



Colorado Geographic Alliance Spring 2013 Newsletter

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Hello Geography Supporters!

After a long winter here in Colorado, it looks like we're finally getting to see some spring - and with that comes the Spring Newsletter from COGA! This issue contains information about the upcoming NCGE Conference, feature articles from coordinators and members, and congratulations to various organizations and individuals.

FEATURES



National Council on Geographic Education Conference - August 1-4, Denver CO

Early-Bird Registration for the National Council for Geographic Education conference ends on May 31st. Remember that there are special discounts for Colorado educators, as well as for individuals who are members of the NCGE through the Colorado Geographic Alliance. See the NCGE website for details, and the COGA website about the special \$50 NCGE membership rate for COGA members.

[NCGE Website](#)
[Agenda](#)

[COGA Website](#)

[Preliminary Conference](#)

What Geographers Do: James Law, National Geographic Intern

What's it like to work for National Geographic? James Law, an alumnus of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Department of Geography and Environmental Studies gives some insights into the world behind the scenes at National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, D.C.



James Law at his office in
Washington, D.C.

[Click here to read the full article!](#)

Stipend Available to attend NCGE

The Colorado Geographic Alliance is supporting several teachers from small districts and rural areas to participate in the National Council for Geographic Education conference. Teachers from districts with under 1000 students who teach geography - either as part of social studies, science, or as a stand-alone course - are encouraged to apply. Each applicant selected will receive a stipend to cover three nights of hotel (double occupancy) in Denver as well as the cost of registration for the conference. Due to the early-bird registration deadline of May 31st, teachers should have their applications to coga@uccs.edu no later than **Saturday, May 25th**. Applicants will be notified May 30th.

[For full details and the application, click here.](#)

Coordinator Corner

In April 2013, the Association of American Geographers' (AAG) annual meeting was held in Los Angeles. The program featured several sessions on education initiatives, introducing academic geographers to the new "Geography for Life" standards for elementary and secondary school, the Road Map for the 21st Century Geography Education Project, and providing background on geography education policy. . .

[Click here to view the full article!](#)

Giant Traveling Maps visit Denver STEM Magnet School for Earth Day

COGA had the opportunity to attend the annual Earth Day Celebration at the STEM Magnet School. One of the highlights of this event was the giant traveling map of the Pacific supplied by National Geographic. Students created a variety of activities to teach other students and their families about geography using this great resource.

Giant traveling maps are available to come to your school through a program sponsored by National Geographic, and COGA can help you with funding to make this a reality. For more information, follow the links below:



Volunteers still needed - Complimentary Registration

Volunteers are needed to keep the conference running smoothly! You could sign up for three hours at the registration table, two hours for stuffing bags before the conference, a full day or half day of field trip support, as well as two or three hours of A/V set-up, session monitoring, book signings, exhibits, and clean-up. **Your registration will be complimentary if you agree to volunteer at least 15 hours.** If you are interested in helping out for a couple hours or in taking advantage of the opportunity to have your registration fee waived, please contact Jackie Waite at NCGE (jwaite@ncge.org). Specific days and times will be assigned as the conference gets closer.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colorado's District Sample Curriculum Project - Phase Three

This summer, the final phase of Colorado's District Sample Curriculum Project will bring together teachers and district leaders to create instructional units for all grades and content areas based on the curriculum samples (unit overviews). Participating educators will work in teams to develop one sample into a full instructional unit, using a process that reflects a model of educators working together to plan for the instruction of all students. These units will include learning strategies, resource suggestions, differentiation options, and assessment ideas linked to helping all students achieve the big understandings (generalizations) in the (unit overview) samples. To facilitate the creation of these materials, the content specialist team within the Office of Standards and Instructional Support will conduct three workshop sessions, each focusing on a particular grade-level band. Participants will attend one three-day workshop that will focus on the creation of grade and content specific materials. The link below provides more information on the workshop dates, participant-team specifics, reimbursement details, and the application procedure for participating in this phase of the work.

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/StandardsAndInstruction/SampleCurriculum-summer2013participation.asp>



What on eARTh?

An innovative "science-thru-art" home school enrichment program designed to elevate your child's ecological awareness through cross-disciplinary scientific inquiry, exploration of relevant art, history, music, movement, poetry, and hands-on projects.

Reservations now being taken at
Studio101 info@studio101.biz
Ages 8+ Classes begin Fall 2013

[Check out this flyer for more info.](#)



Maps and the GeoSpatial Revolution

Learn how advances in geospatial technology and analytical methods have changed how we do everything, and discover how to make maps and analyze geographic patterns using the latest tools. This is a MOOC (Massively Open Online Course) through Penn State University, instructor is Dr Anthony Robinson. It is 5 weeks long and begins on 17 July 2013.

[More information about this course.](#)

National Geographic Library Needs Your Help

National Geographic is considering developing a new online tool to enable easier educator access to a range of the Society's resources related to geography education. In order to ensure this product is as relevant and useful as possible to people like you, we're conducting a brief survey of geography Alliance educator members, and we would greatly appreciate your input. As thanks for your time and input, we're happy to offer you a 20% discount in National Geographic's online store, which you'll be able to access at the end of the survey. Please click the link below to get started:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Geography_portal_2013

KUDOS

National Geographic Announces Geography Legislators of the Year

On February 28th, the National Geographic Education Foundation awarded its Geography Legislator of the Year Awards to key congressional leaders for their commitment to making high-quality geography education available for all K-12 students, preparing young Americans for success. Among those recognized for their dedication to geography education was Colorado Senator Michael Bennet. Following the award ceremony, National Geographic Director of Alliance Programs Brenda Barr, COGA Coordinator Steve Jennings, and National Geographic Intern James Law (from Colorado Springs) presented the Senator with a photograph of Colorado landmark Chimney Rock for his office.

[Full Press Release can be found here.](#)

Colorado Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the prize for best geography research at the 2013 Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair! Many projects incorporated spatial awareness or analysis into their research, and COGA Coordinator Steve Jennings was on hand to help judge the participants in Fort Collins. Congratulations to:

- Tayler Rocha, 11th Grade, Monte Vista high School: *Successional Sequence of Water Quality and Macroinvertebrates in a Playa Westland System*. Instructor, Ms. Loree Harvey. Tayler measured the area and volume of a wetland using geospatial technology.
- Max Markuson DiPrince, 7th Grade, Pueblo School for Arts and Sciences: *Mapping Air Pollution: Pueblo, Colorado*. Instructor: Ms. Lori Leyh. Max used GIS to model the correlation between air pollution and characteristics of population.

[Colorado State Science Fair Website](#)

Pranit Nanda from Aurora Quest K-8 Wins 2013 Colorado Geographic Bee

Pranit Nanda, a 13 year-old 7th-grader from Aurora Quest K-8 School, took top honors at the 2013 Colorado Geographic Bee for the second time. He won \$100, a complete National Geographic Magazine set on CD, and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the finals of the 25th annual National Geographic Bee on May 20-22. The Bee is organized by the National Geographic Society. This year's state sponsors are Google and Plum Creek. Up to 100 fourth to eighth graders in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. territories and Department of Defense Schools took part in the state-level Bees. First prize in the national competition is a \$25,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society.



[For more information on the Colorado Geographic Bee, including all finalists, click here.](#)

UCCS GeoClub wins R.O.A.R. Award

Congratulations to Vanessa Feron and the UCCS GeoClub for winning the award for "Outstanding Small-Scale Program" for their work on the GeoQuiz Night for Geography Awareness Week, 2012. The 4th annual Recapturing Outstanding Achievements through Recognition Awards recognize student clubs and organizations that contribute to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Campus Community.

National History Day in Colorado

This year's recipients of the "COGA Best Use of Geography" in the *National History Day in Colorado* event on May 4 are Rebekah Earhart in the Junior Division and Lynn He and Jessie Li in the Senior Division. Rebekah's presentation entitled "Gettysburg: The Last Full Measure", had a great 3-D map of the Gettysburg battlefield outfitted with lights that indicated the position of the armies during the four-day battle. It was a great hands-on demonstration of the power of spatial representation. He and Li had a more high-tech approach in a presentation called "Open Space: What Defines Boulder Today". Their web site used several digital maps to illustrate the spatial relationship between land use patterns and decisions made by Boulder's leaders.

[Click here for more info on National History Day in Colorado](#)

COGA Member Stories - News from the Field

Concept-Based Learning in Social Studies

Stuart Chandler, Elementary Social Studies Specialist at Jeffco Schools, writes a blog about geography and other social studies which include great ideas on how to elevate concepts and expand understanding of the world around us.

[Click here to visit Stuart's Blog](#)

GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS

LA Times Promotes Geographic Education

A recent article in the LA Times shows how important geography is becoming in today's wired world.

["Geography is Covering New Ground"](#)

New York Times Environment Section

The Environment section features geospatial analysis of some of today's toughest questions.

["Study of Ice Age Bolsters Carbon and Warming Link"](#)

Innovative Map Making

Article from NPR about tracking population mobility through the movements of money.

["A 'Whom Do You Hang With?' Map of America"](#)

VISION:

Changing our understanding and experience of the world.

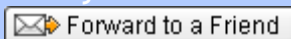
MISSION:

To instill and nurture spatial awareness and geographic literacy

VALUES:

- 1) Inspiring passion for Earth and its inhabitants
- 2) Connecting people with geography
- 3) Honoring inclusivity and diversity
- 4) Exploring physical and human environments
- 5) Developing spatial perspective

Stay Connected



Have something to share with the Colorado Geography Community? Whether it's an upcoming workshop you'd like to promote, a suggestion for a feature article on what geographers do, or just a picture or two of beautiful Colorado, we are always looking for news to share with our network. If you'd like to suggest a story for the next newsletter, please feel free to send us an email or give us a call!

Thanks to James Law, Cyndy Hines, and everyone in the COGA Leadership Council who has contributed to this semester's newsletter.

Sincerely,

Colorado Geographic Alliance
coloradogeographicalliance@yahoo.com

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Like us on Facebook 

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719-255-5217

Quick Links

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[University of Colorado Colorado Springs](#)

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Colorado Geographic Alliance | Department of Geography and Environmental Studies | 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway | Colorado Springs | CO | 80918