

## AAG Washington Monitor

With the AAG Annual Meeting right around the corner, this month's Monitor suggests a few sessions that relate to the public policy process and could be of interest to readers. See you in Denver!

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### Wednesday, April 6

#### U.S. Operational Global Land Remote Sensing: AAG/USGS Workshop Outcome

1:00 – 2:40 p.m. (Governor's Square 15)

*Chair:* Samuel N. Goward – University of Maryland

*Panelists:* Nina Lam – Louisiana State University; Richard A. Marston – Oklahoma State University; Douglas Richardson – AAG; John A. Kelmelis – USGS; John Townshend – University of Maryland; David Lewis Skole – Michigan State University; Darrel Williams – NASA.

*Discussants:* Chip Groat – Director, USGS; Jay W. Feuquay – USGS

#### A Science Strategy for the USGS Geography Discipline, 2005-2015

3:00 – 4:40 p.m. (Governor's Square 15)

*Chair:* Gerard McMahon

*Panelists:* Barbara Ryan – USGS; Karen Siderelis – USGS; Gerard McMahon; Nathan Wood – USGS; William L. Graf – University of South Carolina; Thomas R. Loveland – USGS; Susan L. Cutter – University of South Carolina; Richard A. Marston – Oklahoma State University

### Thursday, April 7

#### Past President's Address by Alexander B. Murphy: Enhancing Geography's Role in Public Debate

8:30 – 10:00 p.m. (Grand Ballroom I)

### Friday, April 8

#### The Energy Opportunity of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

12:00 – 1:40 p.m. (Majestic Ballroom)

*Speaker:* The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth – United Nations Foundation and Better World Fund

*Discussant:* Thomas Wilbanks – ORNL

#### Geography and the Congress

2:00 – 3:40 p.m. (Governor's Square 17)

*Chair:* Douglas Richardson – AAG

*Panelists:* John Wertman – AAG; Michael Solem – AAG; Former Wyoming Governor Jim Geringer; Lanny Proffer – NGS

*Discussant:* Osa Brand – NCGE

#### Geography's Evolving Role in the National Mapping Agencies in the U.S. and UK

4:00 – 5:40 p.m. (Governor's Square 14)

*Speakers:* Vanessa Lawrence – Director Ordnance Survey, UK; Barbara Ryan – Associate Director for Geography, USGS

## 2004 AAG Globe and Meridian Book Awards

Committees for the AAG Globe Book Award and the AAG Meridian Book Award have selected their 2004 recipients. The 2004 Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography goes to James R. Shortridge for *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas* (University of Kansas Press, 2004) and the Meridian Book Award for the Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography goes to Cindi Katz for *Growing up Global: Economic Restructuring and Children's Everyday Lives* (University of Minnesota Press, 2004).

*Cities on the Plains* is an ambitious, careful, systematic, and literate analysis of urban development in Kansas. Author Shortridge describes the location of nineteenth-century Kansas with respect to travel routes to the West and constraints and opportunities afforded by the presence and subsequent loss of Indian territories. He then examines the sometimes serendipitous and sometimes planned effects on the emerging settlement system of river, railroad, and highway linkages; locating public institutions in a new state; mining and industrial development;

and the personalities, dreams, contacts, and resources of key locational decision makers over a century and a half. Shortridge demonstrates effectively how complex and sometimes unpredictable sequences of factors favored some cities over others, allowing some to prosper and not others, thus changing their relative importance in a system of cities across Kansas. The work is not only significant for Kansas, but it offers a successful geographical model for research on urban systems in other regions and times.

Based on longitudinal field work in the Sudan, and more recent work in New York City, the book *Growing up Global: Economic Restructuring and Children's Everyday Lives*, juxtaposes economic and children's developments providing a critical ethnography of globalization that works across space, scale, time and the particularities of place. Attentive to the roles of environmental change and its significance for ongoing



Shortridge



Katz

production and social reproduction, the book contributes substantially to the science of geography while the creativity of its spatial imagination enlivens the art of geography. Nominator Sallie Marston writes that the book is "an eloquent meditation on what it means to grow up in the residues of a global economy that maroons young people in the flux of all that it makes possible," offering a model of exuberant geographical inquiry. With vivid prose and attractively illustrated by the author's photographs, this book will appeal to many readers within, and beyond, geography.

The Globe and Meridian Awards are presented during the AAG Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon, Saturday, April 9, at 11:40 a.m. Tickets may be purchased using the form on page 8 of this issue. Nominations for 2005 Globe and Meridian awards should follow instructions at [www.aag.org/Grantsawards/globe.cfm](http://www.aag.org/Grantsawards/globe.cfm) ■