



Alliance Reporter



Dedicated to the Teaching of Geography in the State of Illinois

Illinois Geographical Society • National Geographic Society

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<http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/iga>



Geography Awareness Week Highlights "RIVERS 2001"

Alaska Adventure



Alaska provided plenty of interest and excitement for those geographers who cruised the Inside Passage aboard the S.S. Universe Explorer in July. Sponsored by the Illinois Geographic Alliance in cooperation with the NCGE, the trip was arranged to coincide with the NCGE annual meeting in Vancouver, B. C., during the first week in August. IGA coordinator Norm Bettis was largely responsible for organizing and promoting the study tour, a task which stretched over two years.

(From Kathie Kleckner, GAW chair)

Combining up-close visits to Glacier Bay, Hubbard Glacier, and eight ports of call with the excellent on-board resources of lectures, computer lab, and the "largest library afloat," the excursion was a much talked-about topic at the NCGE meeting. Several Illinois geographers who participated agreed to provide observations from their journals. Linda Weatherwax organized the effort to collect and present the articles which appear here.

This year, National Geographic began **Geography Action! Rivers 2001**. It began in May and will culminate with Geographic Awareness Week November 11-17. So, by all means get started with your projects before your river freezes over!



Mary Ann Kurke: One of the delights of many people cruising the Inside Passage of Alaska is the opportunity to be a whale watcher. The small size of the Universe Explorer Cruise ship allowed us to get close to shore and into small inlets. So we were not disappointed and had the pleasure of viewing three different types of whales.

Every passenger on this cruise will remember the ship stopping for over an hour near the mouth of Glacier Bay (which is awesome in itself) to view the antics of a pod of seven Humpback Whales feeding. A Humpback Whale is a huge animal. Its length may be up to 50 feet and it can weigh in at 45 tons. A (please turn to p. 7)

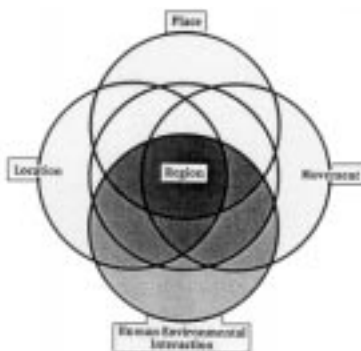
The NGS web site www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction contains three levels of lesson plans in three areas: *Using Rivers*, *Changing Rivers*, and *Saving Rivers*. National Geographic has formed a number of partnerships this year. Some of them have a limited presence in Illinois. The one you should strongly consider contacting is The Coca-Cola Company. Their web site is www2.coca-cola.com/business/community/environment.html, but talk to your local bot-

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**Perceptions
...in process**

by Bob Ashley



from Rivers Curriculum guide

My senses perked up when I first heard that National Geographic Society would place special emphasis on the study of rivers this year. The **Geography Action! Rivers 2001** is the first campaign in a new conservation program, scheduled to run from spring to Geography Awareness Week in November.

I was especially delighted that NGS selected **Rivers Curriculum Project Geography** as a resource to distribute to those TCs who would chair their alliances' activities. The several years that went into the preparation of the six-week curriculum guide were challenging and stimulating for me. The teachers in the project were eager to interact and contribute to the project, the brainchild of "Dr. Bob" Williams at SIUE, who insisted on experiential learning in an interdisciplinary setting. I was consumed by the project, but I was also greatly relieved when the book-to-be was finally shipped to the printer.

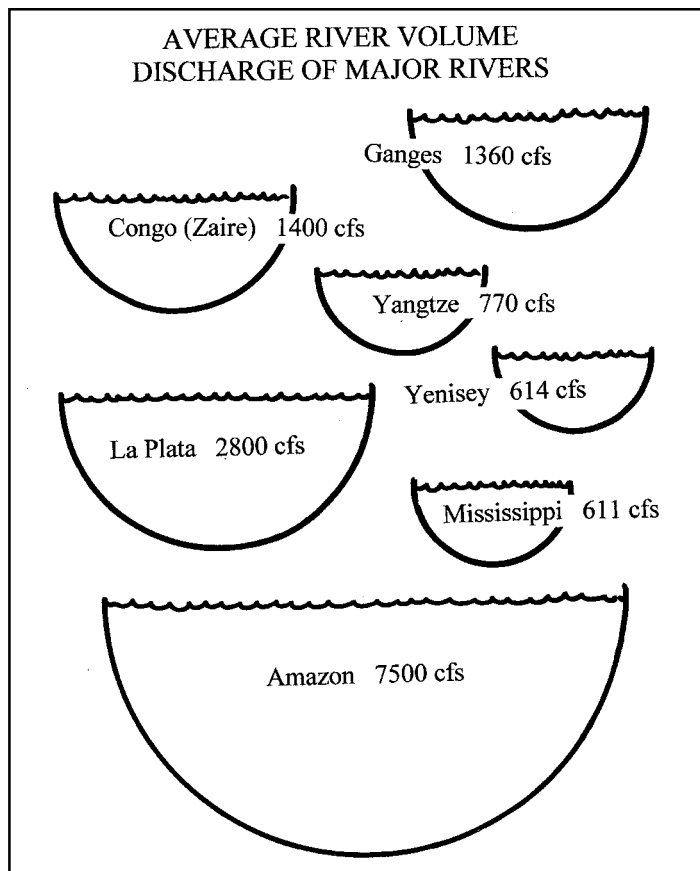
I'm sure there are errors in the book, but there is one glaring boo-boo which I'd like to correct here, particularly now that NGS has promoted the book's circulation. It is a graphic which compares the "World's Largest Rivers by Discharge Volume," but somehow Rio de la Plata—which *should* have been #2 on the list—did not even appear in the final print! The version which appears here is from the rough draft. It is not as pretty as the one in the book, but it is more accurate. You don't have to have the book to use the graphic. Blow it up on the copy machine and show it during GAW. Kids will say: "O-o-o-o-h!" The book is still on the market for \$23.95 from Dale Seymour Productions at 1-800-237-3142 (Rivers Curriculum Guide #0-201-49368-3). You can also purchase it from the Rivers Project at <http://www.siue.edu/OSME/river/river.html> While you're there, check out the Project's activities. The Rivers Project still collects a royalty, which is used to help fund summer workshops on river study.

Destination 2002: Tibet and Three Gorges

Dig out the camping gear and the Pinyin spelling book. Greg Lee of Pasadena College has put together a pair of back-to-back China trips for the summer of 2002 that will make the adventure traveler drool. These are not typical package tours, Greg warns. The river trip, tentatively set for July 10-23 (titled "*Yangtze River: 3 Gorges, 3 Small Gorges, 3 Small, Small Gorges*"), will feature several nights camping and a river rafting ("no serious whitewater") segment. Participants may conduct water quality monitoring tests of the several rivers.

Trip #2, "*Across the Qinghai-Xizang (Tibet) Plateau*," scheduled for approximately July 28-August 9, is a jeep trip from Xi'an to Lhasa. Participants should expect nine days of camping in remote highland areas.

Pricing was not available at press time, but those with genuine interest are invited to send contact information (mailing address, phone/fax, e-mail) to Dr. Lee at geog2k1@yahoo.com and ask to be put on the list. Both trips are pending final approval by the Los Angeles Geographical Society and Outward Bound Adventures, Inc.



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Spatial People



Former **U.S. Senator Paul Simon** proved to be a popular choice as guest speaker for the IGS Annual Banquet at Rend Lake. He commented on the world's increasing fresh water crisis, the subject of his recent book (*Tapped Out*), and a variety of other topics as well. The large and appreciative audience also enjoyed the second "Illinois Slide Extravaganza" and observed the presentation of Community College and Senior College Awards. **Len Hodgman** presented the *Illinois Distinguished Geographer* award to **Fred Willman** (see article below).

Meeting chair **Carl Miller** reported that 90 persons registered for the conference, held at the Rend Lake Resort and Conference Center. **Terry Harshbarger** will coordinate the 2002 meeting, "Swords to Shares," at Rantoul. The meeting will focus on the changing land use patterns at Chanute Air Force Base. **Len Ealey** has made preliminary plans for the 2003 meeting in Quincy.

Central Office Director **Mike Sublett** coordinated the Saturday Paper Program. Thirteen papers and the plenary session were presented, some concurrently. Seven student papers, "reminiscent of years ago," were among the presentations.

Members accepted the nominating committee's slate of officers: **Bob Ashley**, President; **Wendy Shaw**, Vice-President, and **Roger Liska**, Treasurer. President **Noel Stirrat** appointed the following positions: **Jeff Arnold** as NCGE Representative (3 years), **Charles Fuller** as Two-Year College Member of the Executive Council, **Karen Tones** as Applied Geographer. The Council also approved the appointments of Fuller and Shaw to serve with the Two-Year College Representative (Arnold) on the Womack Award Selection Committee.

In other business, the Executive Council considered the following topics:

- *slight drop in individual membership (currently 160);
- *implementation of a program to send press releases to newspapers about IGS award winners, officer elections, and other IGS matters (the Central Office sent such press releases after the Rend Lake meeting; the issue will be evaluated at the October 6 Work Session);
- *IGS purpose and "image," as they affect recruitment, activities, and communications (*Bulletin*, GIMBY list serve, and IGS web site);
- *a gift for **Jo Kimler**, retiring IGS Central Office Secretary, in appreciation for her tremendous contributions to IGS;
- *consideration of change in membership dues (requires constitutional amendment);
- *funding level for student awards (Womack award is \$250);

motion passed to award \$100 to those student award winners who attend meeting);

*CPDUs (credit for teacher recertification) were awarded to 2001 meeting participants who registered for them (field trip=8, Simon speech=1, paper session=4);

*significant changes in Alliance funding. The IGA has established an endowment of \$1,000,000 and a separate endowment has been created for Chicago at \$700,000, but fiscal year 2001 is a period of transition. The IGA will receive only \$25,000 from NGS; other funding will be obtained through competitive grants; and

*the *Illinois: A Geographical Survey* is out of print.

Michael Treve of the College of DuPage was presented the Charles Womack Award as the most outstanding geography student at a Community College. Treve is particularly interested in environmental studies; he is also the recipient of an Outstanding Geography Student Award. Three others also received Community College Outstanding Student Awards: **Anthony Aducci** (College of DuPage), **Anelia Petrova** (College of Lake County), and **Brianna Turcza** (Harper College).

Twelve students were honored as recipients of Outstanding Senior College Awards:

Kristen Bentson of Metropolis, (U of I); **Kari Burnett** of Downers Grove, (NIU); **Joaquin Gortaire**, (U of I—Chicago); **Michael Grossman** of Galesburg, (ISU); **Kenneth Jamison** of Godfrey, (SIUE); **Matthew Mittelstadt** of Prior Lake, MN, (Northwestern); **Katherine O'Hara** of Shorewood, (Augustana); **Brodie Parker** of Cooper City, FL, (Elmhurst); **Mathew Safer** of Jacksonville, FL, (U of Chicago); and **Amy Tirmenstein** of St. Louis, MO, (Augustana).

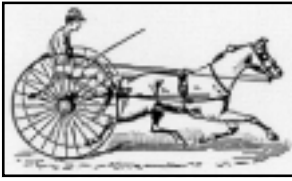
"Phenomenal!" Willman is 2001 Distinguished Geographer

Fred Willman is the Illinois Geographical Society's 2001 Distinguished Geographer. Len Hodgman, 1998 recipient of the award and chair of the selection committee, made the presentation at the IGS Annual Meeting Banquet ceremonies.

Willman has served the IGS and IGA in numerous capacities—including President and Vice-President. He is currently a member of the NCGE Finance Committee and in the third year as coordinator of the Illinois Geographic Bee. He has authored activity books published by *Weekly Reader* and *USA Today*, made countless presentations at conferences and institutes, and won a shelffull of awards, including the NCGE George Cram Award, Naperville Jaycees Educator of the Year, DAR Teaching Award, and a first place in the American Express Geography Competition. No wonder he was called "Mr. Geography" by

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the *Chicago Tribune*.

For all his accomplishments, though, Fred's most recognizable attributes may be his unflagging

optimism and ability to find everything he sees "Fantastic!" or "Incredible!"

The following may reveal more about Fred: When the Alaska tour ended in Vancouver and participants checked into the Gage Conference Center at the University of British Columbia, Fred plopped down in an overstuffed chair in the lobby and wrote furiously on a yellow pad. Completely engrossed in his task, he focused on his writing until he finished. Then he looked up, his eyes wide and a big grin on his face. "He-e-y! Look what I got!" he announced.

Here's what he had:

Getting There

by Fred Willman

I'm well, I'm slow .
I just thought you should know .
Speedboats can take you where you want to go
But sometimes, I'd rather coast or row .

I guess I've always been that way.
A task of an hour might take me all day.
I get diverted, enthused, or engrossed,
And time slips by like a fleeting ghost.

My penchant for moving as slow as a turtle
While people around me through life seem to hurtle
Bothers or hurts me some of the time,
But I kind of like this old habit of mine .

Some think it is a handicap
To stop and take a mid-day nap
Not me. I take them lots of times,
And rest assured, they work real fine .

I know big expressways are things that we need,
But back roads and side streets are more my speed,
Where I can slow down or stop to explore,
Because as I slow down, I learn a lot more .

A local diner is really great.
It beats fast food near the interstate .
The specialty dishes, the townsfolk inside -
I keep my eyes, nose, and ears open wide .

I'll take a state park campfire at night
Instead of a motel's fluorescent light.
When I start to talk with the folks camped nearby,
We swap some good stories, even tell a few lies.

A town, a vista, a sign, some guy -
I'd miss most of them if I just flew by.
Not all races are won by those who have zip.
For me the journey is half of the trip .

I like to notice. I like to wonder .
To hurry through life is a regrettable blunder,
Because you can't grasp, or create, or review,
Or question, associate, dream, or renew,

If you're always racing to get something done,
Or to be the best, or the very first one -
You'll find life will be better and things will work fine
If you enjoy your trip across each finish line .

So, slow down. Think things through. Should you walk?
Should you run?
Is speed so important? Which way is more fun?
Sometimes we go fast, not stopping to ponder.
Is straight the best way, or is it better to wander?

Yes, being slow can be bad. It can get you defeated.
Speed and quick thinking are sometimes what's needed.
But, balance is most important. So, take heed.
In the game of life, balance beats speed .

You can't achieve balance at a breakneck pace
With your thoughts and plans focused just on a race
Instead of on purpose and meaning and hopes.
They give your actions direction and scope .

I'm not against hard work or precise detail.
It's the fast pace of work where I think some folks fall.
Hardly working is bad. Working hard is much better,
But you don't have to race to be a gogetter .

Why do we have to live so fast each day,
Where there's far too much work and not enough play?
If you're buried in work cuz you can't say no,
Use your other option - just go slow .

But, the best thing to do - I'm sure you'll agree -
Is to discover a job that you'd gladly do free .
Then when work gets piled up, you'll have everyone fooled,
Cuz what they think looks horrible, you think is cool!

So, if you should choose to give slow a try,
Focus less on the whats and more on the whys.
Smell more of the flowers. Behave less like the bees
And see the whole forest instead of just trees .

Let life's races begin. On your mark, get set, go
While some choose to sprint, my answer is no.
But, still water runs deep. Rapids - not so.
And there's much more to living than win, place, or show .



WINDS OF CHANGE BLOWING FOR THE IGA

Norman C. Bettis

The “winds” affecting the IGA obviously are not those of the atmosphere associated with closely packed isobars and passing fronts, but the analogy does seem to depict rather succinctly the changes facing our Alliance in the years ahead. Just as atmospheric conditions change with the passing of a front, the conditions under which the IGA functions will change as the old gives way to the new. But our mission must remain the same—the enhancement of geographic knowledge among the children and adults of our society. Change is inevitable in a vital, growing organization. As we encounter the changes ahead, I hope we can treat each one as a challenge and approach it with the same vigor and determination that has characterized our Alliance over the past fourteen years.

Over the past decade, the IGA has developed a presence in Springfield and throughout the state. Our participation on ISBE social science committees charged with the development of state tests and learning standards, as well as our contacts with state legislators, education agency personnel, Regional Offices of Education (ROEs), and the Governor’s Office have helped us build a reputation as a contributor to the educational agenda of Illinois. We have earned a “place at the table” in activities dealing with social science education, particularly as it concerns geographic education. However, as we all know, state educational agendas are subject to change, especially when the top leadership in the state changes, which will occur this year as Max McGee completes his tenure as State Superintendent of Education and as George Ryan completes his term and a new governor takes office. Educational agendas, too, can change as state legislators respond to different political pressures. The IGA must monitor the changes that undoubtedly will occur in the state’s educational agenda and be prepared to respond accordingly in order to maintain a presence for geography in the social science curriculum of our schools.

Funding for the IGA has changed starting this year. In previous years, the \$50,000 provided by the Illinois Board of Higher Education automatically was matched by a \$50,000 non-competitive programmatic grant from the NGS Education Foundation. During FY 02, designated a “transition year” by the Foundation, we received a \$25,000 non-competitive programmatic grant from NGS under the old funding formula that did not require a match. Next year there will be no non-competitive programmatic funding: all grants from the NGS Foundation will be competitive and project-based. Two types of grants may be requested from the Foundation—Grosvenor Grants and Teacher Grants. Both require project-based proposals that respond to specific criteria established by NGS. Nationwide, this year the Foundation funded 23 Grosvenor Grants from a pool of 58 proposals. Grants awarded varied from \$21,210 to \$87,368. Nineteen teacher grants, ranging in amount from \$909 to \$5000, were awarded directly to teachers. Last year, the IGA was successful in establishing two endowments with the NGS: a \$1,000,000 state endowment and a \$700,000 Geographical Society of Chicago endowment. Next spring we will be eligible to receive a portion (approximately 5.25%) of the interest on these endowments, based on NGS Board approval of our program proposal for FY 02. At this point, it is still unclear what elements of the previous IGA program can be continued and how new initiatives can be ensured funding. What seems clear is that any funding beyond our endowment earnings will need to be project-based and consistent with the criteria established by NGS. These criteria are very broad and allow for a wide variety of specific projects that can contribute to the enhancement of geographic knowledge among our students. I remain very optimistic about the financial base of the IGA in the years ahead, but we must be prepared to respond creatively to criteria established by others and to seek out additional sources of funds to continue support of our Alliance activities.

Changes in leadership at NGS and within the IGA undoubtedly will continue to have significant impact on our operations. Last year (2000) top leadership at NGS changed. John Fahey, Jr. became President and CEO, and Terry D. Garcia became the Executive Vice President. As these new leaders have attempted to chart the course of NGS into the 21st Century, changes have occurred throughout the Society, including the Geography Education Program. Within GEP the number of Program Analysts working with state alliances has decreased and additional responsibilities have fallen to those remaining. This year, Lanny Proffer, Director of the Education Foundation stepped down and a new Director, Ms. Barbara Chow, has taken his position. Until a new agenda for the GEP is firmly established, those of us in leadership positions in the states will remain a bit uncertain about our relationship with the NGS and how best to respond to them for the benefit of our alliances. Within the next few years the IGA also will experience changes in leadership. Many of the current leaders are retired or will retire in the near future. Our challenge is to find educators among our ranks with interest and training in geographic education—educators with energy and new ideas that will carry on the work of the IGA in Illinois.

("Rivers 2001" . . . continued from p. 1)

ting plant. According to CEO Douglas N. Daft, they should know all about **Geography Action! Rivers 2001**. Please drop me a note about their reactions (good or bad) to your request. As to what you are requesting, that would depend on you and the company. It could be most anything, including newspaper ads, Coke for a party for Geo contest winners, or whatever the two of you can come up with. Other partners include the following:

The Conservation Fund www.conservationfund.org

American Rivers www.americanrivers.org

Izaak Walton League of America www.iwla.org

River Network www.rivernetwork.org

Trout Unlimited www.tu.org

Waterkeeper Alliance www.keeper.org

For information on Illinois Rivers and more lesson plans, check out the Alliance web site at www.coe.ilstu.edu/iga If you don't have web access, please contact me for copies of the information. The Army Corps of Engineers has been very helpful. They publish some great leaflets. Also check out the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at <http://dnr.state.il.us> as they have lots of information and you can also order free posters on Illinois rivers and fish. Don't forget local rivers and fishing groups. Lt. Governor Corinne Wood is the chair of the Illinois River Coordinating Council. Her web site is www.state.il/ltgov

As in the past, Wednesday (you could select another day) will be T-Shirt Wear-in Day. Another activity could be to make anti-pollution river posters. Try exchanging photos of your local river or stream with schools around the state or country.

I attended the **Rivers 2001** workshop in Washington, DC. The "textbook" that was chosen by NGS and handed out to alliance representatives from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Canadian provinces was the **Rivers Curriculum Guide Geography** from the Rivers Curriculum Project at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Well done Dr. Robert Williams, the late Cindy Bidlack, Bob Ashley, and the many others who helped make the project such a success!

Kathie Kleckner (IGA chair for GAW)

kkleckner@roe35.lth2k12.il.us

810 N. 3450 Road, Utica, IL 61373

(815) 667-4349 (home)

P.S.: Still talking rivers, but on a slightly different note. 2003-2006 will be the bicentennial for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. My school principal has already started talking special project in our building. **Rivers 2001** workshop participants from the Expedition area were talking about what their alliances are doing. I quickly let them know that at least one person from Illinois would be interested in finding out more about what they are doing. Is anyone else interested in exchanging information on Lewis & Clark? -K.K.

(ed . note: try <http://www.lewisandclarkeducationalcenter.com>)

2001 Most Endangered Rivers

According to *American Rivers*, the Missouri River heads the list of the most endangered rivers in the United States. The list for 2001 includes the following:

1. Missouri River
2. Canning River (AK)
3. Eel River (CA)
4. Hudson River (NY)
5. Powder River (WY, MT)
6. Mississippi River
7. Big Sandy (KY)
8. Snoqualmie River (WA)
9. Animas River (CO, NM)
10. East Fork Lewis River (WA)
11. Paine Run (VA)
12. Hackensack River (NJ)
13. Catawba River (NC)

Under the heading "Rivers and Energy Development," *American Rivers* commented as follows: "Damming, drilling, and digging threaten rivers across the country. In fact, nearly half of the thirteen Most Endangered Rivers of 2001 made the list due to the impacts of hydropower, fossil fuel extraction and combustion, and contamination from manufacturing components of the nation's energy grid. Tremendous damage to rivers across the country could be reduced or avoided by increasing efforts to use energy efficiently, produce conventional energy responsibly, and expand the supply of energy from clean and renewable sources." (<http://www.americanrivers.org/mostendangered/riversandenergy.htm>)

Geography Action!

You're invited to take part in Geography Action!, an annual conservation and awareness program designed to educate and excite people about our natural, cultural, and historic treasures. Join the National Geographic Society in protecting our greatest resource-the Earth-by "taking action" with hands-on conservation activities. Geography Action! starts each spring, and culminates during Geography Awareness Week, in November, when the results of how people "took action" will be posted online. To view past Geography Action! activities, visit our archive.

Geography Action! Rivers 2001

This year Geography Action! highlights rivers. People and rivers are connected on many levels. Rivers provide our drinking water, nourish our agriculture, and support many endangered species. When we use rivers, we alter the course and balance of river systems, and threaten the future of one of our most important natural resources. Take action for rivers today, for the sake of the future. Then celebrate rivers during Geography Awareness Week, November 11-17.

Log on to the Geography Action! Web site today at: www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction

Noble Richard Thompson III

Illinois geographers and geography educators lost a good friend in **Noble Richard Thompson III** on July 1. Thompson died at age 63. He was professor of geography at SIUE, where he had taught since 1968; he served the department as chair from 1995 to 1997.

Thompson earned his doctorate in geography in 1968 from the University of Tennessee, where he was a teaching assistant. As an undergraduate at Auburn, he majored in mathematics and minored in geography and psychology; his master's degree—with a major in geography and a minor in history of Latin America—was also from the University of Tennessee.

His teaching interests included cartography, meteorology, climatology, methodology in teaching geography with maps, and the geography of Latin America. During his career, he presented papers at various conferences and published several map models and a book about the economic geography of the mining industry in Honduras.

Thompson received awards for teaching excellence at SIUE, including the Senior Teaching Excellence Award in 1980; the School of Social Sciences Teaching Excellence Award in 1990; the SIUE Teaching Recognition Award in 1991, 1992, and 1994; and the Emerson Electric Excellence in Teaching Award for the St. Louis Metropolitan Area in 1994.

The Noble R. Thompson III Student Award in Geography Fund was created in March of 2001. Memorials may be made to the fund (#30-002001), with checks payable to the SIUE Foundation and a notation on the check that the gift is for the Thompson Fund as shown above. Gifts may be directed to the attention of Marilyn Marsho, CAS Development Director, Campus Box 1608, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL 62026.

("Alaska. . ." continued from p. 1)

Humpback may eat over a ton of food a day during the summer feeding season. They swim thousands of miles during the winter mating season to the warmer waters of Hawaii or Mexico. The size of these whales did not keep them from being highly acrobatic. They breached the water many times and often slapped their huge 15-foot long tails against the water as they dove with open mouths to take in huge quantities of krill.

Killer Whales, or Orcas, were spotted many times on the cruise. Although much smaller than Humpback Whales (length 30 feet, weight eight tons), their dorsal fins stick up out of the water over six feet, making them look a lot like sharks. These are the only whales to eat warm-blooded animals. When scientists cut open a dead killer whale, they found 13 dolphins and 15 seals in the stomach. They have great appetites, and half their time is spent hunting for food. Killer Whales have never been known to eat humans. They are friendly to humans and are often trained to do tricks in aquariums.

We were excited to see the monstrous Gray Whale (which is even larger than the Humpback Whale), because they were twice announced extinct within the last century. These are the only whales to eat bottom dwelling crustaceans. They also have the longest migration of any mammal. They journey 6,000 miles every October from Alaska and reach Baja California around January to mate.

Not only did we enjoy being whale watchers, we also learned a lot about these magnificent giants.

(please turn to p. 8)



GENIP Survey

GENIP (Geography Education National Implementation Project) invites your input on issues and questions relating to *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards* (1994). In anticipation of 2002, the tenth anniversary of their publication, the GENIP Steering Committee is beginning a review process to determine how the Standards have been received within the education community. To that end, the Committee is launching an effort to acquire some basic information so that informed decisions can be made about the future of geography standards in the United States.

Your reflective impressions of the following questions can be e-mailed to jmarran@ncisc.org or sent to James Marran, 125 Fourth Street, Wilmette, IL 60091.

1. How have you used the Geography Standards?
2. What do you consider to be the importance and value of the Geography Standards?
3. Have the Geography Standards influenced curriculum and staff development in your school/district?
4. Have the National Geography Standards had an evident influence on the development of standards in your state? Comment.
5. If the Geography Standards have affected the way you assess students, please comment.
6. If you are involved in teacher education, what impact (if any) have the Geography Standards had in the preparation of teachers? Comment.
7. Please comment on areas in the Standards document where in your judgement, topics have received either too much or too little emphasis.
8. In your professional opinion, what are the areas of omission in the Standards due to either recent changes in the discipline (e.g., research information on global warming and other environmental issues, demographic data resulting from the 2000 census, changes in alliance systems and regional economic structures due to globalization, etc.), or changes in technologies (e.g., GIS, on-line courses, the expansion and availability of the Internet for student research, etc.)

Fred Willman: Norm Bettis and I flew from Kodiak Island across a channel to the mainland of Alaska and Katmai National Park to see Alaskan brown bears. We were very fortunate in several ways. First, only 20 of the 750 travelers could go, and we got our names in quickly enough to make the list. Second, the weather was beautiful—partly cloudy in the mid 60s. Third, we saw many bears up close and personal.



They were fishing, sleeping, or grazing on sedge on a beach or alluvial plain with three streams running through it, all fed by a glacial lake. We surprised one bear and he awoke and showed his displeasure by opening his mouth, snapping his jaw, and lumbering toward us. He got within 20

feet before walking over the top of the beach and into the bushes and grass.

We saw about a dozen bears, including a mother and three cubs. It was an incredible experience. The plane flight over Kodiak Island was also fantastic. We saw rafts of sea otters and a humpback whale.

The photographer/naturalist who escorted us on the beach stays on the coast with the bears all summer to lead tours and to study and photograph them. Some other bear watchers were camped there, too, right in the heart of bear country. As long as they bearproof their food in containers, they say they have no problems with them.

Joan Longmire: One of my favorite places on the cruise to Alaska was Glacier Bay. We arrived at Glacier Bay on July 26. Doris Gott and I were up early but found nothing but fog to look at. We went up to the Navigators Lounge on the Observation Deck (high up front). Thank heavens for GPS—we couldn't see a thing so they must have been navigating the ship by instruments! Then miraculously it cleared. Our ship looked small in the bay and for a while we were the only humans in a primitive and beautiful land. We spent the morning slow-going up the west side to see the Margery Glacier, which is a tidewater glacier. Most of the glaciers in the bay have now retreated and are no longer tidewater glaciers. The sun came out and we had a beautiful view. One of the large Princess Line cruise ships followed us into this area. There were small pieces of ice in the water that had broken or calved from the glacier. I watched and watched and finally saw ice beginning to move, and then a bigger piece broke off. After lunch our ship headed up the east side of the bay to Muir Inlet. We were able to get very close to Muir Glacier, which was not calving. The afternoon became very overcast, and we saw no other ships. We could see a bear moving along the beach—it was unreal. Alone in the wilderness (on a cruise ship with over 1,000 passengers and crew)! Then—WHALES! —a large pod of humpback whales was sighted as we left Glacier Bay. We saw their spouts, humps, and tails as they fed on the starboard side of the ship. I took lots of photos! Hope they turn out. A great day.

Judy Warner: Metlakatla is Alaska's only Native reservation. It is located on Annette Island south of Ketchikan. One of the highlights of this port-of-call was the dance performance of the Tsimshian people. Four generations danced together. The Tsimshians are members of one of four clans—killer whale, eagle, raven, and wolf. Their costumes were mostly red and black with a lot of pearl buttons sewn into the designs. The dancers had their clan animal somewhere on their capes. One young mother even carried her baby strapped over her shoulders. Two young boys, in particular, caught my attention. One boy was very vigorous with his dancing, imitating the male leader, while the other boy was intense and concentrated on every move.



The dancers were accompanied by five drummers. Dancers and drummers sang the clan song. As a clan was called, members of that clan were invited into the dance. After all four clans had joined the dance, the butterflies were announced. This was the invitation for all non-clan members to participate in the dance. It was at this point that two IGA members, Linda Weatherwax and Judy Warner, became honorary butterfly clan members as they fluttered around the hall. The memory I took with me from this performance was the pride of heritage these people displayed and their joy in passing on that pride.

Doris Kathryn Gott: Illinois Geographic Alliance members Doris Kathryn Gott, Mary Ann Kurke, and Vi Poling are graduates of the new Enhanced Learning Program aboard the S.S. Universe Explorer on the July 17-31 Alaskan cruise. Doris and Vi studied Natural and Environmental Sciences with the guest lecturers, Dr. Leslie Parr and Dr. Monty Elliott. Mary Ann was in the Historical and Cultural Aspects of Alaska program with Dr. Carol Morrison, Dr. Gary Ferngren, and Anne-Marie Nakhla.

Certificates for being "a curious and inquisitive traveler of Alaska" were presented to the first graduates of the Enhanced Learning Program at a reception at sea on Sunday, July 20, 2001.

(please turn to p. 9)





Linda Weatherwax: Shopping in the many port cities during our Alaska cruise was definitely one of my trip highlights. I tried to convince my husband that shopping is truly a cultural and geographic experience. Certainly the remote wilderness regions, the climate, generous resources, and colorful history all combine to make

unique gifts.

Alaska's native peoples are renowned for their creative use of natural materials, like roots, grasses, wood, wool, gold, ivory, and soapstone (a soft stone found in Western Alaska). The native artisans of Southwest Alaska are known for their distinctive totem poles. From the abundance of local spruce and cedar, carvers create boxes, rattles, and masks depicting human and animal images. This art is symbolic, representing supernatural beings, ancestors, and history. Wearers work rye grass into miniature, tightly woven baskets that display the distinct style of the culture. Ivory carvings and hand-knit items made from *qivuit*, the softer-than-cashmere wool of the musk ox, are also available.

Jewelry also makes a wonderful gift! We discovered "glacier ice" (commonly known as blue topaz) and "Alaskan black diamond" (hematite). Jade, the official state gemstone of Alaska, represents good luck and health. Nothing says Alaska more authentically than real gold nugget jewelry taken from the many family-owned mining operations. Fossil ivory, recovered from the frozen remains of the woolly mammoth and ancient walrus, are beautifully fashioned into scrimshaw ornaments.

Also available are sculptures, prints, and watercolors in wildlife motif which are emblematic of Alaskan art. Everywhere you turn are eagles, wolves, whales, and bears. (Don't forget the bear bells which are worn on your wrist to warn the bears you are around). Russian art objects and collectibles remind us of the strong Russian heritage of Alaska. Everyone has to buy some *matryashka*, or Russian nesting dolls, which children love fitting together.

Alaska foods are of course a delicious choice. You can't leave without buying some smoked salmon. Its savory oil-rich flesh has kept Native Alaskans healthy for centuries. You must also try the jams, jellies, teas, and candies made from blueberries, salmonberries, and huckleberries.

All the stores had on display the Alaskan *ulu* (oo'-loo), a uniquely shaped knife that has been used for centuries by Arctic peoples. Today they are made of stainless steel and work well in the kitchen. We noticed umbrellas and rain suits for sale in every shop. To our amazement, we needed neither since we had unusually nice weather every day. We were told that the last cruise had only one day without rain.

Where did I enjoy shopping the most? Definitely Skagway, the Klondike gold rush town with its wooden boardwalks and gaily

colored shops with names like "Purple Moose," "Painted Lady," "The Miners' Cache," and "The House of Negotiable Affection" (which used to be one of the little cribs used by the famous ladies of the night). One really feels like they are right back in the bustling frontier when you walk down these historic streets.

I think my husband, for all his complaining as he lugged around my purchases, enjoyed shopping on Creek Street, the historic "Red Light District" in Ketchikan. It now houses many unique gift shops on a wooden bridge that spans a salmon-filled creek. Watch your husband or he might get greeted by "Dolly," a famous business-woman who once frequented this street!



Glen Weatherwax: I was impressed with the "Alaska Spirit," and I think the photograph of the young woman I've included is a good example of it. Her name is Trisha, and she's a tour guide during summers for the Skagway Streetcar in Alaska. She reminds me of the type of people who've always been drawn to our 49th state. One day after graduating from high school in Utah, Trisha is on the road driving to Alaska—alone. Car breaks down, week-long problems getting it fixed, and Trisha chooses her career. Off to college, double majoring in auto technology (won't be ripped off again) and marketing, with a minor in German. Her goal is to work for a German auto manufacturer. I'm confident she will reach her target.

Skagway was a starting point for people searching for wealth and futures in the Klondike Gold Rush, but the journey from there on was unsure, hazardous, and often deadly. Something other than greed drew them and others. Call it Alaskan spirit (independence, risk-taking, and perseverance). Both Trisha and the other people of Skagway still demonstrate that same spirit. From gold miners and claim jumpers to streetcar tour leaders and citizens of Skagway, Alaskans demonstrate those same common values today.



SIUE Summer Geography Institute

The IGA Summer Geography Institute was once again a huge success. This year marked the 13th year of the institute at SIUE. The institute was directed by Dale Schaefer with assistance from Doug Bradley, Carl Miller, and Suzanne Rodgers. Included were field trips to a local cemetery, the American Bottoms, and Cahokia Mounds.

Participants from the 2001 Illinois Geographic Alliance Summer Geography Institute at SIUE included (sitting l-r) Gina Edwards (Greenfield), Kacie Durocher, Jared Moody, Donna Moody (Collinsville), Carole Casey (Jersey), Charles Casey (Jersey), TC Suzanne



Rodgers, Adam Rodgers, Director Dale Schaefer, Dr. Bill Woods, (standing l-r) Kristy Bouillion, Gail Petri (Carlinville), Andrea Moore (Greenfield), Linda Perkins (Hazelwood, MO), Melanie Moss (Collinsville), Gordon Failoni (China), Becky Crawford (Jersey), Russ Tepen (Carlinville), Jackelynn Powers, Leetha Brown (Carlinville), Brenda Powers (Alton), William Wilson (North Greene), Janice Witt (Jersey), Kenneth Butler (North Greene), TC Doug Bradley, Suzie Evans (Jersey), TC Carl Miller, Cathy Sievers (Calhoun), Lisa Kallal (Calhoun), Barrett Deist (Edwardsville), Nancy Sellers (Edwardsville), Rebecca Stanley-Deist (St. Charles, MO), and Robert Brown (Irvington). Not pictured is Stacy Soehlke (Collinsville).

SIUE Summer Geography Advanced Institute

The IGA held its first ever advanced summer geography institute at SIUE this past June. The theme of this year's institute was Illinois Agriculture. Dale Schaefer organized the institute and was assisted by Doug Bradley, Carl Miller, Andy Martinoni, Suzanne Rodgers, and Valerie Vartanian. Participants visited a grain farm, hog operation, two dairy farms, organic farm, and an open market. Classroom usable lessons were prepared by the groups on dairy farming, horse-radish farms, corn, and the process of farm goods to the home. These lessons are available from the IGA at <http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/iga>

Participants from the 2001 Illinois Geographic Alliance Advanced Institute at SIUE included (sitting in front l-r) Kathy Schell (Calhoun), Sarah Martinez (Jersey), Jeff Weinke (Jersey), (in back) Peggy Emling (Edwardsville), TC Andy Martinoni, Jane Hicks (Edwardsville), Therese Spellman (St. Boniface of Edwardsville), Amy Lombardi (Alton), Sherry Piffner (Collinsville), Maria Scott (Alton), Bill Marsh (Centralia), Vicky Hunter (Collinsville). Not pictured is TC Valarie Vartanian.



Bee Deadline Approaches

October 15 is the deadline for school principals to register schools for the 2002 National Geographic Bee. Entry fee is \$40. The Illinois Bee will be conducted in Warrenville on Friday, April 4. Fred Willman is IGA chair for the program. NGS has a web site for the Bee at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/index.html> Also check out the GeoBee Challenge at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee>

GeoResources



In addition to the large number of links to rivers and other environmental issues you'll find at the NGS web site for the **Action Rivers 2001!**, other promising sources gleaned from various alliance newsletters may be interesting. They include the following (from Florida, Iowa, and Arkansas Alliance newsletters):

EPA Index of Water Indicators: <http://www.epa.gov/iwi/>

Environmental issues: www.earthfound.com

Biomes: www.worldlife.org/wildworld and www.snowcrest.net/geography/slides/biomes/index.html

Ecosystems: <http://www.fi.edu/tfu/units/life/habitat/habitat.html>

Science for kids: <http://www.thegreenfrognews.com>

Global warming: www.epa.gov/globalwarming/index.html and www.weathervane.rff.org/

Wetlands: www.rac.louisiana.edu/wetmaap

Vital Signs 2001 is Worldwatch Institute's 10th anniversary edition. It looks at "trends that affect the health of the environment, the world economy, and the human race." \$13.95. Telephone: 1-800-555-2028; FAX: 301-567-9553a; e-mail: wwpub@worldwatch.org; online at www.worldwatch.org "EarthTrends: The Environmental Information Portal" (<http://earthtrends.wri.org>) is the World Resources Institute's new interactive website for environmental and sustainable development information. EarthTrends is also accessible through WRI's newly designed website: <http://www.wri.org/wri/>

"Live...from NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" 2002 Educational Programs

In conjunction with the spring 2002 "**Live...from NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**" lecture series, educator and student programs are offered by Chicago's Field Museum in collaboration with the National Geographic Society, Geographic Society of Chicago, and Illinois Geographic Alliance. Speakers this spring are historian Stephen Ambrose, scientist and photographer Wade Davis, archaeologist of the Egyptian Giza plateau, Zahi Hawass, and chroniclers of the African megatransect, Nick Nichols and Michael Fay. The exciting lives and works of these speakers will be featured in one or more live educational telecast from the Field Museum designed for students watching from school.

Four professional development workshops will be offered in conjunction with the series. The goals of these workshops will be to expose you to the Field's collections and provide academic content relating to the educational telecast and public lecture. Participants will expand their knowledge of cultural and physical geography, as well as the tools and technologies used in geography. Online materials relating to each speaker will be available to you to incorporate into your classes.

For dates for public lectures, teacher workshops, and educational telecasts see the series brochure, www.nationalgeographic.com/lectures/chicago.html, or call the Field Museum at (312) 665-7400



Oooooops! "Geography and the Internet" was contributed to the Fall 2000 issue of the *IGA Reporter* by Timothy McDonnell (not McDowell) of Victor Junior High School in New York. Please excuse the error.

Useful English System Conversion Units

Most of the world's people use the metric system to measure, but people in the United States insist on using a more—uh—challenging system. As such, we find it necessary to convert our calculations so that they make sense to others. The following conversions may be of some value to geographers, who seem to measure everything.

(Source: Recently found on editor's desk; no identifying marks).

- Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter: Eskimo Pi.
- 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University hospital: I. V. league.
- 2000 pounds of Chinese soup: Won ton.
- 365.25 days of drinking low calorie beer because it's less filling: 1 lite year.
- 16.5 feet of the Twilight Zone: 1 Rod Sterling.
- Half a large intestine: 1 semicolon.
- 1000 aches: 1 megahertz.
- Basic unit of laryngitis: 1 horsepower.
- Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement: 1 bananasecond.
- A half bath: 1 demijohn.
- 453.6 graham crackers: 1 pound cake.
- Given the old adage "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," the first step of a one-mile journey: 1 Milwaukee.
- 1 million microphones: 1 megaphone.
- 1 million bicycles: 2 megacycles.
- 365.25 days: 1 unicycle.
- 2200 mockingbirds: two kilo mockingbirds.
- 10 cards: 1 decacards.
- 1 kilogram of falling figs: 1 Fig Newton.
- 1000 grams of wet socks: 1 literhosen.
- 1 millionth of a fish: 1 microfiche.
- 1 trillion pins: 1 terrapin.
- 1 million billion piccolos: 1 gigolo.
- 10 rations: 1 decoration.
- 100 rations: 1 C-ration.
- 10 millipedes: 1 centipede.
- 3 1/3 tridents: 1 decadent.
- 10 monologues: 5 dialogs.
- 2 monograms: 1 diagram.
- 8 nickels: 2 paradigms.
- 2 wharves: 1 paradox.

Illinois State University
Illinois Geographical Society
Dept. Curriculum & Instruction
Campus Box 5330
Normal, IL 61790-5330

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To be added to the mailing list, please send your name and address to Norman Bettis, Illinois Geographic Alliance Committee, Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction, Campus Box 5330, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-5330 Attn: Chris Wissmiller 309/438-2756 or FAX 309/438-8659 or EMAIL ccwissm@ilstu.edu.

Editor: Robert Ashley, Red Bud High School, 815 Locust, Red Bud, IL 62278 618/282-3826 or FAX 618/282-6828.

The Illinois Geographical Society invites membership inquiries. To receive a brochure and membership application send your name and address to: Michael D. Siblett, IGS Central Office, Illinois State University, Campus Box 4400, Normal, IL 61790-4400. 309/438-5808 or FAX: 309/438-5310.

IGA CALENDAR

October 20, 2001	Teacher Education Steering Committee, ISU
November 11-17, 2001	Geography Awareness Week
November 16-18, 2001	NCSS Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
April 25-27, 2002	Illinois Geographical Society meeting, Rantoul, IL
October 16-19, 2002	NCGE Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
October 8-11, 2003	NCGE Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT
October 20-23, 2004	NCGE Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO