

## **Kirsi Anselmi Stith 07 Geography BEE Champ**

Kirsi was a fifth-grade student at Holy Spirit Catholic School in Rock Springs when she became the first female to win the Wyoming Geography Bee.

This was the 19th Annual State Geography Bee which was sponsored by National Geographic Society and JP Morgan Chase.

The blizzard which roared through the state of Wyoming prevented some finalists from being able to attend the BEE. Rescheduling the BEE, was done with many phone calls and flexible workers from the geography dept plus geography friends.

Anselmi Stith received a \$100 prize from NGS, a detailed globe with a wooden base made in Germany, and a scholarship to the University of Wyoming for her freshman year of college. ESRI presented Holy Spirit with a software package illustrating geographic concepts. In addition, she and her teacher received an all-expense paid trip to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Hunter Collins of Jackson Hole Middle School was the second-place winner with Jamie Mothersbaugh of Dean Morgan Junior High in Casper talking third-place.

First Interstate Bank donated funding so that the other seven finalists received financial rewards for attaining top ten status.

# **GEOWNews Wyoming Geographic Alliance Volume 17, Issue 1 Summer 2007**



**May 21-24, 2007  
National  
Geography BEE**

Kirsi Anselmi Stith represented Wyoming with sophistication and flair. Numerous BEE coordinators commented to Sherry Tavegie on her comfortable demeanor being the only girl in a group of 7th and 8th boys who were also state finalists. There were six girls representing their states.

Kirsi had a good-sized cheering squad mostly from the Rock Springs area. Her parents Liisa Anselmi-Dalton and Clark Stith attended many of the functions coordinated by Mary Lee Elden and National Geographic Society.

One of the thrilling events for the students as well as others, was the Blue Angels being on maneuvers right outside the full-length windows of the Doubletree Hotel by the Pentagon.

Caitlin Snaring, an eighth-grade student out of Washington state was the National Winner. In competition, Caitlin had a perfect score both days.

# CONGRESS NEEDS TO SUPPORT “TEACHING GEOGRAPHY IS FUNDAMENTAL” LEGISLATION

## Why Must Congress Turn Its Attention to Geography Education?

- Our nation is facing a crisis in geographic knowledge.
- American young adults rank at the bottom in geographic literacy surveys of some of the world’s most developed countries (National Geographic/Roper Global Geographic Literacy Survey, 2002).
- Sixty-three percent of young Americans cannot locate Iraq on a map of the Middle East. Half cannot find the state of New York on a map of the U.S. (National Geographic/Roper Global Geographic Literacy Survey, 2006).
- Geography is the only one of the nine core subjects under No Child Left Behind not to have received designated federal funding.
- As a result, we are jeopardizing our global competitiveness, our position of diplomatic leadership, and our ability to retain over 70,000 new skilled jobs in geospatial technologies each year.

## There is a Solution:

- Professional development in geography education works.
- Students of teachers with professional development in geography education have achieved significantly higher scores on relevant portions of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, 2002).

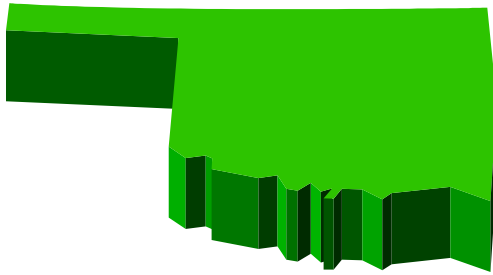
## “Teaching Geography is Fundamental (TGIF)” Legislation is the First Critical Step:

- 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% percent 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.

## We Need the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to Take Action:

- Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), along with Congressman Roger Wicker (R-MS), has introduced TGIF as H.R. 1228. The bill has attracted 40 bipartisan co-sponsors to this point.
- Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) have introduced TGIF as S. 727. Senator Cochran and Senator Dodd have garnered 18 bipartisan co-sponsors for S. 727 so far.
- National Geographic worked with Senator Cochran and Congressman Wicker to develop and introduce TGIF in the last Congress, attracting 17 co-sponsors in the Senate and 21 in the House.

***With your help as a co-sponsor, we will advance H.R. 1228 and S. 727!***



## **OKLAHOMA HOSTING NCGE CONFERENCE SOONERS INVITE GEO-FANS**

The National Council of Geographic Education is holding their Annual Conference this coming October 18-21, 2007 in Oklahoma City. The title of the conference is "Celebrating Native America", as this is the centennial year of Oklahoma Native America.

Restaurants, entertainment venues and cultural attractions are all within walking distance of the new conference hotel, The Renaissance of Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City has undertaken a major renovation theme in the older parts of town with "Bricktown", a revitalized warehouse quarter, being recognized as a premier urban entertainment center. There are dozens of restaurants, clubs, lots of live music and numerous retailers in the swirl of Bricktown. These attractions are no more than a half mile away from the hotel along with the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

Full and half day fieldstrips are planned to a complex drilling operation, an examination tour of the physical and economic geography of northwestern Oklahoma, a tour to the new National Weather Center and a visit to the lovely town of Guthrie (Oklahoma's first capital). These trips will pique interest in the physical, historical and cultural geography of Oklahoma.

**Go online to [http:// www.ncge.org](http://www.ncge.org)**

Registration and information is on this site.

## **Casper Teacher Selected for GAW Trip**

Over 100 top-notch teachers from all over the U.S were selected to participate in Geography Action!, the My Wonderful World campaign, and the District of Columbia Geographical Alliance during July. **Jim Gaither of Woods School** in Casper was selected to represent Wyoming, and he relished the experience. He came home with numerous ideas for promoting geography statewide.

They were welcomed by Gilbert Grosvenor, the Chairman of the National Geographic Society, whose speech focused on the need for geography instruction to go beyond teaching place and location to understanding the geographical issues that effect society. His example was that it is important to go beyond being able to locate Louisiana on a map to being able to discuss the rebuilding of communities there and the issues that involves.

Some of the lesson and curriculum ideas that were presented were the Jason Project ([www.jason.org](http://www.jason.org)), Google Earth using the National Geographic site, and utilization of the Arizona Geographic Alliance's disks on GeoMath and GeoLiteracy. "Celebr-ASIA" was an evening of Asian and Asian-themed games and activities. There will be a large vinyl Asian map in Casper the week of August 27th-Jim Gaither will be coordinating this. Some of the highlights of this institute was a trip into Washington D.C. to participate with the online resources of the Freer Gallery of Art which featured Asian art, visiting National Geographic Headquarters with a film on finding "The Afghan Girl" and spending an evening at the Indonesian Embassy with hosts who were very eager to spread the word about the culture and beauty of Indonesia.

GAW is being promoted this year by a packet of games along with world maps.

### **National Geographic Giant Traveling Maps**

invite children to explore geography in a very hands-on—or rather feet-on—way, and they are available for loan to your school.

The maps' brightly-colored, smooth vinyl surfaces accurately illustrate and label the countries, bodies of water, mountains and cities.

As students travel across the continents they take part in activities including safaris, scavenger hunts, and competitive games. Along the way they gain knowledge of country locations, capital cities, population centers, physical characteristics, as well as important historical, wildlife and cultural information.

A set of ready-to-use activities accompany each map, as well as atlases, books, videos, music and game materials.

### **Recommended grades: K-6**

What teachers are saying about

National Geographic Giant Traveling Maps...

*"I loved it! It was big enough for the whole class to sit in the Sahara Desert. I feel like I had a connection to Africa..."*

*"[The map] was the best Social Studies activity I have seen in my 33 years of teaching."*

# **PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS FOR A REALLY BIG ADVENTURE!**

National Geographic Giant Traveling Maps are produced by National Geographic Live!—the live events division of the National Geographic Society, producing multi-media presentations, performances, and film screenings for the general public, school audiences, and sponsoring organizations throughout North America.

The Traveling Map of Africa measures an impressive 26' x 34', and weighs 102 lbs.

Last year 11,100 children (22,200 feet) walked across Africa.



## **GEOGRAPHY IS FUNDAMENTAL**

**WGA is requesting your help.  
Geography is the only discipline that is  
not funded by the federal government.**

**For example:  
History is funded at 100 Million Dollars  
every year. The Teaching American  
History Grants are funded out of this  
money.**

### **Giant Traveling Maps of Africa and Asia Available for Loan 2007-2008**

**Cost-There is no charge for  
use of the maps, however  
schools are asked to pay  
\$275 to contribute to the  
cost of one-way shipping.**

#### **SCHEDULE NOW!**

**Andrew Pudvah  
National Geographic Society  
1145 17th St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
P (202) 429-5724  
F (202)857-7747  
apudvah@ngs.org**



**National Geographic and state alliances  
are asking for 15 Million Dollars from  
Congress. Representative Barbara  
Cubin, Senator John Barrasso, and  
Senator Mike Enzi are going to be voting  
on this bill both in the Senate and the  
House.**

**Please call them up and let them know  
how important this funding is to the  
discipline of geography.**

**Here are the names of staffers for Enzi,  
Barrasso, and Cubin. Please call and  
help us with this funding request.**

**Senator John Barrasso (Erin Tuggle)  
202-224-6441**

**Representative Barbara Cubin (Becky  
Cole) 202-225-2311**

**Senator Michael Enzi (Beth Buehlmann)  
202-224-6770**

**Here are the rationales for Congress  
funding geography:**

**Funding geography in NCLB is critical.**

**Implementing programs for geography  
are also needed.**

**Geography is essential to a well-  
rounded K-12 education.**

## **“EXPLORE AFRICA” A Huge Hit with School Improvement Conferees.**

Judy Kallal, Geography Awareness Coordinator, was the sparkplug to Wyoming securing the ginormous vinyl map of AFRICA.

March 5, 2007 Judy and Sherry Tavegie presented back to back breakout sessions in Salon C of the Parkway Plaza. This 36 foot by 26 foot map was spread out by the Parkway staff-luckily the salon space was just adequate.

Everyone who participated had to be in their sock feet so the vinyl did not rip. In the first breakout session, there were about 55 people running around playing the various games to learn about Africa. Apparently we were having too much fun, as the next door group asked for quieter interaction.

K.C. LeClerc was the Natrona County teacher responsible for the African map once WGA was finished. Many schools statewide were vying for being able to utilize the map in their schools. That was not possible because of shipping date to get the map to Boston, MA. K.C. said it was a total hit with the Casper schools who were able to get their hands on it. The tubing for the map is about 300 pounds with an additional trunk of materials and games. Wyoming is very excited by the possibility of securing the Asian map that National Geographic Society says it has available for next fall.



## **Regional Steering Committee Wyoming Geographic Alliance**

Five geography fans have assumed the role of guiding the Wyoming Geographic Alliance through the perils of legislative action, thrilling geography training, the dreaded budget, and a myriad of other arenas in which WGA is involved.

Tom Collins is the State Social Studies Specialist based out of Laramie. He formerly taught in the Crook County School District.

Judy Kallal is well-known to many WY teachers as she has presented at many classes and workshops. She retired from Triumph High School in Cheyenne, and is now relishing the role of grandmother.

Randy McIntyre of Casper teaches at Park School, and has been at a variety of workshops and classes offered by UW Geography or WGA.

Don Morris is the Membership Director for the Wyoming Education Association. He formerly taught at East High School in Cheyenne.

Germaine Wagner is a teacher at Frontier Middle School in Casper. Germaine holds the record in attendance at WGA summer institutes and classes.

These five phenomenal instructors have a great deal of expertise at their call plus they are involved in many educational groups statewide. Dr. Bill Gribb and Sherry Tavegie are also on the committee.

## John L. Allen Dept. Chair Retires

Dr. Allen received his Bachelor's (Political Science 1964) and Master's of (International Studies 1964) from the University of Wyoming. John went to Clark University to receive his PhD in 1969. The University of Connecticut, was lucky to acquire his services for 33 years. While on staff, he taught numerous classes, did administrative tasks, and continued with his geographical and historical research. John has received many awards, research grants and fellowships throughout his career.

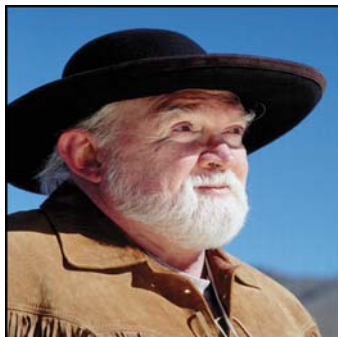
He is one of the leading authorities on Lewis and Clark along with many other historical figures.

His list of publications is extensive and includes several books, book chapters, papers, articles, abstracts and reviews. One of his most popular publications is the Student Atlas of World Geography, Fifth Edition. McGraw-Hill is the publisher of this Contemporary Learning Series, and this atlas will supplement any introductory or upper-level geography courses.

John has been the Department Chair since 2000, and many academic areas have been highlighted and improved upon.

His wit and stories will never be forgotten. He was always a person one could discuss any topic with, and he always had an infectious smile as he delivered sardonic statements on many subjects.

Photo by Ted  
Brummond  
Courtesy of UWYO  
Magazine



Jessica Shanks and Kendra Ketterling examine the GPS units along with their list of directions.

## July 25, 2007 Geo-Caching in the Big Horns Sheridan YMCA

The Wyoming Wilderness Association in conjunction with the Sheridan County YMCA helped sponsor "The Wonderful Wednesday Dayout Trip" focusing on wilderness skills in geo-caching near Buffalo, Wyoming. WWA secured funding for the Y to receive GPS units. The units were purchased from Brunton based out of Riverton, Wyoming. Liz Howell is the Executive Director of WWA, and Kat MacDonald represented WWA for the morning session.

T.J Tavegie and Katie Cox were the Program Directors for this experience. T.J. has previous geo-caching experience with veterans from the Wyoming Veteran's Home in Buffalo preparing the cache.

Being successful with geo-caching was a thrill for these students, and many were eager to go on another geography adventure.

This experience is just the first taste for these nine through twelve year old students. One of the student comments was, "When do we get to go again?"

## **Memo from Alliance Coordinator, Bill Gribb**

The Wyoming Geographic Alliance (WGA) attempts to provide a wide variety of activities and learning experiences for teachers and students. This coming year will be no exception; however, our efforts will focus on new experiences for all, teachers, students and Wyoming citizens. The Alliance is working with the Wyoming Department of Education and Civitas to create an opportunity for Wyoming teachers to go to South America in an exchange program. WGA is in the process of securing funding to create a learning and exchange program between Wyoming and select South American countries. At this preliminary stage the program has the potential to be successful.

In a project with teachers from Bighorn County School District#3 (BCSD#3), the Alliance is building a year-long workshop on integrating GIS (geographic information systems) and GPS (global positioning systems) with the science, mathematics, and social science curriculum. In June a one week intensive course was conducted on the basics of GIS and GPS with three more courses scheduled over the next year. The Alliance is hoping to expand this program into other school districts using the model developed by the teachers in BCSD#3-C.Bowe, J. Cundall, and L. Shadrick.

Geography Awareness this year is focused on Asia, and the Alliance has created an Asian Resource CD for teachers. Graduate student Wanyun Shao, PRC, has assisted the Alliance in composing a CD that has a wide variety of materials for teachers including: definitions of Asia; country profiles; maps; and regional analysis of the physical, social, and economic characteristics. Free copies of the CD are available from the Alliance, contact Sherry Tavegie at [wga@uwyo.edu](mailto:wga@uwyo.edu) or 1.307.766.3213.

In addition, the Alliance will continue its mini-grant program for teachers as part of Geography Awareness. Grants of up to \$250 are available to teachers that want to incorporate the theme of Asia into their classroom, school, or district. Applications are available from Sherry Tavegie at [wga@uwyo.edu](mailto:wga@uwyo.edu) or 1.307.766.3213. Our list serve will have a special distribution in early September with the description of the program and application forms.

Jim Gaither of the Natrona County School District is the Coordinator for Geography Awareness Week usually held the third week of November. He has materials he will be distributing statewide.

Contact Information

Jim Gaither

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Woods Learning Center

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