**Michigan Geographic Alliance**

*Volume 22, Number 1*  
*Fall, 2011*

---

Dr. Michael Libbee

**“Working Together”**

Cooperation among Outreach Organizations

Michigan Geographic Alliance is an enthusiastic supporter of the MCSS and the first truly joint Michigan Social Studies Conference to be held at the Causeway Bay Motel in Lansing Friday November 4th through Sunday November 6th.

The 2011 Joint Social Studies Conference is a recognition that all of Michigan’s Social Studies organizations need to work more closely with each other to provide services to teachers. The MCSS conference is a shared effort, combining our resources to provide a single compact conference tailored to meet the needs of Michigan’s social studies teachers.

The 2011 conference will maintain the best of the traditional MCSS conference and incorporates disciplinary strands previously provided at conferences offered by individual organizations. These strands allow disciplinary organizations to provide in-service workshops in three and six hour formats.

All MGA sessions are free, and each session will provide teachers with the usual array of maps, CDs, and other resources. This year we are offering an all-day session on world geography and history for middle school and high school teachers, three hour workshops on both western hemisphere and eastern hemisphere geography, and a series of workshops specifically for elementary teachers.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Michigan Joint Social Studies Conference.

---

Look Inside for more about:

*National Geography Bee*

*MGA Projects*

*New TCs*

---

Register Now!

www.mcssmi.org

See pages 2-3 for more details

*Geography Awareness Week*

The Adventure In Your Community

November 13 - 19, 2011
Michael Flanagan was appointed State Superintendent of Public Instruction by the State Board of Education on May 18, 2005. He directs the Michigan Department of Education; chairs the State Board of Education; and advises the State Board of Education, the Governor, and the state Legislature regarding public education in Michigan.

Tim Skubick has anchored the weekly public TV series "Off the Record" since 1972 and is the longest serving member of the state capitol press corps. "Off the Record" is seen on Michigan public television stations and has an audience of 100,000 a week.

Guy Stern was born in Hildesheim, Germany in 1922, emigrated to the United States in 1937, and became a citizen in 1943. He is currently a Professor at Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus. He has co-curated exhibits with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, including Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings, and remains a consultant.
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, November 4

8:30-11:30

**Geography and World History***

Introduction to World GeoHistoGram connecting time and place. Receive set of GeoHistoGrams and CD with lesson plans.

**Geography: A Catalyst for Learning and Teaching with the CCSS**

Practical Strategies for integrating geography in the elementary curriculum. Handouts with a CD.

1:30-4:30

**More Geography and World History*** (Part 2)

Lesson demonstrations to use with the GeoHistoGram and other resources. Participants MUST have attended the morning session to attend this session.

**Geography and Literacy: Two Birds with One Stone**

Integrate SS GLCEs with Common Core goals through trade books.

Integration of History and Geography through Literature Lessons for mapping, reading, writing and assessment.

Saturday, November 5

8:30-11:30

**Geography of the Western Hemisphere***

Learn how to use the Teaching Geography CD-ROM, and other resources to teach the geography of the Western Hemisphere.

**Geography: A Catalyst for Learning and Teaching with the CCSS**

Repeat Friday session - see description above.

1:30-4:30

**Geography of the Eastern Hemisphere***

Learn how to use the Teaching Geography CD-ROM, and other resources to teach the geography of the Eastern Hemisphere.

**Mapping Michigan**

Use maps of Michigan to teach how physical and human characteristics explain Michigan’s geography. Take home a CD and a classroom set of new posters.

**Describing United States Regions using Spatial Thinking**

Learn different ways in which the United States can be divided into regions.

*The MGA geography and history strand focuses on using the GeoHistoGram and other print and electronic resources to do a better job of teaching world history and geography. Each participant will receive a classroom world GeoHistoGram poster, a classroom set of placemat size GeoHistoGrams, a CD of activities and more. The target audience is middle school eastern and western hemisphere teachers, but the materials will be also be applicable to high school world history and geography.
EXPLORE YOUR COMMUNITY!

This year’s Geography Awareness Week theme of COMMUNITY GEOGRAPHY will inspire exploration as students learn to use geographic principles and perspectives to examine the places where they live in a new way, and find the adventure in their own communities.

Celebrating Geography Worldwide
November 13-19, 2011

To help students see their communities in a new way and find adventure in their own backyards, National Geographic Education and the UK-based Geography Collective have designed a series of “missions” which can be undertaken by class groups, small teams, families, or individuals and—once accomplished—collect points toward earning “Explorer Badges.” These missions were written to be accessible to a range of age groups and can be used in formal classroom settings, or informally at home with families and friends. Teachers and families are encouraged to tailor or change the missions to fit their own educational needs.

The missions are grouped under four “Explorer Badges” in Photography, Mapping, Storytelling, and Take Action! These badges are earned by completing a certain number of missions in each category. The badges are based on skills that geographers use as they gather, arrange, analyze, and interpret geographic information.

Check out more information!
geographyawarenessweek.org/

Photography Badge:
Mission 1.1: See your neighborhood as if you just moved in
Mission 1.2: Snap your community’s image
Mission 1.3: Macro photograph a micro world
Mission 1.4: Become a remote sensor
Mission 1.5: Alien invasion

Mapping Badge
Mission 2.1: Ghost wood
Mission 2.2: Invisible maze
Mission 2.3: Don’t walk
Mission 2.4: Walk your footprint
Mission 2.5: Welcome map
Mission 2.6: Smell-vision

Storytelling Badge
Mission 3.1: Tell an object’s story
Mission 3.2: Cross the border
Mission 3.3: Map stories
Mission 3.4: Site a play
Mission 3.5: Sign story

Take Action! Badge:
Mission 4.1: Trash art
Mission 4.2: Protect your heritage
Mission 4.3: Flower power
Mission 4.4: Award sustainable shops
Mission 4.5: ID a problem

Go to the MGA website to get certificates for awarding badges:
www.cst.cmich.edu/mga
Find the Adventure (and the Geography) in your own community!

SOME MISSION EXAMPLES TO GET YOU STARTED

Photography Badge: See your neighborhood as if you just moved in.
Can you notice three things that you’ve never observed before within a 5-minute walk of your home? Take some photos and show them to a friendly neighbor. Ask them if they can identify where the photos were taken and if they have ever noticed these things. Are the things you noticed man-made or natural? Is there evidence of human-environment interaction, weathering of man-made materials, or non-native vegetation?

Story-telling Badge: Tell an object’s story.
“Interview” something that you’ve bought that was made in or comes from another country. What story does it tell you? How is the place it came from different than the place it traveled to? Share the story in an interesting way by setting up your own museum. Be sure to include a map that traces the item’s travels.

Take Action! Badge: Trash art
Go out with a trash bag and collect trash (wear gloves). Turn the items into a piece of art and try to get it featured in your local newspaper as a way of demonstrating any problems of consumption and waste disposal in your area. Sustainability is a key idea in geography. Humans often use resources more quickly than they can reproduce, re-grow, or recycle them. Remember, nothing truly goes ‘away’ – trash is often transported to giant landfills or dumped in our oceans. Do some research to learn about where your trash goes. How does this trash affect your community’s environment? Does it affect your local watershed? Parks? Neighborhood?

Geographers use maps to organize data and show connections between people, places and things.

Mapping Badge: Welcome map
Make a map that can be given to kids who are new to your area. Work in a team to think about what things new people would need to know about your area and then start mapping them out on paper. Try to include some local secrets, interesting stories, and great places to discover. Once complete, find clever ways to distribute the map to newcomers. Maps can be excellent graphic organizers, unless they get too confusing.

Geographers uncover human or environmental tragedies and inspire people to take action.

Find all downloadable missions at geographyawarenessweek.org.

Geography is about observing and understanding why places are the way they are and how they change over time.
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 and completed TC training in June.

Heather Ericson, 7th grade teacher from Cesar Chevez Academy in Detroit.  
Rania Hammoud, 6th grade teacher from Discovery Middle School in Plymouth.  
Jenna Waters, Special Education teacher from Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Wyandotte.

National Committee Member

AUGUST 6, 2011, PORTLAND, OR- At the 2011 National Conference on Geographic Education in Portland, Oregon, NCGE President Dr. Joseph Kerski announced the results of the 2012 Executive Planning Board election. MGA Teacher Consultant Cindy Bloom will join the NCGE board beginning January 1st, 2012 as Curriculum and Instruction Committee/ K-12. Cindy teaches 7th grade social studies at Northeast Middle School, Comstock Public Schools in Kalamazoo. She has been a Teacher Consultant since 1995, and a member of NCGE since 1997.

Teaching with the Stars

This is an online professional development series developed by the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education at Texas State University. It is designed to provide systematic professional development in geography to middle and high school teachers and emphasizes pedagogical knowledge and skills as well as content knowledge and applications in geography. Project materials are accessible via a variety of delivery systems, thus making them available to the widest possible audience of those teaching geography.

A lesson called "Got Milk?" by MGA Teacher Consultant Lori Barber is featured in the 3rd program on "Agriculture and Water" (the exact title may change). This program will be available soon (November-ish) on the website www.geoteach.org. Two other programs are currently available online, "Globalization" and "Watershed Management". All programs include in-class demonstrations by expert teachers in their own classrooms, a pedagogic enhancement where a mentor teacher discusses the various pedagogic strategies used in the in-class lessons, and a case study related to the topic. Lesson plans and print materials used in the lesson are available for download on the website. Bonus: access to the program is free!

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.

Schools registered by October 15, 2011 will pay $90 fee and will receive their contest materials in early November. Registration after October 15 will be $110.

Qualifying Test received by: January 31, 2012
State Bees: March 30, 2012
National Bee: May 22-24, 2012

GO GREEN!

Check out how you can “GO GREEN” with this newsletter on page 8.
Michigan’s contributions to the war effort are the focus of The Michigan Experience: The American Civil War Years (TME) series to air on public television over the four years of the Civil War’s Sesquicentennial (2011-2015).

The production is the work of iMichigan Productions, a non-profit educational production company based in Grand Blanc.

The first episode of the series will air on or around Veteran’s Day (11.11.11) on all of the public television stations in the state (check local listings). Additional airings are expected around Black History Month, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and in the spring in anticipation of the 8th grade Civil War curriculum.

iMP is in the process of creating a robust e-learning center to provide teachers, students and life-long learners with free resources and tools to enable them to further their exploration and learning on each iMP project topic.

Find out more: www.imichiganproductions.org.

Links for Online Mapping

National Geographic websites (Local, U.S., world)
http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/
   1-Page Printable Maps;
   MapMaker Kits (for example, World Physical mega & tabletop maps)
http://education.nationalgeographic.com/mapping/interactive-map/
   Mapmaker Interactive

ESRI websites (Local, U.S., world)
http://edcommunity.esri.com/software/webmapping/
   10 on-line mapping resources

For a short tutorial by Carol Gersmehl on the MapMaker, open MGA’s website (www.cst.cmich.edu/mga) and choose Online Teacher Resources. Also available at this site is a document on ESRI mapping as well as a list of additional internet map sites.

Race and ethnicity
http://www.flickr.com/photos/walking6f/sets/72157624812674967/
   with/4981417821/
   Check out this site for interesting population maps of cities showing racial distributions. The comments following the Detroit map suggest many different perspectives and could lead to interesting discussions.

Additional internet sites that provide maps

National Atlas (U.S.)
http://www.nationalatlas.gov/mapmaker
   Many topics (including history and earth science) for U.S.

Historical Census Browser(U.S.)
http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/
   Data and maps for U.S. states and counties (1790 – 1860)

World Maps (world)
http://www.worldmapper.org/
   cartograms for many current topics and some historic topics
http://www.wri.org/charts-maps
   environmental data/maps from World Resources Institute
MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE
Headquartered at Central Michigan University

MICHIGAN GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Education Foundation

The Michigan Geographic Alliance newsletter is posted on our website, www.cst.cmich.edu/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.cst.cmich.edu/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.

Please feel free to email your information or preference to: mga@cmich.edu or call 1-800-279-1423.

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.

The Alliance mailing address is:
Michigan Geographic Alliance
Central Michigan University
291 Dow Science
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859