The Kansas Geographic Alliance (KGA) is an organization of teachers and professional geographers who recognize the value of geographic thinking and who are dedicated to advancing geographic literacy in Kansas.

**Upcoming Events**

**November 16-22, 2014**
Geography Awareness Week  
the theme = The Future of Food  
Check out: [http://geographyawarenessweek.wordpress.com/](http://geographyawarenessweek.wordpress.com/)

**November 19, 2014**
International GIS Day  
Check out: [http://www.gisday.com/](http://www.gisday.com/)

**February 23, 2015**
Kansas Social Studies Conference in McPherson, KS  
Register at: [http://kssocialstudiesconference.com/](http://kssocialstudiesconference.com/)

**March 27, 2015**
Kansas Geographic Bee in Abilene, KS

**July 18-21, 2015**
Esri Education User Conference in San Diego, CA

**August 6-9, 2015**
National Conference on Geography Education in Washington, DC

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November 16-22, 2014 Geography Awareness Week

November 19, 2014 International GIS Day

2014 Theme: The Future of Food

- Be a part of the 2014 celebration of Geography Awareness Week and engage in educational experiences that draw attention to the importance of geography through investigations of food.
- Several resources are available on the KGA website ([www.ksu.edu/ksa](http://www.ksu.edu/ksa)).
- Geography Awareness Week events can be more than a traditional classroom lesson, we suggest a food drive or connecting with your community and exploring local food geographies.
- Remember, celebrating geography in your classroom and community can be done at any time and you are not restricted to participation only in the suggested week.
- At the end of the year, the KGA will be sending out a survey to our members, asking you to share how you celebrated Geography Awareness Week—we hope to hear from you then!

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NASA Image of the Day—Super Typhoon Vongfong in the Phillippine Sea on October 9, 2014
Resources for Geography Awareness Week

Check out the KGA website (www.ksu.edu/kga) for the following Geography Awareness Week Resources:

♦ Online Resources
♦ Classroom Lesson Plans
  - World on a String
  - Cheeseburger in Paradise
  - Boston Tea Party
♦ Presentation Materials
♦ We also have GAW packets available digitally on our website (www.ksu.edu/kga), if you would like paper copies of this year's lessons, resource lists, and the Kansas and Food poster seen below, email the Alliance at ksgeog@ksu.edu.

For more information, visit the Kansas Geographic Alliance homepage at www.ksu.edu/kga
Online Resources for Geography Awareness Week 2014: The Future of Food

- 40 Maps that Explain Food in America - [http://www.vox.com/a/explain-food-america](http://www.vox.com/a/explain-food-america)
- Voices of Food Insecurity - [http://mdfoodsystemmap.org/story_map/](http://mdfoodsystemmap.org/story_map/)
- National Geographic Society Geography Awareness Week - [http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/programs/geographyawarenessweek/?ar_a=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/programs/geographyawarenessweek/?ar_a=1)
- Food Education - [http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/food-education/?ar_a=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/food-education/?ar_a=1)
- Food, A Fact of Life - [http://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/sheet.aspx?siteId=14&sectionId=61&contentId=43](http://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/sheet.aspx?siteId=14&sectionId=61&contentId=43)
- Sustainable America - [http://www.sustainableamerica.org/](http://www.sustainableamerica.org/)
The first official joint geography education conference with the Missouri Geographic Alliance went off without a hitch on Saturday September 27, 2014. The “underground” reference comes from the space that Park University created by excavating large underground rooms in the local limestone rock layer. We would like to give a special thank you to Park University and David Fox for hosting our event. It was a great day full of terrific presentations from several of our members and Missouri Geographic Alliance members.

- Lisa Tabor and Don and Cheryl Everhart presented on Geography Awareness Week 2014.
- Matt Gerike provided the keynote “On the Trail Again: Roads to Santa Fe, Historical Geography, Memory, and Landscape.”
- John Harrington, Jr. spoke about new opportunities for geography education with the recent national ConnectEd Initiative.
- Paul Phillips led a Teaching with Maps activity.
- John, Lisa, and Thomas Larsen each provided a briefing on a specific GIS tool, resource, or technique as part of the online mapping session.

We hope you consider joining us for Geography Underground next year. Join the movement!
Global Exploration for Educators Organization Opportunity

(http://www.geeo.org/)

GEEO is a non-profit organization that offers professional development travel programs. There are many programs open for 2015. Educators have the option to earn graduate school credit and professional development credit while seeing the world. The trips are 8 to 19 days in length and are designed and discounted to be interesting and affordable to teachers. GEEO provides teachers educational materials and the structure to help them bring their experiences into the classroom. Educators are also permitted to bring along a non-educator guest.

Coordinator's Update

I enjoy the changes that are produced as the Sun’s position on the planet head’s deeper into the Southern Hemisphere. Cooler temperatures, great sleeping weather and fall colors help offset the shorter number of daylight hours.

We had a great autumn geography education conference, Geography Underground, in the space that Park University has carved out of the limestone strata on the north side of the Missouri River in Parkville, MO. Described by one of the speakers as a “fertile crescent of knowledge” (which fit the GAW theme this year of: food), the conference provided teachers with classroom ready lessons and an enjoyable day of sharing stories, strategies, and good ideas. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Matthew Gerike, the City-Wide Geospatial Services Manager for Columbia, MO speak about the value of landscape exploration and discovery and how our perceptions of the landscape change as both the landscape changes and as we change through the years. Matt's talk was titled: “On the Trail Again: Roads to Santa Fe, Historical Geography, Memory, and Landscape.” The fun at the conference included a couple of great videos: Thinking Like a Geographer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIPc0SNwVjw&feature=share and a wonderful food related parody by the Peterson Bros: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LX153eYcVrY&list=PLpnjUeAKfupMAobW0tCvEmjosZiP\_07S

The Kansas Geographic Alliance has been funded for another year of helping teachers share the power of geography, with a little additional funding for the provision of leadership institutes in both western and eastern Kansas; so we can continue to build a group of future KGA leaders. With the 2014 theme of geography awareness week being food, I’m already looking forward to what local chefs prepare and they produce special GAW theme dinners for Manhattan patrons during the week of Nov 16-22. And, I am looking forward to the 2015 Kansas Geographic Bee on March 27, 2015. We’ll again be at the Eisenhower Center in Abilene, KS for an amazing afternoon with a 100 amazing students of geography. I hope you’ll be able to come and enjoy the competition. If you’d like to help us make the whole affair work, please let me know.
2014 National Conference on Geography Education Annual Meeting

KGA members John Harrington, Jr., Lisa Tabor, Don Everhart, Cheryl Everhart, Paul Phillips, and Pat Phillips attended the NCGE 2014 meeting in Memphis, TN from July 31-August 3. The meeting was held at the historic Peabody Hotel where we all enjoyed the famous duck walk at least once. Lisa presented an Esri lab session, “Teaching Climate with Live Web Maps” and was formally presented the 2014 NCGE Miller Research in Geographic Education Grant. John, Lisa, Don, and Cheryl presented a workshop session titled “Times Are Changing: Managing a Successful Geography Awareness Week.” John and Paul attended the annual Alliance Town Hall meeting.

KGA at the Esri Education User Conference

Lisa Tabor presented findings from the September 2013 KGA workshop, “Advancing the Teaching of History and Geography in the K-12 Classroom Using Dual Coding and Geographic Information Systems” at the Esri Education User Conference in San Diego, CA from July 12-15. She also started her one-year appointment to the Esri Education Community Advisory Board at this time.
The Center for Effective Government, released an interactive map looking at schools located near dangerous chemical facilities. The map and accompanying lesson plan help students explore the geography of chemical risks. Learn more by visiting our project landing page, reading our national report, and viewing the state fact sheets outlining specific risks in your state. Check it out!

Visualizing Population Density

http://twistedsifter.com/2013/08/maps-that-will-help-you-make-sense-of-the-world/

Have you signed up for the Kansas Geographic Bee yet?

Join over 12,000 educators and empower your students to learn more about the world and how it works. The Nat Geo Bee is an exciting competition for fourth through eighth graders. The first 100 schools to enroll in the Bee receive free study resources. The Bee motivates students to learn and study on their own. As a 2014 state champion notes: "My preparation for the bee has taught me good study habits which can be applied in all aspects of life."

Register your school for $100. Visit us online at www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee. Registration vouchers are available; please contact ngbee@ngs.org.

Note: All webinars are held on Wednesdays at 8:00 pm Eastern.

October 22: Incorporating Technology and Social Media into Human Geography
October 29: Observing Cultural and Urban Landscapes Everywhere You Go
November 5: Ask Me About the Performance Assessments of Social Studies Thinking
November 19: Investigating Food Deserts with Inner-City Service Learning Projects
December 3: Spatial Analysis in Your Browser
December 10: Contemporary Political Geography in Human Geography

Register today at http://www.ncge.org/webinar-schedule.
World of 7 Billion Video Contest

Back by popular demand, the World of 7 Billion student video contest can help you bring technology and creativity into your high school geography classes. The contest challenges your students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges dealing with either the sixth extinction, available farmland, or global education. Students can win up to $1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. The contest deadline is February 19, 2015. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found at [www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest](http://www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest).

2015 EDUCATOR ACADEMY IN THE AMAZON

Registration is OPEN! Space is limited to 30 educators! Scholarships Available!
The July 1-11, 2015 Educator Academy in the Amazon Rainforest of Peru is a cross-curricular professional development workshop for K-12 formal and informal educators to learn and use:

- **21st Century Instruction:** 5E Lesson Design ~ Inquiry-Based Exploration ~ STEM
- **Inquiry Protocols & Resources:** Project Learning Tree ~ Cornell Lab of Ornithology ~ & More!
- **Global and Cultural Perspectives:** Service Learning ~ Sustainability ~ Global Education

Check out Country Maps Made From Regional Foods:

KGA member, Thomas Larsen, is now managing the KGA Twitter feed. If there is anything you would like shared, please send him an email at tblarsen@ksu.edu. Thomas joins us from the Missouri Geographic Alliance.

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/kga/

KGA Insights is looking for:
- News items,
- Lesson plans,
- Book review,
- Professional development opportunity, or
- Any item of interest

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

Join the KGA on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/74686966116/
Follow us on Twitter https://twitter.com/ @KSGeoAlliance

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.