

Biographical Summaries

Ronald F. Abler

Ron Abler is President of the International Geographical Union. He obtained his doctorate in geography from the University of Minnesota. His research includes the ways societies have used intercommunications technologies at different times and places. Before becoming the president of the International Geographical Union, Abler was a faculty member at Penn State University (Department of Geography), had appointments at the National Science Foundation, and was Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers.

Viviana del Carmen Alva Hart, Especialista Sectorial, Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo

Jorge Arosemena, Director Ejecutivo, Fundación Ciudad del Saber

Jorge Ramón Arosemena Román has been Executive Director of FCDS since its inception, back in 1997. A Panamanian sociologist, he studied Civil Engineering at the University of Panama, got a degree in Classical Literature and Philosophy, and a master's degree in Sociology, both from Saint Louis University, USA. He is a full professor of Sociology at the University of Panama, where he has taught since 1971 and held the positions of General Secretary and Academic Vice President.

Gladys Bennett, Secretaria Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación

Ruben Berrocal

Ruben Berrocal is National Secretary of the Secretariat of the National Bureau of Science, Technology and Innovation in Panama (SENACYT). He received his medical degree from the University of Panama with specializations from the University of Florida and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. At SENACYT Dr. Berrocal is responsible for the creation of politics to transform science and technology into instruments of sustainable development in Panama.

Santiago Borrero

Santiago Borrero is Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). He received his master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Previous appointments include the chair of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure and the Permanent Committee on SDI for the Americas, and the General Director of the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute in Colombia.

Martín E. Candanedo

Martin Candanedo is currently Vice Rector of Research, Postgraduate and Extension at the University of Panama. He received his PhD from Ohio State University in Remote Sensing. Previously, he has served as Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and head of the Department of Geotechnology at the University of Panama.

Octavio Carrasquilla, Departamento de Geografía, Universidad de Alcalá

Rosana Carrizo, Geógrafa, Autoridad Nacional de Administración de Tierras

Jongnam Choi

Jongnam Choi is Associate Professor of Geography at Western Illinois University. He received his doctorate in geography from the University of Georgia, Athens with a focus in Synoptic Meteorology. His research interests emerge at the intersection of climate change, sustainability, and human health. Recently he edited a book titled "The Geography of Korea".

Anthony Coia, Transportation and Logistics Consultant

Alberto Cumbreira

Alberto Cumbreira is Health Researcher at the Instituto Conmemorativo Gorgas in the Department of Research for Health, Environment, and Society. He received his master's degree in Data Communication Networks and worked on creating the Atlas of the National Survey of Health and Quality of Life in 2007.

Diovelys de León, Especialista en SIG, Autoridad Nacional de Administración de Tierras

Michael F. Goodchild

Michael Goodchild is Professor of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Director of UCSB's Center for Spatial Studies. He received his Ph.D. in geography from McMaster University in 1969, and has received four honorary doctorates. His current research interests center on geographic information science, spatial analysis, and uncertainty in geographic data. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2006), was awarded the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science Research Award (2010), and was elected Foreign Member of the Royal Society and Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy (2010).

Jennifer Guralnick, Disaster Reduction Advisor

Jennifer Guralnick works for the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction UNISDR-Americas as Reporting Officer and as an adviser in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). She received her Master of Arts in International Development. She holds ten years of professional experience in Central America on issues of urban planning, DRR and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Mei-Po Kwan

Mei-Po Kwan is Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Professor of Geography at the Ohio State University. She received her doctorate in Geography from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her research interests include transport and urban geography, geography of health, information and communication technologies, and geographic information science and systems. She was awarded with Distinguished Scholarship Honors from the Association of American Geographers (2011), Distinguished Visiting Fellow from the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, and is a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Diana Laguna

Diana Laguna is Researcher at the Technological University of Panama collaborating in projects dealing with urban transportation. She received her Master in Science from the University of Panama, Louis Berger and the City of Knowledge in Applied Environmental Management

Systems and a post graduate degree in Environmental Management. She has taken specialization courses on GIS Processing of Digital Images and Visual Interpretation of Satellite Images in Michigan, USA and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Ciro Limone, Consultant, Secretaría del Metro de Panamá

Elias López

Elias Lopez is Director of the Professional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program in the School of Geography at the University of Panama. He received his Master in Science from the University of Costa Rica in Geography. His research interests include land use planning, management of risks and disaster prevention, tourism planning and integrated coastal management. He has also worked as a consultant for various international organizations including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Candida Mannozi, Senior Manager of Program Development, Association of American Geographers

Raúl Martínez

Raúl Martínez is Supervisor of the Environmental Economic Incentives Unit at the Authority of the Panama Canal. He received a Master of Science degree from the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares-Madrid, Spain in Cartography, a Master of Science degree in Environmental Geography from the University of Panama and specializations in Remote Sensing and GIS from the Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi in Bogota, Colombia. His interests include economics and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Anselmo Mc Donald

Anselmo Mc Donald is Health Researcher at the Instituto Conmemorativo Gorgas in the Department of Research for Health, Environment, and Society. He obtained his master's degree in Health Services Management. Before working at Gorgas he worked at the Ministry of Health (Panama), with SENACYT, and with the Universidad Latina de Panama.

Ricardo Mena, Chief of Regional Office, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Graciela Metternicht

Graciela Metternicht is Regional Coordinator for the United Nations Environment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean. She received her doctorate degree in applications of remote sensing and GIS systems to the mapping of land cover and land degradation from the University of Gent, in Belgium. Metternicht is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of projects related to environmental assessments and early warning in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Edgardo E. Monasterios

Edgardo Monasterios currently coordinates research and development projects at the Secretariat of the National Bureau of Science, Technology and Innovation in Panama (SENACYT). He received his Master in Science degree at the University of Nottingham in Satellite Positioning Technology. His research interests include satellite positioning technologies, location based services, network RTK, and applications of geospatial technologies.

Astrid Ng, Research Assistant, Association of American Geographers

Gustavo Quintero, Representante, Autoridad Nacional de Administración de Tierras

Douglas Richardson

Douglas Richardson is Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers. He received his doctorate degree in Geography from Michigan State University. Richardson previously founded and was president of GeoResearch, Inc., which achieved international prominence with the invention, development, and patenting of the first real-time interactive GPS and GIS technology, which has led to transformative changes in the way geographic information is now collected, mapped, integrated and used within geography and in society more broadly.

Israel Sánchez

Israel Sánchez is Director of Panama's Instituto Geográfico Nacional Tommy Guardia. He received his master's degree in geography from Universidad Nacional de Panama. Before becoming the director of Tommy Guardia, Sánchez held other titles such as professor at the University of Panama, vice president of the historical commission of PAIGH, and

Federico José Suárez, Ministro de Obras Públicas

Darío Solís

Darío Solís is Managing Director of the Georgia Tech-Panama Center for Innovation in Logística and Transportation. He earned his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Iowa. His many projects are strategically and synergistically oriented around efforts to improve national infrastructure in transportation, to exploit Panama's competitive advantage in telecommunications, and to exercise its potential as an academic and research destination.

Galileo Solís, Especialista-Panamá y Centroamérica de la División de Ciencia y Tecnología, Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo

Patricia Solís, Director, Outreach and Strategic Initiatives, Association of American Geographers

Eda R. Soto, Especialista en Protección Ambiental, Autoridad del Canal de Panamá

Federico José Suárez, Ministro de Obras Públicas

Isis Tejada, Departamento del Signal, Instituto Geográfico Nacional "Tommy Guardia"

Marielena Tejeira, Coordinadora de Proyectos Especiales SENACYT-BID, Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación

Marcela Zeballos, Research Assistant, Association of American Geographers