

Geobytes

Oregon Geographic Alliance

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The facts ma'am, just the facts"
Dragnet

Carolyn Perry to Retire

Say it ain't so Carolyn! After 17 years at the helm of the OGA office, Carolyn Perry is retiring to spend more time with her family. Her reassuring, competent, and calm presence will be sorely missed in the office, at summer institutes, spring conferences, steering committees, and other OGA events. It is a tribute to her organizational skills and quiet attention to details that these events run so smoothly. Carolyn is known for her many acts of kindness to TCs, whether she is setting out M&Ms or carrot sticks for institute participants to keep them awake, putting together a care package of geographical resources for a beginning teacher, or promptly responding to the many questions and requests that come to the office each week. We wish her a happy retirement and thank her for all of her contributions to making this organization a success.

OGA Spring Conference: Mark Your Calendars!

The OGA 2008 Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, **March 8th** at Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon. OGA is committed to bringing the conference to different parts of the

state, as funding permits, and we are delighted to be returning to Monmouth this year. This will allow many preservice teachers to attend. A major focus will be the Oregon Atlas for Elementary and Middle Schools, a three-year enterprise that will result in the publication of an atlas to be published on the Internet for free access to all teachers; hard copies will be available at cost for classroom sets and special orders. This will be OGA's birthday present to the state as Oregon celebrates its 150th birthday. We have lined up a strong program for the conference. In addition to lessons and activities from the Atlas Project, Christy Sanders of the Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI) will be presenting two sessions on *Social Studies Alive!* for the elementary level and *Geography Alive!* for the middle and high school level. Other sessions include workshops on grant writing, how to use G.I.S. in the elementary and secondary classroom, the "My Wonderful World" campaign, Geography Action! Asia, sponsored by the National Geographic Society (NGS), sessions on integrating geography with other subjects, and strategies for teaching about Japan and Germany. This promises to be an exciting conference and the last one to be organized by Carolyn Perry. Mark your

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calendars, share this information with your colleagues, and go to the OGA website for updates and registration materials.

OGA 2008 Advanced Summer Institute

This summer, OGA will offer a 5-graduate credit advanced institute on the Geography of Canada: Maritime Provinces. The first session, which will involve preparatory work, will be held at PSU from July 7-11. The second session, from August 1 – 15, will be fieldwork in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2008** and TCs are encouraged to check the OGA website for details.

OCSS Spring Conference Date Set

The Oregon Council for the Social Studies (OCSS) will hold a spring conference on Saturday, April 26 at the River House, Bend, Oregon. Like OGA, OCSS will also focus on the 150th birthday celebration for Oregon. We will keep you informed as more details become available.

OGA TCs Honored at National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE)

Oregon TC's, Terri Simons and Norie Dimeo-Ediger, were honored at the 2007 NCGE annual meeting at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Terri, who teaches at Cal Young Middle School, Eugene received the 2007 NCGE Distinguished Teacher Award. Norie, who is the K-12 Education Program Manager for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), received the 2007 Distinguished Teacher Award: Informal, Community, and Professional.

Several TCs were on hand to share in the celebration, including OGA's newest mentees, Nikki Putnam, Casey Petrie, and Janelle Wren.

2008 National Conference on Geography Education

To broaden the audience for NCGE's annual meeting, the name will be changed to the National Conference on Geography Education. The 2008 meeting will be held in Dearborn, Michigan from October 9-12. The conference gala will be held at the Henry Ford Museum, one of America's greatest history attractions. For those wishing to visit Canada, Windsor is just across the Detroit River. TCs wishing to submit proposals for the conference may do so between **January 3 and March 17, 2008**. Check the NCGE website: www.ncge.org for details, including registration, accommodations, travel, and fieldtrip options. TCs who wish to present at the conference should consider applying for an OGA Travel Grant.

Other News from NCGE

* With the move of the Central Office to Washington DC, NCGE is using the opportunity to update its image and sponsor a competition of a new logo. According to past-president, Ken Foote, who will chair the review committee, "We want our new logo to reflect our global vision and our commitment to enhance the status of geography education." The competition is open to individuals, classes, schools, and organizations and there is a \$500 prize for the winner. Entries are due by June 1, 2008. Check the NCGE website: www.ncge.org for details.

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* NCGE's Research and External Relations Committee will award grants in 2008 for research on issues related to geography education. Proposals may request up to \$4,000 for projects lasting up to 24 months. Deadline for proposal submission is **March 14, 2008**. Awards will be presented during the annual meeting at Dearborn, Michigan, October 9-12, 2008.

* The National Geography Challenge invites elementary and high school teams to participate in the 2008 Geography Challenge which is sponsored by NCGE. The deadline for registration is **February 12, 2008**. Check the challenge website: www.cmleague.org for details.

* Those of you teaching in elementary schools should check out NCGE's highly successful on-line "Geography Club". It is a treasure trove of teaching ideas, generated each month by North Carolina TC, Steve Pierce. For details about the club, check the website: stevepierce@charter.net or the NCGE website.

My Wonderful World Campaign

What do you know about our wonderful world? A recent survey of young Americans showed that many are missing the basics of geography. How do you measure up? Try your hand at sample questions from that poll at: http://www.mywonderfulworld.org/global_iq.html The Roper poll revealed an alarming lack of basic geographic knowledge among young adults. For example, recent high school graduates in the US ranked second to last in geographic literacy, nearly 30% can't identify the Pacific Ocean on a world

map, 50% cannot find India, Japan, Iraq, or Afghanistan, and 30% believe the population of the US is between one and two billion.

NGS Resources: Australia Maps Available

Although the Geography Action! theme of Oceania will not be featured until 2009, NGS is making 1,200 hands-on maps available to alliances. NG Kids Magazine has produced them, and has even funded a contest to send two teachers and two students on an expedition to Australia. Deadline for applying for the contest is **Feb. 15, 2008** and more information about the contest, along with hands-on activities, is included on the back of the poster and online at <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/contests/Explorerer-trip-2008-teachers>.

OGA TCs in Action

- Judy Lowery was elected to the NCGE Executive Board where she will join fellow Oregon TC, Gail Vander Heide. Judy is also the 2008 President of the Oregon Council for Social Studies.
- Janelle Wren received an OCSS scholarship to attend the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) Conference in San Diego, CA.
- Shirley Lomax was nominated for the NGS Grosvenor Teaching Fellowship Program.
- Nikki Putnam and Janelle Wren were appointed to the OCSS Board.
- Sara House received a Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholarship.

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- Becky Wandell was appointed to the NCGE Task Force on Literacy.
- Brian Fenderson, Judi Mar-Zaleski, and Judy Lowery received OGA Travel Grants.
- Elizabeth Thiel and Donna Brent Received OGA Incentive Grants.

Congratulations to all. Please keep us informed of your activities so that we can share them in future issues of GEOBYTES

Mark your Calendars:

- March 8, 2008 OGA Spring Conference, Western Oregon University
- April 4, 2008 State Geography Bee, Western Oregon University
- April 15-19, 2008 AAG Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- May 20-21, 2008 National Geographic Bee, Washington, D.C.