



COLORADO GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE NEWS

FALL 2012

Three Colorado Educators Receive Awards from NCGE



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION HAS BEEN
SUPPORTING GEOGRAPHIC

The National Council for Geographic Education has chosen to recognize the hard work of three Colorado educators at the 2012 NCGE Conference in San Marcos, TX. These teachers were nominated by the administration within their school district and then selected from thousands of applicants to receive

recognition as outstanding K-12 educators in the field of geography:

Theresa James- Roy J. Wasson High School, Colorado Springs, CO

Hollie King- Eaglecrest High School, Centennial, CO

David L. Palmer- Eaglecrest High School, Centennial, CO

Hollie King has this to say about what sparked her interest in geography:

"I first became interested in Geography at the University of Northern Colorado when I took a class that was teamed with Dr. Collins and a teacher named Molly Brown. The two of them were so excited about their content and had amazing stories to tell. They both sparked my interest and as a result, I decided to change my major from History to

Geography. I decided that I wanted to be "just like them." I remember the first day of class like it was yesterday, it changed who I was and who I wanted to become.

"As I continued to take Geography courses at UNC, I knew it was the right fit for me and looked forward to my classes. In retrospect, I did a project in 7th grade in a World Geography class where I had to travel to a foreign country and create a journal and itinerary of where I went. I selected Hungary and spent hours on the project. I still have the project at home to this day... I guess I had an early interest and didn't realize it at the time.

"If I can evoke the same sense of wonder in students about the subject of Geography, then I will have accomplished my goal."



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NCGE Comes to Denver, CO!

The 2013 National Conference on Geography Education is coming to the great state of Colorado! For more details or to register for the conference, visit the NCGE website: <http://www.ncge.org>

2013 National Conference on Geography Education, Denver, CO

Reaching New Heights in Geography Education
August 1-4, 2013

Denver Marriott City Center
1701 California St.
Denver, Colorado 80202 USA

History Colorado Receives “Leadership and Innovation Award” from Mountain Plains Museum Association



History Colorado works with COGA, helping to advance social studies throughout the state, and recently partnered with the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) and COGA on a workshop. In 2008 the Colorado History Museum received notice that it must move from its existing

building. From this starting point the staff and board came together to reinvent the organization from the ground up. The museum closed in 2010 and reopened in a new facility in April 2012.

During this short period of time the museum staff reached out to the community to reexamine the organization, raise capital funds, and develop the exhibition plan. Moving also necessitated that all the collections had to be cataloged, packed, and moved. During the process over 3,500 Coloradans were interviewed to gauge their

interest and their understanding of Colorado’s history and to discover the most engaging ways to tell the state’s stories. The new 200,000 square foot, \$110.8 million facility is complete, and the new exhibits offer layered stories providing information for families, history buffs, tourists, and students. - Kathy Dickson, MPMA Awards Chair



BioBlitz 2012—Rocky Mountain National Park

PART SCIENTIFIC
ENDEAVOR, PART
FESTIVAL, AND PART
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM!



A bear wanders close to one of the groups at BioBlitz—photo: Costa Rican Educators, thanks to Joseph Kerski for sharing.

BioBlitz, a festival and 24-hour field survey of biodiversity held in a different national park each year was held this year in Rocky Mountain National Park, just outside of Estes Park, CO. Hundreds of scientists and thousands of participants descended on the Estes Park Fairgrounds to join together in the search for new species in Rocky Mountain National Park. Altogether, 489 total species were recorded during just this 24 hour time span!

Participants signed up for a number of scientist-led field surveying teams, where they assisted in spotting flora and fauna, which were then brought to the scientist for identification. In addition to the field work, a massive biodiversity festival was held on the fairgrounds, helping to spread the word on a

number of different environmental and scientific issues.



COGA Welcomes Sam Richings-Germain as Chair of Leadership Council

Sam Richings-Germain is currently a 4th grade teacher at Olander School for Project-Based Learning in Fort Collins, Colorado. Prior to becoming an elementary teacher, Sam taught anthropology and archaeology at Front Range Community College and spent time as a research assistant at Colorado State University. Over the years, she has discovered a passion for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and community geography. Sam became involved in the Colorado Geographic Alliance in August

of 2011 when she was invited to provide an elementary teacher's perspective to the strategic planning process. Recently, Sam became the Chair for the Leadership Council. In addition to helping the Colorado Geographic Alliance promote geographic literacy, Sam hopes this new position will support her mission to enrich geography education with geo-spatial technologies and to inspire young people to explore their world.

In June of 2012, Sam participated in the "Teachers

Teaching Teachers GIS" program in Redlands, California, sponsored by Esri, Inc.



Summer Workshops from COGA

Just because schools were closed over the summer doesn't mean that COGA wasn't busy putting together continuing education opportunities around the state. This summer COGA coordinated two workshops:

"Looking Forward and Backward: Historical, Geographical and Environmental Perspectives on Climate Change." Held August 8th at the History Colorado Center, in conjunction with History Colorado and the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education. This workshop looked at climate change through a multitude of lenses in order to bring together a more complete story of how the Colorado climate has changed in the past, and what to expect in the future. Over 45 educators from around the state gathered together to learn the nuts and bolts of climate change, explore the museum, and bring skills back to the classroom.

"GeoLiteracy Trips" Held June 20th for District 11th in Colorado Springs. This workshop focused on showing how to incorporate literacy and geography together. Each book and story takes place in a setting—a setting that can bring geography to life in the classroom! Workshop participants created GeoLiteracy trips that visualized on maps the stories that their students were reading about.

Are you interested in having COGA come to your school or district? We are available to set up professional development workshops covering a variety of aspects of geography, including review of the state standards in social studies and science. Contact us at COGA@uccs.edu for more details.



4-H is looking for volunteers who love mapping and want to share their skills with 4-H Geospatial Clubs. If you're interested in working with youth ages 8-18, call your local county extension office and ask to speak with the 4-H agent to see if there is a need in your county. You can find your county extension contact here: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/cedirectory/countylist.cfm>.

ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, CA



Erik Eckhoff, Social Studies Teacher, Poudre HS

could best be described by one of the many wonderful teachers who attended as well: "Being able to attend the Esri Education GIS Conference in San Diego proved to be a valuable experience for me as an educator who has and will continue to support and encourage the implementation of geospatial technology into current educational curriculum. As a teacher of two geospatial classes at Poudre High School in Fort Collins, Colorado, I have the unique experience of sharing with students what

geospatial technology can do as well as show them what careers paths utilize these technologies. In another class, including world history

courses, we have integrated the use of ArcGIS Online into our global perspectives unit - encouraging students to use the software in order to enhance their understanding of current issues within a context of multiple causation and effects, as well as through the five themes of geography. During the conference, we had the opportunity to see what other educators are doing with geospatial technology in their classrooms, the latest research on spatial thinking, and how decision makers are encouraging policy makers to emphasize geography as an important subject in preparing students to be productive citizens in the 21st Century. We also had the

opportunity to attend the plenary session for the Esri User Conference. This session demonstrated some of the new tools of geospatial technology and how organizations are utilizing this technology. It is truly inspiring to see how professionals and future professionals are pushing the envelope in decision making processes. As students from a high school in Maryland demonstrated, this technology will only grow mankind's ability to solve complex issues in the future." -Erik Eckhoff, Social Studies Teacher, Poudre High School

COGA had the opportunity to attend the ESRI Education GISConference in San Diego, but we felt the experience

Where Will COGA Be Next?

COGA is always on the move! After a long summer of workshops and development, Fall Semester is already gearing up to be full of excitement for Geographic Education.



Here's where you can expect to find the COGA Team over the next few



months:

- ⇒ October 4-7: National Council for Geographic Education Conference, San Marcos, TX
- ⇒ November 7th: State Geographic Standards Discussion, Poudre School District, Fort Collins, CO
- ⇒ November 9th: GeoSpatial Technology Workshop, Adams Five Star Schools, Thornton, CO

- ⇒ November 16th: Colorado Association of Science Teacher's Conference, Denver, CO
<http://www.coloradocast.org>
- ⇒ December 17th: Colorado Science Educators Network, Colorado Springs, CO

Watch for details about the developing partnership between the National Council for Geographic Education and the National Geographic Alliance Network, which is working to build and reinforce administrative and programmatic capacity necessary for the major advancements in geography education. COGA members will receive a significant discount on a regular membership to NCGE, plus additional benefits. Look for a special invitation in the next few months.

Coordinator's Corner



Rebecca Theobald, COGA
Coordinator

Welcome to the new look of the Colorado Geographic Alliance! Thanks to COGA's graduate assistant, Josh Hendrickson, we not only have a new brochure to share with people across the state who need some background on the importance of geography education, but we also have a newsletter with more photos and stories, and a presence on Facebook. Please let us know what you think of this new approach by sending a comment to

coga@uccs.edu, or by posting on Facebook. The Colorado Geographic Alliance is here to serve students and teachers in Colorado, and we can only do that with your assistance.

Our partners this summer have included the National Park Service, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, History Colorado, and Colorado Springs School District 11. We are looking forward to providing other districts with additional professional development as

the geography standards are implemented in classrooms across the state. If your school or district is looking to gain additional perspective on how geography can be integrated with history, economics, civics, science, math, or literacy, please contact us and we will work with you and your professional development team to provide resources and materials.

USGS Seeks Volunteers for National Map Project

In light of swiftly changing technical landscapes and increasing uses of social networking, the USGS is exploring a new approach to the volunteer program, and is launching a project to test options for volunteer participation in providing data to The National Map.

The project involves mapping man-made structures and facilities, such as schools and fire stations, in the state of Colorado. Using an internet mapping application, volunteers can help the USGS update The National Map by correcting or adding information about structures.

"Even members of the public who can't tell a sandstone from a rhyolite but have internet access can now help the USGS keep its popular maps up to date through our new experiment in crowd sourcing," said USGS Director Marcia McNutt. "Correctly locating and identifying fire stations, police stations, schools, and hospitals not only makes USGS maps more useful, but can literally save a life."

Over the past two decades, the USGS National Geospatial Program sponsored various forms of volunteer map data collection projects. Volunteers helped the USGS improve its maps during this period, by annotating paper maps, collecting data using GPS units, and submitting data using a web-based tool. However, in 2008, the volunteer mapping program was suspended as new methods for using volunteer data were being studied.

In recent years, new web- and mobile-based technologies have made it easier to create, combine, and share maps. Recent events have shown how well these technologies support the rapid and relevant production of geographic information. If the Colorado pilot project is successful in attracting volunteers and capturing data for use in The National Map, the program may be expanded to other areas in the future.

This project offers volunteers an opportunity to participate in providing data to The National Map and US Topo map products. For more information, interested Colorado volunteers can visit the National Map Corps website.

<http://nationalmap.gov/TheNationalMapCorps/>





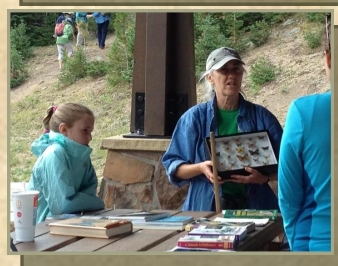
The Colorado Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and eNetColorado has signed an agreement that provides all Colorado K-12 schools and districts and the Colorado Department of Education unlimited seats to Esri's ArcGIS software. Esri provides geographic information system (GIS) mapping functions that can be integrated into multiple content areas and supports management and development plans of many organizations.

Districts and teachers can request the free software provided by Esri at: <https://sites.google.com/a/enetcolorado.org/esri/>

To learn more about Esri software availability, please contact Dr. Teresa Yohon at tyohon@enetcolorado.org or visit <http://edcommunity.esri.com>

BioBlitz Geostory

COGA's own Josh Hendrickson was invited to participate in BioBlitz in a different way—through the Geostory project. Geostories tell the story of various events or places by utilizing GIS and geolocated photographs. Each photo is tagged with a location and then incorporated into a GIS for users to explore in a geovisualization. Josh joined a team of eight other volunteers from college campuses around the state to create this year's geostory. All of these images were taken as part of the efforts.



"Because of the many geospatial companies located in the Front Range region of Colorado, it is sometimes referred to as GIS Alley," says Esther Worker, Esri education account manager in Denver. "With this license agreement, Colorado students will have the opportunity to not only enhance their problem-solving abilities but also develop marketable skills that are sought by local employers."

CU Denver Professor Wins Award

Casey Allen, assistant professor of geography, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver, has been named an "Early Career Scholar" by the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education. The center also awarded him first place in their research competition for his paper, "Concept Mapping Validates Fieldwork's Capacity to Deepen Students' Cognitive Linkages of Complex Processes."

The paper, showcasing fieldwork's importance in learning, is being published in the Grosvenor Center's journal, *Research in Geographic Education* this summer. The Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, housed at Texas State University – San Marcos, pursues its mission to encourage research and provide leadership in the movement to increase the quality of geographic education. The center develops and implements events, encourages research, and serves as an advocate for the importance of geography worldwide.

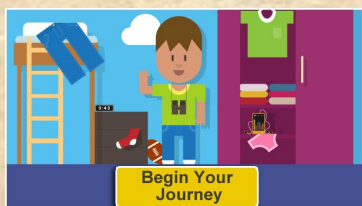
Also forthcoming from Allen this year is "Los Lavadores: Discovering Place in the Andes. *Geographical Review*." Courses Allen teaches include: Landscape Geochemistry and Introduction to Physical Geography. (Article courtesy of CU Connections: <http://connections.cu.edu>)

Casey Allen is also a member of the Colorado Geographic Alliance Leadership Council.



Geography Awareness Week (GAWeek), celebrated every third week of November, is an awareness program focused on highlighting the importance of geo-literacy and geo-education. A new theme for each year is announced in midsummer accompanied by related online resources and activities, which are then available year-round.

This year's Geography Awareness Week theme explores the idea that we are all are connected to the rest of the world through the decisions we make on a daily basis, including what foods we eat and the things we buy.

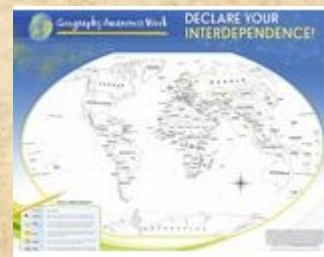


Have your students investigate their own interdependence by completing the ["Global Closet Calculator"](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/multimedia/interactive/globalcloset/?ar_a=1)—an interactive game that aggregates the contents of their own closets by origin to generate a map showing their unique global footprint.:

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/multimedia/interactive/globalcloset/?ar_a=1

Download and print this year's [poster](#) to find global connections with students by investigating the geography of the pencil or doing a hands-on version of the global closet game.

COGA has additional printed copies of the "Geography of the Pencil" for use in your district or classroom. Email us at COGA@uccs.edu to order additional copies.



Make sure to check out the next pages of the newsletter to learn about how your student can have the opportunity to get their creative bookmark design published and sent all around the state of Colorado!

In addition, **November 14th** is International GIS Day, the annual salute to geospatial technology and its power to transform and better our lives. Visit <http://www.gisday.com> to learn about how you can host, support or attend a GIS Day event. Look for more on this coming from COGA in the near future!



Make sure you spread the word about Geography Awareness Week! Ask your principal to make a declaration of Geography Awareness at your school, or contact your local paper to write a feature. Take lots of pictures and tell us here at COGA what you're doing to celebrate Geography Awareness Week by posting to our Facebook or emailing us at COGA@uccs.edu. Who knows, YOU may be the headlining story in our next newsletter!



Geography Awareness Week.org

Geography Awareness Week

CELEBRATING GEOGRAPHY WORLDWIDE—NOVEMBER 11-17, 2012

This year's Geography Awareness Week theme explores the idea that we are all are connected to the rest of the world through the decisions we make on a daily basis, including what foods we eat and the things we buy.

GAW Bookmark Contest

DUE DATE:

1. All bookmarks must be postmarked by October 22, 2012.

AWARDS:

1. Awards will be given out to the 1st place winners in each grade bracket:

Grade brackets: K-2nd 3rd-5th 6th-8th 9th-12th

PRIZES:

First place winners **will have their bookmark published and distributed to libraries and schools throughout Colorado and receive a gift card.**

First place winners in each bracket will receive a \$25 gift card.

1st and 2nd place winners for each grade level will receive the following:

- Inflatable globe
- 1 Year subscription to National Geographic Kids (K-8th) or National Geographic Magazine (9th-12th) for the sponsoring teacher.
- A map from the National Geographic Society

GUIDELINES:

1. Colored pens, pencils, crayons, paints, or any combination thereof, may be used. Collages and computer-assisted designs are acceptable but must reflect an original design/concept of the student. Photo credits are encouraged, especially for images taken from copyrighted sources.
2. Must design **ONE SIDE ONLY** of 2"x8" bookmark.
3. Students must print their name, school, grade, and teacher's name on the blank side of the bookmark and **fill out registration form completely.**

RULES:

1. To be eligible for the bookmark contest, the attached registration form, with the bookmark must be postmarked with the bookmarks by each participating K-12 student no later than **October 22, 2012**. Please send all entries to:

2012 Geography Awareness Week Bookmark Contest
Colorado Geographic Alliance
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

2. Limit ONE entry per student.
3. This contest is only open to Colorado students, including public, charter, private, online, or homeschooled.
4. Judging will be based on geographic content, artistic quality, and creativity. Bookmarks must illustrate some level of geographic content.
5. All entries may be featured on the COGA Website, Facebook page, or future newsletters.
6. For further questions please email COGA at coga@uccs.edu.



REGISTRATION FORM:

2012 Geography Awareness Week Bookmark Contest

Tape bookmark here

(Don't forget to put your name, grade, and school on the back of the bookmark!)

2"x 8"

(Postmarked by October 22, 2012)

Student Name: _____

School Name & Location: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____

Student's Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Teacher's Email: _____

I confirm that this bookmark is my own original artwork and design:

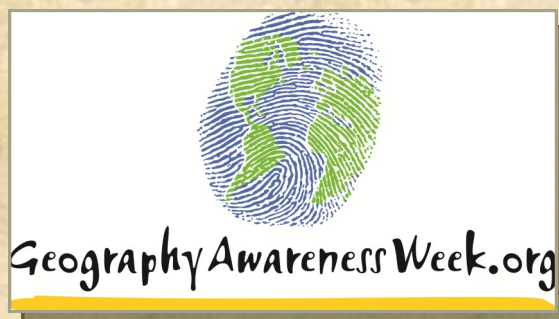
Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

By entering the 2012 COGA Bookmark Contest, each entrant and parent/guardian agrees to the rules and guidelines of the contest. Each entrant and parent/guardian verifies that the entrants work is original and created without the assistant of an adult. Each entrant gives their consent to COGA to use their bookmark design for promotional and/or commercial purposes. Winners agree to complete an Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability Release, Publicity Release, and any other legal documentation as necessary.

Parent/ Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email address: _____



COLORADO GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

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Web: www.uccs.edu/~coga
Facebook: www.facebook.com/coloradogeographicalliance



The Colorado Geographic Alliance endeavors to instill and nurture spatial awareness and geographic literacy, by changing how you understand and experience the world.

- We connect educators, administrators, non-profits, geographic corporations, and legislators with each other, forming a community of stakeholders in Geographic Education.
- COGA coordinates and sponsors teacher education workshops throughout the year to advance understanding of geographic education.
- Giant Traveling Maps are available through a partnership with the National Geographic Society to bring a new understanding to your students of their connection to the world.
- COGA sponsors a yearly Geography Awareness Week full of activities to advance public understanding of the important of geography.

Thanks to everyone who came out to help at the BioBlitz festival. Your hours of hard work volunteering are greatly appreciated by COGA and the Geographic Education community!

COGA is now on Facebook!



COGA has taken steps to join the rest of the world in the 21st century

and joined Facebook! You can find us at

www.facebook.com/coloradogeographicalliance.

The COGA Facebook page is the place to get connected with frequent updates on what's happening nation-wide in the world of geographic education, along with upcoming workshops and events of interest to Geography educators throughout the state.



**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC**

This project is funded, in whole or in part, by a grant from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation.