

Co-coordinators:
Dr. Ron Dorn ronald.dorn@asu.edu
Gale Olp Ekiss GBEkiss@aol.com

NGSEF Update

The NGS Education Foundation has a new executive director. Danny Edelson is also VP for Education and Children's Programs. Dr. Edelson sent the following message to Alliance coordinators

As I'm sure you've heard, I have taken over as vice president for Education and Children's Programs and executive director of the Education Foundation. I am tremendously excited about the opportunity this job presents to have real impact on education in the U.S. As you do, I believe in the critical importance of geographic knowledge and skills for all members of our society and see it as the responsibility of our formal educational system to prepare students to become geographically "fluent".

We will get a chance to get to know each other better at the Winter Meeting in a couple of months. In the meantime, the most important thing for you to know about me is that I come to this position as an educator with a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges of public schooling. For the last 15 years, I have developed instructional materials, conducted professional development, and engaged in research on education. Much of my work has been in environmental science and the geosciences, but one of the exciting things about this position is that it will enable me to expand my horizons to encompass human geography as well, and I look forward to doing so in partnership with you.

I recognize that Geography Alliances represent a powerful resource for effecting educational reform. For all the resources that educational reformers in other disciplines have that we lack, none of them have anything like the Alliance Network, and National Geographic will continue to nourish and strengthen the Alliances as we enter the next phase of geography education reform.

If you'd like to find out more about his work prior to joining NGS, visit the GEODE Initiative Website at <http://www.geode.northwestern.edu>

A further update about the Education Foundation will be reported at the T C Spring Conference in April.

TGIF

Please email or fax your congressmen (or women) to ask for support of the "Teaching Geography is Fundamental" legislation. As a reminder, Congress in NCLB has named geography as a core subject, but never funded it in any way. The other three branches of social studies (history, economics, civics) are funded. If you have already done this in the past, we thank you. Of course, it would be nice if you did it again!

TGIF will fund professional development to help ensure all young people acquire the vital geography skills and experience they need by:

- Building on the state-by-state, university-hosted Geography Alliance program established by the National Geographic Society to expand support for geography education partnerships.
- Authorizing \$15 million annually for five years for geography education grants to support the improvement of geography teaching, training, and research in our nation's schools
- Designating 75% of the funding for state and local education agencies and nonprofit educational organizations nationwide.
- Making the remaining 25% available to support national nonprofit efforts to strengthen geography education around the country.

When you reference the bill for Representatives, the bill number is H.R. 1228 and for the Senate, the number is S. 727. Congressmen Harry Mitchell and Raul Grijalva have signed on so if you are in their district, a nice thank you would be appropriate.

Please return this page ASAP!



T C Spring Conference and Business Meeting
Payson
April 11 - 13, 2008

TC Name _____

E-mail _____

Attendance

___ Yes, I will be attending the Payson Annual Business Meeting

___ No, I will not be able to attend this year.

Lodging

Remember: You make your own reservations directly with the hotel.

Please make your reservation at:

Best Western Payson Inn telephone 928-474-3241
801 N Beeline (Hwy 87) toll-free 800-247-9477
Payson, Arizona 85547 fax 928-472-6564

DEADLINE: ALL ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2008.

For a look at the hotel, go to http://www.bestwesternpaysoninn.com

For our planning purposes please complete the following:

I will need a room for

___ Friday night only

___ Saturday night only

___ Both Friday and Saturday nights

___ I need a roommate

___ I will attend the conference but I won't be staying at the hotel

(If you are attending by yourself, we appreciate TCs sharing rooms whenever possible as a cost saving measure.)

Event Saturday Tonto Natural Bridge State Park

___ Yes, I will be attending the event

___ Number of family members attending also

NOTE: A tentative agenda is on the last page of this T C Communiqué.

Event Sunday Lecture: Wild-fire and aquatic community response in Arizona

___ Yes, I will be attending the lecture and walk

___ Number of family members attending the lecture

I think the following items should be on the Agenda for the Business Meeting.

Four horizontal lines for listing agenda items.

Please complete this form and send it to Cathy by Monday, March 28, 2008
Fax or snail mail.
AGENDA for Payson

Arizona Geographic Alliance
Arizona State University
School of Geographical Sciences
P O Box 870104
Tempe, AZ 85287-0104
480-965-5361, fax 480-965-8313
http://alliance.la.asu.edu/azga/
http://www.ngsednet.org/azga/

Agenda Items to be thinking about – if you don't attend the meeting and have an opinion, make sure to send it to us on the attached form.

MAS GE students wanting to become TCs.

A group of MAS-GE students (Jason Donoghue, Jody Leeds, Danna Lagerquist, Shari Solberg-Ayers and supported by Brien Durham who encouraged them) who approached Ron saying: WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO TO BE TCs? They said that they are getting a deep understanding of the Alliance and geography from 671 from Gale, and GeoFest just excited them. They said that they are being trained in how to write these lessons.

They said that by the time the end, they will have a very strong understanding of Geography ... so CAN THEY JOIN TOO??

Part of the discussion could also include maintaining TC status - like reporting in once in a while about what you're doing to be active in geography education. This is a separate issue, but considering the NGS tracking mandate, we should consider addressing it at the same time.

Change of dates for GeoDayTrip and GeoFest

We would like to change the Geography Action GeoDayTrip workshop date from early spring to early fall – specifically September and move GeoFest to January. The rationale for the switch is that by having GA GDT well before Geography Awareness Week we can get materials out to teachers so they can properly including it in their curriculum and by moving GeoFest out of the insane statewide October event extravaganza (ACSS, ACEE, LRE, NCTM, reading, etc, etc.) it will allow TCs to consider NCGE, ACSS, NCSS as a part of their fall professional development schedule. We are a little concerned that a late January GeoFest might not be a big draw, but we'd like to give it a try.

We stockpile suggestions for GeoDayTrips. Following are some from last year's Conference. Some of these suggestions will be included in the Advanced ASGI in June. If you have discovered new places that we should consider for a day trip, please let us know.

Possible DayTrips or weekend workshop topics			from 2007
Judy	Phillips	Ft. Lowell Museum, Tucson	Indian wars, cavalry museum in the heart of Tucson, run by AZ Historical Society
Mike	Baron	Desert shrimp farms	
Mike	Baron	Native seed/SEARCH	field trip to see seed storage/farm/ meet with researchers, Native Americans, etc
Dina	Perez-Martinez	Yuma	Home of Caesar Chavez - Hispanic culture
John	Halverson	Fort Verde	Tie history to geography
Rick	Byers	Sonora Desert Museum	Docent at museum: I could teach people how to preserve skulls for classroom lessons, about adaptations. I could have a drawing and give out a free skull or two.
Barb	Soto	Global warming: Are all dire predictions exaggerated?	
Nashua	Way	Prescott	Lots of cool stuff! by water / camp out at Roosevelt (Tonto Cliff Dwelling) People who own RV/s share or tents. Topics: Water problems/ new dam/ animals in the hills. Water levels/up & down / fishing/ boats at Roosevelt Resort. People pot luck Friday or Saturday.
Sandy	Martinez	Roosevelt	
Judy	Phillips		Illegal Immigration: visit Border Patrol Tucson Sector (We already have lesson plans on this, right?)

TC Volunteer Opportunities

I volunteer to help in the following ways:

- I will contact my Congressional legislators in support of the TGIF bills
 in person
 in written communication
 I will report my contact and the results to the legislature to Cathy at cathy.davis@asu.edu
- I will recruit a teacher colleague who has never attended an AzGA function to attend GeoFest and/or GeoDayTrip or some other AzGA workshop
- Staff the AzGA table at FAIR for Educators, Pima County, 8 – 3:30 Wednesday, June 11, 2008 in Tucson
- Attend GeoDayTrip on the Americas, Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Mesa Community College, Mesa, AZ
- Present at GeoDayTrip - Geography Action: Mapping the Americas workshop Saturday, September 20, 2008
- Staff the AzGA table at LRE and ACSS combined conference ASU West, Friday Oct 24, 2008
- Work the AzGA table at ACSS Conference, Friday, October 24, 2008
- Present a lesson (50 minutes) at GeoFest Saturday, January 24, 2009 at ASU West
- Staff (work registration, help set up, be a facilitator for one session, etc.) at GeoFest Saturday, January 24, 2009 at ASU West
- Get sponsorship for an event or a vendor table at GeoFest 2009
(In other words, you find a commercial enterprise to give us money for an event or have them pay for a vendor table.)
- Provide a suggestion of a project that the Alliance should pursue. It is _____
-
- I agree to head up this project.
- Become part of the team to give workshops on GeoLiteracy, GeoMath, and GeoBasics.
I can only do workshops _____ in AZ or I can do _____ out of state or _____ I can do both.
- Give a geography-based workshop at my school or school district. I will report the results to Gale.
- Attend the Advanced Summer Institute (open to TCs only) in 2008 (June 20-27 plus July 9).
The theme will be GeoHistory with a field experience in Southeast Arizona.
- Write lesson plans for the 1st grade book selected by Gov. Napolitano.
- Write lesson plans for the 4th grade book selected by Gov. Napolitano.
- I would like to be considered as a coordinator for
 Geography Action Mapping the Americas
 My Wonderful World
 Other NGS initiative which may arise

Current Programs:

GeoLiteracy with ELL component

I want information to give my principal/superintendent Yes No

GeoMath

I want information to give my principal/superintendent Yes No

Travel Funds 2008

I am planning to present at NCGE Dearborn, MI Oct 9-11, 2008 Yes No
(For presenters of GeoLessons, AzGA pays registration and a small travel stipend – you must name AzGA as your affiliation.)

I am hoping to present at NCSS Houston, TX Nov 14-16, 2008 Yes No
(for presenters of GeoLessons, AzGA pays a small travel stipend)

Other (ACSS, NCTM, etc.) _____

Possible Weekend Workshop topics _____

Who would organize and direct this workshop? _____

Other useful and/or fun suggestions for Alliance activities _____

What part(s) of the AzGA need(s) to be improved or changed? Or any other suggestions _____

Endowment funding: I recommend Malcolm and Bob contact:

Name _____ Position _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Your Name _____ e-mail _____

Grade level you are teaching _____

Please fax to 480-965-8313

or mail to

Arizona Geographic Alliance, P O Box 870104, Tempe, AZ 85287-0104

by April 1th. Thank you.

FAX this page to 480-965-5361 or Mail to
AzGA - Attention: Gale Ekiss
ASU School of Geographical Sciences
PO Box 870104
Tempe, AZ 85287-0104

Cathy on Communication

cathy.davis@asu.edu

By now, many of you have received e-mails from me about various AzGA events and opportunities including a reminder about the upcoming T C Spring Conference.

We are working to establish all AzGA TCs on an email list in order that we may communicate with you in a timely manner, in smaller information doses than some of these 26 page books we occasionally publish and less expensively than using paper. For those of you who have been in the cadre longest, you have noticed a marked decrease in the number of *T C Communiqués* sent to you. Paper and snail mail is slower and more costly than an email and often by the time we could get the news to you in printed form, it isn't pertinent any more. So, we are trying to get everyone into the electronic formats we have set up. We will be discontinuing the T C email list on EdNet in favor of this new list. Messages will still be sent out on EdNet, but they will be to the general membership only. We won't be using the separate T C list.

Please email me if:

You wish to be removed from the AzGA TC email list.

You are receiving messages at more than one address and want one discontinued.

You are receiving messages, but not at your preferred email address.

You are receiving messages, and want them sent to additional email addresses.

You are NOT receiving messages and want to. Include your preferred email address.

As a check, if you are not on the list below, and you are not receiving emails from me, then I don't have an address that is good, but I'm not getting a bounce back to tell me so. If you want to join the community, send me the email address you want me to use.

The following people are not receiving emails from me because I don't have an up to date email address. If you wish to be included in the TC email list, let me know.

Arsenault, Katharine
Baugh, Jack N
Bayles, Robin (Kelly)
Benson, Pia
Blanchard, Mary
Briles, Marjorie K
Brown, Mary L.
Cloyd, Sandra
Finkelstein, Bill
Fix, Sarah
Flynn, William (Bill)
Frakes, Cecilia A
Grissom, Gloria

Hanson, K
Hinkle-Tusa, Sandra L
Johnson, Deborah (Debi)
King, Ken
Knepper, Louise
Krausnick, Josine, O.S.B.
Ladd, Dee
Nelson, Lee
Nelson, Lorene M
Niesen, Theresa S
Norton, Mimi
Nottingham, Sean E
Occhiuzzi, Anthony L

Oswald-Keene, Alison M
Owen, JoAnne W
Rhoads-Wendell, Nancy
Rothrock, Robert
Sears-Cartwright, Sylvia F
Sohm, Dianne
Stuewe, Mary
Stolp, Aaron
Taylor, Donna
Urtuzuastegui, Patricia
Williams, Karen
Wolf, Michael C

If you aren't receiving email communications, and don't want to, do nothing!

Please note: We will occasionally still be sending paper copies of the *T C Communiqué* but we hope to move to posting the *Communiqué* on line and sending you a notice that it is available for you to read.

T C Listserve

Ron Dorn has set up a Google based list serve for T Cs only. Located at <http://groups.google.com/group/arizonageographicalliance/>. You must apply to join (a Google rule). We expect to only accept TCs into this group. Some of you have already joined but most of you have not.

The list serve is to be used to share information about opportunities and resources to ALL the other members of the list serve. It is not the place to announce the birth of grandchildren or the marriage of the child you thought you'd never get out of the house or to try to get that stray cat adopted that is hiding in your garage. It is a place to tell others about a new resource, or ask for a roommate or travel companion to conferences. To repeat, keep in mind that whatever message you post, goes to everyone. Keep it professional, please.

We strongly encourage you to join the list serve community. It has been some time since we had a list serve, but it was widely used when we owned it.



TENTATIVE AGENDA
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
BUILDING 2, PAYSON INN, BEST WESTERN HOTEL
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008 – 8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

8:00	BREAKFAST IN HOTEL BREAKFAST CAFE	
8:55 am	Call to Order	Malcolm Comeaux
9:00 am	Business Meeting	
	Announcements	Malcolm Comeaux
	Report on Winter Meeting at NGS with the Alliances	Gale Ekiss
	Advocating for Geography	Cathy Davis
	Teaching Geography is Fundamental	
	NGS Live	
	Acknowledging Friends of AzGA	Malcolm Comeaux and Bob Mings
	Website News	Ron Dorn
	New Server	
	Updating Standards on Lessons	
	New Maps	
	Listserve	
	Masters in Geography Education	Ron Dorn
	MAS-GE students becoming TCs	Ron Dorn & Gale Olp Ekiss
	Demand for GeoLiteracy and GeoMath Workshops	Gale Olp Ekiss
	OKAGE Institute June 9-11	
	Kyrene Schools June 5	
	NDGA Institute June 12-13	
	ELL GeoLiteracy Research Project	Liz Hinde
	2007-2008 Geography Action--Asia	Jeannine Kuropatkin
	Topic for 2008-2009: Mapping the Americas	
	My Wonderful World	Diane Godfrey
	Events for 2008-2009	
	September 20, 2008	
	January 24, 2009	Gale Olp Ekiss
	Continuation of GeoDayTrips in the Field	
	Travel Grants and Conference Presentations	Cathy Davis
	Honoring of 10 Years of Service to AzGA	Bob Mings & Malcolm Comeaux
Lunch	A working lunch will be served around 12:30 for TCs only	
	Committees	
	Small Grants	Gale Ekiss
	07-08 Recipients: Rick Byers and Dianne Benoit-McKee	
	Small Grant Evaluation Committee	
	07-08 Sheila Nice and Howard and Mary Working	
	08-09 Volunteers needed	
	Product Evaluation Committee	
	07-08 Heather Robinson and Carole Barnes	
	08-09 Volunteers needed	
	Summer Opportunities	Ron Dorn and & Gale Ekiss
	Advanced Alliance Summer Geography Institute	Field Experience: Southeastern AZ
	Topic: GeoHistory	Opportunity to partner with Utah
	June 20-27 and July 9	
	Ideas for Next TC Conference	Bob Mings
	Volunteers to write lessons for Janet's Book Program	Gale Ekiss
3:30	Adjourn	
4:00	Tonto Natural Bridge State Park	Ranger Steve
	Free admission, family invited, Try to carpool	
	DINNER AT THE HOTEL IN THE BREAKFAST CAFÉ	
	SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008 – 9-11	
7:00-7:30	CHECK OUT OF THE HOTEL	
8:00	BREAKFAST IN HOTEL BREAKFAST CAFE	
9:00-11:00	Water Issues in the Local Area	Bob Mings, Wayne Gorry