



# NEWSLETTER

educating tomorrow's citizens

December 2004

editor: Linda McKean Logan

## Dateline Columbus . . .

William J. Muthing, Ohio Department of Education

### Assessment Committee Members Needed

The Ohio Department of Education is seeking Ohio educators to serve as members of Content Advisory and Standard Setting committees for assessment development work. Content Advisory Committees review and evaluate test materials to ensure that each question is a valid and appropriate measure of the academic content standards. These committees will typically meet for about 8 days per each 12 month development cycle. Educators are needed for the following specific content advisory committees:

- Grade 5 Social Studies Content Advisory
- Grade 8 Social Studies Content Advisory

Standard Setting Committees meet only once, to recommend the performance standards (i.e., the score for basic, proficient, and advanced achievement) for a given test or set of tests within a subject area. In 2004-05, standard-setting committees will be meeting to recommend performance standards for:

- OGT Social Studies

Use: [www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/nomination\\_forms.asp](http://www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/nomination_forms.asp) to obtain nomination forms. When individuals are selected for these committees, they will receive more detailed information. Please direct questions to Kimberlie Bruggeman at (614) 466-0223. Social Studies Institute of Ohio

The second session the Social Studies Institute of Ohio (SSIO) was held in October at four regional sites: Dayton, Columbus, Akron, and Athens. The participants critiqued lesson plans formulated around world studies themes.

These themes related to benchmarks and grade-level indicators associated with the Ohio Graduation Test. The participants will revise the plans based on the input received and provide instruction to students based on the revised plans. The third session of SSIO will take place after the first of the year. Participants will share student work and again critique the lessons based on student reactions and performance. Based on the success of this pilot and potential budgets, further institutes are planned for subsequent years. Additional teachers will be able to participate in future institutes.

### Changes in ODE Social Studies Staff

Marie Elana Hall has changed positions within the Ohio Department of Education. She will no longer assist educators as a social studies consultant, but will be working on the development of the state's achievement tests. Rodney Flory was an assistant director for social studies. He has resigned from the department. Virginia Ressa, Virginia Moore and William Muthig continue work on social

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# HomeworkNow

HomeworkNow is like having a librarian in every Ohio living room, ready to help students with their research 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! The free chat service at [www.homeworknow.org](http://www.homeworknow.org), which debuted in September 2004, is funded through a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, administered by the State Library of Ohio. It is managed by the Cleveland Public Library, the Cuyahoga County Public Library, and the NOLA Regional Library System. The service is staffed by public and school librarians all across Ohio. Since September, librarians have answered well over 18,000 questions.

The HomeworkNow service also connects students through chat with professional tutors with the Live Homework Help service, for help with math problems, grammar and proofreading, interpreting literature, designing science fair projects, and other schoolwork. This service is available 2 pm – 10 pm, seven days a week.

Whether students are working with librarians or tutors, they will get assistance and instruction, not simply the answers. Librarians will select only the best online resources, and they can even scan reference books and journals from their collections in order to provide students with authoritative, accurate information. Librarians will also teach students how to search the Internet efficiently themselves and how to evaluate websites, and they frequently help students get into and use INFOhio databases such as EBSCOHost and Encyclopedia Britannica.

Similarly, the tutors at Live Homework Help will help students work through problems and questions rather than just spoon-feeding answers—sometimes to the students' dismay!

In order to use the service, students only need to know their Ohio zipcode—a library card is not required and the students may log on anonymously.

Students who have used HomeworkNow and Live Homework Help love it! Based on an online survey, 96% of students say that they are glad the service is offered; 95% say that they would recommend the service to a friend; and 88% say that the service has helped them to improve their grades. "My tutor was very nice and she helped me a lot" writes one 7<sup>th</sup> grader. "We couldn't find an exact definition for something so she helped put one together from what we already knew. It was great!" A 10<sup>th</sup> grader writes, "I think that this is really great. It helps me understand and lets me know where I need help. . . . It is really awesome of you to help people that need it! Thank you!"

Please encourage your students to try HomeworkNow at [www.homeworknow.org](http://www.homeworknow.org). For more information about this free service from the State Library of Ohio and your local public library, visit the website, contact the KnowItNow @fterDark Project Coordinator, Kristen Pool at [kristen.pool@nolanet.org](mailto:kristen.pool@nolanet.org), or talk to your school media specialist or a librarian at your local public library.

# Insurance Educator of the Year

Recognizing that teaching insurance to teenagers isn't a simple task, the Ohio Insurance Institute (OII) want to honor those educators who, through their creativity an innovative styles, include insurance education as part of their students "real life" learning experiences.

The competition is open to educators in

Ohio vocational and high schools.

Nominations must be submitted no late than March 1, 2005.

For more information and nomination forms, contact the OII by calling 800/331.6394 or [www.ohioinsurance.org](http://www.ohioinsurance.org)

*Mission Statement*  
The Ohio Council for the Social Studies serves as the premier voice for social studies professionals in Ohio. We advocate for the vital role of social studies and assist educators through professional development for the delivery of effective and innovative instruction. Our conferences and publications provide a network of services to members throughout the state.

OCSS Annual Conference for 2005

## Teachers as Architects: Designing the Citizen Foundation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

April 7-9, 2005

Preconference April 7, 2005

The Radisson  
Worthington, Ohio

*The Academic Content Standards in Social Studies provide a framework for social studies education in Ohio. Join OCSS in exploring ways to build on the framework in making students into effective citizens for this century.*

Featured speakers are NCSS President Jesus Garcia, NCSS Executive Director Susan Griffin and State Representative Derrick Seaver (first elected at age 18).

Executive Director  
open  
President  
Vickie Knauff  
President Elect  
Chad Doll  
Secretary  
Ro Eckman  
Treasurer  
Abbejean  
Kehler  
Conference Director  
James Sheehan

### Dateline Columbus...

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studies issues within the department. They can be contacted by phone at (614) 466-1317.

#### **Development of Social Studies Achievement Tests**

The initial meeting with the Eighth-grade Social Studies Achievement Test Content Advisory Committee was held during the second week of November. Committee members examined preliminary test and item specifications. The test blueprint was also reviewed. Revisions to the specifications and blueprint will be shared with the committee members at its next meeting in January, 2005. The Fifth-grade Content Advisory Committee will meet in January. Test specifications and the blueprint will be the subject of that meeting.

### U.S. Supreme Court Summer Institute

Spend six stimulating days on Capitol Hill and inside the US Supreme Court where you'll have the opportunity to hear the Justices announce final decisions of a term; questions prominent Supreme Court litigators about the Court's inner workings; debate the leading cases from the 04-05 term with prominent liberal and conservative commentators; and discuss media coverage with a newspaper reporter whose full time "beat" is the Supreme Court.

Participants who conduct training for other teachers after returning from the Institute are eligible to receive a stipend of \$200.

Full details and application materials are available online at [www.streetlaw.org/scsipage.asp](http://www.streetlaw.org/scsipage.asp)

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# Program Enriches the Study of World Cultures

“The experience at the temple (Buddhist temple) and the Japanese restaurant were invaluable. Never will these students see these things. They met two Japanese girls whom they grew to admire so much. They will always love anything Japanese. What a wonderful legacy to give these children as they go out into the world” – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Cleveland Municipal school District

To help prepare young students to be function as informed citizens in an interconnected and interdependent world, the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization serving the five-county region of northeast Ohio, offers a Global Classroom program to northeast Ohio classes. This interactive and interdisciplinary series of activities for social studies classes seeks to foster appreciation and understanding of world cultures and address the growing concerns that too many students view those different from themselves as alien or enemies.

Designed to be integrated into the curriculum, Global Classroom activities are directly aligned with Ohio social studies standards, indicators and benchmarks. Teachers can select among program components as fits their time frame and individual preferences. These include classroom visits by international university students, field trips and presentations by natives of different world regions, global email collaborations, video conferences, and comprehensive resource materials. Students collect, identify, and catalog cultural artifacts in Culture Boxes that serves as a basis for discussion with their international mentors. The resource materials incorporate a country’s politics, economics, geography, history, and culture and include country reports, lesson plans and activities. The international student mentors discuss aspects of their native country, their home life, how they celebrate holidays, language foods and folklore; an educational email program allows students to communicate and collaborate electronically with a team of students from another country to explore a topic of mutual interest; access to video conferencing and distance learning develops presentation skills; and the opportunity for cultural events and field trips with the Cleveland Council on World Affairs offers

assistance with transportation other fees. Resource materials include lesson plans, activities and educational videos. Though the focus of the program has been towards grades 3, 6, and 9, Global Classroom activities can easily be adapted for classes in grades 3 through 12.

The Global Classroom Program provides educators with an interactive and hands-on approach that engages students in interdisciplinary lessons. While providing the chance for students to evaluate differing worldviews, the program also takes advantage of resources available within the diverse Cleveland community. In addition, the strong technology component fosters research and critical thinking and at the same time develops communication skills in a cooperative learning environment.

In the past year the study of foreign regions in 35 classes was greatly enriched with visitors and activities from such exotic cultures as Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Indonesia, Ghana, Botswana, Kenya, and Tajikistan as well as more familiar areas of India, China, Great Britain, and Russia.

In addition to the Global Classroom, the Council hosts a Model UN conference, attracting nearly 800 students from 35 northeast Ohio high schools. Now in its 60<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the program is riding the crest of interest sparked by the UN’s increasingly visible role in world events. Student delegates, meeting in 12 committees, recreate an authentic simulation of the United Nations process during this challenging and exciting two-day conference. For details see [www.ccwamun.org](http://www.ccwamun.org).

We invite northeast Ohio teachers to take advantage of this valuable educational program by contacting Paula Cohen, Director of Education at the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, for more information at 216-781-3730 ext. 103 or [pcohen@ccwa.org](mailto:pcohen@ccwa.org).



## teaching about Asia pdf

# OCLRE Update

Get involved with the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education and bring hands-on, law-related and civic education programs to your students. And of course everything is linked to Ohio's Benchmarks and Standards. To find out more about the programs below visit [www.oclre.org](http://www.oclre.org) or call 877/485-3510. Free in-school professional development opportunities are available.

### OCLRE Calendar of Events

<b>We The People: The Citizen &amp; The Constitution,</b> Ohio High School Competition, Ohio Statehouse.....	January 28, 2005
<b>We The People: Project Citizen (middle grades)</b> Teacher workshop, Columbus <b>No cost</b> .....	February 2, 2005
<b>Mock Trial District Competition (high school)</b> .....	February 11, 2005
<b>Mock Trial State Competition (high school)</b> .....	March 10-12, 2005
<b>Ohio Youth for Justice Summit, Columbus (middle grades)</b> .....	April 21, 2005
<b>Middle School Mock Trial Competition, Columbus</b> .....	April 29, 2005
<b>We The People: Project Citizen (middle grades)</b> Ohio Showcase, Ohio Statehouse.....	May 13, 2005
<b>We The People: The Citizen &amp; The Constitution</b> Ohio Middle School Competition, Columbus.....	May 20, 2005
<b>We The People: The Citizen &amp; The Constitution</b> Institute for educators of grades 4, 5 & 6.....	July 16-22, 2005

## Smithsonian Folklife & Oral History Interviewing Guide

April 8-10, 2005  
Great Lakes Regional  
Grand River Center,  
Dubuque, IA.  
Theme: *A Social Studies  
Experience: Exploring  
Rivers, Land and  
People*. Contact: Carol  
Brown, 3928 Bel Aire  
Rd., Des Moines, IA  
50310, e-mail:  
bluedove32@aol.com;  
or check the web site  
[www.uni.edu/icss/](http://www.uni.edu/icss/).

FREE Download at [www.folklife.si.edu](http://www.folklife.si.edu)

This new online educational resource presents guidelines that Smithsonian folklorists have developed over the years for collecting folklife and oral history from family and community members. It features a concise, easy-to-use guide to conducting an interview, as well as a sample list of questions that may be adapted to each interviewer's own needs and circumstances. The Guide concludes with a few examples of ways to preserve and present one's findings, a selection of further readings, a glossary of key terms, and sample information and release forms.

Visit the Smithsonian Institution Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage website at: <http://www.folklife.si.edu>

## Core Democratic Values Resources

Visit: [www.teachersongs.com](http://www.teachersongs.com)

Learning Core Democratic Values through role play activities, speeches, and songs. Handy for teachers K-8.

## Justice Learning

Justice Learning is an innovative, issue-based approach for engaging high school students in informed political discourse. The web site uses audio from the Justice Talking radio show and articles from The New York Times to teach students about reasoned debate and the often-conflicting values inherent in our democracy. The web site, [www.justicelearning.org](http://www.justicelearning.org), includes articles, editorials and oral debate from the nation's finest journalists and advocates. All of the material is supported by age-appropriate summaries and additional links. In addition, for each covered issue, the site includes curricular material from The New York Times Learning Network for high school teachers and detailed information about how each of the institutions of democracy (the courts, the Congress, the presidency, the press and the schools) affect the issue.

Much of the traditional civics curricula begin with an historical perspective and move forward. The lessons start from a point distant from students' lives. Justice Learning reverses traditional methods by starting with current issues that directly affect their lives. The curricula engage them early with a multimedia set of online materials and then relate it to the historical context that generated it. In doing so, the project incorporates into its methodology the new reality of where students turn for information and how they learn.

If you are interested in getting your social studies message to Ohio teachers, consider using our Newsletter. The rates are:

Full page:	\$250.00
1/2 page:	135.00
1/4 page:	75.00
Classified:	.50 per word

We reserve the right to refuse advertising which is not appropriate. For further information, contact Linda McKean Logan at 614/527.9079 or e-mail: [llogan@columbus.rr.com](mailto:llogan@columbus.rr.com)

**Deadline for submissions for the next OCSS Newsletter:  
January 14, 2005**

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

_____	Professional Membership	\$25.00
_____	New NCSS Regular/New OCSS	65.00
_____	First-time NCSS Comprehensive/New OCSS	80.00
_____	Full-time Student	5.00
_____	Retired Educator	5.00

New                       Renewal

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City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution/School District \_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax/Internet \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Send check payable to OCSS to: Linda McKean Logan  
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Hilliard, OH 43026**



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