

**2004 Education  
Partnerships Newsletter**

**From: Joseph Kerski -  
Geographer, USGS, Denver**

To My Colleagues in Education, Geography, and GIS Around The World: It has been a privilege serving you and working with you during 2004 in the USGS education – partnerships program. Our goal is to promote the awareness and application of scientific and geographic data throughout society, and in particular, in education. This newsletter highlights the 2004 activities in which I have had the pleasure to be involved. Some educational partners throughout the year were the National Council for Geographic Education, the Association of American Geographers, the Colorado Geographic Alliance, ESRI, the Community Mapping Program, UCAR, GITA, and the Geographical Association. It's a team effort!

# January



## Good Folks

Some of the best experiences in 2004 involved working with: Anita Palmer, Roger Palmer, Esther Worker, David Lambert, Charlie Fitzpatrick, Christine Voigt, Steve Reiter, Bob Ridky, Barb Wallner, Shannon White, Bob Coulter, and Carole Stern, but there were many others who helped make 2004 memorable.

In **January**, I taught a GIS course for the US Forest Service in Fort Collins, Colorado, and a course at the Colorado School of Mines. After years of promoting the National Geographic Bee, I finally had the opportunity to run a Bee in a school. I participated in GeoTech 16 in Dallas (above), and taught a GIS course for USGS employees.

# February

**February** saw a workshop at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Headquarters (below) and a GIS institute for South Dakota educators.



## Publications

Notable publications this year were an article about the Global GIS project in the journal *Interaction*, a Titanic GIS education article in *Geospatial Solutions* (above), a GIS article in the *NSS News*, an chapter on GIS in Citizenship Education in a book for the International Geographical Union, features in the *AAG Newsletter*, a column entitled *Isn't That Spatial* for the *NCGE Perspective*, contributions to Francek's *Earth Science Sites*, a piece of the *Earth Exploration Toolbook*, and book reviews.



# March

**March** saw the Science Olympiad, the biennial USGS GIS Conference, a Community Mapping Program planning summit, and the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Philadelphia (right).



*Where else can one hug a globe but at an AAG conference?*



Joseph doing field work on Abbey Road, London.



In **May**, I worked with a National Council for Geographic Education Task Force on the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, to promote geography and technology for 21<sup>st</sup> century education, posted on: [www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org). I worked with the GIS Club at Metropolitan State College of Denver, and presented and collaborated at a USGS exhibit at the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) conference (above).

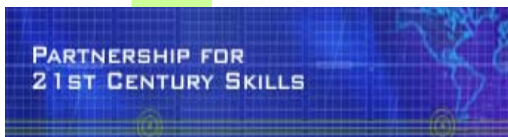
# May



In **April**, I participated in the Geographical Association conference in Canterbury, England (left, with Ordnance Survey Director Lawrence and Education Chief Owen), taught with Steve Reiter at the Intermountain GIS Conference in Montana (left), and conducted a workshop and a keynote presentation at North Carolina State University (below).



DLESE



# June

**June** brought the Digital Library for Earth Systems Education (DLESE) California Pilot institute (above right), the GeoTech Colorado 2004 week-long GIS-GPS institute for educators (above), and the Technology in Education conference (left, geocaching with educators).

# July

# August

In **July**, I took a tribal relationships course and began work on three NASA and NSF grant proposals for GIS and Remote Sensing Education. Together with Anita and Roger Palmer, Ashok Wadwani, and Jeffrey Lash, I taught an institute in Costa Rica for an international group of educators in the use of GIS and GPS in geography and sustainability (right).



In **August**, I taught part of the summer program for the Mountain Studies Institute at Fort Lewis College in Durango (below).



Also in **August**, I joined 12,000 other GIS colleagues to teach workshops and network at the ESRI Education User Conference and User Conference in San Diego (at right and below). I also reviewed books for the College Board to support AP Human Geography and worked with Burlington County College's GIS Program.



Also in the summer, I made significant improvements to my GIS curriculum and web resources, and began planning in earnest for the AAG 2005 conference with John Wyckoff and others on the Local Arrangements Committee.

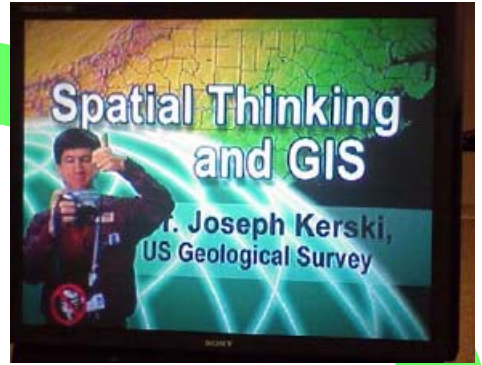


# September

In September, I and others participated in the ESRI Open House in Colorado, and I worked with students mapping and analyzing wildfires in Douglas County (right). I also started teaching Spanish at Jefferson County School District—!Que Bueno!



GPS Units and Other Field Equipment.



Also in September, I was invited to give a keynote address on spatial thinking and work with faculty and students at the North Carolina School of Mathematics and Science (above and below).

# October

October saw workshops, geocaching, and an exhibit at the GIS In The Rockies conference in Colorado, the National Council for Geographic Education conference in Missouri, and a keynote address and workshops at GeoTech Minnesota for Educators.



Jeopardy's Alex Trebek at NCGE Conference.



Northwestern University invited me and my colleagues to a workshop in October on GIS in education associated with the MyWorld GIS development (left).

# November

In **November**, Steve Reiter, Laurie Jasso and I conducted two GIS-GPS-mapping workshops (one in conjunction with NASA) and an exhibit at the National Interpretive Association conference in Michigan. I also conducted presentations and workshops at Michigan State and Western Michigan University campuses.



We also participated in the Geological Society of America conference during the month. Below, Mark Newell demonstrates The National Map viewer.



We conducted a GIS Day – Geography Awareness Week in conjunction with UCAR, GLOBE, GITA, and the Colorado Geographic Alliance for 900 students and 100 teachers!



**Don't Get Lost – Find Your Way With Geography!**



# December

The year ended with final preparations for teaching a GIS course at the EPA and a workshop in conjunction with ESRI and AAG on the My Community Our Earth project.



I look forward to working with you in 2005!  
--Joseph Kerski