Introduction
Mark DeMulder, USNS PAIGH President

The United States of America National Section (USNS) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) is pleased to submit this report of the activities of the Section for the period of 30 September 2011 through 1 October 2012. Included are reports from the Geography, History, Cartography, and Geophysics Commission representatives from within the USNS. Summaries of significant activities and meetings are included in each of the Commission reports. Also included in this report is the USNS roster.

Mr. Mark DeMulder and Ms. Jean Parcher continue to serve as the USNS President and Vice President, respectively. During this period, Ms. Maria O’Brien of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) completed her assignment as the Executive Secretary of the USNS and has been replaced Mr. Angel R. Santiago, also of NGA, as the new Executive Secretary. Dr. Patricia Solís of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) continues to serve as the Principal US Representative to the Commission on Geography and a Coordinator for the Geography Research Committee. Dr. Chris Castro of the University of Arizona continues to serve as the Principal US Representative to the Commission on Geophysics. Ms Leslie Armstrong has completed her assignment as the Principal US Representative to the Commission on Cartography and has been replaced by Mr. John O. Gates of NGA as the USNS representative to the Commission on Cartography. Dr. Erik Langer continues to serve as the Principal US Representative to the Commission on History.

The US National Section delegation to the Directing Council Meeting held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic was led by Vice President Parcher, as Mr. DeMulder was unable to travel due to an illness. In October, 2011, Mr. DeMulder was honored to be inducted into the National Academy of Geography of the Republic of Argentina as an Académico Correspondiente.

The US National Section webpage aids in promoting the US activities within PAIGH and facilitates communications both within our National Section and with the general public. The website is hosted by the Association of American Geographers. It can be found at http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh.

During the reporting period, Ambassador Carmen Lomellin, U.S. Permanent Representative to the OAS, arranged for payment of our assessed contribution to PAIGH in the amount of US$323,900.00, fulfilling the U.S. annual quota of PAIGH's budget, set at 59.47%.

PAIGH USNS Annual Meeting, OAS, Washington DC, March 21, 2012
Jean W. Parcher, USNS Vice President, and Angel R. Santiago, Executive Secretary

The U.S. National Section meeting occurred at the Organization of American States office in Washington D.C. on March 21, 2012. In attendance were 19 U.S. representatives from the four commissions and the Secretary General of the PAIGH, Dr. Santiago Borrero, and special
guest, Eric Van Praag, from GeoSUR. On the following day, March 22, the U.S. National Section hosted a Symposium of the Americas with a focus on climate change.

Opening remarks by the U.S. National Section President, Mark DeMulder included thanking the committee leaders for their input into the excellent USNS PAIGH Annual report and to Patricia Solis for her great support with the PAIGH USNS web page. He also mentioned his excellent meeting last year in Argentina with Hector Peña. Mark informed the US National Section about the possibility of the USGS Denver office to host the 2013 USNS PAIGH Conference. He finished his remarks by making a petition to all the delegates to think about succession and the importance of bringing in new members.

Secretary General Santiago Borrero then gave a briefing of the status of the PAIGH directorship, programs and member nations. Dr. Borrero congratulated the USNS for the inclusion of many organizations in its ranks and the good track record of project proposals and approvals of the USNS. He asked the USNS to expand collaboration with other national sections and announced the PAIGH effort of doing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with other international organizations to increase cooperation and financial resources. Dr. Borrero publicly appreciated the great work of PAIGH President, Dr. Hector Peña.

Committee members Coleman from History; Cooper, Parcher and Armstrong from Cartography, and Castro from Geophysics provided a brief summary of the 2011 USNS projects. The projects included digital preservation of Haiti’s historical records, public and private sponsorship for the production of Electronic Bathymetric Charts, mapping of risk areas on volcanic areas, vapor pressure monitoring through GPS and its potential use on weather forecast, geographic names courses, and a workshop on construction of a regional Central American geospatial database to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
Symposium of the Americas, OAS, Washington DC, March 22, 2012

Jean W. Parcher, USNS Vice President, and Angel R. Santiago, USNS Executive Secretary

On March 22 the PAIGH USNS members Erick Langer, Jean Parcher, Patricia Solis and Carmelle Terborgh organized a Symposium of the Americas on Climate Change in Latin America. The Symposium consisted of a Roundtable discussion and select presentations from USNS members regarding their interdisciplinary work in the region.

The topic of the Roundtable was “How Climate Change Affect Us: A vision from the Pan American Organizations” with the discussions carried by guest speakers Dr. Santiago Borrero, PAIGH; Dr. Cletus Springer, OAS; David Williams, IICA; Alfred Grunwaldt, IDB; Christnine Pendzich, USAID; and Eric Van Praag, CAF. A proposal to convene a Technical Summit on Climate Change in the Americas emerged from the Roundtable Discussion.

After the Roundtable Discussion the attendees listened to select presentations from PAIGH USNS members Dr. Edwan Ward, Brigham Young Univ.; Jean Parcher, USGS; Dr. David Salisbury, Univ. of Richmond; Dr. Roger Sayre, USGS; Dr. Patricia Solis, AAG; and Dr. Chris Castro, Univ. of Arizona. Mr. Eric Van Praag from the Andean Development Bank and an invitee to the Meeting participated in Jean Parcher’s presentation. The Symposium was a success in the quality of the discussions of the Roundtable and the great significance of the work and research exposed in the presentations of our members.
Our Annual Meeting ended with a VIP tour to the Library of Congress’ Map Archive where the attendees listened to briefings on the collection, digital preservation and archiving of historical maps and graphics and a view of a group of fascinating historical maps of Latin America.

Guest speakers of the Symposium of the Americas Roundtable “How Climate Change Affect Us: A vision from the Pan American Organizations” at the Organization of American States, Washington D.C.

PAIGH USNS members and invitees listening to a presentation during the Symposium of the Americas at the Organization of American States, Washington D.C.

Minutes of the PAIGH USNS 2012 Annual Meeting and the Symposium of the Americas can be found at http://www.aag.org/cs/projects_and_programs/developing_regions_programs/spotlight_latin_america/panamerican_institute_of_geography_and_history/paigh_events/us_national_section_annual_meeting_2012
Cartography Commission
Leslie Armstrong (Representative)

Technical Committees and Working Groups

Geographic Names (Working Group)

The primary activities of the Working Group until now have concentrated on offering the annual geographic names course and secondarily in support for establishing a digital, interrelated toponymic database and network for geographic names application and service throughout the Latin American Community. The Working Group also supports, advises, and provides consultation to the Latin American Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) as well as (to the extent possible) similar services to member States of PAIGH.

The course for 2010 was to be presented in Belize, but that member's mapping organization was experiencing a complete reorganization and redirection, and so it was not possible to present the course in 2010. Similar impediments existed through 2011 as well, and so it was agreed that the course would be presented in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The member State of Honduras had expressed interest in receiving upgraded training in the course presented as soon as possible since the course was last presented in Honduras in 1993. The course was given 20 February – 2 March 2012 (see the report on the course) in Tegucigalpa at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras, Facultad de Ciencias Espaciales (FACES).

The course in Tegucigalpa is likely the last such offering as the traditional annual two-week course because it will be replaced or at least augmented by an online version of the course. It is possible that abbreviated versions of the course might be offered in on-site venues on an irregular and as needed by request situation.

Work on the online version of the course began in late 2011 with preliminary editing of the more than 500 PowerPoint slides of the course, and the development and recording of detailed lectures for each module that heretofore did not exist. The Working Group on Geographical Names is being assisted in this project by staff from the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN) in Spain. Specifically, that organization is incorporating the online version of the geographical names course into the online system of courses offered at the IGN website while maintaining the individual identity of the course and PAIGH. The teaching team of three will be the initial tutors for the students enrolled in the online version, and that role will be expanded as needed with an additional tutor from Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) already recruited. A workshop will be held sometime in October where various aspects of the online course will be explored.

Thus far this year, we have had no action or activities with the Latin American Division of UNGEGN. The chairperson of that group is now Ms. Susana Rodriguez Ramos at the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) in Mexico.
**Hydrography (Technical Committee)**

Hydrography Technical Committee (HTC) Principal Coordinator for PAIGH is Peru. The current Committee Chair is unoccupied. The US member, Mr. Paul Cooper and a representative from Chile, plan to attend a meeting in Mexico City, 19 - 23 July to revitalize the PAIGH Hydrography Committee. Related hydrographic activities supported by Paul Cooper, the US member of this technical committee are mentioned under the Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation section below.

**Aeronautic Charting (Technical Committee)**

Nothing to report.

**Geospatial Data Infrastructure**

Members: Merrill Lyew Emanuel and Carmelle J. Terborgh, ESRI

**GeoSUR:**

The focus of the committee’s work during 2011-2012 has been to promote GeoSUR: a Portal of Geospatial Information for the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean that is developed through a partnership between the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) and the PAIGH. The program has been strengthened greatly during the last year and expanded to Central America and some areas of the Caribbean. Further details of this effort have been noted in this document: [http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/triptico_%20GEOSUR_ingles.pdf](http://www.geosur.info/geosur/contents/triptico_%20GEOSUR_ingles.pdf)

**Workshops and events in the region:**

- GSDI-12 in Quebec, Canada

- Training in August 2011 at Eros Data Center to 25 attendees from 9 Central American and Caribbean countries and Paraguay, on the use of Server for ArcGIS; training done in both Spanish and English languages, on the eve of the extension of GeoSUR to cover Central American and Caribbean countries.

- Rio+20 in Brazil

- GeoSUR as an exemplar for the Eye on Earth Global Network of Networks Special Initiative (meeting in Dec 2011 in Abu Dhabi)
Facilitation of facilities and software in Costa Rica and El Salvador for Data harmonization in Central America project workshops.

Facilitation of a server for ArcGIS license in the cloud for Instituto Geográfico Nacional of El Salvador (CNR), to host their SDI in the cloud.

ESRI Presidential Award for GeoSUR, July 2012.

Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation Committee (ISTC)

The PAIGH Member State responsible for Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation (ISTC) is the United States, chaired by Mr. Paul R. Cooper. His alternate member is Mr. Gilberto Concepcion. ISTC operates under the authority of the Cartographic Commission to promote and increase the transfer of technologies, applications of those technologies, development and capacity building in the geosciences disciplines and GSDI in the Americas.

ISTC Technical Cooperation efforts for this year are:

- International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and PAIGH signed MOU for cooperation in Feb 2011.

- The first coordinated project between IHO and PAIGH under the MOU was conducted as a Hydrographic and Nautical Charting Workshop in Haiti in 2011. The workshop was sponsored and funded by the PAIGH History Committee on Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation, the IHO and the Republic of Korea. In addition, France’ Service Hydrographique et Oceanographique de la Marine (naval hydrographic and oceanographic service) provided a professional hydrographer and a nautical cartographer for the two weeks of training. Industry partners provided software, hardware and engineering support and included CARIS, Kongsberg Maritime, Hemisphere, and Hypack. The workshop enabled the Service Maritime et de Navigation d’Haiti (SEMANAH) to conduct surveys and process the single beam hydrographic data that they collected. CARIS S-57 Composer was used prior to the training to convert a Digital Navigational Charts (DNC) to an Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC). The survey work will provide SEMANAH with the data to update the ENC and paper chart in the future. We were unable to complete the ENC updating due to lack of time, training and experience in Haiti.

- ISTC supported Hydrography workshop in St John’s, Antigua, June 2011. This was a two week workshop put on by the IHO Capacity Building Committee through the IHO Meso American Caribbean Hydrographic Commission. Data from this ISTC event was delivered to United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to update local charts.

- The ISTC Chairman represented PAIGH at the International Hydrographic Organization International Hydrographic Conference (IHO IHC). The conference
elected 3 members from France, Turkey, and Austria for the IHO Directing Committee. PAIGH was invited to provide an organizational article to Geomares Publication. Thirteen PAIGH Member States and Observer Nations attended IHO IHC.

Future Plans include the following:

- Cooperate with IHO and the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association to convene a planning meeting of member states in the Gulf of Fonseca region for surveying and charting. That is scheduled for January 2013. Member States El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras have not promised support as of yet.

- Facilitate discussions with Republic of Korea regarding potential Capacity Building Support. Republic of Korea Office of Hydrography and Oceanography has indicated an interest in assisting PAIGH with Capacity Building efforts as it did in Haiti.

The Committee urges PAIGH attention on the following subjects: Expanding ISTC participation to other Commissions. A proposal inviting other commissions to join ISTC was offered in Panama.

**Capacity Building and Data Integration Workshop**

Nothing to Report

**Central American Data Integration and Technical Capacity Building Workshop**

Based on the premise that in Central America the National Geography Institutes are at a turning point to modernize their mapping programs and that in order to monitor environmental change on a global scale requires cooperation between nations, the U.S. National Section, with support from the Mexican National Section, solicited project funding to organize a technical Geographic Information System workshop to carry out a geospatial technical exchange workshop between representatives from all countries in Central America and Panama. The principal activity and product of the workshop was to apply participatory cartography methods to harmonize and integrate their digital mapping data for the region at the 1:250,000-scale or better. The goals of the workshops were to foster collaboration between Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists and environmental scientists within Central America and Panama, devise a working plan to harmonize the datasets, and provide hands on capacity training for new data products to the member nations.

Two participatory workshops were conducted. The first workshop was held in August, 2011 at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica in Heredia with support from the Costa Rican
Instituto Nacional de Geografía and the Universidad. The second workshop was held in Sonsonate, El Salvador in December 2011 with support from El Salvador’s Instituto Geográfico y Catastro Nacional - Centro Nacional de Registros. At each workshop representatives from each Central American country and Panama, Mexico, and the United States collaborated in harmonizing and integrating their digital mapping data for the region at the 1:250,000-scale or better. The workshops were funded through the technical project funding of the PAIGH, the Cooperacion Formento Andino, ESRI, and in kind funding from the USGS, Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Estadistica y Geografia (INEGI), Costa Rica’s Instituto Nacional de Geografia, El Salvador’s Instituto Geográfico y Catastro Nacional - Centro Nacional de Registros, and Panama’s Instituto Geográfico Nacional "Tommy Guardia". Participants were chosen from each of the National Geography Institutes with requirements for each participant to have expertise in the manipulation of digital geographic information, in-depth knowledge of their National Geography Institute’s digital cartographic data at 1:250,000-scale, and authority to make modifications to the data. The workshops were led by Jean Parcher and Robert Lugo of the USGS.

Upon completion of the second workshop, it was determined that some countries needed to gather additional information and/or adjust their National Datasets to fit the regional template. A document was prepared to track the progress and the commitments from each country to complete their updates, share the new datasets with their adjoining neighbor countries, and submit a final version to Robert Lugo. With the administrative assistance of GeoSUR, two Webex conference calls were held to demonstrate the progress and answer technical questions. These were held on January 31st, 2012 and March 2nd, 2012. Robert Lugo, USGS, is in charge of reviewing the data quality and level of integration of the final datasets. To date, April, 2012, all data has been received in final revised format and is undergoing final review.
Participants from Panama and Costa Rica discussing changes to the format of their integrated datasets during the 2nd workshop in El Salvador

Integrated map of the transportation and hydrography data for Central America

**Geography Commission**
Dr. Patricia Solís (Representative)

This past year, the US Geography Commission began to organize its activities around the three-fold committee structure of PAIGH (research, education and institutional strengthening). It has done so engaging substantively with respect to PAIGH activities, structure and other activities that are of interest to PAIGH and its strategic priorities.

The role of the US Geography Commission is to help foster collaboration among geographers of the Americas through its member activities and its participation in PAIGH programs. The geography commission provides the technical infrastructure for the US National section website and has recently incorporated updates so that these pages are current. The geography commission tab of the website is facilitating communication and visibility of these priorities: [www.aag.org/cs/paigh/geography_commission](http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh/geography_commission)

The US Geography Commission Activities over the past year include those which:
1. Highlight the value of geographic research and practice for achieving the PAIGH strategic agenda

The US Geography Commission Representative along with Members of the US Cartography Commission (Terborgh) attended the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) from June 14-20, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, an international event marking the twenty-year anniversary of the first summit held in Rio in 1992 and ten years since the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. The My Community, Our Earth Partnership was featured at the conference, a partnership which was launched at WSSD as one of the first Type II Public-Private Partnerships to address sustainable development issues, including biodiversity, climate change, poverty eradication, fresh water supply and urbanization. Many institutions of PAIGH representatives have been key partners over the past decade. Continuously operated without interruption since its inception, thus becoming one of the very few “sustained partnerships” over this ten year period, this international program is administered by the Association of American Geographers (Secretariat) and has received support from the U.S. Department of State, Esri, US Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Agency for International Development, NASA, United Nations Environment Programme, International Geographical Union and many others.

A set of 145 youth-led projects using geographic concepts and technologies to address sustainable development in their communities was showcased and included significant participation from young people in the Western Hemisphere from countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Mexico, Nicaragua, United States and Venezuela. The projects served to demonstrate to decision makers and policymakers in attendance at Rio+20 about the value of geography, GIS, and geographic research for addressing strategic needs such as climate change, hazards, food security and others that are outlined in the PAIGH Strategic Agenda. Among the activities was a featured Side Event Session organized by the US Department of State, US Department of Agriculture, Association of American Geographers, Esri and NASA held on June 19, 2012 at the US Center in Athletes Park. The session entitled Geography and Spatial Technologies Empowering Sustainable Futures was streamed live over the internet, recording available at: http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/23422724
Also, on June 15, 2012, there was a featured presentation at the Youth Innovators Event, Grand Finale of the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development, organized by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the UN Major Group on Scientific and Technical Communities, held at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. Over 1,000 people attended the event from June 11-15, with another 1,000 watching the live webcast and many more interacting via social media. The MyCOE Video Presented Live is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2p37B9FO_80.

At the official Rio+20 public international exposition, the commission distributed information about GeoSUR provided by the PAIGH Secretary-General at various Country and Regional Pavilions displays and events, particularly among exhibitors in the pavilions of Brazil, EU, Japan, the US and others

2. Foster cooperation among national and international geography organizations and public agencies across the Americas

The third of three Roundtables organized as Geography in the Americas sessions (begun in 2005) was held since the last report. The 2011 theme was Geography in the Americas: Roundtable of Geography Organizations of the Region on Addressing Key Challenges in Society / Geografía en las Américas: Mesa redonda de las organizaciones de geografía de la región de cómo afrontar los desafíos clave en la sociedad. This was organized as a series of three roundtable sessions beginning with the bilingual session with representatives from AAG, International Geographical Union, PanAmerican Institute for Geography and History, Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina, and other associations (and included Santiago Borrero as a panelist) at the AAG Annual Meeting in April in Seattle, Washington. The second roundtable event was conducted at the EGAL meeting in San José, Costa Rica in July 2011 with approximately 85 participants from the region. The third roundtable event was held in November, 2011 at the IGU Regional Conference in Santiago, Chile.
The results of these roundtable discussions have led to a joint proposal for the establishment of a number of collaborative activities in the region, submitted to the US National Science Foundation's Research Coordination Network: Science and Education for Environmental Sustainability Track. The proposal, entitled "Sustainability Initiative from a Geographic Network with Interdisciplinary Frameworks of Inquiry and Communication in the Americas" was submitted by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and the National Communication Association (NCA), with the Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina (EGAL), International Geographical Union (IGU), Federación Latinoamericana de Facultades de Comunicación Social (FELAFACS), PAIGH and the Unión Geográfica de América Latina (UGAL). Funds in the amount of $749,869 were requested to consolidate and build upon an existing set of institutional relationships, resources, research platforms and user networks of leading international scientific and academic organizations in the Americas. Over four years, SIGNIFICA plans to develop a multi-lingual digital information and material sharing hub and knowledge community forum, provide network participants with competitively awarded support for specific, defined collaboration-building and exchange activities and produce network-themed publications for academic and general audiences. The outcomes include an aligned network of existing networks in geography and communication studies supporting the advance of new interdisciplinary research directions that leverage geographic and communication sciences and technologies, where significant opportunities exist for innovation and which are highly relevant to international policy directions, such as those proposed in the PAIGH Pan American Agenda. Unfortunately, due to technical disqualification, the proposal was not reviewed, but is undergoing revision to resubmit during the next eligible round.

The 2012 Geography in the Americas session returned to the original format to welcome updates from the region, inspiring a session that broadened the approach to a global format. Nine representatives from 7 countries in Latin America presented as part of the featured special sessions, “Snapshots: Geography in the World Today”, Sunday, February 26, 2012 in the New York Hilton Hotel. Brief comments were given from 31 leaders of geography organizations and societies from 27 countries around the world.


3. Promote the coordination and publication of Pan American studies in geography
The members of the US Geography Commission have been active and successful in pursuing research and studies in geography. Beyond many individual accomplishments in published research (media and academic journals) and conference participation (presentations, posters) that are not reported comprehensively here, we point out a list of key relevant accomplishments by the members of the commission that collectively advance the goals of PAIGH regarding Pan American studies in geography.

Dr. Andrew Sluyter has been honored as an ACLS Digital Innovation Fellow for the 2012/13 academic year. The ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowship program supports digitally based research projects in all disciplines of the humanities and humanities-related social sciences to help advance digital humanistic scholarship by broadening understanding of its nature and exemplifying the robust infrastructure necessary for creating further such works.

The program is generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Dr. Sluyter's research will focus on Internet-Based Geographic Information System (GIS) of Nineteenth-Century Atlantic Commodity Networks. [http://www.acls.org/research/digital.aspx?id=798](http://www.acls.org/research/digital.aspx?id=798).

Dr. Roger Sayre and co-authors launched the publication of *An Image Atlas of World Heritage Sites on the 'In Danger' List*. Produced through a collaboration between the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the book is a satellite image atlas replete with text narratives, photographs, and high-resolution and mid-resolution imagery. The primary purpose of the atlas is to bring attention to the plight of these endangered sites, which are some of the most important natural and cultural areas on the planet. The secondary purpose of the atlas is to demonstrate the utility of satellite imagery in showing threats to the sites, and for characterizing the landscape context in which they are embedded. ISBN 9231042270, 9789231042270, [http://unesco.usmission.gov/usgs-unesco-atlas.html](http://unesco.usmission.gov/usgs-unesco-atlas.html).

Dr. James Biles has been named as the Lead Author to collaborate with a US - Latin American team of authors for a Chapter on Middle America in the proposed Textbook to be published by John Wiley & Sons, VISUALIZING WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY, Editor: Stanley D. Brunn. This Visualizing World Regional Geography text will become part of the Wiley Visualizing series (including Visualizing Physical Geography by Alan Strahler, Visualizing Geology, and Visualizing Human Geography by Alyson Greiner).

Dr. Ángel David Cruz Báez is serving as the Co-Director of the VIth Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference to be held October 24-26, 2012 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The hosting at the University of Puerto Rico marks the first time that the conference will be held elsewhere than the continental US. The conference fosters dialogue on a range of issues related to the racial and ethnic transformation of places. It encourages interdisciplinary perspectives, philosophical
and methodological diversity, and professional and student perspectives on such issues. The events, which take place in different cities every other year since 2002, incorporate a regional focus when appropriate, as will be done this time in Puerto Rico, while maintaining national and international perspectives on race, ethnicity and place issues.


Salisbury, David S., Flores de Melo, A. Willian., and Bertha Balbín Ordaya. 2012. Taller


Sluyter, A. 2012. Black Ranching Frontiers: African Cattle Herders of the Atlantic World, 1500-1900. (This book demonstrates for the first time that Africans played significant creative roles in establishing open-range cattle ranching in the Americas and thereby provides a new way of looking at and studying the history of land, labor, property, and commerce in the Atlantic world.) To be published by Yale University Press, October 2012 ISBN 9780300179927 (320 pages).


The Geography Commission welcomes a new addition to the Education Committee, Dr. Diane Stuart Sinton, geography scholar and Director of Spatial Curriculum and Research, with faculty rank of Assistant Professor at the University of Redlands, anticipating additional contributions from her work towards this and other objectives of the commission.

4. **Conduct or encourage joint research, development, and training in geography and related fields that benefit the Pan American community**

The members of the US Geography Commission have also been active and successful in pursuing educational and training activities in geography through courses in universities, study abroad field courses, international visits and workshops, and others. We highlight that:
Dr. Osvaldo Muñiz worked with the Commission on Geographical Education at the IGU Regional Conference in Santiago, Chile. He was instrumental to develop a Panel Session on “The Present Development of Geographical Education in Latin America.” Four countries were represented by the following faculty: Dr. Fabián Araya Palacios, Universidad de La Serena, Chile; Dr. João Francisco de Abreu, Pontificia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais, Brazil; Prof. Iliana Araya Ramírez, Universidad Nacional, San José, Costa Rica; and Prof. Josefina Ostuni, Academia Nacional de Geografía, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Patricia Solís, as adjunct professor at the George Washington University, led a two-week study abroad trip as part of the course “Urban Sustainability and Development: Summer Field Course in Panama” in collaboration with GWU Professor of Geography and International Affairs Dr. Marie Price and University of Panama Professor of Geography Maria Adames de Newbill. The course engaged 10 US undergraduate and graduate students with 16 students from the fields of ecotourism and GIS at the University of Panama to explore the UNESCO historical center of Casco Viejo, also known as San Felipe through collaborative reflection mapping, archival research, field interviews and other methods that the students jointly carried out and studied.

5. Participate in the transfer of technology and data, particularly geographic technologies and geospatial data infrastructure, through the various scientific and technical programs of PAIGH, the US National Section, and the PAIGH Geography Commission

Results from the collaboration between the Association of American Geographers (AAG), the Pan American Geography Commission of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH/IPGH) and the International Geographical Union (IGU) to consolidate information about geography programs and institutions in the Western Hemisphere were released. We invited geographers to submit information about geography education, organizations related to geographic studies and research and also general information about geographers across the American continent, with the purpose of carrying out a general census about the state of geography in the Americas. We included the information in a digital directory that resides on ArcGIS Online at www.aag.org/americasmap

The data collected through this effort are available to geographers across the continent to stimulate and facilitate activities as researchers, educators or planners, whether at public or private organizations. It includes data from the responses of 232 Researchers (183 Spanish y 49 Portuguese); 42 Institutions (35 Spanish y 7 Portuguese); 132 Universities (66 Spanish y 56 Portuguese). This does not include other sources of information contributed directly from 62
universities/institutions. Furthermore, the 2011-2012 edition of the *AAG Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas* will include these descriptions and 36 more, totaling 69 listings for Latin America (provided free of charge), augmenting the information in the Guide of approximately 250 listings of university geography programs in the US and Canada.

**Acknowledgements:** Dra. Patricia Solís, Directora de Extensión e Iniciativas Estratégicas de la Asociación Americana de Geógrafos (AAG); Mgstr. Santiago Borrero, Secretaria General del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH); Dr. Ronald F. Abler, Presidente de la Unión Geográfica Internacional (UGI), Dr. Héctor Pena, Presidente del IPGH, Presidente Interino de la Comisión de Geografía del IPGH; Dra. Iraisemara Alcántara Ayala, UNAM y Coordinadora del Comité de Educación de la Comisión de Geografía del IPGH, Vice Presidente de la UGI; Mstr. Isis I. Tejada, Instituto Geográfico Nacional Tommy Guardia de Panamá y Coordinadora del Comité de Fortalecimiento Institucional de la Comisión de Geografía del IPGH, Dra. Nicole Bernex Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú y Editora, Revista Geográfica; Lic. Astrid Ng, AAG

**Map Credits:** Astrid Ng, additional support: Dr. Patricia Solís, Sarah Siegel, Megan Overbey (AAG staff).

Dr. David Salisbury, Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Richmond, led a mapping workshop in June of 2012 to create a Geographic Information System database to mitigate transboundary environmental challenges in the Brazilian and Peruvian Amazon. The one week workshop, funded by the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, brought together 16 professionals from 13 institutions and two countries at the National University of Ucayali’s Amazon Borderlands Research Center in Pucallpa, Peru.

Participants formed the Acre-Ucayali Transboundary Geography Working Group and produced three transboundary maps illustrating the threats to reconciling conservation and development in the Amazon borderland states of Acre, Brazil and Ucayali, Peru. These maps can be seen at [http://blog.richmond.edu/dsalisbury/maps/](http://blog.richmond.edu/dsalisbury/maps/).

The working group also signed a declaration to create a transboundary network of geographic technology professionals, hold annual meetings to update and improve the transboundary database, and create opportunities to further develop the technical capacity needed to solve transboundary socio-environmental challenges. Recognizing the utility of the workshop, the
governors of Ucayali and Acre signed an agreement in July of 2012 formalizing the interchange of geographic data across their shared border. The ability to comprehensively share transboundary data across Amazonian boundaries at the state and local scale is unprecedented and marks a major advance for the governments, institutions, and universities involved.

Dr. Salisbury will deliver an invited presentation “Analysis of the Socio-Environmental Impacts of Amazonian Roads: the Puerto Esperanza to Iñapari Road in Peru” with University of Richmond student, George Appling, at the legislative palace in Lima, Peru on September 14, 2012.

For the co-sponsored Commission on Geography funded project promoting the transfer of technology and data, see Cartography Commission: Central America Data Integration and Technical Capacity Building Workshop U.S. National Section Annual Report (J. Parcher).

NOTE: This report is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive of the activities conducted by the commission members, but it is representative of the nature of involvement and contributions that the USNS Geography Commission makes to PAIGH direct activities, goals, and strategic priorities. Looking forward to the coming year, the US Geography Commission will continue to pursue appropriate activities within these priority areas in ways that add value to and
support both the US National Section work and the direction of PAIGH in Mexico in terms of geographic research, geographic education, and the strengthening of institutions of geography in academic, public, and private sectors.

**History Commission**

Erick Langer (Representative)

The History Commission had another successful year. Commission members were engaged in a variety of PAIGH activities and also had a substantial presence in USNS PAIGH’s annual meeting. The History Commission also spent time organizing for its project, a one-volume tome preliminarily titled *Historia de las Américas*.

**USNS Meeting in Washington D.C.**

The annual meeting was held this year in Washington, DC at the Organization of American States administrative building on March 21-22, 2012. The U.S. History Commission Chair, Dr. Erick D. Langer, was a member of the Organizing Committee. Four History Commission members of the Commission attended the meeting. This year, we continued the successful innovation that Dr. Bradley Coleman devised, to have papers read by participants and others. In the case of the History Commission, Dr. Evan R. Ward, Brigham Young University, gave a presentation entitled, "The Search for Sustainability: The Nexus between Environmental and Social History."

Dr. Ward is also currently working on a book-length manuscript entitled, "Towards the Second Frontier: Tourism Development and International Organizations in Latin America, 1960-1980." The study is of interest to PAIGH members as it examines the planning strategies (and their implications for development of sustainable tourism) developed by supranational agencies, including the World Bank, Organization of American States, UNESCO, and USAID, and then deployed in concert with national agencies in Peru (Machu Picchu), Guatemala (Tikal), Brazil (Salvador de Bahia), Colombia (Cartagena), and Mexico (Ixtapa, Los Cabos, and Loreto). Dr. Ward also published two encyclopedia entries for the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability*. One entry, in volume 5, is an extended essay on "Irrigation" and management of water systems. The second, scheduled for volume 8 and release in late 2012, examines the "Tourism Industry" in the Americas and Oceania for its evolution towards sustainability.

Dr. James Siekmeier has been active this year. He published a book, *Bolivian Revolution and the United States, 1952 to the Present*, (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2011). He also is now Director of Undergraduate Studies for the History Dept. at West Virginia University.

Dr. Bradley Coleman has wrapped up his successful time at USSOUTHCOM and has started a career as Assistant Professor in History and as Director of the John Adams Center for Military History & Strategic Analysis at his old alma mater, the Virginia Military Institute. He also wrapped up the project that aided the Haitian National Archives last year.
Dr. Erick Langer continues as Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University. He is also the Editor in Chief of *Gale World Scholar: Latin America and the Caribbean*, the most complete website on sources for Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, he is leading the *Historia de las Américas* book project, which will provide a one-volume overview of the history of the Western Hemisphere for use in classes at the high school and college levels. The volume will be published in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and will feature a roster of outstanding historians of the hemisphere from many countries. At the PAIGH 44th Directive Council, to be held in Buenos Aires this November, a workshop prior to the meeting will organize the content and selection of the authors.

**Geophysics Commission**
Jorge V. Bajo (Member)

**PAIGH sponsored projects in El Salvador**

In 2012, Dr. Bettina Martinez-Hackert and Jorge V. Bajo continued to work together with their collaborators in El Salvador and Buffalo, New York towards their PAIGH projects titled “Creating Pyroclastic Density Currents Hazard Map for the Santa Ana Volcano in El Salvador” and “Estudio Preliminar sobre diferencias etnofisiograficas y mapas de perspectivas de peligros volcánicos de las comunidades de alrededor del Volcán de Santa Ana”.

There were two research trips to El Salvador during 2012, the first one was to collect more samples for analysis in laboratories and the Scanning Electron Microscope. During this first trip which took place in the month of March, Dr. Bettina Martinez-Hackert and Jorge V. Bajo were invited to give a talk to the Geology group of Dirección General del Observatorio Ambiental (DGOA), specifically to talk about their PAIGH projects, past collaborations and future projects.

Jorge V. Bajo also had a meeting with the PAIGH El Salvador National Section President, Ing. Rigoberto Magaña Chavarría to talk about the current PAIGH projects and to continue to strengthen the collaborations between Buffalo and El Salvador. Jorge V. Bajo under his capacity the Alternative Representative for the Geophysics Commission for the USNS, discussed with Ing. Magaña Chavarría about what projects was El Salvador interested in supporting. It was clear after the meeting that any

*From left to right, Jorge V. Bajo, Dr. Bettina Martinez-Hackert, and Ing. Demetrio Escobar, Coordinador Area de Vulcanologia, DGOA.*
projects dealing with hydrology and geophysics were of great interest but that they would support any projects that would benefit El Salvador in general. They are also interested in creating more collaboration between Universities and Colleges from the USA and El Salvador.

It was thanks to the PAIGH grant that a world renowned volcanologist like Dr. Marcus Bursik from SUNY at Buffalo could come to El Salvador to share his knowledge with members of the DGOA and to help with interpretation of deposits, the collection of samples and mapping.

From left to right: Ing. Demetrio Escobar, Dr. Bettina Martinez-Hackert and Dr. Marcus Bursik at the crater of the Santa Ana Volcano in El Salvador

Parts of this project have been presented at international and national professional meetings. Ellisabeth Gallant, one of Dr. Bettina Martinez-Hackert’s students working on this project, was selected to present her work at the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Poster on the Hill on April 24th, 2012.
The second research trip took place on May and it was to start the work on the project “Estudios Preliminar sobre diferencias etnofisiograficas y mapas de perspectivas de peligros volcánicos de las comunidades de alrededor del Volcán de Santa Ana”. This project is also done in collaboration with members of the Dirección General del Observatorio Ambiental (DGOA) the former Servicio Nacional de Estudios Territoriales (SNET) of El Salvador. This project depends on the willingness and collaboration of the communities surrounding the Santa Ana Volcano, specially the Canton of Buenos Aires. They were very gracious and were willing to meet with us during a two-week period where they created several hazard/risk maps.

There were several meetings with high-ranking members of the community as well as community members in general to talk about the different natural disasters that have occurred in the area, like the 2001 earthquakes, 2005 eruption and the 2010-2012 torrential rains, to name some.

The maps that the community members and park rangers made were presented to the whole community during our last day with the community. It was an opportunity for everyone to add their knowledge and to give us more information that may have been missing from the maps. The members were very happy with the information that was included and suggested some more things to be added which we did before leaving.

*Front right Jorge V. Bajo with members of the Buenos Aires Community talking about the hazard/risk map that they are making*
This project also allowed conducting several meetings with different high officials inside the DGOA and Centro Nacional de Registros (CNR) of El Salvador and they showed a lot of interest in the project and the maps generated by the community.

We are already planning a second trip to El Salvador to talk to more communities and to generate more community base maps of the area.

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