



Geography News

Volume 34 Issue 1 – Spring 2011

Co-Coordinator's Corner

Kay Weller

Co-Coordinator's Corner

As always the start of the school brings so many changes for us. The summer was busy as usual for the GAI. Alex Oberle helped with the Iowa workshops and I worked with the Family Friendly workshop to Alaska. All were successfully completed by the participants and we hope that you learned much in the process. Our teacher staff members were excellent and we appreciate the hard work that you do. Over the many years that I have served the GAI as the coordinator the members who serve as staff have been awesome. You always try to make our offerings interesting and useful to Iowa's teachers. Thank you!

Looking for Alaska was a terrific experience. For those who participated I appreciate how prompt everyone was. Additionally, there were no lost geographers throughout the entire time. That is a first. The really wonderful thing about these trips is that I have faces to go with the names of family members.

During the 2010-2011 funding year our offerings will be very targeted and fewer of them. National Geographic Education Foundation is requiring all Alliances to participate in strategic planning. This will take most of our time and funds. Additionally, funding decreased this year thus making it more difficult to offer workshops. We are planning the Iowa Core Curriculum workshops in Dubuque and Forest City. The dates for those workshops will be determined a bit later.

Dr. Rex D. Honey Oct. 23, 2010



Born: March 08, 1945

Died: October 23, 2010

The entire GAI community was deeply saddened by the unexpected death of Steering Committee member Rex D.

Honey. He was at home and died of natural causes.

Rex was one of the founders of the Alliance. Many of you knew Rex as a staff member for summer institutes and workshops. He had great respect for the valuable work of teachers in Iowa as well as other places and teachers knew that. He gave of his knowledge unselfishly that teachers could improve their geography content. How fortunate Iowa was to have such a person in our organization.

Rex was the primary reason the GAI was fortunate to participate in several Fulbright-Hays Group Projects abroad. It was he who applied for the first one, which was to Nigeria. He set the standard and template for future curriculum projects which took teachers to India, Bangladesh, and Chile. I will never forget those many weeks that Rex spent with our traveling members. There were several summers that he spent more time with his GAI community than he did with his family. Never did I hear Sandy or the girls complain that we took too much of his time. Thank you for sharing Rex with all of us.

I cannot begin to tell you how valuable his support and assistance at Steering Committee meetings and at workshops was to this coordinator. In the early years as I needed help with decision making I could always rely on Rex to give me valuable advice regarding an issue or problem. His help will never be forgotten. It is regrettable that the GAI did not have the opportunity to tell him in person what a valuable asset he was to our organization.

The family requested that memorials be directed to the University of Iowa Foundation for the Center for Human Rights. GAI members responded well to this request. Thank you for doing so. If you would still like to contribute to this memorial please visit their website. If you need assistance in using the website I will try and walk you through it.

Thank you Rex for all your contributions to the GAI. We all miss you.

Looking For Alaska-Alaska Found



If you talk to anyone who took this summer's course, looking for Alaska, you will hear a wide variety of special experiences. The course with its reading and travel gave us insight into and firsthand knowledge of this northern most state. The members of the class arrived in Alaska on different schedules. Some flew in early and did their own land excursion, some flew in just the day before our cruise, and a large group flew into Fairbanks and journeyed down to Denali and then on to Anchorage. From Anchorage the entire group took the train to Seward and then boarded the cruise ship. Each person saw the marvels and vastness of this state.

Denali is a special natural habitat. Unfortunately, the weather was cloudy and rainy so most people did not get to see the top of Mt. McKinley. However, the tundra, the mountains, and the wildlife made up for that disappointment. The groups got to see many types of animals depending on the tour they took. Watching grizzly meander through the grassland, mountain goats climbing on the hills, wolves gather and move off in search of food, and caribou wandered across the tundra were a few of the highlights. Looking at the river beds cutting through the valleys, made one think of the mushers who come across this land during the winter with wind whipping in their faces. Some people also experienced rafting, airplanes rides to see the top of the mountain, and hiking experiences.

Towns in Alaska also provided interesting cultural experiences. With a population of about 220,000 people, Anchorage is a city with a great variety of opportunities. However, outside of Anchorage, towns drop in population and size. Often on the highway or off of the railway you will see a city sign, speed limit drop, but see only a handful of buildings. That is the "town." During the winter months, the railway, snow machines, dog sleds, and plane play a vital role in the way of life. Seward where our cruise departed has only gotten a really large grocery store (Safeway) in the last couple of years.

Our cruise took us from the port of Seward south. The cruise provided another set of towns and experiences. Our first breathtaking experience as we headed south was the time spent at the Hubbard Glacier. As we approached from the west, the sun came through the clouds and we saw the glacier with its layers of color. Then...we got to hear the thunder of the ice as it "calved" (chunks of it fell into the sea). It was spectacular.

We then got to visit several cities that can only be reached by boat or plane. Juneau, the capital, is located near 24 glaciers and provides many experiences. Some people walked on or near a glacier while others went fishing or whale watching. Watching whales spurt and splash or breach (where they jump completely out of the water) gives you a feeling of how small we are in the scheme of things.

In Skagway, people had the chance to board a train and visit the area of the gold rush of the 1890's. The town with its wooden board walks has retained its flavor and hosts a museum and a national historic site where rangers guide you through history. Again, mountains and water highlight the area and provide the backdrop for the cemetery for those who were on the gold rush and started the town.

Hoonah, a small fishing village, has set up a museum for tourists in a former fish cannery, Icy Strait Point. There were chances to ride on a zip line, see nature and get to know life at its most remote where the ferry only comes in 3 or 4 times a week. Kay was off to search for bear in an ATVs.

Finally we stopped in Ketchikan, another area that was an early stopping place for coming to Alaska. It was our last stop where some people experienced a lumberjack show, a salmon bake, or more experiences with nature. And then finally on to the day of cruising on the inner passage where mountains, water and nature slide past and you get the feeling of the immenseness of this state and the variety of geography and nature still there.

As so, we all had a chance to look at Alaska. Each of us came away with a wealth of knowledge and experiences about this vast state (as well as a few extra pounds from all of the wonderful meals on the cruise).

Teaching About The Holocaust And The Iowa Core Curriculum

Wednesday June 15, 2011 – 8:30am - 5 pm at UNI

Website: <http://guest.cvent.com/d/jdqg1t>

Contract: Stephen J. Gaies

Email: gaies@uni.edu Phone: 319/277-1900

Additional News

Kay will resign as Co-coordinator of the GAI as of August 1, 2011. It has been a wonderful experience knowing so many hard working and skilled Iowa teachers. You are indeed amazing people. Thank you for welcoming me into your GAI community. You have richly enhanced my life. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served you.

Although retiring from the administration of the GAI my hiring requires that I remain active as a member of the Steering Committee. The GAI is fortunate that we had several years to plan this transition. Alex Oberle will assume full responsibility for the GAI in August. However, with my office only a few feet from his I expect to offer my assistance as requested. It is my request that there be no celebration of my retirement.

Geography and Iowa Core Curriculum

Dates: July 18-19 (Northeast Iowa); July 20-21 (Forest City)

Features: Hands-on activities, both technology-based and traditional
Direct connections with the Iowa Core Curriculum
Opportunities for collaboration with other educators
Both inside and outdoor activities

Advantages: Technology Component
Connects directly with the Iowa Core Curriculum
Led by veteran Geography/Social Studies teachers
Small group – limited to 25

Benefits: Offered for 1 hours UNI credit
Can be applied to the Social Science Masters program offered by UNI Continuing Education

Location: NE Iowa and Forest City **Cost:** \$25 covers registration

Geography and the Iowa Core Curriculum

Mr. _____ Ms. _____

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

- Check here if you have any special needs, including dietary. We'll call to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

*Sign up today! **Enrollment is limited.** Registrations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Your registration is confirmed when payment has been received.

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Please Register Me:

Registration ends July 1, 2011

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

I'm interested in receiving 1 hour UNI credit

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

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P.O. or Requisition # _____

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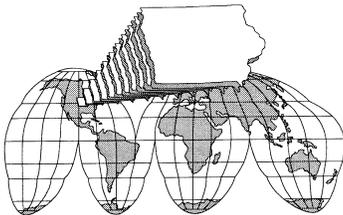
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Geography News is a free publication of the Geographic alliance of Iowa and produced with the support of the Department of Geography at the University of Northern Iowa. The GAI is funded through a grant from the National Geographic Education Foundation and the Henry Wallace Foundation. Permission is granted to reproduce any part of the newsletter.

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