Coordinator’s Corner

The political and budgetary events of this past spring and early summer make it clear that the importance of geography education to South Carolina’s future is lost on far too many members of our state’s leadership.

Fortunately, you spoke up. It is because of you that the South Carolina Geographic Alliance will continue to bring its talent and resources to bear on improving geography education for our students, teachers, families, businesses, and communities.

The success of your state Geographic Alliance and the national geographic alliance network is premised upon our collective resolve to teach about our world and to do it well. I can tell you confidently that the South Carolina Geographic Alliance is considered one of the premier programs of its type in the United States. How effective is this program? Ask the more than 21,000 students and teachers who attended our 608 programs since 2005. South Carolina educators know quality.

We also rely on our partners to help us in creating exceptional materials and opportunities for teaching geography. These current partners include the National Geographic Society, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the National Science Foundation, and the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, among others. For myself, and for each of you, we extend them our thanks.

We live in a rapidly changing world. It, like our state, is full of “beautiful places.” I invite you to join your geographic alliance and our partners in learning more about our world. Let’s get to work.

Fall 2012

The Cultural Landscape of Somewhere in the World

It’s time to play “Where’s Waldo?” Can you guess the name of this city? Doing so may earn you a medal, or better yet, a Goode’s World Atlas. Submit your answer along with your name and mailing address to mitchell@sc.edu. One winner will be randomly selected from all correct answers received by September 1. Good Luck!

Use this link to see a larger image: www.cas.sc.edu/cege/somewhere.pdf

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South Carolina Economic Landscapes Poster

South Carolina’s agricultural, industrial, and transportation patterns have varied considerably across both space and time. You can share this aspect of economic geography with your students using the new Economic Landscapes of South Carolina classroom poster. Funded by the “Hearing Every Voice” Teaching American History grant serving Aiken, Edgefield, and Saluda counties, the poster showcases economic changes from the colonial period to the present. Each map contains a brief explanation and history for the pattern shown. You can get your free copy by attending Geofest 44 at the SCCSS meeting in Greenville, September 27-29. A list of other Alliance-created posters for classroom use is available here: www.cas.sc.edu/cege/resources/

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.
Earthquakes!

The Alliance, via grant funding from FEMA and the SC Emergency Management Division, will conduct a workshop titled “Earthquakes in South Carolina: Bridging the Social and Science Divide for K-12 Educators.” The event will be held at USC Upstate on November 3. A registration form is on page 5 of this newsletter.

Workshop topics will include:
- a lecture on earthquakes in South Carolina
- “Lessons from 1886” teaching session
- “Your Own Earthquake” teaching session
- “GIS and Earthquakes” teaching session

The workshop is free, but limited to 20 participants. Register early!
Alliance Member Kudos

- Brad Blankemeyer is a candidate for the MA program in History at the College of Charleston.
- Larianne Collins, University of South Carolina, was awarded a dissertation improvement grant from the National Science Foundation.
- Phillip Hare, AC Flora High, is a winner of a Distinguished Teacher (K-12) award from the National Council for Geographic Education.
- Dean Hunt is participating in a historical and archaeological dig called “Finding Granby.”
- Jerry Mitchell, University of South Carolina, is a winner of a Distinguished Teacher (Higher Education) award from the National Council for Geographic Education.
- Barry O’Reilly, Palmetto Engineering and Consulting, is a winner of an Outstanding Support for Geographic Education award from the National Council for Geographic Education.
- Sarah Pullie is participating in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Algebra Readiness for Every Student Institute for grades 3 – 8.
- Brenda Schoolfield, Bob Jones University, was promoted to the rank of Professor in the Division of Social Science.
- Sarah Tucker was named the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year at Fairfield Magnet School for Math and Science in Fairfield County.
- Charles Vaughan, Richland Northeast High, participated in a 12-day educational mission to Turkey and earned an EdD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of South Carolina.

Kovacik Geography Grants

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 2013. Application materials are available under the ‘Resources’ section of the Alliance website and are due by April 1, 2013. Visit www.cas.sc.edu/cege for more information.

SC Geography Collaborative

A new website has been developed to assist teachers with the high school World Geography course. The South Carolina Geography Collaborative includes maps, lessons, and study guides. These materials are available here: https://sites.google.com/a/richland2.org/geography-collaborative/

To share materials or receive more information, contact Bob Crowley (bcrowley@richland2.org) or Jennifer Borowiec (jborowiec@richland2.org), both of Ridge View High.

AP Human Geography Reading, Cincinnati

Regina Dilley, Chuck Stjern, Larianne Collins, Jerry Clem
Earthquakes in South Carolina:  
Bridging the Social and Science Divide for K-12 Educators

Saturday, November 3, 2012 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, South Carolina

This one-day workshop is a joint effort between the South Carolina Geographic Alliance, the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. The major transformative potential of this workshop lies in advancing classroom instruction that includes the scientific and social aspects of earthquakes together. Too often hazards instruction misses the science at the expense of social aspects and vice-versa. Workshop participants will engage content in earthquake science, social vulnerability, and geospatial technology as applied to K-12 hazards instruction. Lesson strategies and teaching materials will be provided. There is no participation fee for this workshop, but registration is required. Lunch is provided. Please use the registration form below.

This workshop is limited to 20 participants and is closed when filled.

For more information, call 803-777-4973 or toll free 1-888-895-2023.

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, October 20, 2012.

Last Name

First Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

School Name (if applicable)
Geographic Alliance Partnerships

Funding Partners:

Project and Education Partners:

Fall Calendar

August
16 Richland 2 SD – Columbia

September
6 Coastal Carolina University – Conway
24 Columbia College – Columbia
27-29 Geofest/SCCSS – Greenville

October
4-7 NCGE – San Marcos, TX

November
3 Earthquake Workshop – Spartanburg
18-20 Southeastern Division AAG – Asheville, NC

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

www.cas.sc.edu/cege  1-888-895-2023