Las Vegas: Building Partnerships for Geography

The 2009 Annual Meeting was one of the larger and most diverse gatherings of geographers and associated scholars in the history of the AAG. This year, the total number of presentations topped 4,300, while over 6,400 geographers and friends from 61 countries registered for the meeting. In addition, one of every five participants attended from somewhere outside of the United States. That diversity coupled with the meeting’s continuing engagement with the full range of the discipline illustrates the progress we are all making to strengthen geography’s standing in the university and increase its relevance to contemporary issues across the globe.

The AAG Staff would like to thank all of you for making the Las Vegas meeting a great success and for working so hard to push the discipline along new and promising pathways while extending the core strengths of our discipline, advancing research, scholarship, teaching, and service to geography and the world at large.

Following is a brief photo montage from the Las Vegas meeting. We look forward to welcoming you to Washington D.C. next year for the 2010 Annual Meeting. Best wishes from all of us at the Meridian. ■

Doug Richardson
and the AAG Staff

Richardson

The AAG signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Professional Geographers India, to cooperate on programs and projects of mutual interest in the future.

Tom Baerwald gave the Past President’s Address, “Prospects for Geography as an Interdisciplinary Discipline.”

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Yonette Thomas of the NIH builds on collaborations with the AAG on health issues.

AAG President John Agnew (left) welcomes speakers (left to right) James Powell, Patricia Gober, Glen McDonald, and William Rinne to the opening plenary, “The Future of Water in the American West.”

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Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI, was the featured speaker at the Brown Bag Plenary, "Geography, GIS, and Africa."

The Geography in the Americas panel (L to R) Ibrahim M. Shaqir, Ned Strong, Jessica Robin, Santiago Borrero, Nicole Stahlmann, Patricia Solís, and Mark Caicado, with Doug Richardson (far right).

Panelists (left to right) John Adler, NOAA, John Cromartie, USDA, Marc Perry, U.S. Census Bureau, Peter Claggett, USGS, Lowry Taylor, U.S. Department of State, and Paul Weise, NGA, discussed "Employment in the Public Sector: Getting a job with the Federal Government."

Distinguished biographer and environmental historian Donald Worster discussed the life and work of John Wesley Powell.

Chelsea Teale, a graduate student at Penn State, discusses her poster with interested onlookers in the Exhibition Hall.

Noted author James Powell spoke on the Colorado River in the opening plenary session, "The Future of Water in the American West."

The JIG Center remained busy with many visitors.

Peter Ndunda, GIS Director for Wangari Maathi’s Greville Movement in Kenya, with Indy Hurt of the University of California, Santa Barbara.