Coordinator’s Corner

Twice each year you receive this newsletter. If you are a careful reader you know that the South Carolina Geographic Alliance offers many opportunities for teachers to improve their instruction in geography across the curriculum. In the past year we conducted 57 workshops at schools, school districts, and universities for nearly 2,000 educators. But did you know that the Alliance also works directly with students?

In this past year the Alliance:
- hosted more than 2,100 students in National Geographic's Giant Map program.
- provided judges, moderators, and scorers for the hundreds of students participating in the state-level National Geographic Bee
- led GPS field experiences for the Boys and Girls Clubs, Girl Scouts, Calvert Academy, and St. Peter’s Catholic School
- participated in the Midlands Education and Business Alliance’s career fair
- provided grant funding to Dutch Fork High and Lemira Elementary for GPS receivers, maps, and trade books (see page 3 for information on these grant opportunities)

I hope you see the diversity in that list. The South Carolina Geographic Alliance is here to help students and teachers in public, private, and charter schools, those that are home-schooled, and we also work with after-school and extra-curricular groups.

Your state Geographic Alliance is one of the best education programs of its type in the United States. Are you taking advantage of this resource?

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SCGA In-Service and Pre-Service Workshops

The South Carolina Geographic Alliance offers workshops and in-service training for schools and school districts across the state.

A sample of our workshop topics follows:
- Geography Across the Curriculum
- Geography and the Social Studies Standards
- Integrating Geography, Science and Math
- South Carolina Interactive Geography
- Geography Lessons for Elementary Teachers
- South Carolina: An Atlas*
- SC MAPS*

The Alliance also offers pre-service workshops for South Carolina colleges and universities. This service is provided at no cost to colleges and universities and is an excellent way to introduce pre-service teachers to a professional organization that can assist them as they begin their teaching career.

SCGA workshops can be scheduled for in-class, after-school, half day, or full day. To schedule, please call the SCGA office at 803-777-4973 or toll free at 1-888-895-2023. *charges may apply for materials.

South Carolina Religious Diversity Poster

Religious expression in the landscape varies across space. You can share this aspect of cultural geography with your students using the new Religious Diversity in South Carolina classroom poster. Funded by The Humanities Council SC, the poster showcases South Carolina’s religious and spatial diversity for Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Baha’i, Buddhism, and Judaism. Each map contains a brief explanation and history for the pattern shown. You can get your free copy by attending Geofest 43 on February 18, 2012. See page 5 for a Geofest 43 registration form.

A list of other Alliance-created posters for classroom use is available here: www.cas.sc.edu/cege/resources/
Kovacik Geography Grants

Kovacik Geography Grants are named in honor of Dr. Charles F. Kovacik, the second coordinator of the South Carolina Geographic Alliance. Dr. Kovacik was instrumental in the growth of geography education in South Carolina.

South Carolina teachers are among our best partners to increase and promote K-12 geographic literacy. These grants are meant to support their geography instruction when traditional funding options are unavailable. Proposed work should directly focus on improving instruction through the development of new curriculum materials or the acquisition of essential classroom materials and equipment. The Alliance will award up to three grants of $1,000 each in 2012. Application materials are available under the 'Resources' section of the Alliance website and are due by April 1, 2012. Visit www.cas.sc.edu/cege for more information.

Earthquakes!

The Alliance, via grant funding from FEMA and the SC Emergency Management Division, will conduct two workshops in 2012 titled “Earthquakes in South Carolina: Bridging the Social and Science Divide for K-12 Educators.” Look for dates and workshop locations when they are announced later this Spring.

Damage resulting from the 1886 Charleston earthquake. More than 60 persons were killed.
The Alliance will be working on a pilot study this spring with the Education Oversight Committee to adapt a GeoLiteracy program to the South Carolina academic standards. This program has been shown to improve reading skills and promotes teaching geography. More information will be available later this year. Learn more about the EOC at www.eoc.sc.gov

The National Council for Geographic Education conducts research, produces curricular resources, and promotes better geographic teaching and learning. The next annual meeting will be held in San Marcos, Texas, October 4-7, 2012. The South Carolina Geographic Alliance encourages its members to attend. Visit NCGE at www.ncge.org

The Climate Literacy Partnership in the Southeast project aims to gather fact-based, non-advocacy information which will lead to a better understanding of people’s views and ultimately to the creation of a strategic plan for educating the public about climate issues. The South Carolina Geographic Alliance is helping CLiPSE identify key organizations involved with climate issues in South Carolina. For more information visit: www.clipse-project.org/

The Midlands Education and Business Alliance works to connect students, parents, educators and employers to education and career opportunities. The South Carolina Geographic Alliance is working with MEBA to identify geography’s role in 16 career clusters that are key to enhancing economic development. More information about the career clusters can be found in MEBA’s “Be A Part Of” brochures: www.mebasc.com/resources/be-a-part-of-brochures/

IT-oLogy is a non-profit collaboration of businesses, academic institutions and organizations dedicated to growing the Information Technology talent pipeline and advancing the IT profession. IT-oLogy has three main initiatives: Promote IT (K-12), Teach IT (Higher Education) and Grow IT (Professionals and Businesses). They want to work with you and your students! More information about their work is available at: www.it-ology.org
Geofest 43 REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, February 18, 2012 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
University of South Carolina, Callcott Social Science Building, Columbia

Geofest will include content lectures presented by USC geography faculty and standards-based teaching strategies for the elementary, middle, and high school classroom. All participants will receive SCGA materials and lunch with their registration. Registration must be received by Friday, February 10, 2012, in order to receive an email confirmation, materials, and lunch. Late and walk-up registration will be considered pending available space. For more information, call 1-888-895-2023. A map to the event is available online at www.cas.sc.edu/cege/alliancedirections.pdf. The Geofest program will be posted online at a later date.

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TO REGISTER

Complete this form and mail with payment to:
SCGA, Department of Geography, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.
Make checks payable to the University of South Carolina.

____________________________________________________________________________________
Last Name First Name
____________________________________________________________________________________
Street Address
____________________________________________________________________________________
City State Zip
____________________________________________________________________________________
Phone Email
____________________________________________________________________________________
School Name

$ _____ $15.00 Regular Registration

$ _____ $10.00 Pre-Service (student) Registration

$ _____ $15.00 SCGA T-shirt (circle size): M L XL

$ _____ Total Enclosed
Workshop Objectives
1. introduce new thinking and research about teaching geography
2. receive content instruction on AP® HG topics
3. introduce strategies to maximize success on the AP® HG exam
4. provide a forum for AP® HG teachers to share successes/concerns with other AP® HG teachers

Who is eligible to attend?
All current and prospective AP® Human Geography teachers in South Carolina

Participants will receive:
1. attendance verification
2. lunch is provided for all participants
3. teaching materials

Fee
Submit a $10 check payable to the University of South Carolina. This nominal fee partially covers materials and lunch for each participant.

For more information, call 803-777-4973 or toll free 1-888-895-2023. A map to the event is available online at www.cas.sc.edu/cege/alliancedirections.pdf

*AP, Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement Program are registered trademarks of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of and does not endorse this forum.

TO REGISTER
This form must be submitted for all registrants. Fax this form to 803-777-4972 or mail to: SCGA, Department of Geography, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

Registration must be received by Friday, January 13, 2012.

Make checks payable to the University of South Carolina in the amount of $10.00.
Alliance Summer Geography Institute

June 10-22, 2012
University of South Carolina - Columbia

The SCGA will sponsor the Alliance Summer Geography Institute at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina on June 10-22, 2012. The Institute is an intensive, two-week training program intended to increase teachers’ knowledge of geography, introduce teachers to new teaching techniques and materials, and help them develop skills in presenting in-service workshops to other teachers. All K-12 teachers, and those involved with K-12 education outreach, are invited to apply.

Participants receive:

- 3 graduate credits
- Teaching resources valued at over $500
- Lodging at USC (if needed)
- Most meals
- Opportunity to participate in national workshops upon graduation

Participant costs:

- $150 Institute tuition
- $150 Housing Reservation fee*
- USC student fee, if applicable*
- Some meals
- *See online application for details

To download an application form:
www.cas.sc.edu/cege
Spring 2012 Calendar

January
19-21 South Carolina Early Childhood Association – Myrtle Beach
21 AP Human Geography Workshop – Columbia

February
3-4 South Carolina Council for African American Studies – Columbia
17 Berkeley County SD – Goose Creek
18 Geofest 43 – Columbia
24-28 Association of American Geographers – New York City, NY

March
2-4 South Carolina Middle School Association – Myrtle Beach
30 National Geographic Bee – State Level – Columbia

April
3-5 National Geographic Giant Map – St. Anne’s Catholic School – Rock Hill
9-11 National Geographic Giant Map – LBC Middle – Warreenville
12-13 National Geographic Giant Map – Pinewood Prep – Summerville
16-19 National Geographic Giant Map – Furman Middle – Sumter

May
22-24 National Geographic Bee – National Level – Washington DC

June
10-22 Alliance Summer Geography Institute

This is a small selection of events involving the South Carolina Geographic Alliance this spring. Don’t see your school or district? Contact us via the information below to arrange an event.

SCGA Contact Info
1-888-895-2023
1-803-777-4973
1-803-777-4972 (fax)
www.cas.sc.edu/cege

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