



From the President

Debbie Kelley



As social studies educators, there has not been a more critical time for our voices to be heard than now. Over the last few weeks, the Georgia Senate shocked us all by passing SB 167 aimed at getting rid of the common core curriculum in Georgia. This bill as written would send Georgia's educational system down a road leading us away from the 21st century. While our politicians are posturing and pandering, our students and teachers are paying the price.

The argument surrounding the common core doesn't make any sense. These standards, particularly in the social studies, have increased the rigor of instruction. Students are becoming more critical readers and writers and are beginning to think like historians. Do our elected officials not want our students to think more critically? Do they want our students to go back in time to rote memorization of facts? I have had the opportunity to observe numerous classrooms and have seen students engaged and thinking like historians. I have seen students

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Georgia General Assembly Considers Education Legislation This Session: *Why it matters for Social Studies*

The Georgia Council for Social Studies recently joined with many other education organizations in Georgia to oppose legislation designed to attack the Common Core Standards and public education more generally. In a statement to members, GCSS President Debbie Kelly and Executive Director Eddie Bennett stated:

As teachers of Social Studies, we know that engaged and active citizens inform themselves of legislation being considered so that they can voice their opinions and concerns to their legislators. Now is the change to model active citizenship.

Recently, the Georgia Senate passed Senate Bill 167 which concerns the use of the Common Core in Georgia schools. While the bill does not ban the use of Common Core, it does seek to restrict the use of any tests designed outside of Georgia. This could include IB, AP, SAT and ACT tests. To access the bill, go to <http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/display/20132014/SB/167> and go down to the pdf of the entire 18 page bill.

The Georgia House of Representatives is considering SB 167 at this time. The Education Committee's hearing raised many troubling questions about this bill, questions which its author cannot answer fully. It is extremely important that you express your opinion to your state representative. In order to locate your legislator, go to: <http://openstates.org/ga/legislators/?chamber=lower> and enter your address.

In a recent Atlanta Journal Constitution, there was an excellent article that explains what will happen if this bill passes and is signed into law by the Governor. Go to: <http://www.ajc.com/weblogs/get-schooled/2014/mar/03/dumb-and-dumber-georgia-senate-throws-students-und/> Teachers from across Georgia are quoted in this article.

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(From the President, from pg. 1)

primary documents. How many classrooms did our legislators visit prior to passing this bill?

The language of SB 167 ties the hands of educators in so many ways. Are we no longer going to offer AP or IB programs? Do we not expect students to attend college since we would not be administering the AP exams, SAT, or ACT due to the ban on assessments that were created outside the state of Georgia? How could anyone think this is best for kids? If SB 167 wasn't bad enough, there are four additional bills that relate to the social studies that are up for a vote. See this issue for updated legislative news and information about how you can get involved.

There is no greater time to act than now. It is frightening to think that our elected officials who are supposed to represent us are playing politics with our children's future. Exercise your civic duties and responsibilities and let your voice be heard.



**Like GCSS
on Facebook!**

(Legislature, from pg. 1)

Teachers in Georgia have integrated the Common Core into their daily lesson plans. Students all over Georgia are taking IB, AP, SAT and ACT tests. We are preparing our students to compete with students not only in Georgia, but in the United States and the rest of the world. It is critical that we do the best job that we can do with every tool at our disposal to prepare our students.

Other legislation related to education that is being discussed this year includes the following bills:

SB 68- Celebrate Freedom Week

SB 356- Georgians of Great Character Month

SB 384- America's Founding Philosophy and Principle Act

HR 1186- Skills for Success Financial Literacy

Be sure to research these bills and let your legislators hear from you about them, as you demonstrate the civic engagement that we are trying to instill in our students. It is imperative that educators' voices be heard as our curriculum becomes a political football.

For the perspectives of other education organizations in Georgia to this legislation, see the following:

- * Georgia Science Teachers Association - <http://www.georgiascienceteacher.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1814707>
- * Georgia Council of teachers of Mathematics - <http://gctm-resources.org/drupal/>
- * Georgia School Boards Association - <http://www.gsba.com/AdvocacyCommunications/CapitolWatchOnline.aspx>
- * Georgia Association of Educational Leaders - http://www.gael.org/gael/capitol_watch_online



How the Common Core Was Adopted in Georgia: A Short History

The Georgia School Boards Association publishes on their website a daily update of legislative activity as the Georgia General Assembly meets. Their entry for March 5, 2014, posted by Angela Palm, included the following brief reminder of how our current standards came to be in Georgia.

“Opponents of common core frequently talk about a lack of transparency in the current process and the secretive way the current standards were adopted. For those interested, here's a brief history lesson on how we got here:

- The Quality Basic Education Act of 1985 required the state adopt a curriculum specifying what students were expected to know in each subject and grade. The Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) was born and badly misnamed. There "quality" part was sadly lacking.
- In 1997, there was finally a review of the QCC but little was changed.
- In 2001, the State Board asked Phi Delta Kappa to do an audit of the QCC. It was generally accepted that they were not at all adequate, but the question was where to go from there. By that time we had state laws requiring CRCTs in grades 1-8, high school end of course tests and graduation tests. State standards mattered a lot as all the assessments would have to be aligned with them.
- In January 2002, the report was delivered. PDK determined it would take 23 years to cover all of the QCC in depth enough for mastery instead of the 12 years the students had. "A mile wide and an inch deep" became the most frequent description of the QCC.
- In 2003, the new State Superintendent and State Board began the development of new standards. They had teachers, advisory groups, state and national experts, higher ed involved in the process of looking at standards in high-performing states and countries as they drafted Georgia's new performance standards (GPS).
- In 2004, Phi Delta Kappa did a review of the draft standards to ensure the state was on the right track before the standards were finalized. The State Board adopted them later that year with a planned eight year phase in.
- The common core state standards were developed by teachers, school administrators, and experts across the nation in an initiative of the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The first draft was released in June 2008.
- March 2010, the common core standards were posted for review. Georgia sought feedback within the state rather than just relying on the national data. After receiving feedback, the final standards were posted in June 2010 and adopted by the State Board the following month. As part of their agenda they posted the standards, feedback, and a comparison of the GPS to the common core standards. All the documents are still online and available for review.
- From that point on the State Board has continued to add standards -- always after posting them and seeking feedback before adopting them.

So here we are -- legislatively trying to create a process that we already have.”

As we in Social Studies know, it pays to know where we have been in order to know where we are going.

Gwen Hutcheson Outstanding Educator

2013: DR. PAMELA ROACH

GCSS Past President Laura McCarty presents Dr. Pamela Roach with her Gwen Hutcheson Outstanding Educator Award at North Cobb High School in December of 2013.



The Gwen Hutcheson Outstanding Social Studies Educator Award is an annual award of the Georgia Council for the Social Studies to recognize educators who have made an outstanding contribution to the teaching of Social Studies. The award is named in honor of Gwen Hutcheson, a longtime GCSS member and tireless advocate for Social Studies education throughout Georgia. In 2013, four Georgia educators were recipients of this distinguished award. Heather Mackenzie, John Donegan, and Colleen McGiboney were featured in our November issue. Dr. Pamela Roach, who was unable to attend the 2013 conference due to the passing of her mother, received her award at a special ceremony at her school in December of 2013.

Dr. Pamela Roach is no stranger to the GCSS community nor is this her first teaching award. In 2012 she was named the Georgia Council of Economics Education's Teacher of the Year, and in 2012-2013 she was North Cobb High School's

Teacher of the Year. Prior to the 2013 GCSS conference, she had presented at each conference since she joined the organization, and presents at the NCSS and other conferences as well. She has seen her work published in a variety of publications and has participated in grant programs and sought and received additional grants for her classroom. Beyond all the accolades and honors, however, Dr. Roach's passion and attention is centered on her classroom at North Cobb, where she has taught AP Microeconomics, AP Comparative Government, and Honors Economics and Government for many years. She advises the Model United Nations program and supervises her International Studies Magnet students with senior research projects each year. As if excellent teaching and student support were not enough, she also teaches part-time at local universities, and may always be found judging at the district and state social studies fair each year.

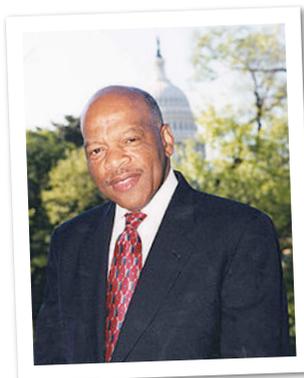
Writes her former student, Elise Peterson, now a student at Brigham Young University, "Dr. Roach pushed me, as an individual, to fill my potential both within my economics class and in my larger academic pursuits...From Dr. Roach I learned not only about economics, but about my potential as a student, and my ability to interact with professional adults. That confidence has been invaluable to me..." Her friend and colleague, Jennifer Dawson, who nominated Dr. Roach for this award, wrote that her leadership is truly extraordinary, her care and support for her students inspiring, and her commitment and contributions to Social Studies in Georgia unwavering. Congratulations to Dr. Roach on this well-deserved award.

Plan Ahead for GCSS Conference 2014

Diane Sloan, conference coordinator, along with a committee of hard-working folks, is busily at work planning a 50th anniversary conference for GCSS that will be memorable and packed with inspiration and practical and powerful resources. YOU can be part of this very special conference.

The conference will be held October 16-17 at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. The theme “*Celebrating 50 Years of Advocating and Supporting the Advancement of Social Studies Teaching in Georgia*,” invites you be a part of that celebration by presenting at the conference. **Proposals for conference sessions are now being accepted. The deadline is April 30, 2014. Proposal forms are located at www.gcass.net under the Information tab.**

John Lewis To Keynote the GCSS Conference, 2014

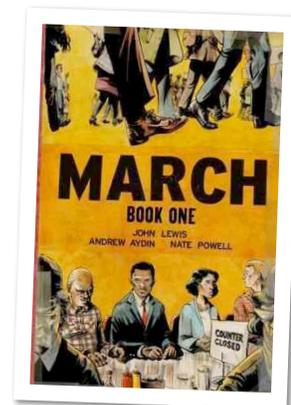


Representative John Lewis has served the 5th Congressional District in Georgia since 1986, and has long been recognized as a civil rights hero. He has been devoted to the strengthening of civil rights and human rights and the building of “the beloved community.” He has been called the “conscience of the U.S. Congress,” with *Roll Call* stating that he is “a genuine American hero and moral leader who commands widespread respect in the chamber.”

John Lewis served as chairman of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and helped to plan and spoke at the 1963 March on Washington. He helped to lead the 1965 Voting Rights March that came to be known as

“Bloody Sunday,” and has organized sit-ins, voter registration drives, and was a Freedom Rider. Despite arrests, physical attacks, and serious injuries, Representative Lewis remains committed to the philosophy of nonviolence.

To share his remarkable story with new generations, Congressman Lewis presents *March*, a graphic novel, created in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Aydin and *New York Times* best-selling artist Nate Powell. Both Congressman Lewis and Andrew Aydin will talk about the book, answer questions and autograph books following the presentation. This is a very special presentation that you won’t want to miss!

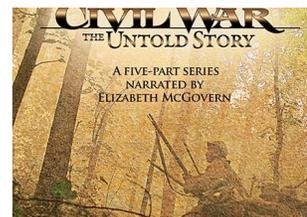


Teacher Opportunities & Resources

Civil War: the Untold Story

This 5 part documentary series will be aired on public television stations nationwide in April. Check local listings. It is narrated by Elizabeth McGovern (Downton Abbey) For more information and video clips, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/CivilWarTheUntoldStory>



American Experience: Freedom Summer 1964

Freedom Summer of 1964 was marked by sustained and deadly violence, including the notorious murders of three civil rights workers, countless beatings, the burning of thirty-five churches, and the bombing of seventy homes and community centers.

This powerful documentary premieres June 24, 2014 on PBS American Experience.



News from the Georgia Geographic Alliance

The GGA has found a home at Georgia State University and its Department of Geosciences, having moved from Kennesaw State University, where it was hosted from 2006 to 2013.

Check out their new website at <http://georgiageography.org> and new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/georgiageography> Both sites will soon prominently display the inspiring geographic work being completed by teachers, students, and community members around our state. Please like the Facebook page and also sign up for the GGA mailing list at <http://georgiageography.org/connect/>. It only takes about 25 seconds to sign up to stay up to date!

Spring, 2014 plans include:

- * Open now, the 2014 INSPIRE! Creative Geographic Education in Georgia Award Competition with an extended application deadline of Friday, April 4, 2014 @ 5 PM. This new funding program provides multiple awards of up to \$500 each to support creative activities/lessons/approaches to geographic education and/or place-based learning that engage K-12 students in understanding core geographic concepts and principles as they connect to the Georgia Performance Standards. See the official funding announcement at <http://georgiageography.org/funding/>
- * Beginning later this spring, GGA will host a series of Geographic Education Workshops focused on mobile mapping, community geography, and place-based learning. These workshops will occur throughout the state (let us know if you would like to co-host an event with us; we are currently looking for site locations around the state). Workshop fees will be \$10-15 per person to include free lunch, a lesson plan, and printed materials.

See what you're missing if you're not receiving the NCSS SmartBrief regularly - check out these recent postings:

✓ College Board Announces Big Changes to the SAT, along with free Khan Academy prep -

Read more at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/03/05/living/sat-test-changes-schools/>

✓ Atlanta school embraces field trips as experiential learning

A school in Atlanta is embracing field trips as an integral part of students' learning, a move that comes when many schools are eliminating the trips entirely because of limited funds. Read more at

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/03/03/living/field-trips-high-museum-schools/>

✓ A teacher's guide to Twitter, Instagram and more

It can be challenging for teachers to integrate social media into lessons, writes Edutopia contributor Matt Davis. In this blog post, Davis has compiled a set of guides to help teachers navigate Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest. The guide to using Pinterest includes ideas for getting started and pinning, plus tips for uses in classroom lessons. Read more at:

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/social-media-resources-educators-matt-dav>

✓ Sign up for NCSS SmartBrief at:

https://www2.smartbrief.com/signupSystem/subscribe.action?pageSequence=1&briefName=ncss&utm_source=brief

Teacher Opportunities & Resources - continued

GeorgiaInfo Website Redesign

GeorgiaInfo, the state's online almanac based at the University of Georgia, launched a redesigned website in January 2014.

"GeorgiaInfo is complementary to resources like the award-winning New Georgia Encyclopedia and the millions of primary resources included in our Digital Library of Georgia," said Merryll Penson, executive director of library services with the University System's Office of Information and Instructional Technology. Having this information in a new format will be very beneficial to our GALILEO users, particularly those in 8th grade social studies." Look for popular features like This Day in Georgia History and This Day in Georgia Civil War History. Explore the new website at: <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/>

Summer 2014 Opportunities for Teaching About Japan and China - NOTE MARCH 14 & 21 deadlines!

The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) and the Program for Teaching East Asia (TEA) at the University of Colorado invite applications for two 2014 residential summer institutes: one for elementary teachers on Japan and one for secondary teachers on China. See details below. They are hoping to receive some applications from Georgia social studies teachers. Participants will receive travel allowance, room and board, materials, and stipend.

- Citizens, Society & the State: Adaptation and Transformation in Contemporary China, July 7-11, 2014. Application deadline: **March 21, 2014**. This four-day residential program will examine the rapidly changing social and political dynamics of contemporary China, with special attention to the emerging roles of citizens, including ways in which individuals and groups respond to and enable social and political change through protests, political participation, and self-organization. See details at <http://www.colorado.edu/cas/TEA/index.html>
- Texts and Contexts: Teaching Japan through Children's Literature, June 22-26, 2014. Application deadline: **March 14, 2014**. Using children's literature, elementary teachers can guide students in explorations of other cultures while helping them develop literacy skills and knowledge of their world. This institute for K-5 teachers will introduce several exemplary works of children's literature as building blocks for teaching an integrated unit on Japan. Participants will have a unique opportunity to work with scholars of Japanese culture and children's literature. See details at <http://www.colorado.edu/cas/TEA/index.html>

2014 Study Canada Summer Institute for K-12 Educators: A Capital View of Canada: Nations Within a Nation

June 26-July 1, 2014 in Ottawa, ON (3N) and Montréal, QC (2N), Canada; \$600 Registration Cost – Travel Support Available – Additional Details at: <http://www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.html>

Registration is now open to participate in "STUDY CANADA", a 3 quarter credit/40 clock hour professional development course offered by Western Washington University that provides teachers with an excellent foundation for teaching about our northern neighbor. For the past 35 years, teachers, librarians, social studies supervisors and education faculty from across the U.S. have attended this renowned program to develop a better understanding of Canada, gain global perspectives of civic issues, and receive numerous resources for curriculum development.

Summer Institutes: Teaching the Humanities through Art

Announcing a professional development opportunity at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Institutes are held June 23–June 27, 2014 OR July 28–August 1, 2014

Be inspired this summer at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, as you join colleagues from across the country for an exciting exploration of the connections among American art, technology, and your curricula. Attend one of our week-long institutes in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Stay connected with your newfound colleagues and Museum staff throughout the year. Core subject teachers for grades 6-12 may apply as individuals or as part of a team. Priority will be given to social studies and English/language arts teachers. Applications are due **Monday, March 31, 2014**.

Registration Fee: \$200 per participant. For more information and the application please visit: <http://americanart.si.edu/education/dev/institutes/> Graduate credits, scholarships, and low-cost housing accommodations are available.

Mark Your Calendar:

🌐 **State Social Studies Fair** – The 2014 fair will be held on Saturday, May 3, at Clayton State University. More details may be found at www.gcass.net

🌐 **GCSS Conference 2014** - *Celebrating 50 Years of Advocating and Supporting the Advancement of Social Studies Teaching in Georgia*, October 16 - 17, 2014, at the Classic Center in Athens, GA.

🌐 **NCSS Conference, November 21-23, 2014** More details at www.ncss.org



Get connected:

🌐 *Georgia Social Studies Journal* - The current issue can be found at www.coe.uga.edu/gssj/current-issue/

🌐 Think about becoming more active this year:

- 🌐 Participating in this year's Social Studies Fair
- 🌐 Attending the GCSS conference
- 🌐 Becoming a more active GCSS member and recruiting new members
- 🌐 Sharing your idea for *News & Notes*.

🌐 GCSS Edmodo - Join Edmodo for free at <http://edmodo.com>, then use the general GCSS code h95gx7 OR the code for 2013 GCSS conference materials with code xmq2hn. Enter the appropriate code and after confirmation, you will be able to participate.

🌐 Check out the new look of the GCSS website at www.gcass.net!

Need to contact GCSS? Please notify Eddie Bennett of changes in contact information at gcss1964@gmail.com or send notice to P.O. Box 675, Avondale Estates, GA 30002



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