

**Minutes of the GENIP Meeting  
November 2, 2003  
Association of American Geographers  
Washington DC**

Apologies: Chris Shearer, National Geographic Society

**Opening Comments by GENIP Chair, Roger Downs**

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Geography education is one of the nicest groups within the profession. It is difficult to lose members of this community, particularly two who mattered so much. Meeting begins with memories of Alice Rechlin Perkins and Pamela Mountjoy.

Barbara Chow requests an addition to the agenda: putting the Standards online.

Correction to minutes: page 4, change AAG to AGS

Motion to approve minutes as amended: Mary Lynn Bird, AGS; seconded Susan Hardwick, NCGE.

**AAG**

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**Short term educational goals (next 6-8 months)**

1. Work with Holt Rinehart and Winston to ensure that the ARGUS and ARGWORLD materials are appropriately edited, packaged, and disseminated.
2. Begin developing a teacher's guide to modern geography if funded by NSF (proposal submitted September).
3. Develop a proposal for a joint UK-US conference on issues of mutual interest in the teaching of geography/environmental studies (with Jan Monk, Mick Healey).
4. Explore the feasibility of developing several new projects:
  - a minority recruiting project focused on community colleges
  - a minority recruiting project linked to an existing Army Corps of Engineers training program
  - a model GIS technology-based internship training program for community colleges
  - a project that will generate research on college level spatial learning.

**Long term educational goals (next 1-2 years)**

1. Revise the ARGUS print materials and CD.
2. Develop appropriate projects from the ideas listed above.
3. Participate in the Web based Structure for Global Geography Education project (Michael Solem, NSF proposal submitted) if funded.
4. Participate in the Partnership for Spatially Enhanced Science and Mathematics Education project (Michael Goodchild et al., NSF proposal submitted) if funded.
5. Participate through the Commission on College Geography II in the Geography Faculty Development Project (Ken Foote, NSF funded)
6. Work through CCGII to schedule sessions at the Annual Meeting that reflect the needs of undergraduate education.
7. Continue the *Visiting Geographical Scientist Program*.
8. Expand the *Ask a Geographer* program.
9. Continue the World Geography Bowl.

Roger Downs inquires whether there is any way in place to assess/track/get feedback on the use and dissemination of the ARGUS and ARGWORLD projects. It appears there is not. Downs suggests that Brand inquire about tracking the locations of sales/schools adopting the products.

Ken Foote reports on the research related to the *Geography Faculty Development* (GFDC) project (<http://www.colorado.edu/geography/gfda/gfda.html>). He and Michael Solem are conducting research on the effects of institutional context on early faculty development. Susan Hardwick has an article accepted to the *Professional Geographer* on the mentor network aspect of the project being developed under the auspices of NCGE.

In addition to the information provided above in the formal AAG report, Brand reports on the development of a career information list on the newly revamped AAG website (<http://www.aag.org>) and on the very successful *My Community, My Earth* (MyCOE) endeavor. MyCOE received inquiries from 150 countries. It will continue for at least one more cycle. It is a good example of the kind of private/NGO/government partnerships that many organizations seek today.

Brand reports that she has lost her support staff through the recent AAG reorganization. In response to questions related to the continuing role of education affairs at the AAG, Brand states that external funding will be required to generate support in the future. The message is clear that the AAG will be able to provide fewer services and will be spending more time in income generating tasks. Doug Richardson, the new executive director, is committed to putting the AAG on sound financial footings and making it a more significant organization in the development of policies.

## AGS

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Report to GENIP from American Geographical Society, Nov. 2, 2002, provided by Mary Lynn Bird.

- 1) The publication schedule of *FOCUS on Geography* is accelerating and falling into a more regular pattern under new editor Gregory Chu. A general interest issue and special issues on Greece and on Mongolia are slated to come out within the next five months.
- 2) The NCGE has approached AGS about the production of a reader (by NCGE) for AP courses based on selected reprinted articles from *FOCUS on Geography*. Assistant Editor of *FOCUS*, Catherine Lockwood, has agreed to take on the editorship of the reader. Many details remain to be resolved, but the likelihood that the project will take place seems very strong.
- 3) The AGS Travel Program is getting back on its feet, after the bankruptcy of Raymond & Whitcomb three years ago. Bookings have doubled this year, after an admittedly modest start in 2001, and, in terms of advance bookings, seem likely to grow by another 50% in 2003.
- 4) Circulation of the *Geographical Review* continues to grow modestly. Inclusion of the journal in the Jstor program may be a contributing factor. More timely production may also be playing a part. The "fieldwork issue" seems to have become an evergreen publication on its own. It is being ordered in classroom quantities for course assignment.
- 5) The next winner of the McColl Family Fellowship will be announced at the end of November. It will pay the travel costs for the winner to do field work abroad in 2003 that results in an article in *FOCUS on Geography*. A few teachers have applied for the fellowships.
- 6) The next winner of the John Best Fellowship for research at the AGS Library will be announced before the end of the year. The number of applicants continues to grow. There is no reason why teachers should not be among them.

Bird also reported that the AGS Library has doubled in holdings since its relocation to Milwaukee. However, this has forced a search for more space in order to accommodate the additional materials and programs the Library offers.

Bird provided information about the successful intern program at AGS. It is an unpaid position yet in the last year they have received 36 applications. Interestingly, many of these are from highly talented, well-prepared young geographers from abroad.

In conclusion, Bird presented details about a new AGS initiative. The Society has a Globe at its offices on which they have collected the signatures of famous explorers over time. AGS wishes to produce replicas of this globe for sale. Unfortunately there are very few globe manufacturers in the world so this is presenting a challenge.

## NCGE

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1. The Central Office relocated July 1, 2002 to Jacksonville State University. The staff includes:

Michal L. LeVasseur, Executive Director

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Angelia Mance, Associate Director

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The NCGE office continues to maintain the finances for GENIP under the direction of Dick Anderson.

2. Teaching to the Standards: A K-12 Scope and Sequence in Geography has been published and is available through NCGE. The price is \$10.00. Orders may be placed for this publication plus Geography for Life as a package for \$15.00.
3. Publications:
  - Grades K-4 Standards Based Lesson Models is now available; \$16.95.
  - Grades 5-8 Standards Based Lesson Models should be published early in 2003.
  - Grades 9-12 Standards Based Lesson Models should go to copy editor this fall.

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee has initiated two new publications in response to requests for a collection of readings appropriate to the AP human geography course. These are designed for introductory cultural geography and for AP human geography. One will consist of a series of appropriate content articles from Focus with introductory essays and suggestions for teachers. The other will consist of a series of content/pedagogy articles from the Journal of Geography with introductory essays and suggestions for teachers

4. The annual meeting was held October 16-19, 2002 in Philadelphia with over 640 participants. In addition to workshops, papers and fieldtrips, there were workshops for AP Geography, for the standards based lesson models, and for Board certification. The strands were for Mission Geography, AP Geography and Technology.

5. The 2003 meeting will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 8-11, 2003. Three meeting strands have been identified: (1) AP Geography organized by David Lanegran, (2) Map and Globe Skills for Elementary Students organized by Celeste Fraser, and (3) Middle East region organized by Donald Zeigler. Please identify any other strands that might be of interest. An Early Career track has also been added to the NCGE program.

It is suggested that even more literacy and cross curricular sessions such as the proposed ocean focus strand be added to the program. Members also recommend that more one -day research workshops be organized at NCGE meetings. A second suggestion is made to establish a mentor network to encourage research in geographic education for eventual publication in the Journal of Geography and the Journal of Geography in Higher Education. A discussion ensued on ways to enhance two subjects in general in K-12 education: physical geography and technology. GENIP suggests that NCGE meet in Baltimore in 2005.

The EMBRC project continues with its emphasis on research. In light of the requirements of *No Child Left Behind* (HR1) the committee feels that geography educators should address the importance of a research component in their work. There is very little research in geography education.

## NGS

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### NGS Report to GENIP (November 2, 2003)

#### NGS Activities in 2002

1. **Content:** Focus of NGS foundation activities is increasingly centered on experiential learning and place based education as well as cross-curricular connections (e.g. literacy/math). NGSEF is actively seeking and developing new partnerships that will help further geography education.
2. **Fundraising:** There are several opportunities for additional outside funding, e.g. GLOBE program. This is NASA's first major privatization effort. Several different groups are forming partnerships to respond to NASA's CAN. NGSEF is also working with the Hewlett Foundation on a project focused on global citizenship and children that will link classrooms in Afghanistan with classrooms in the U.S.
3. **Alliance database:** NGSEF is assembling a database of all Alliance teachers. We have about 10,000 names and email addresses currently in the system. We expect this number to rise substantially in the future.
4. **Geography Action:** This year's Geography Action focus has been on Public Lands. Eight trekkers (two teams of four, North and South), including two Alliance teachers, crossed the United States, travelling entirely on public lands, over a 6-week period. The team met in Salt Lake City on Public Lands Day and participated in a media event involving the Secretary of Interior, Governor of Utah and others. NGS is also hosting a satellite broadcast teaching training workshop on November 19. Michal LeVasseur will host the broadcast. Finally, NGS has partnered with Kevin Richardson of the Backstreet Boys to produce a PSA and video about the conservation movement.
5. **Gallup Poll:** NGS will release the results of a new poll of geographic literacy on November 20. The survey reprises questions from 1988 and introduced comparable up-to-date questions. Young adults (18-24 year olds) from nine countries (US+8) were surveyed...also 25-34 year olds in U.S, The poll release will be accompanied by the formation of a new "Coalition for Geographic Awareness" which will be composed of media companies, educators and others. Despite considerable efforts in geography education, U.S. respondents have not improved since 1988; U.S. young adults scored next to last. Northern European countries excelled. Most disturbing was the apparent lack of interest in world affairs, geography and related issues in the U.S. Roper perceives this to be a cultural phenomena, not a

reflection of a failed education system. The results may be a placeholder for a larger issue—regarding U.S. insularity in an increasingly global economy. The key factors that positively influenced performance include: level of education, travel experience, multilingualism, internet use, use of multiple media sources, course taking in geography education. Chow inquires whether local citizenship builds global citizenship. Downs summarizes the research on location and identity (Placer, Mathews). What are the links between local place-based education and global citizenship/awareness?

## NAEP

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There is a chance that the NAEP Framework may be updated. The report was released in late June to moderate public comment. The McREL research indicates the students of Alliance teachers achieve at a higher rate than the students of non-Alliance teachers. This kind of research is unique. Unfortunately there was no significant difference with black and Hispanic students in the McREL study. NCGE will seek permission to publish this research in the *Journal of Geography* along with comments from NAEP panel members including Roger Downs and Norm Bettis.

## ACR

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Michal LeVasseur, NCGE, attended the latest Alliance for Curriculum Reform (ACR) meeting which focused on research requirements of *No Child Left Behind*. GENIP invites/instructs Michal to continue to represent GENIP. The point was made that teachers need to become consumers of research. Is there a way to clearly show research results in the classroom? We have not made the link between research and classroom practice.

There has been no response on the part of geography to *No Child Left Behind* comparable to the product produced by the environmental education organizations. GENIP will consider how to do this.

## AP Human Geography

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The GENIP essays for AP Human Geography coordinated by Robert Bednarz are now ready for publication. It is proposed that one essay be put on the web as a teaser then have the rest produced by a Docutech system. Ken Foote suggests that the essays be produced as a NCGE Pathways series. This is agreed to. Bednarz will do a final edit and send it to authors for approval after the final proofs are available.

The numbers of students participating in the program are still not yet up to the expected levels. Downs proposes a visit to College Board later this fall. A delegation of Lanny Proffer, David Lanegran, and Downs will discuss strategies to recoup our loans with College Board.

## Spatial Thinking

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The report is nearly complete and will appear in Spring 2003.

## MA/MS in Geography Education

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No news on the MA/MS in Geography Education.

## Treasurer's Report

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Losses have not been as great as some might expect. Downs asks LeVasseur to evaluate the relationship between NCGE and GENIP to make sure they wish to maintain the current sales arrangements. GENIP has a rough estimate of carryover of \$185,000; with projected sales GENIP has about \$200,000. Downs requests copies of the projected budget and requests provisional acceptance of the budget. Bird moves,

Hardwick seconds. Passes unanimously. Thanks are given to Richard Anderson for his excellent work as treasurer.

## Ten Year Retrospective

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There is a financial reason to follow up on the Standards—GENIP needs publications for continued project development. There is also a need to revitalize the Standards and to reinstitutionalize them in the context of a changed educational scene. The deadline for this project is October 20, 2004. There is general agreement on the need for a retrospective on the Standards as proposed by Downs.

The document might include:

- A self assessment of geographic literacy for parents/teachers/administrators. Moody's is now rating schools. A model program description might be helpful.
- Ways that geography education can be changed and improved, particularly by links to history, science, technology (GIS), mathematics, assessment.
- Connections to literature are particularly important.
- Models of ways to organize curricula with geography as a link. For example, take the five most commonly read books and show how geography plays a role in the text.
- An extension of Jodi Vender's scope and sequence.
- Some focus on preservice education? For use with preservice education classes e.g.

In order to make this work Downs suggests two meetings will be needed with a volunteer work group of five or six participants. Downs suggests Susan Hardwick, Jim Marran, Bob Morrill, Ken Foote, and Sarah Bednarz for the initial team. Others may be added at the discretion of the chair of the project, Downs. The document needs to relate to educational policy therefore it is advisable to form an advisory group that will comment and make suggestions such as Charlie Fitzpatrick. Other stakeholders and policy groups such as ACHIEVE should be consulted as well.

The final product will need to be professionally designed to make it appealing and accessible. A review panel of about 10 teachers with small stipend will 1) review the outline; and 2) review the final product.

A tentative budget is developed:

- \$12,000 travel for meetings
- \$20,000 for a designer
- Review panel of 10 teachers x \$500.00 each

Sub total: \$37,000

Additional monies to facilitate product development such as Fed Ex costs are needed.

The goal is to sell 10,000 copies at \$10.00, clearing \$3.50 per copy. It may be shrink-wrapped with the *classic* Standards for a small additional amount. The revision is necessary; is it cost effective? The consensus in the group is that the goal is to break even.

Bednarz will consult with small publishers such as Heineman and Greenwood Press to see if a commercial publisher might be interested.

WHO moves GENIP approve up to \$65,000 for the project. Hardwick seconds. October 20, 2004 deadline. Passed unanimously. Anderson requests permission to sell securities to fund this project. Brand seconds the motion which passes unanimously.

**Teaching Geography Professional Development Workshop: The Lance and Bob Show**

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Hardwick reports that the project is completed and is being shown on the Learning Channel. It is also available for \$199.00 as a packaged set. The response is very positive. Jim Binko's piece focusing on geography education is very well done.

### **Scope and Sequence**

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James Marran successfully shepherded this project to completion. It is available for sale through NCGE.

### **Award**

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Follow up. Will get money in coffers and proceed.

### **Intern Program**

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Barbara requests clarification on the status of the intern programs. The focus of the assignment would be to replicate the environmental education report. Approved.

### **Heartwood Foundation**

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Eleanor Childs approached Roger to get support for a series of books related to ethics, place, and culture. Get people to write material that goes along with ethics and literature.

### **Honoring Pam Mountjoy**

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Osa suggests we contribute to the Pam Mountjoy Fund Reach for the Stars. Roger suggests we also participate in the actual conference. **Inquire about the contribution of our time and presence at the Pam Mountjoy fund.**

### **Calendar**

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The purpose of the calendar is to celebrate women who made a contribution in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the development of geography education. It is felt that a calendar will hang in classrooms to inspire young women interested in careers in geography and geography education. **The calendar will be produced by Jan Smith, Jodi Vender, and others, with the assistance of Sarah Bednarz as a NCGE/GENIP project.**

GENIP agrees to provide up to \$1000 to create and produce the calendar; if more is needed the project team can request additional funding.

### **Time Line Project**

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The AAG Timeline is being compiled in honor of the celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association of American Geographers. Susan Hardwick solicits ideas and contributions to this important project.

### **Standards On Line**

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Barbara Chow has been approached by an organization, JES—a non-profit from Arizona, to place the National Geography Standards on line.. It would require financial support to have the Standards included in their database. **Chow will request that they submit a formal and more detailed proposal to GENIP.**

## Things From Yesterday

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### OCEAN LITERACY

GENIP agrees to support the design component of the Oceans scope and sequence and supporting document. Roger Downs and Jodi Vender will write a companion piece for the Oceans scope and sequence using the *Geography for Life Executive Summary* as a model. The purpose of this document will be to reinforce how this effort can be used in the schools, to highlight some exemplary lesson plans and provide references to other teacher resources.

NCGE will print a limited run of the document for sale through its Pathways series and host an ocean strand at the next annual conference to promote this effort (Salt Lake City in 2003)

In return, Francesca Cava will seek funding from NOAA to pay for the cost of the distribution of this document along with assistance in printing additional copies (we thought 50,000-100,000 would make sense if NGS wants to get it to all the schools).

### TEACHER PREPARATION

GENIP will contribute to public comment on the NBPTS Standards.

In addition we will seek the names of all certified social studies/geography specialists from NBPTS. Following a discussion on possible scholarships for NBPTS teachers, GENIP consensus is that we do not have sufficient resources currently to make a significant difference. A better approach for GENIP and constituent members is to promote awareness of the value of Board certification for geography teachers. It is agreed that NCGE will honor Board certified teachers at its annual meetings and maintain momentum and support by organizing sessions about NBPTS at NCGE with two purposes: 1) to make teachers aware of the procedures; and 2) to mentor teachers going through the process.

Project coordinator Bednarz will follow up with Susan Griffin on possible changes within the NCSS Standards regarding Technology, particularly GIS and other spatially appropriate technologies.

Sarah Bednarz requests permission to have reception at AAG on behalf of Jim Marran. This request is granted.

Please consider places to go for our Spring meeting.