Three Cups of Tea Author Greg Mortenson To Address NCSS Annual Conference

Greg Mortenson—whose humanitarian work in Pakistan and Afghanistan is the subject of Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace…One School at a Time, which has been a New York Times best-seller since its January 2007 release—gives a keynote address at 10:30 am on Saturday, November 14, 2009, at the NCSS Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mortenson is the founder of nonprofit Central Asia Institute (CAI) and Pennies For Peace. Mortenson recently received Pakistan’s highest civil award, Sitara-e-Pakistan (“Star of Pakistan”), for his courage and humanitarian effort to promote education and literacy in rural areas.

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U.S. History Collection at Your Fingertips!

Are you looking for teaching ideas or background for your history lesson plan? Go online and check out the U.S. History Collection at www.socialstudies.org/teacherslibrary. Search the collection by historical period (Pre-colonial and Colonial; Independence; The New Nation; Civil War; etc.) and by academic level (elementary; middle; secondary; college).

Then see what pops up! Search results show titles, authors, and abstracts. Call up (in Adobe pdf format) and print out the article—or articles—that you want. The collection consists of more than 200 articles from our peer-reviewed journals Social Education (with Middle Level Learning) and Social Studies and the Young Learner that have been published over the last 15 years or so.

Visit the new U.S. History Collection website today! Try the search tool! (Visitors to the NCSS website who are nonmembers can search the collection and read the abstracts, but only NCSS members are able to call up a full article.)

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Do You Believe in Time Travel?

It’s not too early to plan your future. Join NCSS in 2010 for the 90th Annual Conference. This is the premier event for social studies educators. On the road to your personal professional development, there’s no stop more valuable. Next year the conference will be held in the Mile High City.

Denver, Colorado. Urban sophistication meets outdoor adventure. With 300 days of sunshine, a walkable downtown, thriving art and cultural scenes, and the Rockies as a backdrop, Denver offers affordable exploration of the world’s most spectacular playground. Come experience the award-winning restaurants and one-of-a-kind neighborhood boutiques.
Citizenship = Participation

In this essay, I will address the second citizenship objective of the Civic Mission of Schools summary.

Civic education should help young people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives. Competent and responsible citizens participate in their communities through membership in or contributions to organizations working to address an array of cultural, social, political, and religious interests and beliefs.1

In school, students model the behavior of the active citizen through service learning.2 Social studies teachers all over the country have immersed their classes in an array of these heart-stirring projects, many of which will be showcased at the Annual Conference. Here are a few examples.

Ed Donaldson, a retired fire chief in Dade County, instructed students from North Miami Senior High School on helping the elderly prepare for hurricanes. Students learned how to install 1,000 smoke detectors that were donated to Miami senior centers, and then visited residences to share what they knew about preparing emergency supplies such as flashlight batteries and jugs of water.

Six juniors from Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, Arizona, visited the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, on a Close Up trip. They asked their teacher, John Calvin, to show them the spot on which Martin Luther King gave his “I Have a Dream” speech. It wasn’t marked—at least not then. The six started the campaign “Pennies for a Monumental Difference,” collecting $62,000 in seed money to create a civil rights exhibit at the Lincoln Memorial. The students lobbied Congress for the permanent exhibit, “Lincoln’s Legacy.”3

In 2007, NCSS honored Kris Nedam with the Award for Global Understanding. Kris founded “Kids 4 Afghan Kids” as a follow-up to teaching her sixth graders at American Elementary School in Northville, Michigan, about living conditions in her community kitchen in war torn territory.4

A national teach-in on veterans’ history, sponsored by the History Channel, just took place on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. Dozens of schools have participated in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, in which students interview local veterans and donate brief reports to the collection.5

Some National History Day participants have written new history. Students in Kansas uncovered the story of Holocaust rescuer Irena Sendler, wrote the play “Life in a Jar,” and performed it hundreds of times. Millions saw the results of their work on television’s Hallmark Hall of Fame a year ago.6

Year in and year out, classes investigate disasters like the Pacific tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, raise money and supplies for victims, and write about what they have learned. Cartons of notebook and pencil packages from American classrooms travel across the nation and the globe every year.

Students who experience service learning have a greater chance to grow up to be the adults who will sandbag a river when it overflows, stop on the highway when there has been an accident, or take in a neighbor who’s lost a home. Just as important, they will be better equipped to promote wise public policies for managing a river system sustainably, constructing safer cars and highways, and creating safe, affordable housing for the homeless. Effective service learning will be part of their training as competent and responsible citizens.7

Notes
2. Two books edited by Rahima C. Wade on the subject of service learning (Building Bridges, and Community Action Rooted in History) are advertised with other NCSS publications in this issue of TSSP.3
Mortenson, a U.S. citizen, grew up in Tanzania until he entered high school. In 1992, his younger sister Christa died from a seizure after a lifelong struggle with epilepsy. To honor her memory, Mortenson climbed K2, the world’s second highest mountain, in the Karakoram range in Pakistan. He came within 600 meters of the summit. Dispirited, sick, and lost, he stumbled into a village called Korphe, where he met a group of children sitting in the dirt writing with sticks in the sand. He made a promise to help them build a school.

From that rash promise grew a remarkable humanitarian campaign, in which Mortenson has dedicated his life to promoting education, especially for girls. As of 2008, he had established more than 78 schools in rural and often volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, where few education opportunities existed before. These schools provide education to more than 28,000 children, including 18,000 girls.

Three Cups of Tea, which was Time magazine’s Asia Book of The Year, has been followed by related juvenile and adult books, bringing his cause to diverse audiences around the world. Mortenson co-authored Three Cups of Tea with investigative reporter David Oliver Relin.

While not overseas half the year, Mortenson, 50, lives in Bozeman, Montana, with his wife, Dr. Tara Bishop, a clinical psychologist, and their two children.

Bryan Lindsey, speaking on Friday at 3:45, is a public health adviser at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention. He is also the manager of the Tuskegee Health Programs.

Dr. Lindsey will present a historical overview of the U.S. Public Health Services Syphilis Study at Tuskegee, which ran from 1932 to 1972, in which doctors withheld adequate treatment from a group of poor black men who had the disease, causing needless pain and suffering for the men and their families.

Dr. Lindsey previously served as the Associate Director of the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee Institute, Georgia, where he assisted the director in transforming the negative legacy of the syphilis study.

John Stokes is the author of Students on Strike: Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Brown, and Me, in which he reveals the workings of the student strike that he assisted in planning, organizing, and leading to demand better conditions at Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia, in April 1951. The strike made him a plaintiff in the landmark civil rights case Brown v. Board of Education.

Stokes, who will speak on Saturday at 2:45, served in the Baltimore public schools as an elementary and junior high school teacher, and as a master teacher. He retired as a principal in 1994. Most recently he served on a steering committee of the Virginia General Assembly that administered $2 million for the Brown vs. Board of Education Scholarship Program and Fund to assist those who were affected when public schools closed in various attempts at avoiding desegregation.

Chad Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, gives a keynote address at 10:15 AM on Sunday, November 15, 2009.

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The NCSS Online Teachers' Library U.S. History Collection is a new benefit created by your professional organization, NCSS, in response to members' requests. Articles about U.S. history are now much easier to find within the archives, which have been online for a number of years, but are not as easy to search. If you have questions or comments about this new venture, please send them to publications@ncss.org. And renew your membership online or join NCSS at www.socialstudies.org/membership to get access to all of the online archives, especially the U.S. History Collection.

A Green Conference
The Georgia World Congress Center is committed to implementing sustainable practices in pursuit of environmental responsibility. To read about green practices at the conference, both seen (recycle bins for paper) and unseen (partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank), visit www.gwcc.com/about/green.html.

Spotlight on Staff
This past May, NCSS welcomed Brenda Luper as Director of Finance. An active participant in the local nonprofit community, she is a member of the American Society of Association Executives, the Finance and Administration Roundtable, American Association of University Women, and the Society for Human Resource Management. Brenda earned her CPA license in 1989 and her Masters degree in Administration and Technology from the University of Maryland University College in 1995. An undergraduate alumnus of Virginia Tech, she has over 18 years of experience in nonprofit management, and earned her Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation in 2001. A native Virginian, she lives in Maryland with her husband, who also serves the community as a volunteer fire chief.

Atlanta Conference Highlights
Readers! Note the Awards Receptions listed on page 8 of TSSP; see updates at www.socialstudies.org/conference/highlights, and check your Conference Program on site for event locations and other special happenings!

Events on Friday, November 13
Join us for the official opening of the 89th NCSS Annual Conference with breakfast and entertainment 7:15–8:45 AM. Hear President Syd Golston's welcome and keynote address. This ticketed event is sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (as noted on your registration form).

Each year, the Georgia Council for the Social Studies recognizes outstanding social studies educators, supporters and programs for their efforts to promote excellence in social studies teaching and learning. Join GCSS to honor three Outstanding Social Studies Educators, a Program of Excellence, and a Friend of Social Studies, 3:00–4:00 PM.

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones at the President's Reception, 7:30–8:45 PM. Musical entertainment and light refreshments will add to the festivities sponsored by Pearson. Then at 8:45 PM, the Nystrom Welcome Dance invites you to whirl the evening away, featuring live entertainment at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center.

Events on Saturday, November 14
Atlanta's Joanna Maddox portrays Marian Anderson in her performance "A Lady of Elegance," from 2:45–3:45 PM. Joanna spotlights Marian's life in a segregated America that was not used to seeing a black woman sing classical music.

"Anne & Emmett" is a one-act play (4:00–5:00 PM) that draws historical parallels between the lives of Anne Frank and Emmett Till. In the words of the playwright, Janet Langhorn Cohen, "It is my deepest hope that this play will not just encourage dialogue but inspire each of us to take positive actions to ensure a more tolerant world."

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum invites NCSS guests to experience an enchanting evening at the only presidential library in the southeastern United States. Stunning views of the Atlanta skyline serve as the perfect backdrop to the beautifully manicured grounds of the recently renovated Carter Center, including two lakes and a Japanese garden, the Rosalynn Carter Rose Garden, a reflecting pool and outdoor statuary. The Reception is 5:00–7:00 PM.
2009 NCSS Award and Grant Recipients

Every year, NCSS recognizes teachers, researchers, authors, and other worthy individuals and programs. This year’s award and grant recipients are listed below. Please join us in congratulating our fellow educators for their outstanding performance in the social studies by attending their presentation sessions (where noted) and the two award receptions where they will be formally recognized at the NCSS Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, November 13-15, 2009.

All award presentation sessions will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center, Room A315, unless noted otherwise. Please check your Conference Program when you arrive for any last-minute changes and corrections to the information given here. – Prema Cordeiro, Program Manager

A special session, “Excellence Required: The NCSS Awards and Application Process” will be held on Saturday, November 14 at 8:00am in Room A315, Georgia World Congress Center. Participants will learn how to apply for the various awards, receive links for finding more information about the submissions procedures, and discuss the evaluation processes used to score entries.

Outstanding Social Studies Teachers of the Year

ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Co-sponsored by Farmers Insurance
Marcy Prager
Driscoll Elementary School, Brookline, MA
Friday, November 13 at 3:45pm
“The Art of Teaching Young Students Social Studies.”

MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHER

Co-sponsored by Junior Scholastic Magazine, Inc.
Michelle Leba
Washington Middle School, Saint Paul, MN
Saturday, November 14 at 4:00pm, GWCC A310
“Engaging Geography Activities for the Middle School Classroom.”

SECONDARY TEACHER

Co-sponsored by National Geographic School Publishing
Elizabeth Devine
Hall High School, West Hartford, CT
Saturday, November 14 at 2:45pm
Session: “Human Rights Awareness and Activism in the 21st Century High School.”

Scott Auspelmyer
Blythewood High School, Blythewood, SC
Saturday, November 14 at 4:00pm
“Saving Darfur: A Case Study in Developing Social Capital in Schools.”

Programs of Excellence Award

Luella Elementary School Faculty and Staff
Henry County Schools, Locust Grove, GA
Friday, November 13, 11:30am
“How to Make Social Studies Matter in an Elementary School.”
Come see how collaborative planning brought the power of story, service learning, and integrated instruction to life in standards-based elementary classrooms, while preparing students to be productive citizens. Handouts will be included in this presentation.

Exemplary Research Award

Co-sponsored by the NCSS Research Community
Diana Hess
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
Award Winning Research: Controversy in the Classroom: The Democratic Power of Discussion.”
Friday, November 13 at 9:00am
This session focuses on what teachers who are good at teaching controversial political issues do and what impact their practice has on what students learn. Participants will also learn about the rationales for infusing discussions of highly political issues in the curriculum.

NCSS Teacher of the Year Awards Reception

Friday, November 13, 6:15PM
Omni Hotel at CNN Center, International Ballroom D
Please join us for a cocktail reception and live music, as we honor four exceptional teachers with the NCSS Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award.

NCSS Awards Reception

Saturday, November 14, 5:30PM
Omni Hotel at CNN Center, International Ballroom D
Join us for the presentation of this year’s NCSS Awards! Enjoy entertainment and refreshments, as we honor the exceptional contributions of your colleagues to social studies education.
Jean Dresden Grambs Distinguished Career Research in Social Studies
Co-sponsored by the NCSS Research Community
Walter C. Parker
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Saturday, November 14 at 9:15am
“Social Studies in Troubled Times.”
This presentation offers three guiding principles for social studies research and practice in these tumultuous times. Walter will also lead participants to test in their own circumstances three hypotheses for social studies education suggested by him.

Larry Metcalf Exemplary Dissertation
Co-sponsored by the NCSS Research Community
Theresa Alviar-Martin
National Institute of Education, Singapore
Friday, November 13 at 10:15am
“Seeking Cosmopolitan Citizenship: A Comparative Study of Two International Schools.”
Compare teachers’ practices related to cosmopolitan citizenship and explore students’ perceptions of their roles as citizens in cultural, local, national, and global contexts. Learn about innovative programs that incorporate both global and multicultural dimensions.

2009 Grant for the Enhancement of Geographic Literacy
Co-sponsored by Nystrom Herff Jones, Inc.
Lisa Zagumny, Melissa Creek, Abir El Daba, and Amanda Richey
Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN
Grant-winning proposal: “Incorporating the Geography of Muslims and Islam into Social Studies.”
These grant recipients will present on their project at the 2010 NCSS Conference.

2008 Geographic Literacy Award
Nora Wheeler
Hanover County Public Schools, Ashland, VA
Friday, November 13 at 2:30pm
“Geography at the Center.”
How to infuse geography-themed activities into instructional centers. Nora demonstrates how to expand the geographic literacy of K-5 students without increasing dedicated instructional time for social studies by utilizing widely popular center-based activities used during language arts instruction.

Award for Global Understanding
Given in honor of James M. Becker
Made possible with funding from The Longview Foundation
Merry M. Merryfield
Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Saturday, November 14 at 11:45am
“The Next Generation of Citizenship Education in a Global Age.”
Social studies can develop students who are worldminded—engaged in learning from and solving problems with people across the planet. Merry will discuss how to teach global understanding, perspective consciousness, and global interconnectedness, as well as how to use Skype, Ning, and Moodle among other tools for cross-cultural learning.

2009 Christa McAuliffe Reach for the Stars Award
Benjamin Weber
Marc and Eva Stern Math and Science School, Los Angeles, CA
Award-winning proposal: “Social Explorer: Granting Students Access to Interactive Demographic Data.”
This award recipient will present on his project at the 2010 NCSS Conference.

Greg Fisher
California Academy of Math and Science, Carson, CA
Award-winning proposal: “CAMS Inventors, Inc.”
This award recipient will present on his project at the 2010 NCSS Conference.

This year, a second McAuliffe award was created in memory of Christine Allen’s dedication to the teaching and the advancement of social studies. Many thanks to the Oregon Council for the Social Studies and the generous contributions from Christine’s family, friends, and NCSS members who helped make this possible.

Carter G. Woodson Books and Honor Books
A panel of award winning authors will discuss their books and social studies literacy teaching strategies on Saturday, November 14 at 1:30pm. After the session, the authors will be signing their books at the NCSS Bookstore. All of the 2009 Carter G. Woodson Award and Honor Books are listed on page 15 of TSSP.

Chair: Karon LeCompte, Nashville, TN
State and Regional Council Meetings

Visit www.socialstudies.org/meetings to find meeting themes, council webpage URLs, and how to contact exhibit coordinators or submit session proposals. Send updates about your state or regional meeting to councils@ncss.org.

November 2–3, 2009
Michigan CSS
Soaring Eagle Resort and Conference Center, Mount Pleasant, MI
Contact: Melinda Dickenson, yellobugii@sbcglobal.net

November 3, 2009
Mid-Hudson CSS
Cornwall Central High School, Vails Gate, NY
Contact: Shirley Riefenhauser mrsr42@aol.com (B) (845) 661-8429

November 5–6, 2009
Arkansas CSS
Peabody Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock, AR
Contact: Kimble Talley klrawls@uair.edu (H) (501) 771–9642
Exhibits: Larry Wilson hsylarry@suddenlink.net (H) (501) 915–9866

December 3–4, 2009
Vermont Alliance
Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, VT
Contact: John Peterson jpeterson@rutlandhs.k12.vt.us

February 19–20, 2010
Missouri CSS
Hyatt Riverfront Hotel, St. Louis, MO
Contact: Michelle Kratofil kratofim@smithville.k12.mo.us (B) (816) 532–0406

February 24–26, 2010
North Carolina CSS
Sheraton Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC
Contact: Becky Griffith beckygriffith.nccss@gmail.com (H) (336) 733–9022
Exhibits: Maurice Bush mbush003@carolina.rr.com

February 25, 2010
Middle States CSS
Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center, Gettysburg, PA
Contact: Ruth Stas rms630@aol.com (B) (717) 468–63194

March 4–6, 2010
New York State CSS
Ryetown Hilton, Ryebrook, NY
Contact: Len Romano picturesque625@yahoo.com

March 4–5, 2010
Minnesota CSS
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN
Contact: Annie Allen aallen@ncss.org

March 5–7, 2010
California CSS
Pasadena Convention Center, Pasadena, CA
Contact: Julie Weaver jw@ncss.org (B) (503) 809–0290

March 5–7, 2010
S. California CSS
Pasadena Convention Center, Pasadena, CA
Contact: Merrell Frankel merrellfrankel@mac.com

March 11, 2010
Tennessee CSS
Memphis Hilton, Memphis, TN
Contact: James Akenson jakenson@tntech.edu (B) (931) 372–3066

March 15–16, 2010
Wisconsin CSS
Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI
Contact: Jenny Morgan wcss2011@gmail.com (B) (608) 786–2090 x 4128
Exhibits: John Donnelly mdonnell@frontiernet.net (H) (715) 823–6304

March 22–25, 2010
Massachusetts CSS
Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA
Contact: Janna Bremer bremerej@comcast.net (H) (508) 543–3875

April 15, 2010
Colorado CSS
Hyatt Regency Tech Center, Denver, CO
Contact: Chris Elnicki celnicki@cherrycreekschools.org (B) (720) 886–7074

April 15–16, 2010
Ohio CSS
Worthington Holiday Inn, Worthington, OH
Contact: Linda Logan llogan@columbus.rr.com

National Council for the Social Studies is affiliated with and supports state, local, and regional social studies councils and organizations across the United States. Currently, the network includes more than 110 affiliated state and local, and regional councils. Membership in an affiliated council can complement your NCSS membership by providing additional professional development, networking, and leadership opportunities. To view an existing council’s website, read details about state and regional meetings, or learn how to start a new council, visit www.socialstudies.org/local.
Call for Applications: SSYL Editor

As the end of her five-year term draws closer, NCSS member Linda Bennett has announced her intention to hand over the position of Editor of Social Studies and the Young Learner (SSYL) to the next editor in 2011. The duration of this unpaid, professional service position is five years. SSYL is the NCSS journal for teachers in grades K-6.

Dr. Bennett is associate professor in the College of Education, University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. She became Editor of SSYL in 2006 and will have served in that position for five years. Her success at promoting the journal has garnished grants from National Geographic, PBS Teachers, and PBS Video, and has resulted in local news stories in the cities and towns where SSYL authors teach.

The Editor is a volunteer who is willing to assume a significant leadership position among elementary educators. He or she plans issues, solicits articles, organizes the manuscript review process, and cooperates with NCSS publications staff to produce a high-quality journal. The new editor would join the notable professionals who have served as SSYL editor:

Huber M. Walsh, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Gloria T. Alter, Beloit College
Sherry L. Field, University of Texas-Austin
Linda Bennett, University of Missouri-Columbia

NCSS invites applications from NCSS members interested in succeeding Dr. Bennett in this vital leadership role for elementary teachers. The responsibilities of the position include:

- Identifying ways in which the journal can meet the professional needs of classroom teachers as they educate their students in social studies subjects
- Organizing theme issues, soliciting manuscripts and administering the review of solicited and unsolicited manuscripts
- Maintaining communications with authors
- Coordinating with NCSS editorial staff to produce an interesting, readable, and lively journal that appears on schedule

NCSS invites applications from members who have the vision to identify the professional needs of elementary teachers of social studies, and are experienced in writing and editing materials that are teacher-friendly and reader-friendly. Applications from two persons wishing to be co-editors (e.g., a university professor and a classroom teacher) are also welcome.

If you are interested in the position, please submit a letter, a resume, and a statement describing your view of the main current professional needs of elementary teachers of social studies and how you, as editor of the journal, would meet these needs. Please also include one or two samples of your most teacher-friendly and reader-friendly writing. Send these to Steve Lapham, Associate Editor, via e-mail at slapham@ncss.org.

The new deadline for application is November 30, 2009. Please place “SSYL Editor Position” on the subject line.

Each One, Reach One: Sponsor New Members and Win Prizes!

What Is It?
“Each One, Reach One” is a program that aims to grow the membership of NCSS. Recruit new members, and you’ll be eligible to receive various prizes!

How Does It Work?
Each new member application that lists you as the sponsor also enters your name in a random drawing. For example, sign up 12 colleagues or preservice teachers to be new members of NCSS, and your name is entered 12 times in the “Each One, Reach One” drawing in the spring of 2010. (It’s critical that you include your name and NCSS membership number on the membership brochure or letter requesting membership from the new member.)

What Are The Prizes?
A. Annual Conference Registration and Hotel Reservation! This is a new prize this year! If you recruit from 1–10 new members, your name will go into the random drawing (1–10 times) for a full registration plus one night at a designated hotel at the NCSS Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, on November 12–14, 2010!

B. Two Free Airline Tickets! If you recruit 11 or more new members, your name will go into the random drawing (11 or more times) to receive two free airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States! A winner will be chosen in the spring of 2010 and announced in the TSSP newsletter. (Prizes cannot be exchanged or redeemed for cash.)

There were 59 Sponsors during the season that ended on May 15, 2009. Help to beat that record! NCSS, your professional organization, is stronger because of you!
Books by NCSS Authors


This book describes how elementary and middle level students can learn history through research, inquiry, and drama. Morris focuses on multiple perspectives, controversies, and engaging questions about historical events and personalities—while using examples of “how it works” from real classrooms.

New Teaching Resources

Population Connection announces the third edition of “Earth Matters: Studies for our Global Future,” a secondary curriculum, on CD-ROM. This includes 32 readings and 43 innovative teaching activities, appropriate for use in U.S. and Canadian classrooms. The materials are designed to help students understand the complexities of population pressures, climate change, natural resource use, wildlife endangerment, distribution of wealth and food, urbanization, public health, gender equity, economic progress and how these issues are interrelated.

Most important, Earth Matters helps prepare students to be “global citizens”, using critical thinking and creative problem-solving techniques.

The CD-ROM matches activities to national academic standards for ten subject areas. Each of the 16 thematic units includes background readings, in-depth case studies, and hands-on activities. Also included are a comprehensive teacher’s guide, glossary, and list of suggested books and websites. Readings and activities are PDF files. The Earth Matters CD-ROM is available for $15.00 plus shipping and handling at www.populationeducation.org; or call 1-800-767-1956.

“Picturing the 1930s,” is a new educational website created by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in collaboration with University of Virginia. Teachers and secondary school students can explore the 1930s through paintings, artist memorabilia, historical documents, newsreels, period photographs, music and video in a virtual movie theater. Visit americanart.si.edu/education/picturing_the_1930s/index.html.

Have you ever wondered which Founding Father’s personality most resembles your own? Are you dignified like George Washington, good-natured like Benjamin Franklin, or ambitious like Alexander Hamilton? Now you can find out with the National Constitution Center’s “Which Founder Are You?” quiz. Visit www.constitutioncenter.org/FoundersQuiz/. Through a series of eleven questions, users have the chance to compare their personalities with the dominant personality traits of twelve of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

News Bowl Weekly is a Jeopardy-style game (with variations for grades 3-12) that promotes group problem solving, teaches acceptable social interaction, and how to learn from others. The activity can be used daily or weekly. The Monthly National Online Current Events League is also popular in gifted or “differentiated” learning classrooms. The league is a school and national competition; students are tested monthly on current events; schools enter the league (with divisions for grades 3 through high school) and test as many students as they wish. For enrollment, visit www.newsbowl.com. Queries to Peter Vavak, info@newsbowl.com.

The Sept. 11th Education Trust, a nonprofit organization representing 9/11 survivors and families, and Social Studies School Service, a leading provider of materials for schools, have created a comprehensive curriculum for students about the attacks of 9/11. Drawing upon expertise from the Taft Institute for Government at Queens College, the Sept. 11th Education Program is a multimedia curriculum that can be used as independent lessons or as a yearlong course of study. It provides seven curriculum units filled with inquiry-based activities tied to national standards and a multitude of primary sources, including 70 first-person interviews with survivors, victim’s family members such as Beverly Eckert, and politicians such as Rudy Giuliani, Hillary Clinton, and others. There are seven units for students in grades 6-12. Learn more at www.socialstudies.com.

ProCon.org recently posted three rather unique historical timelines. Determining what was “worthy” of inclusion “took two MAs in History, feedback from experts in their respective topics, and lots of critical thinking.”


Teachers should read ProCon.org’s other informative and webpages on various controversial issues (great for debate prep) before recommending them to high school students.

Here is a service-learning opportunity: Visit American Forest www.americanforests.org/kids/a_tree_for_every_child/ to learn how you can plant trees at home, at school, or in your community. Citizens concerned about the waste and abuse of the nation’s forests founded American Forests in 1875, making it arguably the oldest conservation organization in the nation.

In August, NBC News joined the News Literacy Project as a participating news organization, becoming the third major television network to enroll in the national effort to help middle and high school students discern fact from fiction in the digital age. Visit www.thenewsliteracyproject.org.
Awards and Grants

The 17th annual First Freedom Student Competition offers 9-12th grade students an opportunity to compete for $750, $1,500 and $3,000, awards as they examine the implementation of religious freedom in American democracy and the world today. To learn about guidelines, classroom poster, student flyer, registration, and supporting educational materials, visit www.firstfreedom.org and click on the red link, “First Freedom Student Competition” (in the center column). The First Freedom Center, in Richmond, Virginia, can be reached by phone at 804-643-1786, E-mail: competition@firstfreedom.org. Deadlines: online registration by Monday, November 23, 2009; mailed entry postmark by Saturday, November 28, 2009.

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) sponsors an annual award to recognize the contributions made by precollegiate or classroom teachers to improve history education. The award memorializes the career of Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau, University of Louisville, for her path-breaking efforts to build bridges between university and precollege history teachers.

The successful candidate will receive a one-year OAH membership, a one-year subscription to the OAH Magazine of History, and a complimentary registration for the annual meeting. The winner’s school will receive a certificate. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the OAH in Washington, DC, April 7-10, 2010. Read details at www.oah.org/activities/awards/tachau/index.html. Applications must be received by December 1, 2009.

Tell your students to grab their video cameras. A national competition, now in its sixth year, sponsored by America’s cable television industry through C-SPAN, invites all middle and high school students to produce a 5- to 8 minute video documentary using C-SPAN programming on either of the following topoi: “One of the Country’s Greatest Strengths”; or “A Challenge the Country is Facing.”

A total of $50,000 will be awarded in cash prizes, which include 75 student and 11 teacher awards. The Grand Prize winner (the best overall entry) will be awarded $5,000. There will be cash prize awards of $250, $500, $750, $1,500, and $3,000 to students in both middle and high school categories.

Last year, Sawyer Bowman, a 10th grade student at Woodlawn School in Davidson, North Carolina, won the Grand Prize and received a personal message of congratulations from President Barack Obama (www.viddler.com/explore/cspanstudentcam/videos/1539). Documentaries must be the original work of students; however teachers may provide guidance and critiques. Entries must represent varying points of view. Students may work alone or in groups up to three. Read more at www.studentcam.org. The deadline for entries is 5:00 pm ET, Wednesday, January 20, 2009.

The organization Facing History and Ourselves gives the Margot Stern Strom Teaching Award annually to teachers who are implementing the Facing History program and who successfully integrate intellectual, emotional, and ethical dimensions of study into their students’ experience. The award makes a grant available to each recipient to complete an in-depth project that leads to higher levels of student engagement and student achievement in the classroom. The award has been given to 104 teachers since it was established in 2006 by a private donor; 48 awards were given in 2009. For information about the 2010 awards, visit facinghistory.org/teachingaward. Queries to Special Projects Coordinator Judi Bohn, 617-232-1595 ext. 708. E-mail: Judi_Bohn@facinghistory.org.

Spotlight on Staff

This past June, NCSS welcomed Kristen Pekarek as Program Assistant in the Department of External Relations and Council Communications. The program assistant coordinates council services (linking NCSS with state and regional groups), assists with recognition programs (such as NCSS awards and grants), and helps with external relations (such as PR, national legislation, and partnerships with other professional organizations). Kristen, who grew up in Cleveland and earned a B.A. at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, is a true “Buckeye.” Kristen majored in political science and became involved with many non-profit organizations.

She previously worked in the education and outreach department of a Cleveland nonprofit, where she worked on public outreach and statewide legislative projects. In her free time, Kristen enjoys playing soccer, skiing, and preparing her favorite foods.
A four-week, free study tour “Exploring West Africa: Spotlight on Senegal” features the history and culture of Senegal, a country known for its vibrant cultural traditions. The intensive experience will give participants a solid practical knowledge of Senegalese culture, including a familiarity with the country’s history, religion, politics, educational systems, and art forms such as music, dance, film, and literature.


At Clarice Smith National Teacher Institutes, join colleagues from across the country and collaborate with subject experts and leading technology professionals. Through gallery talks, lectures, discussion groups, and hands-on activities, learn to incorporate technology to enliven your core subject teaching. Institutes are open to educator teams of two to three teachers from grades 4-12 from the same school or district, each teacher representing a different subject area (i.e., social studies, language arts, science, math). Institutes are held December 28-31, 2009; June 28-July 1, 2010; and July 19-23, 2010. A non-refundable program fee (December: $100/person; summer: $200/person) supports the cost of resource materials. The Smithsonian American Art Museum offers two $500 scholarships per institute. Visit americanart.si.edu/education/dev/cs/form. Queries may be sent to AmericanArtClariceSmithInitiative@si.edu.

Explore the Ancient Middle Kingdom, with 12 days in Beijing, Nanjing, Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. Tentative Travel Dates: July 15-26, 2010. The 2010 Educators tour to China will allow teachers, family, and friends to experience firsthand the arts, culture, geography, history, economics, government and technology of China. Participants receive background and educational materials to help bring China alive in the classroom. Each educator may earn up to 50 CPDUs for their attendance in all sightseeing and cultural exchange activities. The cost of travel, lodging, and meals, is $2,995 per person. For tour 2010 itinerary and reservation form, visit cadc.org/Educational_Tours. Queries may be sent to Program Coordinator Jennifer Chan, travelstudychina@gmail.com.

The Keizai Koho Center (Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs) in cooperation with the National Association of Japan-American Societies (NAJAS) will sponsor a ten day Fellowship to Japan in Summer 2010 for educators in the U.S. and Canada. The Fellowship (tentative dates are the first week in July 2010) allows teachers to learn first hand about contemporary Japanese society and enhance their classroom teaching of global perspectives. The fellowship is open to Middle and High school classroom teachers of economics, social studies and history (grades 6-12) who have never lived in Japan and have not visited Japan on a similar study tour. Visit www.us-japan.org/jasp. Queries may be sent to Administrative Assistant Kelly Chaney, kchaney@us-japan.org. Deadline for applications is February 28, 2010.

Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society will sponsor the annual Supreme Court Summer Institute, June 17-22, 2010. The institute is open to secondary level social studies teachers and supervisors who will spend five days on Capitol Hill and inside the Supreme Court learning about the Court, its past and current cases, and how to teach about them from top Supreme Court litigators and educators. We will also hear the justices announce the final decisions of the term and attend a private reception at the Court. For full information and to apply online (under the “Registration Info” tab), visit www.streetlaw.org/sci_apply. Application deadline is March 15, 2010.

International exchange opportunities for teachers and principals are available through Educational Seminar grants, which include all travel, living and program expenses. Exchanges are short term, taking place during the summer, and focus on the sharing of best practices and professional development. These grants are funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State and administered by American Councils for International Education. Travel to Argentina, Brazil, Greece, India, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Thailand, or Uruguay. For full announcements and application form, visit www.americancouncils.org/ES.

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) summer trips for 2010 have been posted online. Detailed information—including itineraries, costs, travel dates, and more—can be found at www.geeo.org. Reach GEEO toll free at 1-877-600-0105 between 9AM-10PM EST. To sign-up for the GEEO listserv, please send an email to listserv@geeo.org with the subject line “subscriber.”

Are You Moving? Have A New E-Mail Address?

Go to the members-only link at socialstudies.org/membership to renew your membership, change your address, or update your member profile. That way, there’ll be no gap in the delivery of your NCSS publications.

And include your e-mail address to receive TSSP Update, which arrives only by e-mail several times a year.

You can also reach the Membership Department at membership@ncss.org.
Candidates Announced for NCSS Vice-President and Board of Directors

The Nominations Committee has presented a slate of candidates for the 2010 Board of Directors and Officer elections. The candidate for President-Elect is Sue Blanchette (Texas). The candidates for Vice-President are Dennis Banks (New York), and John Moore (Kentucky). The candidate elected as vice-president will be in line to become NCSS President in 2012. Members of good standing as of December 31 will receive ballots by mail in February.

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<th>Vice President</th>
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<td>Dennis Banks (NY)</td>
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<td>John Moore (KY)</td>
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Cultivating Leadership at the Annual Conference

Who: Members of Affiliate Councils, Associated Groups, and Community Organizations

When: Thursday, November 12, 2009, 12:30–5:00 PM

What: The culmination of year-long, online communications happens here, face to face, on the floor of the NCSS Annual Conference. NCSS is offering the following afternoon program on Thursday, November 12, to get things humming! See the Conference Program for details. We hope you will be able to join us!

Concurrent Sessions
12:30–1:30 PM

Partnerships: A Joint Venture to Success
How do you create and maintain partnerships across social studies disciplines and within the education community? Participants will gain useful strategies for building collaborative relationships and receive examples of tools, resources, and models of success (such as the Michigan Social Science Alliance and the Michigan Joint Education Conference).

Presenters: Tom Web, President, Michigan Council for the Social Studies, and Annie Culverhouse-Kruise, Certified Meetings Professional, Association Management Resources, Ann Arbor, MI.

Accessing Funds from ARRA
The U.S. Department of Education is making an unprecedented funding available to states, administrators, districts, and schools through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This session will share information on the funding programs most accessible to your council, as well as strategies for meeting grant requirements through strategic partnerships with other organizations.

Presenter: Beth Ratway, Senior Consultant, Learning Point Associates, Merton, WI.

Structure Your Finances for Success!
Examine and define your group’s short- and long-term goals in order to develop an integrated annual activities finance plan. Establish structures within your group that will support your finance plan and growth, such as clear parameters of authority on expenditures of group’s funds, signing contracts and making legal commitments, and reporting guidelines. Sample documents will be provided.

Presenter: Theron Trimble, Executive Director, Florida Council for the Social Studies, Naples, FL.

Focus on Public Policy
1:45–3:15 PM

Legislative Briefing
Washington Partners and NCSS will share news about the reauthorization of national education law (ESEA), the state-led development of internationally benchmarked common standards, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Participants will have the opportunity to share legislative news from their states and voice suggestions for next steps.

Presenters: Della Cronin, Washington Partners; Susan Griffin, NCSS Executive Director; and Ana Post, NCSS Director of External Relations & Council Communications

House of Delegates Preparation
3:30–5:00 PM

Share Resolution Drafts
Representatives from councils, associated groups, and communities (who will be submitting one or more resolutions on Friday morning at the Resolutions Hearings) can seek feedback and co-sponsors. Your soapbox is here!

Moderators: Tara Sides, HOD Chair; Terry Cherry, HOD Resolutions Chair; and NCSS Staff
National Council for the Social Studies proudly announces the Carter G. Woodson Book award and honor books for 2009. The works below have been chosen as the most distinguished social science books depicting ethnicity in the United States for young readers. The awards will be presented at the 89th NCSS Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, November 13–15, 2009.

About the Carter G. Woodson Book Awards
Woodson books accurately reflect the perspectives, cultures, and values of the particular ethnic or racial group(s) represented; promote pluralistic values; are informational or nonfiction (but not textbooks); are well written, reflecting originality in presentation and themes; and are published in the United States in the year prior to the award year. Eligible books are evaluated for readability, suitability for age/grade level, scholarship, illustrations, and curriculum enhancement.

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About Carter G. Woodson
The awards are given in honor of Carter G. Woodson (1875–1950), scholar, educator, historian, and founding editor of The Journal of Negro History. In 1915, Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and, in 1926, initiated Negro History Week, which gave rise in 1976 to Black History Month.

For more information
To read about submitting a book and to see award winners 1974–2009, visit www.socialstudies.org/awards/woodson.
NCATE Seeks Reviewers

NCSS seeks members to serve as reviewers of social studies teacher education (at the university level) for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE, online at www.ncate.org).

Teams of reviewers examine program reports and conduct reviews over the Internet that place primarily in October/November and March/April. Usually each reviewer is assigned no more than three reviews per cycle, and spends about 8 to 10 hours per review.

Training takes place at the NCSS Annual Conference. Trainees are asked to attend the free, all-day institutional training clinic on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, as well as a “How to Review” session on Friday, November 13 in the morning, followed by a workshop in the afternoon that includes experienced reviewers.

If you are interested in becoming an NCSS reviewer, contact Alberta M. Dougan, Ed.D., Coordinator of NCSS Program Review, at adougan@semo.edu.

NBPTS Standards Unveiled

Learn about new standards that define what it means to be an accomplished social studies/history teacher! On Sunday November 15, 2009, at 8:00am, at the NCSS Annual Conference, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) will host a session “The Accomplished Social Studies Teacher: Presenting the Revised Social Studies-History Standards of the NBPTS.” These standards will provide an inspiring vision for what defines not just competence, but excellence in teaching in our field.

Over seven months, a committee examined and envisioned what it means to be an accomplished social studies/history teacher. NBPTS is expected to approve the standards in early November 2009, so conference attendees will be among the first to see the final document. (Preview materials at www.nbpts.org.)

Related sessions on Saturday November 14 at the conference include (at 11:45AM) “Calling All NBCT Teachers and University Researchers” and (at 1:30PM) “Organizing the NBCT Community.”

Also, stop by the Community Showcase to meet with Social Studies-History NBCT educators and other members of the committee. (See your Conference Program for the various days and hours of the Showcase.) Queries may be sent to Michael Yell, NBCT, Past-President of NCSS, and middle school teacher, at yellmm@hudson.k12.wi.us.
**Frontline**
Tuesdays, November 3–24
9:00–10:00 PM ET
PBS

- “Alaska Gold.” FRONTLINE probes the growing battle between those who depend on the last great wild Sockeye salmon fishery for a living, the mining companies who are pushing for a huge open-pit mine, and the political framework that will ultimately decide the outcome.

- “A Death In Tehran.” With the help of a unique network of correspondents in and out of the country, FRONTLINE investigates the life and death of Neda Soltani, whose image remains a potent symbol of the reform movement in Iran.

- “The Card Game” Credit card companies face rising public anger, new regulation from Washington, and a potential perfect storm of economic bad news, FRONTLINE and The New York Times examine the future of the massive consumer loan industry.

**WWII in HD**
November 15–19, 2009,
9:00–11:00 PM ET
HISTORY/AETN

This premiere program shows the Second World War as viewed through the eyes of 12 Americans who fought in or contributed to the war effort. Featuring WWII-era color film, much of it new to television, the 10-hour series is narrated by Emmy Award winner Gary Sinise. The History Channel drew upon more than 3,000 hours of footage unearthed from archives and private collections across the globe, which were converted into a high-definition (HD) format. In-the-moment accounts, culled from original sources and new interviews, are narrated by actors or delivered by some of the veterans themselves.

**Documenting the Face of America**
Monday, November 16, 2009
10:00–11:00 PM ET
PBS/South Carolina ETV

This film brings to life the remarkable stories behind the legendary group of New Deal-sponsored photographers who traversed the country in the 1930s and early 1940s, capturing the face of Depression-era America. The program explores the personal vision and the struggles experienced by photographers Gordon Parks, Dorothea Lange, Russell Lee, Walker Evans, Marion Post Wolcott, and Jack Delano. A fiery prairie populist, Columbia University professor, and government bureaucrat named Roy Stryker brought them together. Julian Bond narrates. See also “Woody Guthrie: Ain’t Got No Home,” showing on November 25; check local listings.