“Heard it through the grapevine”

Newsletter Editor
ACR Lili Monk

You may have heard readers from the early years (2001-2009) talk about the good ol’ days reading at Clemson and Lincoln. Let me know which venue was better and why.

While older readers may wax nostalgic, remember that we are all here in Cincinnati, our home away from home!

Sharing Teacher Resources

This is our penultimate edition of the newsletter. We plan to devote our last newsletter to resources for teachers. That means that from now until the second break on Friday, please write down on a sheet of paper or e-mail me, monk.lili@gmail.com your useful teacher resources from your table. This includes books, websites, blogs, twitter handles, movies, published activities, etc. We will also include this list on the AP Teacher Resources Web Page.

Spotlight on Melissa “Missy” Chvatal
Chief Aide

Managing an enterprise as complex as the AP Human Geography reading requires skilled organizational and human relations skills. Melissa Chvatal, better known as “Missy” has them in spades. Missy has been an AP aide for at least 14 years. She started out as a table aide, moved up to be a box runner, and now is serving as our Chief Aide, supervising 41 people.

Melissa hails from Wahoo, Nebraska, but is originally from Chesterfield, Missouri. When she is not working on supervising the distribution of AP exams, Missy is a guidance counselor in the Bishop Neumann Middle-High School (grades 7-12) in Wahoo.

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“Missy” from Page 1

Missy has been married for 26 years and has 5 children, ranging in ages from 11 to 23 years old. She is super excited that she got a kayak for her birthday, and is looking forward to kayaking during the summer. Her greatest joy during the summer is reading, and her favorite authors are Diana Gabaldon and Janet Evanovich.

When asked why she likes coming to the reading each year, Missy explains that this is like a vacation! She loves meeting the readers, and getting together with her colleagues from Nebraska who are also working on other AP subjects.

While we miss Barb Minsch, our previous Chief Aide who is recovering from an illness, we are delighted to have Missy “Wattle” with us. Yes, folks, that is how she pronounces her (Czech) last name!

Geographic Names Help Solve Intelligence Problems

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) overtly collects and publicly posts over 9 million toponyms (place names) at http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html. Request a brochure on how your foreign area geographic research can contribute new and variant place names to this searchable database. Doug Batson, a first year APHG reader at Table 30 will be happy to tell you more about it or contact Doug at douglas.e.batson@nga.mil.

Two brochures from Doug’s project on volunteered geographic information will be on display on the table near the exit by A3.
When Pigs Fly

The unofficial symbol of Cincinnati is the “flying pig”. When someone says that they will do something “when pigs fly”, you know it means something akin to “when hell freezes over.” Although Cincinnati is now known as the “Queen City”, it once had a reputation of being the pork capital of the United States. The availability of immigrant labor, salt, and easy transportation along the system of canals on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers (and of course lots of pigs!) made the city of Cincinnati “hog heaven.” Eventually, Chicago took over Cincinnati as pork capital, but the legend of the Cincinnati piggies lives on. There is even a Flying Pig marathon held in the city every year.

Several enterprising walkers have discovered wonderful statues of “flying pigs” in Cincinnati while walking during break. Kudos to Karen Mulcahy and her walkers for finding what gives the city of Cincinnati its sense of place!

Since you asked....

Many of you have asked for the mysterious blueprint that shows how the exams magically appear on our tables. This perilous undertaking took our reporter to deep in the bowels of the Duke Energy Center!

Actually, it is not so mysterious, folks. The exams arrive and are sorted and put in folders by special aides. Then, distribution assistants sort the boxes and deliver them to the questions that have not been read yet. The pictures below shows the boxes on the table that have been read by two questions, while those on the pallet have only been read by one question. The tally on the left, has the “flowchart” of where are the boxes by question. Each question is represented by a different color.
DONATE UNUSED BACKPACKS

Two “Jennifers” doing good things!

Jennifer Rogalsky of Table 19 and Jennifer Blecha of Table 64 are collecting backpacks for students in Ghana and Bolivia, respectively.

Jennifer Rogalsky and her husband (who is from Ghana) were able to start a pre-K through second grade school in Besease, a small rural village in Ghana. Jennifer Blecha is collecting materials to distribute while on a conference in Arani, Bolivia. Minnesota teachers will be bringing school materials to share with students who have few resources in Arani. For more information on Mano a Mano, the program that is sponsoring this conference, please check:

http://www.razoo.com/story/Support-Teacher-Exchange-Program-In-Bolivia

or contact jblecha@yahoo.com

If you are not planning to take your AP backpack from the reading, please bring them to the boxes in Table 19 for the “Jennifers” to send to students who live in less developed countries.

Our AP Travelers to South Korea

5 AP Human Geography readers are traveling to South Korea later this month as part of a Teacher Delegation. They will be both learning and presenting on issues relating to U.S.-Korean relations. When you see them, please wish them a bon voyage:

Richard Giddens  Heather Kiser
Lisa Sanders  Sharon Shelerud
Nancy Watson

Free Textbook Sets

Ann Linsley of Texas is willing to donate approximately 400 books -- a combination of Harm de Blij’s and Kit Salter’s World Regional Geography textbooks. She also has 3 sets of an earlier edition of James Rubenstein’s introductory Human Geography textbook to give away. While the texts are free, and Ann will box them, you will need to pay for the shipping. Please contact her at alinsley@swbell.net if interested.