Declare Your Interdependence!
Geography Awareness Week 2012

Geography Awareness Week (GAWeek), celebrated every third week of November, is an awareness program focused on highlighting the importance of geo-literacy and geo-education. A new theme for each year is announced in midsummer accompanied by related online resources and activities, which are then available year-round.

This year’s Geography Awareness Week theme explores the idea that we are all are connected to the rest of the world through the decisions we make on a daily basis, including what foods we eat and the things we buy.

Resources for teachers and youth leaders:
Visit www.geographyawarenessweek.org to get ideas on how to celebrate geography in your classroom. Have your students investigate their own interdependence by completing the “Global Closet Calculator”—an interactive game that aggregates the contents of their own closets by origin to generate a map showing their unique global footprint. Download and print this year’s poster to find global connections with students by investigating the geography of the pencil or doing a hands-on version of the global closet game.

A limited number of printed posters are available by emailing Maggie Legates at maggielg@udel.edu.

Join DGA- or renew your membership online today!

Who belongs to DGA? More than 600 K-16 educators and citizens who believe that students should learn more about their world are members of the Alliance.

What are the benefits of membership? The Alliance supports members with resources, information, professional development opportunities, and events. Alliance members contribute to progress for Delaware students.

How can I join or renew my membership? Membership in the Alliance is free! Simply go to our website at www.degeog.org, click on “Join the DGA”, and complete the simple form.
All involved in the DGA Strategic Planning process agree that it was a lot of work. Over several months the Alliance evaluated data, gathered advice from partners. Members researched and brainstormed, dreamed and drafted. Finally in July the DGA Steering Committee voted to adopt the plan. But the feeling of accomplishment was brief. Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and make the paper plan into a living reality. The complete Strategic Plan is available for review on our website at www.degeog.org.

The strategic planning process was facilitated by Donna Melton of Just-in-Time Communications, Kennett Square, PA under a grant from the National Geographic Education Foundation. Donna produced a two-part document. The first section will be a useful tool for outreach to funders and policymakers as well. The second section includes a detailed implementation plan and evaluation tools. As in the past, success will depend on the involvement of our members. Get involved today!

DGA GOALS 2012-2015
- Organize for effective action
- Advocate effectively for geo-literacy
- Support a growing Membership
- Secure adequate and diversified financial support
- Expand activities and Offerings.

Who are our Partners?
The Delaware Geographic Alliance is supported by, or collaborates with, the following organizations on a regular basis:

- Delaware Department of Education
- National Geographic Education
- Kalmar Nyckel
- Delaware Social Studies Coalition
- Delaware Geographic Data Committee
- Social Studies Coalition of Delaware

Alliance strategic plan sets goals, maps route for future

DGA Calendar for 2012-2013

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<tr>
<th>SEPTEMBER 2012</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th - DGA Steering Committee meets Dover</td>
<td>4-7 National Council for Geographic Education Conference, San Marcos, TX</td>
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<td>27th - Fall Membership Meeting-Dover</td>
<td>6- Coast Day, Lewes, DE</td>
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<td>8- Geography DRC unit training Grade 4-Dover</td>
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<td></td>
<td>22 Geography DRC unit training Grade 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24 Geography DRC unit training Grade 6</td>
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<td>29 Geography DRC unit training Grade 5</td>
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<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>11-17 GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK</td>
<td>3- DGA Steering Committee meeting</td>
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<td>13- “Thinking Geographically” Workshop, Wilmington</td>
<td>JANUARY 2013</td>
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<td>14- Delaware GIS Day event Air Command Museum, Dover</td>
<td>28- DGA Steering Committee meets</td>
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<td>15- DGA Awards Dinner Dover Sheraton</td>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
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<td>4 Geography DRC unit training Grade 3</td>
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<td>5 Geography DRC unit training Grade 7</td>
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<td>11 Geography DRC unit training Grade 6</td>
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<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
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<td>1-2 Middle States Council for the Social Studies Conference- Dover Downs</td>
<td>7- State Geographic Bee</td>
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<td>12-16 Alliance Coordinators Conference, Washington, DC</td>
<td>MAY</td>
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<td>13- DGA Steering Committee meets</td>
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“All it’s all readily understandable; it makes a powerful case. Best of all, it has the virtue of being true – both in the importance of geo-literacy and in all the things you’ve done for Delaware’s curriculum, teachers, and students.”

Sam Heed
Kalmar Nyckel Society
DGA members have made great progress in building the Geography Wing of the Delaware Recommended Curriculum. New units have been completed and approved for each level of elementary and middle school. At the high school level, the new Geography Regional Planning Course for 9th grade was rolled out in the spring of 2012. Best of all, new units are planned or “in the pipeline” for every remaining open spot in the geography DRC menu.

**Elementary school:**
- *Landforms and Climate* for grade 2 completes the menu of geography units for K-3.
- *Developing Mental Maps* for grade 4 and *Thinking Geographically* for grade 5 are recent additions to the elementary school line-up.

**Middle School:**
- *Green Cities* for grade 7 and *Humans Interact with the Environment* for grade 6 were introduced in spring 2012. This fall they are joined by *Reasons for Regions and Cultural Patterns and Diffusion* for grade 6 and *Partnerships or Partitions* for grade 7, completing the menu for middle school.

**High School Geography:**
Many Delaware high schools have already adopted Geography Regional Planning for 9th Grade, an innovative semester course that helps students understand geography in a local and contemporary context. Additional units for high school can be found on the Delaware Dept. of Education website at [www.doe.k12.de.us](http://www.doe.k12.de.us).

*See insert for training dates for new* 

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**We’re looking for Distinguished Teachers**

Do you know a great teacher…

...who brings the world into the classroom through innovative and creative teaching?

The Delaware Geographic Alliance invites you to help us give recognition where it is due by nominating a great teacher for the

**Geography Distinguished Teaching Award**

**Who is eligible?** Elementary school, a middle school, or high school teachers who teach social studies or science, OR someone who shares the world through foreign language, art or music.

**Who can nominate?** School administrators or teaching colleagues. Self-nominations are also accepted.

**How to submit a nomination:** Contact Maggie Legates at maggielg@udel.edu or mail a letter to Delaware Geographic Alliance, 216 Pearson Hall, Newark, DE 19716.

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**New Website for DGA**

[www.degeog.org](http://www.degeog.org)

The all-new Delaware Geographic Alliance website features:
- More information about geography education in our state, our nation and our world
- More about the Delaware Geographic Alliance, its members, programs and activities
- More resources to help teachers and others who want to improve geographic literacy
- More links and connections to our partners, sources, and to the National Alliance Network
- Easy online membership registration. Join DGA today!
The Delaware Geographic Alliance is a collaborative of nearly 600 K-12 educators, university geographers, pre-service education faculty, and GIS practitioners working together to strengthen geography education in Delaware. Housed within the geography department of the University of Delaware, the Alliance was started in 1989 and receives regular program support from the National Geographic Education Foundation, the State of Delaware, and the Geography Department of the University of Delaware. The mission of the Alliance is to promote geographic education to enhance understanding of the natural and human world.

For more information, contact Maggie Legates at maggielg@udel.edu or phone 302-831-6783.

Meet DGA Steering Committee Members

Tom Gavin is a Delaware native who currently works as an Instructional Coach in the Colonial School District. He is also a LEAD Adjunct Instructor at Wilmington University. Tom uses his skills in instructional technology to share geographic knowledge with students and teachers.

Wendy Harrington is a third grade teacher at Milton Elementary School, Cape Henlopen School District. She loves to create engaging lessons and units in geography. Wendy also serves as state Geography Action Coordinator.

Dan Lepre, who teaches geography and history at Mt. Pleasant High School in Brandywine School District, is the newest member of the DGA Steering Committee. Dan is involved in the new Regional Planning course for 9th grade and will also teach geography in the International Baccalaureate Programme.

Mary Schoettinger has worked with the Caesar Rodney School District for 23 years, currently serving as a Social Studies Support Teacher. She attended an Alliance Summer Institute in 1995 and has been an active DGA member ever since, presenting at state conferences and in districts throughout the state. Mary’s love of geography fuels her love of travel.

Domenico Zaffora is a special education teacher at Phillis Wheatley Middle School in the Woodbridge School District. Dom has become a staff member and presenter at summer institutes and workshops. He shares his skill at making geography accessible to learners with special needs.