



# THE Michigan Geographic Alliance newsletter

291 Dow Science \* Central Michigan University \* Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859 \* 989-774-3723

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Fall, 2008

## MGA and MCSS Offer Fall Conference at National Meeting



### National Conference on Geography Education-*Bringing the World To You*

The Michigan Council for the Social Studies is joining with Michigan Geographic Alliance and the National Council for Geographic Education to co-sponsor the *National Conference on Geography Education: Bringing the World to You*. The national meeting will take place at the Dearborn Hyatt from October 9-12, 2008, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the Model T. Super Social Studies Saturday features the strand *Geography Across the Social Studies*, and serves as the MCSS Fall Conference. MCSS members may register for this part of the conference at a reduced rate. (More on page 2!)

The conference offers many opportunities for both Michigan teachers, and geography teachers from around the country; over 240 workshops, plus special events, and field trips incorporate every aspect of geography. (See page 3)

#### Conference Strands:

*The Automobile in American Life:* Speakers, field trips, and workshops will look at the changes, both past and future, caused by the advent of the automobile.



*Technology (Geo-Tech)* is featured in the computer lab workshops, and will offer GIS, GPS, Geo Tagging, Mapping, Spatial Analysis, and Remote Sensing. (More Strands, page 2)

Special workshops include *Mapping the World by Heart*, *The Tools of Geography*, *My Wonderful World*, *A New Era for American Agriculture*, *Location of Economic Activities*, *Arab Americans*, and *Advanced Placement Human Geography*.

National Geographic Society is offering a free *Teacher-Fest* on Sunday, which will include activities about Geography Awareness Week, The Giant Map of North America, and All Roads Film Festival.

For more information and registration, log onto [www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org) and follow the links for the conference.

## COORDINATOR'S

**O** Dr. Michael Libbee

**R** The Michigan Geographic Alliance is proud to be working with both MCSS and NCGE to offer an opportunity for Michigan teachers to participate in this national meeting. This unique collaboration means that members of MCSS can attend the conference without joining NCGE. **The Saturday program is available to MCSS members for only \$70.** Registration may be completed through NCGE ([www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org)) or MCSS ([www.michcouncilss.org](http://www.michcouncilss.org)).

MGA is also spearheading initiatives to help teachers integrate history and geography. A state grant is funding professional development in both Lansing and Grand Rapids Public Schools. A national Geography History project, funded by National Geographic Education Foundation, is working to produce curriculum materials to be used in history and geography courses. More information can be found on page 7.

#### More Inside:

*Geography Action!*  
*Free Teacher Materials!*  
*Geography/History!*

# STUDIES SATURDAY

*The Geography Across the Social Studies* strand is designed to offer teachers lessons, activities, and information which integrate geography and other social studies courses. Sixty-five sessions (most on Saturday) include Teaching Economic Systems and Geography using The Bead Game; No Social Studies Left Behind; Geography/History Project; The Best of Both Worlds: Integrating History and Geography Instruction; Geography and World Cultures; Geography, Economics and Civics; and many more.

Over 20 sessions are specified as **Geographic Literacy**, incorporating Language Arts into the social studies curriculum. (e.g., Geospatial Writer's Workshop; Geography and Literacy Meet at the Berlin Wall; Geospatial Writer's Workshop). Geography is also integrated into math (e.g., Using Demographics to Teach the Political Process; Picture That! Mapping and Graphing Census Data; Got Data? Census Resources and Lessons for Your Classroom) and science (e.g., Environmental Hazards, Environmental Awareness).

**Arab-Americans:** The Saturday workshop includes discussion about and fieldwork in Dearborn's Arab American community, including Arab culture and Islam in America, immigration, assimilation, and settlement patterns. Speakers from the International Middle East Outreach Council and Dearborn's Islamic Center of America are featured, and fieldwork will include a guided tour of the Arab American National Museum, a catered Middle Eastern lunch buffet, and informal interviews with 3 generations of Arab Americans. Participants will receive teaching materials.

Other Arab American sessions include: The Geography of Faith: Place in Islamic Worship; Music of the Arab World: Classical to Middle Eastern Pop; and Literature of Migration: One Arab-American Story.

## More Strands:

**The Americas:** This strand includes sessions such as Latin America; Canada in Your K-12 Classroom; Geography Action! Mapping the Americas; The Geography and Ecology of the Chesapeake Bay; Seeing Connections: The Spanish Acequia System of Mission Espada; and Geography of Chile: Resources for Teaching.

**Spatial Thinking:** Help students improve this important skill from workshops including: The Geographic skills as an Assessment Tool; Mental Mapping Approach: Illustrating a Watershed; Building a Scaffold for Spatial Thinking; Integrating Spatial Thinking Skills and Content; U.S. Population Profile - Who Are We?; and Bringing Spatial Thinking to Your Classroom.

**Automotive Industry:** How important is the car today? Besides field trips, sessions include Easin' on Down the Road; Teaching the Automotive Industry in American Culture; and Right Time, Right Place: The Model T.

## PRESIDENTIAL PLENARY SESSIONS

### *The Future Auto World: Round or Flat?*

David E. Cole is the Chairman of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor.

### *European Boundaries*

Brian W. Blouet is the *Fred Huby Professor of Geography and International Education* in the School of Education and the Department of Government at the College of William and Mary.

### *Cinderella Before the Ball: Bringing Geography, the Neglected Stepchild of Education Reform, into the Spotlight.*

Daniel Edelson is Vice President of Education and Children's Programs at National Geographic Society and Executive Director of the Society's Education Foundation.

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# *Special Events.....Field Trips.....*

*Thursday, October 9 5:30-7:30 pm*

## **Opening Session and Reception**

Join us for an informative and entertaining welcome! Award-winning Michigan singer/songwriter Kitty Donohoe will help introduce Michigan to in-state and out-of-state guests through songs about history, geography, and culture. John Viera, Director of Sustainable Business Strategies for Ford Motor Company, will be the featured speaker. The reception will provide an opportunity to see teacher Arthur Brood and his miniature Model T.

*Friday, October 10 7:00-10:00 pm*

## **Conference Gala**

The NCGE Gala will be held at The Henry Ford. The entire museum will be open for the evening; enjoy an array of delicious food and walk through America's Greatest History Attraction. The staff of THF will interpret stories behind the exhibits. Don't miss the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Model T!

*Saturday, October 11 7:30-10:00 pm*

## **Awards Banquet**

Enjoy a wonderful meal as we honor the achievements of the 2008 NCGE awards recipients.

*Sunday, October 12 8:00 - Noon*

## **National Geographic Teacher-Fest**

Meet with the National Geographic staff for breakfast and exciting hands-on interactive activities to inspire your geography teaching, including Geography Action, Geography Awareness Week, the Giant Map of North America, and the All Roads Film Festival!

## **A Car for the Great Multitude: The Centennial of the Model T**

Hands-on activities (build a model T, What's My Assembly Line) and a tour of the Ford Rouge Factory

## **Historic Connections with our Canadian Neighbors**

Bring your passport for a tour of natural, cultural, and historic sites in nearby Ontario.

## **Auto Heritage Day Excursion**

Explore Detroit's Motor City heritage by visiting some historic and modern auto facilities.

## **Downtown Detroit's Renaissance**

A one-mile walking tour of Downtown Detroit includes the Renaissance Center, shopping and entertainment district, the new Ford Field, and Greektown.

## **Biogeography of Southeast Michigan**

Lake Erie Metropark contains one of the few remaining natural wetlands on the Lake Erie shoreline.

## **Detroit's Immigrants: Past and Present**

Explore the cultural impact of Detroit's immigrant population in both Hamtramck and Mexicantown.

## **Arab Americans in Dearborn**

Tour the Islamic Center and Arab American neighborhood and visit the Arab American National Museum.

## **Glacial Geography**

Learn about Michigan's geology at the Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center.

For more information about these events and field trips, and for cost and registration requirements, please log on to [www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org) and follow the links to the *National Conference on Geography Education*.

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# Geography Action! The Americas

MGA Teacher Consultant **Susan Husiak** (Whitehall Middle School) is the coordinator of Geography Action! for Michigan this year. She attended National Geographic training in Washington, D.C. in July.

Geography Awareness Week will be celebrated November 17-21, 2008. This year's theme is "The Americas" and materials are available for teachers through Sue and/or the Alliance (see ordering information on page 5). The materials will include a "Geography Action! Mapping the Americas" poster, a handbook with lessons and a CD containing activities, maps, and event planning templates - everything a school would need to plan an event. The toolkit also has a section on USING MAPS AS TOOLS, internet and other resources, and a glossary. The Geography Action website, ([www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction)), will contain this year's themed activities starting this month.

The toolkit includes an activity for upper elementary and above that creates a 12' X 20' map of the Americas, as well as the following lesson plans:

## Grades K-2:

- **Where Am I?** explores spatial relationships;
- **Exploring Cardinal Directions** uses directions to have students tell where they are located in a room and also uses a compass outside to find directions;
- **Who Else Lives in the Americas?** uses children's literature books;
- **Simon Says** has students using their bodies to reinforce cardinal directions;

## Grades 3-5:

- **North, South, East, West!** connects latitude and climate;
- **Endangered Animals** uses maps to locate where endangered animals live;
- **Westward Expansion** uses maps of the U.S. to track our expansion;
- **Where Does that Come From?** maps crops, tourism, and other activities;

## Grades 6-8:

- **Explorers of the Americas** deals with American expansion;
- **Plates at Work** involves the tectonic plates in and around the Americas;
- **A River's Journey** shows the importance of rivers in our country;
- **Where are All the People?** explores the relationships among high and low population density, transportation corridors, climate, and land cover;

## Grades 9-12:

- **Using Maps to Solve Problems** illuminates patterns that are not as visible as large physical features;
- **Energy** explores which countries use the most energy and CO2 levels
- **What am I?** is a guessing game;
- **Be a Modern Explorer** is a trip planning activity.

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## National Geographic Summer Geography Institute

National Geographic's 2008 Summer Geography Institute took place the week of July 13 through the 19th at National Geographic Headquarters in Washington D.C. Seventy Alliance Network teachers from the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada were supported by the National Geographic Education Foundation to participate. Teacher Consultant **Angie Parker**, 7th grade Geography Teacher at Cheboygan Middle School, represented Michigan.

This year's institute was called, "***Beyond Borders: Maps to Understand European Physical and Cultural Landscapes.***" It's the first part of a two-year professional course on using maps to teach geography to students and other teachers. Teachers will use the lessons in their classrooms this year, network with the other teacher participants throughout the school year and then return to National Geographic headquarters in Washington D.C. next summer to be trained in teaching colleagues how to adapt these lessons to their own classrooms.

In addition to learning about mapping and issues in Europe, teachers took part in National Geographic's 2008 Legislator of the Year award luncheon, toured the map collection at the Library of Congress and hosted a dinner at NGS for education staff from 15 European embassies in the Washington D.C. area.

Michigan Geographic Alliance is looking forward to having Angie share this project with teachers in Michigan.

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# Free National Geographic Maps & Materials

National Geographic Maps contain abundant information, but can be daunting to teachers and students. Lesson ideas developed by Michigan Geographic Alliance help teachers simplify NGS maps for use in the classroom. Lessons are designed to be used by groups of students, so maps are sent in sets of five. For **EACH** classroom set (\*with lesson activities), send this form and a 9 x 13 self-addressed envelope with \$3.00 worth of postage attached to Michigan Geographic Alliance, 291 Dow Science, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859.

## ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level/Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone or email: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address (Must also be on envelope)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Circle items ordered:

**(LIMIT 2 PER TEACHER)**

\*Africa: The Human Footprint

\*A World Transformed (Eastern North America from 1491-1650)

\*Mexico and Central America  
Iran

\*Changing Climate  
China

Geography Action! materials

***Remember: Send a self-addressed envelope with \$3.00 postage for EACH SET!***

## Michigan Social Studies Olympiad

### How does geography affect the economics of Michigan?

Michigan Geographic Alliance sponsored an off-site event for the 2007 Michigan Social Studies Olympiad. Students were asked to develop a PowerPoint Presentation that discussed how Michigan can use its unique physical geography to create sustainable economic development. Sixteen entries in 3 grade levels were submitted, exhibiting hands-on, practical connections between our environment and business.

MGA would like to congratulate all the participants for their excellent work. Winners are invited to the **National Conference on Geography Education** in Dearborn in October. They will be introduced during the opening session and their PowerPoint presentations will be shown in the exhibit hall during the reception.

### Olympiad Winners:

High School Division: 1st place, **Brian Fanelli**, from Dakota High School in Macomb; 2nd place, **Frank Sears** from Benton Harbor High School.

Intermediate Division: 1st place, **Preston Miller** and **Joe Kennedy**, from Davison Middle School; 2nd place, **Nick Wills** from Davison Middle School; tied for 3rd place, **Shruti Jha** from Jeannette Junior High in Utica, and **Joshua Harris** from Davison Middle School.

Elementary Division: 1st place, **Jimmy Fennessey** from Kerby Elementary in Grosse Pointe; 2nd place, **Ryan Blarek** and **Justin Jones** from Briarwood Elementary in Warren Woods; 3rd place, **Adam Smith** from Birmingham Covington School. Honorable mention went to **Charlie Gabrion** from Kerby Elementary in Grosse Pointe.

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# MEEMIC Scholarship Winners

Understanding the importance of geography in today's world, MEEMIC Insurance Company generously funded scholarships for eight classroom teachers to attend the *National Conference on Geography Education*.

## *Congratulations to these teachers!*

And many thanks to MEEMIC Insurance Company for supporting the need for geography education!

**Brenda Bratt**, 7th grade social studies teacher at Millennium Middle School in South Lyon.

**Tony Brey**, world history and geography teacher at Garber High School in Essexville.

**Molly Evans David**, world history and geography teacher at Franklin High School in Livonia.

**Cheryl Larkin**, social studies teacher at Jefferson Middle School in Pontiac.

**Joy McFadyen**, 5th grade teacher at Hampton Elementary in Bay City.

**Angela Parker**, 7th grade social studies teacher at Cheboygan Middle School in Cheboygan.

**Jaye Lynn Trapp**, 5th grade teacher at Central School in Traverse City.

**Jessica Zayaz**, 2nd grade teacher at Beechau Elementary in Ravenna.

The non-profit MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education also offers mini-grants to Michigan educators. For information about the mini-grant, or to apply online, go to [www.meemic.com](http://www.meemic.com) and click on "especially for educators." For more information, contact the foundation director, Kristy Mitchell at 248-375-7535.

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## National Geography/History Project

Funded by a National Geographic Model Program grant, Michigan Geographic Alliance, in partnership with the Texas and Mississippi Alliances and the Center for Research into Spatial Thinking at Hunter College has produced some excellent prototype materials, including the Geography History Resources Portal and the Geohistogram. A successful Development Institute was run in 2007 and an Outreach Institute was run in July, 2008. Thirty-four participants attended the institute, including Michigan Teacher Consultants **Cindy Bloom, Ed Bonne, Mary Evans, Bev Feldkamp, Clare Friend, and Kristi Karis.**

The intent of the grant is to offer teachers a resource with lesson plans that integrate geography and history. Materials being developed include a world history portal and a U. S. history portal designed for teachers to access lessons, and a Geohistogram with activities to help students see connections across both time and space. Watch for more information about these resources.

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## 2009 National Geographic Bee

The National Geographic Bee is a school competition for students in any grades four through eight. Excite your students about the world around them and reward those who excel in their knowledge of geography by giving them a chance to compete in a school geographic bee.

Principals must register their schools to receive the contest materials necessary to conduct a school level Bee. Schools registered by October 15, 2008 (\$70 registration fee) will receive their contest materials in early November. Go to <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee> to get complete information and other dates and deadlines.

National Geographic looks forward to many more schools giving their students the opportunity to excel and also be encouraged to know more about the world in which we live and share, by participating in the National Geographic Bee.

## *Kudus!*

The National Council of Geography Education will award Distinguished Teaching Awards to the following Michigan teachers:

**Laurie Erby**, Saline Middle School, Saline; **Vickie Weiss**, City School, Grand Blanc; **Iris Katers**, Graveraet Elementary, Marquette; **Beverly Feldkamp**, Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; **Amy Perkins**, Lakeshore High School, Stevensville; **Dr. Al Lewandowski**, Port Huron Northern High School, Port Huron

The Informal, Community and Professional Distinguished Teaching Award goes to **Stan Masters**, Lenawee Intermediate School District.

In addition, Michigan author Janie Panagopoulos's book "*A Faraway Home: An Orphan Train Story*" will be receiving a GEM (Geography Excellence in Media) Award. She will be presenting at the conference and signing copies of any of her books on Saturday afternoon in the Exhibit Hall.

MGA thanks the sponsors of the  
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We invite your suggestions and articles for publication. Submissions should be sent to the address above or emailed to [mater1ml@cmich.edu](mailto:mater1ml@cmich.edu). If you have any questions or comments, please call (800) 279-1423.

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