

DELAWARE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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ALLIANCE WILL OFFER TWO INSTITUTES THIS SUMMER

(details below; applications inside)

SUMMER GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS (ASGI)

For the 10th time, the alliance will again offer its popular two-week summer institute (**June 20 - July 2, 1999**). This year's theme, *Hands-On Geography in Delaware's Classrooms*, will include an introduction to geography content, demonstration of K-12 geography teaching strategies in the context of the state standards, experience of geographic analysis in the field in all three counties, and training in the presentation of teaching ideas to colleagues. Above all, the institute offers an opportunity to interact with colleagues in a relaxed yet stimulating atmosphere! In addition, participants will receive over \$300 worth of classroom teaching materials and become part of a statewide and nationwide network of teachers interested in strengthening geography education in the classroom.

The first week of the Institute will be held at the Virden Center in Lewes. After a break of a day to move camp, the second week will take place on the UD campus in Newark. Accommodations in Lewes, optional accommodations in Newark, most meals, textbooks, and lesson plans are all provided at no charge to participants. The institute carries four UD graduate credits.

Previous participants have found the institute to be a fantastic learning experience, enriching their capacity in the classroom as well as enlarging their knowledge of parts of Delaware not previously experienced. Teachers in all grades and subject areas are welcome but only 24 places are available so sign-up early!

TEACHING GEOGRAPHY WITH TECHNOLOGY

For teachers interested in developing their geography technology skills, the Alliance has developed a new institute that will offer the opportunity to learn to use mapping software and explore Internet resources. Located in UD's Pearson Hall, the technology institute will run for two weeks, separated by the long July 4th weekend (**June 27-July 2; July 6-July 10, 1999**).

Participants will become comfortable with the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software such as *ArcVoyager* and *ArcView* that in turn will allow them to develop units for students involving the collection, mapping, and analyzing of real data to solve practical problems. Suppose the county proposes to build a new library. The first question is where to locate the facility. Students can gather demographic data from the Internet for their local area, map the result, then have the computer redraw the mapped information until the best location for the library is revealed. In so doing, they will learn real geography as called for in the state standards and make a tangible contribution to their community. After taking this institute, participants will be able to show their students how such projects can be achieved.

The institute is open to all teachers with an interest in the topic and wish to become more technologically skilled. The institute carries four UD graduate credits and will make available at no cost all textbooks, software, copies of lesson plans, and accommodations for out-of-towners. Again, there are only 24 places available.

1999 DELAWARE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Twelve Delaware teachers have been nominated for 1999 Delaware Teacher of the Year: **Cynthia Baker**, Sussex Central Middle School; **Kenneth Bardales**, Warner Elementary School; **Barbara Duffin**, Banneker Elementary School; **Shannon Lapinsky**, Holy Cross; **Kerry Lowe**, Clayton Elementary; **Terry Kopple**, Lewes Middle School; **William Maroon**, Caesar Rodney High School; **Michele Miller**, North Dover Elementary; **Mary Moore**, Caesar Rodney Junior High School; **Mark Pruitt, Jr.**, McKean High School; **Rebecca Reed**, Gunning Bedford Middle School; and **Dawn Willis**, Milford Middle School.

Judging of the candidates and their dossiers will be by a committee of former winners: **Neil Webster**, William Penn High School; **Pat Killalea**, Welch Elementary, and Alliance staff.

This year's winner will be announced at the annual spring dinner meeting on March 18, 1999.

MT. OLIVE CEMETERY PROJECT

TC Kevin Kelly (Wilmington Charter school) has begun an multi-subject learning project focusing on the improvement of the Mt. Olive Cemetery off Lancaster Pike in Wilmington. The cemetery contains graves of African-Americans whose dates of birth extend from the late 18th to the late 20th centuries. Before Kevin and his students began the project, the cemetery was a tangle of tall grass and shrubs extending over three or four acres. Kevin's project involves clearing the overgrowth (biology), mapping the cemetery and gravestones, hopefully using a GIS data base (geography), developing a historical record of the site (history) and genealogical information about those interred.

Kevin would be interested in participation from other nearby schools who would like to get involved in this educational project in public service. You can call him at the Charter School, 302-633-6122.

GRANTS TO THE ALLIANCE AND INDIVIDUAL TCs

The Alliance recently received a major grant from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development State Grant (Title II) to partially support the this summer's geography technology institute.

Another grant was obtained to support two TCs (**Maggie Legates**, Milford Middle School) and **Becky Reed** (Gunning Bedford Middle School) to attend a training session in presenting ARGUS materials, held at last November's annual meeting of the National Council for Geographic Education. ARGUS (Activities and Readings in the Geography of the United States) is a series of 24 units and a CD-ROM for Middle and High School classes that can be used as a complete course in geography or integrated with courses in U.S. History or economics. Becky and Maggie will be demonstrating ARGUS materials and indicating how they can be used to support instruction in the geography standards. Their presentations are presently scheduled for the mid-winter TC meeting (January 30, 1999); the Delaware Technical Conference, and the summer technology institute.

Individual TCs have also been actively pursuing grants. **Bill Maroon** (Caesar Rodney High School) recently received an MBNA award to support the purchase of a computer projector to aid in presentations concerning the forthcoming AP course in Geography. MBNA also supported **Cindy Baker** (Sussex Central Middle School) in a project she developed linking geography and literature. Both Bill and Cindy mentioned their involvement in the Alliance as a major factor in giving them the support and encouragement to seek these grants for worthwhile educational projects.

ALLIANCE TCs PRESENT WORKSHOP AT RED CLAY IN-SERVICE

The first fruits of last summer's advanced workshop paid off when an alliance team (**Patsy Warner** and **Bob McCormick**, Redding Middle
(continued on page 3)

School; and **MaryAnna Taylor**, Alliance Project Coordinator) gave an all-day presentation for middle school teachers at Red Clay's in-service on November 18, 1998. The program garnered rave reviews from Red Clay teachers. Other districts or schools that would like to receive presentations from one of our teacher teams on standards-based geography instruction should contact the Alliance at 302-831-6783.

LETTER FROM CHINA

For many years before the 1980s, British *radio* listeners enjoyed hearing Alistair Cook's "Letter from America" about the fables and foibles of the land across the pond. Now our very own TC, Marion Godfrey, sends us a "Letter from China." Marion has been living in Shanghai for the past year and a half, part of a three-year assignment for her husband, and she has put her geography training to good use as the following letter she sent us last November clearly indicates:

"Hello from Shanghai!

I was in Yunan Province in Southwest China last week in a little town called Lijiang, northwest of Kunming. We went part way up Jade Dragon Snow Mountain on a cable car and I was looking at all of the flora underneath, trying to decide which other part of the world I knew that it looked most like. There was Spanish moss hanging from evergreen trees, and the mountain below looked partly red clay and partly rock, and the shape of the mountains above were somewhat different from what I had seen before, and I thought to myself, "Next time I get a chance, I want to take a geology course so I understand better how this all happens!!!!"

My biggest interest is still the people I get to observe, though, and the old city of Lijiang was fascinating for that because at least three different minority tribes live there-- the Nuxi, the Bai, and the Yi. My experience was that all it took was a smile and a few of my clearly mispronounced Mandarin words, and they were usually happy to let me take their pictures and "talk" in "Chinglish". Their lifestyle is more like old China than what I see daily as I ride my bike in Shanghai, with ladies washing clothes and vegetables and scrubbing their pots in

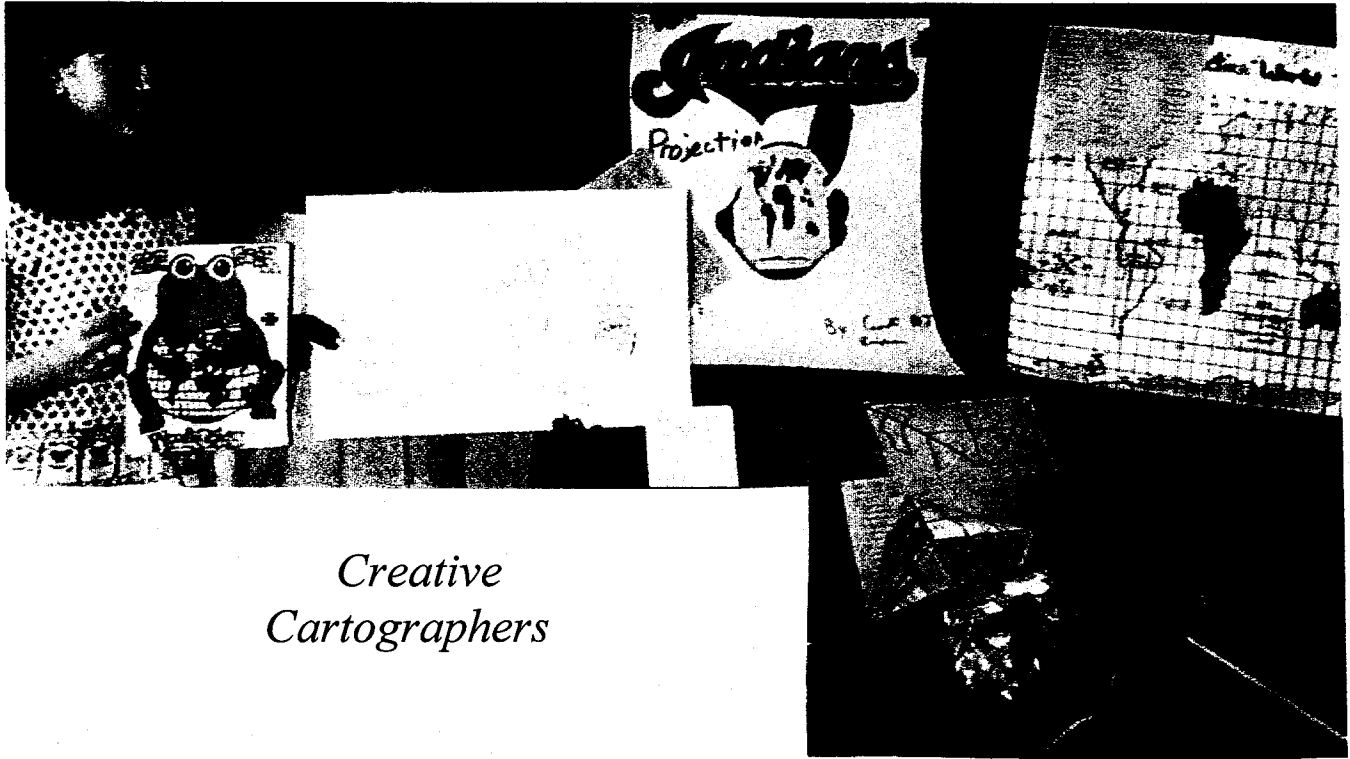
the narrow canals outside their front doors, older women carrying heavy loads on their backs, and younger women carrying babies on their backs tied on under bright, hand decorated covers. The clean air in Yunan where there's not much heavy manufacturing was definitely refreshing!

At the end of August, we spent a 12 day R and R in Australia, and my husband and daughters commented that the itinerary I planned was definitely influenced by the Geography teacher in me! They got a bit weary, but they learned lots! We started with Sydney, and then went onto Alice Springs and Ayers Rock in the desert of Central Australia, then to the incredible tropical rainforest north of Cairns, and last to Lizard Island near the Great Coral Reef. We snorkeled on the Reef--what incredibly bright fish and coral--absolutely beautiful! My last morning out, I had a face to face encounter with a sea turtle, what a neat surprise! Unfortunately I had used up all the photos in my disposable underwater camera!

First marking period, our ninth grader Meg wrote a paper tying in the five main themes of geography to what she could see out the window on her half hour bus trip to and from school each morning complete with photos, for her World Geography class. She is now wearing that new pair of glasses we all got when we took our Geography Alliance courses; there is so much interesting to observe nearby, and you see it in a whole new light! I still am often reminded of Peter's lesson in the "clustering" of businesses, of why all the shops that sell hardware end up next to each other; it happens here, too!!! We just don't happen to have a Burger King to go next to MacDonald's, but there is a Pizza Hut on that street!!!

Christmas will find us meeting our two older kids on the South Island of New Zealand, hoping to take advantage of the way down under summer weather for a relaxed family outdoor time together. A very happy holiday to all of you! -Marion Godfrey"

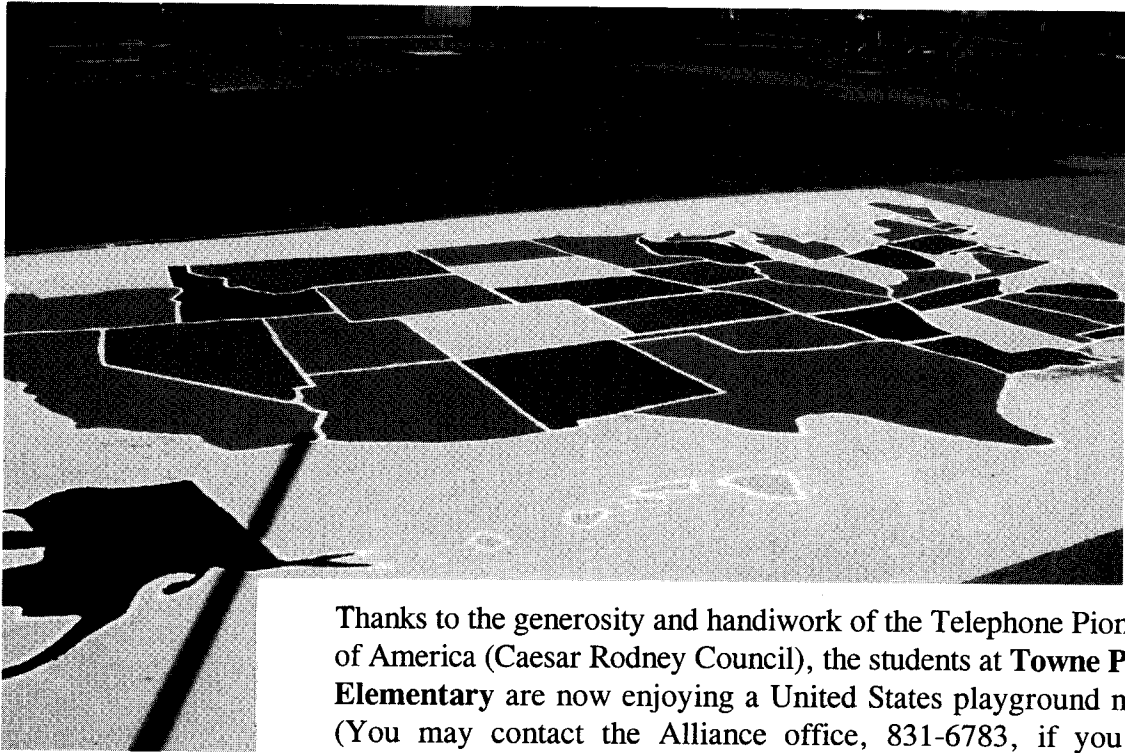
Marion has also presented geography lessons to staff and students at the American School at Shanghai, and generally spread the word about the Alliance in China. Just another example of how our TCs "spread the word about Geography." If you want to contact Marion, you can e-mail her at: godfreym@guomai.sh.cn



*Creative
Cartographers*

Seventh grade students at Gunning Bedford Middle School proudly display their creative maps and globes which they produced to culminate a map projections unit. TC Becky Reed is their teacher.

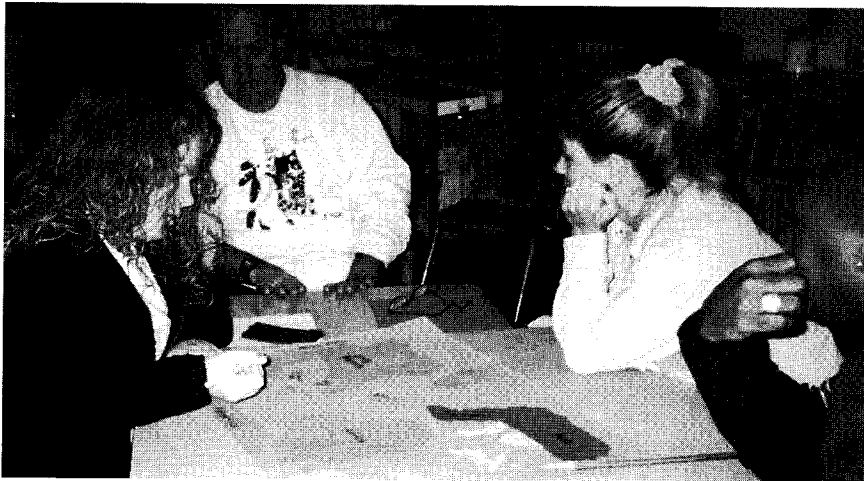




Thanks to the generosity and handiwork of the Telephone Pioneers of America (Caesar Rodney Council), the students at **Towne Point Elementary** are now enjoying a United States playground map. (You may contact the Alliance office, 831-6783, if you are interested in learning how to do a playground map at your school.)



Red Clay teachers drew upon their mental images to create "tear maps" of the world during the mental mapping segment of the in-service.



ANNUAL SPRING MEETING FEATURES WEBMEISTER

Ford Cochran, the NGS expert on designing the National Geographic's web pages, and in particular the *Xpeditions* page, will be the featured speaker at the alliance's Annual Spring Dinner Meeting to be held **March 18, 1999** at the Maple Dale Country Club in Dover. Once again, the Alliance will be offering teachers a virtually free dinner as well as exciting door prizes to come and find out more about the alliance and its programs. Presentations of the Delaware Geography Teacher of the Year award and the Alliance's Distinguished Service Award will also be featured.

The main speaker, Ford Cochran, is a truly dynamic presenter and will speak on the trials and tribulations of pulling together all the resources needed to construct an informative, entertaining, and educational national website. His experience should be of value to many of us in our infancy as web creators.

Look for a separate announcement and registration form in the mail in late February.

1998 GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK REPORT

Geography Awareness Week was held last year from November 15-21 and was widely recognized across the state. Activities ranged from a world cultural fair at **Milford Middle School** to a focus on population pyramids in a combined geography and mathematics class at **Smyrna Elementary School** to the construction of 3-D landform maps at **Redding Middle School** to use of the GAW CD-ROM in classes at **Delcastle Technical High School**. Wednesday, November 18 was the T-Shirt Where-In day, organized nationwide by Redding Middle School TC **Mary Alice Aguilar** and her students. Reports to date indicate that 72, 729 students across the country. Delaware contributed 4,849 of those participants.

Finding out all that went on that week is tough so this year the alliance offered an incentive to teachers to send in reports of their activities. In a drawing from those who responded, the winners

were: **Beth Judy**, Woodbridge Elementary, who received an NGS Habitats Kit: Realm of the Tiger; **Kristen Wildes**, Gunning Bedford Middle School, who received an NGS Atlas of North America; and **Betty Hudson**, Brittingham Elementary, who received an NGS World Atlas. Congratulations to these three teachers, and many thanks to all teachers who participated in GAW and especially to those who sent in reports of their activities.

MILLENNIUM MAP GIVEAWAY

A few weeks ago, a national news program sent a reporter onto the streets to ask passers-by how to spell "Millennium." Needless to say, there were many incorrect responses and almost no one got it right: two "Ls" and two "Ns." Besides being able to spell the word, next millennium's students need to be geographically prepared. With that in mind, The National Geographic Society recently sent a brand new world map to *every* school in the United States. By now, your school should have received this dramatic new wall map measuring four feet by six feet. The map, mailed in a fat tube, is hopefully now prominently displayed in your school or featured in your school library, and not still stacked in a dusty corner of the principal's office.

The map uses the latest satellite imagery from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and is accurate regarding place names and national borders as of mid-summer 1998 - about as up-to-date a world map as you can find and an appropriate resource with which to begin the next millennium. However, in case you wanted to use the map for additional teaching purposes, three excellent lesson plans have been developed. One, for grades K-4 is titled: *Map Observations-Political, Physical and Biome Maps*; for grades 5-8 there is a lesson called: *Exploration: Overcoming the Obstacles*; and for grades 9-12, the lesson is titled: *The World's Deserts and Global Climate Change: How will Humans Fare?* Copies of these lessons may be downloaded from the NGS website: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapskills>.