



From the President

Sharon Coleman

"You Can't

Change the Wind . . ."

*"But you can change the set of
your sails."*

NOW is the time for social studies professionals to heed this advice. Do we just give lip service or do we really believe in the value of social studies? Read the paper; watch the news. SOCIAL STUDIES MATTERS! Does the world need more informed, rational, and creative citizens? If so, why is social studies education a non-priority? How can we keep the momentum going when much of our support system from our local schools to Washington is being withdrawn?

Stand up and be counted.

While we have a little time this summer, we can contact government officials and corporate sponsors for assistance in finding alternative ways to restore the valuable programs that have been cut from the federal budget.

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Social Studies Supervisor Award Winners

In our last issue we recognized award winning educators from 2009 and 2010. This issue shines the spotlight on extraordinary supervisors.

2009: DR. DEBBIE DANIELL

Dr. Debbie Daniell is known for being blond, talkative, highly engaged, and a "go to" person in social studies, according to Eddie Bennett's nomination letter for the GLASS 2009 Outstanding Social Studies Supervisor Award. Citing her leadership in the field, her vigorous, well-designed professional development program, and her strong advocacy and support for social studies teachers, Daniell's nomination was reinforced by accolades from others who have worked with Debbie through the years.



2010: DR. EDDIE BENNETT



This issue of the *GCSS News & Notes* comes to you in digital format. The new format will allow more space for news and color photos, as well as permitting news to arrive more quickly and easily.

Dr. Eddie Bennett was named the 2010 Outstanding Social Studies Supervisor. Bennett was nominated by colleague, JoAnn Wood, who described him as "always warm and humorous, the consummate professional, and an inspiration as an engaged and active citizen who cares deeply about our state, nation, and world." Diane Sloan noted that he "is someone you can count on," and Mary Stakes added, "His recognition as an outstanding leader will be appreciated by so many teachers across the state of Georgia."

(From the President, from pg. 1)

☑ **Enhance our plans and advertise.** Spend the summer brainstorming ways to get each student to use his mind and body (yes, get them up and moving) to answer the following questions about our disciplines: **What are the important facts, concepts, principles and skills?** How do I use the tools and methods of the scholars, researchers, and practitioners to apply this knowledge? How is this information **connected to other topics, disciplines, events, time, and cultures?** How does this affect my value system, response to issues, life's work, or role in society? What **creative solutions** do I have for related issues and problems? How do I share this with people outside the classroom?

☑ **Bond and learn.** We have the Internet with unlimited possibilities. We can put ourselves in charge of our own professional learning or help someone else. Second, we can find a colleague with the same assignment; work together; celebrate together when the job is done. Third, we can network with experts and colleagues at the October GCSS conference. (Now's the time to make a case for being a conference attendee--before the crowd returns in August! Get info at www.gcss.net.)

Our NCSS and DOE leaders are representing us in the common standards development that may bring us into the mainstream of the national movement, but that will take time. The President has his own ideas about possible changes to the federal law. While they are working in their arenas, we must do our part to tack around the winds of priorities set by existing federal accountability legislation and budget cuts and claim the place of social studies on the list of what's important for our students. Clear sailing? It may take awhile. In the meantime, we have what it takes to reach to reach our destination.



People Watching at the GCSS Conference, 2010... We'll be looking for your face at this year's conference on Oct. 20-21.



Getting to Know...

*Sharon Coleman,
GCSS President*

Sharon Coleman may be new to her role as GCSS president, but she takes on this role after years of active involvement with the council. Among her many and varied experiences, she has taught at elementary, middle, and high school levels and in both gifted and regular education. She has worked with Waycross City/Ware County schools as well as schools in Cobb and Dekalb Counties and in the Okfenokee RESA. Many in GCSS know Coleman through her years of involvement with the Georgia Social Studies Fair, and she has also worked closely with the Georgia Council for Economic Education and the *We the People* program.

Coleman attributes her interest in Social Studies to, among others:

- “My father--who read the Atlanta Journal and Sunday AJC news from cover to cover every evening. I got to read after he finished each page
- My uncle from Vienna, a social studies teacher, who, like my grandmother, liked to tell stories about everything
- My elementary teachers who took us to tour the state capitol when Sanders was governor
- My high school political science teacher, Ms. Bobbie Freeman, who taught us efficiently and also showed us movies like *Advice and Consent*, *Seven Days in May*, etc.”

Obviously these early influences have inspired in Coleman a deep and abiding love for Social Studies. Who was your inspiration?

2011-2012 FILLED WITH MEMORABLE
HISTORIC ANNIVERSARIES:
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9-11

This school year presents us with many teachable moments related to the anniversary of historic dates and events. Each issue of this year's *News & Notes* will spotlight a different anniversary topic and suggest resources you might consider. Remember to choose resources and guide discussions that are appropriate for the developmental level of your students.

Resources for Teaching 9-11

This September marks the 10 year anniversary of 9-11. You may find the following websites and books helpful as you are teaching about this event.

Children's Literature about 9-11 (useful for both younger and older students)

☀ *Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey* by Maria Kalman. A fireboat, launched in 1931, is retired after many years of fighting fires along the Hudson River, but is saved from being scrapped and then called into service again on September 11, 2001.

☀ *New York's Bravest* by Mary Pope Osborne. This tale of a 19th century urban folk hero, Mose the firefighter, represents the courage and strength of firefighters throughout history. Dedicated to the firefighters who gave their lives on September 11, 2001, the book offers an opportunity to discuss the events of that day in a more oblique way.

☀ *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein. A lovely tale memorializing the French aerialist, Phillippe Petit, who performed on a tightrope stretched between the World Trade Center towers in 1974. The author refers to the events of September 11, 2001, only on the last

page of this book, but voices a subtle and moving elegy for what has been lost and the memories that remain.

☀ *This Place I Know: Poems of Comfort* Selected by Georgia Heard & illustrated by 18 renowned picture book artists. A beautiful and healing collection of children's poems and illustrations.

☀ *Messages to Ground Zero: Children Respond to September 11, 2001* Collected by Shelley Harwayne with the New York City Board of Education. Writings and drawings of children attempting to make sense of the incomprehensible tragedies of September 11, 2001. *Primary sources!*

NCSS Journal Articles On Teaching 9-11

Chick, Kay A. "Making Meaning for Children: The Events of 9-11," *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, 17, no. 1 (2004): 25-29.

Hess, Diana and Jeremy Stoddard, "9-11 and Terrorism: 'The Ultimate Teachable Moment' in Textbooks and Supplemental Curricula" *Social Education*, 71, no. 5 (2007): 231-236.

Web Resources for Teaching 9-11

Bill of Rights Institute:

www.billofrightsinstitute.org

The Clarke Center at Dickinson College:

www.teaching9-11.org

Foreign Policy Research Institute: www.fpri.org/education/teachingwaronterror/

Library of Congress Sept. 11, 2001, Documentary Project: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/911_archive

The Sept. 11 Digital Archive: <http://911digitalarchive.org>

Mark Your Calendar:

 **GCSS Conference** – this year's theme is *Social Studies Matters* and the conference is **October 20-21**, at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. Early registration can save you money! More details at www.gcss.net

 **NCSS Conference, December 2-4, 2011** - this year's theme is *Dimensions of Diversity*. More details at www.socialstudies.org

Late Breaking News:

 Looking for resources to teach your students about the **federal budget, national debt and national deficit**? A group at Teachers College Columbia University has developed a curriculum, *Understanding Fiscal Responsibility*, which might help. The curriculum is designed for high school students but might be adapted for middle school learners. Check it out at: <http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/>

 *Georgia Social Studies Journal* - Associate Editor Brandon Butler is proud to announce that the first issue of the Journal has been published and the editors are in the process of accepting submissions for the second issue. The current issue can be found at www.coe.uga.edu/gssj/current-issue/

 **Announcing the Georgia Studies Images Website** - Georgia Studies and American History teachers will want to check out a classroom resource intended to help students who do not like to read or have difficulty reading their textbooks. The Georgia Studies Images website <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/gastudiesimages/title.htm> is providing an image bank tied to the 8th grade Georgia Studies GPS (although many of the images will also correlate with the American History GPS.) Images are a standard size designed for use in PowerPoint presentations. Although the website is currently under construction, images are available now for some of the GPS standards. For example, over 700 images are currently online for the standard relating to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Teachers can download images and create visual presentations for teaching GPS and for student review. For more information, contact Ed Jackson at edjack@uga.edu

Think about for the 2011-2012 school year:

-  Participating in this year's Social Studies Fair
-  Attending the GCSS conference
-  Becoming a more active GCSS member and recruiting more members
-  Sharing your idea for *News & Notes*.

Need to contact GCSS? Please notify Eddie Bennett of changes in contact information at gcss1964@gmail.com or send notice to P.O. Box 675, Avondale Estates, GA 30002



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