UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NATIONAL SECTION OF THE PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY:

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh
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 30 September 2010 through 1 October 2011. 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, as does Ms. Maria O’Brien as the Executive Secretary of the USNS. 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. Leslie Armstrong continues to serve as the Principal US Representative to the Commission on Cartography and Erik Langer continues to serve as the Principal US Representative to the Commission on History.

The US National Section was well represented at the Directing Council Meeting held in Lima, Perú. The US National Section was also pleased to co-sponsor the Joint Technical Meetings of the four commissions in Panamá City, Panamá, in June 2011.

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](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%.
The USNS 2011 Annual Meeting, held at USSOUTHCOM Headquarters March 10-11 began with a Command Brief from Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli, Civilian Deputy to the Commander/Foreign Policy Advisor on the history of the hosting location as well as its relevance to Latin America today. The meeting continued with opening remarks from the USNS President, Mark DeMulder, thanking Dr. Bradley Coleman, the host, as well as the USSOUTHCOM staff. Mr. DeMulder highlighted the five positions of authority that would open in 2013 and stated that the United States would put forward Jean Parcher and Patricia Solis for Geography President and Vice President. He then stated that the USNS is current on their payments to PAIGH and the US Permanent Mission to the OAS (USOAS) is pleased with the administration of PAIGH Secretary General Santiago Borrero.

Secretary General Santiago Borrero then gave an overview of the state of politics in Latin America, encouraging all to attend the Joint Technical Meetings in Panama June 13-17, 2011 and outlining the future of collaboration between the Group on Earth Observations (GEOSS) and PAIGH as well as his perspective on the USNS contribution towards the Pan American Agenda.

Each USNS Commission Representative (Patricia Solis-Geography, Leslie Armstrong-Cartography, Erick Langer-History and Christopher Castro-Geophysics) gave a short overview of the current and future direction of each commission.

During the second half of the meeting, a few USNS members participated in discussion panels: “Modeling the Americas” and “Indigenous Populations and Sustainable Development in the Americas.” The meeting concluded with a discussion of project proposals.

Complete minutes can be found at: http://www.aag.org/galleries/default-file/Pan_American_Institute_of_Geography_and_History_2011_USNS_Annual_Meeting_Minutes_Public.pdf
US National Section representatives in attendance at the US National Section meeting at SouthCom in Miami, Florida.

PAIGH: Second Joint Technical Meetings Panama City, Panama, June 15-17, 2011

In 2007, the Pan America Institute of Geography and History established a new model in which technical meetings were held jointly, essentially, to promote interdisciplinary projects within the Institute. The first Joint Technical Meeting was held in Itú, Sao Paulo, Brazil. This year, the Second Joint Technical Meeting was held in Panama City, Panama, jointly hosted by Panama and the United States. With more than 120 delegates, 70 scientific and technical presentations, three parallel scientific events and superb hospitality, the event was a success and consolidated the joint technical meeting model.

For further details on the meeting, please visit our website: http://www.ipgh.org.

United States National Section Participants Included:

Mark DeMulder, President, USNS of PAIGH
Maria O’Brien, Executive Secretary, USNS of PAIGH
Patricia Solis, USNS Geography Commission Chair
Erick Langer, USNS History Commission Chair
Leslie Armstrong, USNS Cartography Commission Chair
Christopher Castro, USNS Geophysics Commission Chair
Bradley Coleman, USNS History Commission Alternate
John Gates, USNS Cartography Commission Alternate
Gilberto Concepcion, USNS Cartography Commission
Timothy Tranior, USNS Geography Commission

US National Section Representatives at the Second Joint Technical meeting in Panama.
The Cartographic Commission was very active this past year and jointly with the Geography Commission and other partners such as the International Hydrographic Organizations, supported four multiday workshops:

- Pan American Multinational Geospatial Co-production Program, November 16-17, 2010, Guatemala City, Guatemala
- Crisis Support Workshop, June 13-14, 2011, Panama City, Panama
- Central American Data Integration and Technical Capacity Workshop, August 21-27, 2011, Heredia, Costa Rica
- Haiti Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Workshop, September 5-16, 2011, Haiti

Changes in personnel include Mr. Gilberto Concepcion, NGA who will be replacing Mr. Badger as the alternate representative on the Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation Committee. Also Dr. Mark Smith, USGS hydrologist will represent the USNS on the Hydrography Technical Committee. Mr. Fred Calfiôr, an NGA International Aeronautical Representative is now permanently on board and is the proposed replacement for Mr. Robert Goodson within the Technical Committee on Aeronautical Charting as the U.S. representative.

Crisis Support Workshop, June 13-14, 2011, Panama City, Panama
This workshop was jointly funded by the Geography Commission and presented during the preceding days of the General assembly 2011. Over 33 attendees were present including 3 graduate students whom also gave presentations. The original workshop objectives were:

- Educate Latin American officials and young professionals in the latest strategies and technologies for preparing, mitigating, and responding to natural disasters.
- Expand member state partnerships.
- Provide young professionals networking opportunities with senior executives and managers from across the region.
- Draft a high level action plan for IPGH preparation, mitigation, and response to natural disasters.

Presentations by PAIGH member that had recently experienced disasters (Chile, Haiti, Colombia and Peru) provided overviews of what actions they were taking to prepare and deal with disaster impacts. All power point slides are available at: http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh/events/CS_Workshop_Overview. A very interesting presentation on new state of the art, high accuracy GPS in the Caribbean was given by Dr. M. Meghan Miller, President, UNAVCO, Boulder, Colorado: Collaborative Instrumentation: COCONet (Continuously Operating Caribbean GPS Observational Network) – An Infrastructure Proposal for a Multi-hazard Tectonic and Weather...
Observatory, funded by the National Science Foundation. This system is able to detect large earthquakes more rapidly than any other international network but is only experimental for the next 5 years.

US presentations included USGS - the International Charter, NOAA - Geo Net Cast, ESRI/FEMA – Crowd Sourcing, and NASA – SERVIR GIS Center in Panama.

Presentations by the United Nations included:

- Regional Advances for Disaster Reduction Plans, Jennifer Guralnick, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Regional Platform in the Americas
- UN-SPIDER Activities in Latin America- Juan-Carlos Villagrán de Leon, Program Officer, Platform for Space Based Information for Disasters and Emergency Response
- Early Warning and Assessment - Graciela Metternicht, United Nations Environmental Program, Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Division of Early Warning and Assessment.

PAIGH Sponsored Students that attended: (from the left) Miguel Trejo, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico; Silvia Passuni, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú; Paulina Vidal, University of Chile. Joining them in the picture are Santiago Borrero, center and Leslie Armstrong, right.
Recommendations included: have satellite phones ready for communications, maintain off-site accessible back-ups of data, organize a network of professionals that can assist as GIS and Remote Sensing teams to develop products, prepare risk and hazard maps before the disaster happens, and do not recreate risks instead develop nations with scientific data with consideration for sustainability.

Technical Committees and Working Groups

Geospatial Data Infrastructures Committee

Nothing to report.

Geographic Names (Working Group)
The GNWG proposes the continuation of the geographical names course as a continuation of a project, but each year representing a new project. This is necessary to achieve the goals and mission of the working group so vital to the success of larger programs and projects where a component of correct and standardized names serves as a stable layer in the success of various programs and projects. Additionally, the working group proposes as a 2012/13 project making the course available online, and some support has already been secured for this project. Editing of the teaching aids has begun (more than 500 PowerPoint slides). However, the working group cautions strongly that the initial presentation will be preliminary in that the PowerPoint slides presently serve as no more than “bullets” of very general topics to prompt the team of instructors to deliver a detailed presentation on the topic. The detailed presentation will not be available initially; only the prompting general topics, and so the value of the course initially will be somewhat less than desired until the detailed lectures can be developed in written form.

The working group has been approached by the Convener of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training to offer and present a joint training course on applied toponymy in the South American nation of Suriname in 2012/13. The working group has agreed in principle, and has informed the PAIGH Secretariat. The working group believes that this project will be invaluable to all, and in fact, very necessary as we believe it essential for PAIGH to be involved and for the PAIGH geographical names teaching team to present its version of applied toponymy. We believe it is in the best interest of PAIGH, Suriname, and the United Nations.

Hydrography (Technical Committee)

Dr. Mark Smith, USGS hydrologist will represent the USNS on the Hydrography Technical Committee beginning in 2012. The Hydrography Technical Committee (HTC) Principal Coordinator for PAIGH is Peru. The current Committee Chair is unoccupied. The USNS supports revitalizing the Hydrography Technical Committee and will confer positively at the Directing Council meetings regarding a Chilean proposal at the Cartographic Technical Meeting in Panama 2011.

Aeronautic Charting (Technical Committee)

Aeronautic Charting (Technical Committee)
Mr. Fred Calfior, an NGA International Aeronautical Representative is now permanently on board and is the proposed replacement for Mr. Robert Goodson within the Technical Committee on Aeronautical Charting as the U.S. representative. He will continue to assist Ms. Viviana Barrientos, the lead, in developing a coordinated plan of work. He has participated with the ICAO Caribbean/South American Planning and Implementation Regional Group (GREPECAS), and also the ICAO North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) Aeronautical Information Management Subgroup.

Current initiatives are the ongoing strategy of implementing the ICAO 21 steps Roadmap from AIS to AIM over the period of the next several years. The three overarching phases of this plan are Consolidation, Going Digital, and Information Management. NGA for a number of years already has incorporated existing digital enroute charts for the entire world, which is a vast improvement from the previous technology of hand drawing symbols and changes prior to submitting to a printer facility. There also exists an Aeronautical Source Packaging Service (ASPS) which is an electronic library of worldwide host nation source Aeronautical Information Publications (AIP) and amendments, supplements, circulars, acquired through hardcopy volumes and scanned, CDs/DVDs, as well as Web-based electronic retrieval. There is work in the planning stages to produce a Global Navigation System – Aero (GNS-A) database which will be the next generation of automatic data retrieval and capture, validation, and source effective temporality of aeronautical enroute, terminal, and supplemental data based on Aeronautical Information Regulation and Control (AIRAC) cycles and daily Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs).

Mr. Fred Calfior continues to participate in the International Federation of Aeronautical Information Management Associations (IFAIMA) as the Regional Director for the North American/Caribbean/Central American areas. One of the major taskings within this group is the incorporation nationwide of Electronic Aeronautical Charts which is one of the 21 interrelated steps to the aforementioned ICAO Roadmap.

**Geospatial Data Infrastructure**
The Central American Data Integration workshop was held in Costa Rica from August 21-27th, 2011.

**SIRGAS** Nothing to report.

**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 Cooper. His alternate representative was Mr. Gregg Badger but Mr. Badger has recently resigned due to a permanent change of duty station. Mr. Gilberto Concepcion, NGA will be replacing Mr. Badger as the alternate representative. 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.

In February 2011 PAIGH and International Hydrographic Organization signed the technical cooperation Memorandum of Understanding. The first coordinated project between IHO and PAIGH was establishing a Hydrography and Nautical Charting Workshop in Haiti in 2011, (see workshop information below). In addition, Mr. Paul Cooper attended the 11th Meso American Caribbean Hydrographic Commission meeting in Surinam November 2010, which resulted in a $16,000 plus commitment for software, hardware, and other development support for the Haiti Workshop. This support comes from International Organizations, national governments and private industry.

ISTC supported a Hydrography workshop in St John's, Antigua. June 2011. This was a two week session put on by the IHO Capacity Building Committee through the IHO Meso American Caribbean Hydrographic Commission.

**Reports of the Cartography Committee Workshops completed in 2011**

**Haiti Hydrography Surveying and Nautical Charting Workshop**

PAIGH and IHO joined with industry partners CARIS, Kongsberg Maritime, Hemisphere, and HYPACK. CARIS has provided SW and computer hardware for data collection, processing, chart production. Kongsberg Maritime provided a single beam echo sounder, side scan sonar, and engineering support for installation on board the Haitian Coast Guard platform. Hemisphere provided DGPS receivers for installation on board the platform. HYPACK provided the hydrographic data collection software for the survey operations and processing. Technical time, equipment loans and donations, software contributions, and payment in kind come to approximately $50K. In addition, the national hydrographic office of France Service Hydrographique et Oceanographique de la Marine (SHOM) is providing the two weeks of training by a professional hydrographer and a nautical cartographer in Haiti to deliver the IHO approved curriculum.

The partnership that we have formed to do this is very strong, the dedication of the entities involved is evident, and the sum result of this of this project is far greater than what is provided by each partner. Our Haitian partner agency is Service Maritime et de Navigation d’Haiti (SEMANAH) which is providing a boat, fuel, crew, class facilities, ground transportation, customs clearance for equipment, and whatever other local support that is necessary. Twelve persons from SEMANAH attended the training.

At the end of this operation Haitians will be able to conduct a simple survey operation and process single beam hydrographic data sets that they collect. We will be leading them to be able to update or produce a nautical chart which is the ultimate goal for a national hydrographic office. This workshop will not get them fully to that point but it is the first step.
What is an issue for us and the continuing success of the after workshop follow up is that Haiti does not own hydrographic surveying equipment or software for processing or production of Nautical Charts. We have been fortunate in that companies have been willing to temporarily donate what they have done but this is not a permanent solution. By the end of the year, the equipment will be reclaimed by its owners and our trained Haitian colleagues will be out of work.

Haiti has applied for IHO Membership and needs 4 votes to accede. Next April in Monaco they should have those votes and will be welcomed into the organization. It would be excellent to have them produce their first chart to show at their induction.

Pan American Multinational Geospatial Co-production Program
NGA chaired the first Pan American Geospatial Co-production Program (PAMGCP) meeting held in Guatemala City, Guatemala on 16-17 November, 2010. Representatives from 6 countries participated: Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, El Salvador, United States, Uruguay. The goal of the meeting was to explore the possibility of establishing a multinational co-production program in the Americas. NGA provided a series of briefings and demonstrations to explain background on current multinational activities, crisis response, source availability and deliberate on a way ahead.

This initiative is sponsored by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), which endorsed a need for a standardized vector data set in the Americas. The “Support to Haiti” example was used to make the case that standardized vector data is vital for timely crisis response. The benefits of standard data for a simplified generation of derived products and for QA purposes was demonstrated and discussed.

A plan for PAMGCP member nations was discussed to produce vector data over their own sovereign territory, to be shared without restrictions among them, and to be exchanged according to an agreed upon rate of exchange. The presentation concerning CRS generated a lot of curiosity because imagery is of great interest to all, in particular for time dominant responses since vector data takes time to produce.

NGA offered to support a possible vector co-production program with the provision of CRS but none present were familiar with the NITF format, the format NGA would be providing. NGA distributed ortho-rectified City Sphere imagery to each participant over their capital city along with raw WV1 CRS in NITF to familiarize them with this new format. NGA explained that the imagery to be provided by NGA would be raw and not ortho-rectified however, all present have ERDAS software with the Leica Photogrammetric Suite (LPS) which allows ortho-rectification. All present also confirmed having adequate Digital Elevation Model (DEM) which allows ortho-rectification of WV1 without using control points.

A demo of the Technical Reference Documentation (TRD)3.0 and the Haiti data also generated much interest and questions concerning data collection practices. The Colombian rep said that they do not collect 100% land cover for map making but they
do for their land classification database. NGA explained that collecting to make the map should not be the goal rather one of the outputs of the database. All present recognized the benefit of collecting vector data using the TRD 3.0 to produce a standard data set. All present use ARCGIS and all confirmed using ARCGIS 9.3 with PLTS which is needed to produce to the TRD3.0 as well as to generate the required XML file. Additional Service Packs can be downloaded at no charge from the ESRI site.

Using the questionnaire as a starting point the following topics were discussed:

1) AOR – All agreed they would work over their own sovereign territory
2) Hardcopy – all agreed data must be able to support hardcopy production
3) Symbolization – DGIWG standard symbology was provided to be used for production of standard maps to be shared in case of regional response
4) Density – all agreed to be consistent with TRD densities of 50 and 100. Colombia not interested in 50.
5) Unit of exchange – all agreed on 1/4 cell to be identified with lower left coordinate of the full cell with an additional NW, NE, SW and SE.
6) Horizontal Accuracy – all agreed with 25m or better.
7) Dimension – all agreed for 2D
8) Currency – aim is for 5 years vector data currency to be adjusted as needed.
9) Format – all agreed to use shapefile as the format of exchange
10) QA – all agreed to have another country QA their data for certification
11) Dissemination – data would be made available for download by each producing nation via their web page
12) Levels of participation – all agreed to one level of participation, no Leads nor Associates
13) Rate of Exchange – initial discussions indicate 4 to 1

Actions
1) All to investigate if such a program can be put into work under the auspices of a PAIGH Project, instead of staffing a formal MoU.
2) NGA to investigate the ability to provide to each PAMGCP member more imagery than necessary for vector extraction, in times of crisis.
3) NGA to investigate whether it can participate without an MOU, as a commercial imagery source provider and program coordinator, not as a vector data producer.

Central America Data Integration and Technical Capacity Building Workshop
The Central American Data Integration and Technical Capacity Workshop was held in Heredia, Costa Rica from August 21 to August 27th, 2011. This workshop was funded by the Cartography, Geography, and Geophysics Commissions. Participants from the National Geography Institutes of all seven Central American countries, Mexico, and the United States convened at the National University of Costa Rica with the objective to harmonize the base geospatial data layers across international borders to create a seamless digital map of Central America. Geographers from each Central American country and Mexico arrived with their official data sets at the 1:250,000-scale and working in a participatory manner collaborated with their neighboring countries to
integrate the hydrography, transportation, and populated places themes into one regional dataset. In addition workshop participants gave presentations concerning the status and goals of developing geospatial data for their country. Representatives from Mexico (INEGI, Proyecto MesoAmerica), the United States (USGS, NOAA), and Venezuela (GEOSUR) provided presentations on advanced mapping techniques. Plans are to have the integrated datasets available as a web mapping service and possibly as a Central American published map. In order to capitalize on the high synergy of the participants and the ongoing progress, plans are being made to hold another workshop in the near future in El Salvador to complete additional integration of base and thematic themes.

Participants in the Central American Workshop, August 2011
Participatory mapping collaboration between Guatemala and Mexico.

Panama and Guatemalan participants exchanging technical knowledge.
Geography Commission  
*Dr. Patricia Solís (Representative)*

This past year, the US Geography Commission has consolidated the organization of its members around the new committee structure of PAIGH and has engaged 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. 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**

This includes the work of Dr. David Salisbury conducted during this period as a Fulbright Fellow in Universidad Nacional de Ucayali, Peruvian Amazon. His teaching activities included instructing *Ordenamiento Territorial* in the School of Environmental Engineering, Forestry Department, Universidad Nacional de Ucayali. His research focused on *Amazonia for Amazonians: Territory, Natural Resource Management, and Capacity Building in the Peruvian Amazon*.

Dr. Betty Smith won the 2011 EIU Rose Zeller Excellence in Research Award for her project, *Creeks, Rivers and Bridges of Ponderosa Way*.

Dr. Patricia Solís was appointed as the Coordinator of the Research Committee of the PanAmerican Geography Commission of PAIGH and has commenced work in conjunction with her counterparts on the Education and Institutional Strengthening Committees, in Mexico and Panama, respectively. In addition, Solís serves as the Point Of Contact for the AAG’s formal United Nations Observer Organization Designation, organizing official civil society representation to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the COP-16 in Cancun, Mexico.

The project which PAIGH is involved as a co-organizer (and led by AAG and PI Solís) and funded by the US National Science Foundation (PASI), entitled *Institute for the Integration of Research on Climate Change and Hazards in the Americas*, released a research agenda in English and Spanish that was co-authored by 50 scholars from across the Americas (Canada, US, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil). These are available for free download online at [https://sites.google.com/a/aag.org/c2heke/project-](https://sites.google.com/a/aag.org/c2heke/project-)
These results were presented at numerous events and thousands of copies were distributed throughout the region.

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

Mr. Timothy Trainor was instrumental in advising the U.S. position concerning a UN Global Geospatial Information Management initiative proposed by the UN Statistics Division which was ultimately adopted by the Economic and Social Council. Also, Mr. Trainor organized an all-day session of leaders of national mapping organizations at the International Cartographic Conference. He also served as an advisor and proposed specific agenda items to the Geospatial World Forum as well as the Cambridge Conference sponsored by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain.

Dr. Solís continued the organization of the Geography in the Americas sessions (begun in 2005) with the 2011 theme of *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 is being 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 panelist) at the AAG Annual Meeting, April, Seattle, Washington. The second roundtable event was conducted at the EGAL meeting in Costa Rica, July 2011 with approximately 85 participants from the region. The third roundtable event will be held in November 2011 at the IGU Regional Conference in Santiago, Chile. The results of these roundtable discussions are expected to lead to a joint proposal for the establishment of a number of collaborative activities in the region.

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. These individual accomplishments are reported in two main categories: published research (media and academic journals) and conference participation (presentations, posters):

**Published Research**


Smith, B. 2011 RESEARCH ABSTRACT “Vegetation Classification and Fire Research of the Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains” *2011 Illinois Academy of Science* (April 2011), Charleston, IL. (with student Trisha Rentschler)


Smith, B. 2010 RESEARCH ABSTRACT “Local Land Use Development Agreements in California,” *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences Program*, (October 2010), Ft. Worth, Texas.


Conference Participation


Smith, B. Historic Trail Mapping in Sierra Nevada Mountains of Northern California, Tenth Annual ESRI Education User Conference, San Diego, California, presented July 9, 2011.


Smith, B. Local Land Use Development Agreements in California, Applied Geography Conferences, Ft. Worth Texas, presented October 2010.

Smith, B. Chair and organizer of paper session on “Cities and Urban Regions in Latin America,” Seattle, Association of American Geographers, April 2011.

Smith, B. Organized guest lecture International Center for Global Diversity- Latin American Studies, Dr. Warren Anderson from SE Missouri State, “Migration of Purhepecha People from Mexico to Cobden, Illinois.” April 1, 2011.


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:

Salisbury, D. S. March, 2011. “Sharing the World’s Knowledge: Phi Beta Delta, Fulbright, and an Example from the Amazon.” Key note address of Phi Beta Delta Induction, International Center, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia.


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 Pan American Geography Commission**

Dr. Salisbury has submitted a proposal to PAIGH for a *Taller de Integración de Datos y Desarrollo de Capacidades Técnicas para Mitigar los Desafíos Ambientales en la Amazonía Peruana y Brasileña*. This was co-sponsored by the Geography and Cartography Commissions of the United States National Section and has approval from Brazilian and Peruvian National Sections.

Dr. Solís served as co-organizer of the international keynote speakers to the "Congreso de Sistemas de Información Geográfica como Plataforma para la Modernización del Estado“ supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and the Authority for Governmental Innovation, June, Panama City, Panamá. She also completed the feasibility study and companion proposal for the project entitled, *Developing Latin American GIS&T Cyberinfrastructure for Innovation and Economic Development*, funded by the InterAmerican Development Bank’s Knowledge Partnership Korea Fund for Technology and Innovation to the Secretary of the National Bureau of Science, Technology and Innovation in Panama (SENACYT), supported in “implementation with expertise from the AAG.

For the co-sponsored Commission on Geography funded project promoting the transfer of technology and data, see Cartography Commission: Central America Data Integration
This report is not 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, concentrating on the work that now can commence through the new committee structure.
The History Commission, U.S. National Section, had an active and successful year. They presented papers at PAIGH meetings, worked to execute a PAIGH technical project, and submitted a proposal for PAIGH support for the writing of a history of the Americas. The commission was also reinforced by the addition of two new members who joined us at the Miami meeting held in March, 2011.

U.S. Section Meeting in Miami
The annual meeting of the U.S. delegation of PAIGH was held this year at the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in Miami, Florida on March 10-11, 2001. SOUTHCOM command historian, Dr. Bradley Coleman, the Associate Representative of the History Commission, organized the event. In addition to conducting U.S. National Section business, members of each commission presented papers on research as a means to provide information to other members what each section was working on. Dr. Erick Langer, the History Commission representation, gave a presentation on “Indigenous Movements and Regional Security in Latin America.” Dr. Bradley Coleman chaired the panel on indigenous sustainable development in the Americas. In addition, the U.S. National Section approved the addition of two more members to the History Commission. They are Evan R. Ward, Associate Professor, Department of History of Brigham Young University, and James Siekmeier, Assistant Professor, History Department, University of West Virginia. Dr. Ward is a specialist on the political ecology of water and on tourism development in Latin America. Dr. Siekmeier is an expert on U.S. foreign relations with Latin America in the twentieth century. We look forward to many contributions from both.

Historia de las Americas
With the encouragement of Secretary General Borrero at the Miami meeting, the U.S. representatives of the History Commission presented a project to PAIGH to write a one-volume history of the Americas, to be written by Commission members and others. The U.S. section approved the proposal and it also received the support of the Brazilian and the Argentine sections of the History Commission, as well as that of geographers in Brazil. If approved at the Directive Council in Santo Domingo in November, the monies will go to a workshop to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina the days prior to the Plenary meeting in November or October, 2012 to organize the book and assign the chapters to various historians and other members of the disciplines that are represented in PAIGH. During the Panama City meetings, the History Commission advanced substantially in this goal already.

Technical Meeting in Panama
Dr. Langer and Dr. Coleman traveled to Panama City, Panama, for the Second Joint Technical Meeting, PAIGH June 15-17, 2011. Dr. Coleman gave a presentation on the “Perspectiva histórica sobre la interconexión de las Américas” during the plenary session.
Then, during a presentation to the History Commission, Dr. Langer called for an international conference on the history of the Americas—a meeting that would establish a PAIGH effort to write a one-volume book titled “Historia de las Americas,” as described in the proposal submitted following the meeting in Miami. The Commission unanimously agreed to support this project after some very fruitful discussion. In addition to the historians in the U.S. Section, other members of the History Commission, as well as other disciplines, pledged to work on the project.
Haiti Project
In 2010, Dr. Coleman submitted a proposal for PAIGH to aid in the preservation of the National Archives in Haiti endangered by the 2010 earthquake, which the national section approved. Therefore, in April 2010, the U.S. National Section submitted a project proposal asking PAIGH to help Haitians acquire and install state-of-the-art electronic equipment and digital techniques. The authorities, PAIGH, announced their support for the project during the Directing Council meeting in Lima, Peru, November 2011. The Secretary General, PAIGH, officially notified the President, U.S. National Section, of the decision in a letter dated January 25, 2011.

Turbulence associated with the Haitian presidential election delayed the implementation of PAIGH technical assistance project, HIST 01 2011. In May, following inauguration of President Michel Martelly, archivists associated with this effort agreed to begin. On May 23, the U.S. National Section requested the disbursement of appropriated funds to the Digital Library of the Caribbean in support of the National Archives of Haiti. International archivists will install the equipment during a training course in Port-au-Prince, October 24-27, 2011. Although the U.S. National Section requested the immediate disbursement of appropriated funds, the actual training will occur during the next fiscal year.

In sum, the U.S. section of the History Commission has been very active this year. In addition to Dr. Coleman organizing the U.S. section meeting at SOUTHCOM this year, the U.S. members have played an important role in meetings and have one
approved project, to preserve archives in Haiti, that will be implemented shortly and one project that is in the approval process.

Geophysics Commission Contribution

Dr. Christopher L. Castro

This year, the US Geophysics commission has been involved with two PAIGH projects either ongoing or submitted for consideration this year. These projects continue to expand the breadth of PAIGH-sponsored geophysics related research into key areas emphasized at the previous PAIGH general assembly meeting in Quito Ecuador in October, such as hazard risk characterization and climate change impacts assessment. Participating partner countries include the Mexico and El Salvador. Outreach activities have been undertaken to expand the awareness of PAIGH to countries that have had relatively little past involvement with the organization. My goals for the commission within the next year are to: 1) continue to increase the visibility of PAIGH within the geophysics community within the United States, by developing a PAIGH geophysics web-portal that will be maintained at the University of Arizona by Latin American students within the Department of Atmospheric Sciences (one of which was recruited from PAIGH activities); 2) Investigate the possibility of a PAIGH-sponsored oriented session at a geophysics related meeting, such as the American Meteorological Society or American Geophysical Union; 3) Populate the commission with active members in all relevant areas, in order to solicit more PAIGH projects in geophysics; and 4) Continue to maintain and enhance cooperation with existing participating partner countries, in particular Mexico.

US Geophysics Commission Activities for the past year include:

PAIGH approved and submitted project to study the Santa Ana Volcano in El Salvador

In 2010, PAIGH approved funding for a project titled “Creating Pyroclastic Density Currents Hazard Map for the Santa Ana Volcano in El Salvador”. This project is being done in collaboration with the Dirección General del Observatorio Ambiental (DGOA) the former Servicio Nacional de Estudios Territoriales (SNET) of El Salvador. The principal investigators (PI) of this grant are Dr. Bettina Martinez-Hackert from SUNY College at Buffalo and the Doctoral Candidate Jorge V. Bajo from SUNY at Buffalo. This project has become the stepping stone for the strong collaborative work between the above mention PIs and the DGOA. It is because of this project that other collaborative endeavors have taken place, such as the new proposal for a new collaborative project with the DGOA to this year’s PAIGH which plans to do work on a “Preliminary Study on the Ethnophysio graphical Differences and Volcanic Hazard Maps based on the Community Surrounding the Santa Ana Volcano Perceptions”.

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Since this project Dr. Martinez-Hackert has also been consulted on other volcanic hazards and events on different parts of the country and Jorge V. Bajo is currently working on the San Miguel Volcano with members of the DGOA by using his Remote Sensing expertise to obtain data and to gain a better understanding of the volcano’s behavior. This project has also allowed Dr. Martinez-Hackert to introduce undergraduate students to the field of volcanology and she has had several undergraduate students working on related projects based in El Salvador which have been presented to a wide audience through the Student Research and Creativity Celebration, as well as through the Small Grants program and the Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship, all through SUNY College at Buffalo.

Parts of this project have been presented at the “Segunda Reunión Técnica Conjunta de las Comisiones del IPGH” in Panama, June 2011, in the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) in June 2011 and took place in Melbourne, Australia, and in the upcoming AGU and AAG Conferences.

**PAIGH Submitted Project to investigate the potential development of a GPS-receiver network in Mexico**

In 2011, a project entitled “GPS Network in Mexico to Aid in Characterization of the North American Monsoon” was submitted to PAIGH as a joint U.S.-Mexico project, successfully following on what was proposed in last year’s report. The principal investigators are Dr. Angel Terán, from the Servicio Meteorológico Nacional and Dr. Christopher L. Castro from the University of Arizona. This proposal is motivated by the fact that there is relatively poor observational characterization of the atmosphere in Mexico, particularly in mountainous regions where most monsoon rainfall occurs. GPS-receiver devices provide an economical and viable means to monitor atmospheric water vapor in such places. GPS-derived atmospheric water vapor can be potentially assimilated into numerical weather prediction models to improve the accuracy of short-term weather forecasts. The project serves as a first step toward organizing the potential technical capacity to develop a GPS-receiver network for atmospheric water vapor monitoring. A workshop, to be held within Mexico, will assess the feasibility of implementing an operational GPS network, logistical considerations for installation and maintenance of GPS-receiver devices, discuss the specific location for GPS-receiver placement, and how GPS-data can be assimilated into a regional atmospheric model (specifically the Weather Research and Forecasting Model). The meeting will also facilitate the development of binational proposals, likely to be submitted to NSF and CONACYT, the respective science foundations in the United States and Mexico, on the subject of establishing a GPS receiver pilot network. Such efforts are already well underway. Dr. Castro has already been approved by the University of Arizona to participate in pre-proposal to the Program for International Research and Education (PIRE), through NSF, in which a Mexican-based GPS network will be a central focus. So regardless of whether this specific PAIGH project is selected for funding, there is already sufficient momentum in both the United States and Mexico to move forward.

**Broadening outreach to Caribbean nations**
In October 2010, Dr. Christopher Castro traveled to Jamaica and the Dominican Republic to give talks on the subject of climate change in the Caribbean. These presentations were supported by the U.S. Department of State as official visits and arranged through the U.S. embassies both countries. The presentation in Jamaica took place at the University of the West Indies and in the Dominican Republic at their National Meteorological Service and FUNGLODE, the government environmental agency for the country. Talks, presented in English and Spanish, focused on the use of regional atmospheric modeling for climate change projection and the specific risks for the Caribbean region (drought, possible increase in hurricane intensity, and sea level rise). In addition to the talks to both the public and local scientific investigators, Dr. Castro traveled to “climate distressed” regions within the countries, for example a Jamaican farming community in the interior of the country that has experienced drought and a Jamaican beach community that has suffered the effects of recent sea level rise. These visits addressed the articulated need of increased outreach to countries in the Caribbean in prior reports by this commission. Such countries may only have observer status in PAIGH (as is the case for Jamaica) and relatively little infrastructural capacity for scientific research coupled with an urgent need for scientific information. There is strong potential for future PAIGH proposals in both countries, though the commission has not had the opportunity as yet to strongly pursue these possibilities.

Second Joint Technical Meeting, Panama City, Panama, June 2011
The PAIGH Geophysics commission convened and heard presentations regarding ongoing and proposed projects. These presentations generally reported on: seismic and volcanic hazard risks in Latin America, with particular focus to Central America and northern South America, gravimetric measurements in South America, climate and climate change in Central America and the Caribbean, applied geophysics, and atmospheric and water pollution, and physical oceanography. Following the presentations, a revised committee structure was proposed with member contacts: 1) Natural Disasters (Jose Luis Macias, Mexico), 2) Climate Change (Christopher L. Castro, USA), 3) Applied Geophysics (Maria Ines Pastorino, Argentina) and 4) Special studies (Manuel Araneda, Chile). The Geophysics commission also discussed ways to increase multidisciplinary cooperation, facilitate scientific exchange (in the form of scholarly visits), how to increase the visibility of Revista Geofísica, and creation of a Pan American Center for Observation of Natural Disasters. A complete summary in Spanish is available at www.ipgh.org/Reuniones-Tnicas-Conjuntas/Segunda-Reunion/Files/GEOF-Informe.pdf
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U.S. National Section

Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)

September 2011
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#### Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics Committee

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#### Environment Geophysics Committee

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#### Gravimetry Committee

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