Coordinator’s Update

Having just been through the process of filling in those official forms on our activities for the past 12 months, I can attest to a busy and productive year for the KGA. Highlights include all the activities that KGA volunteers have helped sponsor for students, pre-service and in-service teachers.

I am really pleased with all the activity related to Geography Awareness Week that happened across the state. Please join me in thanking Cheryl and Don Everhart for their efforts in organizing that suite of geography outreach activities.

Following considerable discussion with leadership from the National Geographic Alliance Program, a meeting was held in October in Manhattan with Kansas State University President Kirk Schulz related to overlaps and synergies related to the KGA Strategic Plan and the K-State goals in engagement for 2025. Two days later, a meeting was held in Hays with Fort Hays State University President, Edward Hammond, to share a similar message. It is always good to keep those who think they are on top of the food chain aware of your organization and its contributions.

Remembering John Heinrichs

Dr. John Heinrichs, Professor of Geography and Chair of the Geosciences Department at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, died unexpectedly on January 11, 2014.

John was a scientist who studied snow and ice cover in the Canadian North. He also did work on climate and climate change. One of his passions was sharing his love of model rockets with children. He started his career at Fort Hays State University in 1998 and served as the KGA co-coordinator and then coordinator from 1999-2005.

Memorial services for John were at 10:00 am on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Robbins Center, located at One Tiger Place, on the campus of Fort Hays State University. Memorials are suggested in John’s memory to the Dr. John Heinrichs Memorial Geography Scholarship, in care of the Fort Hays State University Foundation. Condolences may be left for the family at www.haysmemorial.com.

More information can be found at: http://hdnews.net/search/Heinrichs011414#.
Recent KGA News and Honors:

KGA Welcomes Two New Executive Board Members

Two KGA members joined our Executive Board this year—welcome to Debra Bolton and Shannon Woods!

**Shannon Woods** has been teaching in Andover, Kansas, for the past ten years as a social studies teacher. She has previously served on the Kansas Geographic Alliance’s executive committee and as the Geography Awareness Week coordinator for Kansas. She serves as the middle school social studies chair person in her district and is serving on the Kansas State Assessment pilot committee. She has also worked with the Gilder Lehrman Institute as a recipient of a Teaching American History Grant and as a teacher of one of the twenty Saturday Academies in the United States. Shannon is married to her husband, Dan, who is a police sergeant and soldier in the Kansas National Guard. Dan and Shannon recently adopted two boys and are working to continually grow their family.

**Debra J. Bolton,** Ph. D., has been a TC for the KGA since 2001. She lives in Garden City with her husband, Dale and two dogs. She and her husband have two grown children and four grandchildren. Debra is Kansas State Research and Extension faculty based at the Southwest Research Extension Center in Garden City. She works with county extension agents and is engaged in multi-lingual research in multi-ethnic communities of Southwest Kansas. Debra’s love for geography extends into her own research on human cultural patterns and other social studies. As a hobby, she also likes to study geographic distributions of animals, which she uses when teaching students who visit the Lee Richardson Zoo and the Sand Sage Bison Range in Garden City. Debra has participated in two previous advanced summer geography institutes: SE Kansas mining and cultural geography, 2001; and North Plains to the North Woods, 2003. She’s very excited about her new appointment as policy point person for the KGA.

2014 Kansas Geographic Bee

The Kansas Geographic Bee will be held on April 4, 2014 in Abilene. Once you have registered, have your students start practicing for their school bee using the following online practice tools:


Right: KGA member, **Debbie Restivo**, and students in action at their school Geographic Bee.
The KGA recently participated in the Little Apple Tech Fest at held for USD 383.

We are available to present at and participate in education functions, including professional development days, please contact us for more information at ksgeog@ksu.edu.

Join the KGA on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/74686966116/

KGA Insights is looking for:
⇒ News items,
⇒ Lesson plans, or
⇒ Any item of interest

Please send it to Lisa Tabor at lkt7779@ksu.edu

If you would like to become more involved,
are interested in our available resources,
would like to engage in professional development activities for in-service or pre-service teachers
please contact the KGA at ksgeog@ksu.edu
or check out our website:
www.k-state.edu/pga/

Scholarships available!!!
http://www.amazonworkshops.com/educators--naturalists.html

21st Century Instruction:
⇒ 5E Lesson Design
⇒ Inquiry-Based Exploration
⇒ STEM Problem-Based Learning

Inquiry Protocols:
⇒ Project Learning Tree
⇒ GLOBE
⇒ Cornell Lab’s BirdSleuth

Global and Cultural Perspectives:
⇒ Service Learning
⇒ Sustainability
⇒ Global Education

Educator Academy in the Amazon Rainforest & Machu Pichhu

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Teaching with Maps

Teaching with maps is a useful technique. It helps to integrate the teaching of two or more subjects, the use of maps provide greater context for student comprehension while teaching them skill, and they present a significant amount of content in a geographical context.

Check out the online maps resources below:

ArcGIS Online (http://www.arcgis.com/home/)
Esri Story Maps (http://storymaps.esri.com/home/)
National Geographic Map Maker (http://education.nationalgeographic.com/mapping/interactive-map/?ar_a=1)
Manifest Destiny: The Story of the US Told in 141 Maps (http://michaelporath.com/projects/manifest-destiny/)
US Climate Maps from the PRISM Group: (http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/)
Geography Educators Network of Indiana (http://www.iupui.edu/~geni/lesson_plans.html)
David Rumsey Map Collection (http://www.davidrumsey.com/)
USGS Historical Topographic Maps (http://nationalmap.gov/historical/)
Library of Congress Map Collections (http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html)
US Census Maps (http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/index.html)
EROS Center Earth as Art (http://eros.usgs.gov/imagegallery)
NASA Earth Observatory (http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/)
Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collections UT-Austin (http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/)
NASS (National Agricultural Statistical Service) (http://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/)
Tornado History Project - US tornado track mapping tool (http://www.tornadohistoryproject.com/)
Hurricane Track Maps (http://weather.unisys.com/hurricane/index.php)
National Atlas (http://nationalatlas.gov/)