

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

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DELAWARE CELEBRATES GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

The Alliance and teacher's across the state made quite an impact during Geography Awareness Week, November 11-17, 1990. In fact, projects begun that week extended into December, and in some cases may last through most of the school year.

The week began on Monday, November 12, when Governor Castle visited Redding Middle School, where he taught a Geography lesson in TC Anne Neubauer's classroom, and read a statement proclaiming Geography Awareness Week in the State of Delaware (see page 2). Governor Castle was greeted by school principal Peggy Ludlow, as well as TCs Mary Alice Aguilar, Mary Koster, and Kelli Martin, who all teach at Redding Middle. Student Lisa Marra presented the Governor with a geographic T-shirt portraying the world in vivid colors. A week later, a report of the event as well as a photo of Redding students in front of a giant world wall map appeared in the *News-Journal*.

Many other individual schools and classrooms celebrated the week. Shirley Jarrell's 7th grade Geography class at Caesar Rodney Jr. High School visited the Port of Wilmington and "adopted" a ship loaded with bananas and orange concentrate from Brazil and Honduras. The students collected presents for the sailors, and toured their adopted ship,

meeting the captain and sailors, and learning both about Delaware's overseas trade and life aboard ship. The "Adopt a Ship" program was begun this year by the Seaman's Center of Wilmington, and the class visit prompted a large photo and article in the *Delaware State News*.

TC Charlotte Byrd's Wilmington Christian class ran an essay contest on geographic news, judged by the WILM station manager, and displayed maps and letters from relatives of students in the Middle East, responding to specific geographic questions posed by the students.

The geographic basis of current news, which was the theme of National Geographic lesson packets which the Alliance mailed to many teachers statewide, was also a highlight of TC Maggie Legates' classes at Milford Middle School. Posters and video displays focussed on how different news sources treated the Gulf crisis, with particular emphasis on cultural and climate factors.

Displays were also prominent at Smyrna Middle School, where TC Jacqui Wilson arranged for a large map which greeted visitors to the foyer, portraying flags from the nations of students forebears. Other schools made use of the PA system, with geography questions of the day. TC Bill Hutchison arranged a contest between homerooms at Central Middle School in Dover; Tom Hickey

STATEMENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, geography offers perspectives and information in understanding ourselves, our relationship to the Earth and its resources, and our interdependence with other people of the world; and

WHEREAS, many recent surveys have observed a troubling lack of geographic knowledge among the students and citizens of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, ignorance of geography places our state and nation at a disadvantage with other countries in matters of business, politics, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Delaware seeks to enhance its involvement with the worldwide economy which requires that its students and citizens possess an understanding of the different lands and cultures of the world; and

WHEREAS, improvement in the teaching of geography in Delaware's schools is of great importance and contributes to one of the six national educational goals for the Year 2000; and

WHEREAS, the State has begun the task of improving geographic education by supporting the Delaware Geographic Alliance, and the Alliance has now completed its first successful Summer Institute, training twenty Teacher-Consultants to offer more than thirty workshops this school year to fellow teachers throughout the State, introducing new advances in teaching geography K-12.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, MICHAEL N. CASTLE, GOVERNOR, AND DALE E. WOLF, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare the week of November 11 - 17, 1990, as:

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Delaware, and urge all Delawareans to recognize the importance of geography and work towards the improvement of geographic knowledge in our schools and communities.



Michael N. Castle
Governor

Dale E. Wolf
Lieutenant Governor

of Kirk Middle and TC Carole Bigelow at Burnett Elementary organized similar competitions.

Probably the most commonly celebrated activity was the Second Annual T-Shirt Wear-In organized by TC Mary Alice Aguilar's class at Redding Middle School. Students in schools across the state were encouraged to wear T-shirts featuring a place which could be found on a map. From what we have been told, the Wear-in occurred in many schools and helped to highlight the geographic diversity of places. The Redding students also mailed requests to participate in a nation-wide Wear-in to over 400 schools

across the country. The students addressed their own envelopes and located the recipients on a U.S. map showing every county. Over 200 replies were received, often with photos and other comments indicating how many students in each school participated. The students are now mapping the results... and thinking about next year's plans.

This report has tried to capture some of the enthusiasm for geographic learning which occurred during the week. While we don't have room to report all we know that occurred, we would still like to hear from any of you who have yet to tell us about your activities.

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

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SUMMER GEOGRAPHY

INSTITUTE

JULY 7 - 24

BROCHURE AND APPLICATION FORM

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Delaware Geographic Alliance will conduct its own Summer Geography Institute, designed to graduate State Geography Teacher-Consultants, capable of enriching their own classrooms with geographic learning, as well as conveying this interest and ability to colleagues in future workshops and presentations,

The Institute will follow a model developed by the National Geographic Society. Participants will receive a solid introduction to the field of geography, exposure to a state-wide and national network of similarly enthusiastic teachers interested in geographic education, and receive a substantial quantity of teaching materials and resources provided by the Alliance and the National Geographic Society.

The Institute will have *three elements*:

- * an overview of the discipline of geography (academic content)
- * demonstration of teaching materials and strategies for presenting geography in the classroom, both as a subject on its own and as part of other subjects
- * an in-service experience in the development and presentation of geographic teaching units to other teachers.

In general, the content of the Institute will focus on the entire field of geography, but where appropriate, each part will utilize examples from within the state, as a theme of the Institute will be the *Geography of Delaware*.

INSTRUCTION

Instruction will include lectures, discussions, simulations, media, panel discussions, and extensive exploration of geographic principles through field trips. Geography deals with the world as it is, and we take the view that examining examples of a particular subject in the field is a far better method of learning than abstract descriptions in the classroom. Field work also tends to break down formality, and advance the idea of group exploration of ideas.

PLANNED FIELD TRIPS

The following field trips are designed to provide participants with a more detailed view of Delaware's geography and that of surrounding states, than is usually gained from casual acquaintance. Even long-time residents may be surprised by the perspectives and approach taken by the field-trip leaders:

- * the historical and contemporary landscapes of southern Delaware. An 1856 map will be used to guide participants around a county that is experiencing a contemporary conflict between traditional farming and expanding suburban culture. (Leaders: TCs Margaret Legates and Dawn Willis)

- * physical processes along the Delaware coast, and the conflict between nature and human settlement (Leader: Professor John C. Kraft, UD Department of Geology [tentative])

- * central Delaware: the nature of nineteenth century social and economic life portrayed in the design and preservation of houses; archaeological exposure of early Delaware life along the Route 13 By-Pass (Leaders: Professor Bernard Herman, UD Center for Historic Archaeology and Engineering; TC Bill Hutchison)

- * the physical and human geography of New Castle County, Delaware. Examination of the Piedmont-Coastal plain interface as the dominant theme of northern Delaware's physical geography; exploration of Wilmington's ethnic communities in historical and contemporary context; preserving historic New Castle (Leaders: Professors Thomas Meierding and Yda Schreuder, UD Department of Geography; TC Carole Bigelow)

- * historical evolution and contemporary planning in central Philadelphia (Leader: Professor Peter Rees, UD Department of Geography)

- * the Pennsylvania Anthracite country - a transect of the region, including visits to Hawk Mountain, Centralia (the town on fire), and an underground mine.

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

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SUMMER GEOGRAPHY

INSTITUTE

JULY 7 - 24

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION FOR
STATE SUMMER GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE
(JULY 7 - JULY 24, 1991)

NAME _____ SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

_____ PHONE _____

SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS _____

_____ PHONE _____

GRADES AND SUBJECTS TAUGHT _____

NUMBER OF YEARS OF TEACHING _____

POST-BACCALAUREATE EDUCATION _____

PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF TWO REFERENCES WHO
MAY BE ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT YOUR ROLE AS A TEACHER:

PLEASE PROVIDE A STATEMENT BELOW DESCRIBING WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE INSTITUTE.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Please return the completed application by **March 31, 1991** to the Delaware Geographic Alliance, Department of Geography, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716.

Note: those admitted to the Institute will be asked for a letter from a principal or other administrator committing support to the Institute graduate to provide three workshops or presentations in the following school year. Admission will not be complete until this letter is received.

TO: DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
NEWARK, DE 19716

CORE FACULTY

Core faculty include Dr. Peter Rees, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Delaware, who is a human and urban geographer with research experience in the U.S., Europe, and Latin America. Dr. Rees will present a majority of the academic content material. He will be assisted by guest lectures and field trips by Dr. Thomas Meierding, a physical geographer, and Dr. Yda Schreuder, an urban geographer, both Associate Professors, UD Geography Department. Teaching strategies and leaders of in-service presentations will include Maggie Legates, Milford Middle School, Carole Bigelow, Burnett Elementary School, Joan Callaghan, Holy Spirit School, Bill Hutchison, Central Middle School, Dover, Tom Neubauer, Middletown High School, Mary Alice Aguilar, Redding Middle School, Kris Knarr, McIlvaine Elementary School, and Jaqui Wilson, Smyrna Middle School. All the teacher staff are Geography Teacher-Consultants, and graduates of either the National Geographic national, or state, summer institutes.

LOCATION

To provide statewide coverage, the Institute will be held from July 7 - 11 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and from July 14 - 24 on the UD campus in Newark, Delaware. The schedule will normally begin each day at 8.00 a.m. and last until 4.30 p.m., although some evening activities will also be included. *A residential option at no charge to participants will be available at either or both locations.*

CREDIT

Participants will receive *four graduate credits* in geography from the University of Delaware, and will be expected to register for the Second Summer Session.

Participants will be asked to bring to the Institute a classroom lesson utilizing geography which has been personally successful. The lesson will be further developed during the Institute and will be the basis of a presentation each participant will make to a group of colleagues. In addition, during and after the Institute, each individual will be

asked to develop with the assistance of the Institute staff a second geography lesson, utilizing some aspect of the geography of the state. Copies of all lessons produced will become part of the resources provided to all participants. There will also be a final exam on geographic content. The grade for graduate credit will be based on the exam, the presentation, and the quality of the newly developed lesson. In addition, with support from their school administrations, Institute graduates must agree to present at least three staff-development workshops based on geography teaching units developed, during the 1991-92 school year. The Alliance will provide materials support and a

COSTS

We have tried to make the Institute as cost-free as possible. There will be no charge to participants for meals taken during the hours the Institute is in session, or for the residential option available at either or both locations of the Institute. Field trips, textbooks, and other teaching resource materials will also be provided at no charge. Fees for University of Delaware summer session are waived for public school teachers; for private school teachers, the Alliance will match contributions from schools and/or parishes to cover the cost of tuition.

ATMOSPHERE

We try to create a relaxed environment in which learning is intensive but not at the expense of building group camaraderie. The feeling we seek is one in which the entire Institute, participants and staff, are engaged in the common enterprise of advancing geographic education in Delaware.

To stimulate this atmosphere, dress is casual throughout, opportunities to interact with colleagues are continuous, and presentations are in the form of interactive discussions than formal lectures. In addition, a number of social events have been scheduled, including a harbor boat trip in Lewes, followed by supper at Fisherman's Wharf; a crab feast at H.M.S. Bounty, a pool party, and a final graduation banquet.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are strongly encouraged from *anyone* who is now a teacher in a Delaware school, or who will be teaching in Delaware in the 1991-1992 school year. Teachers of *all* grades, K-12, are welcomed and will find the Institute to be an experience of value, whatever grade they teach.

Previous background in geography is *not* a prerequisite; nor is the intent to teach a geography class in the future. Rather we seek participants in any area of teaching (social studies, sciences, mathematics, English, reading, languages, arts) who have an interest in integrating geography concepts and instruction into their existing classes.

COMMENTS FROM EARLIER INSTITUTES

" this experience has changed my rather narrow view of geography...I was enriched and extended"

"I thought it was great to get together with other Delaware teachers and UD profs and discover Geography via total immersion..."

" I'm involving my class in geography immediately..."

"it was extremely helpful to come back with practical ideas that I could use and share with my colleagues"

"excellent lectures, well developed field trips, and great people"

Delaware Geographic Alliance
Department of Geography
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

An application form for the Institute is included in the center of this brochure. Applications should be submitted to the Alliance by **MARCH 31, 1991**. Notification concerning admission will be mailed on April 15, 1991. Applications will continue to be accepted after those dates if places in the Institute remain to be filled, and a short waiting list will also be developed.

Application to the Institute is competitive and will be limited to *a maximum of 26 participants*, so we urge you to submit your application early.

Applications should be submitted to:

Delaware Geographic Alliance
Department of Geography
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

U.S. or state mail may be used.

For more information, please feel free to call the Alliance at 451-2294.

TO:

DELAWARE COVERS: AN UPDATE

Geography Awareness Week didn't end in November for the Alliance. As we reported in the last newsletter, the Alliance's major "impact" project this fall was delivery of a world outline map to every middle school student in the state. Supported by grants from the World Affairs Council of Wilmington and the Wilmington Rotary, some 50,000 maps were produced, portraying the outline of countries and continents. The maps were printed on heavy stock paper so that they could be used as book covers, but first we hoped that they would be used in all subject areas from science to reading. We wanted each student to map information, so that geographic perspectives would become clearer, and a colorful map would result.

Maps were delivered in early December to every school in the state, and in sufficient numbers that there should have been a copy for every fourth through eighth grade student. We also included a teacher's guide for every teacher involved in those grades. Please let us know if either the maps or the teacher's guides failed to arrive.

We want to thank publicly all those teachers who volunteered their time to count and package the maps: Mary Koster, Tom Hickey, Marianne D'Anastasio, Tom and Anne Neubauer, Kevin Sullivan, Mary Alice Aguilar, Martha Claverie, Cheryl Morton, Joan Callaghan, Kelli Martin, Mike Doughty, Lois Kranitz, Roseanne Murphy, and Mary-Anna Taylor. Bill Huchison, Kris Knarr, Cheri Bragg, Maggie Legates, and Jacqui Wilson, and Charlotte Byrd also helped with distribution.

DELAWARE COVERS: THE COMPETITION

The Alliance, and its sponsors, want to know how the maps were used. To encourage you to let us know, we are sponsoring a competition for the best use of the maps in each grade. The subject area is not limited to social studies: teachers of science, reading, languages, english, math, are also eligible. We will award a copy of the brand new National Geographic World Atlas to the classroom with the most innovative map

project. A committee of teachers will judge the entries. An Atlas will be awarded for each grade level, four through eight. So send us descriptions of your projects, and samples of the maps produced, to the Alliance (see the address on the mailing cover).

Deadline for entries to be received:

March 31, 1991

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Alliance is planning a number of events for the spring and summer. Look for announcements of the following:

- * Workshops on teaching geography
- * State Geography Bee Finals,
April 5, 1991 at the
University of Delaware
- * Third Annual Statewide Alliance Meeting
- * Summer Geography Institute
July 7 - 24, 1991
(see announcement in this newsletter)

FREE GEOGRAPHY LESSONS STILL AVAILABLE

The Alliance still has available some copies of the geography lesson, "Geography: Window on a Changing World." The packet, produced by the National Geographic Society, contains a series of suggested lessons relating geography to current events in the media. These lesson ideas and materials cover the K-12 spectrum. Also included is a colorful poster displaying the flags of the world nations.

Our supply is limited so please contact the Alliance as soon as possible for your free copy.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TV SPECIALS BROCHURE IN THE MAIL

The Alliance is mailing a copy of a teacher's guide to the National Geographic specials being shown on TV this spring. It contains ideas for classroom activities associated with each documentary.

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