2003 Education Communications Newsletter

January

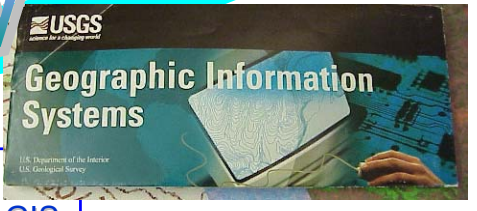
From: Joseph Kerski - Geographer, USGS, Denver

To My Colleagues in Education, Geography, and GIS Around The World: It has been a privilege working with you during 2003 in the USGS education - communications program. Our goal is to promote the awareness and use of scientific and geographic data throughout society. This newsletter chronologically highlights the 2003 activities in which I have been involved. Some educational partners throughout the year were the Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA), ESRI, the National Council for Geographic Education, the Orton Family Foundation, FEMA, UCAR, the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Geographical Association. It's a team effort!

Some of my favorite folks to work with in 2003 were Anita Palmer, Roger Palmer, George Dailey, Anne Olsen, Stephanie Eddy, Esther Worker, Bob Coulter, Christine Voigt, Bill Smith, Stewart Wright, Bob Ridky, Sophia Linn, Amanda Gierow, Matt Shetzer, Steve Reiter, and Torben Jensen, but there were many others who helped make a memorable year.

I began **January** by teaching GIS again at the University of Denver (above) for 10 weeks Our USGS GIS poster was published, which Annette Kulyk and I (Thanks Annette!) have been working on for years (below). I conducted workshops and operated an information exhibit at GeoTech 15 in Dallas, below poster.

February



In **February,** I taught at the Texas GIS conference, conducted "Spatial Thinking" Presentations at two University of Wisconsin campuses (left, waving USGS sign at Green Bay's Lambeau Field!), and worked at the University of Northern Colorado.

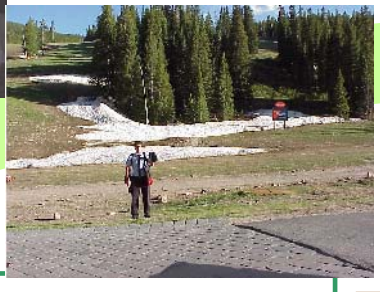
March

March saw the Science Olympiad at UCCS campus, papers and exhibit at the Association of American Geographers conference in Louisiana, and a GIS class co-taught with FEMA.

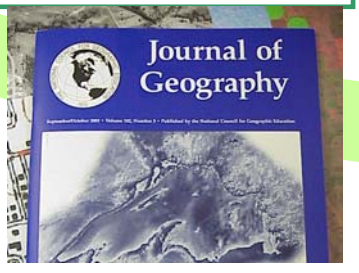
April

In **April**, I co-taught GeoTech Western Slope at Mesa State College, operated a USGS exhibit at the Geographical Association conference at the University of Derby, England, and presented a GIS and Citizenship paper at the International Geographical Union conference in London. We also participated in the Colorado Council for the Social Studies conference (below). I co-taught GIS classes for teachers at Arvada High School and at Emily Griffith Opportunity School.

June



June brought us to an event that a team of us had planned for nearly a year: GeoTech Colorado 2003, together with the Technology in Education Conference at Copper Mountain. We also published our first issue of GEMS (Geographic Education Magazine of Science), an electronic magazine.



May

In **May**, we were privileged to host 9 educators from Denmark for three days, (above), helped with a "Making A Difference" exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for several weeks, and taught a GIS course for federal, state, and local government officials in Colorado (below).

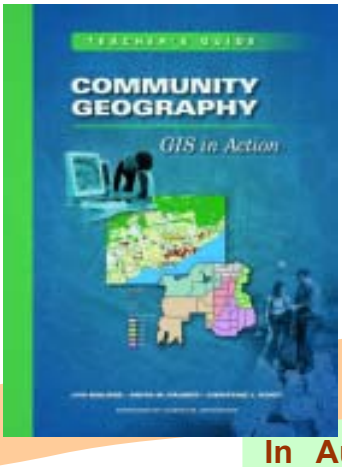
During 2003, we published two articles in the *Journal of Geography* (left), our "corn maze geography" made the USGS "Science Picks", we were featured in the *Boulder Daily Camera*, the *Denver Post*, and on the *BBC*, we made many web improvements, wrote a lesson included in the 2003 Earth Science Week packet, began a column in the *NCGE Perspective* entitled *Isn't That Spatial,* and published several book reviews.

July

Left, Auckland.

July was a dream come true with my first trip to the Southern Hemisphere for the New Zealand Geographical Society conference and to teach GIS for educators with some of the country's experts in the field!

Also in July, the book *Community Geography* was published by ESRI Press, which I was thrilled to have a role in editing (right).



August

In August, we participated in the Digital Library for Earth Systems Education (DLESE) conference at the University of Colorado, and participated in the Open House at the Colorado Geographic Alliance's new home, the University of Denver.

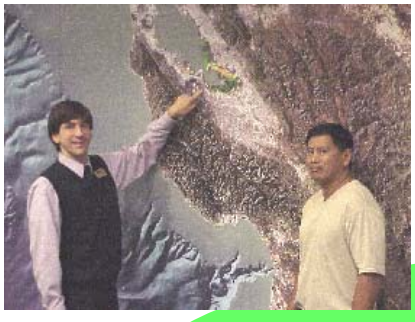
DLESE Educational Resources Educators

Digital Library for Earth System Education

September

In September, I taught two week-long GIS courses, one at the National Training Center in Denver, and one at the USGS Western Geographic Science Center in Menlo Park, California. Throughout the year, we answered hundreds of technical questions from the data user community.

I began teaching the first semester-long GIS course at Emily Griffith Opportunity School in Denver in their new certificate program in September, above.



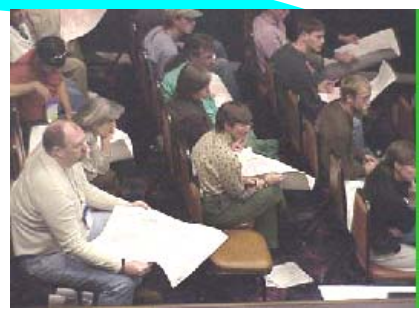
October

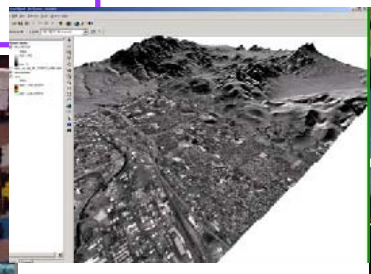
October saw workshops and an exhibit at the GIS In The Rockies conference in Colorado, the National Council for Geographic Education conference in Utah, a workshop at Boulder Valley Schools, and work began with The USGS National Map Design Team for outreach.

A few additional highlights during 2003: Being inducted into the Royal Geographical Society, meeting Gilbert Grosvenor of National Geographic, and realizing that a former high school student with whom I had worked with in geography and GIS is now so excited about geospatial technologies that he works for the USGS!

November

In **November,** we conducted a mapping workshop and an exhibit at the National Indian Education Association conference in North Carolina (below) and at the National Interpretive Association conference in Nevada (above right).

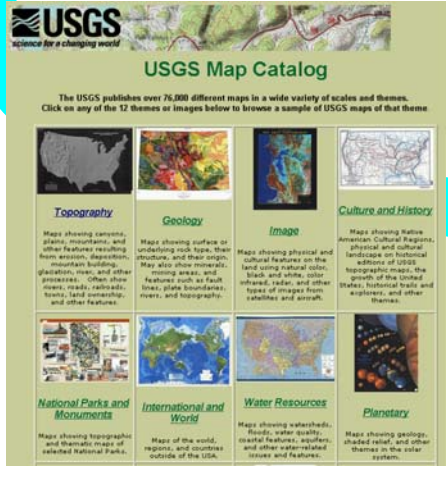


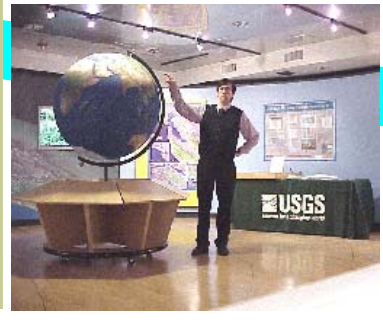


We also participated in the Colorado Science Convention, in USGS Publications 2003, in Geography Awareness Week, and in GIS Day.

December

The year ended with final preparations for our new Educational Map Catalog (rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/outreach/mapcatalog/) , co-teaching a series of GIS classes for our USGS Mapping Production staff, planning for the USGS GIS conference, and preparing for the Geography Bee in a local school.





I look forward to working with you in 2004!
--Joseph Kerski