



THE

Michigan Geographic Alliance newsletter

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

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Spring, 2008

National Conference Comes to Michigan!

Michigan Geographic Alliance, in partnership with Michigan Council for the Social Studies and The Henry Ford, is proud to host the annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Model T, the *National Conference on Geography Education* will be held in Dearborn October 9-12, 2008. Geographers and geography educators from across the nation, Puerto Rico, and Canada will share research, teaching strategies, and geography content. The conference will be held at the Dearborn Hyatt and at The Henry Ford.

Michigan-based special content strands focusing on Arab Americans and the Automobile Industry will be offered, as well as traditional subject matter including International Studies, The Americas, AP Geography, Geo-Technology and more.

Super Social Studies Saturday is being planned specifically to offer integrated geography presentations aligned with Michigan content standards. *MCSS members will have special rates to attend on Saturday.*

Field trips will include the automobile industry tour, the physical geography of southeast Michigan, a Windsor trip, and a walking tour of Detroit. In addition, special events will be held at The Henry Ford and the National Arab American Museum.

The mission of the National Council for Geographic Education is to enhance the status and quality of geography teaching and learning. Over 2500 members, equally distributed between K-12 teachers and college and university faculty, represent every state as well as Puerto Rico and Washington D. C. For more information, check the website: www.ncge.org

COORDINATOR'S

O **Dr. Michael Libbee**

R The next six months will be active ones for the Michigan Geographic Alliance.

N
E
R The MGA will be hosting the National Conference on Geography Education announced on this page. Having the National Conference will make interesting workshops and presentations from around the country available and affordable for Michigan teachers. The conference is also an opportunity for Michigan teachers to present their work to teachers from around the country. If you have geographic activities, or interdisciplinary activities with a geographic component, send in an application to be a presenter. (See page 4 for details.)

The MGA has received two major grants to help Michigan teachers integrate History and Geography in line with the new grade level content expectations. The National Geographic Education Foundation has provided support to develop a national resource base of instructional materials which are both historic and geographic. In addition the MGA (along with the Michigan Council on History Education and both Lansing and Grand Rapids School Districts) has received an Improving Teacher Quality Grant from the Michigan Department of Education to provide services directly to Michigan Teachers. **Beginning next fall the Alliance will be offering geography and history workshops around the state.**

See page 10 for additional information.

More Inside!

- Summer Opportunities
- Center on Education Report

Summer Opportunities...

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Michigan Geographic Alliance and Michigan Council for History Education, will offer one-week institutes to help social studies teachers in grades 6-12 implement the new content expectations for geography and history.

The two institutes, offered simultaneously in Lansing and Grand Rapids the week of June 16-20, will provide activities and perspectives which are both historical and geographic.

Topics will include the expansion and contraction of empires, connections among regions including migration, trade, and the diffusion of culture, as well as the geography and history of specific eras.

Each day will offer content presentations and instructional activities presented by experienced teachers and academics. Participants will receive resources, i.e, maps and timelines. Lunch will be provided.

The institutes are free to Grand Rapids and Lansing Public School teachers; other teachers may register (\$100) until spaces are filled. For additional fees, 2 hours of graduate credit will be available through Central Michigan University, or teachers can earn SBCEUs through the local districts. Follow-up workshops will be held in the summer of 2009. The institutes are funded with support from a Highly Qualified Teacher Grant.

GRAND RAPIDS

June 16-20, 2008

Staff Development Center

Contact: Lorna Vantil

616-819-2020

Registration form: vantill@grps.k12.mi.us

LANSING

June 16-20, 2008

Ingham ISD

Thorburn Education Center Mason, MI

Register online at www.inghamisd.org (Professional Development) or contact Wendy Fuller at 517-244-1281 or wfuller@inghamisd.org

Historical Geography: Integrating Geography and History

June 24-July 10 Tuesday-Thursday 1:00-4:00

Historical Geography is designed for upper division undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning how to integrate history and geography into K-12 teaching. A geographic perspective is used to help pre-service and in-service teachers understand the content expectations in high school history and geography courses. The course will include activities and content relevant to both American and world history, but will focus on connections among regions, trends over time, and the historical context of contemporary events. More emphasis will be placed on historical eras since 1000 CE, in regions other than Europe.

COLLEGE CLASS

Central Michigan University

2-credit hours

Undergraduate GEO 375D

Graduate GEO 575D

Dr. Michael Libbee

www.registrars.cmich.edu

SUMMER RETREAT

All Michigan Geographic Alliance Teacher Consultants are invited to our Summer Retreat, June 26-28, 2008. This retreat will combine new resources and content with an opportunity to prepare new presentations in line with the social studies content expectations. Call 1-800-279-1423 to save your spot!

Free National Geographic 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 school classroom.

Lessons are designed to be used in groups of students, so maps are in sets of five. For **each** classroom set of 5 maps (some 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

With each order, we will include a GAW Poster (Asia)

Name: _____

School: _____

School District: _____

Grade Level/Subject: _____ Contact Phone or e-mail: _____

Shipping address (Must also be on envelope)

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

Circle the materials you are ordering
{LIMIT 2 PER TEACHER}

*Lesson Activities Available

*Africa: The Human Footprint

*Europe in Transition

*From Sea to Shining Sea

*Soccer Unites the World

*A World Transformed (History of Chesapeake Bay)

*Mexico and Central America

Climate Change

NCGE & Nystrom Geography Award

The Nystrom/Herff Jones Education Division will provide one \$1500 cash award to a K-12 teacher (or group of teachers) for an exemplary classroom presentation. Formats may include lessons, simulations, workshops, or other learning activities. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 18, 2008.

Winners of a Nystrom scholarship award will also receive one-year NCGE membership, waiver of the annual meeting registration fee, and an award banquet ticket, and are required to present their lessons at the conference in Dearborn (Oct. 9-12, 2008). For application materials: go to <http://www.ncge.org/resources/awards>.

MGA and MCSS are hosting the
National Conference on Geography Education
in Dearborn.



October 9-12, 2008



Come celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Model T!

Why come to the NCGE meeting in 2008?

DYNAMIC SPEAKERS

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

ARAB AMERICAN STRAND

RESEARCH REPORTS

BUILD A MODEL T

OUTSTANDING FIELD TRIPS

ROUGE FACTORY TOUR

NETWORKING WITH PEERS



NCGE's Call to Present:

This year's national conference will feature eight thematic strands. Proposals for presentations on these and other topics should be submitted by April 18, 2008.

Visit the "Events" section at www.ncge.org to submit a proposal online or to print the form.

Thematic Strands: *Automobile Industry* *Arab Americans* *Geo-Literacy* *Spatial Thinking* *The Americas* *Geo-Technology* *Advanced Placement Human Geography* *Geography Across the Social Studies*

Michigan Teachers: You can be a member of NCGE OR MCSS to present!

Check the MCSS website for further details! (michcouncilss.org)



CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL

100 YEARS of the Model T

AT THE HENRY FORD

www.TheHenryFord.org

Car of the Century

At the height of its popularity, the Model T was manufactured in 20 countries and on every continent except Antarctica. Join The Henry Ford as we celebrate its pervasive, enduring influence and its legacy as the innovation that changed the face of America and the world.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE HENRY FORD!!

July 17 – 19 • The Henry Ford/Detroit

The World of the Model T—International Conference

Join us in July for exciting programming that will satisfy auto historians and enthusiasts of all persuasions. Discuss, listen and explore presentations on the impact of the Model T in the U.S. and the world. Spend a day with expert guides visiting historic sites associated with the Model T story. Enjoy a day of presentations and programs at The Henry Ford, including a closing banquet in Greenfield Village.

This program is made possible, in part, by Ford Motor Company.

September 7 • Greenfield Village • 1pm

The Henry Ford Ideas and Innovations Lecture Series

The Model T: A Car for the Great Multitude

Robert Casey, Curator of Transportation at The Henry Ford and one of America's foremost Model T experts, will discuss his newly published book, *The Model T: A Centennial History* (Johns Hopkins University Press). There will be copies available for sale and a book signing.

This program is made possible, in part, by Ford Motor Company

October 9–12 • The Henry Ford/Detroit

National Conference on Geography Education

Participate in sessions on the Model T and the impact of the automobile as well as more general workshops designed specifically for teachers.

Sponsored by the National Council for Geographic Education

DAILY EVENTS!

For more information
or to make reservations
call 313.982.6001
or visit

www.TheHenryFord.org

SPECIAL EVENTS!

From 45° North to the Equator

The Winter Cities Forum (an international annual event designed for municipal and government leaders of global cities that reside above the 45th Parallel) led MGA Teacher Consultant Kathryn Russell from the Upper Peninsula to the Equator.

Kathryn, a 5th grade teacher at Graveraet Intermediate School in Marquette, was the recipient of the first Gil Grosvenor Outstanding Teacher Fellowship. Her award was based on her innovative efforts to involve her students in their community and their world through her original Winter Cities Ambassador Project. As part of her award, Kathryn traveled to the Galapagos Islands for a 7-day Lindblad research expedition.



Long-necked tortoises



Galapagos Islands are part of the country of Ecuador, approximately 600 miles directly west.

During the trip Kathryn arranged to visit a class on the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Her UP class sent examples of physical and cultural characteristics of their community and a stuffed sled dog similar to the ones shared with the Winter Cities participants. Between Mrs. Russell and Ernesto (the naturalist/translator) the language barrier was overcome, and the students learned about the five themes of geography, North America, the state of Michigan, the city of Marquette... and of course the toy husky sled dog, Cometa (Spanish for Comet). The artifacts (mostly handmade) she brought back will help Kathryn's class learn about Galapagos.



Kathryn, with some students in Santa Cruz

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Kathryn developed geography lessons for her students and others in Michigan from what she experienced. She will share her experiences with community groups in Marquette, as well as present information to teachers at conferences around the state.

NOMINATE A YOUNG HERO FOR THE BARRON PRIZE!

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2008 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2000 to support their service work or higher education. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment. Nomination deadline is April 30. For more information and to nominate, please visit

<http://www.barronprize.org>

National Geographic Bee

State Finals Move to Western Michigan University

The state finals of the National Geographic Bee will be held on April 4, 2008 at Western Michigan University, under the direction of Dr. Lisa De Chano. One hundred students (4th through 8th grades) will compete to become the state champion and travel to Washington, DC for the national competition.

Qualifying rounds of the state finals begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Bernhard Center at WMU, and the final round will start about 11:30. This year, a Clue Crew member from *Jeopardy* will moderate the final round.

Any public, private or home school in Michigan can take part in the event, by registering with the National Geographic Society in the fall and holding a school geography bee in January. Each school winner is given a written test corrected by NGS, and the top 100 scorers in each state are invited to state finals. The winner of the Michigan Geographic Bee is awarded \$100 and a trip to Washington DC with a teacher escort. Since the beginning of the competition in 1989, Michigan students have won the National Geographic Bee 4 times and placed 3rd once.

Dr. Kiefer's Legacy

Since its inception 19 years ago, Central Michigan University has hosted the state finals of the National Geographic Bee, under the auspices of Dr. Wayne E. Kiefer,

Dr. Wayne E. Kiefer studied at Valparaiso University, specialized in Historical Geography and Geomorphology at Indiana University, and came to Central Michigan University in 1975, where he was chair of the geography department for 11 years. During his tenure, he worked to strengthen the emphasis on geography and earth science education.

By the mid 80's, the National Geographic Society became interested in supporting geography education. The establishment of the Michigan Geographic Alliance at CMU offered more opportunities for Dr. Kiefer to advance geography education. The association with NGS and MGA has been an important one for Dr. Kiefer.



Every spring since the first Geographic Bee in 1989, Dr. Kiefer has welcomed to the state finals 100 very bright students who combine the love of geography and the intellectual challenge with a competitive spirit. This delightful group of students, along with their supportive families and dedicated geography teachers, make this day special for the state coordinator. He has a perfect record, attending all 19 National Finals in Washington; he will be going to his 20th next May.

Dr. Kiefer will retire from a long and fruitful teaching career in August. His memories of his work with the Bee include a special relationship with NGS, especially with Gil Grosvenor, Chairman of the Board, and Mary Lee Eldon, Director of the Bee.

MGA Teacher Consultants will remember Wayne for his content-dense physical geography lessons during Basic Institutes, his interesting and memorable field trips, and his 'special pet' graduation gifts!

Instructional Time in Elementary Schools: Report from Center on Education Policy, February, 2008

As part of an ongoing study of the impact of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the Center on Education Policy (CEP) conducted a deeper analysis of 2006-2007 survey data first reported in July 2007. The following information shows the changes in instructional time in elementary schools from districts that reported increases or decreases in time for certain subjects since NCLB took effect in 2002.

- Districts that increased instructional time for ELA and/or math did so by 43%, on average. Districts that also reduced instructional time in other subjects reported total reductions of 32%, on average.

Subject	Average Total Instructional Time Pre-NCLB (Minutes per week)	Average Total Instructional Time Post-NCLB (Minutes per week)	Average Increase (Minutes per week)	Average Increase as a Percentage of Total Instructional Time
English Language Arts	378	520	141	47%
Mathematics	264	352	89	37%
Either/both subjects	513	699	186	45%

- Among the districts that reported both increasing time for ELA or math and reducing time in other subjects, 72% indicated that they reduced time by a total of at least 75 minutes per week for one or more of these other subjects. For example, more than half (53%) of these districts cut instructional time by at least 75 minutes per week in social studies, and the same percentage cut time by at least 75 minutes per week in science.

Subject	Average Total Instructional Time Pre-NCLB (Minutes per week)	Average Total Instructional Time Post-NCLB (Minutes per week)	Average Decrease (Minutes per week)	Average Decrease as a Percentage of Total Instructional Time
Social Studies	239	164	76	32%
Science	226	152	75	33%
Art and music	154	100	57	35%
Phys. Education	115	75	40	35%
Recess	184	144	50	28%

Based in Washington, DC, the Center on Education Policy is a national, independent advocate for public education and for more effective public schools. The Center works to help Americans better understand the role of public education in a democracy and the need to improve the academic quality of public schools.

For the complete report and data, please log on to www.cep-dc.org

Hop, Skip and Jump to Africa.....

The world's largest map of Africa, National Geographic's Giant Map, was displayed from January 7-12 at the Public Museum of Grand Rapids. More than 800 students and adults enjoyed activities designed to teach geography skills from the head down. Michigan Geographic Alliance funded transportation of the traveling "geo-game board" to the museum. The map came in advance of a National Geographic Maps: Tools for Adventure exhibit the museum is hosting through May 11.

"It's literally hands-on and feet-on games," said Christian G. Carron, the museum's director of research and interpretation. "This is an active way they can engage in learning. It makes discovery of geography fun."

At 26 feet wide and 35 feet long, the 102-pound vinyl surface covered the entire floor of one classroom at the museum. It is a super-sized version of a map that appeared in a September 2005 issue of National Geographic magazine.

Museum educators lead interactive games and activities on the map from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. The map also was open to the public. "We can do something as simple as, 'Simon says, go to the Nile.' 'Simon says, go to the Atlantic Ocean,'" said Karen Patterson, a museum educator who is a classroom aide at Forest Hills schools.

"We are hitting every single geography standard," Patterson said. "It's one thing to look at a map, but to be able to say 'Take three steps from Cape Town to there' ... it's actual hands-on."

....And all over Asia!

The Giant Map of Asia, also sponsored by Michigan Geographic Alliance, visited Lake Hills Elementary School in Grand Haven the week of February 25. A total of 260 students took part in the learning activities led by MGA Teacher Consultant **Kristi Karis** and Principal Sue Mueller.

Using the materials and activity packets that come with the map, all students participated in the explore and hemisphere activities. Lower elementary students learned about the boundaries, borders, and coasts, third and fourth graders worked with latitude and longitude, and fifth graders did population activities.

"Everyone loved the hands-on and feet-on experience!" commented Sue Mueller. "Thank you so much to National Geographic, MGA, and Kristi Karis for making this opportunity available to our school. The students and staff all learned much from the experience and they had fun while learning."

New at National Geographic Society

Dr. Daniel C. Edelson is the new Vice President for Education and Children's Programs at the National Geographic Society, where he also serves as the Executive Director of the National Geographic Education Foundation. In these positions, he leads the National Geographic Society's efforts to improve public understanding of geography and related disciplines through both formal and informal education programs.

Throughout his career Dr. Edelson has conducted educational research and development with a primary focus on environmental science and geography. He is the author of several middle school and high school textbooks in the earth and environmental sciences and of geographic information systems (GIS) tools for use in schools. Dr. Edelson has written extensively on motivation, classroom teaching and learning, educational technology, teacher professional development, and educational reform drawing on research conducted with colleagues and students.

Prior to joining the National Geographic Society, Dr. Edelson was a professor of education and computer science at Northwestern University for fifteen years. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University and a B.S. from Yale University.

Cruising our Blue Highways

The Great Loop

Did you know you can travel all the way around eastern North America by water? Known as the Great Loop, this trip can teach about the geography of the eastern half of our country by cruising our 'blue highways'. It can vary from 5,000 miles to 7,500 miles depending on several optional routes and interesting side trips, and includes rivers, lakes, bays, canals, and over 100 locks, as well as the ocean.

Here is a short summary of the trip:

HEADING SOUTH... exit Lake Michigan at the Chicago River, follow the Illinois River to the Mississippi River, cruise up the Ohio River to the Tennessee River and take the Tenn-Tom Waterway to the Tombigbee River and Black Warrior River, ending at the Gulf of Mexico near Mobile.

Joining the Tennessee River with the Tombigbee River was suggested to the King of France in 1792. After nearly 2 centuries of surveys, debates, controversies and delays, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway opened in 1985. Total cost was two billion dollars, and more dirt was moved to build the Tenn-Tom than was moved to build the Panama canal.

AND THEN EAST....join the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, cross the open waters of the Gulf to Florida, round the southern tip of Florida before heading north.

GOING NORTH...follow the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) north, to New York Harbor, using the Hudson River to get to the Erie Canal.

WESTWARD HOME...enter Lake Erie, pass through the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River to Lake Huron, or enter Lake Ontario and use Canadian Trent-Severn Canal system to arrive in Georgian Bay.

Land was created to provide a place for boats to visit." Brookes Atkinson

For more information, geography activities, maps, and resources based on the Great Loop, log onto our website: www.ngsednet.org/michigan



Michigan Geographic Alliance

*Headquartered at Central
Michigan University*

Our Mission: To provide high-quality, low-cost in-service workshops and products for teachers.

Available this fall:

**Professional Development Workshops
based on the new Social Studies Content
Expectations:**

- Middle School Geography
- High School Geography and History
- Elementary Content Expectations

To schedule a workshop:

Call: 1-800-279-1423 or
email: mater1ml@cmich.edu

The cost of half-day or after school workshops is \$250 (plus \$5/person over 30 people) and travel expenses.

The cost of all-day workshops is \$25/person with a minimum of 20 people and travel expenses.

**Workshop costs cover materials
and presenters.**

T C TIDBITS...

No Social Studies Left Behind

The last two books in the three book series of *No Social Studies Left Behind* (Teaching Literacy and Social Studies Together) by MGA Teacher Consultant **Iris Katers** and student associates at the Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship at Northern Michigan University have been published.

The purpose of *No Social Studies Left Behind* (Teaching Literacy and Social Studies Together) is to help educators in grades three through eight easily add geography, economics, civics, and history instruction to daily literacy lessons. Designed to be tucked into literacy manuals for easy reference during whole group and small group instruction, teachers save time by teaching social studies and literacy together. The books are also presently being used at Northern Michigan University to train new teachers to combine literacy and social studies.

The three books may be purchased individually or as a set from Northern Michigan University Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship, 203 D Cohodas Building, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan 49855. All proceeds fund social studies education of teachers and students at the Center for Economics Education and Entrepreneurship and provide family social studies education nights and other social studies programs at Graveraet Intermediate School, where Iris teaches fifth grade.

Notes from Michigan Department of Education:

The Michigan Department of Education is working on companion documents to help teachers understand, adapt and include the new content expectations in their curriculum plans and instructional practices. These include Unit Development Resources, Example Unit Plans for each grade level, Grade Level Vocabulary and Skills Lists, Suggested Resource Lists, and Alignment Documents. As these resources are completed they will be available on the MDE website.

Service Learning Award

Teacher Consultant **Joy McFadyen** (Hampton Elementary, Bay City) was selected to receive the **2008 Michigan Outstanding Service Learning Award** from the Michigan Community Service Commission. She was nominated because of her classroom-initiated project to build two demonstration rain gardens on Hampton school grounds. She involved the community in this project; over 120 parents, SVSU college students, employees from GM, and from DO ALL (an employer of disabled adults) and other community volunteers joined 500 students in planting over 3,500 plants over two days in two rain gardens.

“I am surprised and humbled to receive this award,” commented Joy. “The project that led to this Teacher/Practitioner Award was a direct outgrowth of my MGA involvement and training in MEECS and my use of the MEECS Water Quality material in my classroom.”

The 5th grade students took the lead in informing the school and the neighboring residents about the purpose of rain gardens by distributing the student-created brochures about rain gardens and in explaining the excavation that could be seen and heard on the school property. (In order to build a rain garden, 2-3 feet of soil is removed and replaced with 1/2 sand, to act as a filter, and 1/2 a compost topsoil mixture.) Students posted informative signs so that adult walkers (who frequent the expansive school grounds), could understand the project. Students also successfully participated in asking the Bay Area Community Foundation and the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) for funding for the excavation and for the native plants. Students will host rain garden information booths at upcoming community events in Midland and in Bay City, offering presentations at local organizations, and planning to host rain garden tours when the native plants sprout in the spring and summer.