



## Jackson Student Wins Wyoming State Geography Bee

Jackson Hole Middle School student, Hunter Collins, won the top prize at the state level Geography Bee on April 4, at the Hilton Garden/Uw Conference Center in Laramie. More than 60 fourth through eighth-grade students participated in the state level bee sponsored by the Plum Creek Foundation. Sherry Tavegie is the Wyoming State Bee Coordinator with national leadership by National Geographic Society.

Collins won a prize of \$100 from the National Geographic Society, a handcrafted German globe, and a software package for his school. In addition, he won an all-expense paid trip to the national finals in Washington, D.C. from NGS. Wyoming is one of two geography bee programs where a college scholarship awaits the winner at the University of Wyoming.

Second place went to Clint Johnson of Glenrock Middle School. Richard Cody Giles of Buffalo who attends Clear Creek School, was the third place winner. Both Hunter and Clint are 8th graders, so Richard Giles could be a repeat competitor.

Others qualifying for the finals were: Casper--Blair Mothersbaugh, Park Elementary; James Mothersbaugh of Dean Morgan Jr. High; Green River--John (Jack) Reuss, Lincoln Middle School; Recluse--Miles Boley, Recluse School; Rock Springs--Kirsi Anselmi-Stith, Holy Spirit Catholic School; Torrington--Sarah Lehmitz, Torrington Middle School; Wheatland--Taylor Bush, Wheatland Middle School.

First prize in the national competition is a \$25,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. Second and third place winners receive \$15,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships respectively.

The National Geographic Society developed the National Geographic Bee in 1989 in response to concern about the lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States.

# GeowNews

## Wyoming Geographic Alliance

### Volume 18, Issue 1

### Fall, 2008

### Geography Bee Statistics

### Geographic Information by Rounds

Round 1--Geography of the United States

94.6 % Correct

Round 2--Exotic Species of the United States

82.1% Correct

Round 3--World Geographic Comparisons

78.6% Correct

Round 4--Physical Geography

71.4% Correct

Round 5--Odd Item Out

94.6% Correct

Round 6--World Cities

30.4% Correct

Round 7--Cultural Geography

39.3% Correct

Round 8--Geography of Current Events

17.9% Correct

Teachers:

Have your students study the newspapers from September through November to increase current event knowledge. World cities and cultural geography can be enhanced with atlases, National Geographic magazines, and the NGS channel. On the website--there is a section devoted to the BEE--it asks 5 questions daily.. Good luck and be sure to get your school signed up.

The phone # to answer BEE questions is:  
202-828-6659

## Project Citizen and Geography: Bolivia

Summer institutes are designed to accomplish several objectives: expand the teacher-participants knowledge of geographic concepts; provide a framework and materials for curriculum development; energize the teacher-participants geographic involvement; and, expose the teacher-participants to new and exciting experiences. This summer the institute accomplished all of these objectives. The nine participating teachers came from a variety of backgrounds and places in Wyoming: Janet



Ditto (Cheyenne-Elementary Education); Travis Duncan (Cody-History); Erin Edwards (Wamsutter-Secondary Social Science); Adam Gericke (Laramie-Secondary Social Science); David Hardesty (Moorcroft-Secondary Social Science); Soledad Rost (Wamsutter-Library Science); Sandra Leotta (Casper-Secondary Science); Mark Stansbury (Laramie-Secondary Science), and Sonya Wheeler (Wamsutter-Secondary Social Science). This summer the institute had two themes-expose the teachers to Project Citizen and Geography and expand their knowledge of South America. The Project Citizen framework presented during the institute a unique opportunity for the teachers to involve their students in the democratic process to solve a local community problem and present their solution to local decision-makers. The expansion of the teachers knowledge of South America had two parts. The first part consisted of a series of lectures and exercises highlighting the differences in the environment and peoples of South America; extending from the heights of the Andes to the lowlands at the mouth of the Amazon; from the cosmopolitan areas of Rio de Janeiro to the desolation of Patagonia. The second part of their exposure to South America consisted of a field experience in Bolivia. Working with the Wyoming department of Education (Tom Collins) and Civitas International (Richard Keane), the Wyoming Geographic Alliance was able to conduct a joint institute in La Paz Bolivia with Educadores para la Democracia (Ariel

Meallo and Lourdes Maldonado and 15 Bolivian teachers. Ten days of the institute were in Bolivia and entailed field activities and an intense workshop with the Bolivian teachers. The field experiences included the beautiful, but cold, area around Lake Titicaca, the compact city of La Paz, and the moist tropical rainforest heat of Corioco. The workshop with the Bolivian teachers consisted of working through the Project Citizen process on two different problems. The Wyoming and Bolivian teachers worked in integrated teams to identify the problem, collect pertinent data, propose alternative solutions, analyze the solutions and present their results to a panel of judges. Several guest lecturers from the UW College of Education (Carol Bryant, William Medina, and Carolyn Walker) and the U.S. Center for Civic Education (Michael Fischer) provided additional background and expertise to the participants. The participating teachers will, over the course of the year, participate in a variety of Alliance activities including GAW (Nov. 16-22), a classroom activity, the Wyoming School Improvement Conference, and My Wonderful World. Finally it is hoped that a contingent of Bolivian teachers can come to Wyoming next summer and experience our wonderful state.

## The Wonderment of Web sites Education at your fingertips

Blue Nose Edutainment (<http://www.bluenoseed.com>), an educational web site that uses music, film, and sports as a way of motivating students in grades 6-12 to read and write.

Education Clip Library (<http://www.educationcliplibrary.com>), an online library of curriculum-focused video clips developed for licensing by educational publishers. The clips are aimed at learners ages 3-19 and cover all major curriculum areas. Each of the 5,000-plus clips is available in digital format.

GenYES(<http://www.genyes.com>), an online technology curriculum for students in grades 4-12. GenYES participants learn about technology and other 21st century skills in the context of authentic projects.

Muzzy Lane's Game Platform(<http://www.muzzylane.com>), a web-based gaming platform developed by software engineers and dedicated gamers. The game modules let students test and apply skills in a low-risk environment and challenge them to compete with their peers.

The websites listed were in e-School News and Meris Stansbury was the author highlighting websites that were selected by the Software and Information Association at the recent 2008 Ed Tech Industry Summit.



# MY WONDERFUL WORLD

By Tom Brodnitski-Connecticut Coordinator

## EDUCATORS: 10 Ways to Give Students the World

### 1. Show students that Geography is everywhere.

It's global world. People, ideas, and products are constantly moving greater distances across our planet than ever before. How we live shapes, and is shaped by where we live-and what happens in the natural environment. Have your students test their Global IQ and play fun online games.

### 2. Bring it up.

Is your school doing enough to prepare students for a global future and to tap into their natural curiosity about real-world issues, from the local to the global? Are the offerings for Geography at your school relevant, meaningful, and engaging? Start the discussion with other teachers, parents, administrators, and students.

### 3. Find global connections close to home

Have your students log their global connections:who they talk with, what they eat, what they wear, what they read, watch and listen to. Make maps and globes focal points in your classroom and use them often. Bookmark an online atlas or print out outline maps, Use poster, pictures, and other visuals to show global connections near and far.

### 4. Explore the planet using technology.

From free 2-D satellite maps to 3-D Earths, there's a possibility like never before to see our planet in new ways. And zooming into places can create a new perspective on how Geography impacts current events. Learn about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software and how it's changing the way we explore.

### 5. Make Geography part of every subject.

Every subject-from reading and writing to science and economics-can include Geography. Use real-world examples and data when teaching other topics. When you can, use Geography standards-based lesson plans.

### 6. Make it extracurricular

Ask your parent-teacher organization to study the issue and devise ways to bring more Geography learning into school. Enlist administration and parent leadership for evening and Saturday programs, festivals, field trips, geography/international clubs, and other events. Enter your school in the National Geographic Bee and other competitions. And join your local Geographic Alliance and connect with peers.

### 7. Connect students with people from other countries and cultures.

More and more kids are using diital and online tools to interact with friends. Help them connect with peers overseas in order to practice languages, develop collaborative projects-even get to know time zones or the International Date Line.

## 8. Help students envision their futures.

Kids today travel through technology. Inject geographic themes into career exploration.

## 9. Go there!

Take your kids on field trips and look for opportunities to seek adventure and educate yourself about the world firsthand. Consider study abroad, field research, teaching overseas, or getting a grant to support new practices in your classroom.

## 10. Sign up for the My Wonderful World e-newsletter.

You'll get helpful tips, the latest news, links to great resources and fun games, information about contests and offers, and much more. Sign up now at [www.MyWonderfulWorld.org](http://www.MyWonderfulWorld.org) – and help give your students the power of global knowledge.

The campaign is still working hard to support the proposed Teaching Geography is Fundamental (TGIF) legislation that was slated to be part of revisions to No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Despite the fact that this process has slowed, support for the TGIF bill continues to grow. There are currently 73 co-sponsors for the House version of the bill (1228). This includes Congresswoman Barbara Cubin of Wyoming. The Senate version of the bill (727) currently has 22 co-sponsors. Senators Mike Enzi and John Barasso are not co-sponsors. Please contact them and ask for their support. Geography is the only academic discipline to not be federally funded. This TGIF bill is important to Wyoming and the entire United States.

Contact Sherry Tavegie at the Wyoming Geographic Alliance. for more information. Her phone number is 307-766-3213 and the e-mail is [wga@uwyo.edu](mailto:wga@uwyo.edu).



# My Wonderful World.org

A National Geographic-led campaign

## Hot News for Educators

### H2O for Life

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H2O for Life provides global connections for schools in the U.S. and schools in developing countries. The focus is to develop a service learning project in the U.S. school to fund a water, sanitation and hygiene project for a partner school - in a developing country - while becoming educated about the world water crisis. This project provides an essential service to the partner school, while giving U.S. students the opportunity to make a difference and develop the skills needed to become global citizens.

H2O for Life supports teachers with this service learning project by providing:

- A direct link to a global partner school including pictures of the school, students and community. U.S. students see a "face" not just a name. Projects are available in twenty different countries ranging in need from \$3,000-\$10,000.
- Links to educational curriculum. We will send you several motivational and educational DVDs, an H2O flag for your school, a money management booklet and access to an online store providing H2O logo items. We also provide an H2O logo for use in designing your own t-shirts or items.
- Matching funds (dollar-for-dollar) for all projects.
- 100% of the money raised by each school goes directly to their project.
- Direct implementation by reliable Non-Governmental Organizations for projects in-country, such as Save the Children, Africare, and Mercy Corps.
- Web site that allows individual schools to share their projects with other H2O schools in the U.S.
- Travel opportunities through a connection with Ambassadors for Children.
- A risk-free adventure! Every dollar raised is a success and we help with fundraising ideas and establishing an achievable goal.

Once students are given the compelling facts, they are motivated to take action!

- Every 15 seconds a child dies from lack of access to clean water.
- Women and children walk up to 60% of each day to collect water.
- 4,500 children die each day due to unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation.
- Without access to a latrine, girls stop going to school once they reach puberty.

H2O for Life's first school project is featured in the June edition of Reader's Digest. You can view the article at <http://www.rd.com> in the "Make It Matter" section.

Please let us find a partner school for you. H2O for Life has a list of over 500 schools that are waiting for water. You can help! Take Action! Make a Difference! Contact Us!

H2OforLifeSchools.org  
651-756-7577

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*Experience the Great Lake State!*  
*National Conference on*  
*Geography Education*  
*October 9-12, 2008*  
*Dearborn, Michigan*

100th anniversary of the  
**Model T**



**Dollars for Your Classroom**

**The Wyoming Geographic Alliance is offering money for doing a project on Geography Awareness.**

**Call or e-mail to get an application.**

**Geography Awareness Week is Nov 16-22nd**  
**766-3213**

**or**

**wga@uwyo.edu**

Summer Geography Institute  
Washington D.C.  
July 12-19, 2008”

Germaine Wagner from Casper attended the 2008 SGI.

This institute is the first phase of a new two-year professional development program for teachers, which introduced participants to lessons using maps to understand European physical and cultural landscapes and borders. The curriculum is designed to be a 2-3 week curriculum, with additional research time.

Lesson topics included:

1. Political borders
2. What do you know about Europe?
3. Physical geography of Europe
4. Conflict on the Danube
5. Other examples of physical geography and borders(Netherlands)
6. Languages and religions of Europe
7. Languages and religions of the United Kingdom and Ireland
8. Other examples of human geography and borders(Moldova, Roma, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Serbia, Kosovo)
9. European borders through history (breakup of Soviet Union, Czech, Slovakia, Poland)
10. Looking back, looking forward--ties back to Lesson 2

The teachers will use the materials provided and present the lessons in their classrooms during the school year, tailoring them to state standards. They will also participate in an online learning community to exchange **ideas and resources**.

The second phase is returning to Washington in July 2009 for the Professional Leadership Workshop, which will focus on conducting professional development for others using the materials on mapping and Europe..



ProGeographer Graduate Certificate in Geography Education  
Welcomes Applications

In 2007, the Colorado Geographic Alliance and the University of Northern Colorado launched ProGeographer, the first Graduate Certificate in Geography Education program in the U.S. Generous funding support from the Alliance made the launch possible.

This special 12-graduate credit program is now set to be offered again, and is welcoming applications from any teacher in any state, province, or country. A new website has all of the details:

<http://www.unco.edu/progeographer/>

Please contact Jimmy Dunn with any questions about ProGeographer. [James.Dunn@unco.edu](mailto:James.Dunn@unco.edu)

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Progeographer: Graduate Certificate in Geography Education: <http://www.unco.edu/progeographer/>