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Mather and Marble Gifts to Support Geography for Years to Come

Memorial bequests recently established by Sandra Mather and Duane Marble will create living memorials that will actively support geography for years to come. These substantial gifts to the AAG by both Mather and Marble will fund two very innovative new programs designed to promote geographic research and scholarship.

In the first of these programs, the AAG will establish the *"The AAG John Russell Mather and Sandra Pritchard Mather Climatology Knowledge Environment,"* an interactive online resource available to climate researchers, students, educators, and geographers worldwide. This interactive research environment is modeled in



Russ Mather



Sandra Mather



Duane Marble

part on the types of online knowledge environments under development by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for dynamic biological research fields.

The Mather Climatology Knowledge Environment will cross-link new and ongoing research in the field with classics and legacy materials, including those of Russ Mather. It will also foster interaction and discussion among researchers and students in climatology regarding work-in-progress, new programs and projects, events, evolving databases, and so forth. The Mather Climatology Knowledge Environment, designed to

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meet the needs of the next generation of geographic scholars, is made possible by the generous financial support of Sandra Mather.

A second program, developed through a generous bequest by Duane Marble, will establish a general endowment fund whose proceeds will be utilized to stimulate and reward scientific approaches to research in geography. Initially, two continuing awards will be established from the income derived from the *Marble Fund for Geographic Science*.

A best dissertation award for scientific research in the area of computational geography will be made every second year for dissertations successfully defended over the previous two-year period ending on August 31. Although primarily designed to stimulate computer-oriented scientific investigations within the discipline of geography, this award is not to be restricted to dissertations in this discipline. The award is also not limited to doctoral degrees awarded in the United States. Initially, the award is to consist of a \$3,500 cash prize and an accompanying certificate of merit. This award will initially be offered for dissertations successfully defended in the period starting January 1, 2004 and extending through 31 August 2006.

A second award for outstanding professional achievement in the area of geographic science will be made every fourth year. This award will recognize continuing research of the highest quality

in the area of geographic science and/or the successful design and execution of one or more substantial and highly innovative, real-world applications heavily based upon geographic science. Initially, the award will consist of a \$5,000 cash prize, a certificate of merit and a silver medal. The *Marble Fund for Geographic Science* may, from time to time, be augmented by contributions from other sources if such should become available. Details regarding application procedures for these awards will be made available on the AAG website (www.aag.org) shortly.

Both of these wonderful bequests will create programs to provide long-term support to future generations of geographic researchers and scholars. I applaud the far-reaching vision and generosity of Sandie Mather and Duane Marble in committing their energy and these funds to geography's future. They join many other philanthropic geographers, ranging from Gilbert White to Jan Monk, who have made such commitments at the AAG in the past. The AAG welcomes additional bequests from all members wishing to create living legacies which will serve future generations of geographers, and enhance geography's ability to contribute to scholarship and to society in the years ahead. If you would like to discuss the possibility of establishing a bequest at the AAG, please contact me. ■



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**Note: AAG Election Ballot is
enclosed at page 24.**