



Exploring Harry Potter's World: *Geography and the Journey to Hogwarts Workshop*

November 16, 2002

Hosted by:

College of St. Benedict
Education Department
Henrita Academic Building
St. Joseph, Minnesota

Sponsored by:

The Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education

Directed by: Dr. Janet Rith-Najarian

- Fans of Harry Potter, or those who like to use stories to explore magical lands in general, journeyed to the College of St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN to attend this workshop!
- They ventured on a mystical journey to explore Harry Potter's World. They refined "mental mapping" skills as they wandered Diagon Alley, surveyed the Forbidden Forest, and layed out a maze for the Tri-Wizard Tournament.
- Participants learned about the literary landscapes and regional geography of England, and then used geographic clues and deductive skills to pinpoint the location of Hogwarts. They studied the habitats of mystical creatures, took home a new exclusive interactive CD-ROM, with slide shows and activities to use with their students in the classroom to celebrate national Children's Book Week, National Geography Awareness Week, and the opening of the latest Harry Potter movie!



Professor Janet Rith-Najarian, Workshop Director, as "Head Mistress".



Participants folded pages and printed illuminated letters for their magical atlases.



New Mage member, Venus Thomas of St. Cloud, compiles her atlas.

- The workshop was presented by Janet Rith, geography instructor at St. Benedicts who recently trekked through England (on foot and by steam train) in pursuit of Harry Potter, and who designed the CD-ROM; Kerri Westgard, geography teacher in the Dillworth school district, who has tested some of the literary landscape activities with her students and is an enthusiastic book artist; Don Bruno, artisan in residence at the St. Ben's Book Arts studio; and Cindy Malone, Harry Potter fan and member of the St. Ben's English faculty and Literary Arts Institute.
- This workshop was free and all participants were awarded 6 CEU's.

