About the EDGE Project

Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education in Geography (EDGE) is an NSF-funded research and action project led by the Association of American Geographers to enhance the career preparation of professional geographers. EDGE-Phase 2 (2009-2012) focuses on employment opportunities for geographers in business, government, and nonprofit (BGN) organizations. Researchers are collecting a variety of data from professional geographers, employer organizations, and graduate programs to examine workforce development, industry trends, and the career paths of master’s and doctoral students. Project deliverables include paper and panel sessions at regional and national professional meetings, updates and additions to the Jobs and Careers area of the AAG’s website (www.aag.org/careers), expanded activities within the Jobs in Geography Center at the AAG’s Annual Meeting, journal articles, and books, including Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment (Pearson Education 2012).

About the panelists

Joy K. Adams [moderator] is a Senior Researcher at the headquarters of the Association of American Geographers in Washington, D.C., where she is a consultant for projects on professional development and careers for geographers, geographic education, and diversity within the discipline. She is also the Managing Editor of the forthcoming International Encyclopedia of Geography. She received her Ph.D. and B.A. degrees in geography from The University of Texas at Austin and her M.A. in applied geography from Texas State University. Dr. Adams has worked in each of the BGN (business, government, and nonprofit) sectors, in addition to having held faculty positions in the geography departments at Humboldt State University, Texas State University-San Marcos, and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Her teaching and research have focused on cultural landscapes, ethnic geography, historical geography, and geotourism in the U.S. and Canada.

Max Baber is Director of Academic Programs at the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF), stewarding the accreditation of university geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) certificate programs and supporting related academic initiatives. Dr. Baber received a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Georgia in 1999 and an M.A. in geography from Georgia State University in 1993. He has served in faculty appointments with the Master of Science in Geographic Information Systems program at the University of Redlands and Departments of Geography at Samford University and the University of Northern Colorado. He has developed and implemented a number of funded projects focused on pedagogical aspects of geographic information science projects, including support from the National Science Foundation. He serves on the board of directors for the Cartography and Geographic Information Society, is a member of the U.S. National Committee to the International Cartographic Association, and is a Fellow of the British Cartographic Society.
Seth Marcus has a B.A. in geography from Binghamton University and an M.A. in geography from the University of South Carolina. He has worked as a planner, GIS technician, trainer, and consultant for city, county, state, and federal agencies. Seth began working for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2001 in the Office of Policy Development and Research, where he researched housing quality in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. Mr. Marcus moved to HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development in 2008 to become the Branch Chief for IT System Support. His team is responsible for operating and enhancing HUD’s Electronic Grants Management systems that administer over $7 billion in grants each year. One of his recent successes includes implementing an agency-wide core GIS system (built on ESRI ArcGIS Server) with a centralized database that is being shared by five distinct web mapping applications.

Rich Quodomine is a New York State Department of Transportation Analyst and GIS Coordinator for the Public Transportation Bureau. Prior to joining DOT, he was an economist at the Department of Labor. He works with several public transportation providers on GIS solutions involving Title VI compliance and environmental justice initiatives. He is the Co-Chair of the New York State Environmental Justice Task Force’s Mapping Workgroup, where he is working on pilot projects to better study the ramifications of new immigrant and Limited English Proficiency groups. He is also the Parliamentarian of the New York State GIS Association and serves on its Education Committee.

Michael Ratcliffe is Assistant Division Chief for Geocartographic Products and Criteria, Geography Division, U.S. Census Bureau, where he is responsible for programs related to the development of concepts and criteria for geographic areas, as well as geographic and cartographic products. Mr. Ratcliffe has worked in both the Geography and Population Divisions at the Census Bureau, primarily on programs related to places, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, and urban/rural definitions. He also is an adjunct instructor in the Geography Department at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He was chair of the Middle Atlantic Division-AAG from 2007-2009.

Alex Stapleton is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree at Towson University in a combined sociology and geography major, with a minor in Geographic Information Systems. He also holds an Associate’s degree in philosophy from Harford Community College. Mr. Stapleton is currently interning at the Center for GIS at Towson University, where he has the opportunity to combine his interest in GIS software with his interest in research and analysis. His projects at the Center for GIS include data collection, validation, and mapping of broadband service coverage across Maryland for the Maryland Broadband Mapping Initiative and database development and maintenance for Maryland iMap. He is a member of the Towson University Geographical Society, and he serves as secretary for the Student Sociology Association.

Jeremy Tasch is Towson University’s first interdisciplinary hire in Eurasian and Global Studies. He came to Towson from his previous position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, where he helped create the university’s first geography and environmental studies department and first undergraduate degree program in international studies. Dr. Tasch is a principal investigator on a five-country, NSF-funded study of the geopolitics of climate change in the Arctic. A recipient of two Fulbright awards to the Russian Far East and the Kyrgyz Republic, he spent almost five years as country director of an international educational NGO in Azerbaijan, where he helped create the first multi-institutional educational center and library funded by the U.S. Department of State. The internship program he began in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy and the Government of Azerbaijan has had 60 participants placed with the Ministries of Ecology, Education, Foreign Affairs, and Communication and Information Management.

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