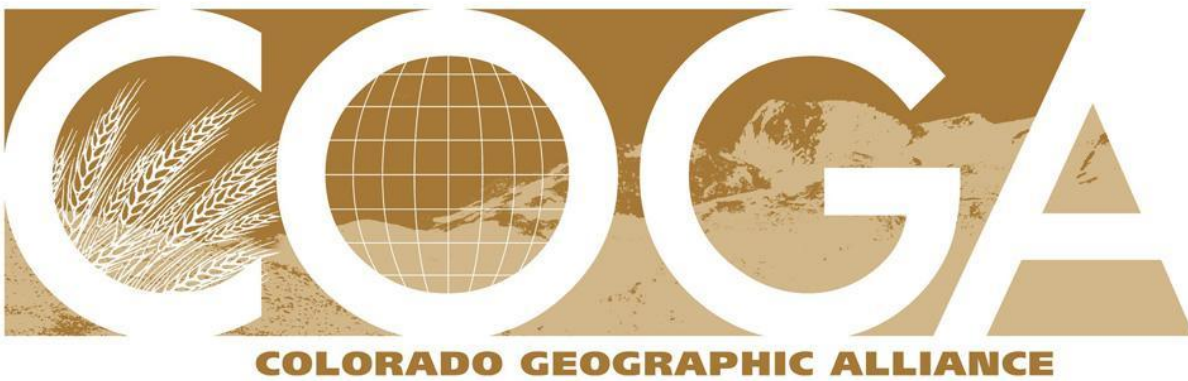


Elections, the Giant Map of Colorado, college students' global literacy, and workshop opportunities - these are just a few of the items you will find in this newsletter. Welcome to those of you who are new to the [Colorado Geographic Alliance](#). COGA is a statewide organization of educators working with the social studies, science, environmental, and technology communities to support geography in every corner of the state. Please forward to colleagues who might find the material of interest.



Fall 2016

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Giant Map of Colorado at Cool Science Carnival Day, Saturday, October 8, 2016, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, University

Giant Map of Colorado: "It's for an adventure."



That was the answer given by a second grader at the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy in Ignacio when asked how she would use National Geographic's Giant Map of Colorado. Since April, COGA staff have traveled around the state sharing this new resource with students, teachers, and the community. The objective of the [Giant Traveling Map](#) program is to provide a tool for teachers to use in their classrooms. Initial lessons to complement fourth graders' study of Colorado history are being developed, with more programs planned. While many days are booked, there are still some available days for the map to visit your school in the spring.

Here are observations from fourth grade students at Fremont Elementary School in Colorado Springs in May.

I thank you for showing us your giant map. I liked that we did really fun activities with the giant map. Denver was 64 miles away from Colorado Springs. The geography was really fun to learn about, so was finding all the pieces in the scavenger hunt. I also liked walking around in my socks for a while.

I really liked when you brought the big map of Colorado and we did a scavenger hunt. It was very fun, and I liked it. When we were playing Simon Says I stood on a river and on Kansas state. Thank you for a good time.

of Colorado, Colorado Springs



Free admission to science shows and open labs, with hands-on exploration spread over the entire UCCS campus, indoors and out. Parking is FREE. Check out the whole Colorado Springs Science Festival [calendar of events](#).

Congratulations to Colorado Teacher of the Year Finalists

Hats off to all the teachers who have been nominated for this honor, including Colorado Geographic Alliance members William J. Palmer High School teacher Sean Wybrant and Paonia Elementary School teacher Jodi Simpson. Read about all the nominees at the Colorado Department of Education [website](#).

AAG GP/RM Division Annual Meeting, October 21- 22, 2016, Colorado Springs

GP/RM DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING
COLORADO SPRINGS
OCTOBER 21-22, 2016



[Registration](#) is now open for the annual meeting of the [Great Plains / Rocky Mountain Division of the AAG](#)! This year's meeting is organized and hosted by the faculty, staff, and students of the [Department of Geography and Environmental Studies](#) at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Meeting Overview:

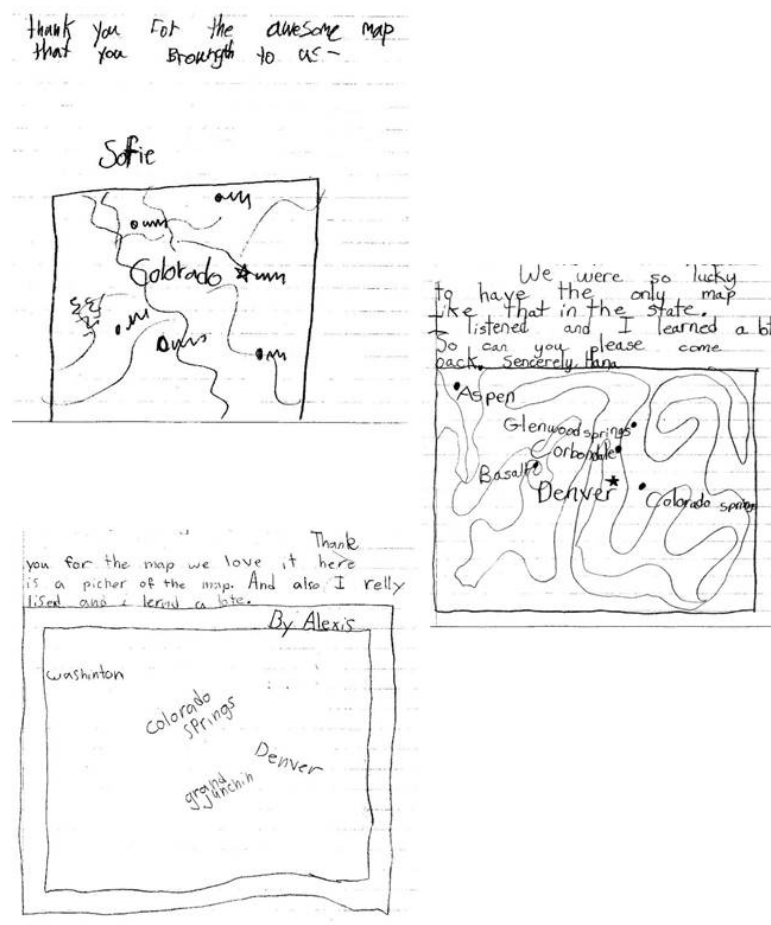
- Friday field trips, Saturday sessions
- Friday evening social at Pioneers Museum

Thank you for teaching us where parks and the map legend are. Thank you for letting us play games like the scavenger hunt with the map. Thank you for letting us see the map and everything on it.

Thank you for bringing the geography map of Colorado. It was fun stomping in socks on the map. The activities were really fun! I loved the scavenger hunt. I found the Indian Territory.

Thank you for coming and showing us the map. It was so big! I loved it so much. Thank you for letting us be one of the schools to see the map, and we hope to see you next year.

Students at Ross Montessori School in Carbondale offered their own versions of the map of Colorado after a visit in August.



For information about how to reserve the map for a visit to your school or district, check out this [flyer](#), and email [COGA](#) with any additional questions. If you are not able to schedule a time for 2016-2017, please let us know you are interested and we will put you on the list for 2017-2018.

The Geography Teacher offers "Support for Teachers During a Challenging Electoral Season"

National Council for Geographic Education's journal for geography teachers supports classroom work at a variety of levels.

"Armed with details about the current situation as well as past electoral patterns and demographic shifts, teachers will have tools to guide the conversations in their classrooms so that their students are able to make

- AAG Past President Sarah Bednarz to give Keynote
- Field trips
- Saturday awards dinner included with registration
- Student paper and poster competitions
- Student GeoBowl Competition
- NEW IN 2016: \$1000 AAG Council Award for best graduate student paper
- Special sessions: Sonic Landscapes, Colo. Meteorology - Terrain Rules, Global Migration
- Conference overlaps with [NACIS 2016](#)

Please contact [Brandon Vogt](#) with any questions.

GIS in the Rockies Conference, September 21-22, 2016, Denver



Registration is now open for the [2016 GIS in the Rockies Conference](#). GIS in the Rockies is the Rocky Mountain West's premier geospatial information and technology conference.

This year, the conference planning committee is inviting Colorado K-12 (formal and informal) educators and non-profits with education outreach programs to join and learn about geospatial technologies. This is an excellent way to learn about the various geospatial technologies being used along the Colorado Front Range.

K-12 educators can register for complimentary access to conference events for Thursday afternoon, September 22nd. This will include the: keynote speaker, technical sessions, exhibit hall, career development roundtable discussions, mock interviews, and mezzanine booths. A limited number of high school students will be allowed to attend with their

sense of the electoral process in the United States, to consider this election in light of past elections, and to imagine factors influencing how elections going forward will be similar or different." (Editor's Notebook, Volume 13, Issue 3, Page 91)

In light of the importance of this topic, publisher Taylor & Francis has provided free access to the current issue of "The Geography Teacher" lasting through the election season. You will find tips for teaching the election in elementary and secondary classrooms, as well as background on the Electoral College, geographic polarization of American voters, and spatial electoral realignment. Ideas for using data and maps are also included. Colorado Springs high school teacher Anton Schulzki and Broomfield-based Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) Education Manager Joseph Kerski have articles in the issue.

To access the journal, please use this link:

<http://tandfonline.com/toc/rget20/13/3?nav=tocList>

Upcoming Workshops

Special Topics Workshop: Geography in the Social Studies

Location: Greeley UNC Campus

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

The department of Geography and GIS at UNC will host a one-day workshop on Geography in the Social Studies. This event gives priority to secondary social studies teachers in the rural districts of Colorado's eastern plains, though all districts are welcome to apply. Workshop topics will feature space and scale, natural resources and environment, population and migration, urbanization and economics, cultural and political geography, and maps and GIS. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Integrating the Social Studies Across Colorado History

Location: Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway Denver, CO 80203

Saturday, October 15, 2016 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

This professional development event is designed to enhance teachers' skills in teaching the core concepts and tools from history, geography, economics and civics that are emphasized in Colorado's fourth grade Social Studies Standards. Four leading social studies organizations collaborate to bring this day-long workshop to elementary teachers. Subject area experts will help you understand how each discipline views the world and, more specifically, Colorado. Presentations will blend content and pedagogy and will share resources to take back to your classroom.

Click [here](#) for more details.

Teaching Geography with Primary Sources

Location: Aspen Country Day School, Aspen, CO

Friday & Saturday, October 28 & 29, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Join Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) at MSU Denver and the Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA) to learn strategies for integrating geographic primary sources from the Library of Congress into your classroom. This free workshop will be aligned for the middle school social studies classroom, but will be relevant for anyone with interest in geography and primary source based instruction. This workshop, which reflects the partnership between TPS and National Geographic Society State Alliances, offers a unique opportunity to apply an inquiry-based learning model by using Library of Congress primary sources through the lens of geographic thinking. Click [here](#) for more information and registration details.

Integrating the Social Studies Across World History

Location: Argosy University, Denver, CO

Saturday, November 12, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

This day of professional development is designed to enhance your skill in teaching the core concepts and tools from history, geography, economics and civics emphasized in Colorado's seventh grade social studies standards. An expert in each subject area will help you understand how each discipline might approach the teaching of world history. High school

teachers.

If interested in the complimentary K-12 registration, please email [GIS in the Rockies](#) or [COGA](#) for more details.



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

teachers of world history are welcome! To register, visit the Colorado Council for Economic Education [website](#).

National Geographic Summer Institute 2016

Educators from states across the west met for two days in July at History Colorado in Denver to explore and to discover National Geographic's Giant State Traveling maps. These maps were developed by National Geographic cartographers and measure an average of 16 x 20 feet. Donning their essential navigating tool, socks, educators cruised across the Giant State Maps of Virginia, Colorado, and California.



Teachers' interactive voyages by foot across the Giant State Maps resulted in new ideas for teaching geography skills. Teachers experienced lessons by moving, walking, locating places, discovering distances, following directions, and interpreting spaces across the maps. Beyond the lesson, the engagement, depth of spatial thinking, and active movement led to deeper understanding of concepts and skills. Educators began to solve problems by designing lessons focused on the ideas of spatial thinking and concepts utilizing the Giant State Maps as an essential tool for these lessons.

The institute concluded with a feeling of great anticipation by educators as they looked forward to receiving their Giant State Traveling Maps in September. Teachers across the country are empowered with new lessons to share with their teaching communities. Let the exploration begin!

Summary of the 2016 Summer Institute provided by fifth grade teacher and National Geographic Educator, Lynnmarie Hannapel, Indian Peaks Elementary School, Longmont, CO.

Survey on Global Literacy

What College-Age Students Know About the World

The Council on Foreign Relations and the National Geographic Society commissioned a survey to assess college and university students' knowledge about "geography, the environment, demographics, U.S. foreign policy, recent international events, and economics". The results will not be surprising to Colorado educators who are familiar with the measures of social studies and science assessments in the state. Just over 1 percent of respondents correctly answered 91 percent or more of the questions. To see detailed results and the questions asked, visit the Council on Foreign Relations' [website](#).

Explore Geospatial Technology



The Giant Map of Colorado is great, but we can't have it in our classroom every day.

There are multiple types of maps for a variety of tasks. One way to integrate spatial analysis into your classroom is to use online mapping programs and lessons.

For a start, visit the [Geolnquiries](#) developed by Esri. They provide technology agnostic activities and can be delivered in a classroom with as little as a tablet and a projector. Take a chance and explore!

What Geographers Do

Mike Thompson



Mike Thompson works with CACI International Inc. in Fort Collins as a manager and geospatial programmer. At CACI, Mike works with both proprietary and open source packages, and has a particular interest in machine learning and machine vision topics. Mike received a degree in Computer Science from Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, OH. In addition to his geospatial work within the professional sphere, Mike heavily contributes to humanitarian mapping efforts across the globe. There are a number of types of

"humanitarian mapping." Mike's efforts are primarily focused on the creation of foundation feature data; for example, data representing roads, buildings, land use, land cover and hydrography. These data are used by aid organizations-such as the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross, and Doctors Without Borders-to plan and administer the delivery of aid to some of the most vulnerable populations on Earth, especially in the aftermath of disasters, such as the 2015 Nepal Earthquake. Read more about Mike and humanitarian mapping on the [What Geographers Do Archive](#) page on the [COGA](#) website.

Lesson Development for Giant Map of Colorado

The National Geographic State Giant Traveling Map Summer Institute was an amazing chance as an educator to learn about giant maps as teaching tool and the "evergreen" lessons National Geographic designed to be able to use on all of the state maps.

My favorite part of the institute was when teachers had a chance to design state-specific hands-on lessons for third and fourth graders in their states. I loved watching the teachers high five each other when they had fleshed out an engaging lesson their students were sure to love and learn from. After we all had a chance to design state-specific lessons we were given a chance to share our ideas with the whole group. I found it quite remarkable that with a few tweaks many of the lessons could be adjusted for other states. As teachers we all know how much time we can save ourselves when we aren't reinventing the wheel for every lesson!

Having the chance to work with teachers from across the country and to get to see several of the State Giant Maps in the same place was an awesome experience! I am looking forward to keeping in touch with incredible teachers and seeing students eyes light up when they get a chance to get on the Giant Map of Colorado.

Click on the link for more information about the [Network of Alliances for Geographic Education](#) and the State Giant Traveling Map program. ***Insight on the 2016 Summer Institute provided by third grade teacher, Kris Odenbaugh, Olander School for Project Based Learning, Fort Collins, CO.***

Explore the Power of Parks:



Geography Awareness Week 2016 is quickly approaching!

The 2016 GAW theme is the "Power of Parks" in honor of the National Park Service Centennial celebration! Follow this [link](#) for some resources provided by the National Geographic Society.

Geography Awareness Week (GAW), celebrated every third week of November, focuses on highlighting the importance of geo-literacy and geo-education. Read more about the purpose and history of Geography Awareness Week [here](#).

Our friends at the [Kansas Geographic Alliance](#) shared their [website](#) entirely dedicated to GAW 2016 at the [National Conference on Geographic Education](#) in Tampa this July. Here you will find a multitude of resources and materials you can use to optimize this year's GAW celebration.

Please feel free to contact [COGA](#) with any questions or ideas regarding Geography Awareness Week!

Opportunities in Geography Education

Geographic Bee Sign-Up

Don't forget to register your school for the Colorado Geographic Bee! Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for the National Geographic Bee, and any paid school employee can [register](#) their school online. The National Geographic Bee registration fee is \$100 per school until December 22, 2016, and \$120 from December 23, 2016 until registration ends on January 23, 2017. For more information or assistance with scholarships, contact [Rebecca DiMaio](#), Colorado Geographic Bee Coordinator.

National Geographic Educator Certification

The National Geographic Educator Certification program seeks to inspire educators to teach students about the world in innovative and interdisciplinary ways. The experience will provide you with professional recognition and development; connections and community with like-minded educators; and relationships, resources, and perks with National Geographic. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program and program requirements.



Explore ways to bring geospatial technology into the classroom by participating in the worldwide [Map Off](#). The theme for the 2016 Map Off is climate change. Participants will respond to a survey about their views relating to global warming and add their data to an online map which can then be analyzed. [Register](#) to keep up to date.

Cartography Student Illustrated Paper Competition
[AAG Annual Meeting April 5-9 2017, Boston, Massachusetts](#)

The [Cartography Specialty Group of the AAG](#) is hosting its first annual Student Illustrated Paper Competition in Boston. Prizes of \$300 (1st place), \$200 (2nd place), and \$100 (3rd place) will be awarded to students who demonstrate their excellence in both scholarly research and cartographic design. Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate. The deadline for a completed application is October 21st. Interested students will need to submit a completed participant application form, and a letter of support (submitted by an advisor or project manager).



Take a look at this [flyer](#) for more information, and please contact [Amber Bosse](#), Student Director of the CSG, with any questions.

National Geographic's Explorer Classroom

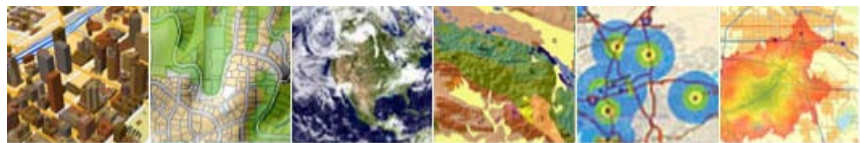


Want to show your students that science, exploration, and conservation are alive outside of their textbooks? Join a live video conference with a National Geographic explorer. Explorer Classroom sessions let students interact live with scientists, conservationists, and explorers around the globe.

National Geographic's first Explorer Classroom session will be held on Monday, September 19 with marine biologist Asha de Vos. Visit the website to sign up:

<http://nationalgeographic.org/education/programs/explorer-classroom/>

AP Course in GIS & Technology



Support the AAG's Proposal for a New Advanced Placement course in Geographic Information Science & Technology! With support from the Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP), the American Association of Geographers (AAG) has developed a proposal for a new Advanced Placement course in Geographic Information Science and Technology (AP GIS&T). All U.S. high schools, colleges, and universities are invited to review the proposal by visiting www.apgist.org.

AP GIS&T is designed to introduce high school students to the fundamentals of geographic information science and applications of powerful geospatial technologies for spatial analysis and problem solving. Together with AP Human Geography, AP GIS&T offers an opportunity to engage students in outstanding geographic learning experiences and promote awareness of the many college and career opportunities available

in the discipline. The AP GIS&T course proposal has attracted broad support from prominent scientific and educational organizations, as well as major technology employers such as Google.

For AP GIS&T to become a reality, the AAG needs to collect attestations from 250 U.S. high schools that confirm they have the interest and capacity to offer the course. Similar assurances are needed from 100 colleges and universities that they would be willing to offer some form of credit to students who demonstrate proficiency on the AP GIS&T exam. The AAG invites high school principals and academic department chairpersons to consider adding their institution to the list of AP GIS&T supporters by completing the brief attestation form at www.apgist.org. The AAG's goal is to complete the attestation process by October 1, 2016. Please contact the [AAG](#) with any questions about AP GIS&T.

Welcome to the new COGA Administrator

My name is Jenny Satre and I am the new COGA Administrator. I am a senior at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs working on a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography and environmental studies with an undergraduate certificate in geographic information science. I am also acquiring a minor in biology.

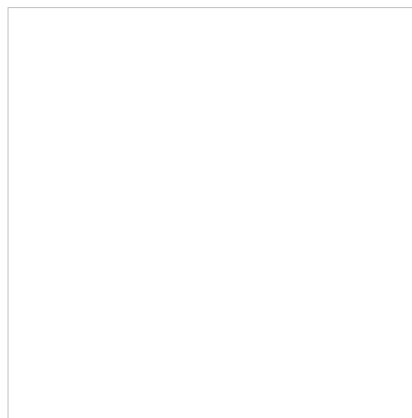


My interests lie in the fields of evolution, microbiology, biogeography, human geography and GIS with an emphasis in epidemiology. I am concerned with climate change and the impacts on human disease. I am also interested in the evolution of microbiology in relation to climate change. I would like to do research with human disease using geographic spatial analysis.

I am advocate for education, a Girl Scout leader, and a board member of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). I also serve on the District Accountability Committee (DAC) and the School Accountability Committee (SAC) for District 11. I believe education is the key to building a better future.

I am excited to be part of the Colorado Geographic Alliance and look forward to working as a promoter for professional development opportunities, resources, and support advocating the importance of geography in education.

COGA Facebook and Blog



Follow us on Facebook!

Our [Facebook page](#) posts upcoming events that are open to the public. You can also find interesting links to photo galleries and articles on geography.

Check out our Blog as well!

[COGA's blog](#) shares workshop opportunities and professional development sessions for educators as well as geography education resources.

Follow COGA on Twitter

Looking for a place to upload those great photos from the visit of the Giant Map of Colorado? COGA now has a [Twitter account](#). Share your perspectives with #ColoradoGiantMap.

Colorado Geographic Alliance

VISION:

Changing our understanding and

experience of the world

MISSION:

To instill and nurture spatial awareness
and geographic literacy

VALUES:

Inspiring passion for Earth and its inhabitants
Connecting people with geography
Honoring inclusivity and diversity
Exploring physical and human environments
Developing spatial perspective

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Ideas for upcoming newsletters? Great topics, links, or upcoming events you'd like COGA to share with geography educators? Let us know! We're here to connect.

coga@uccs.edu

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National Geographic Society Education Foundation.