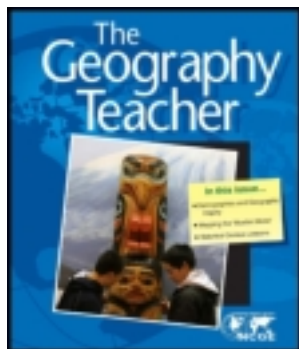


This article was downloaded by: [Michael N. DeMers]

On: 14 May 2014, At: 07:20

Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



The Geography Teacher

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rget20>

President's Column: There's Geography in My Science

Michael DeMers^a

^a Department of Geography , New Mexico State University , Las Cruces , New Mexico , USA

Published online: 20 Dec 2014.

To cite this article: Michael DeMers (2014) President's Column: There's Geography in My Science, The Geography Teacher, 11:1, 41-42, DOI: [10.1080/19338341.2013.854266](https://doi.org/10.1080/19338341.2013.854266)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19338341.2013.854266>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

President's Column

There's Geography in My Science

Michael DeMers

*Department of Geography
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA*

As of this writing I'm about a month away from giving a workshop on using ArcGIS.com in science classes for the annual meeting of the New Mexico Science Teachers Association. This is a follow-up of a recent talk I gave at our annual conference in Denver and a condition of my graduation from the ESRI T3G (Teachers Teaching Teachers) program in which I was fortunate enough to participate last summer. It is hard to describe my excitement as many of you think of me first as a geography professor. As it turns out, my first degree was in Earth Science Education with a minor in biology. And yes, I have taught junior high school and high school science.

So, why am I so excited? First of all, it is really satisfying being able to return to my roots as an educator and to mingle with the K–12 professional educators for whom I hold such an enormous respect. Second, I get a chance to share what I have learned both from the T3G program and from nearly forty years of experience. The ability to give back to my initial profession is extremely gratifying. Which brings me to the third, and most compelling reason for my excitement—a chance to demonstrate how inextricably linked geography is to the science classes taught in our K–12 schools.

As our previous president, Paul Gray, pointed out regarding AP Human Geography, we as geography educators see linkages everywhere. I think those professionals involved in AP Human Geography are doing a magnificent job evangelizing those linkages to the social science educators. I'm hoping that my workshop will inspire the physical geographers and techniques specialists in the group to find ways to demonstrate the many linkages of geography to science for our K–12 science colleagues. From the physics of the atmosphere and earth processes, to the distributions of plant and animal phenomena, and from the chemical composition of soils and atmospheric pollutants to the spatial patterning of the human genome, geography easily finds itself as tightly entwined with science as it does with social science.

There have been some spearheading efforts by another former president, Dr. Joseph Kerski, to promote GIS as a STEM tool via a series of excellent online ArcLessons, and we have seen similar efforts by our fellow members, Roger and Anita Palmer, to promote GIS for science and mathematics just to name a couple. Imagine how much we could accomplish if each one of us gave just one example of how geographic content could enliven science classes. It doesn't have to be a formal presentation. Rather a cool example provided to a science teacher in the coffee room or during breaks between classes might be just enough to have an impact. Give it a try, shall we?



Dr. Michael DeMers is Professor of Geography at New Mexico State University specializing in Geographic Information Science, Landscape Ecology, and Geographic Education. DeMers is the 2010 winner of the Anderson Medal of Honor in Applied Geography awarded by the Applied Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). He has taught eighth grade earth science and high school physics, chemistry, and physical science. He holds positions as GIS Section Editor of *Geography Compass*, Chair of the Anderson Selection Committee (AAG), Alliance Coordinator of the New Mexico Geographic Alliance, and is a member of the board of the Applied Geography Conferences. He has published over fifty articles and four texts on geographic information systems two of which have been translated into Russian, Simple Chinese, and Arabic. His current educational research focuses on geogaming, geodesign, and the use of immersive virtual worlds as ways of both exploring GIScience and creating new tools for both learning and practicing geography. He also does research in land classification with special emphasis on the nature, methods, and accuracy assessment of land classification boundaries and on the use of GIS for water resources management.