AWARDS & REWARDING TALK SUCCESSFUL SPRING DINNER

The Alliance held its annual Spring Meeting at Maple Dale Country Club on April 13, and it was one of the most successful in recent years.

Cindy Baker and her students once again supplied the decorative touch everyone enjoyed. The presentation of awards is always a highlight, and this year was no exception.

The service award this year went to two long-time TCs, both of whom were eminently deserving, Annie Neubauer of Redding Intermediate and Neil Webster of William Penn High. Both have contributed their time and talents to the Alliance over several years.

Annie has worked in numerous capacities, principally GAW and the State Geographic Bee. Just this year she served as one of the moderators.

Neil has put most of his effort into professional development, having presented many workshops over the years; he has served several times in the important position of staff member or director of ASGI.

These winners exemplify the ideal TC.

The Alliance holds its place as the best (O.K. There’s a little prejudice here.) of the state-wide subject-area organizations because of such active teacher consultants.

This year’s Geography Teacher of the Year is Dawn Willis of Milford Middle School. She teaches fifth and sixth grade gifted students. Through her involvement in just about every social studies organization and in technology training and readiness to share her expertise, she has impacted literally every school in the state. She richly deserves this honor.

See Speaker, page 8

Alliance Lines up a Busy Summer Schedule

The Delaware Geographic Alliance again offers its popular Summer Geography Institute this July. This is a two-week residential program. The first week, July 9-14, will be held at the University of Delaware Department of Geography, Pearson Hall; the second week, July 16-21, will be held at the Virden Center, Lewes, Delaware.

This is the well-known institute that gives Delaware teachers geographic instruction, first-hand observation of some of Delaware’s regions, sample lesson plans galore, and training in presentation techniques.

All expenses are covered by the Alliance, including tuition, texts and other materials, accommodations, group travel for field trips, and all group meals.

Ask any TC about the value of this institute. Most call it the best professional development experience of their careers. Perhaps the biggest bonus is to gain the Alliance and its TCs as colleagues and resources to be called on in the future. Many graduates become involved actively in the Alliance and take advantage of various institutes held by other states.

Some recent graduates—see the sidebar—said this: "Two weeks of geographic fundamentals, friendship and food!!! The geography Institute helped to illuminate the geography standards. We became more confident in using and interpreting geographic information. Another bonus was the fact that we received a box full of lesson plans—many that we’ve actually used!"

The Institute also gave us a number of maps, a Goode’s Atlas and a tee shirt. Our professional network...

See Institutes, page 6
On the Bookshelf — Reviews
Head to Toe Coverage

We have two similar and yet quite different candidates for your summertime geography reading, each an exhaustive treatment of one of Earth’s polar regions.

Across the Top of the World, the Quest for the Northwest Passage, by James P. Delgado (Checkmark-Facts on File, 1999) relates the long saga of explorations aimed at finding the Northwest passage. Delgado, the executive director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum in British Columbia, has had a long involvement in participating in and leading shipwreck studies. He led an archaeological study of Roald Amundsen’s ship Maud, the first such detailed study of a shipwreck in arctic waters. His long experience furnishes his accounts with the details of conditions that make the reader always aware of the peril the expeditions were facing.

It was only a half century after the voyages of Columbus that the search for a practicable route around the Americas began in earnest. It was of commercial and strategic interest to all the European powers.

Englishman Martin Frobisher sailed with three ships and 37 men in 1576 and found what he mistakenly thought was the entrance to the northwest passage. Late in the season, he lost his ship’s boat and five men; capturing an Inuit as proof of his penetration, he barely escaped before winter closed in.

Expedition after expedition set sail for the next 250 years from Europe and met failure in the Arctic. Sometimes they were helped or guided by the Inuit, but often the locals were unfriendly. Many men and ships were lost over three centuries with little to show for their efforts.

In 1845 Sir John Franklin left England with two ships, both outfitted with specially strengthened hulls, equipped with steam engines and stocked for a three-year voyage.

It was all for naught. They crossed the Atlantic, met two whaling ships and moored their ships to a big iceberg to await favorable sailing conditions. The explorers and whaling crews spent some time together. Then, as Delgado puts it, “The Arctic closed around them, and they vanished.”

Not for two years was any thought given to a search, as they had been supplied for a three-year voyage. In 1849, several search expeditions were sent out but failed to find a trace of Franklin. Not until the summer of 1850 were any traces found; they found a campsite from the first winter.

Eventually, enough was pieced together to credit Franklin with being the first explorer actually to be virtually through the passage, although precisely what disaster struck them wasn’t discovered. With Inuit help, an American explorer, Charles Francis Hall, found the complete skeleton of Lieutenant Henry LeVesonte of the ship Erebus.

Finally, Roald Amundsen, the famed Norwegian polar explorer made the first complete trip through the passage, arriving in Nome in 1905. He prepared for years, becoming an expert navigator and sailor and selecting carefully an excellent crew of only seven. A critical decision was to employ a small ship where so many large ones had failed. The Gjoa was a thirty-year-old fishing sloop only 69 feet long. He had it especially strengthened and installed a small diesel engine which he described as “the pet of everyone on board.”

The book has dozens of pictures, maps and illustrations and provides gripping reading.

Antarctic Odyssey, In the Footsteps of the South Polar Explorers, by Graham Collier and Patricia Graham Collier (Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1999) pursues a somewhat different organizational plan. This husband and wife team has produced a book blending the technical and poetic. Author Graham centers his accounts around the geography of Antarctic, particularly the areas traversed by the various explorers; he provides exhaustive descriptions and maps. His approach is more geographic than historical or biographical, but if you know the stories of the famous expeditions, you will have no difficulty.

Photographer Patricia provides absolutely stunning pictures from everywhere they went on three extended visits to the continent. She records the physical features of the terrain, if that is indeed the right term, and they are among the most magnificent scenic pictures you could hope to see. She includes some of the clearest close-ups of wildlife ever published.

There are good capsule descriptions of the explorers who gained fame pushing for the South Pole: James Clark Ross, who made three early forays into the Antarctic wilderness; Ernest Shackleton, who was a member of Scott’s first expedition and later led three of his own and died in sight of South Georgia; Robert Falcon Scott, who reached the South Pole a month after Amundsen and died with all his party on the return trip; and, of course, Amundsen, who was the first to conquer both the North and the South, the first to traverse the Northwest Passage and the first to reach the South Pole.

The tone of the writing and the beauty of the photographs make this a more emotional experience, but the historical information is intermixed in such a way that it requires concentration to keep the chronology of the explorations straight.

These two books together make a fabulously exciting and engrossing read, full of hardships, beauty and heroes to admire.
Alliance Members Busy at the Bee

Delaware's Geographic Bee, held April 7, at Clayton Hall, was very exciting. There were many high scorers from the original seventy contestants, necessitating a run-off to fill out the list of ten finalists to appear on the stage with Tom Neubauer as moderator.

After the early eliminations, tensions rose as it always does at the approach of the last few questions. That tension was broken once. Shawn Soviak, a Redding Intermediate sixth grader, was asked to name the most populous city of Gabon; he stood on tiptoe to reach the microphone and announced clearly and loudly, "I don't know!" When Tom shot back, "I didn't either!" the audience cracked up.

Shortly later Shawn wrapped up third place; second went to Patrick Boyer, a seventh grader from St Ann School. The Delaware champion is Ramsey Furse, an eleven-year-old sixth grader from Lewes Middle School. This young man is a veritable fount of geographic information, and he may also have profited from past experience; this is his second Delaware championship.

Ramsey will represent Delaware at the national Bee on May 23 and 24 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. All of us wish him the best.

Delaware has one hundred schools that qualify to send contestants to the State level, but so far we've not come close to having them all participate. Some efforts toward encouraging more schools to become involved are in the works for next year.

Two TCs Bring Their Students Together
Becky, Maggie and 43 Young Geographers with GPS!
Can You Doubt That Good Geography Was Done and Fun Had?

On May 16th, two TCs were able to get some of their students together for some hands-on geography. Maggie Legates took thirty-three of her Milford Middle School students to visit Becky Reed's Gunning Bedford students. Ten of Becky's students, who comprised her Community Atlas Group, led Maggie's on a GPS (Global Positioning Systems) scavenger hunt, using four belonging to the Alliance and one belonging to Becky.

Becky's students had devised the hunt as part of their Community Atlas Group after-school meetings. A sample question is, "What do fish swim in?" Since fish swim in a school, the waypoint was the entrance to the school.

Marking the entrance of the school

The five groups competed for a typical Alliance-type prize — food! The winning team got Twizzlers.

One team of girls learned a lesson about not getting too excited. They were having such grand fun figuring out the clues that they began to run from place to place and forgot to enter at least some of the waypoints. They didn't win, but they had a great time.

Oh, never mind! Let's find the next one.

What do you suppose the clue was?
"Long may she wave?"

See Becky and Maggie, page 6
Progress Report

We recently received an unsolicited note from a TC that we wanted to share with you because it reflects the efforts of teachers up and down the state to implement the geography standards.

"A student has just enrolled in our school - his fourth for the year. His explanation of the physical processes of mountain building, erosion and silting, and how they have caused the growth of wetlands here on Delmarva indicated that he had not only been in geography classes but had in fact learned a lot. Another seventh grader in my class cited New Orleans as a poor site and further demonstrated his geographic knowledge by explaining that New Orleans' situation, however, provided optimum accessibility to the interior of the continent. My next class figured out why Mexico's population is concentrated in the center of the country while the U.S. population is near the edges. They brought natural hazards, availability of resources, access to markets and jobs, and climate into the discussion. But I was proudest of the young lady who suggested that volcanoes are dangerous but provide great soil. Not bad for 7th grade."

The standards, the workshops, the increased content knowledge that the teachers have gained through summer institutes and geography courses are netting solid returns. Have your students made progress? Are your assessments really measuring growth of genuine learning? Maybe you can take a few minutes to have the students assess what worked well and why. We would appreciate hearing from you.

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The Fall Line

(http://tapestry.usgs.gov/14fallline.html)

Is there a pattern to the location of east coast cities? What is the reason? If you go to the U.S. Geological Survey website you will find the answer - in color.

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Geography Lexicography

map - the word map comes from the Latin word "mappa," meaning cloth or napkin, because medieval maps were drawn on cloth.

atlas - an atlas is a book of maps. The word atlas was first used by Mercator, a 16th century cartographer. Mercator named his books of maps after the Greek god Atlas, who was forced to carry the Earth on his head and shoulders as punishment.

portolan charts - "charts drawn on parchment to help 13th century Mediterranean traders to find harbors along the coastline. They were portable and could be carried around instead of being kept in libraries."


"The Fall Line is a low east-facing cliff paralleling the Atlantic coastline from New Jersey to the Carolinas. It separates hard Paleozoic metamorphic rocks of the Appalachian Piedmont to the west from the softer, gently dipping Mesozoic and Tertiary sedimentary rocks of the Coastal Plain. This erosional scarp, the site of many waterfalls, hosted flume-and-water-wheel-powered industries in colonial times and thus helped determine the location of such major cities as Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond." (Source: United States Geological Survey)
Clockwise from lower right: Top Three Bee winners; Barbara Prillaman and Maurine Greenly, JASON Project pilots; Peter Rees presenting Dawn with the Geography Teacher of the Year Award; Speaker Michael Oates; Geography Teacher of the Year Dawn Willis flanked by the two Service Awardees, Annie Neubauer and Neil Webster.
Institutes, continued from page 1

breaking down the teacher isolation barriers. Last, but not least, they fed us really well. All in all, it was a great experience! We recommend it to all social studies teachers.

For the second year, the Alliance is offering a Geography with Technology Institute. The co-directors/instructors are Jacqui Wilson of Smyrna Middle School and Dawn Willis of Milford Middle School (this year’s Geography Teacher of the Year). Both Jacqui and Dawn have participated in National Geographic Society and ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.) technology institutes.

The institute will be held in the University of Delaware Department of Geography and computer labs in Pearson Hall and will be residential for Kent and Sussex County residents.

This is a first-rate opportunity to learn how to use technology to deliver the best geography instruction to students at all grade levels.

Brenda Dorrell, a participant last summer, had this to say: “The Technology Institute from last summer was a rewarding experience. Learning new equipment and technology to utilize in the classroom gave me great ideas to stimulate my students, not only in social studies and geography but across the curriculum.”

If you have somehow failed to receive an application for either one of the institutes, call MaryAnna Taylor at the Alliance office, 831-6783, and she will get one to you.

Becky and Maggie, continued from page 3

Maggie’s group had another exciting half day. These students had been studying coastal zones, particularly as to human-environment interaction. This made the Port Penn Interpretive Center an ideal place for them to visit.

At the center the students were treated to two living history interpreters. Half the group went into the schoolhouse and Mrs. Jennings acted as their “school marm” and gave them a taste of one-room schoolhouse manners and routines.

At the same time the other half of the students met Hank Weaver — Lee Jennings, but not identified as such. “Hank” is a trapper and waterman bent on showing these young landlubbers what his life is like. He took them into the wetland and showed them a muskrat pelt, in fact, had them touch it. In general, they got an idea about what it meant to live according to the cycles of the wetland and survive on its bounty.

Later the whole group visited the main room, where they learned some fascinating historical information. This little water community relied heavily on a canning industry.

An oddity that the students probably were not able to appreciate properly is that the local watermen caught sturgeon for sale to, of all places, Russia, where the caviar were extracted and resold to the United States!

They also learned that the Dutch settlers in the area had actually created the wetland. Wanting the plenty that a marsh would bring, they flooded the area and created what they wanted.

All in all, it was a busy and productive day for Maggie’s students. They returned home by way of Route 9; many of the students had never before traveled on it except for a previous field trip to the Little Creek area.

This is the kind of experience that teachers can provide their students and that the students are not likely to forget. Who can doubt that these youngsters “have a handle” on just what life as a waterman was like?

Community Atlas Project

Several Delaware teachers participated in the ESRI Community Atlas preparatory class, and fewer were able to complete a project with their students.

Becky Reed and her group of ten students completed their in time to beat the deadline and won a national prize! Anyone can access their atlas at www.esri.com/communityatlas.

Maggie’s group didn’t make the deadline, but they will have completed and submitted theirs by the time you read this.

This is a worthwhile activity, and we hope that several more teachers will be able to participate next year. Becky, for one, will be trying to improve on this year’s effort.

The Answer You Have Been Waiting for Is Here!

Where Is This? What Is It?

It’s a Landsat 7 image of the Great Pyramids of Giza, acquired August 22, 1999. It uses the 15-meter per pixel panchromatic channel.

You can view more Landsat images at http://www.landsat7/browse/pyramid.html
WEB SITES AND CHEAPIES AND FREEBIES

National Science Foundation Traces 50 Years of Ocean Exploration
www.nap.edu/books/0309063981/html/

This site give you access to an online version of a book of essays on ocean discovery from 1950-2000. It is organized into four sections: "Landmark Achievements of Ocean Sciences," "Creating Institutions to Make Scientific Discoveries Possible," "Large and Small Science Programs: A Delicate Balance," and "Ocean Sciences Today and Tomorrow."

A Century of Change: Trends in UK Statistics since 1900

This report is heavy on graphs and tables and includes statistics on population, health, education, defense, crime, transport, energy, economy, and leisure. It could be used as a source for high school classes.

Language of the Land - LOC
http://locweb.loc.gov/exhibits/land/

Using maps and photographs from its collections, the Library of Congress has put together an exhibit showing the connections between America's geography and its literature. It includes quotations from Jack Kerouac and Gertrude Stein.

The World At War 2000 - CDI
www.cdi.org/issues/World_at_War/wwar00.html

This site is from the Center for Defense Information (CDI) and gives an overview of 38 major conflicts in the world at the start of the year 2000. A major conflict is one that incurs 1,000 or more casualties, both civilian and military.

Users can see a list of events of the past year and a chart of ongoing conflicts giving parties, dates, causes, and foreign involvement etc. A chart of potentials spots is also included. This might be very useful in secondary classrooms.

Traffic Waves: Physics for Bored Commuters
www.eskimo.com/~billb/amateur/traffic/traffic.html

Here is a site mainly for the teacher who has a traffic-bedeviled commute. The author is an electrical engineer who spends too much time stuck in traffic, and has made some interesting observations and experiments about traffic. There are also some illustrations, animations and related links.

Global Warming for Real
Below are some sites which have information about global warming.
www.weathervane.rff.org/

Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends
www.cbpp.org/1-18-00spf.htm

This is a report that shows how disparities in income are greater in the 90s than they were in the 80s in most states. A fact sheep is provided.

Mapping Crime

This is a research report from the National Institute of Justice (NJ) and the Crime Mapping Research Center (CMRC) which gives an introduction of the science of crime mapping. There is information on the types of questions crime mapping can answer and how is answers them. There are also a number of GIS maps included.

Ben's Guide to US Government for Kids
http://bensguide.gpo.gov/

This site GPO Access give an overview of the US government for K-12 students. It is broken into five sections, appropriate to grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, and parents and teachers.

Secrets of the Ice - An Antarctic Exploration
www.secretsoftheice.org/

This site is from the Museum of Science in Boston and give an introduction to the environment of Antarctica and the research being carried out there. Visitors can learn about the climate and terrain, read about ice core research, look at the latest reports and listen to archived broadcasts. They can also send in questions or suggest experiments. There are lots of animations, illustrations, photos and related links.

Hubble Is Eyeing the Universe

The images sent back by Hubble are magnificent. Users can also read about the views. Text and photographs can be accessed from the introdutory page.

Health and Health Behaviour amoung Young People (WHO)
http://www.ruhbc.ed.ac.uk/hbsc/download/hbsc.pdf

This site give a report from the World Health Organization (WHO) based on a 1997-98 survey of more than 120,000 school-aged children. The report looked at 11-, 13-, and 15-year old children and their attitudes and experience concerning a wide range of health-related behaviors and lifestyles in 26 European countries and regions, Canada and the United States. An interesting aspect is the finding that US children are LESS likely to smoke or watch excessive TV, but also LESS likely to exercise and eat a sensible diet.
Focal Points
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Speaker, continued from p. 1
The evening's speaker was Michael Oates, an award-winning film documentarian. For some time he has been studying and photographing the Guatemalan migrants living in Georgetown, Delaware. His Power Point presentation documented his trip to Guatemala to visit individuals who have returned from Georgetown temporarily or permanently as well as three communities which have sent large numbers of people to Delaware. It showed a good, though brief, overview of Guatemala's geography; and a closer view of its people and their houses and villages; and glimpses of some of their social traditions. Attendees are waiting hopefully for his film documentary; if it's anything like this taste of his photography and style, the public is in for a real treat. Everybody went away with a much clearer idea of the people living among us.

Delaware Geographic Alliance Steering Committee 1999-00

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