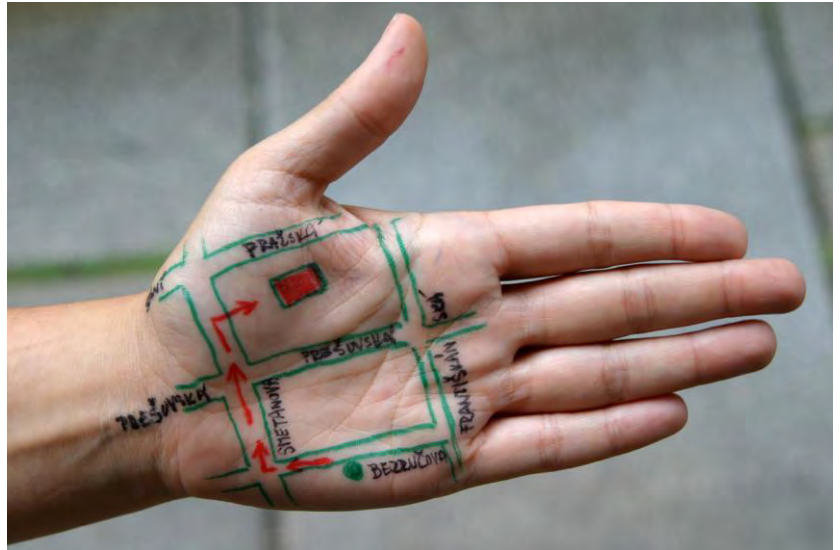

Upcoming Workshops: “Ways of Knowing” and “Conflict in Afghanistan”

The Colorado Geographic Alliance will be partnering with several organizations this year to produce professional development workshops for teachers.

On November 5, 2011, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs will host a workshop in conjunction with its Galleries of Contemporary Art – one based on campus and one downtown. We will use the *Ways of Knowing* exhibit exploring the paths we take and methods we use in defining and experiencing place. Four artists interpret their notion of place from diverse viewpoints: the urban landscape of Detroit, the Arctic landscape, Iran from the perspective of an expatriate, and our definitions of location and security through materials and installation. Artist Laleh Mehran will talk about her work and her personal experience of place as an Iranian-American. In addition to discussing the art installations, teachers will undertake creative mapping opportunities, consider ways to incorporate museums into place-based education experiences, and review how geographers address concepts of space and place. To register for this free all-day workshop in Colorado Springs, email coga@uccs.edu. Elementary and secondary teachers are welcome to attend.



Rebekah Nesbitt, 2011 Choices Fellow and teacher at Lakewood High School, will be sharing what she learned at the Brown University’s Summer Leadership Institute on the United States in Afghanistan. This workshop on Saturday, February 11, 2012 is geared for teachers of secondary education, specifically geography, history, and government. We will discuss the significance of teaching Afghanistan’s geography in today’s classroom and applications to state and district standards, hear from a scholar about the current state of Afghanistan, and explore ways to understand cultural and political geography using a variety of tools. To register for this free all-day workshop in Lakewood, email coga@uccs.edu.

A Positive Start to COGA's Strategic Planning Process by Sophia Linn

This year marks the 25th anniversary of National Geographic's Alliance Network, of which COGA was a founding member. As times and environments change, a periodic reassessment of the essence of an organization is not only necessary, but healthy and key to remaining viable and relevant. Spurred on by National Geographic's Education Foundation, COGA is in the midst of a rigorous strategic planning process; one that builds upon the strong foundation of COGA's past while embracing a grand vision for the future.



Rick Gindele of Cherry Creek, National Geographic's Roni Jones, and Andrea Delorey from Poudre School District are inspired by a double rainbow.

On Saturday, August 20, on a stunningly beautiful Colorado day, a passionate and dedicated group of 11 gathered at the Cal-Wood Education Center, northwest of Boulder, to undertake the task of strategic planning for COGA's future. Drawn from COGA veterans as well as individuals new to the organization, the Strategic Planning Committee powered through a thoughtful and deliberate process, skillfully led by our consultant, Nancy Henjum. With passion, commitment, and a good dose of humor, the group reviewed, brainstormed, and generated ideas to distill the essential elements of what COGA is and should be. The committee built upon work from last summer's institute in Leadville to incorporate the values generated from a larger group of stakeholders and to begin to articulate COGA's vision, mission, and strategic goals. Through lively discussions and impassioned opinions, the committee made impressive progress in one day, due in large part to the positive nature of the individuals involved and their commitment to moving the process forward. This retreat marked an excellent beginning to more deliberate work ahead.



Elementary teacher Sam Richings-Germain, Andrea Delorey, and Ken Englebrecht of Metro State University consider the organization of the Colorado Geographic Alliance.



Casey Allen of the University of Colorado Denver, Sophia Linn from Colorado State University, Rick Gindele, and Stan Hickory of Adams 12 stay focused on business.



The Strategic Planning Committee will meet again in mid-October to continue its good work. If you would like more information on the process or would like to become more involved, please contact Sophia Linn, Chair, COGA Strategic Planning Committee, at: sophia.linn@colostate.edu.

Stephanie Hartman takes the helm of social studies in the State of Colorado

My name is Stephanie Hartman and I am the new social studies content specialist at the Colorado Department of Education. I moved here from Reno, Nevada, where I served as the Nevada state social studies content specialist I for the past five-and-a-half years. Previously, I taught high school social studies for 13 years in Everett, Washington and Reno, Nevada. In addition, I've taught U.S history and Western Traditions (world history) at Truckee Meadows Community College and secondary education courses at the University of Nevada Reno and Sierra Nevada College. Recently, I was asked by the education department at George Washington's Mount Vernon to rewrite the George Washington Biography Unit distributed nationally to fifth grade teachers. In addition, a companion website (<http://www.gwleadershiplessons.org/>) was developed for the biography unit which includes electronic versions of the lesson plans and instructional materials for teaching about George Washington. I have a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nevada Reno, as well as a master's degree in integrated curriculum from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Studies from University of Northern Colorado. You can reach me at: (303) 866-6764 or hartman_s@cde.state.co.us.

Avoid Procrastination – Nominations for Geography Educators Needed

Each spring we seek nominations for awards from the National Council for Geographic Education to honor geography educators who have done excellent work in areas such as teaching, scholarship, or lesson plans. Be thinking now about someone you would like to nominate.

“Students Lose Way on NAEP Geography Test”
“Mixed Results on NAEP Geography Test”
“Geography Report Card Finds Students Lagging”
“US Geography Scores Disappoint”

As individuals interested in geography education, none of these headlines will come as a surprise to you. July 20, 2011 saw the release of the latest indication that students’ knowledge of social studies is on the decline. Check out various interpretations of “The Nation’s Report Card: Geography 2010, Grades 4, 8, and 12” on our website http://www.uccs.edu/~coga/news_events.html. The complete report is available at http://nationsreportcard.gov/geography_2010/geography_2010_report/.

Geography: The Adventure in Your Community by Sharon Graham

My name is Sharon Graham and I am the new Geography Awareness Week Coordinator for Colorado. I teach fifth grade at Douglass Elementary School, which is located in Academy District 20 on the grounds of the Air Force Academy. I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the National Conference on Geographic Education in Portland, Oregon the first week of August. Coordinators from around the country got together to be introduced to this year’s Geography Awareness Week theme, “The Adventure in Your Community.” By completing series of missions, individuals or teams can earn virtual “badges” in the four sub-categories: photography, storytelling, mapping, and taking action. We are all very excited and look forward to the website publication in September. If you have any questions regarding Geography Awareness Week this coming November and/or would like to receive a Geography Awareness Week poster, feel free to contact me at sharon.graham@asd20.org. <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/collections/geographyawarenessweek/>



Interested in helping students learn more about climate change?



The Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes at Colorado State University is sponsoring the 2011 Colorado Global Climate Conference geared for students in grades 9 through 12. Information is available at this site: <http://www.cmmmap.org/scienceEd/cgcc11/>. The conference offers hands-on, interactive breakout sessions examining climate change from a variety of perspectives, including scientific, political, sociological, horticultural, and theatrical. There is no registration fee and substitute teacher reimbursement is available. Contact Claire Fleming with any questions: clairefleming@atmos.colostate.edu.

National Council for Geographic Education Annual Conference



Plans are underway for the National Council for Geographic Education conference to be held in Colorado in 2013. Much assistance will be needed to ensure a successful event. Please email coga@uccs.edu with your interest in helping out with this project; place “NCGE” in the subject line. One of our greatest challenges – trying to figure out which field trips to promote, as there are so many wonderful places to explore in the state!

Human Geography Advanced Placement Test Bank Updated by Steve Jennings

The team working on the revision of last year's human geography advanced placement resources has completed the process. The updated version has additional multiple choice questions and in-depth descriptions of free response questions. We are making this material available through the University of Colorado Colorado Springs bookstore. If you would like a copy of the test bank, please go to <http://www.uccsbookstore.com/GeneralBookDetails.aspx?type=1&BookID=623340&cat=CAMP+AUTH&num=0>.



Version 2.0 should be on line now. If you purchased Version 1.0 of the test bank and have not received information about how to obtain the update by the end of September 2011, please contact coga@uccs.edu for details.

National Council for the Social Studies, from Colorado to Washington DC

Thanks to everyone from the Colorado Geographic Alliance who supported the hard-working organizing committee as Denver hosted the 90th annual conference of the National Council for the Social Studies last November. This year's event will be in Washington, DC from December 2 – 4, 2011, where two Colorado Geographic Alliance members will be presenting their research and lesson plans. For more information, visit the NCSS website at: [<http://www.socialstudies.org>].



Dominic Carrese Tayler Rocha

Last spring, the Colorado Geographic Alliance recognized the integration of geography into science and history through awards to students at state competitions. Students across the state are investigating a wide variety of topics.

Dominic Carrese of Colorado Springs won the junior division geographic award at the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair with his study of water quality in a project entitled *Rocky Mountain Pure? Fountain Creek's Journey Through the Pikes Peak Region*. Tayler Rocha of Monte Vista examined *The Effects of Wildfire on Stream Water Quality on Medano Creek* and was awarded the prize in the senior division.

At Colorado History Day, COGA awarded Kevin Vick of Hamilton Middle School in Denver the junior award for “Across the Prairie: Bent’s Fort and Its Diplomatic Impacts”. Katelyn Barrett, Spencer Barrett, Andrea Meldrum, and Kit Reed (all from Gunnison High School) received the senior award for “The Colorado Water Compact: or It’s All Downhill from Here”. Congratulations to these students and their teachers for looking beyond the classroom and exploring the world.

Looking for Ways to Combat the Dismal Performance Reported by NAEP?

Assistance with the revised standards is now available through the on-line implementation toolkit from the Colorado Department of Education. The web site is designed to be user friendly and to provide activities and tools for each phase of the standards implementation process. The toolkit contains tools CDE has previously released as part of the standards implementation readiness and dissemination phase. There are also new tools to support Colorado School districts as they move into the transition phase for new standards and new curriculum frameworks, including:

- 1) The Vertical Articulation tool, which shows how the grade level expectations build upon each other leading to the prepared graduate competencies.
- 2) Concept connections, which show four concepts that are common across at least five sets of standards in each grade Kindergarten through fifth grade.
- 3) Discipline concept maps, which show how the concepts and skills within each discipline at each grade level might be grouped around organizing concepts and unifying themes.

Access the toolkit at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/sitoolkit/index.htm>.



Apprciation for many of these resources goes to former Colorado Social Studies Specialist Brenda Barr, who is now working at the National Geographic Education Foundation in Washington, DC. See if you can spot her in this picture of National Geographic staff celebrating twenty-five years of the Geographic Alliance network. Brenda says to be sure and stop by to see her if you are in the area.

Four Corners Summer Institute

Colorado educators collaborated with teachers and professors from Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah to learn about human/environment interaction in the Four Corners region this past June. Teachers learned about the development of the Mission Ridge fire in Durango, geologic formations in the desert, economic development and tensions with the Navajo nation at the Four Corners Power Plant, the influence of the Mormon religion on pioneer settlements, and environmental change at Mesa Verde National Park. In addition, they were able to gain a sense of the educational landscape in four states and develop relationships for future partnerships. Lessons developed as a result of the workshop will be available this fall.





Touring Four Corners Power Plant



Investigating Mission Ridge Fire

Did you see the giant map of North America at a library this summer?



The map was displayed at libraries in Castle Rock, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo as part of the summer reading program.

Thanks to the many hours devoted by librarians and volunteers who helped library patrons gain a new perspective on North America. Participants in the summer reading program also were able to explore library grounds using the GPS units available on loan from COGA. We look forward to additional partnership opportunities with this important community resource.



If you are interested in reserving a giant map of North America, South America, Asia, Africa or the Pacific from National Geographic, please visit the website for details.

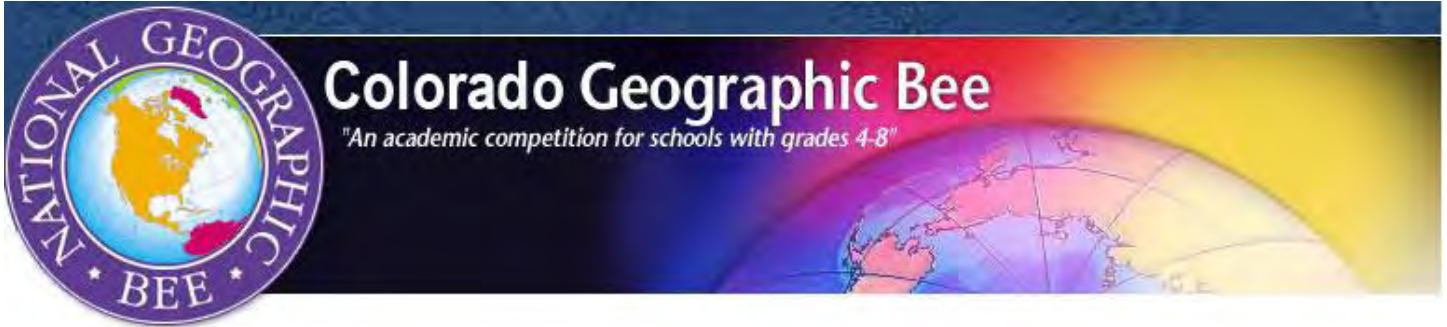
www.nationalgeographic.com/giantmaps

Then check with the Colorado Geographic Alliance to see how we might help you finance this event. Email the coordinators at coga@uccs.edu and put "Giant Map" in the subject line. For more details about the map's visit along the Front Range, see a slide show at

http://www.uccs.edu/~coga/news_events.html.

Remember to Register Your School for the Geographic Bee!

If you have students in grades 4 through 8, they are eligible to participate in the process that leads to the national geographic bee competition held in Washington, DC each spring. For details, visit the website: <http://coloradogeobee.wikispaces.com/> or contact Colorado Bee Coordinator MarianneKenney at mariannekenney@hotmail.com.



Great Plains / Rocky Mountains Division Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Denver, October 6 – 8, 2011

Join geographers from around the region to explore ways to inspire geography. The opening address will be given by AAG past president Carol Harden “An Andean Enigma: Which practices promote environmental services?” For details, see the website at <http://fast.ucdenver.edu/rmgpaag/AnnualMeeting.html>.

Giant Map of the Pacific Available for Schools in November

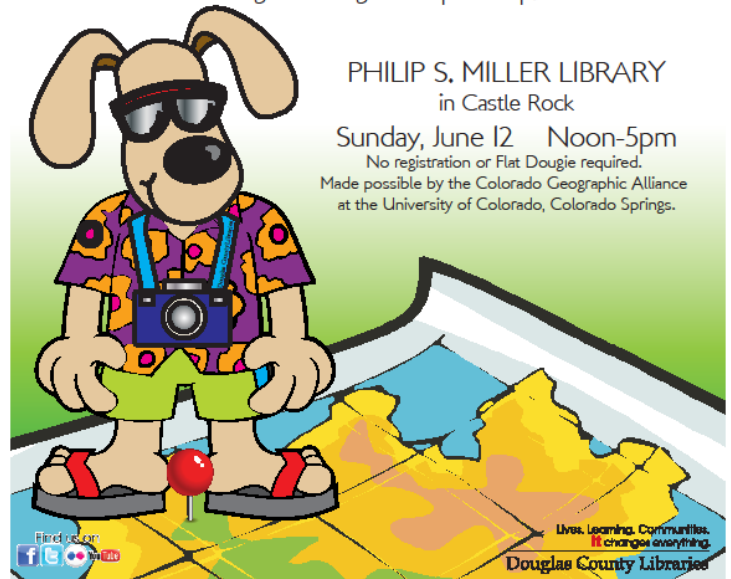
National Geographic’s NEW Giant Traveling Map of the Pacific Ocean will be exhibited at the Colorado Association of Science Teacher’s conference on Friday, November 18th. Dates following that event are available for your school or organization to borrow the map. Please email coga@uccs.edu to discuss opportunities and logistics. For a look at the map, see National Geographic’s website: <http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/special-events/pacific-ocean-map/>.



University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

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