



THE

Michigan Geographic Alliance newsletter

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

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COORDINATOR'S

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Dr. Michael Libbee

CMU Attracts Visiting Research Professor

MGA has its own "Dr. Phil"!



Dr. Phil Gersmehl, internationally known geographer and Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota is now a Research Professor at Central Michigan University working with the Michigan Geographic Alliance. Phil's many successful curriculum projects have included the ARGUS (Activities and Readings in the Geography of the United States) and ARGWorld Projects. His recent book *Teaching Geography* includes a CD-ROM of geography content and presentations which is being widely used in MGA workshops. Phil has most recently been the Co-Director of the New York Center for Geographic Learning, working with New York City Schools. He has been working with MGA as part of

the National Geographic Education Foundation Geography and History Project, and is the primary author of the World GeoHistogram, developed as a resource to help students integrate history and geography. Central Michigan University is supporting Phil's work through a Research Excellence Fund grant.

MGA is very happy to have Phil working with us on curriculum development. Read more about the resources he has developed inside.

**READ ALL
ABOUT IT!**

- MCSS Conference in Mt. Pleasant!
- Meet the New Teacher Consultants!
- Geography Action!
- New MGA Resources!
- Professional Development Offerings!
- TC Tidbits!




Social Justice:
 Past, Present and Future

 MCSS 54th Annual State
 Professional Development Conference

November 1 - 3, 2009
Soaring Eagle Resort & Casino
Mount Pleasant, Michigan
Highlights Include:
 PreCon Sessions: Teaching Geography
 and Virtual Economics v.3
 Special Entertainment by Music that Matters:
 Robert Jones & Matt Watroba
 National Geographic Blank Map of Africa,
 sponsored by MGA
 New Social Studies Resources: GeoHistograms and
 new Michigan Posters and Maps

 Over 90 sessions to choose from
 and much more!
Register on-line at www.mcssmi.org

Join MGA and social
 studies colleagues
 at the
 Michigan Council
 for the
 Social Studies
 Annual Conference
 in Mt. Pleasant!

Online registration is now available
 at www.mcssmi.org .

Session details are posted on the
 MCSS website.

Register before October 19 and
 save!

“Two Rivers One Stream:
 Charting the Course of American Music”

Monday, November 2, 7:00 pm:

Robert Jones (2007 Blues Educator of the Year)

Matt Watroba (Folks Like Us - Detroit Public Radio)

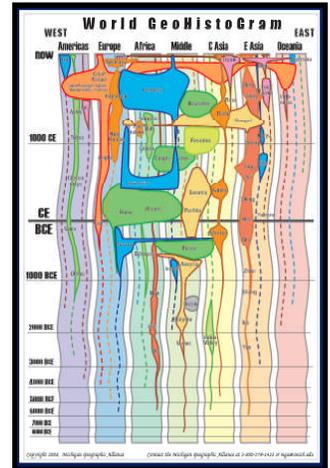
Watch and listen as the duo takes you back to the roots of American music
 and song. You will be amazed and amused by the connections made between
 the songs and music you are familiar with, and the songs and music that dates
 back hundreds of years. You will experience how cooperation, sharing and
 listening among diverse ethnic cultures led directly to what we know of as
 American music. This is the history of music AND the music of history.



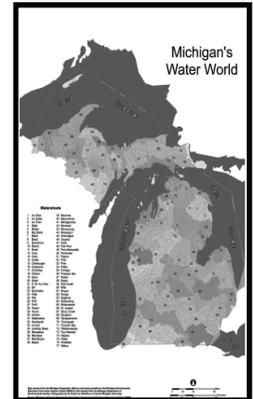
Come learn how to use new resources!

Michigan Geographic Alliance will be sharing new resources at the MCSS annual conference. See Page 4 for more information about how to schedule your own professional development with MGA to get these new materials!

The World GeoHistogram helps teachers and students see major world events in time and location. At workshop sessions, each participating teacher will receive a GeoHistogram Poster, a set of placemat size GeoHistograms, and a Geography/History CD.



Sessions on Monday at the MCSS conference will feature using this resource in the classroom (Brain Research and the GeoHistogram; Disease and the GeoHistogram; Introducing the GeoHistogram).



A new set of Michigan Posters and Maps have been adapted from the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS) to help teachers meet the 3rd and 4th grade GLCEs.

At professional development workshop sessions, each participating teacher will receive six large posters and a set of placemat size Michigan Land, Air and Water diagrams.

These materials, as well as accompanying lessons and activities, will be available at several sessions at the MCSS Conference on Monday (Geographic M&Ms; Mitten of Plenty; Michigan's Land Air, and Water; Playing with Nature)

NGS GIANT MAP OF AFRICA

Michigan Geographic Alliance is hosting the National Geographic Giant Map of Africa at the Michigan Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, November 2-3, 2009. The map is accompanied by a set of ready-to-use activities as well as atlases, books, music, videos, and games. Teachers are invited to take part in interesting activities on the map at five sessions at the conference, as well as learn how to bring this map, or one of several other Giant Maps, to their school.

The Giant Map will then travel to Lansing, where it will be on display at the Michigan Council for History Education annual conference at the Lansing Center on Wednesday, November 4.

WELCOME!

Michigan Geographic Alliance is proud to announce the addition of 12 new Teacher Consultants who graduated from the Basic Summer Geography Institute July 17, 2009.

The goals of the Institute were to upgrade teachers' geography backgrounds and prepare them to present professional, high-quality in-service presentations which are aligned with the Michigan social studies grade level content expectations. Directing the institute was Dr. Michael Libbee (Central Michigan University) and Dr. Joseph Stoltman (Western Michigan University), co-coordinators of the Michigan Geographic Alliance.

New Michigan Geographic Alliance Teacher Consultants

The intensive, two-week residential summer program at CMU included academic presentations, field trips, and a wide-range of learning activities and new Alliance resources. Each participant developed and presented an in-service workshop and was evaluated by the staff and their peers. As new Teacher Consultants, they will share their presentations in their school districts and at local and state teacher conferences.

Michigan Geographic Alliance welcomes the following into the ranks of active MGA Teacher Consultants:

Christopher Adams, Kalamazoo Central High School, Kalamazoo Public Schools

Lori Barber, Sexton High School, Lansing Public Schools

Jennifer Bush, Eastern High School, Lansing Public Schools

Susan Day, Murray Lake Elementary, Lowell Area Schools

Melinda Dickinson, Sheridan Road Elementary, Lansing Public Schools

Lisa Koski, Trillium Academy, Taylor, Michigan

Pamela Mathias, Louise Peacock Elementary, Coruuna Public Schools

Jane McCusker, International School of Stavanger, International Schools

Ellen Meeker, Central Woodlands Middle School, Forest Hills Public Schools

Joy Porter, Michigan Avenue Academy, Paw Paw Public Schools

Jacqueline Slade-Driver, Gaylord Intermediate School, Gaylord Public Schools

Mary Weaver, Retired, Saginaw Public Schools

**LOOKING FOR
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FOR YOUR
DISTRICT?**

Participants will receive materials including maps, posters, CDs, lesson plans and activities. MGA provides resources, presenters, and ideas!

Michigan Geographic Alliance can offer professional development workshops for your teachers! Some topics available include:

- **Global Issues**
- **World and US Geography and History**
- **World Regions**
- **U. S. Regions**
- **Michigan**

**Call today to make plans!
1-800-279-1423
or mga@cmich.edu**

We will work with you to provide high-quality, low-cost workshops and materials to fit your needs and your budget. Choose from full-day, half-day, or after school presentations!

National Geographic Education Program presents ~

Geography Action!

Mapping Europe

This year's Geography Action theme is Europe, and information, activities, maps, and the GA! Europe toolkit are all available and printable through the website (www.nationalgeographic.com/geography-action). The toolkit engages K-12 students in large-scale activities to see the world in new ways, to manipulate and analyze a variety of information geographically, and to experience working with key mapping concepts. Activities answer questions such as "What do maps tell us?" and "What are the different kinds of maps?" and teach student about "Mapping Layers of Geographic Information".

Join National Geographic to celebrate Geography Awareness Week, November 15-21, 2009!

The hands-on, collaborative projects for students use either a printable poster-sized or wall-sized map of Europe as well as data sets and thematic maps. Primary students learn mapping skills (symbols, legends, directions, etc), later elementary students map layers of cultures and environments, middle school students practice map techniques to learn about tourism in Europe, and high school students map and analyze layers of energy use, and explore environmental issues across Europe.

Michigan Geographic Alliance Teacher Consultant Angela Parker will serve as the state coordinator for Geography Action for the 2009-2010 school year. She will share ideas and classroom activities on this year's theme at two sessions during the MCSS annual conference in November.

Help Students See the World in New Ways.

Log on to www.nationalgeographic.com/geography-action today!

Free NGS Maps, Materials, and Activities

National Geographic Maps contain abundant information, but can be daunting to teachers and students. Lesson ideas developed by Michigan Geographic Alliance can help teachers simplify NGS maps for use in the classroom. Lessons are designed to be used in groups of students, so maps are offered in sets of five.

Please send this form and \$3.00 *per set* for postage to Michigan Geographic Alliance, 291 Dow Science, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859. **Limit 2 sets per teacher** Do not send cash.

Name: _____

Check the map sets (limit 2) to be sent:

School: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Shipping Address:

Africa: The Human Footprint
From Sea to Shining Sea (Oceans)
Soccer Unites the World
The Dividing Link (Mexico and Central America)
Changing Climate
China (and the Forbidden City)
Iran (and Persia)
Middle East and IRAQ
Southeast Asia (and the Khmer Empire)

TC TIDBITS and TRAVELS

Distinguished Teaching Award

Teacher Consultant **Kimberly Adams** earned the Distinguished Teaching Award from National Council for Geography Education at the annual conference held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in September. Kim teaches social studies classes at Comstock High School in Kalamazoo and has been a teacher consultant since 2005.

NCGE grants this award to recognize and support excellence in geography teaching. Kim has been actively and enthusiastically spreading geographic literacy to her students as well as other teachers. Working with new MGA resources, she has included geography/history materials in her teaching, while helping the Alliance develop, refine and share these new products.

Congratulations, Kim!

Touring China

MGA Teacher Consultants **Mary Crank**, **Clare Friend** and **Kristi Karis**, accompanied by Michigan native and author, Janie Panagopoulos, spent 15 days touring China with the Chinese American Cultural Bridge. This educators' tour included expected sites like the Great Wall outside of Beijing and the Terra Cotta Warriors in Xi'an, in addition to visits with students, teachers and administrators at a high school in Luoyang and a new vocational-technical university in Xi'an.

The Chinese American Cultural Bridge Center is an American nonprofit organization established in 1992. Its mission is to promote peace, fellowship, and understanding between the peoples of China and the United States. Check out their website for more information: <http://www.cacbc.org/>

Touring Korea

MGA Teacher Consultant **Bev Feldkamp**, a Global Issues teacher at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw, traveled to Korea for two weeks in July with the 2009 Korean Studies Workshop for American Educators. The only participant from Michigan, she joined 40 other teachers from all over the U.S.

The program was planned by the Institute of International Education and funded by the Korea Society to help the educators experience Korea's culture and then share their experience with their students back in the states. While Bev acknowledges that she now better understands the East Asian culture, the trip helped to confirm that "people really aren't all that different wherever you go. They have the same desires, needs and feelings as we do, but they were so giving and willing to share their lives with us."

Touring Turkey

Teacher Consultant and Region 6 MCSS Board Member, **Linda Prieskorn** from Ann Arbor had a fantastic year! She was named MCSS Middle School Teacher of the Year at the MCSS conference in Grand Rapids last February. Linda currently teaches 8th grade American History and Language Arts at Clauge Middle School.

This summer she was part of the University of Michigan Center for Middle Eastern and SE Asia Fulbright group that traveled in Turkey. She recorded much of what she saw and learned on the AAPS Moodle. Check out her moodle at <http://sn.im/lindaturkey>. Anyone can log in as a guest, select Clauge Middle School and select Linda Prieskorn, Trip to Turkey.

When is noon not noon?

In Traverse City it is 1:41 p.m. in September

Solar noon is the moment when the sun reaches its highest elevation on a given day at a given place. Due to geography, business convenience and convention, residents of Michigan do not experience solar noon at 12:00 p.m. Actual noon in this time zone occurs when the sun is directly over Philadelphia. Traverse City, being about 625 miles to the west and north, has to wait 41 minutes for the sun to reach its zenith in September. Daylight Savings Time adds the extra hour. Solar noon occurs at 1:30 pm in Detroit, 1:36 pm in Mt. Pleasant, and not until 1:41 pm in Traverse City. That means the sun's fiercest hours are not between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Since the time zones were established in the 1880s, for the convenience of train schedules and commerce, the resulting 24 segments of each cover a wide geographical area. The sun cannot be directly over all of a time zone simultaneously, so "actual" noon varies. To activate NOAA's Solar Calculator, log on to: <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/grad/solcalc/> and find out when solar noon occurs anywhere in the world.

TC TIDBITS and TRAVELS *(continued)*

Peace Corps Connection

MGA Teacher Consultant **Jaye Lynn Trapp**, 5th grade teacher at Central Grade School in Traverse City, is teaching her students global geography in a humanitarian way. A colleague's daughter is serving in the Peace Corp in Uganda. Margaret Mimnaugh writes periodic letters to the class from a small village called Bulera (Africa is part of the geography of 5th grade). The stories are often heart-wrenching, and for the last several years, Central Grade School has held fundraisers to send school supplies. Margaret has a grant to fix some classrooms in her school and develop a library, but some of the money was stolen. Jaye Lynn and her class are collecting maps and beach ball globes from Michigan Geographic Alliance to send to Uganda.

Although Central Grade School students are learning about hardships not common here, they are also becoming aware that children everywhere are hurt by prejudice.

"Our school choir qualified to compete in a music competition against other schools in our district. We rented a cattle truck and traveled into our main district town. For most of our students it was their first time leaving the village..... The children from the town made fun of our students the whole day, for not having shoes, for not having better costumes, eating with their fingers, having never tasted ice cream before, and many other reasons. I was so angry at them!! Who has the right to belittle another?!?! NO ONE. "

"One of the biggest challenges I've faced with the kids here is in motivating them to stay in school. Most of them have never left the village and don't realize how far they could go if they complete primary school and go on to high school....(In your letter)your students could also talk about why they are going to stay in school and what they want to be when they grow up. They could ask my students what they want to be when they grow up too. No one here ever asks them that question and I think it impacts them beyond belief."

Jaye Lynn's class and the school in Uganda will exchange letters during the school year. Margaret reports: "My class will write in their first language, Luganda, and the teacher and I will translate it for your students."

"I look forward to providing my students with the opportunity to connect with the students at the Bulera Primary School in the Buganda Kingdom," says Jaye Lynn. "My hope is that students in both countries will learn that the world is bigger than their own neighborhood."

Teach About Asia



Key Issues in Asian Studies

"KEY ISSUES IN ASIAN STUDIES" booklets are designed for use in undergraduate humanities and social science courses, as well as by advanced high school students and their teachers. These booklets introduce students to major cultural and historical themes and are designed to encourage classroom debate and discussion. The AAS plans to publish 2-3 booklets each year. Please visit the AAS website for a list of forthcoming titles.

Understanding East Asia's Economic "Miracles"
Zhiqun Zhu

Political Rights in Post-Mao China
Merle Goldman

Gender, Sexuality, and Body Politics in Modern Asia
Michael G. Peletz



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