



## *From the President*

Pam Knauer

### *Summer: A Time for Reflection*

Greetings! It is hard to believe that the school year is over and summer is here. I enjoyed my summer breaks for the obvious reasons: time with my family and some much needed rest. After a few weeks, though, I began reflecting on the past school year as well as looking to the next school year. What worked and what didn't work? What will I do differently the next year in my classroom? I hope you will take some time this summer and think about the ways you will incorporate all you have learned this year regarding the CCGPS' Reading and Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies.

Many times when a new curriculum is rolled out the information can be overwhelming. We need to wrap our minds around the information and decide how the instruction of the CCGPS Literacy Standards for Social Studies will look in our classrooms in August. I came across a great article that I shared with the teachers in my system. It is

*(continued on page 2)*

## Georgia's NCLB Waiver Makes Social Studies More Important Than Ever

Georgia was granted a waiver to NCLB on March 30, 2012, and educators throughout Georgia have been abuzz about what that means for teaching and learning in Georgia. Schools remain accountable for the progress of all students, but the way that success is defined and mastery weighted is changing. Schools will be identified according to new criteria and in new categories by performance. The new indicators are contained within the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).

The CCRPI will be used beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Rather than using a single test score to determine a school's performance, there will be multiple indicators including achievement, achievement gap closure, progress, and "exceeding the bar" data. One big change is that ALL the content areas are considered when determining a school's status. In one fell swoop, Social Studies has lost its stepchild status and is now equally important as the other content areas. Now is the time to Seize the Day for Social Studies!

## 2012 GCSS CONFERENCE - WHY YOU NEED TO BE THERE

Georgia's NCLB Waiver and the Career and College Readiness Index discussed in the preceding article make it more critical than ever that you stay current with the latest news on how Social Studies is changing in Georgia. Not only does it "count" in ways it has not in the past, but Social Studies is dramatically affected by the new ELA common core literacy standards. Here are just a few of the emphases in the common core that have a direct impact on Social Studies:

- \* emphasis on strong academic vocabulary
- \* importance of reading, analyzing, and writing about primary source documents
- \* increasing depth of knowledge and academic rigor across the board
- \* providing authentic and powerful performance tasks, especially those that include sophisticated writing tasks
- \* and developing students' ability to read and write informational text.

(From the President, from pg. 1) entitled, ***“Five Strategies to Infuse Common Core State Standards with Social Studies Instruction”*** by Dr. Kristen Swanson. The strategies are as follows:

1. Include Primary Sources in Your Instruction-Often.
2. Spend Time Helping Students Grapple with Text.
3. Make Themes and “Big Ideas” Transparent
4. Use “Quick Writes” As Meaning Making Activities.
5. Require Text-based Answers in Your Assessments.

If you are already incorporating these strategies into your social studies instruction, you are well on your way to implementing the CCGPS Literacy Standards. Look at the literacy strategies and initiatives being implemented in your schools and improve upon them. Take the time to read and write with your students this next year, and you will be pleased with the students’ level of thinking and amount of content retained.

Also, as you plan for next year, think about how you will incorporate the 2012 Election into your instruction. Elections are fun to teach and there are many standards in the GPS which can be taught using election activities. GCSS will be sending a free CD of election activities to all its members.

A new school year brings great opportunities for social studies teachers and our students. Our state has set us upon a pathway that will help prepare our students for the rigorous demands of college and work. We need to embrace this

challenge so our children will be productive and knowledgeable citizens; we can do no less if our nation is to thrive. This is the purpose of social studies instruction. I hope all of you have a wonderful summer and the great beginning of a new school year in August



*Sneak a Peek at the 2012  
GCSS Conference -  
“Invest in Civic Energy -  
It’s Renewable”*

You will want to be in Athens October 24-26, for an invigorating and exciting conference.

The conference theme, “Invest in Civic Energy - It’s Renewable,” comes to us from Sarah Guy. She wrote the phrase for a contest hosted by the National Constitution Center and *Smith Magazine*. Ms. Guy writes us that she is “thrilled that [GCSS] has connected with the phrase and that you find it applicable to your conference and your constituents.”

The contest was designed to spark interest in the 2009 inauguration and promote civic engagement. They sought entries that consisted of “six words to inspire a nation.” Says Guy, “I believe in this phrase and I’m very proud of it, and I hope it can be a source of inspiration for your conference attendees.” We appreciate Ms. Guy’s generous sharing of her slogan with us and think it exemplifies a fine civic spirit!

What six word phrase would you create to encourage civic engagement?

*Mark C. Schug a Conference  
Keynote Speaker*



Mark C. Schug is Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee. Professor Schug taught for 36 years at the middle school, high school, and university levels. A widely recognized scholar, he has written and edited over 200 articles, books, and national curriculum materials. He has been the guest co-editor of seven issues of *Social Education*, the flagship journal of the National Council for the Social Studies. His latest books are *Teaching Economics in Troubled Times* published by Routledge Press and co-edited with William C. Wood of James Madison University and *Economic Episodes in American History* published by Wohl Publishing and co-authored by William C. Wood. Dr. Schug is a lively speaker who can connect sound analysis of the economy with the political context within which it exists, all while keeping his audience entertained.

Look for news about our other keynote speaker in the next issue.



## OTHER DELECTABLE 2012

### CONFERENCE OFFERINGS

Besides conference keynotes, Dr. Mark C. Schug and Dr. Diana Hess, there are myriad invigorating and informative breakout sessions on the menu, including those on:

- \* Overcoming the achievement gap in Social Studies
- \* Assessment strategies
- \* Writing in Social Studies
- \* Character Education
- \* Teaching Economics Through Biography
- \* Global Education
- \* Georgia Studies
- \* Government and Civics
- \* Literacy and Social Studies
- \* Teaching with Technology
- \* Primary Sources in Your Classroom
- \* Collaboration with History Organizations
- \* Strategies for teaching U.S., World, and more...

You are sure to find sessions to whet your appetite, feed your spirit, and re-energize your teaching. See you at the Classic Center in October!



## 2012 GEORGIA SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR

As usual, Social Studies Fair Coordinator Sharon Coleman did an outstanding job of organizing and directing a lively fair on Saturday, March 24, 2012. The fair was hosted by Clayton State University, whose president is Dr. Thomas J. Hynes, Jr.

Thanks go to the following fair sponsors and representatives:

Georgia Leadership Association for the Social Studies,  
Dr. Keisha Nalty, President

Georgia Council on Economic Education, Dr. David  
Martin and Dr. Glen Blankenship



Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists  
Society for Georgia Archaeology Dr. Lynn Pietak  
Archaeology Group Manager, Edwards-Pitman, Inc.

Georgia Geographic Alliance, Dr. Garrett Smith,  
Director

Friends of Georgia Archives and History, Professor  
Richard Pearce-Moses, Director, Master of Archival  
Studies, Clayton State University

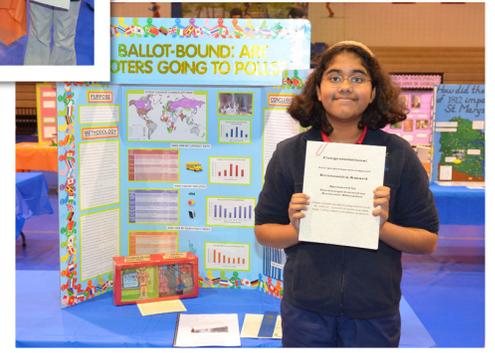
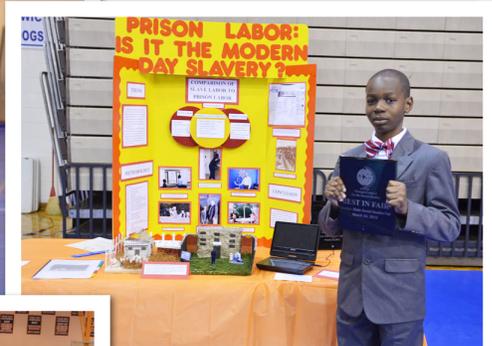
New Georgia Encyclopedia, Sarah McKee, NGE  
Project Editor, Georgia Humanities Council

Civic Mission of Schools, Mary Stakes, State  
Coordinator, Project Citizen

Many individuals also assisted in making the 2012 Social Studies Fair a success, for which Ms. Coleman and the council are extremely appreciative.

*Thank You!*

# Glimpses of the 2012 Georgia Social Studies Fair



## Mark Your Calendar

🌐 **GCSS Conference** – this year’s theme is *Invest in Civic Energy - It’s Renewable* and the conference is **October 25-26**, at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. Deadline to submit session proposals is March 30. More details at [www.gcss.net](http://www.gcss.net)

🌐 **NCSS Conference, November 16-18, 2012** - this year’s theme is *Opening Windows to the World* in Seattle, WA. More details at [www.ncss.org](http://www.ncss.org)

🌐 **Nominate an outstanding educator or an excellent social studies program for a GCSS Award** - Each year GCSS recognizes individual educators as Gwen Hutcheson Outstanding Educators as well as honoring Programs of Excellence from throughout the state. For nomination forms, go to: [www.gcss.net/awards.htm](http://www.gcss.net/awards.htm) Deadline for nominations is September 16, 2012.

### Teacher opportunities:

🌐 For more information from the Georgia DOE on the NCLB waiver or the College and Career Ready Index, go to: <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Pages/NCLB-Waiver.aspx>

🌐 *Georgia Social Studies Journal* - The current issue can be found at [www.coe.uga.edu/gssj/current-issue/](http://www.coe.uga.edu/gssj/current-issue/)

🌐 Become more active this year:

- 🌐 Participate in this year’s Social Studies Fair.
- 🌐 Attend the GCSS conference.
- 🌐 Become a more active GCSS member and recruit new members.
- 🌐 Send in news or ideas for *News & Notes*.

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



*News & Notes* is published three times a year. Announcements and information should be sent to JoAnn Wood, Editor, Cobb County Schools, 514 Glover St., Marietta, GA 30060, or e-mail: [joann.wood@cobbk12.org](mailto:joann.wood@cobbk12.org)

