



From the President

Debbie Kelley



It is hard to believe that another school year has come to an end and summer is here! The end of the school year is always a time for reflection. What worked well and what did not work at all? I often hear remarks from people outside of the education world that “teachers have all summer off”. Well we know that is not the case. It is during the summer that teachers reflect on the previous year and plan for the upcoming school year.

This past school year brought a lot of changes to education here in Georgia, one change being the new teacher evaluation system - aka TKES. In social studies, we look at a lot of causes and effects throughout the year. Well, one effect of this new evaluation system will be stress and a lot of it. Some would argue that teachers do not like to be held accountable but that is not true. Change is not easy for anyone regardless of what that change may be. Whether or not a teacher will be measured by their Student Learning Objective (SLO) or their Student Growth Percentile (SGP), this upcoming school year will be a learning curve for us all.

One domain on the TKES that will be a struggle for teachers and administrators is that of differentiation. Teachers will need to be able to provide evidence that will clearly demonstrate how they have made their instruction accessible to all learners. Often teachers confuse

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GCSS Conference 2014 *Time to Nominate Deserving Candidates for GCSS Awards at 50th Annual Conference*

Exciting plans are underway for the 50th Anniversary Georgia Council for the Social Studies Conference in Athens, GA, on October 16 - 17. Dynamic conference sessions and a history making keynote speaker combine to provide an opportunity to be informed, inspired, and invigorated that you will not want to miss.

One of the highlights of the conference each year is the Awards Luncheon, at which outstanding teachers, social studies leaders, programs, and friends of social studies are recognized. Now is the time to consider nominating a deserving mentor, colleague, or leader for an award. The following are award programs now accepting nominations:

- ☀ The Gwen Hutcheson Outstanding Educator Award
- ☀ Programs of Excellence
- ☀ Outstanding Social Studies Supervisor

For more information about submitting your nomination, see the GCSS website at: <http://www.gcss.net/site/page/view/awards>

Last year at this time, the following were nominated:

The 2013 Gwen Hutcheson Outstanding Educator Award winners John Donegan, DeKalb County; Heather Mackenzie, Henry County; Colleen McGiboney, Gwinnett County; and Dr. Pamela Roach, Cobb County.

2013 Programs of Excellence winners Henry County Schools and Newnan High School.

2013 Outstanding Social Studies Supervisor Award winners Aaron Randall, Henry County Schools and JoAnn Wood, Cobb County Schools.

WHO WILL BE THE 2014 GCSS AWARD WINNERS?

(From the President, from pg. 1)

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) with differentiation. Universal Design for Learning makes the instruction in the classroom accessible to all learners whether they are visual learners, kinesthetic learners, etc. Differentiation is based on more data driven instruction. As you plan this summer, design your lessons so that all students will have access to the information and then use data to further drive your instruction.

Another debate that continues to circulate in the political world is that of common core. Unfortunately this debate will continue into the next school year. I continue to be dumbfounded over the misinformation that people are given regarding common core. The biggest one is that we have common core standards in social studies. That is completely false. Our curriculum is guided by the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The confusion comes from the literacy standards that are connected to the social studies. In addition to the GPS, we have always had a skills matrix that took into account the use of various social studies skills. The literacy standards are just a more rigorous version of these skills. Furthermore, when did increasing rigor in the classroom become a bad thing?

In order to increase the rigor of your lessons as well as literacy skills, incorporate the use of primary documents. Research shows that student who are engaged and “doing” history will retain and remember the information. Many teachers still use the “sit-n-get memorization and regurgitation method” and wonder why their students have not shown growth. It doesn’t take a grand lesson to change the way social studies is taught. Sometimes one simple change can make the greatest impact. As I have watched my children play Lacrosse this spring I

have noticed that just a simple move can make all the difference in the outcome of the game. The same can be true for teaching. Just a simple change in instruction can revitalize the classroom. Using primary documents correctly will increase the rigor AND students will become more engaged. We want our students to start thinking more like true historians.

As the excitement of summer approaches, August and a new school year will be here before we know it. New opportunities come about with each new school year. Have a relaxing summer and prepare now for those new opportunities.



Students’ Projects Rise to the Top at 2014 State Social Studies Fair

May 3, 2014, was the highest and final round of competition for 75 projects and the student researchers who had competed with hundreds of others at local school, school district, and regional social studies fairs over the past six months. When all results were reviewed, two projects emerged with Best in Fair prizes, with four Best in Class, eighteen Best in Discipline awards, and seven special awards being given. Names of all winners can be found at www.gcss.net/site/page/view/Georgia-social-studies-fair.

Special thanks to the 40 judges who gave up their Saturday to rank finalists and determine top winners. Thanks to all sponsors, including Clayton State University, the state YMCA of Georgia, Inc., the Georgia Council on Economic Education, *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, the Georgia Geographic Alliance, the Society for Georgia Archaeology, the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists, Herff Jones|Nystrom, and GCSS for financial and in-kind support. Additional thanks to the directors and institutions who hosted the regional fairs at Columbus Museum, Georgia Southern University, University of North Georgia-Gainesville, Kennesaw University, Memorial Middle School (Rockdale) and Mundy’s Mill High School (Clayton).

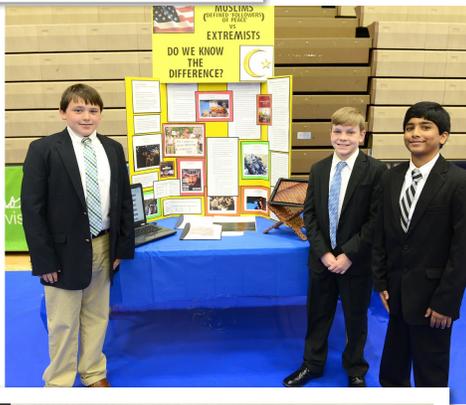
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2014 State Social Studies Fair Highlights



*(left) Fair Director Sharon Coleman juggles duties to manage a smooth state fair each year.
(right) Parents and students attend the fair at Clayton State University.*



Both Best in Fair winners tackled complex topics in sophisticated and compelling projects.



These four photos show students engaged with their judges in the interview portion of the fair.



Rho Kappa Wants YOU! by India Meissel, NCSS Board Member

The Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society was established by the National Council for the Social Studies in December, 2011 and is the only national organization that recognizes high school juniors and seniors for excellence in the field of social studies. Rho Kappa was originally established by the Florida Council for the Social Studies in 2000 for the State of Florida. Through its sponsorship of Rho Kappa, NCSS hopes to encourage an interest in, understanding or, and appreciation for the social studies in our students. It currently has chapters in 35 states and the District of Columbia, with five active chapters in the state of Georgia.

Why Rho Kappa?

Globalization and rapid technological advancements in the 21st century are profoundly impacting our democracy and conceptualization of what it means to be a productive member of society. As schools reorient their goals and procedures for preparing students for success in college and career in the changing landscape, it is vital to the health and future of our democracy that our schools also prepare students for a lifetime of knowledgeable, engaged, and active citizenship. Our ability to create and sustain a robust democracy depends on our ability to achieve this goal.

Students who leave high school with civic competencies achieved through high quality civic learning practices are equipped to address complex challenges, work and study with diverse colleagues, and creatively solve problems that do not have easy solutions. **They are also more likely to vote and discuss politics at home, to volunteer and work on community issues, and are more confident in their ability to speak publicly and communicate with their elected representatives. Schools with civic learning programs are more likely to be safe, inclusive, and respectful, and in addition, experience fewer high school dropouts.** For these reasons and many more, it is critically important to revitalize civic learning as a core purpose of education for all students at all grade levels.

It was Mahatma Gandhi who said: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

So how does Rho Kappa fit into this criteria?

Derived from the words "resh" meaning "head" and "kaf" meaning "palm of the hand," Rho Kappa represents the concept of knowledge through service. While recognizing those students who have achieved academic excellence in history, successful Rho Kappa chapters provide a venue for students to perform meaningful work for their school and the surrounding community.

So what are chapters doing?

They are inviting former members of the military, Holocaust survivors, and government officials of all levels to come in and speak to name a few initiatives. They organize commemorations of historical events and travel to historical locations. They are donating supplies to shelters, organizing canned good drives, collecting eyeglasses for third world nations, forming Relay for Life teams and holding candlelight vigils for homeless youths. They send care packages to their alumni serving overseas in a program dubbed "Operation Aggies Care". They tutor students at all levels K-12, participate in oral history projects such as the Civil Voices Memory Bank project, and numerous chapters have had members trained to register eligible high school students to vote. These young people are active, productive citizens in their respective communities and are learning lessons that will carry them throughout their adult lives.

So what can you do?

John Quincy Adams is quoted as having said "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." Be that leader: Be the action for introducing policies and civic practices to schools that needs to occur at the local, state, and national levels. Urge policymakers, educators, families, and communities to adopt a vision and plan for providing students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed for effective civic life. Start a Rho Kappa Chapter in your school, and inspire others in your district to start a chapter. Share Rho Kappa materials at your state conference and encourage others to start a Rho Kappa Chapter. Our young people - our future leaders - depend on us.

India Meissel is a Social Studies Teacher and Rho Kappa Chapter sponsor at Lakeland High School in Suffolk, VA. She also serves as a member of the NCSS Board of Directors and as the National Chairperson for the Rho Kappa Advisory Board. She can be reached at indiameissel@spsk12.net

Any accredited public or private high school can apply for a local Rho Kappa chapter, through which individual students can be inducted into the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society. For more details, go to the Rho Kappa section of the NCSS website (www.socialstudies.org) or access it directly at <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org/rhokappa/Home/>

Teacher Opportunities & Resources

Free Georgia Highway Maps for teachers:

The Georgia Dept. of Transportation is moving offices this summer and has boxes of Georgia highway maps they will ship free to interested teachers. Each box holds 150 maps. Contact Gladys Stewart at 770-986-1436 if interested. Move date is June 30, so act now!

Personal Genetics Education Project

Summer Institute from the Personal Genetics Education Project, housed at Harvard Medical School. We create interactive lesson plans for high school social studies, science, and health teachers about social and ethical issues related to personal genetics. We are trying hard to widen our reach and connect with teachers from parts of the nation we have yet to reach, and would appreciate it if you could let your teachers know about this PD. The information is on the document below and on our website: <http://www.pged.org/event/professional-development-summer-institute/> Thank you and please feel free to contact me with any questions. Best, Lauren Tomaselli, M.Ed Director of Curriculum and Training Personal Genetics Education Project Harvard Medical School 617-432-1797 www.pged.org Our new genetics game: www.map-ed.org

American Experience: Freedom Summer 1964

Freedom Summer of 1964 was marked by sustained and deadly violence, including the notorious murders of three civil rights workers, countless beatings, the burning of thirty-five churches, and the bombing of seventy homes and community centers. This powerful documentary premieres June 24, 2014 on PBS American Experience.



News from the Georgia Geographic Alliance

The GGA has found a home at Georgia State University and its Department of Geosciences, having moved from Kennesaw State University, where it was hosted from 2006 to 2013.

Check out their new website at <http://georgiageography.org>

and new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/georgiageography> Both sites will soon prominently display the inspiring geographic work being completed by teachers, students, and community members around our state. Please like the Facebook page and also

sign up for the GGA mailing list at <http://georgiageography.org/connect/> . It only takes about 25 seconds to sign up to stay up to date!

Beginning later this spring, GGA will host a series of Geographic Education Workshops focused on mobile mapping, community geography, and place-based learning. These workshops will occur throughout the state (let us know if you would like to co-host an event with us; we are currently looking for site locations around the state). Workshop fees will be \$10-15 per person to include free lunch, a lesson plan, and printed materials.

See what you're missing if you're not receiving the NCSS SmartBrief - check out these recent postings:

Implementing the C3 Framework: What is our Task as Social Studies Leaders? NCSS President Elect Michelle Herczog outlines the role of social studies leaders in leveraging the C3 Framework to revitalize Social Studies instruction. Read more at: <http://www.socialstudies.org/c3/implementingforleaders>

Elevating Co-teaching with Social Media PD

This middle school special education co-teacher offers from the trenches advice and specific strategies to make co-teaching a win-win-win for teachers and students. Read more at: <http://www.middleweb.com/15374/co-teaching-and-social-media/>

Social Studies and Civic Life

Two Montana fifth graders put their civic understanding into action with a campaign to assist food pantry. Read more at: <http://www.greatfalltribune.com/story/news/local/2014/05/19/lincoln-elementary-fifth-graders-buy-school-fridge/9306219/>

Sign up for NCSS SmartBrief at:

https://www2.smartbrief.com/signupSystem/subscribe.action?pageSequence=1&briefName=ncss&utm_source=brief

Teacher Opportunities & Resources - continued

GeorgiaInfo Website Redesign

GeorgiaInfo, the state's online almanac based at the University of Georgia, launched a redesigned website in January 2014.

"GeorgiaInfo is complementary to resources like the award-winning New Georgia Encyclopedia and the millions of primary resources included in our Digital Library of Georgia," said Merryll Penson, executive director of library services with the University System's Office of Information and Instructional Technology. Having this information in a new format will be very beneficial to our GALILEO users, particularly those in 8th grade social studies." Look for popular features like This Day in Georgia History and This Day in Georgia Civil War History. Explore the new website at: <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/>

Beveridge Family Teaching Prize, sponsored by the American Historical Association

Established in 1995, this prize honors the Beveridge family's long-standing commitment to the AHA and K-12 teaching. Friends and family members endowed this award to recognize excellence and innovation in elementary, middle school, and secondary history teaching, including career contributions and specific initiatives. The prize will be awarded on a two-year cycle rotation: in even-numbered years, to a group; in odd-numbered years, to an individual.

The 2015 prize will be awarded to an individual, who can be recognized either for excellence in teaching or for an innovative initiative applicable to the entire field. Each letter of nomination must include the name, address, and e-mail address of the nominee. After receipt of this nomination letter, this individual will be contacted and asked to submit the following: CV (no more than three pages), an essay of no more than five pages in length describing the contribution or product, discussing the achievement or innovation in approach and development, and summarizing the historical scholarship utilized. Up to 10 pages of appropriate supporting materials can be included (i.e., letters of support and course materials, excerpts from a textbook, or other evidence of contribution). The prize will be awarded at the January 2016 AHA annual meeting in Atlanta. Only the letter(s) of nomination should be emailed to awards@historians.org. Please be sure to include "Beveridge Family Teaching Prize Nomination" in the subject line. The deadline for nominations is **May 1, 2015**.

Teaching East Asia: A Seminar for Teachers

East Asia Seminars, designed for schoolteachers, have been offered yearly by the University of Georgia since 2003. Many teachers have completed the 30-hour seminars and earned professional development credit. And many teachers have qualified for and taken advantage of Study Tours in China, Japan, Korea, and Viet Nam, sponsored by The Freeman Foundation. The Seminar for Teachers June 23-27, 2014 takes place on the campus of the University of Georgia and is directed by Dr. Clifton Pannell, Emeritus Professor of Geography and former Associate Dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. As in the past, this is a 30-hour seminar focusing on an overview of East Asia through the eyes of experts in their field.

Benefits to Participants:

- Tuition Free Admission
- Opportunity to earn professional development credit upon completion of the seminar.
- Interaction with other teachers and with university professors focused on an important subject of national and international significance.
- Certificate of Completion.
- Eligibility to apply for a summer study abroad program in East Asia.
- Free housing for out of town teachers.
- Complimentary breakfast and lunch.

Instruction:

- Dr. Clifton Pannell, Seminar Director and recognized authority on East Asian geography and demography
- Professor of history, political science, literature, and language specializing in East Asia.

To Apply (June 9, 2014 Deadline; NOTE: Limited seating, please apply early)

Richmond email address: farleyrichmond@gmail.com

Richmond fax number: [706-542-2080](tel:706-542-2080)

For specific questions about the seminar, please contact Dr. Farley Richmond at farleyrichmond@gmail.com

Facebook Address: <https://www.facebook.com/TeachingEastAsia>

Mark Your Calendar:

🌐 **GCSS Conference 2014** - *Celebrating 50 Years of Advocating and Supporting the Advancement of Social Studies Teaching in Georgia*, October 16 - 17, 2014, at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. Register online now at www.gcss.net

🌐 **NCSS Conference, November 21-23, 2014** More details at www.ncss.org



Get connected:

🌐 *Georgia Social Studies Journal* - The current issue can be found at www.coe.uga.edu/gssj/current-issue/

🌐 Think about becoming more active this year:

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

🌐 GCSS Edmodo - Join Edmodo for free at <http://edmodo.com>, then use the general GCSS code h95gx7 OR the code for 2013 GCSS conference materials with code xmq2hn. Enter the appropriate code and after confirmation, you will be able to participate.

🌐 Check out the new look of the GCSS website at www.gcss.net!

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



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

