

# GeoFest Conference 2017

Sponsored by the  
New York Geographic Alliance and the  
Chemistry/Geosciences Department of MCC  
*Sat. November 11, 2017 – 8:45 AM- 2:30 PM*



## Celebrating Civil Rights and the Erie Canal



### SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration and Refreshments – Forum – Bldg. 3
9:00 – 9:30	Demonstration of the <b>New York Giant Map</b> Welcome from Dean Dan Robertson, MCC
9:45 – 10:30 AM	Session A
10:40 – 11:25 AM	Session B
11:35 – 12:20 PM	Session C
12:25 – 1:00 PM	Lunch (optional activity) Room 306
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Tour of Mt. Hope Cemetery

Most of the workshops will be held in **Building 11**. Those using the GIANT New York Map are in the Forum. Signs are in the hallways pointing you the way. The computer lab is on the first floor (\*). All other workshops are on the third floor.

## WORKSHOPS

E = Elementary, M = Middle School, H = High School, A = All Levels

### SESSION A – 9:45 – 10:30 AM

Workshop #	Name of Workshop	Presenter(s)	Location
A1*	Geospatial Learning in Rochester CSD (A)	Joseph Becker	Room 111
A2	Integrating Social Studies into ELA (E)	Gail Hall	Room 301
A3	National Geographic Bee (E,M)	Jeanne O'Bryan	Room 303
A4	Using Maps to Understand China (A)	Stephen Vermette	Room 306



The *Giant Map of New York* will be used for two lessons during the conference in the Forum (where the coffee is). During Session A, you can walk on the map on your own.

Please NO shoes or bare feet on the map. No eating or drinking is allowed either!

We are pleased to welcome two of our friends from the Erie Canalway: **Bonnie Hay** of Historic Palmyra and **Liz Beebe** and **Janet Connors** from Camillus Erie Canal Park. Visit them at their tables in the Forum while you get your continental breakfast.

## SESSION B – 10:40 - 11:25 AM

Workshop #	Name of Workshop	Presenter	Location
B1*	Looking at the American Revolution on the GIANT Map (A)	Timothy McDonnell	Forum (Bldg. 3)
B2	Teaching with Digital Maps (A)	Michael Jabot	Room 111
B3	Inspiring Geographic & Spatial Thinking (E)	Gail Hall	Room 301
B4	안녕하세요 (Hello) South Korea (M,H)	Stephen Vermette	Room 306
B5	Geography and Literature (A)	Mary Duffin	Room 309

## SESSION C – 11:35 AM – 12:20 PM

Workshop #	Name of Workshop	Presenter	Location
C1*	National Parks on the GIANT NY Map (A)	Susan Hoskins	Forum (Bldg. 3)
C2	Geography of the Civil Rights Movement (M)	Gale Sookdeo	Room 301
C3	Teaching About Climate Change (A)	Michael Jabot	Room 303
C4	Exploring East Asia with GeoHistoGrams (M, H)	Timothy McDonnell	Room 306
C5	The Erie Canal Bicentennial at Palmyra	Bonnie Hay	Room 309

- At the end of Session C, you will receive a **certificate of participation**. It will be found outside Room 306.

**Lunch** will be served in Room 306 in Building 11 for those who are staying for the field trip or for the East Asia program. If you did not already register for this, please pay \$10 for the lunch at the registration table.

**1:00 PM – Field Trip to Mt. Hope Cemetery (please carpool!)**

We will leave the MCC campus and drive north to visit the historic Mt. Hope Cemetery. Prof. Michael Boester will be our docent. Please register in advance! Prof. Noonan's East Asia group will continue their program in Room 306.

## **Description of the Workshops**

### **SESSION A – 9:45 – 10:30 AM**

**A1 – Building an Infrastructure for Geospatial Learning in the Rochester City School District (A) – Joseph Becker, UrbInnovations– Room 11-111**

While Geospatial technology is a growing field, creating and sustaining programs for City students are challenging. This presentation will offer ideas and opportunities to overcome obstacles and bring GIS into our classrooms. A Story Map will highlight the work that the GIS Scholars, Volunteers, Teachers and Students have done and are doing. At the School Without Walls.

**A2 – Integrating Social Studies into the ELA Curriculum (E)– Room 11-301, Gail Hall, NYGA Board Member.**



Participants will be given strategies to use in their classrooms which will help integrate Social Studies into their ELA, Math, and Science programs. They will receive a copy of the NYGA created *Erie Canal Module*, which is set up to facilitate close reading. Hands-on activities, which help reading comprehension, will be demonstrated. Several highly motivating trade books will also be highlighted.

**A3- National Geographic Bee (E,M) – Jeanne O’Bryan, Coordinator of NY Bee– Room 11- 303**

What is the National Geographic Bee? Presentation includes description, handouts, and a Geographic Bee competition among attendees with a few prizes available.



**A4 – Using Maps to Understand the Geography of China (A), Stephen Vermette, Buffalo State**



**College, Room 11-306**

This presentation will focus on the geography of China, relying mostly on the use of maps – a comparative approach which builds on a person’s understanding of the geography of the United States to better understand the geography of China. You will come from this workshop with a better understanding of China, and perhaps a different way of teaching about regions.

**A5 – Big Decisions for Mudville: a Simulation Activity and Assessment – Donald Gates, Fowler High School, Syracuse, Room 11-301.**

This is a simulation of a fictional town called *Mudville* in 1810. They have transportation problems. The goal is to find solutions for those problems using technology of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This activity is an assessment in the new NYGA Middle School Module.

**SESSION B – 10:40 - 11:25 AM**

**B1 - Looking at the American Revolution on the GIANT Map (A), Timothy McDonnell, New York Geographic Alliance Coordinator – Forum in Building 3.**

The GIANT Map of New York has become very popular throughout the state. We have been trying to come up with good lessons to use on this resource. One that was successful last summer at Fort Ticonderoga was on the American Revolution. We will trace the movement of armies during the Campaign of 1777, which led to the surrender of Gen. Burgoyne.

**B2 - Teaching with Digital Maps (A), Michael Jabot, SUNY Fredonia – Room 11-111.**



In this workshop, you will learn ways to start using digital maps to integrate technology into your classroom. Utilizing ArcGIS Online, with a focus on Story Maps, we will guide you through the creation and use of digital maps. Computers are available.

**B3 - Inspiring Geographic & Spatial Thinking (E), Gail Hall, NYGA– Room 11-301**

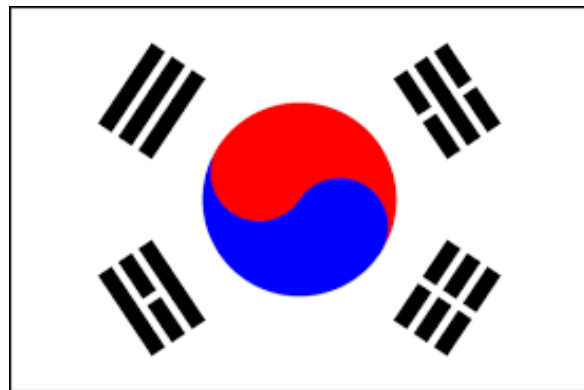


Participants will take part in hands-on activities that help students learn to think spatially. Over the past several years isolated ELA and Math lessons, along with test preparation have been stressed in most classrooms. Time devoted to Social Studies has decreased. Activities will be demonstrated which will help teachers interested in developing a more creative

atmosphere for their students. These activities will promote child-centered learning of Social Studies concepts.

**B4 -안녕하세요 (Hello) South Korea (M,H)– Stephen Vermette, Buffalo State College – Room 11-306.**

This presentation will convey Prof. Vermette’s impressions of South Korea from the perspective of a casual observer and traveler to that far land – drawing upon insights provided by his wife, and by their daughter who has lived and studied in South Korea. If you have never been to South Korea or are a novice to that country, we hope to provide you with a playful South Korean experience.



**B-5 – Geography and Literature (A), Mary Duffin, NYGA Board Member – Room 309**

Books are windows into worlds. Come explore books that help us to learn about peoples, cultures, and places. Books that can be used at the elementary, intermediate and high school levels will be discussed. The skills and content of geography, history, economics, and civics can be taught when students read and engage with literature and trade books. Come explore titles that can be used to do this. Participants will receive a list of books discussed at the end of the session.

**SESSION C – 11:35 AM – 12:20 PM**

**C1 – Passport to Fitness: Exploring National Parks in New York (A)  
Susan Hoskins, Cornell IRIS  
Program – Forum**

This is an activity that uses the GIANT Map of New York. Students race to locate parks in New York on the map, using grid systems. This is one of many activities work well on this map that measures 15 by 20 feet.



**C2 - Geography of the Civil Rights Movement (M), Dr. Gale Sookdeo, PS 96 in NYC – Room 11-301.**



Celebrate Geography Awareness Week with a focus on the Civil Rights Movement. Participants will engage in activities designed to address the Social Studies Practices and geographical perspectives on the Civil Rights

Movement. Presenter will also share resources with attendees for celebrating Geography Awareness Week.

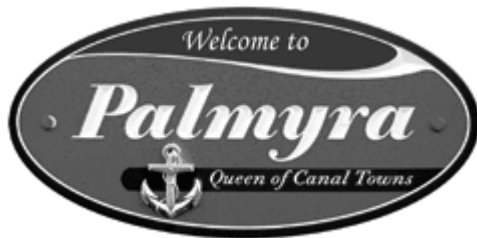
**C3 - Teaching About Climate Change  
(A)– Michael Jabot, SUNY Fredonia  
– Room 11-303.**

In this workshop, resources will be share to help you to help your students to understand the issue of climate change. We will use a number of technology-enabled resources, and you will leave with numerous ideas to bring this topic to your classroom and community.



**C4 - Exploring East Asia with GeoHistoGrams (M, H), Timothy McDonnell, Coordinator of the NYGA– Room 11-306.**

The *GeoHistoGram* is a timeline and a graphic organizer created by the Michigan Geographic Alliance. It has been proven effective in helping students visual historic events and the rise and fall of empires through time. We will do a few of the activities and teachers will receive resources to take back to their classrooms.



**C5 - The Erie Canal Bicentennial at Palmyra (A), Bonnie Hay, Historic Palmyra – Room 309.**

Palmyra is the “Queen of Canal Towns.”

They are proud of their canal heritage, and

Bonnie Hay would like to share her resources about the Bicentennial with you!

**PLEASE! Complete the evaluations for this GeoFest Conference. If you are not staying for the afternoon session, you can give them to the presenter in Session C.**

**If you are staying for lunch, report to Room 306, immediately after the last session. The trip to Mt. Hope will leave promptly at 1:00 PM. Please carpool!**





*Before leaving our campus today, please...*

- Clean up after yourself, so the classrooms will be ready for instruction on Monday.
- Fill out the evaluation form! It helps us in planning for future events.
- Pick up your certificate of attendance in Room 306 at the end of Session C or after lunch.
- Join NYGA! There's a membership form in your folder. Or join online at <http://www.nygeographicalliance.org>

**THANK YOU FOR SPENDING GEOFEST WITH US!**



**Join the New York Geographic Alliance!**



**Monroe  
Community  
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STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK

**Many thanks to Monroe Community College for their  
hospitality and support of GeoFest 2017!**