



Colorado Geographic Alliance Spring 2013 Newsletter

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2014 Annual Conference on Geography Education

July 31 - August 3
Memphis, TN

Remember that if you are a member of COGA, then you get a discount on NCGE membership and conference

NEWS FROM COGA

Free Tabletop Maps from National Geographic

National Geographic has a new resource for educators: FREE tabletop-sized state maps. The maps were designed to reflect spatial thinking research at the elementary level. All maps visually represent the appropriate amount of information for K-5 students. However, they can be used by any grade level. Click here to find the map of [Colorado](#).

Colorado Springs Teacher Chosen as National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow

Congratulations to Kathryn Zimmann, who teaches English to high school students from around the globe who are non-native English speakers

Exemplary educators are recognized for their commitment to geographic education and are given the opportunity to be actively engaged in finding new ways to bring geographic awareness to their classrooms or informal learning environments through a field-

attendance. Visit the NCGE [website](#) for details. Join NCGE as an Alliance member, and then register for the conference using the special rate.



Advanced Placement Human Geography Workshop

June 12, 2014
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Learn the latest developments in teaching cultural geography within the context of a Human Geography course. COGA is sponsoring an AP workshop. A \$25 check reserves your place. Visit the [COGA website](#) for more details.



Fire Ecology Institute for Educators

based experience. Read about the program and the biographies of the 2014 Fellows on the [National Geographic website](#). We will learn more about Kathryn's experience as she completes her fieldwork.

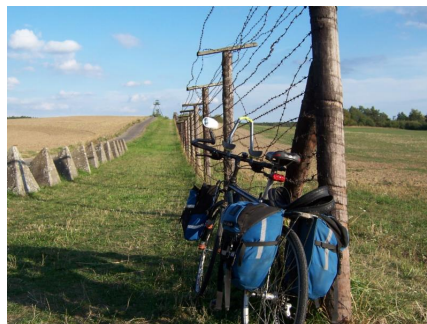
COGA in the News

What Geographers Do

David Havlick on Sabbatical

UCCS Associate Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, David Havlick, describes his time bicycling along the Iron Curtain.

"During part of my fall 2013 research sabbatical, I bicycled for 1200 km along the former borderlands of central Europe, from Bratislava, Slovakia to Rasdorf, Germany. The former death strip of the Iron Curtain dividing Europe has been replaced by 'the Green Belt of Europe', as national parks and biosphere reserves now line the area once fortified with control roads, high voltage fencing, and guard towers. In 2005, the European Union formally recognized an Iron Curtain bicycle route that runs 6800 km from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea. As part of my ongoing research into how militarized landscapes transition into new geographies of conservation, I was impressed by the creative use of art to commemorate the violence and dislocation of the Iron Curtain, while also opening these lands to new meanings and interpretations."



Remnants of the Iron Curtain
Cizov, Czech Republic

WHAT GEOGRAPHERS DO

COGA GPS Units Helped at Cache In - Trash Out Event

Participants Clean Up While Learning to Use GPS

Sandy Holcomb, Park Ranger at Highlands Ranch Park in the Denver Metro Area made great use of COGA's GPS Borrowing program during the "Cache In - Trash Out" Event this past April. The



Cache In - Trash Out Event

June 16-20, 2014
Florissant, Colorado

Designed for educators to gain knowledge and activities to spark student interest and motivation in natural resources. For more information contact [Project Learning Tree](#) at Colorado State University.



Workshop in Teaching Geography

June 16-20, 2014
University of Montana, Missoula

Designed for educators to gain knowledge and activities to spark student interest and motivation in natural resources. For information, visit the Montana Geographic Alliance [website](#).



caches placed were small

tree trunk sections, hollowed out and with a unique swiveling lid. The event drew a crowd - including local scouts, who learned to use the GPS units and helped clean up trash at the same time! The day ended with this park truck filled to capacity with litter that participants cleaned up. Great job and great idea!

COGA's GPS BORROWING PROGRAM

Coordinator's Corner

Steve Jennings

Associate Professor of Geography

Coordinator, Colorado Geographic Alliance

As summer approaches there are many things happening in COGA. We are working on several fronts to improve resources for K-12 teachers. In June I will be leading a group of preservice and inservice teachers in learning about geospatial technology with the end result a set of lesson plans that can be used by teachers, especially those who teach science-related geography. This activity is funded by the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado as part of its commitment to the understanding and use of technology in K-12 classrooms. At the end of July will be an opportunity for all those interested in geography education to make the trip to Memphis, Tennessee, for the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) Conference. COGA has an agreement with NCGE that means you can get a reduced registration. There are some great field trips, chances to learn more about classroom strategies and opportunities to interact with others just as passionate about geography education. For more information on the NCGE Conference, see the link at the top of this newsletter.

KUDOS

Colorado Geographic Bee

Pranit Nanda Takes First Place Three Years Running

Congratulations to all students who participated in this year's Geographic Bee.

The state competition was held April 4th at the University of Denver.



The winning question was: What sea in the Arctic Ocean separates the Taymyr Peninsula from the archipelago Novaya Zemlya?
Answer: the Kara Sea.

WEBINAR:
Pathways to
Natural Resource
Careers:
How to Be a Trail
Guide

May 22, 3 to 4 pm

Join Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education for a free one hour webinar to explore natural resource career pathways and walk away with tools to help learners on their path at any age. Visit the CAEE [website](#) for details.

First Place Winner: Pranit Nanda, 8th grade, Aurora Quest K-8, Aurora, CO
 Second place winner: Colter Giem, 8th grade, Mountain Ridge Middle School, Littleton, CO
 Third place winner: Sid Mane, 8th grade, Campus Middle School, Englewood, CO

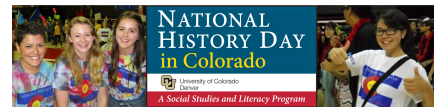
Good luck to Pranit as he competes in Washington DC at the [National Geographic Bee](#) on May 19th and 20th. Check out his video on [YouTube](#). It's not too early to starting planning your school's Bee for next year - information about the Colorado Geographic Bee can be found at the link below.

COLORADO GEOGRAPHIC BEE

National History Day in Colorado

Ailsa Young and Arjana Begzati Combine Knowledge of History and Geography

National History Day was May third, and Colorado marked the occasion at UC Denver with events, presentations and scholarly contests. COGA sponsored the "Best Use of Geography Award" which went to two winners.



Congratulations to Ailsa Young of Lewis Palmer Middle School who was awarded the junior division prize for her timely project on water rights regarding the Colorado River; "The Impact of the Compact: Taking Responsibility for a Right That's Wrong".

Additional congratulations to Arjana Begzati of Fleming High School who was awarded the senior division prize for her webpage which addresses the importance of geography in the Balkans: "Keeping the Ottoman Empire Against the Right to National Freedom".

The National History Day in Colorado webpages can be accessed by following the link below.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN COLORADO

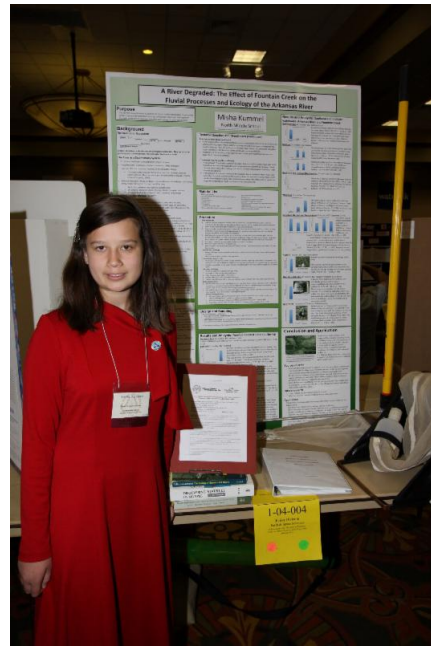
Colorado Science and Engineering Fair 2014

Best Application of Geography

Congratulations to the Best Application of Geography category winners of the 2014

Colorado Science and Engineering Fair! Each of these students participated in a regional fair and was selected based on the merit of their projects to advance to the state level. Each project consisted of a plan, research on the topic, development of a hypothesis, and an experiment to test the hypothesis.

The junior and senior division winners are listed below.



Junior division winner Misha Kummel

Junior division winner Misha

Kummel is an 8th grader at North Middle School in Colorado Springs, and her adviser is Dr. Moroslav Kummel. Her project was titled "A River Degraded: The Effect of Fountain Creek on Fluvial Processes & Ecology of the Arkansas River".

Senior division winner Lauren Soehner is a sophomore at Wray High School; her advisor is Mr. James DePue. Her project was titled "A Bug's Life: The City of Wray's Effects on Benthic Macroinvertebrates in the Republican River".

More information about the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair can be found on the [Fair's website](#).

Colorado Student Participates in National Geography Olympiad

Isabella Contolini Relates her Experience from Washington

In April, Isabella Contolini of Green Mountain High School, Colorado, traveled to Washington DC for the 2014 National Geography Olympiad, where she placed 21st overall.

Isabella reports that the competition

consisted of a 100-question multiple choice exam and three rounds of "buzzer" questions. Questions included "What state of India will



Isabella Explores DC

become its 29th state in June 2014?" (Telangana) and "Which of the following countries does not have a sword on its flag?" (Kenya - it's a spear).

Isabella noted that there were few female contestants and many were contestants she had met on previous trips to the Olympiad (this was her fourth time at the competition), making her feel that "ironically, the geography world is small" Congratulations to Isabella on her continued efforts in learning geography.

Collaborative Grant Award

Colorado Geographic Alliance receives \$50,000 grant from National Geographic Education Foundation to Explore Opportunities to Enhance Geographic Skills through Teaching with Primary Sources

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs is delighted to be the host institution for an inaugural collaborative planning grant of \$50,000 from the National Geographic Education Foundation, one of three such grants awarded to members of the Network of Alliances for Geographic Education. COGA, in partnership with The Library of Congress' Western Region "Teaching with Primary Sources" program housed at Metropolitan State University of Denver, and Geographic Alliances in Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon, will create a program to develop a workshop model for teachers incorporating historical maps, primary source thematic maps, and other geographic representations. This information can be used to obtain, describe and compare spatial patterns and information about people, places, events, regions and environments as an essential resource for answering key questions. Adding the geographic perspective to analysis of these primary sources gives new meaning and depth to what can be learned from valuable resources. Teacher Leaders in the four states will serve as the initial developers for this project during a design workshop in Portland, Oregon over the summer.

Look for information about workshops across Colorado starting in 2015 that will provide opportunities to apply an inquiry-learning model to the use of primary sources available on the Library of Congress website through the lens of geographic thinking.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Survey Request

Research Project Connecting Geography Educators

The Colorado Geographic Alliance has been asked by Phil Klein, a former COGA Coordinator and professor in the Department of

Geography & GIS at the University of Northern Colorado, to solicit participation in a research project he is conducting with American and European geography teachers that is part of Geo-Capabilities, an international project aiming to uncover common goals in geography education across differing national contexts. If you did not receive an invitation and would like to participate, please contact Dr. Klein at phil.klein@unco.edu. Your observations are greatly valued and appreciated.

Colorado Science and Social Studies Testing Development

Get involved with CDE test development.

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) and The Colorado Alternate Assessments (CoAlt) science and social studies item development is an ongoing process. As such there is always a need for continuing to build the database of educators from Colorado to write, review, and align test items to the CMAS. This is a great chance to get involved in what students are begin tested on! Educators can submit their applications to participate in development activities by following the link below.

CDE

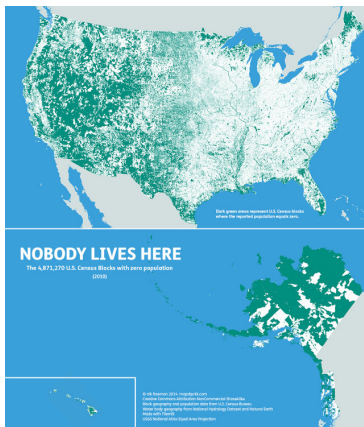
MapMaker Tool Survey

National Geographic Seeks Educator Expertise

National Geographic seeks exemplary examples of how educators are using the MapMaker Interactive in their teaching and learning environments. Please fill out this [survey](#) to share your great ideas and experiences teaching and engaging students with the [MapMaker Interactive](#) tool. If your tips are chosen, you will be credited on the NatGeoEd.org website!

SURVEY

GEOGRAPHY ROUNDUP



47% of the US remains unoccupied.



Nik Freeman's Map uses Census Blocks to Show Where We Don't Live.

COGA Blogger
TOP VIEWED blog-post.

[Story Link >](#)

Geo-Education: Vital for 21st Century Business

COGA Facebook
TOP VIEWED post.

[Story Link >](#)

Web/Print Magazine - For Job Seekers and Educators who Teach STEM.

COGA Email
TOP RECOMMENDED story to share in our Newsletter.

[Story Link >](#)

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