Dear Geography Supporter,

I don’t know about you, but I like newsletters in paper form. I like to sit down with a newsletter and cut out what interests me, or take a whole insert and file it away. Electronic newsletters just aren't the same. I end up printing them out and cutting it up anyway. However, we want to be able to provide teachers with the best professional development opportunities -- from hosting a summer institute, to organizing curriculum that you said we needed to organize like the GeoLiteracy program discussed herein. So in order to use funding in the most efficient fashion, we've reached a compromise.

We will continue to produce newsletters, containing information about opportunities, resources, events and, of course, an outline map. As the newsletter is posted to our website, we will send you a postcard with a synopsis of the contents. The issues will be available in .pdf format for you to download.

The Alliance currently has about 2,500 members and the formidable savings in printing costs and postage we expect as a result of this change will be applied towards continuing our spring and fall GeoDayTrips, the fall GeoFest conference, the bi-annual Alliance Summer Geography Institute and other professional development opportunities for teachers of geography.

Teacher desires and interests drive this "bottom-up" grass-roots organization. So if you have thoughts about this difficult trade-off, please let me know.

Ron Dorn, Co-coordinator
Arizona Geographic Alliance

Observations of a Middle School Classroom
Or A Blatant Advertisement for Using GeoLiteracy and GeoMath in Classrooms

Gale Olp Ekiss, Co-coordinator
Arizona Geographic Alliance

Place: Arizona
Time: Period 5

Recently, I observed an eighth grade social studies class taught by an excellent teacher. She had the students reading in their civics books and then orally summarizing what had been read. Orally, because when she threatened to make them write, there was an audible groan. She was working hard to make the subject matter (federalism) relevant to the students' everyday life. She had them refer back to summaries that they had written yesterday as homework. She was pulling the information out of the brightest students, while the less able were seemingly lost. It was a typical day in the land of junior high.

Continued on page 2

In this issue:
Summer Geography Institute 2003
Apply now for this year’s SGI.
Learn, or brush up on, your skills for teaching geography to your students and to fellow teachers. Get loads of free materials. Make new friends and have some fun while you get those important recertification hours. See page 4

Free GeoLiteracy Workshops
See page 7 for details
Coordinators’ Corner: Observations continued

Time: Period 6

Then the next class came in. This class had been working on a GIS (Geography Information System) project. Aided by grant money, a team of ASU students and a supervisor had taught these students how to use the computer to generate a map of their neighborhood. Each group got up and explained what components they added to their map and why. It didn’t matter which student was called upon. Each one was knowledgeable.

This points out a problem. The fifth period class was learning material which matched the standards (federalism), and they were practicing the skills (summarizing) needed for state mandated tests. But those students who didn’t physically have their heads down on the desk, mentally did. And the teacher was working way too hard to assist in their learning.

The sixth period class demonstrated what teachers love to see. The students were enthusiastic and involved in their learning. The teachers were “sweatless.” However the depth of the learning was more toward how to use the technology and less on how the placement of these human landmarks impacts their lives. To extend this activity to that geographic concept would take more class time. Time the teacher said they couldn’t have, since they were behind the other classes because of this grant project. And of course, these mapping tasks are not measured on state mandated tests.

So how do we combine innovative teaching and standards based education? GeoLiteracy and GeoMath (when completed) teach strong geographic content and are innovative. Students are engaged in non-textbook activities that do not take days of learning the “technology” in order to perform the tasks. The activities have assessments that parallel achievement tests. And one curriculum specialist from Texas commented, “I must say I was impressed with the scope and quality of the project.” So this is why GeoLiteracy and GeoMath are needed.

To see a sample lesson, go to <http://alliance.la.asu.edu/azga/>. Click on “Outreach and Events” and then click on “GeoLiteracy Project.” I think you will like what you see.

RESOURCES

ARIZONA COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES

Visit the new Arizona Council for the Social Studies website at http://www.azsocialstudies.org. There you will find news about the all the social studies-related activities in the state. There is also information concerning membership to the ACSS, awards and other recognition programs, links to many websites, and much more for K-12 teachers, administrators, curriculum specialists, and people just generally interested in social studies education. In upcoming months, members will also be able to access lesson plans that were created by teachers from all over Arizona in every grade level and discipline. A chat room is also available so educators from Nogales to Page and points in between can share stories and information with each other. Spend some time browsing around this new website!
Why come to the Alliance Summer Geography Institute?
NAEP 2001 Geography Results Show Alliance Teachers Rule!

Eighth-grade students of teachers who have participated in National Geographic professional development programs had a significantly higher knowledge of geography overall than other eighth-graders who took part in the 2001 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) geography assessment.

A study commissioned by the National Geographic Society to assess the impact of its State Geographic Alliance teacher-training programs on student achievement found that students whose teachers had received in-depth training in geography content and instruction scored, on average, four percentage points higher — from 68 percent correct to 72 percent correct — than students who participated in the NAEP study. Statistically, this converts to an eight-point percentile difference between the average student in both groups. In other words, if the average NAEP student is at the 50th percentile, the average National Geographic student is at the 58th percentile.

Gil Grosvenor, chairman of the board of the National Geographic Society, said the results of the study were very encouraging. “The results support our belief that teacher preparation and professional development are key to increasing students’ geography knowledge.”

“Since 1987, the Society and its partners in every state have spent $110 million on geography education, teacher training, innovative technology projects and public-awareness campaigns. We have reached more than 100,000 teachers through our professional development programs. The study results encourage us to renew and redouble our efforts to improve geographic literacy,” Grosvenor said.

The National Geographic-sponsored study was conducted in March 2002 by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), in Aurora, Colorado. Using a set of questions from the 2001 NAEP geography assessment, the scores from 878 eighth-grade students of Alliance teachers were compared with the scores of a sample of 986 students drawn from the NAEP study, whose demographic characteristics were similar in terms of race/ethnicity, number of books in the home, level of mother’s education and presence of a computer in the home.

The Alliance students outperformed the NAEP students on questions pertaining to understanding United States geography, reading maps, and drawing and interpreting maps.

The results also showed that the more often a teacher had attended National Geographic’s teacher-training workshops, the better the students of that teacher fared in the study. Teachers chosen for the study represented the geographic diversity of the country, and came from urban, rural, private and public schools.

You do make a difference!

OPPORTUNITIES - TEACHERS
LOCAL

COURSE TITLE: 40 GEOGRAPHY LESSONS
GPH 598 : SL 50407
GPH 494 : SL 65865
This course will:
- Demonstrate over 40 lessons designed by master teachers
- Align with the Arizona K-12 geography standards
- Feature cross-curricular ideas
- Provide hands-on activities
- Emphasize multiple intelligences and learning styles
- Create a network of K-12 educators
- Be user friendly
- Present innovative social studies methodology
- Add to recertification hours
- Be painless and fun

3 Credit Hours
Time and place:
June 2-6, 2003 inclusive
Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
SCOB, Room 310
Department of Geography
ASU main campus

For more information, contact
Gale Olp Ekiss
Arizona State University
480-965-5361, GBEkiss@aol.com
Announcing the Eighth
Alliance Summer Geography Institute (SGI 2003)

Institute Goals
Explore the latest geographic ideas, geographic standards, hands-on teaching techniques, and classroom materials for K-12 teachers.

Dates, place and time
June 15-24, and July 1, 2003 at ASU in the Department of Geography and in Payson for field work. Daily schedules will vary.


SGI Eligibility:
K-12 teachers. This program is not limited to conventional geography teachers. Geography is an integrative discipline that fits almost all instruction. Enrollment will be limited to 24.

Format:
This is an intense graduate level program consisting of classroom work, hands on activities, and field experience.

Instruction:
Daily instruction will be conducted by a cadre of K-12 teachers specially trained by the National Geographic Society, Alliance Summer Geography Institute graduates called Teacher Consultants (TCs) and a team of university geographers from around the state. Some evening events and instruction are mandated. Participants are required to attend all sessions (June 15-24, and July 1, 2003) including a three day excursion into the Payson area June 22-24.

Financial Information:
For 3 hours of graduate credit you will pay standard ASU charges. You are required to register for GPH 598 ST: Geography and Education Methods. The $100 deposit check required with your application will be returned at completion of the Institute, or on June 15 if you are not selected as a participant.

What we give you:
1) Teaching resources (books, maps, atlases, lesson plans, transparencies, CD-ROMS, etc.) valued at over $400.
2) Daily food costs will be heavily subsidized.
3) Lodging for out of town participants will be provided in ASU Residence Halls. Lodging and transportation during the field trip will be covered completely (see below).

SGI Requirements:
~ Create a lesson based on a based on an Arizona geography standard by July 1, 2003
~ Attend all activities of the Institute
~ Read all assigned materials
~ Present your lesson to fellow participants in a prescribed format on July 1, 2003
~ Conduct 2 in-service workshops after graduation, one at GEOFEST 2003 is encouraged
~ Participate in post-SGI retreats and workshops
~ Graduates, known officially as Teaching Consultants, will be encouraged to join in the continuing effort to spread geography education throughout Arizona.

Housing:
For the first time, Maricopa County participants can choose to live in university housing or at home during the June 15-21 sessions. All participants will be housed at Camp Tontozona June 22 and 23 (Payson, AZ). University housing and housing at Camp Tontozona will be at Alliance expense.
SGI Graduates are eligible for:
~ Alliance sponsored advanced workshops here and in other states
~ National Geographic Society sponsored workshops
~ Advanced Placement Geography training workshops
~ GIS (Geographic Information Systems) training workshops
~ Grants for classroom projects
~ National Geographic Society (NGS) teacher grants
~ Leadership training in various locals through NGS
~ Other professional development support

Preliminary list of personnel for SGI 2003
Barbara Martin, Apollo Middle School, Tucson
Robert Mossman, St Gregory’s College Prep Academy, Tucson
Diana Valenzuela, Bisbee Middle School, Bisbee
Karen Guerrero, Oak Tree Elementary, Gilbert
Kay Jackson, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Gale Ekiss, Co-coordinator
Ron Dorn, Co-coordinator
Bob Mings, Co-coordinator emeritus
Malcolm Comeaux, Co-coordinator emeritus

What will you experience at SGI 2003

Five Themes of Geography
GeoLiteracy – the integration of geography and language arts
How and when to BINKO
Arizona Geography Standards
Special interest topics of geographic professionals
Dozens of K-12 lessons that teach GOOD geography
Networking with other Arizona teachers
Latest in geographic education
Food, Fun, Work, Laughter

Notes about the field portion of SGI 2003

We will leave for Payson on Sunday morning.
You will need a sleeping bag or equivalent for Camp Tontozona. You will need sun protection (sun screen and hat at the least) and comfortable walking attire. Dress code for class on campus is ASU casual but you will be walking around in brush at times during the field trip so plan accordingly.
The field activities will feature activities, lessons and field methods studies developed by Karen Guerrero and Kay Jackson, Alliance TCs, for their Footprints in the Desert and The Phoenix Project grants and currently include
Orienteering
GIS
Fire Wars video and lessons –
Rodeo/Chedeski Fire site studies
Dude Fire site studies
Bats of the Southwest
Tonto National Monument
Five Themes of Geography digital treasure hunt
A visit at the Tortilla Factory in Globe
Arizona Geographic Alliance 2003 Summer Geography Institute
APPLICATION FORM                  June 15-24, and July 1, 2003
Please type or print clearly.

Full Name_____________________________________________________________________________________
Last       First Middle Initial
Mailing Address________________________________________________________________________________
Street City Zip
Home Phone (_____)__________________________ email ____________________________________________
Area Code used the most
School Name & Address_________________________________________________________________________
Name
____________________________________________________________________________
Street  City     Zip
School Phone (_____)____________________________ School District ___________________________________
Area Code
Grades and classes_____________________________________________________________________________
that you teach
Special skills that you___________________________________________________________________________
bring to the classroom
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Professional growth experiences_________________________________________________________________
(including conferences, workshops, university coursework, etc.)_____________________________________
Geography courses completed_____________________________________________________________________
(grad & undergrad)
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

ATTACHMENTS-- Please attach the following:
1) Your complete RESUME.
2) A one page, typed ESSAY outlining:
   A) why you believe geography education is important and
   B) how you expect to benefit from participating in the 2003 Alliance Summer Geography Institute.
3) LETTERS OF REFERENCE (these can be mailed separately).
   A) From your principal, arrange a letter of reference that addresses your skills in the classroom, plus your district’s willingness to facilitate your presentation of staff development workshops.
   B) From a colleague, seek a letter that discusses your classroom effectiveness and rapport with fellow educators.
4) A check for $100 made out to the Arizona Geographic Alliance. This deposit will be refunded in its entirety on June 15 if you are not chosen as a participant, or on July 1 at completion of the Institute sessions.

Deadline: Completed applications due no later than Friday, April 25, 2003 at 5:00 pm.

Send to:                      Summer Geography Institute
                                  ASU Department of Geography
                                  P O Box 870104
                                  Tempe, AZ 85287-0104

I agree to participate in all sessions from June 15-24. I will present my original lesson on July 1 in Tempe, AZ. I agree to plan and conduct a minimum of two geography education in-service workshops during the 2003-2004 school year.

____________________________________________
Signature
GeoLiteracy is an exciting package of 85 lessons based on the K-8 Arizona geography, reading and writing standards. Each lesson’s assessment includes test items that measure geography, reading and writing. The material is NCLB compliant. This is a true integrative program to help students learn geography content and practice those reading and writing skills measured on state-mandated tests.

Come join us for ONE of these workshops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>Tuesday, March 25</td>
<td>University of Arizona</td>
<td>9:00 am to 3:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tempe</td>
<td>Thursday, April 24</td>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>8:00 am to 3:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tempe</td>
<td>Thursday, May 8</td>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>8:00 am to 3:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Arizona Geographic Alliance is offering this workshop at NO COST to ONE member of your school staff. To secure your registration, you must make a $25 refundable deposit. Please make your check payable to the Arizona Geographic Alliance and send it in with this registration slip. Your check will be returned to you at the end of the day’s program. Recertification hours will be given. Space in this workshop will be limited, and our goal is to widely serve Arizona teachers throughout the state. Refunds will be given to participants who cancel well in advance. Registration deadline is March 1, 2003. For more information, please contact the Arizona Geographic Alliance at 480-965-5361 or at GBEkiss@aol.com.

If you would like to attend a GeoLiteracy Workshop, return the form below with your check to:

Arizona Geographic Alliance  
ASU Department of Geography  
PO Box 870104  
Tempe, AZ 85287-0104

Select the workshop you would like to attend. If you can attend either of the Tempe sessions, please indicate your preference by number 1 & 2. You will receive a confirmation letter at acceptance.

I would like to attend the GeoLiteracy Workshop on  
_____ Tuesday, March 25 at University of Arizona  
_____ Thursday, April 24 at Arizona State University  
_____ Tuesday, May 8 at Arizona State University

NAME

EMAIL

HOMESTREET ADDRESS

CITY

AZ

ZIP

SCHOOL NAME

DISTRICT

SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER (INCLUDING AREA CODE)

AZ

GRADES

CITY

AZ

ZIP

Any special accommodations needed? Explain below please.
HELP!!
We Beg You, Please Take Our High School Survey!

Your fellow Alliance teachers have developed a survey for high school teachers and high school administrators. The survey won't take very long. It's on the web. And when you finish the survey, we'll send you a geo-prize in the mail. The bottom line is that we are desperate to learn more about what you teach and your views on the teaching of geography in Arizona high schools. Simply go to the following website: http://alliance.la.asu.edu/survey/. We'll compile the data and let you know the bigger picture.

Opportunities to share with students

Scholarship Competition 9th-12th Grade

If you are looking for some extra motivation, an extra credit assignment, or just to give kids a scholarship opportunity, check out this website: http://www.aaa.biz/travelchallenge/

AAA Travel High School Challenge has three levels of competition with $156,000 in college scholarship funds from the Hogan Family Foundation up for grabs. 9th through 12th grade students throughout the United States will put their geography and travel knowledge to the test for great prizes and a chance to compete in the national finals at Universal Orlando in May 2003. Competition begins in January with the following schedule:

January 2003: 9th - 12th grade students take the Web-based test on ttp://www.aaa.biz/travelchallenge/

March 2003: The top five scorers in each state and D.C. advance to state competition.

May 2003: The top scorer in each state and D.C. receives a $1,000 scholarship and a trip to the national finals in Orlando, Fla. for a chance to win one of three $10,000 scholarships (2nd place) or one of three $25,000 scholarships (1st place)!

International Children's Digital Library

A new International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) will provide children ages 3 to 13 years with an unparalleled opportunity to experience different cultures through literature. The new digital library will begin with 200 books in 15 languages representing 27 cultures, with plans to grow over five years to 10,000 books representing 100 different cultures.” The inaugural Digital Library portal can be viewed at <http://www.icdlbooks.org/>. But here's the great news for those of you who teach your colleagues your lessons (all of you): This material is copyright free!!! Thanks for helping to bridge the digital divide!

OPPORTUNITIES - TEACHERS

OTHER

Tour to China

The Chinese American Cultural Bridge Center is offering a 15 day Educators’ Tour to China June 25 – July 9, 2003. For the detailed itinerary visit the CACBC website at: http://www.cacbc.org/Educational_Tours/EducatorsTour.htm. A $50 per person discount is offered for educators and their families who register together as a group of six or more. Registration deadline is April 1, 2003. CACB, 855 East Golf Road, Suite 2126, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, T: 877-592-7072; E: services@cacbc.org; W: www.cacbc.org

Opportunities continued on page 10
Leapin' Landmarks

A) Label the continents

B) Label the oceans

C) Label the following mountains on the map:

1. The Alaska Range
2. The Alps
3. Altay
4. The Andes
5. The Appalachians
6. Atlas Mountains
7. Caucasus
8. The Great Dividing Range
9. The Himalaya
10. The Pyrenees
11. The Rockies
12. Ural Mountains

★ Great Wall of China
History Day needs volunteers
The 2003 National History Day competitions for Arizona is an academic program for grades 6-12. To learn more about NHD go to http://nhd.lib.az.us
Per Laurie Devine, more adult judges are very much needed. All judges at all levels of competition must have at least a Bachelor's degree (in any discipline) and an interest in supporting students. Judges are trained on the day of the competition, but receive written information in advance. The competition dates are:
- Sedona (West Sedona Middle School) March 8th (8:15-appx noon)
- Sierra Vista (Buena HS) March 8th (8:15-appx. 1:00PM)
- Tucson (Arizona Historical Society) March 15th (8:15-appx noon)
- Tempe (Arizona Historical Society) March 15th (8:15-appx 2:00PM) additional events may be scheduled at SRP nearby
- State Finals: Phoenix (Arizona State Capitol) April 12th (8:15-2:00PM)
If you are interested in volunteering please let us know as soon as possible so materials may be provided. Contact Laurie Devine, State Coordinator, National History Day in Arizona at ldevine@lib.az.us, or at Arizona State Archives, 602-541-4159.

National Council for Geographic Education
NCGE offers scholarships and awards for educators as well as publications. Their national conference for 2003 will be held in Salt Lake City October 8-11. For a list of these opportunities and resources, go to http://www.ncge.org.

Understanding And Teaching About Islam
July 8 through July 20, 2003
Dar al Islam offers a residential, two-week Institute to study Islam to teachers 6 through 12. The program covers the faith, civilization, and world-view of Islam through the study of basic texts and beliefs. The Institute’s major goal is to offer teachers an opportunity to see how Islam works in the daily life of Muslims and to better understand the basic tenets of the fastest growing faith in the United States. Cost is minimal. Deadline to apply April 7, 2003. Complete details at http://www.daralislam.org.

Resources (continued)
Free maps, posters and lessons
The Alliance recently received a supply of materials from National Geographic Geography Education Foundation.
We have a large supply of Geography Action Public Lands America’s Backyard posters. One side of the poster is a map of public lands in the United States. The other side has activities and public land information. This poster supports the NGS Geography Action program for this year. Extensive lesson plans and activities can be found for GA: Public Lands – America’s Backyard are at http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction/backyard.
We now have a supply of a map recently featured in the National Geographic Magazine titled In Focus: Middle East Crossroads of Faith and Conflict, with Iraq and the Heart of the Middle East on the flip side. Please also note that concurrent with the map giveaway there are lesson plans keyed to specific grade levels, additional thematic maps of the region, and other timely resources for educators and parents now available on http://www.nationalgeographic.com/iraq.
Finally, we offer a booklet on behalf of NGS and the Peace Corps of 13 teacher tested lessons called Building Bridges: A Peace Corps Classroom Guide to Cross-Cultural Understanding. These lessons are tied to national standard in Social Studies and Geography and are adapted from the Peace Corps’ cross-cultural training workbooks which can be downloaded from the Coverdell World Wise Schools website http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/ to build on the lessons in the booklet.
While we don’t have enough to send a copy to everyone on our mailing list, we would be happy to send those that request a copy of any or all of these until the supply is exhausted. Contact us by phone or email. If you need more than one copy, let us know. Call 480-965-5361 in the afternoons, or email cathy.davis@asu.edu with your name, school, street address, city and zip.
Free Sourcebook

The "Our Documents Teacher Sourcebook" is a free resource created by National History Day, Inc. in cooperation with the National Archives that transports educators back in time to 100 critical moments in our nation's history. The sourcebook provides educators with lesson plans and activities that will help them incorporate 100 milestone documents from American history into classroom curriculum. A key resource for working documents in the classroom, the teacher sourcebook includes an annotated timeline, key themes, guidelines to primary sources, and detailed lesson plans. Educators can request free copies by emailing info@nationalhistoryday.org or calling National History Day at 301-314-9739. The sourcebook is also available online at <http://www.ourdocuments.gov>.

Outline Map Masters

This issue we are featuring two maps for your use on page 9 and 12. The first map is from the GeoLiteracy Leapin' Lizards lesson by TC Judy Phillips, Pueblo del Sol Elementary, Sierra Vista. This lesson was featured in the National Council for the Social Studies magazine, Social Studies and the Young Learner, Volume 15 No. 2, last fall just before the NCSS national conference in Phoenix. To retrieve the lesson, go to <http://alliance.la.asu.edu/azga/>. Click on "Outreach and Events" and then click on "GeoLiteracy Project."

The second shows the Arizona Legislative Districts for 2002 as taken from the Arizona Redistricting Commission website. For a list of representatives go to http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ and click on Members in the left hand column. This site gives you access to a wide-ranging amount of information about the state, the legislature, museums, libraries and links to other state legislatures.

Resources continued

2003 Calendar

- **March 1** Deadline for applying for No Cost GeoLiteracy Workshops
- **March 25** No Cost GeoLiteracy Workshop, University of Arizona, Tucson
- **April 4** State level National Geographic Bee, ASU Memorial Union, Tempe
- **April 24** No Cost GeoLiteracy Workshop, Arizona State University, Tempe
- **April 25** Deadline for applying for Alliance Summer Geography Institute 2003
- **May 8** No Cost GeoLiteracy Workshop, Arizona State University, Tempe
- **May 20 - 21** National Geographic Bee at National Geographic Headquarters, Washington, DC
- **June 2 - 6** 40 New Geography Lessons, ASU Department of Geography, Tempe
- **June 15 - 24** Alliance Summer Geography Institute (SGI 2003), ASU, Tempe and Payson
  & **July 1** Alliance Summer Geography Institute, presentations and graduation ASU Department of Geography, Tempe
- **October 3** Arizona Council for the Social Studies (ACSS) Annual Conference Friday ASU Memorial Union, Tempe
- **October 4** GEOFEST 2003 Saturday ASU Memorial Union, Tempe
- **October 8-11** National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) Salt Lake City, UT
- **October 15** Deadline for applying for your principal to apply to participate in the 2004 National Geographic Bee
Opportunities continued

2003 Fellowships to Japan

Keizai Koho Center and National Council for the Social Studies announce ten fellowships for travel to Japan in the summer of 2003. Offered by the Keizai Koho Center (Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs) in cooperation with National Council for the Social Studies, the fellowship program is designed to give teachers a range of experiences with Japanese culture. Teachers focus on an aspect of their project in articles that are published on the Internet at http://kkcfellowships.ncss.org.

Each fellowship covers transportation costs for travel from the fellow’s home city to Japan. The itinerary, designed specifically for social studies educators, will include stays in Tokyo and other areas of Japan; meetings with government officials, social studies educators, and business persons; visits to elementary and secondary schools; and a home stay with a Japanese family.

U.S. and Canadian educators involved in K-12 social studies education are eligible to apply but are restricted to those who have never been to Japan. The postmark deadline for KKC Fellowship applications is March 1, 2003. Information on applying may be obtained from Keizai Koho Fellowships, National Council for the Social Studies, 8555 16th Street, Suite 500, Silver Spring, MD 20910; tel. 800-296-7840, ext. 116; email kkc-fellowships@ncss.org; Internet http://www.ncss.org/keizaikoho.

Request for GeoMath Piloting Teachers

You may remember from last issue that the Alliance has received a National Geographic Grosvenor Grant to create geography content lessons integrating mathematical skills and concepts. The GeoMath team has been hard at work creating over 80 lessons which teach the K-8 geography standards as well as practice many of the K-8 math standards. Over 100 teachers from around the state volunteered to pilot the GeoLiteracy lessons and we are hoping for the same for GeoMath. Piloting will take place in the school year 2003 – 2004 (next school year). If you’d like to be among the first to see these lessons and give us feedback on how to improve them, please complete the form below and return it to:

GeoMath Project
Arizona Geographic Alliance
ASU Department of Geography
P O Box 870104
Tempe, AZ 85257-0104

Or email GBEkiss@aol.com
Or fax 480-965-8313, Attention: Cathy Davis

We are looking for a few good volunteers.

I AM WILLING TO PILOT A GEOMath LESSON FOR THE ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE.
Imagine 20,000 schools across the nation taking part in school geography bees. The top 100 from each state proceeding to state level competition, and finally, 57 students traveling to Washington, DC, for the final two days of the Bee experience, to meet the other competitors and vie for a $25,000 scholarship. Every student who participates in the Bee at the school level is a winner and the Geographic Bee network reaches thousands of students each year. To be one of the 57 is a remarkable achievement.

By now most schools have completed their school Bees and the winner has taken the written examination. The exams are then sent to National Geographic to be scored. Notification of the top 100 qualifiers for the state Bee will be sent about the first week of March. Once notification is received, a letter is sent to both students and teachers. Students and teachers should receive their informational letters by March 15, 2003. If, for some reason, a teacher feels that they have not been notified that their student is part of the Bee, please contact National Geographic at 202-828-6659.

The Arizona Geographic Bee will be held at ASU Memorial Union building on Friday, April 4, 2003. Registration will be on the second floor beginning at 7:45 am. The Preliminary Competition will begin at 9:00 am. This year we were unable to reserve a large meeting area for the final competition so attendance may be restricted to parents, teachers and guests of the finalists.

The winner from the Arizona Geographic Bee will complete in Washington, DC May 20-21, 2003. This is a lifetime experience, and some Arizona teachers have experienced this several times, such as Mindy Udall of McKemy Middle School in Tempe. (Her comments follow.)

Many teachers and parents have asked me how to help their student prepare for the Geographic Bee. National Geographic now has a book that helps students prepare for the Bee called National Geographic Bee Official Study Guide. It can be purchased from your local bookseller or directly from NGS at http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/.

Arizona Geographic Bee Winner 2002
by Mindy Udall, Alliance Teacher Consultant

John Yatsko (pictured below), an eighth grader from McKemy Middle School in Tempe, represented the state of Arizona in the National Geography Bee in Washington, D.C. for 2002. He was born on November 2, 1988 and enjoys origami, coin collecting, chess, handball and playing the viola. Youngest of two children, he will be attending McClintock High School and participating in the Payne Academy (a program for gifted students). After high school, he plans on attending college at either NAU or Houston University where he would like to study psychology, geography and mathematics. He then would like to go on and earn an MBA from Harvard. John also aspires to be an exchange student to Germany during high school.

John’s greatest experience at the National Geographic Bee was meeting new people from all over the country. Some advice he offers for students wanting to win the Bee are to study hard, make study guides of capital cities, currencies, languages, rivers, mountains and go over them to commit them to memory. John also suggests having a good mental map of the world in your head and reviewing physical geography terms. He jokes about getting three questions in a row about Italy at the state Bee last year. He also notes that the geography club at his school has been a tremendous help as well as listening to NPR and watching a news program daily to keep abreast of current events. He believes geography should be offered as a year long course in the 6th grade. John was the winner of his school Bee held in December 2002 and has taken the written test and is awaiting the results. He will be participating in the Tempe School District #3’s own Bee in February. It will be held at the Tempe City Council Chambers on February 12, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. for those wishing to attend.

Support the Arizona Bee winner

It is customary for each Bee winner to take 57 small, representative items of his or her state to Washington, DC, to give to the other state winners. If you have access to free, or low cost, appropriate items, please let Beckie Seybert know at geonut@earthlink.net.
National Council for the Social Studies
National Conference
Visiting the Site of a former Japanese-American Internment Camp

At left are Mr. Masaji Inoshita and Dr. Malcolm Comeaux who conducted a field trip to the WWII Japanese relocation camp south of Phoenix on the Gila River Indian Reservation in November, 2002, during the NCSS National Conference in Phoenix. Mr. Inoshita was interned in this camp. About 90 educators from all over the country attended this event.

More resources:

Dons of Arizona Discovery Camps
The Dons of Arizona offer one-day field trips, free of charge, to fourth grade classes. There will be six Discovery Camps in January and February, 2003, with a total of twelve elementary schools represented. This is the fourth year these Camps have been sponsored.

Review for Noodlehead Network: Videos on Ghana, Thailand, China, Russia and Vietnam
By Tricia Hutchinson, TC, Cottonwood MS, Cottonwood
I watched Ghana and Thailand and then shared them for student review in 7th grade. VERY positive comments from both students and teachers. The cultural geography content was relevant and useful. I liked the way the videos were split into sections with counters so that they could be easily stopped and restarted following discussion or activity. The high school girls doing the interviews were excellent and the video style was close up and personal. Engaging content.
The videos are $89.00 apiece. They are about 1/2 hour long which is a good length for a 50 minute class with discussion. A simple to use Leader's guide with questions is included.
Noodlehead Network, 107 Intervale Ave, Burlington, VT 05401, 800-639-5680

Additional websites:
http://refuges.fws.gov/centennial/
On March 14, 2003 National Wildlife Refuge System Anniversary marks a milestone in the history of wildlife conservation in America - the centennial anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Happy 100th Birthday!

http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek/
On April 22-28, 2003 National Wildlife Week. Kids and adults are invited to learn about and explore wildlife and wild places in their own neighborhoods. The site includes free resources to educate children about wildlife conservation issues.

http://www.americanbirding.org/imbd/imbdgen/htm

http://library.ci.scottsdale.az.us
City of Scottsdale Public Library web page. Scottsdale’s Civic Center Library features a Southwest Room, a non-circulating reference collection of history, art, and maps of the southwest. The used book area sells maps for $.15 and old National Geographic magazines for a dime each, old Arizona Highways magazines for a quarter. Check out YOUR local library to see what resources it offers you!