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Mary Beck

2016 Kansas Geography Educator of the Year: p. 5
These are busy times for the KGA. We have taken delivery from National Geographic of our first giant map of Kansas and we have plans to acquire two more. The image to the left shows students at West Indianola Elementary exploring some of the features on the big map of Kansas. Generic lesson related to map reading and Kansas specific lessons have been developed by Kathy Benton from USD475. Please contact me (jharrin@ksu.edu) if you are interested in having the giant map in your school district.

KGA members are busy planning for the 2016 Kansas Social Studies Conference. We’ll be at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene for late afternoon workshops and an evening lecture on Sunday Nov. 6th and then regular session and a keynote by Teaching Geography author Dr. Phil Gersmehl on Monday Nov. 7th. Please register as soon as you can. Information is online at: http://kssocialstudiesconference.com/

As the photo on page 1 illustrates, it was a pleasure to acknowledge her many contributions and give Mary Beck an award as the 2016 Kansas Geography Educator of the Year. We'll be honoring Mary at the Kansas Social Studies Conference in Abilene.

Changes are ongoing for those of us trying to organize things for the KGA. My trusted office manager for the past six years, then Lisa Kay Tabor, earned her Ph.D., moved to Georgia Southern Univ. and soon thereafter got married (now Lisa Kay Millsaps). The picture on the left arrived in my email inbox on the day that Seth and Lisa got married. Geography graduate students Matt Allen and Thomas Larsen are on a steep learning curve to take care of the KGA office.

Dr. Richard Lisichenko, a prior KGA Coordinator and a geosciences faculty member at Fort Hays State, is coming back to help lead the KGA as the co-coordinator. Rich brings a wealth of experience in geography education, GIS, and prior KGA contributions. Dr. Lisichenko has agreed to lead the ongoing effort to produce a KGA student atlas.

People

Kansas Geographic Alliance

Dr. John Harrington, Jr. Co-Coordinator. Kansas State University.
Dr. Paul Phillips. Co-Coordinator. Fort Hays State University.
Thomas Larsen. KGA Office Organizer. Kansas State University.
# Upcoming Events

## November 6 - 7
Kansas Social Studies Conference  
Abilene, KS

## November 14-18
GAW (Geography Awareness Week): The Power of Parks

## November 16
International GIS Day

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## Preservice Teaching
This fall, Thomas Larsen and Dr. John Harrington, Jr. will be conducting pre-service teaching events on how teachers can integrate maps and geospatial technologies into the curriculum. Special thanks to National Geographic for providing funding for travel and materials.

- **Emporia State University**: 29 September
- **MidAmerica Nazarene University**: 6 October
- **K-State Social Studies Methods**: 19 October
- **K-State Ag Education**: 25 October
- **Wichita State University**: 31 October

## GIS Day Information and Registration
International GIS Day is 16 November 2016! We invite you to join in the worldwide celebration of GIS Day, the annual salute to geospatial technology taking place during Geography Awareness Week. This is a perfect opportunity to promote your work, student projects, and your school or university using the ideas on [www.gisday.com](http://www.gisday.com) and also to connect with geo-mentors on [http://geomentors.net](http://geomentors.net).

You can register your GIS Day event on: [http://gisday.com/register.html](http://gisday.com/register.html)

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## Kansas Gifted, Talented, and Creative (KGTC) Conference
Thomas Larsen and Rhonda Lefferd of the KGA will conduct a workshop at the KGTC Conference (2-3 Oct.) at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS. The presentation will be based off of ideas from the summer 2016 KGA workshop – P4: Plants, People, Places, and Patterns.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE
COMPUTITION DATES

2016
AUG 3 - DEC 23
Early Bee registration ($100) at NatGeoBee.org

OCT 3 - FEB 6
Download contest materials and hold a School Bee

DEC 24 - JAN 23
Bee registration ($120) at NatGeoBee.org

2017
FEB 6
Deadline for School Bee champs to take online qualifying test

MAR 31
State Bees

MAY 15-17
National Championship in Washington, D.C.

MAY 19
Championship airs on National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo WILD, 8 p.m. EST

Photo credit: NG Studios, Rebecca Drobis, Kristen Bednarz, and Sarah Keane.

USE CODE BEE10 FOR
10% OFF
SCHOOL REGISTRATION
Congrats to Mary Beck: 2016 Kansas Geography Educator of the Year

The KGA is proud to announce that Mary Beck from the Seaman Unified School District 345 in Topeka has been awarded the 2016 Kansas Geography Educator of the Year. The Topeka Capital-Journal has written a feature piece on her achievement. You may view the article at the following link.
The Power of Parks: Blog, Media, Website, and More

Geography Awareness Week (GAW) is 13-19 Nov. 2016. GAW is not just a brief moment in time every year. It is a perspective – ongoing and always reshaping how we as educators help students learn about and shape their world.

KGA has constructed a website and blog. http://kansasgeoalliance.wixsite.com/gaw2016 The site is regularly updated and features resources and materials for educators. The site also presents original content related to the 2016 GAW theme: The Power of Parks. This is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service.

Please bookmark the website and check it regularly for events and the latest news on GAW and parks around the world and near you. If you would like to participate in organizing a GAW event in Kansas, please message Thomas Larsen at tblarsen@ksu.edu. Consider taking your class to a city, county, or state park near your school. Or, take them on a virtual field trip to one of our National Parks. Numerous links are available on the KGA GAW website: http://kansasgeoalliance.wixsite.com/gaw2016
The 2016 edition of the annual Kansas Social Studies Conference is scheduled for Sunday November 6th (afternoon workshops) and Monday November 7th (from 8:30 am till mid-afternoon) in Abilene, Kansas. The conference will be held at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home at 200 SE 4th St, Abilene, KS 67410.

If you are interested in presenting a session, contributing a workshop, displaying a poster, or being a vendor, please email John Harrington (jharrin@ksu.edu) with a short description of your proposed contribution. Workshops will be on Sunday afternoon November 6th. The Kansas Social Studies Task Force will meet on October 1st to make decisions regarding the scheduling of oral presentations and the rest of the program for the conference.

Go to:
http://kssocialstudiesconference.com/

to download the conference registration form. Please join us for some great professional development!

Registration is $35 ($17.50 for students) and covers workshop and conference attendance along with a continental breakfast and a boxed lunch on Monday November 7th.
Registration Info

Kansas Social Studies

On the Map Reaching for the Stars

November 6 & 7, 2016

Abilene, Kansas: Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library,
Museum and Boyhood Home

Registration includes conference attendance, continental breakfast
and lunch on Nov. 7th

Payment (checks or district purchase orders made payable to GTU*)
and this completed registration form should be sent to: John Harrington,
Kansas Geographic Alliance Coordinator, Dept. of Geography, 118 Seato-
ton Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Teacher, Professional, Vendor Registration ($35) ______
Pre-service Teacher, Student Registration ($17.50) ______

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
Phone: _________________________________ (work, home, or cell)
Email: _________________________________ (will be used for communication)

Questions? Contact John at jharrin@ksu.edu

* GTU = Gamma Theta Upsilon – the geography honorary at K-State that is helping with local arrangements
Gersmehl to provide keynote address at the 2016 Kansas Social Studies Conference

Dr. Phil Gersmehl will present “Organizing Knowledge, Brain Research, and Improving Social Studies Education” on Monday November 7th at the annual Kansas Social Studies Conference at the Eisenhower Library and Museum in Abilene, KS.

Dr. Gersmehl has been described as the most unique, innovative, and influential geography educator in the United States. Phil’s widely used book, Teaching Geography, is now in its third edition. Third edition revisions take into account C3, the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies State Standards and the revised National Geography Standards for Life (2012).

Dr. Gersmehl is currently a Visiting Research Professor with the Michigan Geographic Alliance at Central Michigan University and he was Co-director of the New York Center for Geographic Learning. Dr. Gersmehl is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a recipient of the President’s Award from the Social Studies division of the New York City Teachers’ Union. Phil has worked with geographic alliances in 28 states, as well as with similar groups in Canada, England, Japan, Korea, and Russia. He was Co-director of the ARGUS and ARGWorld curriculum development projects, both funded by the National Science Foundation and other sources and both administered by the Association of American Geographers. He also assisted with three NASA-funded educational projects and one for the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Gersmehl has authored of two geography textbooks and he has developed distance-learning courses for the University of Minnesota, a pilot TV episode for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and a number of instructional computing projects for IBM and other groups.

Phil grew up surrounded by questions about educational policy and practice—both of his parents, all three uncles, and his grandfather were teachers; four were also school principals. He received a BA in Education from Concordia Teachers College and a PhD in Geography from the University of Georgia. Dr. Gersmehl has served on the faculty at Concordia Teacher College and the University of Minnesota.
Preview: The Student Atlas of Kansas

by Matt Allen

Accompanying our sponsorship of this year’s Kansas Social Studies Conference, the Kansas Geographic Alliance has made some progress on the student Atlas of Kansas. The purpose of this atlas is to bring geography learning opportunities to K-7 students throughout all subjects. Topics covered in the Atlas range from historical maps, such as railroads, to Kansas demography. This Kansas water resources map is one of many!

The Kansas Hydrology map (on the next page) can be used to investigate rivers, lakes, and watersheds across the state. This basic information can be used in many different class discussions. Science classes can discuss precipitation delivery to the state and how topography funnels water into the major rivers, and eventually flowing into a larger body of water. In social studies classes, this map can be used to discuss the role of water in historical settlement patterns and how distribution of water across Kansas affects the current population distribution. Another lesson can be a discussion on what are reservoirs and how they differ from natural lakes. This can lead to a discussion on human-environment interactions and how people use their resources to improvise. For questions or recommendations about the student Atlas of Kansas Project, you can contact Matt Allen (mallen3@ksu.edu), John Harrington, Jr. (jharrin@ksu.edu) or Rich Lisichenko (rlisiche@fhsu.edu).
Teaching Resource: Map of 73 Years of Lynching

Did you know that Phillips County, Arkansas had the highest number of lynching victims from 1877 – 1950? A New York Times article published in 2015 about the history of lynchings in the United States South might be of some interest to you. This article shows a darker part of our history through a proportional symbol map of all recorded lynchings called “73 Years of Lynching”. Although a large number of lynchings were recorded, many have gone undocumented. This map gives history teachers an opportunity to teach geography while also integrating issues like social justice, and the struggle of minority groups for civil rights. The article can be found here: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/10/us/history-of-lynchings-in-the-south-documents-nearly-4000-names.html, and the map can be found here: http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/02/10/us/map-of-73-years-of-lynching.html?_r=1.
Weird Maps: Map Animations and Movement

by Thomas Larsen

Besides composing revolutionary music and poetry, the singer/songwriter Bob Dylan likes to weld iron gates. These types of borders have a special meaning for him:

“Gates appeal to me because of the negative space they allow. They can be closed but at the same time they allow the seasons and breezes to enter and flow. They can shut you out or shut you in. And in some ways there is no difference.”

Dylan’s poetic description of his iron gates relates in many ways to how lines on a map work. For example, a political map may contain all kinds of borders that delineate cities, counties, states, provinces, countries, and regions. Like iron gates, borders are one way that humans organize territory – delineate a property, define cities and countries, keep things in, keep other things out.

People not only make borders—they cross them. While this fact has often led to conflict, it also helped create rich cultural mosaics within the places that we live and visit. Now, maps are able to visualize this movement through digital media, such as animation. One such map animation can be viewed from YouTube, which features the movement of peoples around the world. This “weird map” provides a great teaching moment to show the dynamics of population movement around the world.

For a copy of The World’s Immigration Visualized in One Map, go to the following link: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/max-galka/all-the-worlds-immigration_b_10747950.html
Now and Then—Landsat Images of Lake Mead

The last time Lake Mead was as low as it is now (in 1937) managers were filling the reservoir and putting finishing touches on the Hoover Dam. Water levels in Lake Mead have reached a record low for the second year in a row.

On May 25, 2016, the level of Lake Mead at Hoover Dam was 1,074 ft. (327 m) above sea level. The previous low of 1,075 ft. (327 m) was set in late June 2015. Lowest water levels each year are usually reached in late June or July, after water managers have released the yearly allotment for farmers and cities farther down the Colorado River watershed. Water levels are likely to continue to fall in 2016 to an estimated 1,070 ft. (326 m), according to the Bureau of Reclamation. The pair of Landsat images show the lake near its highest and lowest points over the past 32 years. The top image from May 15, 1984 was obtained by the Thematic Mapper on Landsat 5. In the summer of 1983, the lake approached full capacity. The bottom image, obtained by the Operational Land Imager (OLI) on Landsat 8, shows the shoreline after lake water levels dropped 135 ft. (41 m). Lake Mead is now roughly 37% full. (Source: NASA The Earth Observer)
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We are looking for column suggestions. What topics would you be interested to see in Insights? Tips and resources? Technology? Please share your thoughts and please let us know if you would like to contribute a column.

Contact Thomas Larsen at tblarsen@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 kansasgeoalliance@gmail.com.

If you would like to become more involved, are interested in our available resources, would like KGA members to engage in professional development activities for in-service or pre-service teachers, please contact the KGA at kansasgeoalliance@gmail.com or check out our website:

www.k-state.edu/ka/

KGA Insights is looking for:

- News items,
- Lesson plans,
- Book review,
- Professional development opportunity, or
- Any item of interest

Please send items to tblarsen@ksu.edu.