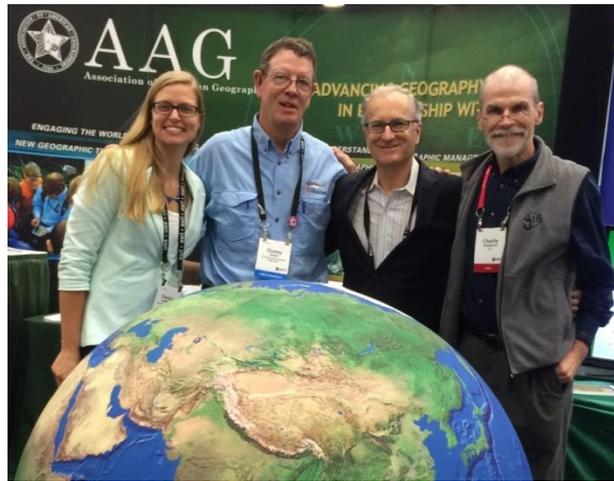


Dunny Green: GeoMentor partner with Mississippi high school since 1998

In July 2015, Dunny Green received the very first GeoMentors Program Certificate of Participation at the Esri Education GIS Conference in San Diego. This gesture only momentarily featured an exemplar from the volunteer community when it comes to assisting K-12 schools with GIS. Green's nearly two decades of volunteerism with geospatial technology serves as a great example of what members of the geography and GIS communities can do by volunteering their time as [GeoMentors](#).



At the 2015 Esri User Conference where Green was awarded the 1st GeoMentors Program Certificate (l to r): Candice Luebbering, AAG GeoMentors Program Coordinator; Dunny Green, GeoMentor; Doug Richardson, AAG Executive Director; Charlie Fitzpatrick, Esri Schools Program Manager

As an oceanographer with the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), Green was first inspired to become a GeoMentor when Jack Dangermond introduced the Adopt-A-School Initiative at the 1998 ESRI User Conference. He immediately began working with Long Beach High School (LBHS) in Long Beach, Mississippi. At that time there was little structure to the program and few resources available for the classroom so he began by simply showing the students what he did at work: "I would come to class using ArcView 3X and create maps like I did at work. Using Spatial Analyst I would download unclassified bathy data from NAVOCEANO'S website and create bathymetry charts in class."



Images of Long Beach High School's spatial information class from Green's collaboration with the school since 1998.

He later found that his work at NAVOCEANO, which allowed him to travel to over 65 ports across the globe, offered him the unique opportunity to “give students an awareness of how different things are in other parts of the world.” He began to photograph tourist sites he visited during his travels and recorded their coordinates. His students would then map the locations and hyperlink the photographs to those points. Examples of locations, near and far, that students mapped images and data for include: a journey from Spain to Bahrain; Naha, Okinawa, Japan; Iceland; and Cat Island, Mississippi.



Example images that Green would send to LBHS students with coordinates for them to map while he traveled for his work with NAVOCEANO.

In addition to student Story Map projects, Green is working to increase students’ awareness of GIS applications and career opportunities by inviting other GIS professionals to speak at the school about what they do. These include:

- A PhD graduate student from The University of Southern Mississippi studying the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the pine tree growth on Cat Island (11 miles south of the school’s location)
- An Oceanographer with the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office Stennis Space Center working with the Audubon Society of Mississippi, plotting bird sighting locations using ArcGIS
- The head of the GeoSpatial Analysis Group at NAVOCEANO
- An environmental engineer studying the effects of the BP Gulf Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico using GoPro cameras to take photograph grass beds in study areas

Green is always looking for ways to further engage the students he volunteers with. At a conference just last year, he met a professor of Environmental Geography from Canada’s Georgian College who teaches a laboratory class that meets on the shores of Hudson Bay. Beginning this year, the LBHS Spatial Information class will connect to the professor’s class and create maps using ArcGIS Online to share information, allowing students to view and understand the local conditions of each place, located on different shores of North America, the Gulf of Mexico versus Hudson Bay.

“What I like most about being a GeoMentor is to see students learn to use GIS, create their own maps and understand the value of creating maps with your data,” says Green. When asked why he would encourage others to be GeoMentors, Green offered:

“I would encourage others to become GeoMentors to help more students to use maps and think spatially. Think about it; what if you had seen GIS in school before taking classes in college. Wouldn't you have been better equipped to master the subjects you took!”

Dunny Green is an example of the educational impact one GeoMentor can have on generations of students through an ongoing relationship with a school. Think about the K-12 schools and educators in your area and consider starting a GeoMentoring collaboration of your own to give back to the community through your passion for geography and GIS. For more information, visit www.geomentors.net, sign up directly today at www.geomentors.net/participate, or email program staff at geomentors@aag.org.