight was a visit to the department’s Info Graphics Lab to learn about using GPS. The students had a wonderful time and learned much. One student was overheard saying to the GPS leader, "I want to be just like you when I grow up and I want to learn more geography."

Preparing for Census: April 1, 2010

The U.S. Census Bureau has created a Census in the School program called “2010 Census: It’s About Us”. The program comprises age-specific materials for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, including maps displaying population counts and other demographic information and lesson plans. There are online resources for teachers, family take-home kits, event ideas, census data, and many interactive activities for students. For more information about this program visit www.census.gov/school/

2009 “Population Data Sheet” Published

In August the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) released its 2009 World Population Data Sheet which provides a wealth of information about the world’s countries and regions. The world population is still growing at a rapid rate and is projected to grow from 6 billion to 7 billion in the next 12 years. The Data Sheet presents population, health, and environment data in tabular form, so the numbers can be used to create graphs comparing countries and regions or to make maps illustrating spatial patterns. To download a copy of the “2009 Population Data Sheet”, visit http://www.prb.org/pdf09/09wpds_eng.pdf.

If America Were a Village

David J. Smith, author of the popular book If the World Were a Village, has released a follow-up book entitled If America Were a Village. With illustrations by Shelagh Armstrong, this book is now available in Hardcover at bookstores. The new release is a good complement to Population Connection’s, “300 Million in the USA”, lesson plan which can be downloaded for free from www.populationeducation.org
Brant Mellor Attends South Korean Symposium

Over the thanksgiving break, Brant Mellor (Redmond High School) attended an international symposium on Geographic Education in Seoul, South Korea, organized by NCGE and led by its president, Dr. Joseph Stoltman. Brant was one of 20 participants selected from over 150 geography teachers across the United States. The trip was funded by the South Korean Northeast Asian History Foundation, with the goal of fostering better understanding among high school geography teachers of territorial issues between the United States and South Korean. The symposium covered a wide range of topics as well as dealing with textbook adoption procedures, specific lessons dealing with immigration and boundaries, and strategies for dealing with controversies surrounding the use of various place names (toponyms). The South Korean delegation was very focused on South Korea’s efforts to have the international community officially recognize the Sea of Japan as the East Sea.

Participants also learned first-hand from interactions with Korean delegates on topics like customs and ideologies. There were several fieldwork activities including visits to the Korean War Museum, the National History Museum and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) along the 38th parallel to see and experience the intense tensions between the two countries. Said Brant, “I have been to many places around the world but have never experienced a border so rigid in structure and intensely guarded. Everyone in the group was truly moved by this experience. Although I missed my Thanksgiving with family and friends, there was no way to pass up what was truly a

“Bird’s Eye View” CD Now Available

Exploring the United States: A Bird’s Eye View! is now available in the store at www.ncge.org. The new product’s 14 lessons use satellite images, astronaut photos, and maps to explore relationships between settlement patterns and physical environments across the United States. Developed for upper elementary or lower middle school, they can easily be adapted for higher grades. All lessons develop spatial thinking skills and include teacher guidelines and student worksheets. Nine of the lessons teach students to use geographic information systems (GIS) to investigate spatial patterns in human and physical landscapes. ArcExplorer Java Edition for Education (AEJEE), student friendly GIS software from ESRI, is included on the CD. A Bird’s Eye View! was developed with a grant from NASA and production support from ESRI. Check www.ncge.org for a product flier and a list of lesson titles. Price per CD: 1-4: $35.95; 5-14: $25.95; 15 or more: $20.95. A school or Geographic Alliance site license is included in the price.

(Osa Brand, NCGE, Perspective, October 2009)