

Winter 2012
www.uccs.edu/coga

Upcoming Workshop: “Conflict in Afghanistan”

The Colorado Geographic Alliance is partnering with the University of Colorado and Rebekah Nesbitt, 2011 Choices Fellow at the Brown University’s Summer Leadership Institute and teacher at Lakewood High School, to present a perspective on the United States’ actions 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 University of Colorado scholar Edward Holland 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.

THE CHOICES PROGRAM
HISTORY AND CURRENT ISSUES FOR THE CLASSROOM



2012 Grosvenor Teacher Fellows – Apply by January 31!

National Geographic Education Programs and Lindblad Expeditions are pleased to announce the 2012 Grosvenor Teacher Fellow program. This professional development opportunity, named in honor of Chairman of the National Geographic Society Education Foundation Gil Grosvenor, gives current K-12 classroom teachers and informal educators from the 50 U.S. states, Canada, and Puerto Rico the opportunity to extend Grosvenor’s legacy of excellence in geographic education. Selected educators will travel aboard the ship *National Geographic Explorer* in June or July 2012 to Norway and Arctic Svalbard. While aboard, Fellows will share the importance of geo-literacy with fellow travelers, develop activities to bring back to their classrooms, and have an adventure of a lifetime in the “land of the ice bears.” Prior to the expedition, all 2012 Grosvenor Teacher Fellows will travel free to Washington, D.C. to participate in a workshop sponsored by Google, National Geographic, and Lindblad Expeditions.

Through this program, exemplary educators are recognized for their commitment to geo-literacy and are given a professional development opportunity to be actively engaged in finding new ways to bring geographic awareness and ocean stewardship to their classrooms or informal learning environments through a field-based experience.

For the application and for more information about the 2012 Program, visit the website at:
http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/program/grosvenor-teacher-fellow/?ar_a=1 .
The deadline for completed applications is January 31, 2012.

Help Complete the Roadmap of Geography

The American Geographical Society (AGS) needs your help in a matter of vital importance. AGS is conducting a nationwide survey of public attitudes toward geography and knowledge about geography as its part in a major study funded by the National Science Foundation. This “Roadmap” project is a joint effort of the National Geographic Society, the National Council for Geographic Education, the Association of American Geographers, and AGS. The overall topic is geographic literacy, a matter of serious concern in America today. AGS invites all U. S. citizens and long-term residents of the United States to take the survey. The only eligibility requirement is that you must be age 18 or older. The results will help guide Federal and state policies regarding geographic education.

You may access the survey online through the following link to the AGS Geographic Knowledge and Values Survey. Copy and paste this URL into your web browser:

<http://webteach.ubalt.edu/UltimateSurvey/Surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?s=F30154FD158241D39265B445E3BD5817> .

Based on trial runs, we estimate the survey will take 12 to 18 minutes of your time. Thank you for your participation. If you have any questions about the survey in Colorado, please contact Steve Jennings at coga@uccs.edu.

Geography: The Adventure in Your Community



Resources from Geography Awareness Week will continue to be available for use at your convenience.

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/collections/geographyawarenessweek/>

For a quick look at what kept people busy in Colorado during Geography Awareness Week, check out the slide show on the Colorado Geographic Alliance website. <http://www.uccs.edu/~coga/>

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!

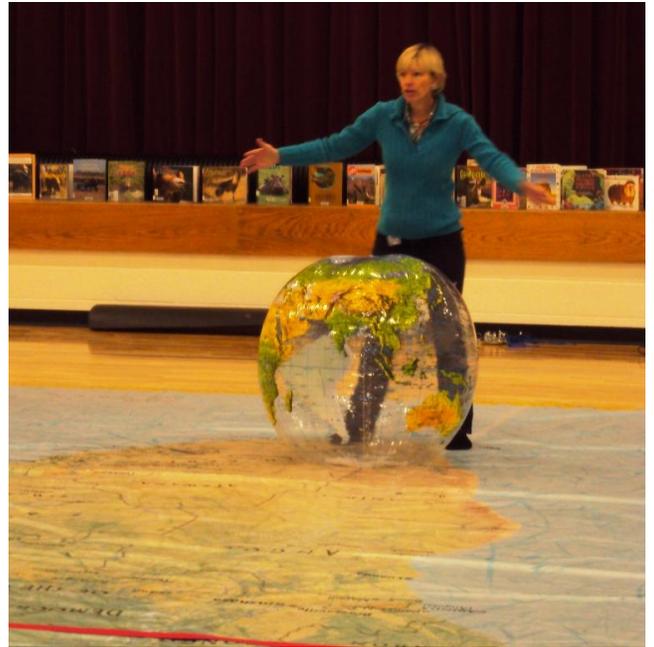
Resources available on the COGA Website

Be sure and check out the wide variety of maps, on-line resources, and curriculum ideas available on the COGA website. Do your students need practice identifying states or countries? Visit the “On-Line Tools” section under “Curriculum” and find a variety of map quizzes your students can explore. Looking to discuss the environment in Colorado? See “Climate Change and Colorado’s Future” under Environment. And if you find an excellent resource, be sure and send it to coga@uccs.edu to share with other educators.

Innovating Colorado Libraries by Linda Conway, Academy District 20 Information Literacy Specialist and President, Colorado Association of Libraries (first published in the CAL Newsletter, December 2011 – January 2012, <http://www.cal-webs.org/files/47935760.pdf>)

Last month, I spent two weeks visiting Africa. I took seven librarians, a literacy coach, a Spanish teacher, three PE teachers, and 3,405 students with me.

Planning for my African safari began last summer, after teaching a class to K-5 teachers with Dr. Rebecca Theobald and Dr. Steven Jennings from the Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA) on how to link literacy and geography. COGA generously offered to finance a giant traveling map from National Geographic for our school district. Our school librarians were instrumental in developing 21st century learning lessons around the map. They found ways to connect students with literacy, geography, and authentic, real-world learning before the map of Africa arrived. Many grade level lessons were linked with the Colorado educational standards. Once the map arrived, students were able to “actively” visit Africa to learn. You can read an article published in the Colorado Springs Gazette here: <http://www.gazette.com/articles/floor-129832-map-students.html>



This event was a great way to advocate for the school librarians in our district. The administrators in their buildings watched as librarians actively and collaboratively taught information literacy skills to students. During the map visit, the librarians in seven elementary schools were placed in the forefront in what was happening in their school. For weeks the students talked about the coming of the giant map. When the map left, they still talked about it. This learning was all made possible because of the librarian in the school.



After my two week trek in Africa, it was sad to roll up the map and send it off in its traveling tube for the last time. Our African exploration was fun, active, hands-on learning. We will miss Africa.

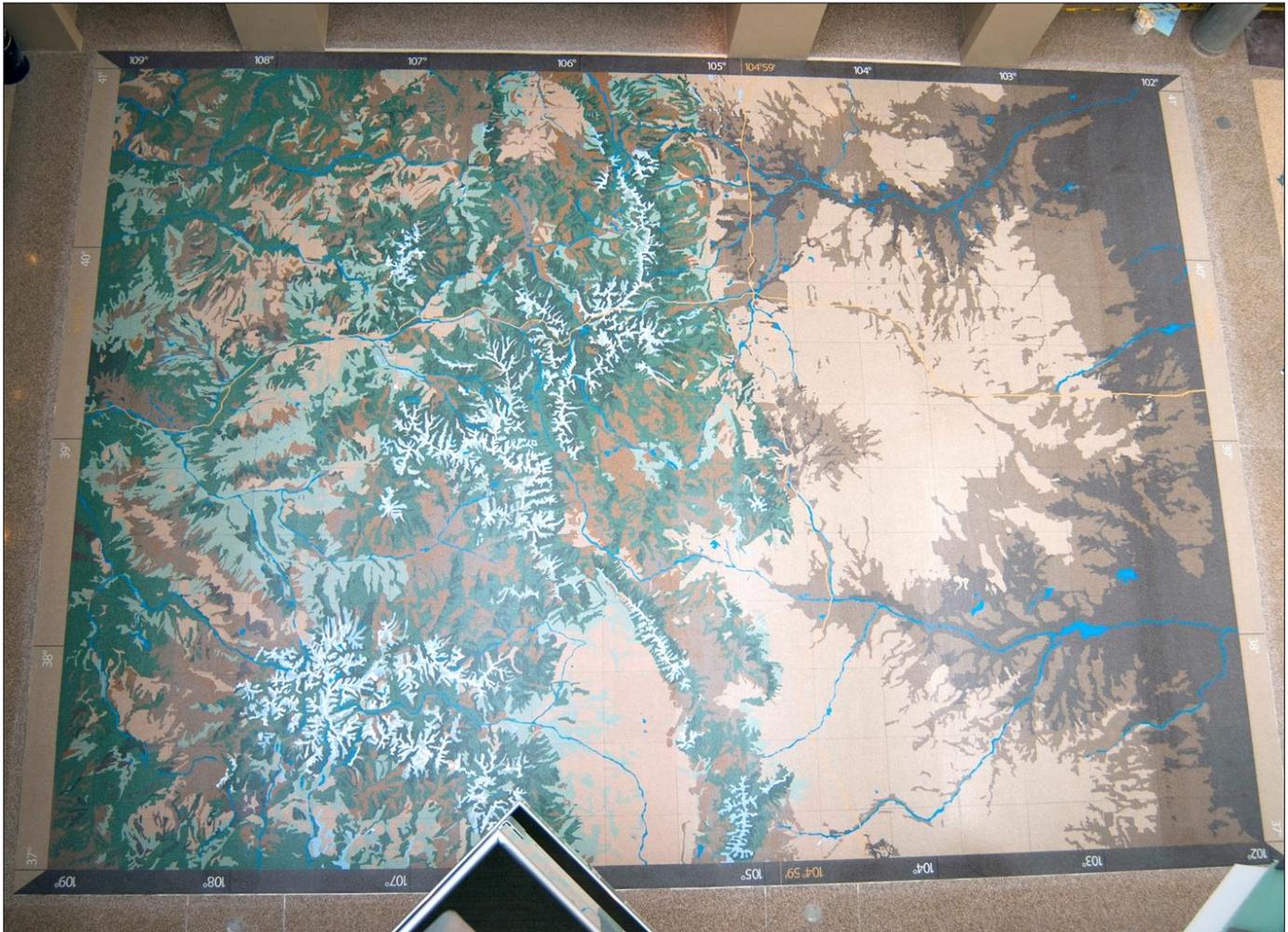
The day after the map left our district, I received a phone call and an e-mail from a school principal who had the map in her school. She wanted to know what it would take to hire a licensed teacher-librarian in her school. Obviously through this event she realized the value of having a qualified librarian.

Be thinking about how to use the Giant Map at Colorado's History Museum

The History Colorado Center will open to the public on Saturday, April 28, 2012. Thanks to Director of Education, JJ Rutherford, several Colorado Geographic Alliance members have had a chance to investigate the building as it is being readied for visitors. Museum curators have developed several exhibits that address the varied cultural and physical geography of Colorado.

Children and adults alike will be impressed by the Great Map of Colorado and its accompanying Time Machine: This 40-by60-foot terrazzo tile map of Colorado imbedded into the floor of the museum's atrium is part of Colorado's Art in Public Places program, which integrates the art experience into the built environment and civic spaces. The map was created by nationally acclaimed artist Steven Weitzman and serves as both a work of art and an interpretive experience. Visitors are invited to wander across the map and explore this artistic rendition of Colorado's unique topography. The map comes to life with History Colorado's "Time Machine," where visitors push an H.G. Wells-inspired, steampunk-like device over the map to hit hot spots that treat them to video stories from the region. Time Machine stories explore serious subjects ranging from the 1914 Ludlow Massacre and the Cheyenne Dog Soldiers to humorous tales of the Colorado/Texas Tomato Wars of the 1980s.

The Colorado Geographic Alliance is interested in hearing your ideas about using this map with your students when touring Denver. Send ideas to coga@uccs.edu and we will work with History Colorado on the project.



For more information about History Colorado Center, visit:
<http://www.historycolorado.org/museums/history-colorado-center>

Strategic Planning Process Marches On

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to meet and looks forward to sharing work about the vision, mission and values of the Colorado Geographic Alliance. If you would like more information on the process or would like to become involved, please contact Sophia Linn, Chair, COGA Strategic Planning Committee, at: sophia.linn@colostate.edu.

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.

Colorado Knows Geography

Congratulations to the University of Colorado Boulder Geography Bowl team (Ted Holland, Alana Wilson, Ian Rowen, Sam Smith, Mark Stover, and Preston Cumming) who won the Regional Geography Bowl at the 2011 Great Plains Rocky Mountain Regional AAG meeting in October 2011. There were six teams present, including perennial favorite Kansas State University. The Colorado team won by a whopping 59 points over second place KSU. It was a great time and they are planning on defending the title next year in Provo, Utah. Two of the team members, Sam and Ian, will be going to the World Geography Bowl competition at the National Association of American Geographers' meeting in New York in February 2012. Sam received first place overall honors, as well as a magic drinking bird toy.

365 Days of Geography from Joseph Kerski

In 2011, beginning on New Year's Day, president of the National Council for Geographic Education (<http://www.ncge.org/>), Colorado resident, and Esri Education Manager Joseph Kerski wrote at least one tweet everyday beginning with "What is Geography? 1 of 365" and posted them to his Twitter page (<http://twitter.com/josephkerski>). He also posted a monthly movie to his youtube geography channel (<http://www.youtube.com/geographyuberalles>), which now contains nearly 900 geography-related videos. If you need inspiration for class projects or background on geographic concepts, check out these sites.

GIS License Helps Colorado Students Learn 21st Century Job Skills

Redlands, California—October 17, 2011—Although GIS has been taught at a number of schools in Colorado for years, the signing of a statewide education site license with Esri now brings the technology to all Colorado primary and secondary schools. Students, educators, and administrators will have access to Esri's full range of ArcGIS software as well as unlimited seats in self-paced training through Esri's Virtual Campus. For information about Esri software for Colorado schools, contact Dr. Teresa Yohon at tyohon@enetcolorado.org.

To read this entire press release, visit

<http://www.esri.com/news/releases/11-4qtr/gis-license-helps-colorado-students-learn-century-job-skills.html>

Provide Perspective for the Next Generation of Geography Teachers

Jung Eun (Jessie) Hong, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography, CU Boulder, seeks assistance with her doctoral dissertation research entitled “Web-based GIS for middle school teachers: Using online mapping applications to promote teacher adoption.” Previous studies have shown that even though the latest web mapping technologies are getting easier, many teachers are not using these technologies in the classroom. Her research focuses on training middle school social studies teachers to create and customize web-based maps.

A total of 30 teachers in Colorado participated in the designing and developing process of the study. Thanks to their support, she has been able to complete web-based GIS training tutorials to help teachers develop curricula with web-based maps: GIS for Social Studies (<http://www.colorado.edu/geography/cartpro/gisedu/>). She is now undertaking the main testing phase. Your participation is vital to assessing the final version of training tutorials. These are training materials for teachers, so you do not need to use these lessons in your classroom in order to give feedback. If you would like to use these lessons in your classroom, please give your contact information on the survey so that Jessie can follow up with you in April 2012. She is only interested in teachers’ responses and will not be surveying students directly.

How to participate:

- * Pick one or more topics you want to test. Each topic should take between 45 and 90 minutes to complete.
- * Once you are done, please take the survey (<http://www.colorado.edu/geography/cartpro/gisedu/survey.html> - the survey password: gisedu) which takes between 10 and 15 minutes; responses will remain anonymous. Feedback from each respondent will be extremely valuable for Jessie’s doctoral research. You will be helping to shape the implementation of up-to-date technology in the classroom. If you have any questions, contact her at jung.hong@colorado.edu. Thank you for your cooperation.

Colorado Hosts the Giant Map of the Pacific on its First Tour

Colorado science teachers and schools in Monument, Colorado Springs, Ridgway, and Norwood were able to explore the world from a completely different perspective this past fall using the Pacific Ocean as a focal point. Accompanied by a trunk of activities, students and educators from around the state gained greater understanding about ocean currents, the Ring of Fire, and coral reefs through this innovative resource. This map is the latest in the series of Giant Traveling Maps produced by National Geographic. 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.



<http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/special-events/giant-traveling-maps/>

Then check with the Colorado Geographic Alliance to see how we might help you finance this event. Visit the website to see information about funding. For more details about the map’s visit along the Front Range, see a variety of resources at http://www.uccs.edu/~coga/news_events.html.



University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

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