

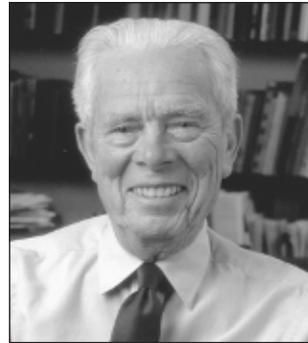
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Many Memorials Underway for Gilbert F. White

Gilbert F. White, former Gustavson Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Colorado and a past president of the AAG, was one of the world's most prominent geographers. A number of honors have been established in his name since his death in 2006 at the age of 94. Descriptions of a number of these memorials follow.



White

AAG Honors

In 2007, the AAG Council established Gilbert F. White Distinguished Public Service Honors, an annual award recognizing achievement in geographic skills to affect public policy in ways

that better the human condition. AAG Honors are offered annually in seven categories to recognize outstanding accomplishments by members in research and scholarship, teaching, education, service to the discipline, public service outside academe, and for lifetime achievement. Nomination deadline for Gilbert F. White Distinguished Public Service Honors and other AAG

Honors is **June 30, 2008**. Nomination details and descriptions of all AAG Honors and Awards may be found at www.aag.org/Grantsawards/aag_honors.cfm.

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Improbable Metropolis: How Las Vegas Beat the Odds

The central mystery of Las Vegas does not have much to do with Bugsy Siegel, or whether there are indeed alien spacecraft secreted at Area 51. Rather, it is that it still exists, and thrives, in defiance of precedent and probability. For more than one hundred years Las Vegas has beaten the odds against its own survival, becoming by the early 21st century the fastest growing urban area in the United States.

Much of Las Vegas's early history echoed or imitated that of countless towns in Nevada and the West: its fortunes rose and fell, usually precipitously, on the depth

of ore bodies and the decisions of distant railroad magnates. Why should Las Vegas have survived even as Candelaria blew away, as Ely declined, as Caliente languished? In their heydays Virginia City and Goldfield matched modern Las Vegas in opulence and wild abandon; neither can now sustain a decent restaurant or two-story hotel.

The Unique Geography of "The Meadows"

What did Las Vegas have that those failed towns and so many others like them did not have or could not muster? What allowed Las Vegas to snatch itself back repeatedly from the brink? Perhaps its boosters were extraordinarily optimistic or tenacious. Perhaps it was destiny, as the boosters always claimed, or just dumb luck.

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Las Vegas's unique sense of place arises in part from its location in the heart of the Mojave Desert. See article at right. Las Vegas will be the site of the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting. www.aag.org.

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When your address changes, please notify the Association office immediately. Six weeks notice is necessary to insure uninterrupted delivery of AAG publications. To assist the AAG office in your address change, include the address label with your change of address.

Postmaster: Send address changes to AAG Newsletter, 1710 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-3198, or address@aag.org.

Global Dialogues: Geography and Sustainable Development in Africa

The Association of American Geographers recently had the opportunity to participate with hundreds of African geographers, GIScientists, and environmental scientists in a new dialogue around the theme of Geospatial Science and Sustainable Development in Africa. These discussions, which were initiated in March, 2008 and have already generated several promising new areas of research and educational collaboration, were sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Global Dialogues on Emerging Science and Technology (GDEST) program. Follow-on activities and continuing interactions resulting from these dialogues have the potential to generate considerable on-going and long-term cooperation among African and U.S. scientists in geographic research, GIScience education and applications, sustainability science, and many related fields.

Five previous GDEST programs also have been undertaken, including dialogues in Japan (on nanotechnology), China (biotechnology), and Germany (quantum computing). However, the recent Africa GDEST program is the first to be initiated on a continental scale, and the first to address geography-related research fields such as geospatial science and sustainability.

The GDEST program focusing on Geospatial Science and Sustainable Development in Africa involved a series of site visits to universities, governmental ministries, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in nine African countries, followed by a conference attended by scientists from throughout Africa on the same theme in Cape Town, South Africa.

The U.S. delegation of seventeen geographers and geospatial scientists included

representatives from the State Department's Humanitarian Information Unit and its Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and International Scientific Affairs as well as from other U.S. governmental agencies such as USGS and the Census Bureau, several U.S. universities, and scholarly societies such as the Association of American Geographers and the American Geographical Society. The teams conducted over 50 site visits and met with hundreds of African experts in geography, remote sensing, GIScience, mapping sciences, health, education, agriculture, mining, climate change, hydrology, population, urban systems, economics, environmental science, and related fields.

Care was taken to listen to and learn from our African colleagues, to identify needs rather than prescribe solutions, and to build upon existing regional capacity in geospatial science and technology rather than duplicate or displace it. Participants in the dialogues explored opportunities for collaboration between U.S. and African scientists and institutions, as well as among African organizations and networks, in ways identified as useful to scientists, educators, and governmental agencies from the region.

It was clear from both the country visits and the conference that the diffusion, use, and sophistication of geospatial technologies and applications has increased significantly, both regionally and in individual countries, since the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. However, effective use of geographic information science and associated technologies for sustainable development research and practice is often hampered by a lack of resources, a lack of access to suitable



Richardson

Continued on page 5

Building on Our Strengths

The AAG annual meeting is the capstone for the AAG's year. Like the rest of the past year, the annual meeting in Boston was outstanding in nearly every respect. More than 7,000 attendees participated in a diverse range of sessions, meetings, and social activities. Spirits were high, the skies were clear, and many people told me how happy they were to be participating in the festivities.

Numerous other developments added to the positive vibes evident in Boston. The first issues of the *Annals* and *Professional Geographer* published by Routledge appeared along with the first books resulting from the Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education (EDGE) project. Others were excited about the AAG's new Developing Regions Membership Program, which enables geographers in 150 eligible nations to become AAG members and to receive our journals and newsletters online for annual fees of only \$20.

Membership is near the 10,500 level, up roughly 4,000 from the start of the decade. The AAG's total assets have increased to nearly \$8 million over the past five years. In what I consider to be the AAG Council's most significant action during its meeting in Boston, the Council voted to place \$5,000,000 of these new assets in an endowment to support long-term development of the AAG. Through this action, the AAG's endowment funds increase by an order of magnitude. This should provide stable funding to support the association for many years into the future.

While we have much to be happy about regarding the AAG and geography as a whole, we cannot be complacent and simply expect our success to continue. One area that Council has given attention to over recent years is the operation and governance of the AAG. On the whole, councillors have been pleased with the ways that the association has functioned, and no major changes have been suggested regarding the AAG's governing structure or modes of operation. But while no major changes are contemplated,

Council has asked the AAG Constitution and Bylaws Committee to address two general topics where some changes might enhance the participation of members in the governance of the association.

One general topic is the feasibility and appropriateness of the use of e-mail, web-based services, and other electronic means of conducting elections and for voting on other matters. The AAG Constitution and Bylaws currently call for all elections and votes to take place through mail-in ballots or through votes by members attending the annual business meeting. Other scholarly societies and professional associations have found that the percentage of members voting in elections increased significantly when online voting was used. Furthermore, after investments are made in the necessary software to conduct e-voting, cost savings can be considerable when votes are cast electronically rather than with printed paper and postage stamps.

While many members have been positive about a possible shift to e-voting, some legitimate issues need to be addressed. One is the maintenance of a "one member-one vote" principle. Another is the need to provide voting through other media for those members who do not have online access. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is identifying the issues that Council should consider as well as parts of the AAG governing documents that would need to be amended if the association wants to implement electronic voting.

The second general topic that the Council asked the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to address relates to ambiguity and confusion regarding the use of petitions and resolutions. Council has affirmed that any AAG member may contact the Council at any time to make suggestions or to request consideration of any issues related to the objectives of the AAG. When a group of members wants

to address an issue or request some kind of action through a formal petition, Council has suggested that 50 be the minimum number of members who would affirm their support for the petition. Council would respond to the petition in a timely manner, and it would retain the right to forward the petition to a vote of the membership as a whole if it deemed that the best course of action. If the petition sought to have a resolution passed at an annual business meeting, either Council or a petition presented by 50 members could put the resolution to a vote of the membership as a whole.

By clarifying the process through which petitions and resolutions are handled, the Council hopes to make it easier for all members

to understand how they may bring issues they deem important to the AAG's elected leaders and to the membership as a whole. Any changes to the Constitution and Bylaws required to implement changes like those proposed by Council will be fully vetted with the membership. These proposed changes will not dramatically alter the way the AAG functions, but they should help to make an already-strong organization even stronger.

This column is the last one I will write as the AAG President, and it likely will be one of my last official actions in that role. It was a great honor to be elected to serve as the President, and I have had a delightful year working with Douglas Richardson and other AAG staff members, with other councillors and regional division leaders, and with many AAG members. In the coming years, I look forward to working with incoming President John Agnew and his successors to continue to strengthen the AAG and geography. ■



Baerwald

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Three Geographers Receive Guggenheim Fellowships

Three geographers have been awarded 2008 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of outstanding achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment.

Fellowships have been awarded to **Susanna B. Hecht** (University of California Los Angeles) for her project "Deforestation in the Rubber Boom of the Upper Amazon"; **Glen M. MacDonald** (University of California Los Angeles) for "Climate Warming, Epic Drought, and Society"; and **Don Mitchell** (Syracuse University) for "Bracero: Remaking the California Landscape, 1942-1964." Hecht, MacDonald, and Mitchell are among 190 scholars, scientists, and artists who were chosen

as Fellows from more than 2,600 applicants.

The Guggenheim Fellowship is one of the most prestigious recognitions available to scholars. One-hundred and ten geographers have received the award since it was first established in 1925. The Foundation offers Fellowships to further the development of artists and scholars by assisting them to engage in research in any field of knowledge and creation in any of the arts.

Application forms for the 2009 Guggenheim Fellowships may be downloaded from the Foundation's website at www.gf.org.



Hecht



MacDonald



Mitchell

Requests for application forms may be mailed to John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 90 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

The deadline for the U.S. and Canadian competition is **September 15, 2008**. Deadline for the Latin American and Caribbean competition is **December 1, 2008**. ■

Many Memorial Underway for Gilbert F. White from page 1

AAG Anne U. White Fund

The AAG Anne U. White Fund honors White, his wife, and their long and productive career together. It provides funding for researchers to engage in scholarship while experiencing the "joy of working alongside their partners." Gilbert and his wife Anne, themselves created this fund in 1989, which they and others have added to since its inception. The AAG is currently seeking to expand this fund and the awards it presents in honor of Gilbert White. Details of the fund are available at www.aag.org/Grantsawards/Anneshitefund.html. Deadline for applications is December 31st each year.

National Academy of Sciences

In 2006, the Geographical Sciences Committee of the National Academy of Sciences established the Gilbert F. White Lecture Series. Invited speakers examine connections between the geographical sciences and society. Speakers in the series thus far have been Robert Kates (2007) and Gerry Galloway (2008). Lectures take place at the Keck Center in Washington, DC. More on the series may be found at <http://dels.nas.edu/besr/lecture.shtml>.



White received the National Medal of Science from President Clinton in 2000.

City of Boulder Public Memorial

The city of Boulder, Colorado is currently in the process of building a memorial to White, who is widely recognized as "the father of floodplain management." The memorial will be a flood-level marker to be erected along Boulder Creek near the city's downtown. The marker will not only record the height of future flood waters but also provide a reminder of past events and the powerful forces and dangers unleashed by flooding.

The Gilbert F. White Memorial Committee agreed that White himself would have wanted a pragmatic memorial, and

so decided that a monument promoting flood hazard education in Boulder would be most appropriate.

Design of the flood marker has been completed by Mary White, an eco-artist and White's daughter, and Christian Muller, a local artisan who created Boulder's Sister-City Plaza. The memorial will be made of sculpted granite and recycled transparent jade and supported by a central metal column and a concrete foundation. LED lights, powered by water or solar energy, will illuminate the core of the glass obelisk.

Additional information on the Gilbert F. White Memorial currently underway in Boulder, Colorado is available at www.colorado.edu/hazards/gfw/GFW_memorial.html.

Adding to White's Legacy

Contributions to the Gilbert F. White Memorial Fund for the Boulder Memorial may be made at www.commfund.org/giving/GilbertWhiteFund.html. Those wishing to contribute to White's legacy may also donate to the AAG Anne U. White Fund by contacting Doug Richardson at d Richardson@aag.org. ■

LANDSAT Images to be Released at No Charge

Under a transition toward a National Land Imaging Program sponsored by the Secretary of the Interior, the United States Geological Survey is pursuing an aggressive schedule to provide users with electronic access to any LANDSAT image held in the USGS-managed national archive of global scenes dating back to LANDSAT 1, launched in 1972.

By February 2009, any archive scene selected by a user – with no restriction on cloud cover – will be processed automatically to a standard product recipe, using such parameters as the Universal Transverse Mercator projection, and staged for electronic

retrieval. In addition, newly acquired scenes meeting a cloud cover threshold of 20% or below will be processed to the standard recipe and placed on line for at least six months, after which they will remain available for selection from the archive.

By the end of December of 2008, both incoming Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) data and all Landsat 5 TM data acquired by the USGS since launch (1984) will become available, with all Landsat 4 TM (1982-1985) and Landsat 1-5 Multi-Spectral Scanner (MSS) (1972-1994) data becoming available by the end of January 2009. All Landsat data purchasing options from the USGS will be

discontinued by February 2009, once the entire Landsat archive can be accessed at no charge.

LANDSAT scenes can be previewed and downloaded using the USGS Global Visualization Viewer at <http://glovis.usgs.gov> [under "SelectCollection" choose LANDSAT archive: L7 SLC-off (2003-present)]. Scenes can also be selected using the USGS Earth Explorer tool at <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov> [under "Select Your Dataset" choose LANDSAT Archive: L7 SLC-off (2003-present)]. For further information on LANDSAT satellites and products, see <http://landsat.usgs.gov>. ■

Geography and Sustainable Development in Africa from page 2

data, and a lack of coordination among users and data producers.

African GDEST participants were interested in ongoing dialogue that would establish partnerships for collaboration on numerous specific projects and programs; expand existing cooperation among U.S. and African scientists and practitioners to create a sustainable critical mass of African expertise; support regional and indigenous networks and institutional infrastructure; and develop new educational and research collaborative mechanisms for faculty and student exchange programs, online scientific interaction, and better access to new research and curricular information.

The AAG is already implementing some of the above mentioned online collaborative resource sharing and interactive coordinative mechanisms through its new subsidized Developing Regions Membership Program, and through the AAG Center for Global Geography Education. AAG Specialty Groups, both topical and regional, can also be an important vehicle for information exchange among individuals, and for exploring areas of common research interest and/or joint funding opportunities with interested colleagues throughout Africa and the U.S. Another long-standing AAG international educational and outreach initiative, the My Community, Our Earth: Geographic Learning

for Sustainable Development (MyCOE) program, provides a well-developed interactive framework for joint project activities, and many relevant resources for students and educators both in the U.S. and in Africa.

Also important to sustaining collaboration is engaging and supporting *existing* African networks of excellence and platforms for dialogue, information sharing, and communication. For example, African *networks of excellence* such as AGIRN (African Geo-information Research Network), EIS-AFRICA (Environmental Information Systems Africa), AARSE (African Association of Remote Sensing for the Environment), MAFA (Mapping Africa for Africa), AFREF (African Reference Frame) and University networks such as UNEDRA (University Network for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa) are vital infrastructures of communication and coordination for research, education, and applications collaboration. Descriptions of and linkages to these and many other existing African networks can be accessed directly through the AAG website at www.aag.org/developing.

The U.S. GDEST delegation representatives, both individually and in coordination with U.S. embassies in the countries visited, are currently following up on contacts and acquaintances made during the site visits and will be continuing discussions on specific

projects for which opportunities for partnerships and collaboration were identified. A report on the African GDEST program's progress and findings is under development and will be made available in the near future.

I would like to thank Lee Schwartz, Director of the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues at the U.S. State Department, together with Nina Fedoroff and Andrew Reynolds of the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary, for providing key leadership and logistical support essential to the success of the African GDEST program. Most importantly, on behalf of all of the participants, I would like to express our deep appreciation to our African colleagues for the opportunity to learn from them during these dialogues, and for their insight and guidance on how to sustain on-going interactions and useful collaborative activities in the years ahead.

More information on African geography and GIS research, education, and sustainable development activities, as well as on collaborative needs and opportunities is available and updated regularly on the AAG website (www.aag.org). ■

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(with thanks to Lee Schwartz for input)

AAG Presents Grants and Awards in Boston

The AAG recently presented a number of grants and awards at the 2008 AAG Annual meeting in Boston in furtherance of geographic research, scholarship, education, and travel.

This year, two awards from the **Anne U. White Fund** were announced. These awards enable researchers to engage in scholarship while experiencing the "joy of working alongside their partners." Recipients were **Kim Diver** of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and **William Forbes** of Stephen F. Austin State University, respectively.

Five **AAG Research Grants** were presented to researchers whose projects offer the prospect of obtaining substantial subsequent support from private foundations or federal agencies and that address questions of major import to the discipline. This year's recipients were **Perry Carter** (Texas Tech University), **Leslie Duram**



Duram

(Southern Illinois University-Carbondale), **Chad Lane** (Lawrence University), **Delphis Levia** (University of Delaware), and **Colin Long** (University of Wisconsin-Oshgosh).

The **George and Viola Hoffmann Award** supports student research toward a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation on studies of Eastern Europe. **Kari Burnett** of Rutgers University received this year's award for her project, "Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Policy Considerations and Integration Measurements in the Czech Republic."

AAG Darrel Hess Community College Geography Scholarships are presented to students from community colleges, junior colleges, city colleges, or similar two-year institutions who will be transferring as geography majors to four-year colleges and universities. Three students received 2008 scholarships: **Erin Caldiero** of Cosumnes River College, who will be transferring to Sonoma State University; **Stephanie Follett** of Chemeketa Community College, who will be transferring to Oregon State University; and **Jennifer**

McHenry of Sacramento City College, who will be transferring to California State University, Sacramento.

Seven students received a total of nine awards from the **AAG International Geographic Information Fund**. **IGIF Travel Grants** were presented to **Jill Clark** (Ohio State University), **Timothy Elkins** (University of Michigan-Dearborn), **Debarchana Ghosh** (University of Minnesota), **Brent Hecht** (University of California, Santa Barbara), **Patricia Polo** (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), **Libin Zhou** (Florida State University), and **Yuyu Zhou** (University of Rhode Island). Ghosh also received the **IGIF Graduate Research Award**, and Hecht was also presented with the **IGIF Student Paper Award**.

The AAG wishes to congratulate all the recipients.

Each year, the AAG sponsors numerous grants and awards. A full list, including detailed descriptions and deadlines, is available at www.aag.org/grantsawards/index.cfm. ■

Nominations Invited for 2009 AAG Honors

The AAG Honors Committee invites nominations for AAG Honors to be conferred in 2009. AAG Honors are awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement or welfare of the profession in six categories: Lifetime Achievement Honors, Distinguished Scholarship Honors, Distinguished Teaching Honors, Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors, Gilbert Grosvenor Honors for Geography Education, and Gilbert F. White Distinguished Public Service Honors.

Normally, no more than one award will be made in each category of AAG Honors. No more than six individuals may be recommended for AAG Honors in a single year. In addition to honors, the committee

may recommend a Publication Award and a Media Achievement Award each year.

Nominees must be AAG members if they are residents of the United States; if they reside elsewhere the membership requirement is waived. In some cases professionals from other disciplines or professions are eligible for consideration. Geographers or other professionals previously honored may be nominated again for distinction achieved since their first awards. The deadline for nominations is **June 30, 2008**.

To make a nomination, please submit a nominating letter and the candidate's CV to Patricia Solís at psolis@aag.org (preferred) or by fax (202-234-2744) or mail to AAG Honors, Association of American

Geographers, 1710 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington DC 20009-3198.

2009 Honors Committee: Kenneth Foote, University of Colorado (Chair); Kelley Crews-Meyer, University of Texas at Austin; Maureen Hays-Mitchell, Colgate University; Allan James, University of South Carolina; Paul Knox, Virginia Tech; Wei Li, Arizona State University; Frank Magilligan, Dartmouth College; Edward Malecki, The Ohio State University; Barney Warf, Florida State University.

See the handbook section of a recent issue of the *AAG Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas* for a complete list of past honors award recipients or consult the AAG website at www.aag.org/grantsawards/aag_honors.cfm. ■

Washington Monitor

Bush Administration Pushes for ESEA Regulatory Changes

It is a common theme well known to Washington insiders – as Presidents near the end of their term and take on the “Lame Duck” label, they often attempt to shape federal policy through a series of (sometimes controversial) regulatory changes. Environmental and health care policies are frequent targets, but other Executive Branch programs certainly are not immune. The Bush Administration has adopted frequent use of the regulatory pen since the Democrats regained control of Congress in 2007, and now they have turned a collective eye towards education policies governed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), better known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

To this end, on April 22 Education Secretary Margaret Spellings announced a series of proposed regulatory changes to the NCLB program. Spellings no doubt had political expediency in mind – reauthorization of the ESEA has been bottled up in Congress for the last two years, and it appears that serious action is unlikely until a new president has been sworn in next year. Additionally, some of the proposed changes are opposed by Congressional Democrats.

The key regulatory proposals include: 1.) A change in the way states calculate their graduation rates. States would be required to base their numbers on how many incoming freshmen in each high school graduate. By the 2012-13 school year, the states would

also have to indicate how many students had graduated within four years and how many had dropped out. 2.) States and school districts would be required to report results from their National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading and math tests when they report the results of their own state assessments. 3.) Districts would be required to notify parents about school choice and supplemental education service (SES) options. The SES program provides mentoring to students in failed schools.

This proposal is especially controversial because it spotlights schools that are not meeting expectations. Additionally, schools often rely on unused SES funds for other programs, but the Administration’s proposal would require schools to demonstrate that they made parents aware of their SES options.

In announcing the regulations, Spellings asserted that “While I will continue working with legislators to renew (NCLB), I also realize that students and families and teachers and schools need help now.” Predictably, the proposals elicited both praise and scorn on Capitol Hill. Rep. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon (R-CA), ranking Republican on the House Education and Labor Committee, “welcomed news that (Secretary Spellings) is proposing much-needed reforms to the NCLB Act.” He also criticized the Democrats’ “continued inability to enact a more comprehensive overhaul of the law” and specifically praised the Administration’s SES proposal.

Rep. George Miller (D-CA), Chairman of the House Committee, asserted that

“What the Bush Administration proposed today is a series of piecemeal changes to a law that really needs a comprehensive overhaul. Some of the proposed changes, like requiring a uniform graduation rate, are long overdue; other proposed changes are unhelpful. But altogether the changes amount to tinkering with a law that needs significant improvements, as most parents, educators, and students know.” Miller also pointed to “repeated underfunding” of NCLB programs in Bush budgets and the President’s rejection of “a bipartisan way on comprehensive reforms to the NCLB law.”

The proposed regulations deal primarily with Title I of the ESEA and have little bearing on the AAG’s efforts to see specific authorizations for geography education and teaching included in Title II of the law’s framework. Nonetheless, they have an impact on the ongoing debate over the law and Congress’s timetable for action. We will monitor the continued response to the regulations and other related activity on Capitol Hill. For additional detail on the Administration’s proposals, please visit www.ed.gov. Public comments on the regulations are being solicited through June 23. ■

Thanks to our friends at COSSA for providing details for this article.

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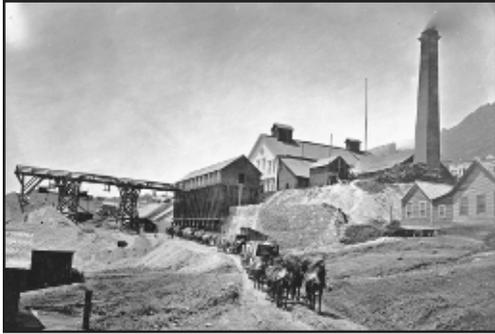
No Child Left Behind

For background, resources, and additional information on No Child Left Behind visit the AAG website at www.aag.org/nclb.

ADVERTISE IN THE AAG NEWSLETTER

The AAG Council has authorized the acceptance of advertisements for publication in the AAG Newsletter. All ads must meet AAG ethical standards and relate to the discipline or profession of geography. For more information on advertising in the Newsletter, please visit www.aag.org/ads.

A better explanation for Las Vegas's astonishing staying power is its particular history and geography. Its long string of busts would have killed off a town less well-situated, or less a creature of its landscape. Las Vegas survived because it was already a place long before it became a town, a place with a particularly felicitous set of contradictions: an oasis in the desert, an isolated spot nonetheless connected to the world beyond it.



CREDIT: THE SULLIVAN (PHOTO 1897), U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Although founded on the availability of water, mining drove the early development of Las Vegas and other Nevada towns in the Nineteenth Century.

Founded on Water

The founding geographic feature of Las Vegas is its water: the only reliable springs and year-round creek within several days' journey of anywhere. Water and the meadows it fed marked Las Vegas as a specific somewhere in the middle of the once trackless and nearly uncrossable desert between the Wasatch and the southern Sierra Nevada, which even today can feel like nowhere.

The sweet water that once bubbled to its meadows' surface made Las Vegas an oasis for a long series of travelers. For centuries the nomadic Paiute and other bands had known and cherished this place. They had it pretty much to themselves until 1830, when Mexican traders happened upon it and connected it to the Old Spanish Trail (this northern branch was known as the Horse Thief Trail). By the 1850s, the route through this rare grassy spot was regularly traveled by the California bound: Latter Day Saints on their mission to extend Deseret to the sea; the federal troops and mail carriers on the Salt Lake to San Diego road; miners and farmers heading for their respective diggings. A few hardy souls even established ranches, irrigating the hard,

alkali soil with spring water. Grateful travelers enjoyed their peaches and rested in the cool shade of the big cottonwoods by the creek.

A Place with Connections

Like a thousand Nevada ghost towns, Las Vegas owed its early prosperity mainly to mines and prospects of mines, but it was the springs that connected it to the larger world. It was the springs that led William Clark to route his railroad, the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake, through the tiny green spot in 1902. Clark's tracks connected Las Vegas to major population centers to the east and west, putting it on the all-important rail maps and allowing it to become the region's main supply center. While the nearby gold and silver bonanzas were short-lived, they lasted long enough, and brought enough business to and through Las Vegas, to strengthen its bid for continued existence.

The railroad was, of course, critical to this bid, and with the rails came telegraph service. For decades, these together represented Las Vegas's best physical connection with the world beyond Nevada. But the important linkages went beyond infrastructure. Many of Las Vegas's "pioneer" families and businessmen hailed from Los Angeles, and they astutely hitched much of the new town's future to Southern California's own ascendancy. Many others were Mormons with strong ties to Salt Lake, helping early on to establish the crucial perception of a 'respectable,' conservative, and stable business foundation.

Las Vegas, in fact, would not have survived without those connections to Salt Lake and Los Angeles. Boulder (Hoover) Dam, which helped Las Vegas withstand the blow of losing its major railroad operations in the '20s, was a project driven primarily by California's thirst for water and power. When the bonanzas from dam construction and tourism began to fade in the late 1930s, it was again California that came to the rescue. L.A. Mayor Fletcher Bowron's anti-vice campaigns drove many practitioners, from small-time cardsharps to Benjamin Siegel, eastward to Nevada, where suddenly they were legitimate businessmen. Soon the

more perspicacious executives of the New York, Chicago, and Cleveland organizations came to see Las Vegas as a place far from scrutiny but sufficiently close, and connected, to Los Angeles, by then well on its way to its own iconic status.

California gamblers dominated the new economy, but Mormon bankers from Salt Lake helped finance it. Besides the movie stars and mobsters with all their magnetic glamour and danger, California also sent the vast majority of customers, hoping for a chance to rub shoulders with a celebrity of either stripe. And, Utah, especially during the days of above ground bomb tests, provided a stalwart patriotism that refused to question the bland assurances of the federal government. Connection, then, was a critical component of Las Vegas's survival story.

A Place of Isolation

Just as critical a connection, however, was its geographical opposite, isolation. Las Vegas functioned because of its connections to the world beyond the desert; it *worked* because the desert allowed it to seem a world unto itself.

Las Vegas lies within the Mojave Desert, a wild, windswept "waste" of Joshua trees, creosote bushes, and infrequent, bitter streams. Las Vegas is smack within the Basin and Range province, and shares most of its visual, physical, and ecological characteristics. Those characteristics helped cast Las Vegas, accurately or not, as part of an outlaw territory, a junk wilderness untraveled, unpeopled, and unredeemed. It was indeed remote, isolated from "civilization" by the chunk of Basin and Range province in which it sat, with its endless dry valleys punctuated by unforgiving lines of mountains, its seas of creosote bushes and white bursage alkali and brittlebush, its sawtooth horizons unbroken by forests or easy passes.

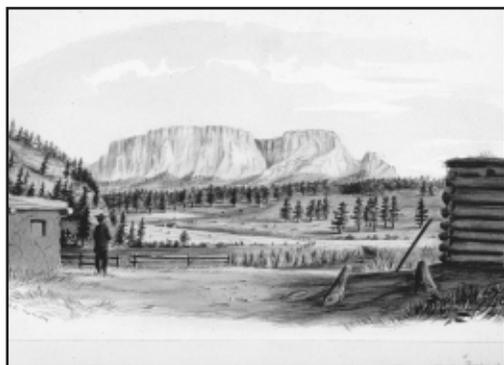
Even within Nevada, this southern region remained cut off from the money and power centers of Reno and Carson, and from all the mining districts north of Goldfield. Well into the twentieth century, roads, where they existed at all, were unpaved tracks through largely

Continued on page 9

Improbable Metropolis: How Las Vegas Beat the Odds from page 8

unpopulated territory; even the Los Angeles highway was but a narrow two lanes of gravel until the beginning of the Second World War. There was no long distance telephone service until the 1930s, and very few dial phones until 1955. The railroad's telegraph lines could not handle press service teletypes from Los Angeles, and until the early 40s, local newsmen relied on cryptic "pony" telegrams, or on teletype rolls flown in from Los Angeles.

But this relative isolation, the slow building of the normal infrastructure of transportation and communication, was in fact what allowed Las Vegas to create its peculiar, and peculiarly successful, identity as a self-defined and self-contained place. Isolation, or the perception of it, was crucial to the idea that whatever happened within Las Vegas or the desert around it, nothing (bad) could reverberate beyond its borders. That once there, normal rules no longer applied.



CREDIT: H.W. ELLIOTT, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

This drawing by H.W. Elliott was part of an 1869 survey of the area just north of Las Vegas, near the head of the Gallinas River.

This perception of Las Vegas as isolated exception attracted to it the people and funds that would eventually build it into the improbable metropolis it has become. As a remote spot in the middle of the desert, Las Vegas drew to itself those who wanted to start from scratch, who wanted to escape surveillance, who did not want to be dropped in on. Las Vegas was for people and activities that benefited from its remoteness, but equally that depended on those connecting threads. You had to be able to get there – and you also had to be able to get out when things got too dodgy, or you just needed a little humidity. It had to be seen as easy to get to, functionally transparent, and corruption-free.

It was not just gangsters who found the remote desert alluring. In the early 1940s, the Army discovered that Las Vegas's empty blue skies were perfect for testing new gunnery pilots. And when the war ended, even as the gangsters were beginning to build their fabulous monument to luck and lucre on the highway south of town, the vast expanses of playa and sagebrush beckoned the scientists of Los Alamos, eager to test their "devices" where no one would complain.

In the 1950s, the Strip and the Nevada Test Site together transformed the desert from wasteland to useful landscape, and Las Vegas from an overoptimistic cow town to the Entertainment Capital of the World. That this "godforsaken" landscape could be thus redeemed assured a bright future for developers, dream peddlers, and opportunity seekers, and made a thriving metropolis possible in this unlikely and unlovely place.

As Eisenhower was warning the nation of the dangers of a military-industrial complex, Las Vegas seemed at last to have vanquished the threat of becoming yet another debris pile in a ghost-littered landscape. This time it was saved by the mob and the military, whose practices were nationally acceptable, and arguably necessary, as long as they were confined to a wasteland no one else wanted, the southern Nevada desert. Ironically, banishing those things to Las Vegas transformed it into a place where everyone wanted to go, and easily could.

What Happens Here, Stays Here*

The Las Vegas desert is now home to 2 million people and each year is visited easily and fearlessly by forty million more. McCarran Airport is one of the busiest in the country. The federally subsidized highway system can zoom you in from anywhere, though you will certainly hit grid-lock when you get to town. Still, nodding to its middle-of-nowhere history and geography, Las Vegas sells itself with the claim that, "What Happens Here, Stays Here."

Las Vegas has survived its more likely fate to become the remote but accessible, secret but safe, iconic metropolis of 21st century America. ■

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University of Nevada, Reno
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*Official slogan of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

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Cartography SG

Masters students enrolled full time are invited to apply for the AAG Cartography Specialty Group (CSG) Master's Thesis Research Grants. These grants are made available to promote scholarly research in cartography by students enrolled in a geography or related degree program. Grants are available up to a maximum of \$500. Deadlines for application are March 15th, June 15th, and November 1st annually. For more information and the application form visit www.csun.edu/%7Ehfg003/csg/master.html.

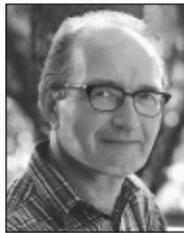
History of Geography SG

A collection of almost 100 histories of geography departments is now available on the website of the AAG's History of Geography Specialty Group (www.geog.psu.edu/hog/dept-histories.html). The collection is the result of a sustained effort by Malcolm Comeaux, AAG Senior Associate and Emeritus Professor of Geography, Arizona State University. The documents offer insight into the discipline's collective experiences and in many cases complement interviews in the Geographers on Film series. The collec-

tion covers many different kinds of U.S. and some Canadian institutions. If your department has prepared a history and would like it included, please contact Jan Monk at jmonk@mail.sbs.arizona.edu. The History of Geography SG would like to thank the Retired Geographers Organization for funding graduate students Susan Kaleita and Jared Powell to work with Jan Monk on preparing the collection for posting. Posting was completed by Jodi Vender and Steven Weaver at Penn State University. ■

Necrology

Denis Cosgrove died recently at the age of 59. He did much to enlarge and enrich cultural geography as a field of enquiry through wide ranging studies of geographical knowledge and imagination. Known for having little affinity with the positivistic approaches of spatial science, Cosgrove's increasingly cosmopolitan vision had moved geography firmly toward the center of the humanities in recent years. His emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches helped broaden the scope of human geography and deeply informed the journal he co-founded, *Ecumene*.



Cosgrove

Since joining the Department of Geography at UCLA in 2000, Cosgrove had served in the prestigious role of Alexander Von Humboldt Chair of Human Geography. This appointment followed

positions at Royal Holloway, University of London (1994-2000), Loughborough University (1980-1994), and Oxford Polytechnic University (1972-1980). Cosgrove graduated from Oxford with a degree in geography in 1969. He later obtained a master's degree in geography from the University of Toronto (1971) before returning to Oxford to earn a PhD (1976). He was about to become Chair of the Geography Department at UCLA in 2006 when he was first diagnosed with the cancer that would eventually take his life.

Cosgrove published a series of influential books exploring the manifold power of landscape in various historical and geographical settings, particularly in the design and engineering schemes of Renaissance Italy. Titles include *The Palladian Landscape* (1993) and an important collection of essays which he co-edited with Stephen Daniels, *The Iconography of Landscape* (1988). His most recent book, *Apollo's Eye* (2001), was an ambitious exploration of visions

of the Earth in the western imagination from antiquity to the present. He also authored *Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape* (1984), *Water, Engineering, and Landscape* (1990), and *Mappings* (1999).

Cosgrove was deeply engaged with art history, landscape design, and visual culture studies. He conceived and curated an exhibition on John Ruskin at the Ashmolean Museum in 2000, and was a key participant in the AAG's Geography and the Humanities Symposium, which took place at the University of Virginia in June of 2007.

Cosgrove received the Back Award from the Royal Geographical Society in 1988 for contributions to human geography. He delivered the prestigious Heidelberg Hettner Lectures in 2005 and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Tallinn in February of 2008. Cosgrove would have been Getty Distinguished Scholar at the Getty Research Institute in 2008-09. ■

Vintage Copies of AAG Annals Needed

The AAG is currently seeking donations of pre-1955 AAG *Annals* as we continue the process of making the contents of every issue available on-line. The digitization process requires that the binding of each journal used be destroyed, so donated journals will not be returned. If you have back issues you would like to donate for the purpose of digitization, please contact Rachel Franklin, the AAG's Deputy Director, for further information, at rfranklin@aag.org.

Medical Geography and Quantification: Observations from the Boston AAG Meeting

I write as a geographer based at a state health department who recently attended several full days of medical geography-related sessions at the 2008 AAG Annual Meeting in Boston.

The overall number of these sessions seems to be on the increase, a positive trend reflecting the strong demand for geographical insights into public health issues. As I took in the papers, posters, and interactive short papers, most of which were presented by graduate students, two themes emerged that seem deserving of comment.

First, the use of sophisticated free or low-cost spatial analytic software developed by academic researchers has rapidly become the norm. Most prevalent was GeoDa, which offers an array of functions for exploratory spatial data analysis, measurement of autocorrelation, and spatial regression (Anselin et al. 2006). Multiple presenters also made use of SaTScan, for the detection of spatiotemporal clustering (Block 2007), and GWR, for the analysis and visualization of spatial non-stationarity (Fotheringham et al. 2002). Several presenters also displayed their own customized geographic tools in the form of Google Maps and Google Earth "mashups," drawing on vast amounts of freely available data, imagery and functionality (Wood et al. 2007).

This trend is empowering for researchers, but can come at the cost of common-sense understanding of the cultural landscape. When neighborhoods are reduced to contiguity matrices and shaded polygons, and an entire research project can be conducted without ever leaving one's desk, basic insights can be lost. Thus, for example, the toniest suburbs of Chicago and London

get flagged as having the poorest access to health care since they are the farthest removed from large hospitals – something that is true only if access is simplistically defined as travel time by car. Most often the problem is not faulty interpretation, but that useful insights end up lost in the statistical clutter. This is hardly a new criticism, having been levied at traditional GIS and the quantitative revolution before that, but one that remains relevant as quantification continues to become easier, faster, and cheaper.

Second, the United States-focused presentations, regardless of the analytic methods chosen and how adroitly they were employed, tended to highlight similar poor, inner-city, minority neighborhoods. This was true whether the topic was tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, STDs, many cancers, asthma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, lead poisoning, obesity, mental illness, or even urban tree density. The typical conclusion was that more public health resources should be directed into these neighborhoods to enhance education, awareness, screening, and testing for the particular disease or condition in question. It is hard to find too much fault with this conclusion, but it supports a reductionist, ailment-specific approach to health that is often ineffective in practice. When a population is at increased risk for nearly everything, does it really matter which specific public health messages are featured in storefront windows?

Of course, geographers are hardly the only group guilty of this kind of reasoning, as it is how much of the public health and medical infrastructure is organized (Syme 1998). And while broader questions of class, race and ethnicity may be difficult to engage (let alone resolve) in a

short presentation format, I did feel that many presentations would have benefited greatly if the authors had spent some time talking with public health professionals such as nurses, epidemiologists, or social workers to help provide focus and context. Admittedly, this is difficult, and it can be challenging for a student to get the ear of a professional. But surely no more so than working out the nuances of flexibly-shaped space-time scan statistics.

My argument really comes down to this: in medical geography, we need to get outside and look around more often, and we need to spend more time and effort talking to people outside of our normal environments. Useful knowledge cannot be purely the product of statistical model output; it also depends on observation, anecdote, and lived experience. These are classic points, but ones that bear repeating. ■

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Research Scientist

New York State Cancer Registry
fpb01@health.state.ny.us

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The AAG invites brief opinion pieces highlighting the contributions of geographical analysis to the understanding of important public issues and events. Submissions are encouraged from across the full breadth of the discipline. These pieces reflect opinions of contributing AAG members and do not represent an official AAG position on any issue. Op-ed pieces must be consistent with the AAG ethics policy and will be published on a space available basis. Send submissions of no more than 750 words to newsletter@aag.org.

Members Of Note

Helga Leitner, Professor of Geography at the University of Minnesota, has been elected as an Associate Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Humanities and Social Sciences Division), in recognition of her distinguished and continuing achievements in original research on cities, immigration, and spatial thinking. The Austrian Academy of Sciences, founded in 1847, is both a learned society of distinguished scholars and one of the leading research institutions in Austria, devoted to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge for the good of society.

Keith Debbage of UNC-Greensboro and **Martin Doyle** of UNC-Chapel Hill were both named GlaxoSmithKline

Faculty Fellows in Public Policy at the North Carolina Institute for Emerging Issues. At the Institute's recent state Leadership Summit, Debbage led programs and discussions on the future of state transportation infrastructure and Doyle led on the future of water infrastructure. Debbage was also appointed to the UNC Tomorrow Scholar's Council, and Doyle received an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellowship.

Barry Wellar, Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa, was a Panelist for the Canada-U.S. "Roundtable on the Impact of Climate Change on Water and Transportation" held May 14, 2008. Common themes among U.S. and Canadian panel-

ists included both countries being slow to understand how each sector affects the other, particularly in regard to urban sprawl, building transport infrastructure in "harm's way" (flood plains, hurricane paths, snowbelts), and the urgent need for public policies and plans that to better represent the spatial effects of climate change on water supply and demand, on water and wastewater transport systems, and on urban, regional, and rural development activities that have combined water and transport implications. The Roundtable was hosted by water.ca. The results of the discussion are available at: www.water.ca/listenaod.asp?artid=330. ■

Grants and Awards Received

Sarah Bednarz has been awarded a 2008 Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence Award at Texas A&M University. The award carries with it a stipend of \$25,000. Nominations were made by students, faculty members and deans by each of the university's 10 colleges, with final selection carried out by the university's President.

Yongwei Sheng (PI) and **Laurence C. Smith** (Co-PI), both at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), have received a research award from the National Aero-

navics and Space Administration (NASA) Terrestrial Hydrology Program for \$458,599 for a project entitled "Growing or Going? A Pan-Arctic Assessment of Recent Terrestrial Water Storage Change in High-Latitude Lakes and Wetlands" (2007-2010). The project seeks to expand our understanding of lake dynamics and the driving mechanisms in the context of global change at the pan-Arctic scale.

Joe Messina (PI) and colleagues **Ned Walker**, **Nathan Moore**, **Sue Grady**, **Jenny Olson**, and **John Kaneene** from Michigan

State University and **Joseph Maitima** from ILRI in Nairobi, Kenya, have received a National Institutes of Health "Director's Award" under the Roadmap program for \$1,130,809 for the project, "A Dynamic Ecological Simulation Model Of Tsetse Transmitted Trypanosomosis in Kenya" (2007-2011). This project explores the synergistic effects of demographic changes, land use and cover changes, and climate change scenarios to model future risk of African Sleeping Sickness and related tsetse distributions across Kenya. ■

Grants and Competition

National Geographic Society

The National Geographic Society awards grants to geographers for scientific field research and exploration through its Committee for Research and Exploration. All proposed projects must have both a geographical dimension and relevance to

other scientific fields and be of broad scientific interest. Applicants are expected to have advanced degrees (PhD or equivalent) and be associated with an educational organization or institution. While grant amounts vary greatly, most range from U.S. \$15,000 to \$20,000. The Committee also

awards a number of Young Explorers Grants each year, usually in the range of \$2,000 to \$5,000 to individuals between the ages of 18 and 25 with exceptional field projects. Please visit www.nationalgeographic.com/research for more information and to complete an online application. ■

The AAG welcomes the following new members.

- Abbitt, Robbyn; Oxford, Ohio
 Adamski, Michal; North Aurora, Illinois
 Ahmed, Shaimaa; Worcester, Massachusetts
 Ajayi, Damilola Theresa; Lagos, Nigeria
 AlBallaa, Turki; Indiana, Pennsylvania
 Ali, Amr; Charlotte, North Carolina
 Allain, Marco; Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Allin, Melissa; Ontario, Canada
 Alvarez Esparra, Anselmo; Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
 Amey, Michael; Phillipsburg, New Jersey
 Amos, Jeffrey; Stillwater, Oklahoma
 Anderson, Katharine; Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 Anderson, Lindsay; Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 Anderson, Nels; Wild Rose, Wisconsin
 Anderson, William; San Diego, California
 Andrasi, Matthew; Hazleton, Pennsylvania
 Andy, Browning; United States
 Ann, Mayes; Ohio
 Anne, Stillson; Yorkville, Illinois
 Archual, Paul; Cincinnati, Ohio
 Ard, Christopher; Chalmette, Louisiana
 Arredondo, Juan; Oxford, United Kingdom
 Arthur, Kathleen; Shoreline, Washington
 Arthur, Tonya; United States
 Asanin Dean, Jennifer; Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
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 Baez, Carlos; Oxnard, California
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 Balazs, Matthew; Spencer, Ohio
 Baldwin, James; Arlington, Massachusetts
 Balestra, Lindsay; Perkiomenville, Pennsylvania
 Ball, Samantha; Ohio
 Ballatore, Thomas; Moriyama, Japan
 Baltazar, Jorge; Visalia, California
 Bandy, Jessica; Rockville, Maryland
 Barbato, Daniel; Liverpool, New York
 Barea Freytes, Dilmayris; San Juan, Puerto Rico
 Barker, Wade; Wisconsin
 Barrett, Kirk; South Orange, New Jersey
 Beaver, Andrea; Hanover, Pennsylvania
 Bell, Nathan; Deer Park, Texas
 Bellingier, Nathan; Eugene, Oregon
 Beninghof, Brendan; Underhill, Vermont
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 Berg, Justin; Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
 Berlyoung, Joseph; Delaware, Ohio
 Bernsohn, Laura; Amherst, New York
 Berry, Zachary; Biloxi, Mississippi
 Bhaskaran, Sunil; Jersey City, New Jersey
 Bhattacharya, Anuradha; New Delhi, India
 Bialostozky, Evan; New York, New York
 Bienenfeld, Leslie; Atlanta, Georgia
 Birnbaum, Eric; Rancho Santa Fe, California
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 Burk, Anna; Alabama
 Burkham, Jonathan; Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Burnham, Rebecca; Marlborough, Connecticut
 Buswell, Breanna; Tempe, Arizona
 Cai, Yunlong; Beijing, China
 Campiz, Nicholas; Gainesville, Florida
 Capstick, Clayton; Fort Worth, TX
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 Carlsen, Eric; Albuquerque, New Mexico
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AUGUST

1. Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program grants for American scholars. www.fulbright.ca.

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15. Guggenheim Fellowships. www.gf.org.
22. **AAG Enrichment Fund Awards.** www.aag.org/Grantsawards/index.cfm.

OCTOBER

15. **Marble-Boyle Undergraduate Achievement Awards in Geographic Science.** For more information see www.aag.org/Grantsawards/marble_boyle.htm.
15. NSF doctoral dissertation research improvement proposals for geography and regional science. www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13453.
15. National Humanities Center Fellowships 2008-2009. www.nhc.rtp.nc.us.
15. Hiett Prize in the Humanities. www.dallasinstitute.org.
15. McColl Family Fellowship. Contact Mary Lynne Bird at (212) 422-5456, MLBird@amergeog.org, or see AGS website at www.amergeog.org.

NOVEMBER

15. Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program grants for Canadian scholars. www.fulbright.ca.

AAG Grants and Competitions

The AAG offers numerous grants and awards. Visit www.aag.org/grantsawards/index.cfm for a full listing, including detailed descriptions, deadlines, and application procedures.

NSF Grants and Competitions

Detailed information about NSF grants and awards is available at www.nsf.gov.

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- Dennis, Richard. *Cities in Modernity: Representations and Productions of Metropolitan Space, 1840-1930*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008. 436 and 15 pp., \$44.99, ISBN 978-0-521-46841-1.
- Farmer, Jared. *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008. 455 pp., \$29.95, ISBN 978-0-674-02767-1.
- Garcia Martinez, Bernardo. *Las Regiones de Mexico: Breviario Geografico e Historico*. Mexico City: El Colegio de Mexico, 2008. 351 pp., n.p., ISBN 968-12-1322-X.
- Geyer, H.S., ed. *International Handbook of Urban Policy, Volume 1: Contentious Global Issues*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2007. 348 and 14 pp., \$180.00, ISBN 978-1-84720-458-5.
- Gilderbloom, J. *Invisible City: Poverty, Housing and New Urbanism*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2008. 336 pp., \$24.95, ISBN 978-0-292-71710-7.
- Harvey, Francis. *A Primer of GIS: Fundamental Geographic and Cartographic Concepts*. New York: Guilford, 2008. 310 and 10 pp., \$50.00, ISBN 978-1-59385-565-9.
- Healey, Richard G. *The Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Industry, 1860-1902: Economic Cycles, Business Decision-Making, and Regional Dynamics*. Scranton, PA: University of Scranton Press, 2007. 512 and 18 pp., \$60.00, ISBN 1-58966-150-8.
- Hinchliffe, Steve. *Geographies of Nature*. London: Sage Publications, 2007. 212 and xi pp., \$44.95 (ISBN: 9-781412-910491)
- Ioffe, Grigory. *Understanding Belarus and How Western Foreign Policy Misses the Mark*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008. 261 and 24 pp., \$85.00, ISBN 978-0-7425-5558-7.
- Kindon, Sara, Rachel Pain, and Mike Kesby, eds. *Participatory Action Research Approaches and Methods: Connecting People, Participation and Place*. London and New York: Routledge, 2007. 260 and xxvi pp., \$150.00 hardcover (ISBN: 978-0415405508).
- King, L. (ed) *North American Explorations: Ten Memoirs of Geographers from Down Under*. Victoria, BC: Trafford Publishing, 2007. 179 pp., \$21.74, ISBN 142512751-7.
- Knowles, Anne Kelly, ed. *Placing History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS are Changing Historical Scholarship*. Redlands, CA: ESRI, 2008. 314 and xx pp., \$49.95 paper (ISBN: 978-1-58948-013-1).
- Lees, Loretta, Slater, Tom, & Wyly, Elvin. *Gentrification*. London and New York: Routledge, 2008. 310 and 28 pp., n.p., ISBN 978-0-415-95037-4.
- Livingstone, David N. *Adam's Ancestors: Race, Religion, and the Politics of Human Origins*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008. 301 and 10 pp., \$35.00, ISBN 978-0-8018-8813-7.
- Monmonier, Mark. *Coastlines: How Mapmakers Frame the World and Chart Environmental Change*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008. 228 and 13 pp., \$25.00, ISBN 978-0-22653403-9.
- Oakes, Timothy S. & Price, Patricia L., eds. *The Cultural Geography Reader*. London and New York: Routledge, 2008. 482 and 11 pp., n.p., ISBN 978-0-415-41874-4.
- Obermeyer, Nancy J. & Pinto, Jeffrey K. *Managing Geographic Information Systems*. New York: Guilford, 2nd revised ed., 2008. 360 and 8 pp., \$60.00, ISBN 978-1-59385-635-9.
- O'Donovan, Diarmuid. *The State of Health Atlas: Mapping the Challenges and Causes of Disease*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008. 128 pp., \$19.95, ISBN 978-0-520-25411-4.
- Purcell, Mark. *Recapturing Democracy: Neoliberalization and the Struggle for Alternative Urban Futures*. London and New York: Routledge, 2008. 207 and 14 pp., n.p., ISBN 0-415-95435-5.
- Pyne, Stephen J. *Awful Splendour: A Fire History of Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008. 549 and 29 pp., \$34.95, ISBN 978-0-7748-1392-1.
- Samarasinghe, Vidyamali. *Female Sex Trafficking in Asia: The Resilience of Patriarchy in a Changing World*. London & New York: Routledge, 2008. 234 and 18 pp., n.p., ISBN 0-415-29668-4.
- Schwantes, Carlos A. & Ronda, James P. *The West the Railroads Made*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008. 229 and 21 pp., \$39.95, ISBN 978-0-295-98769-9.
- Shin, Michael E. & Agnew, John A. *Berlusconi's Italy: Mapping Contemporary Italian Politics*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008. 169 and 9 pp., \$21.95, ISBN 978-1-59213-717-6.
- Singer Audrey, Hardwick, Susan W. & Brettell, Caroline, eds. *Twenty-First Century Gateways, Immigrant Incorporation in Suburban America*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2008. 331 and 13 pp., \$26.95, ISBN 978-0-8157-7927-8.
- Smith, Michael Peter & Bakker, Matt. *Citizenship Across Borders: The Political Transnationalism of "El Migrante"*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008. 249 and 12 pp., \$19.95, ISBN 978-0-8014-7390-6.
- Thakur, Baleshwar et al., eds. *City, Society, and Planning: Essays in Honor of Professor A.K. Dutt*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Co. in cooperation with the University of Akron and the AAG Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, 3 vols., (2007). *Volume I—City*, 592 and 56 pp., n.p., ISBN 81-8069-459-3; *Volume II—Society*, 574 and 56 pp., n.p., ISBN 81-8069-460-7; *Volume III—Planning*, 506 and 55 pp., n.p., ISBN 81-8069-461-5.
- Wiley, James. *The Banana: Empires, Trade Wars, and Globalization*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2008. 278 and 27 pp., \$45.00, ISBN 978-0-8032-1577-1.
- Williams, Jack F., and Ch'ang-yi David Chang. *Taiwan's Environmental Struggle: Toward a Green Silicon Island*. London and New York: Routledge, 2008. 214 and x pp., \$150.00 hardcover (ISBN: 978-0-415-44723-2).

Jobs in Geography

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA, MOBILE 36688.

The University of South Alabama Earth Sciences Department invites applications for a tenure track **Assistant Professor** position in **Human Geography**. The successful candidate must have a PhD in Geography. While teaching other courses, the candidate is to assume responsibility for Human Geography and World Economic Geography. Preference will be given to candidates who can also teach Research Methods, Urban or Environmental Planning, or Geography of Asia. The candidate will be expected to have an active research program and publications. The preferred starting date is August 15, 2008; if not filled in August, the starting date will be January 1, 2009.

Apply: Send a cover letter of application, curriculum vita, and brief statements of your teaching philosophy and research objectives to Dr. Roy Ryder, Earth Sciences Department, LSCB 136, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688.

Candidates should also arrange to have official transcripts and three original letters of recommendation sent directly to Dr. Ryder. Review of applications will begin on May 1, 2008 and continue until the position is filled.

The University of South Alabama is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Employer.

MAY 08-113

*ARIZONA, PHOENIX 85287-5402

The Central Arizona-Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research (CAP LTER) project at Arizona State University's Global Institute of Sustainability is seeking a **Postdoctoral Research Associate** in Geography, Public Policy, Planning, Urban Studies, Environmental Studies, or related disciplines. An earned PhD within three years or less from the time of appointment is required along

with experience with GIS and spatial analysis and demonstrated research experience in either coupled human-natural systems, human and political ecology, urban growth, urban environmental policies, or land-use policies. Also desired is experience with qualitative and quantitative research methods as well as interdisciplinary research training and a record of research publication. Position begins October 2008 and is for one year with the possibility of renewal for an additional year.

Apply: Send cover letter explaining interest in the position and relevant expertise; *curriculum vitae*; the name, phone number, and e-mail addresses of three references; and publication copies (no more than three) to Marcia Nation, CAP LTER Project Manager, Global Institute of Sustainability, PO

Box 875402, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-5402 marcia.nation@asu.edu. Materials due July 30, 2008. For inquiries, please contact Marcia Nation at 480-965-7951 or by e-mail. Position contingent upon funding. AA/EOE.

JUN 08-148-1

CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA 93117.

Publication opportunity in cultural geography with ABC-CLIO. Known for more than 50 years as a leading publisher of history reference materials, ABC-CLIO's geography division is expanding. We are currently seeking authors to write cultural profiles of the world's nations for our World Geography reference database and for possible inclusion in upcoming print projects. Contributors are paid \$300 per 2,800-word profile, should hold

"Jobs in Geography" lists positions available with US institutions who are Equal Opportunity Employers seeking applications from men and women from all racial, religious, and national origin groups, and occasional positions with foreign institutions.

Rates: Minimum charge of \$150. Listings will be charged at \$1.25 per word. Announcements run for two consecutive issues unless a stated deadline permits only one listing. The charge for running an announcement more than twice is one-third the original charge for each subsequent listing. We will bill institutions listing jobs after their announcements appear in JIG for the first time.

Deadline: JIG announcements must reach the AAG *before the first of the month* to appear in JIG for the following month (eg: 1 January for February issue). Readers will receive their Newsletter copies between the 5th and the 15th of the month. Schedule job closing dates with these delivery dates in mind.

Format: Announcements should be sent as an attachment or in the body of an e-mail to jig@aag.org. The announcements must be saved in Microsoft Word 5.0 or greater, or Corel WordPerfect 6 or greater. No job announcements accepted by phone. Follow format and sequence of current JIG listings. All positions are full-time and permanent unless otherwise indicated. State explicitly if positions are not firm. Employers are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of their listings. JIG will not publish listings that are misleading or inconsistent with Association policy. Employers should notify the Editor to cancel a listing if the position is filled. The Editor reserves the right to edit announcements to conform with established format. All ads must be in English.

Display ads are also available. Ads will be charged according to size: 1/6 page (2 1/4" x 5") \$335; 1/3 page vertical (2 1/4" x 10") \$475; 1/3 page square (4 3/4" x 4 3/4") \$475; 1/2 page horizontal (7" x 5") \$625; 2/3 page vertical (4 3/4" x 10") \$750; Full page (7" x 10") \$900. Display ads run for one month only.

Affirmative Action Notice: The AAG Affirmative Action Committee requires job listers to send to the JIG Editor the name, academic degree, sex, and rank of each person appointed as a result of an announcement in JIG.

Geographer Available. A service for AAG members only. Send personal listings of 50 words or less, following the format of current listings. Listings run for two consecutive issues. Enclose \$25 with listing. A blind listing service is available - the editor will assign a box number and forward inquiries to the member listed.

* Indicates a new listing

a graduate-level degree in geography or a related discipline, and must be willing to write on a range of cultural topics, including ethnicity, language, religion, traditions, and art. In addition to professors of geography and other qualified scholars, students currently working toward a PhD are encouraged to apply.

Apply: interested authors may contact Lynn Jurgensen, Editorial Manager, Geography, at ljurgensen@abc-clio.com.
MAY 08-123

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON DC 20009-3198.

The Association of American Geographers seeks candidates for the position of **Administrative Specialist**. The Administrative Specialist is responsible for responding to incoming queries via phone and e-mail; providing administrative support to AAG Project Managers and other staff as needed; assisting the AAG with research, correspondence, and special projects; fulfilling publication orders; processing meeting registrations; and updating database content. The ideal candidate will be highly organized, conscientious, and productive, with a strong customer-service ethic. Must also be able to communicate effectively with academic, government, and private sector professionals. Microsoft Office skills required; iMIS or QuickBooks experience desired. Spanish language proficiency and/or a degree in or familiarity with geography a plus. We desire applicants interested in long-term, stable employment with the AAG, which offers an excellent working environment and benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. The AAG is an equal opportunity employer.

Apply: submit application letter, resume, and writing samples to Rachel Franklin, AAG, 1710 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20009, or by email to: rfranklin@aag.org.

*ILLINOIS, MACOMB 61455-1390.

Western Illinois University. The Department of Geography invites applications for a one-year Visiting Assistant Profes-

or position beginning August 2008. PhD required by August 2008 for the position. Screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts (unofficial copies will be acceptable at the application stage), recent teaching evaluations, e-mail address and contact information for three current references as well as your current email address for correspondence. In your letter, please list your areas of interest for teaching and research. Additional information about the department is available at www.wiu.edu/geography.

The successful applicant will demonstrate strong teaching and scholarly competence in geotechnique courses including advanced vector and raster GIS applications, and physical geography including Introduction to Landforms. Additionally, the individual will teach courses in her/his specialty. The normal teaching load is three courses per semester.

Apply to: Dr. Samuel Thompson, Chair of Geography Department, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and has a strong institutional commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

MAY 08-142

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE 21216.

Historical Geographer: The Department of History, Geography and Global Studies at Coppin State

University invites applications for a full-time, tenure track position as **Chairperson at the rank of Associate Professor or Full Professor**. Serves as administrator of the department with 7 full-time

faculty and 12 adjunct faculty members. Manages programs of study in Global Studies and in History with concentrations in African American, African, and United States History, and a developing program in Geography. Teach three courses per semester.

Qualifications: PhD degree in Geography preferred with experience teaching Historical Geography and familiarity with GIS. Experience as a Department Chair at a four-year liberal arts institution preferred. Proven excellence in teaching and strong scholarship.

Apply: Applicants must submit a curriculum vitae and a list of three (3) professional references that include addresses, e-mail, and telephone numbers. Unofficial transcripts from all institutions from which the candidate received a degree will be accepted at time of application. If an official offer of employment is rendered, official transcripts must be submitted. The application package must be sent to Dr. Sadie R. Gregory, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Coppin State University, 2500 West North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21216-3698.

MAY 08-122

MASSACHUSETTS, WORCESTER 01610.

Clark University seeks to fill a full-time one-year teaching position at the **Assistant Professor** level in **Geographic Information Sciences** to begin September 2008.

The professor will be responsible for five GIS courses during the 2008-2009 academic year. One course will be an introductory Vector GIS course using ESRI software. Other courses will be based on the professor's areas of expertise. Knowledge of Raster GIS using the Idrisi software is a plus. Clark is especially interested in GIS professionals who can teach technical courses in: Advanced Vector Analysis, Spatial Database Development, Computer Programming for GIS, and Web-based GIS. Desirable areas of application include: Environmental Science, Community

Development, International Development, Public Health, Public Participation, Humanitarian Assistance, and Business Management. This position is based in the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment (IDCE) and will serve the needs of both IDCE (www.clarku.edu/departments/idce) and Clark's School of Geography (www.clarku.edu/departments/geography).

A PhD or equivalent experience is expected. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive and the search will continue until a suitable candidate is found.

Apply: Send C.V., evidence of teaching excellence, names of three references, and statement of interest via email to: Ms. C. Irene Stefanakos (CStefanakos@clarku.edu), Clark University, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

AA/EOE Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

MAY 08-119

MISSOURI, SPRINGFIELD 65897.

Missouri State University. The Department of Geography, Geology and Planning anticipates an opening for a 9-month, non-tenure-track **Visiting Assistant Professor of Geography** to begin in August 2008. M.S. in Geography or closely related field required at time of appointment; PhD (or ABD) preferred. Expertise and evidence of teaching effectiveness in the area of **Travel Geography and Tourism** required; commitment to and ongoing involvement in geographic research preferred. Teaching responsibilities will include upper-division undergraduate courses in travel geography and tourism plus selected sections of General Education course in World Regional Geography.

Apply: Applicants should submit a letter of application and current CV and arrange for three reference letters and copies of all academic transcripts to be submitted to: Chair, Geography Search Committee, Department of Geography, Geology and Planning, Missouri State University, 901 South National, Springfield, MO 65897.

The evaluation of applications will begin May 9 and will continue until a successful candidate is found. Further information about our department and programs can be obtained from our web site at geosciences.missouristate.edu, or call (417) 836-5800.

Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Employment will require a criminal background check at University expense. Email: Geography@missouristate.edu. EO/AA employer.

MAY 08-128

OHIO, AKRON 44325-5005.

The University of Akron. The Department of Geography and Planning invites applications for a full-time tenure-track **Assistant Professor** to begin in August 2008.

The ideal candidate will be a **Planner/Geographer** with the ability to teach key program courses in community development, facilities/infrastructure planning, urban geography, and economic geography. Areas of secondary interest include international comparative and/or development planning as part of the university's new Global Studies Initiative. Interest in community outreach and internships would be a plus. We seek a planner with a strong orientation toward applied research. The successful candidate is expected to pursue an active program of scholarly research, publication, and external grant funding. Candidates with prior university-level teaching, professional planning experience and scholarly publications are especially encouraged to apply. A PhD in planning or closely allied discipline is preferred; an ABD nearing completion may be considered.

The department is a combined department of geography and planning with strengths in geographic and planning methods; cartography, GIS, and remote sensing; urban/regional planning; and human and regional geography. We offer master's and bachelor's degrees in planning, geography, and geographic information sciences.

Apply: Please send a letter of application and curriculum vitae and arrange for

three reference letters to be sent directly to: Dr. Loren Siebert, Chair, Faculty Search 3895, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Akron, Akron OH 44325-5005. Electronic submissions in PDF format to siebert@uakron.edu will be accepted.

Review of applications will begin on April 18, 2008, and continue until the position is filled.

The University of Akron is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity and to the principles of affirmative action in accordance with state and federal laws.

MAY 08-120

TEXAS, CANYON 79016

The Department of History and Geography at West Texas A&M University invites applications for a tenure-track position as **Assistant Professor** of geography beginning August 2008. PhD required by September 1, 2008. The successful applicant must be broadly trained and able to teach a variety of courses including **United States Geography** and **Cultural Geography**. Research interest in the American West or Southwest is preferred. Applicants should have the ability to use and integrate GIS and other technologies in the classroom. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt.

Apply: Send letter of application, current curriculum vitae, copies of official graduate transcripts, and three recent letters of reference to: Dr. Wade Shaffer, Chair, Geography Search, Department of History and Geography, WTAMU Box 60742, Canyon, TX 79016.

Candidates are invited to visit our web site at <http://www.wtamu.edu/>. WTAMU, a Member of the Texas A&M University System, is an AA/EOE. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Texas law requires that males, age 18-25, be registered with Selective Service.

MAY 08-126

*UTAH, SALT LAKE CITY 84112-9155.

University of Utah. The Department of Geography invites applications for a

tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level starting July 2009. We seek a geographer with a research emphasis that complements department strengths in one (or more) of the following areas: i) medical geography; ii) transportation; iii) human-environment interactions, including human dimensions of climate change; or, iv) hazards. Also desirable are technical strengths in GIS, cartography and/or spatial analysis.

The Department of Geography emphasizes scientific geography within the focus areas of urban/economic systems, Earth system science and geographic information science. The department offers Bachelors', Masters' and PhD degrees in geography. The department is home to the Digitally Integrated Geographic Information Technologies (DIGIT) Laboratory, a state-of-the-art GIS/remote sensing facility, the Center for Natural and Technological Hazards (CNTH), the Records of Environment and Disturbance (RED) Laboratory and the Snow Optics Laboratory (SOL). The department also administers a unique interdisciplinary Certificate Program in Geographic Information Science with the School of Computing. There are also opportunities for multidisciplinary research through the university's Institute of Public and International Affairs.

The University of Utah is a comprehensive and diverse public institution located on the Wasatch Front urban corridor with easy access to research and recreational opportunities in the Rocky Mountains, Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau. Salt Lake City, home of the 2002 Winter Olympics, is a dynamic and high-tech metropolitan area with outstanding cultural and entertainment amenities, modest cost of living, and a sunny, dry four-season climate. For more information on the Department of Geography, see <http://www.geog.utah.edu>.

Submit a letter of application including research and teaching interests, vitae, teaching evaluations (if available) and the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of three referees by September 29, 2008. Applications received

after the deadline may be considered until the position is filled.

Apply: Harvey J. Miller, Chair, University of Utah / Department of Geography / 260 S Central Campus Drive, Room 270 / Salt Lake City UT 84112-9155.

The University of Utah is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, encourages applications from women and minorities, and provides reasonable accommodations for the known disabilities of applicants and employees. The University of Utah values candidates who have experience working in settings with students from diverse backgrounds, and possess a strong commitment to improving access to higher education for historically underrepresented students.

JUN 08-143-3

WISCONSIN, RIVER FALLS 54022-5001.

The Department of Geography and Mapping Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls invites applications for a full-time **GIS Lab Manager** beginning August 2008. M.A. required at time of appointment.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab Manager. Principal responsibilities will include the management and maintenance of the department's GIS laboratory as well as instruction of two **Human Geography** courses per semester. The position is a full-time, one year appointment with the potential for renewal on a yearly basis. The successful candidate will play a key role in the development and dissemination of GIS project data at all levels of the University. The ability to work with campus Information Technology Services (ITS) staff to setup and maintain the lab's hardware, network resources, and software is essential. In addition, the individual will work directly with students as an advisor on GIS projects and internships.

The successful candidate will have a M.A. or M.S. in Geography or related field with demonstrated ability and training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Ability to support computer networks and software for GIS is essential. The

successful candidate will have demonstrated awareness of, and sensitivity to, diverse student populations and ability to contribute to the University's commitment to enhancing student awareness and appreciation of diverse ethnic and cultural heritages.

The department offers majors and minors in Geography and a minor in GIS and Cartography. The GIS and Cartography minor is a well-established and innovative program that draws students from disciplines across campus. A member of the University of Wisconsin system, UW-River Falls, with 6,400 students, is located in the scenic St. Croix valley 30 miles east of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Please submit a resume (or curriculum vitae) and letter of interest specifying: 1) qualifications, and 2) statement of experience, including ability to contribute to the enhancement of student awareness and appreciation of diverse cultures. Include an unofficial transcript (official copies will be required if hired) and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three references who can specifically comment upon your ability to manage a GIS lab and teaching abilities.

Apply: Mathew Dooley, Search and Screen Committee Chair, Department of Geography and Mapping Sciences, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, 410 S. Third St., River Falls, WI 54022-5001. Phone 715-425-3264; Fax 715-425-0643; E-mail: geography@uwrf.edu.

Electronic applications are encouraged. PDF and DOC file format attachments only. Inquiries and electronic applications must include "GIS Lab Manager" in the subject line. Review of applications will begin on April 21, 2008 and continues until the position is filled.

UW-River Falls is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. All persons, especially women, persons of color, and people with disabilities, are encouraged to apply. The names of all nominees and applicants who have not requested confidentiality in writing, and identities of all finalists must be released upon request.

MAY 08-131

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA, ONTARIO.

University of Western Ontario. Director of the Center for Environment and Sustainability.

Environment and sustainability constitute an interdisciplinary area at The University of Western Ontario, with participation from the Faculties of Science, Engineering, and Social Science. An ongoing major initiative includes the creation of a new centre for research and teaching in environment and sustainability. The University of Western Ontario now invites applications or nominations for a **senior-level faculty appointment as Director** of this new center. The selected candidate will be appointed either as Professor (with tenure) or Associate Professor (with tenure or tenure-track (probationary), as appropriate). The initial term of the Directorship will be for a period of 5 years. The starting date will be July 1, 2009 or thereafter.

The Faculty of Science (home page <http://www.uwo.ca/sci/>) is host Faculty for the new Centre, and the Faculty of Engineering (<http://www.eng.uwo.ca/>) and the Faculty of Social Science (<http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/>) are participating Faculties. It is anticipated that the appointment will be made in one of the departments in the Faculties of Science, Engineering, or Social Science. Assigned duties will include the role of Director of the new Centre for Environment and Sustainability.

Applications are invited from all interested and qualified individuals. The successful candidate must have an excellent research record in a relevant area and demonstrate the high level of vision, leadership and resourcefulness appropriate to the position of Director. She or he will be expected to lead a vigorous and internationally competitive research program, to supervise graduate and undergraduate student research, and to participate in teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Apply: Candidates should submit a curriculum vitae, a research plan, and a

teaching dossier and must arrange for at least three letters of reference to be sent to: Professor David M. Wardlaw, Dean

Faculty of Science, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A 5B7, Canada. Consideration of applications will begin September 2, 2008.

This position is subject to budgetary approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Western Ontario is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.

MAY 08-141-3

CANADA, WATERLOO.

Lectureship in Geomatics. The University of Waterloo invites applications for a **three-year term appointment**, with the possibility of renewal, as a lecturer in Geomatics. Applicants must demonstrate excellence, or the clear promise of excellence, in teaching introductory undergraduate courses in geographic information systems (GIS) and a course in photogrammetry. This is a teaching (non-research) position with a start date of July 1, 2008 or soon thereafter.

The position is in the Department of Geography, Faculty of Environmental Studies. For additional information see: <http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/>. The Department recently launched a specialized undergraduate program in Geomatics to complement its research strengths in the field.

Applications must include a statement of the applicant's approach to teaching and learning, a curriculum vitae, and the names (with contact information) of three referees. The first stage in the review of applicants will be based on the letter of application and the C.V. Referees will be contacted for those being considered in the second stage of the review. The review of applications will commence

on May 2, 2008 and continue until the position is filled.

Apply: Applications should be sent to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Geography, Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, CANADA.

The University of Waterloo encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including women, members of visible minorities, native persons, and individuals with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. This appointment is subject to the availability of funds.

MAY 08-115

*KOREA, SEOUL.

Tenure-track Professor at the Department of Geography, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea. The Department of Geography, Seoul National University, Seoul Korea, invites applications for a full-time tenure-track position beginning at the end of 2008. We seek a person with research and teaching interests in all aspects of geography and related disciplines, but the successful candidate is expected to play a key role in our 'globalization and regional studies' program.

As Korea's leading research university, Seoul National University ranks 51st according to the World University Rankings 2007 by the Times Higher Education Supplement. The successful candidate will join the department that offers degrees at the bachelor's, master's and PhD levels. The University and the department are especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and globalization of the academic community of the University.

Applicants should be Non-Korean Nationals. Excellent competence in oral and written English is essential for this position, and native-level competence will be regarded as highly desirable in assessing applications. A PhD in Geography or a closely related discipline is required at the time of appointment. The availability of the position will be deter-

mined by the University, based on the academic qualifications and experience of the applicants. Starting salary would be approximately U.S. \$65,000 at the assistant professor level, and may increase depending on the qualifications and experience. Other benefits include the following: a rewarding and stable career structure for productive faculty members; a twelve-month based salary; a comprehensive medical insurance program; on

campus housing at substantially below market cost; one semester paid research leave out of every seven semesters; intra-university research grants; reimbursement of relocation expenses; the opportunity to work with dedicated student assistants of extremely high ability.

Apply: Qualified applicants should send their complete curriculum vitae, statement of research and teaching interests, and names of three referees with

addresses preferably by email to: Dr. SooJin Park (catena@snu.ac.kr). Alternatively, applicants can also mail the documents to Department Chair, Department of Geography, College of Social Sciences, Seoul National University, 599 Gwanangno, Gwanak-gu, Seoul, Korea 151-746. Review of applications will begin on June 10, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled.

JUN 08-144-1

Call for Papers

National Council on Public History

The theme of the 2009 Annual Meeting of the National Council on Public History is "Toward Broader Horizons." The meeting will be held April 2-5, 2009, in Providence, Rhode Island. The program committee is currently seeking proposals that connect

local stories to international issues, capture the role of activism in public history and related disciplines (i.e. public anthropology, folklore, art, economics, and sociology), speak to social justice and environmental politics, commemorate individuals who have brought about change, and, more generally,

innovative ideas in the content and practice of museums, historic sites, archives, and other public venues. **Deadline: September 3, 2008.** For more information, including submission guidelines, visit <http://ncph.org/Conferences/2009/tabid/304/Default.aspx>. ■

New Appointments

Central Washington University, Assistant Professor, John T. Bowen. PhD 1993, University of Kentucky.

Central Washington University, Associate Professor, Gregory G. Brown. PhD 1992, University of Idaho.

Central Washington University, Assistant Professor, Jennifer K. Lipton. PhD 2008, University of Texas.

Central Washington University, Assistant Professor, Craig S. Revels. PhD 2002, Louisiana State University.

New Mexico State University, Assistant Professor, Michael Buenemann. PhD 2007, University of Oklahoma.

Ohio University, Assistant Professor, Gaurau Sinha. PhD 2007, State University of New York at Buffalo.

Old Dominion University, Associate Professor, Jonathan I. Leib. PhD 1992, Syracuse University.

Old Dominion University, Assistant Professor, Hua Liu. PhD 2007, Indiana State University.

Temple University, Assistant Professor, Jurgen Essletzbichler. PhD 1999, University of California, Los Angeles.

University of California, Berkeley, Assistant Professor, Jake Kosek. PhD 2002, University of California, Berkeley.

University of Texas at Austin, Assistant Professor, Rebecca Torres. PhD 2000, University of California, Davis.

University of Texas at Austin, Assistant Professor, Adina Batnitzky. PhD 2005, Brown University.

York College of Pennsylvania, Assistant Professor, David Fyfe. PhD 2008, Pennsylvania State University.

Key: *New institution, position, name. Degree, year degree granted, granting institution.*

AAG Enhancing Diversity Award

Nominations for the AAG Enhancing Diversity Award are due by September 15, 2008. See www.aag.org/Grantsawards/enhancing_diversity.cfm for information.

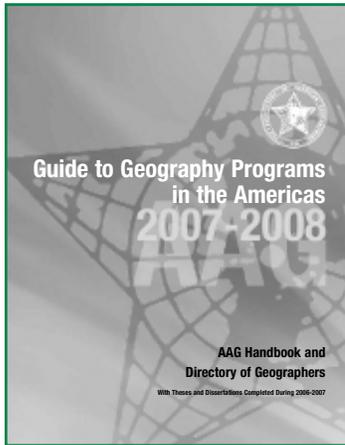
Of Note

The National Research Council Committee on Challenges and Opportunities in Earth Surface Processes is seeking your input. The National Science Foundation has requested that the committee assess (1) the state-of-the-art of the multi-disciplinary field of earth surface processes, (2) the challenges and opportunities for making advances in the field, and (3) the technical and intellectual

needs to meet those challenges and opportunities. The study committee is addressing the task by considering research on the dynamic biological, chemical, physical, and human processes, interactions, and feedback mechanisms that affect the shape of Earth's surface across a range of spatial and temporal scales. During its few scheduled study meetings, the committee cannot hear from all of the many

interested individuals who have important input to this topic, so the committee seeks your help in the form of written contributions on a set of questions, available at http://dels.nas.edu/besr/ESP_questionnaire.cgi. Comments received by June 15, 2008, will be considered at the committee's next meeting (June 24-26, 2008). However, the committee welcomes input until August 2008. ■

Now Accepting Orders for the New AAG Guide to Geography Programs



The 2007-2008 AAG *Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas* is a complete and invaluable reference for faculty, prospective geography students, government agencies, and private firms in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world. It includes detailed information on undergraduate and graduate geography programs in the United States, Canada, and Latin America, including degree requirements, curricula, faculty qualifications, program specialties, and information on financial assistance and degrees completed. The *Guide* includes information about government agencies, private firms, and research institutions that employ geographers. The book also contains a handbook with facts about the AAG, lists of award-winning geographers, and a complete AAG member directory.

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**2008
JUNE**

15-21. GFDA-AAG Workshop for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty. Geography Faculty Development Alliance, Boulder, Colorado. www.colorado.edu/geography/gfda/gfda.html.

21-22. AAG Department Leadership Workshop. Los Angeles, UCLA. www.aag.org.

22-25. International Conference on Cultural Geography "Processes of Heritage Making in Geographical Space." Santiago de Compostela, Spain. cultural.approach@uni-jena.de.

28-29. 16th International Conference on Geoinformatics & Joint Conference on GIS and Built Environment. Guangzhou, P. R. China. <http://gp.sysu.edu.cn/geoinformatics2008>.

29 - July 3. Ninth International Conference on Permafrost. Fairbanks, Alaska. www.nicop.org.

JULY

1-4. GI Forum 2008. Salzburg, Austria. www.gi-forum.org.

21-23. Conference on Engineering Earth: The Impacts of Megaengineering Projects. University of Kentucky. Contact: Stanley D. Brunn (brunn@uky.edu) or Andrew Wood (Andrew.Wood@uky.edu).

AUGUST

4-8. ESRI Conference. San Diego, California. www.esri.com.

12-15. AAG-MyCOE Teacher Workshop. Tunis, Tunisia. For information contact Patricia Solís at psolis@aag.org.

12-15. IGU International Geographical Conference. Tunis, Tunisia. www.igu-net.org/.

27-29. RGS/IBS Annual Conference. London. www.rgs.org/HomePage.htm.

SEPTEMBER

12-13. Great Plains/Rocky Mountain AAG Regional Meeting. Grand Forks, North Dakota. www.und.nodak.edu/org/gprm/.

17-20. Tenth Crime Mapping Research Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps/.

23-24. Critical Geopolitics 2008. Colingwood College, Durham University, Durham, UK. www.geography.dur.ac.uk/conf/criticalgeopolitics2008/.

23-26. GIScience 2008. Park City, Utah. www.giscience.org.

OCTOBER

8-11. Pacific Coast AAG Regional Meeting. Fairbanks, Alaska. www.aag.org/Regions/Pacific.cfm.

8-11. North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) Annual Meeting. Missoula, Montana. www.nacis.org.

9-12. National Council for Geographic Education National Conference. Dearborn, Michigan. www.ncge.org.

15-18. Applied Geography Conference. Wilmington, Delaware. <http://appliedgeog.binghamton.edu>.

16-18. Pioneer American Society/Eastern Historical Geography Association joint conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Contact Craig Colten at ccolten@lsu.edu; www.ga.lsu.edu.

17-19. East Lakes AAG Regional Meeting. St. Catherines, Ontario. Contact Ronald Shaklee: rshaklee@ysu.edu.

23-25. Southwest AAG Regional Meeting. Texas State University-San Marcos, San Marcos, Texas. www.aag.org/Regions/Southwest.cfm.

24-25. Middle Atlantic AAG Regional Meeting. Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland. Contact Mike Scott: msscott@salisbury.edu. www.gwu.edu/~madaag.

31-Nov. 1. Nestval AAG Regional Meeting. Plymouth State University. Plymouth, New Hampshire. Contact: Bryon Middlekauff (bryonm@plymouth.edu).

NOVEMBER

2-8. DISCCRS IV Symposium. Saguaro Lake Ranch, AZ. www.discrs.org/register.html.

6-8. Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference 2008. Coral Gables, Florida. University of Miami. <http://rep-conference.binghamton.edu/html/highlights.htm>.

7-8. Middle States AAG Regional Meeting. Lancaster, PA. Contact Kathy Schreiber: kathleen.schreiber@millersville.edu.

13-15. West Lakes AAG Regional Meeting. Indiana University, Bloomington Campus. www.aag.org/Regions/west_lakes.cfm.

22-25. Southeast AAG Regional Meeting. Greensboro, North Carolina. Contact: Jeff Patton at jcpatton@uncg.edu. University of North Carolina at Greensboro. www.sedaag.org.

2009**MARCH**

22-27. AAG Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, Nevada. www.aag.org.

2010**APRIL**

13-18. AAG Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. www.aag.org.

AAG Offers Two New Books

The AAG is now offering two new books produced through the AAG's Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education (EDGE) Project. Whether you are a graduate teaching assistant or the full instructor of a course, *Teaching College Geography* provides a starting point for becoming an effective geography teacher from the very first day of class. *Aspiring Academics* is a set of essays designed to help graduate students and early career faculty get started in their careers, and also features a companion website offering dozens of activities that can be used in workshops, seminars, and informal gatherings of graduate students and faculty. For details and to order: www.aag.org/edge/edge_materials.cfm.

Call for Nominations: Vice President and National Councillor

The AAG Nominating Committee for the 2009 Election is seeking nominations for AAG Vice President (one to be elected) and for National Councillor (two vacancies). Those elected will take office on July 1, 2009.

Members should submit the names and addresses of each nominee and their reasons for supporting nomination to any member of the committee no later than Monday, September 1, 2008. As part

of your nomination statement, please confirm that your nominee is willing to be considered for the position.

Nominating Committee members are: Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, Department of Geography & GeoInformation Science, 362A Research Building I Mail Stop 6A2, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444, slbeach@gmu.edu; James Shortridge, Department of Geography, 209 Lindley Hall, University of Kansas,

Lawrence, KS 66045, shortrid@ku.edu; Elizabeth Wentz, School of Geographical Sciences, SCOB 142, Arizona State University, P.O. Box 870104, Tempe, Arizona 85287-0104, wentz@asu.edu.

Lists of past and current AAG officers may be found in the Handbook section of the current issue of the *AAG Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas*. ■

Nominations for Garrison Award due by September 2, 2008.

The biannual William L. Garrison Award for Best Dissertation in Computational Geography supports innovative research into the computational aspects of geographic science. The award is intended to arouse a more general and deeper understanding of the important role that advanced computation can play in resolving complex problems of space-time analysis and consists of a cash prize in the amount of \$3,500 and a formal certificate of merit.

For details see www.aag.org/Grantsawards/marble_garrison.htm.

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