MGA website is under (de and/or con)struction.
CMU, (host for the MGA website) has gone through a major redesign. This has made access more difficult. The new address is https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/cst/mga/. Please bookmark this! But fear not. A new website is on the way and should be operational by the end of the year. We will let you know!

MEECS 2
MGA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality with support from the US EPA Great Lakes Initiative, have completed work on an entirely updated and revised version of the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS) Units. The five existing units (Energy Resources, Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Water Quality, Land Use, and Air Quality) have been completely revised. Michigan Land and Environment is a new unit for third grade, and the new Climate Change: Climate Science and Impact, is two units in one. Climate Science teaches the science behind the study of climate change and is targeted at middle school science teachers. The Climate Impact unit includes a review of climate science and lesson plans on how climate change can impact Michigan. Google MEECS for details and ordering information.

Collisions and Encounters: Migrations in a Global Perspective
If the MCSS meeting is not for you, plan to see us at the Michigan Council for History Education Great Lakes Regional Meeting held at Grand Valley State University, October 11-12. Register at www.michiganhistoryed.org
Join K-12 educators from around the Great Lakes region to network; deepen social studies content knowledge; explore teaching techniques; and integrate technology.

**ATTENTION ELEMENTARY TEACHERS!**

The conference offers workshops for all grade levels. There will be elementary presentations offered at each session both Friday and Saturday! Take away new ideas and free materials!

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**Friday Keynote**

**Phil Power** - Founder and Chairman of Center for Michigan

**Saturday Panel Discussion:**

“Income Inequality - Bridging the Gap”

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**Speaker Highlights:**

- **Honorable Michael J. Riordan** (Michigan Court of Appeals) Exploring Separation of Powers and the “Rule of Law”

- **Marc Kruman, Ph.D.** The Causes of the Civil War: An Historiographical Review

- **Liette Gidlow, Ph.D.** American Conservatism: From New Deal Foes to the Tea Party Today

- **Mary Herring, Ph. D.** Why Did They Do That? Explaining Voters Choices at the Polls

- **Ian Moyer, Ph.D.** Writing in Ancient Societies

- **Michelle McClellan, Ph. D.** Place and Time, Fact and Fiction in the “Little House” Books

- **Chauncey Monte-Sano, Ph.D.** The Reading Like a Historian Approach to Teaching History and Literacy

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**Register by Sept. 30 and save!**

Registration fees:

- Member $160
  - Full Conference
- Non Member $200
  - Full Conference
- Student $60
  - Full Conference

Hotel Room Rate: $85 per night

SCECH = 11 hours

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For more information on speakers, or to register, please visit [www.mcssmi.org](http://www.mcssmi.org).
MGA’s Geography Strands

All MGA sessions will be presented by Dr. Michael Libbee, Dr. Phil Gersmehl, or by Michigan Geographic Alliance Teacher Consultuants.

Friday, October 18

**World Geography and History for MS Teachers**

The workshop, teaching world history from a geographic perspective, is specifically designed for middle school teachers and focuses on empires, agriculture, and migration in the first three eras of world history.
*Dr. Michael Libbee*

**US Geography and History**

Using the new US GeoHistoGram poster, participants will work with activities ranging from colonial to contemporary. A great new resource for beginning or experienced American History teachers.
*Dr. Phil Gersmehl*

**Population Data: Spatial Thinking Meets Common Core Writing and Math**

How has population changed over time? Writing and math activities are designed to meet social studies GL-CEs and CCSS and to practice spatial thinking.
*Carol Gersmehl*

**Two Trains: Incorporating Geography and History with Literature Grades K-8**

Journey on a geographic path through history while investigating the Underground Railroad and the Orphan Train.
*Kristi Karis*

**Content and Common Core: Using Trade Books in the Elementary Classroom Grades 2-5**

Geographic information can be conveyed through images, poetry, and text in commonly found trade books.
*Marty Mater*

Saturday, October 19

**Genocide--Never Again**

2014 commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. This classroom-ready lesson helps teachers guide their students in understanding the causes, effects, and solutions to genocide while providing activities to increase student awareness.
*Bev Feldkamp*

**Population Connection**

Discover innovative, hands-on/minds-on activities that examine population trends, natural resource use and distribution, and the human condition around the globe.
*Jill McGinn, Kristi Karis*

**Using the Korean Peninsula to teach Social Studies**

Current political and economic status of Korea and a “hands on” lesson plan using personal photographs illustrates geographic, cultural, political & economic concepts.
*Lori Barber*

**Michigan’s Land and Environment Grades 3-4**

Free resources for teaching about Michigan developed by MGA, including posters and maps.
*Marty Mater*

**Impacts of Climate Change in the Great Lakes**

After examining the indicators of climate change in the Great Lakes Region, students use research, discussion, and writing activities to explore possible impacts and consequences.
*Cindy Bloom*

**Teacher Performance Assessment**

This presentation will introduce the High School Social Studies Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA).
*Dr. Elizabeth Raker*
New MGA Teacher Consultants!

Michigan Geographic Alliance is proud to announce that three middle school teachers have been added to the ranks of MGA Teacher Consultants. These teachers participated in a 90 hour professional development project in Middle School Geography and History and completed TC training in June.

Geography Awareness Week is all about geography, why it is important, and how you can get to know it better. Start by checking out more resources below!

**GeoWeek 2013 is Nov. 17-23**

Celebrate Geography and The New Age of Exploration this year from November 17th through the 23rd in 2013. Celebrated in conjunction with the National Geographic Society’s 125th Birthday the week's theme focuses on how geography enables us all to be intrepid explorers in our own way. Check out the newly created archive of past Geography Awareness Week materials, a new suite of resources all about Geography as a field and discipline, and even more tips and tools to plan your own GeoWeek celebrations!

*Check out more information!*

geographyawarenessweek.org/

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**George Purdu** began as a media specialist, and now teaches at Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Wyandotte. He has 5 years experience teaching social studies, four years at 6th grade and one at 8th grade. George incorporates StrataLogica and other electronic mapping in his classes.

**Dave Vermeulen** has 24 years of teaching experience; the last 17 years teaching 6th grade history and geography and 8th grade U. S. History and Geography at Chisholm Middle School in Montague. He credits his interest in geography to family travels as a youth. Dave uses many technology tools in his teaching.

**Tom Hinken**’s experiences in the military (as an Arabic linguist) led to his interest in geography and his 15-year teaching career. He teaches 6th grade History and Geography and 7th grade World Cultures at Chisholm Middle School in Montague. Tom incorporates many aspects of technology in his classroom.
One of the greatest challenges facing our nation and our schools across the country is preparing our youth for the globally interconnected world of the 21st century. America’s ability to face the economic and security challenges of the 21st century and seize new opportunities is dependent on an educated and informed citizenry and workforce. Academic WorldQuest is a unique opportunity to expose our youth to the world outside our borders and prepare them for the challenges and the opportunities of the 21st Century.

Program Structure
During the academic year preceding the National Competition in the spring, approximately 4,000 students across the country participate in local competitions hosted by over 40 local World Affairs Councils in 26 states. A study guide is provided with detailed resources on each of the categories to help students and teachers to prepare for the competition. All questions for the competition are drawn from the resources in the study guide. Winning teams are invited to represent their high school, city, and local council at the National Competition, held in the spring each year in Washington, DC. For more information, see www.worldaffairscouncils.org/

World of 7 Billion Video Contest
The contest is open to all high school students worldwide!

Bring technology and creativity into your high school geography classes by incorporating the World of 7 Billion video contest into your syllabi. Challenge your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population at seven billion and one of the following: climate change, global poverty, or water sustainability. Students can win up to $1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is February 21, 2014. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at www.Worldof7Billion.org.

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE!
Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge.

2014 National Geographic Bee Dates:
Registration Deadline - October 15, 2013
School Level Bees - November 11, 2013 - January 15, 2014
State Level - April 4, 2014
National Level - May 19-21, 2014
Teachers for a Global Classroom
Teacher Consultant Bev Feldkamp (Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw) was accepted to participate in the IREX, Teachers for a Global Classroom program during the course of this school year. It will culminate in spring travel to one of several countries and focus on cross-cultural education.
The Teachers for Global Classrooms (TGC) Program provides a professional development opportunity for middle and high school teachers from the United States to participate in a program aimed at globalizing teaching and learning in their classrooms. TGC is a program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by IREX.

Transatlantic Outreach Program
Teacher Consultant Amy Perkins (Lakeshore High School, Stevensville) participated in the Goethe Institute's Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP). In July she traveled to Munich, Dresden, and Berlin, with a few stops in small towns along the Iron Curtain as well. The focus of the tour was to increase understanding of several salient themes, including Germany's central position in the European Union, the legacy of the Cold War and its lasting impact on the culture and economy of eastern Germany, and Germany's efforts to reform their K-12 education system to meet the needs of increasingly competitive world market. Amy’s active participation in MGA through the years helped her secure a coveted position as a TOP Fellow.

Teachers Teaching Teachers GIS
Teacher Consultant Stan Masters (Lenawee ISD) attended the Teachers Teaching Teachers GIS (T3G) Institute at the ESRI headquarters in Redlands, California in June, 2013. The week-long training highlighted the use of ArcGIS Online. He is partnering with fellow Teacher Consultant Al Lewandowski, other T3G participants from Michigan, and the Michigan ESRI K-12 GIS License leaders at Eastern Michigan University to increase the use and capacity of Michigan teachers and students using ESRI’s ArcGIS tools.

GO GREEN!
Check out how you can “GO GREEN” with this newsletter on page 8.

National Park Foundation
Teacher Consultant David Hales (Wayne RESA) and Chuck Estep (Monroe ISD) have been working with upper elementary and middle school level teachers through a National Park Foundation funded project to create units of instruction for the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Monroe. Their recent teacher institute focused on how to develop facebook pages for historically significant War of 1812 figures specific to the Battle of the River Raisin and to the Great Lakes Region.

South Korea Studies
Teacher Consultant Lori Barber (Sexton High School, Lansing) had the opportunity to go to South Korea with Dr. Stoltman in June. The trip was hosted and funded by the Northeast Asian History Foundation. Lori was part of a 16-person delegation which were all AP Human Geography teachers. At the conference, each participant had to do a presentation to a delegation of Korean scholars who in turn also made several presentations. In addition, teachers toured the DMZ and explored Seoul and the southern port city of Yeosu. Lori will be presenting much of what she learned at MCSS in October. “It was an amazing trip!”

NCGE in Denver
The National Conference on Geographic Education was held in Denver in early August. Teacher Consultants Cindy Bloom, Rania Hammoud, Kristi Karis and Marty Mater, along with Dr. Joe Stoltman, Dr. Phil Gersmehl and Carol Gersmehl, represented Michigan Geographic Alliance at the meeting.
In addition to many informative presentations, participants enjoyed learning about the geography and geology of the Rocky Mountains, Dinosaur Ridge, and Mt. Evans.
The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) supports geography teaching at all levels—from kindergarten through university. Members include both U.S. and International teachers, professors, students, businesses, and others who support geographic education. Read more at www.ncge.org.
Integrated Geospatial Education and Technology

This summer Teacher Consultant Dr. Al Lewandowski attended the Integrated Geospatial Education and Technology Training Project in Remote Sensing (iGETT). The 10 day institute was conducted at the Earth Resources and Science Center (EROS) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In addition to learning a great deal about remote sensing there was opportunity to make a number of extremely important contacts that will prove useful to promote the use of geo-spatial technologies in education. Along with the participants, Al also had an opportunity to meet and work with key figures at EROS, NASA, NCGE (National Council of Geography Educators) and the GeoTech Center, the latter a leader in career-oriented geo-spatial technology instruction.

Al’s participation in the project will continue over the course of the next year through a series of continuing webinars with the other 18 participants – most of whom teach or direct geo-technology programs at community colleges across the country. The project will formally conclude next summer when participants reconvene in Virginia. That session will include activities at the NASA Goddard Space Center. In addition, each participant will complete an instructional lesson using freely available remote sensing materials as well as a video-based remote sensing concept module. Al’s project will involve an analysis of land use along the St. Clair River Area of Concern. It will be adaptable to any of the other 38 AOC’s within the Great Lakes Basin. All the materials will be published and freely available to any interested users.

Cool Links

40 Maps
to make sense of the world
http://twistedsifter.com/2013/08/maps-that-will-help-you-make-sense-of-the-world/

Maps, charts and infographics can really help bring data and information to life. Maps can make a point and resonate with readers and this collection aims to do just that.

Some of these maps will surprise you; a few are important to know; some interpret and display data in a beautiful or creative way, and a few may even make you chuckle or shake your head.

Final “Connections” Is Live

The Final “Connections” document is now complete and on the NG website at Common Core English Language Arts and Geography Connections. Formerly known as “Interconnections”, Connections has been edited and the lesson examples have been added. This document aligns the Common Core ELA standards and the Geography for Life Standards. Don’t forget to check out the introduction for some great research on defining text, cross-cutting taxonomic vocabulary and text features of nonfiction.

MAPHEAD by Ken Jennings
Ken Jennings, well-known Jeopardy winner, loves maps. Read his book to find out the name of the largest triple island in the world (an island in a lake on an island in a lake on an island), or the only town in the United States that borders on two different states on opposite sides, or the European country whose outline most resembles Lake Michigan.
Headquartered at Central Michigan University

This project is funded in part by a grant from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation.

The Michigan Geographic Alliance newsletter is posted on our website, www.cmich.edu/colleges/cst/mga. In honor of trying to ‘go green’, you can choose your method of newsletter delivery: have it sent by email (pdf), continue to receive a paper copy, or read it on the site (Newsletter Archives).

Visit www.cmich.edu/colleges/cst/mga and CLICK “Join the MGA Information Family” to send us your current information. We encourage all newsletter recipients to provide us with an update of a preferred method of receiving MGA communications.

GO GREEN!

We invite your suggestions and articles for publication. Submissions should be sent to our address or emailed to mga@cmich.edu. If you have any questions or comments, please call 1-800-279-1423.

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