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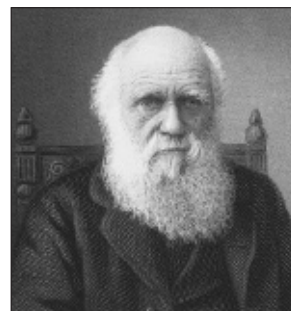


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Darwin and Geography, Then and Now

By Jared Diamond

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his book *On the Origin of Species*, which established biological evolution as a fact. In this anniversary year, we should also remember Darwin's contemporary Alfred Russel Wallace, because 2008 marked the 150th anniversary of the simultaneous publication of Darwin's and Wallace's short preliminary accounts of evolution. The recognition of the fact of biological evolution is widely considered the most important advance in the history of biology, and evolution is considered the unifying principle of biology. Evolutionary thinking has also affected anthropology, sociology, and political science. Hence these anniversaries offer us a suitable occasion to reflect on the importance of geography for Darwin's and Wallace's ideas, and (vice versa) on the continuing importance of their ideas for geography today.



Darwin

CREDIT: LIFE PHOTO ARCHIVE

Biogeography provided Darwin with two of his main types of evidence for evolution. He was struck by the affinity between the plants and animals of the Galapagos Islands and the South American mainland, and more generally

by the affinity between the faunas of other islands and their mainlands. Darwin recognized that this pattern found a ready explanation in evolution, but that it made no sense if God had created species: why should God have chosen to make island species

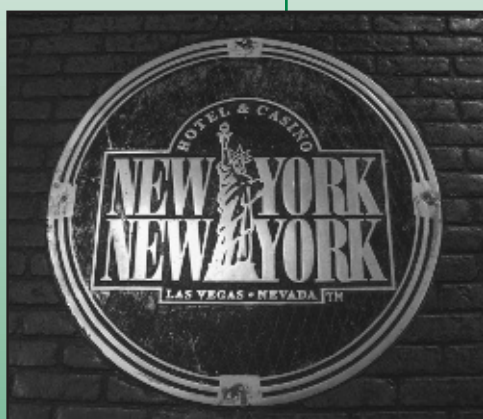
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Redeveloping Downtown Las Vegas

Most visitors to Las Vegas find themselves inhabiting the simulacrum of another city: perhaps Paris, New York, Venice, or Monte Carlo. Side trips to the Hoover Dam or Red Rock Canyon might be in order, but very few venture off the Strip to the dynamic neighborhoods that comprise the "real" Las Vegas, like Downtown. According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, only 40% of the record 39.2 million visitors in 2007 visited

Downtown – a precipitous drop from previous surveys. Admittedly, many Downtown neighborhoods bear the scars from years of neglect, segregation, disinvestment, and planning follies. But a decade of intense redevelopment efforts from the City and citizens has Downtown thriving. While early efforts focused on revitalizing the gaming district, the final outcome appears to be neighborhoods more

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CREDIT: PAULINA RAENTO

It often seems as if everywhere in Las Vegas refers to someplace else. For more on Las Vegas' peculiar sense of place, see the article on page 15.

Visit the Jobs in Geography (JIG) Center in Las Vegas

www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009

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Stimulating Geography

Most of the readers of this *Newsletter* know already how stimulating the study of geography can be. Congress now apparently agrees with us, for the \$787 billion economic stimulus legislation recently signed into law by President Barack Obama offers many new funding opportunities for geography and geographers.

While many of the details regarding the implementation of the bill still remain ambiguous, time is of the essence for geographers wishing to participate in the research, education, and applications programs funded by this extraordinary legislation. As the bill's stated purpose is to "stimulate" the economy, the government's goal is to try to spend all of this money as quickly as possible. Here is where we geographers can help.

Because geography addresses so many of the pressing issues of today's world – many of which are also addressed by the stimulus package – geographers are well positioned to engage these expanded programs which range from research on climate change to educating the next generation and from alternative energy strategies and GIS for managing new infrastructure investments to cutting-edge National Science Foundation research priorities.

However, as I indicated above, we must move quickly. Section 1602 of the Act, for example, places great emphasis on funding early start up activities. For infrastructure investment funds, recipients (government agencies) of funds provided in this Act should give preference to activities that can be started and completed expeditiously, with a goal of using at least 50 percent of these billions for activities that can be initiated within 120 days of enactment. Section 1603 of the bill provides that funds appropriated in this Act shall be available only until September 30, 2010, unless expressly provided otherwise in the Act.



Richardson

At a recent meeting of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), of which the AAG is a member, Congressional staff said that they expected NSF will use its regular grant making procedures for most of the research funds.

"They need to get the funds obligated this year, and try to spend most of it by FY 2010 [September 30, 2010], though they may still be able to make some three-to-five year grants," we were told. While it is possible that these early timelines may be moderated somewhat later, clearly the emphasis is on committing the bulk of these funds within a stunningly

short window of time, and spending most of them within less than two years.

Formally known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the stimulus bill was described as "the first dramatic new investment in the future since the creation of the interstate highway system a half century ago" by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She described the stimulus bill's goals as:

- *Restore science and innovation* as the keys to new American-made technology, preventing and treating disease, and tackling urgent national challenges like climate change and dependence on foreign oil.
- *Invest in roads, bridges, mass transit, energy efficient buildings, flood control, clean water projects, and other infrastructure projects.*
- *Create and save 3.5 million jobs*, rebuilding America, making us more globally competitive and energy independent, and transforming our economy.
- *Give 95 percent of American workers an immediate tax cut.*
- *Invest quickly into the economy.*

While remarkable in so many respects, at 1,073 pages the final ARRA bill enacted into law on February 17, 2009, makes for less than stimulating late night reading.

Continued on page 4

Teaching and Technology

It is a basic fact that you cannot look up on Google something that you do not know exists. The *Zeitgeist*, however, gives technology a sort of supernatural power. In some accounts traditional teaching, chalk and talk in particular, is increasingly outdated, as students arrive in classrooms from informal learning environments of television, video games, and the Internet in which the older cognitive skills that conventional teaching utilizes have been largely replaced with new talents such as iconic representation and spatial visualization. Now, to geographers this trend is not necessarily such a bad thing. As formal education adapts to the new cognitive skills, much of what geographers teach is already appropriate to widespread use of the new technologies. The longstanding reliance on maps, pictorial images, and spatial framing has been matched to a profoundly relevant modus operandi. Yet, a real danger, even for geography, is that in adapting wholeheartedly to new media and computer technologies, we will retard development of the higher-order cognitive skills that may still be best delivered by traditional means – the lecture, the reading list, the essay exam, and the discussion group. I have in mind such thinking processes as abstract vocabulary, reflection, inductive problem solving, and critical analysis.

Certainly the charismatic teacher is probably overemphasized as a singular source of learning. Organizations such as the Teaching Company glorify "master teachers." We are all familiar with the powerful but unsatisfying Prussian/German model of the brilliant authoritarian lecturer as the centerpiece upon which university education rests. In counterpoint, the English-style tutorial works best when students can absorb material quickly and are verbally dexterous. The new technologies are potential equalizers for those students who have acquired the visual-spatial skills that have previously tended to receive less appreciation than the textual and verbal ones. Recent systematic research, however, suggests that one can suffer from too much of one thing.

In this context, then, reorienting teaching totally towards the new technologies would

present two major problems. The first is a reinforcement of a message about learning as involving form rather than content. Most of the media in question have been developed to entertain rather than to educate. Thus, the expectation is that learning is always "fun" and does not require memorization or other habits of mental discipline, although the ability to "know" things or hold facts in your head is a requirement for many jobs. Consequently, the new technologies may lend themselves to a fact-free conception of learning. But literacy and numeracy are often best developed with substantive material rather than as subsidiary aspects of computer or watching skills. Reading books, for example, is still the best way to build a vocabulary. The decline of recreational reading over the past half century in the U.S., although apparently things have started to look up more recently, correlates strongly with declines in verbal SATs and other higher order measures of literacy. Time spent with new media, therefore, seems to have major costs as well as benefits. Using them exclusively in the classroom would seem likely to strengthen this negative trend.

The second problem is the mismatch between the cognitive socialization of the students and the mix of skills that an adequate education still requires. Visual literacy such as that developed by video games is undoubtedly a useful skill. Even when most games have violent content, and seem to stimulate aggression, there is still a pay off in terms of capacity for multitasking, although performance of all of the tasks would have been better if each had been the singular focus (P. M. Greenfield, "Technology and informal education: what is taught, what is learned," *Science*, 323, 2, January 2009, 69-71). Educational psychology research suggests, however, that most

other skills are either not developed or are actually retarded by the new media technologies. For example, critical thinking and reflection correlate highly with amount of out-of-class reading rather than with time viewing television; visual technology seems to actively inhibit imaginative response. The beef is that the new technologies are lacking when it comes to a range of skills. This is not

to denigrate the new technologies so much as to say that no particular method of learning can do everything. If we abandon requiring reading, for example, then we probably can't expect much new thinking that will challenge existing commonplaces.

Compared to the new technologies, traditional classroom teaching can be dull and boring. The difficulty

is to steer rhetorically between the fact-grubbing of a Mr. Gradgrind (in Charles Dickens's *Hard Times*) who had as his gospel "Now, what I want is, Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life," and surrender to the siren song of the new media. What is needed is an imaginative incorporation of the new technologies into conventional classrooms without succumbing to their seductive power to overwhelm the other goals of education. As Patricia Greenfield puts it in her important meta-analysis of current knowledge about new technologies and learning:

"Society needs reflection, analysis, critical thinking, mindfulness, and imagination more than ever. The developing human mind still needs a balanced media diet, one that is not only virtual, but also allows ample time for the reading and auditory media experiences that lead to these important qualities of mind."

John Agnew
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Agnew

For those of you who would like to read the entire bill, it is available at www.aag.org/ARRA. For everyone else, I have abstracted below some of this bill's key provisions of potential significance for geography and geographers.

Science and Research

Geographers will benefit either directly or indirectly from approximately \$21.5 billion for research grants and research facilities, most of which will eventually flow to academic institutions. That includes \$3 billion for the National Science Foundation, \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health (\$8.5 billion for research grants and \$1.5 billion to renovate university facilities), and \$2 billion for science and research programs at the Energy Department. Highlights include:

- \$3 billion for the *National Science Foundation* for basic research in fundamental science and for research facilities, including \$2.5 billion for research, \$400 million for science infrastructure, \$100 million for education.
- \$1 billion for NASA, including \$400 million for climate change research.
- \$1.6 billion for the *Department of Energy's* Office of Science, which funds research in such areas as climate science, cleaner energy, and biofuels, and \$400 million for the Advanced Research Project Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) to support high-risk, high-payoff research into energy sources and energy efficiency.
- \$1 billion for NOAA, including \$400 million for research, operations, and habitat restoration.
- \$580 million for the *National Institute of Standards and Technology* (NIST), for scientific standards research and the Technology Innovation Program.
- \$10 billion to *National Institutes of Health* (NIH), including \$8.5 billion for expanding research (which increasingly engages medical geographers and GIScience for disease research, epidemiology, and treatment programs), and \$1.5 billion for NIH to renovate university research facilities.

- \$140 million to the US Geological Survey (USGS) for its "Surveys, Investigations, and Research" account. Congress allowed for several uses of this funding, including: repair, construction, and restoration of facilities; equipment replacement and upgrades including stream gages, and seismic and volcano monitoring systems; and national map activities.

Education

The ARRA provides more than \$100 billion in education funding and college grants and tuition tax credits, as well as billions more for school modernization. Education Secretary Arne Duncan emphasized the urgency of distributing the funds to states on an aggressive timetable in order to avert teacher and faculty layoffs. Citing a University of Washington study showing almost 600,000 education jobs at risk of state budget cuts, Duncan said that his office will publish timelines and initial guidance within a week so that states and districts can plan accordingly. This funding includes:

Making College More Affordable

- Increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$500, for a maximum of \$5,350 in 2009 and \$5,550 in 2010.
- Adds \$200 million to College Work-Study.
- Increases the higher education tax credit to a maximum of \$2,500. Also makes it available to nearly 4 million low-income students who had not had any access to the higher education tax credit in the past – by making it partially refundable.

Preventing Teacher and Faculty Layoffs, and Education Cuts by the States

- Addresses the threat of teacher layoffs and other cutbacks in education and other key services by establishing a \$53.6 billion State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, including \$40.6 billion to local school districts using existing funding formulas, which can be used for preventing cutbacks, preventing layoffs, school modernization, or other purposes; \$5

billion to states as bonus grants for meeting key performance measures in education; and \$8 billion to states for other high priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education.

Investing in Early Childhood Development

- Provides \$1.1 billion for Early Head Start and \$1 billion for Head Start, which provide comprehensive development services to low-income infants and preschool children – thereby providing services for 110,000 additional infants and children.
- Provides \$2 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant to provide child care services to an additional 300,000 children in low-income families.

Providing Other Key Education Investments

- Provides \$13 billion for Title I grants to help disadvantaged kids reach high academic standards – ensuring that in this period of tight state and local budgets these services are maintained.
- Provides \$12.2 billion for grants for IDEA (Special Education) to increase the federal share of these costs, and prevent these mandatory costs from forcing states to cut other areas of education.

Infrastructure

The stated purposes of these expenditures is "to build a 21st century economy and create jobs rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges, modernizing public buildings, and putting people to work cleaning up our air, water and land." Special emphasis is also given to urban industrial core and rural economic recovery programs. Geographers have many roles in these programs, from research on environmental issues to planning to GIS for systems managing their implementation.

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Thomas Wilbanks to Receive AAG Presidential Achievement Award

Thomas J. Wilbanks, a Corporate Research Fellow at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and a former President of the AAG, has been named recipient of the 2009 AAG Presidential Achievement Award. The honor will be conferred prior to the Past President's Address at 5:15pm on Monday, March 23, at the upcoming 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. The Presidential Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have made long-standing and distinguished contributions to the discipline of geography.

Wilbanks was selected to receive the award for his wide-ranging contributions within and beyond geography as a scholar, an administrator, a community leader, and a highly effective integrator of insights from geography and other fields to address significant societal problems.

Wilbanks' research has covered a broad range of topics, including energy and environmental technology and policy, responses to global climate change, sustainable development, and the role of geographical scale with respect to these and other topics. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of eight books and more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and other publications in the open literature. Books he has

recently co-edited include *Global Change and Local Places* (2003), *Geographical Dimensions of Terrorism* (2003), and *Bridging Scales and Knowledge Systems: Linking Global Science and Local Knowledge* (2006).

While at ORNL, Wilbanks has coordinated more than 70 global change and developing nation projects in 40 countries. He participated in the development of the first U.S. national energy plan in the late 1970s and in the first U.S. National Assessment of Possible Consequences of Climate Variability and Change in the late 1990s. Wilbanks has participated in the development of the second, third, and fourth assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). His service as a lead author for the chapter on the impacts of climate change on industry, settlement, and society earned him (along with all other IPCC Fourth Assessment Report lead authors) recognition as a Co-Laureate for the 2007 Nobel Prize for Peace. Wilbanks currently chairs the NRC Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change.

Wilbanks has been honored by a range of organizations for his contributions to schol-

arship, education, and service. He received AAG Honors in 1986, and he was recipient of the James R. Anderson Medal of Honor in Applied Geography in 1995. He received the Distinguished Geography Educators Award from the National Geographic Society in 1993. He was selected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1985, and he was named a National Associate of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine in 2003.

Wilbanks earned a B.A. from Trinity University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Syracuse University. He held faculty positions at Syracuse and the University of Oklahoma before joining the staff of Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1977. He was named a Corporate Fellow in 1986, an honor roughly equivalent to a chaired professorship in a university. This title is limited to about 25 of ORNL's roughly 1,400 researchers.

Wilbanks served as the AAG President during 1992 and 1993. ■



Wilbanks

Call for Nominations: AAG Standing Committees

At the AAG Council's Spring 2009 meeting, to be held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, the Council will make new appointments to the set of AAG Standing Committees. These appointments will replace members whose terms expire July 1, 2009 and serve as a resource for any new or combined committees the Council will commission in the course of considering possible restructuring of the AAG Committees.

If you wish to nominate yourself or other qualified individuals for one or more of these vacancies, please notify AAG Secretary Craig Colten by March 17, 2009 via e-mail (ccolten@lsu.edu), or via fax to the AAG Office (202-234-2744). Please ensure that your nominee is willing to serve if appointed. Include the contact information for your nominee as well as a brief statement indicating why she/he would be suitable for the position.

The following is a list of committees with vacancies to be filled (number of vacancies in parentheses): Archives and Association History (1), Committee on College Geography and Careers (3), Committee on the Status of Women in Geography (2), Constitution & Bylaws Committee (1), Enhancing Diversity Committee (4), Finance Committee (4), Governmental Data and Employment Committee (2), Membership (3), Publications Committee (2), Scientific Freedom & Responsibility Committee (1), AAG Awards Committee (3), AAG Globe Book Award Committee (1), AAG Meridian Book Award Committee (1), AAG Mel Marcus Fund Committee (1), AAG Research Grants Committee (2), AAG Student Award and Scholarship Committee (2).

The current charges for AAG Standing Committees may be found in the *AAG Guide to Programs* or online at www.aag.org/Info/Committees%20List.pdf.

2009 AAG Honors Recipients

Each year, the AAG Honors Committee invites nominations for awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the advancement or welfare of the discipline. This year, six individuals will receive 2009 AAG Honors in recognition of lifetime achievement, scholarship, service, and education, to be presented at the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.



Jensen

John R. Jensen, University of South Carolina, will receive *AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors* in recognition of his exceptional productivity and leadership in academic, applied, and govern-

mental teaching and research. Jensen has been and continues to be a prolific scholar, pedagogical leader, and inspirational mentor. As an early innovator in remote sensing and GIScience, he applied his expertise in natural sciences to geographic techniques, first in biophysical remote sensing, and later through development of geographic technologies for urban area research. Several major journals in GIScience and remote sensing benefited from his service in editorial positions. Jensen has also been an avid advocate of applying geography to some of the most pressing technological and environmental issues of our times, serving in advisory capacities to NASA and other state and federal agencies. His impressive set of publications numbers more than 500 articles, papers, and technical reports. He has directly supervised over 30 PhD students and over 60 masters students who have been placed throughout academia, industry, NGOs, and state and federal government agencies. Jensen has also been sole author on two internationally-acclaimed textbooks. His contributions have inspired numerous research and service awards from his peers, including from the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group and NASA, which recently

recognized him with the William T. Pecora Award. Jensen has been a tireless voice for the role of geographers in leading landscape and environmental research, and in combining thematic and technological areas of geographic expertise.



Kobayashi

Audrey Kobayashi, Queens University, will receive *AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors* for her outstanding contributions to advanced scholarship, innovative teaching, and exemplary service.

Her theoretically sophisticated work in cultural and social geography has been both informative and inspirational, and her service efforts, especially on behalf of geographers in Canada and the United States, have been significant. Kobayashi serves as a superb role model for all geographers, but in particular, women, minorities, and those with disabilities. Collectively her works have greatly advanced geographical understandings of the experiences of immigrants, minorities, women, and marginalized social groups in general. Much of her scholarship has important transdisciplinary policy implications concerning employment equity, social justice, and civic participation. She has also served in consulting roles for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Kobayashi has been the recipient of prestigious awards in research, teaching and service alike, including a Fulbright Fellowship, the Service Award from the Canadian Association of Geographers, the Marion Porter Prize for most significant feminist Canadian research article, and a Teaching Excellence Award from Queen's University. Her leadership on the AAG Council and as *AAG Annals* Editor has brought her knowledge, dedication, and insight to bear upon important aspects of the association.

AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honors will be presented to **David F. Ley**, University of British Columbia, in recognition of his notable achievements as a scholar and public intellectual in urban, immigrant and transnational issues. His extensive publications and incisive thinking have influenced emerging and established academics, fostered cross-disciplinary and transnational dialogue, and informed public policy in Canada and beyond. A creative thinker whose writings consistently identify, challenge and advance understandings of the most salient social issues of our time, Ley placed human agency at the center of urban geographical analysis, and in so doing reestablished qualitative methods and humanistic concerns as critical to geographical research.

Ley's intellectual inquiry spans three decades and encompasses global trends, national policy, local conditions, and individual actors, guided by a sense of social justice and commitment to excellence. The compelling theory-building that characterizes Ley's work is grounded in the empirical reality of contemporary society, enriching the contributions by scholars throughout the world to scholarship on urban social geography and the transnational experience. As noted by one colleague, "His distinctive understanding of the cultural dynamics of immigration and social diversity ... has had a tremendous impact on the evolution of Canadian immigration policy." The combination of powerful theorizing, rigorous empiricism, and public outreach that is the hallmark of Ley's scholarship promises to shape key debates in human geography, urban studies and public policy for years to come.



Ley

AAG Ronald F. Abler Honors for Distinguished Service will recognize **Donald G. Janelle**, University of California, Santa Barbara, in acknowledgement of his superlative



Janelle

record of service to the association and to the discipline broadly through a wide variety of capacities. He has performed many elected leadership roles, including AAG Councillor, Chair of the AAG East Lakes

Division, International Geographical Union Board of Directors, and Canadian Regional Science Association Councilor. In service to the academic enterprise, Janelle has been editor of *The Canadian Geographer* and on the editorial boards of the *Annals of the AAG*, *the East Lakes Geographer*, *The Professional Geographer*, and *The Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, and has served on the AAG Publications Committee. Janelle has helped to organize major conferences and symposia, including co-chairing the AAG Centennial Coordinating Committee. At the University of Western Ontario, he served many years as Assistant Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs, and as Chair of the Geography Department. For much of the past decade, Janelle has also served the discipline in a significant way by instructing junior and senior scholars in other social science fields in the models and theories used by geographers, including from political science, sociology, anthropology, and economics, achieved through his summer institutes, interdisciplinary collaborations, and other outreach. Colleagues note that he has been "a major and innovative force" and that "he has been a key 'thought' player" in his service work, whose "creativity and energy were constantly evident."

Laurence J.C. Ma, University of Akron, will receive AAG Ronald F. Abler Honors for Distinguished Service in recognition of his energetic and enduring efforts to promote scholarly understanding of China, to establish productive linkages with Chinese geographers, and to mentor a generation of China scholars in the U.S. For more than three decades, Ma has demonstrated leadership in advancing the relationships and understanding among American and Chinese geographers. He was an early and long-term advocate of bringing students from China to the U.S., and he began long before such recruiting became part of the mainstream in American universities. Ma worked tirelessly to break the long-term isolation between U.S. and Chinese geographers in the 1970s following the initial opening of China to U.S. scholars, and his efforts led to the first formal exchanges in the late 1970s. He has been diligent in his encouragement of and work with students, not just his own, but a full generation of China scholars in the U.S. His students also rank among the top scholars advancing our understanding of China and its geography. A careful and thoughtful researcher, Ma has been a leader in advancing scholarship on China and its geography, both in his own work on Chinese cities and urbanization and in his collaborations, evidenced especially in his remarkable record as author, editor and guest editor of key works in the field.



Ma

Donald J. Zeigler, Old Dominion University, will be presented with the AAG Gilbert Grosvenor Honors for Geographic Education in recognition of his exceptional record of leadership in advancing geography education both at the university level and in K-12 schools. Fulfilling important leadership roles

in the National Council for Geographic Education as President, the Virginia Geographic Alliance, and the Virginia Social Science Association, he has shown professional vision, direction, and dedication. Zeigler has been a key proponent of the successful movement to establish Advanced Placement Human Geography in high schools in Virginia and throughout the U.S. His service on the state committee revising the Standards of Learning has helped to secure a framework to enhance geographic and general education alike. His collaborations, service, and grants with educational organizations, such as the Virginia Department of Education, has positioned him to play an essential role in leading international education, study abroad programs, and teacher exchanges at secondary and postsecondary institutions. In addition, Zeigler is recognized for his innovative curriculum development that excites students and teachers alike and enriches the learning experience through technology-based instructional materials. In these capacities and through his geographic education materials, Zeigler's expertise and passion for geography has inspired students, teachers in K-12 classrooms, and colleagues throughout the discipline.



Zeigler

We invite you to join us in applauding these honors recipients on Friday, March 27 at the AAG Awards Luncheon in Las Vegas. Single luncheon tickets are \$55. Tickets for a table of 10 are \$495. Tickets may be purchased online at the time you register. If you have already registered, please fax the form on page 18 of this issue to (202) 234-2744, or mail the form to: AAG, 1710 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-3198. ■

Thanks to Annual Meeting Sponsors

The AAG would like to thank *Directions Magazine* and *Vector 1 Magazine* for sponsoring the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. See www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009 for conference details.

Prioritizing Clean Water/Flood Control/Environmental Restoration

- Provides \$18 billion for clean water, flood control, and environmental restoration investments.

Improving Public Transit and Rail

- Provides \$8.4 billion for investments in transit and \$8 billion for investment in high-speed rail. Includes funds for new construction of commuter and light rail, modernizing existing transit systems, and purchasing buses and equipment needed to increase public transportation and improve intermodal and transit facilities.

Modernizing Roads and Bridges

- Provides \$29 billion for modernizing roads and bridges. Requires states to obligate at least half of the highway/bridge funding within 120 days of receiving funds. States have over 6,000 projects totaling over \$64 billion that could be under contract within 180 days.

Energy

The stimulus bill provides \$4.4 billion for modernization of the electric grid. Other programs include:

Achieving Energy Conservation

- Provides billions to modernize public infrastructure with investments that lead to long-term energy cost savings, including about \$4.5 billion to make buildings more energy-efficient. Includes a new bond-financing program for *educational facilities* construction, rehabilitation, and repair.

Developing Innovative Energy

Technology

- Provides grants of up to 30 percent of the cost of building new renewable

energy facilities. Provides \$20 billion in tax incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency over the next 10 years, including extensive tax credits for electricity derived from wind, biomass, geothermal, hydropower, landfill gas, and waste-to-energy facilities.

Other

U.S. Census Bureau

- The stimulus bill provides \$1 billion in new funding to the Census Bureau "to hire additional personnel, provide required training, increase targeted media purchases, and improve management of other operational and programmatic risks to ensure a successful census." Of the total, \$150 million is targeted for "expanded communications and outreach programs to minimize undercounting of minority groups."

U.S. Department of Labor

- The (DOL) was awarded \$750 million in stimulus funding for a program of competitive grants for worker training and placement in high-growth and emerging industries. This is of special interest to geographers because DOL recently named geospatial technologies as one of the three key emerging high-growth industries. The legislation mandates that \$500 million of the total is to be used for research, labor exchange, and job training projects that prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

Modernizing Health Care IT Systems

- Provides \$19 billion to accelerate adoption of Health Information

Technology (HIT) systems by doctors and hospitals. GIS components or data elements of these systems could help geographers and epidemiologists understand the etiology and spread of infectious or other diseases, and better predict, respond to, and treat new and existing diseases outbreaks.

- This section also strengthens Federal privacy and security law to protect personally identifiable health information from misuse and abuse.

Extending Broadband Services

- Provides \$7 billion for extending broadband services to underserved communities across the country, including rural and inner-city areas. This should benefit educational institutions and individual geographers residing in or conducting research in these areas. This also includes substantial funding to create a broadband inventory map of the U.S.

Additional detail on these multiple programs and expenditures will become available in the months ahead as each federal agency sets its specific procurement policies and procedures for the bill. The AAG will continue to monitor the stimulus bill's implementation progress, as well as the administration's proposed 2010 budget for any relevant opportunities.

In closing, I would like to say thanks to all those AAG members who responded to our calls during the past few months to keep geography-related priorities in the forefront of the House and Senate versions of this stimulus legislation. To all of you, thanks a billion! ■

Doug Richardson
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International Networking Reception

The International Networking Reception at the AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas will provide all conference participants with the opportunity to mingle with colleagues from around the world in an informal setting while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and drinks. The reception will take place in the AAG Exhibit Hall (Grande Ballroom C, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor) on Monday, March 23, from 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Strategic Planning and Name Change for NSF Geography Program

The Geography and Regional Science (GRS) Program at the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) has existed since the 1970s, but as the result of an iterative process over several years, GRS program officers, other NSF officials, and community members have developed a Strategic Plan for what will be renamed the **Geography and Spatial Sciences Program**. The plan responds to recommendations of recent committees of visitors, which are external groups that conduct detailed examinations of the operation efficacy and programmatic impact of NSF programs every three years.

The plan builds on geography's robust growth over recent decades as traditional dimensions of geographic inquiry have benefited from new technologies, conceptual frameworks, and societal demands. It also notes the growing tendency of geographers to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations with scholars from other fields. The same decades that witnessed rapid growth in geography have seen the establishment and enhancement of other spatial sciences – fields that also have strong spatial orientations. For example, GIScience, spatial analysis, and spatial cognition and behavior have joined regional science as interdisciplinary fields that are closely aligned with geography.

The new strategic plan came together as a document late in June 2008. Since then, a series of drafts have been vetted within the walls of NSF, and shared with past program officers and current advisory panels. It has received positive reviews throughout this extensive review process, and is now the official guiding document for Geography and Regional Science. However, there is one notable change in the strategic plan. To signal the program's support for basic scientific research across the full range of related scientific communities, the program name is being changed to **Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS)**. This does not mean that GSS is abandoning its traditional core community. On the contrary, the program is responding to the ever-broadening interdisciplinary work that has long been a very distinctive characteristic of geography. GSS recognizes the strength of interdisciplinary work and is reaching out more actively to support broader research for which geographers and other spatial scientists may be major participants.

In addition to the rationale for the name change, the strategic plan defines the vision and mission for Geography and Spatial

Sciences. It defines the program's core values to be forward thinking, integrative, transformative, inclusive, and accountable. The strategic plan also spells out the program's objectives, and the strategies and mechanisms its program officers will use to achieve those objectives.

To learn more about the strategic plan for Geography and Spatial Sciences, go to: www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5410&org=BCS&from=home.

Implementation of the recommendations in the strategic plan, including the formal renaming of the program, began in the latter part of February 2009. GSS

program officers expect the procedural implications of this change to be minimal for investigators who are submitting proposals to the program or who have awards managed by the program.

Questions or comments regarding the strategic plan may be directed to the GSS program officers: Thomas Baerwald (tbaerwal@nsf.gov; 703-292-7301); Scott Freundsuh (sfreunds@nsf.gov; 703-292-4995), and Kenneth Young (kryoung@nsf.gov; 703-292-8457). ■



Members of Note

Mei-Po Kwan, Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Ohio State University, will hold the Belle van Zuylen Chair at Utrecht University, the Netherlands in 2009. The Belle van Zuylen Chair was established in 1985 and is named after one of the leading Dutch authors of the 18th century. As part of her Belle van Zuylen professorship, Kwan will undertake collaborative research with

scholars in the Faculty of Geosciences at Utrecht University.

Allen J. Scott, Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Geography, UCLA, has been awarded the Anders Retzius Gold Medal by the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography. The honor is given on Vega Day, which in the Swedish calendar commemorates the

conquest of the Northeast Passage by the explorer Adolf Nordenskiöld in his ship Vega. The medal is named after the celebrated Swedish anatomist and physiologist Anders Retzius (1796-1860). King Carl XVI Gustaf will bestow the award on April 24, 2009. The Retzius Gold Medal is given once every three years, for lifetime achievement. ■

Obama Advisor on Afghanistan to Speak at AAG Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 3:10pm to 4:50pm
Royale Pavilion 7, Riviera Hotel

Barnett R. Rubin, an internationally-known expert on Afghanistan who presented security briefings for both the Obama and McCain presidential campaigns last October, will be a featured speaker at the upcoming 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

Rubin is Senior Fellow and Director of Studies at the Center on International Cooperation of New York University, where he directs the program on the Reconstruction of Afghanistan. The program supports efforts by the Afghan government, Afghan civil society, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and donors to carry out a more effective reconstruction mission based on the Bonn Agreement and the Afghanistan Compact.

Rubin will deliver a lecture entitled "A Regional Approach to Afghanistan," which will address the current war in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the context of historical shifts in the social and geographic organization of power. Rubin will discuss the strategic approach necessary to achieve U.S. goals in the region.

This invited lecture will be followed by an open panel discussion led by Douglas Batson of the Military Geography Specialty Group. The lecture is sponsored by the Military Geography SG and co-sponsored by the Political Geography, Ethics, Justice, and Human Rights, and the Russian, Central Eurasian, and East European specialty groups.

Previously, Rubin was a Jennings Randolph Peace Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace and Assistant Professor of Political Science at Yale University. He earned a PhD (1982) and M.A. (1976) from the University of Chicago and a B.A. (1972) from Yale University. Rubin also received a Fulbright Fellowship to study at the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* in Paris (1977-1978). He is currently chair of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (a program of the Social Science Research Council), and a member of the Executive Board of Human Rights Watch, Asia.



Rubin

In 2001, Rubin served as special advisor to the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, during the negotiations that produced the Bonn Agreement. He also advised the United Nations on the drafting of the constitution of Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Compact, and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.

Rubin is author of *Blood on the Doorstep: the Politics of Preventing Violent Conflict* (2002) and *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan: State Formation and Collapse in the International System* (1995). Recent publications include, "Afghan Dilemmas: Defining Commitments" in *The American Interest*, April 2008, and *Counter-Narcotics to Stabilize Afghanistan: The False Promise of Crop Eradication*, a report co-authored with Jake Sherman for the International Center on Cooperation, February 2008. ■

Welcome AAG Interns

The AAG welcomes two interns from Michigan State University for the spring semester.

Miranda Lecea is a senior at Michigan State University graduating in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. After graduation, she is interested in pursuing a career in event planning and development for non-profit organizations. In her free time, Miranda enjoys painting, cooking, and exploring Washington's many sights and attractions.

Amy Marshall is a senior at Michigan State University. She will also be gradu-



Lecea and Marshall

ating in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and a minor in GIS. Amy's interests include environmental

and human geography, cartography and remote sensing. She enjoys outdoor activities such as traveling, scuba diving, and camping, and of course Michigan State sports.

While working as interns for the AAG, Miranda and Amy will be assisting staff members on various projects, including data analysis for the EDGE program, Annual Meeting preparation, research for grant proposals, and administrative tasks for newsletters and the AAG's journals. The interns will be members of the AAG team, working full-time through May.

Washington Monitor

With Gregg's Withdrawal at Commerce, Census Reporting Line Unclear

President Obama's announcement on February 2 that he had chosen Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) to serve as U.S. Secretary of Commerce was supposed to end weeks of speculation following the abrupt withdrawal of the President's original nominee, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (D). Now that Gregg has also withdrawn as the nominee, however, the picture for Commerce – and also the Census Bureau – is as murky as ever.

While Gregg's decision has no bearing on the partisan makeup of the Senate (New Hampshire Governor John Lynch had agreed to nominate a Republican as a placeholder in the seat), Gregg has indicated that he will likely retire at the end of his term next year. Democrats will have a good chance of capturing the open seat during the 2010 elections – as popular Rep. Paul Hodes (D-NH) has already announced that he will run.

The more interesting aspect of the Gregg drama – as far as geographers are concerned – was the controversy over concerns about the appointment raised by black and Hispanic leaders. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and the National Association of Latino Elected Officials both released statements questioning Gregg's commitment to ensuring a fair and accurate count in the 2010 Census. The statements cited past attempts by Gregg to block Census funding.

As many geographers are well aware, some aspects of the Census are a political fireball – most notably the issue of sampling and how the Bureau arrives at its official population counts. This is a key question, of course, because Census numbers are used to set U.S. House and state legislative districts and to allocate important pots of federal dollars. Many researchers and advocates have long claimed that the decennial Census undercounts inner-city and minority populations. Democrats,

accordingly, have often favored sampling or other methodologies to arrive at a more-accurate count, while Republicans have countered such efforts – saying that the Constitution forbids them.

As a result of the controversy, Obama Administration officials, including Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, had indicated that the Census Bureau would report directly to the White House, bypassing what would have been the standard reporting line to a Secretary Gregg. As Gregg withdrew, he told friends privately that the Census issue was one of his key concerns – and he was said to be publically embarrassed by the flap. We will continue to watch and report on future developments and other important issues related to the 2010 Census.

The Geography of the 111th Congress and the 2010 Elections

In 2006, Democrats rode a wave into control of Congress. Their party picked up 31 U.S. House seats and six U.S. Senate seats to end 12 years of mostly Republican domination on Capitol Hill. While most wave elections do not have an equal follow up, the Democrats again were the big winners in 2008 – picking up an additional 21 House seats and either seven or eight Senate seats (pending the Minnesota outcome), giving the party sizeable majorities in both bodies.

The most easily-identifiable geographic trends in the last two election cycles have occurred in the northeast U.S. and in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In New England and surrounding states, the Democrats have staked firm control of the area's Congressional representation. Counting Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey, the only three Senate seats (out of 16) still in GOP hands are those of Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine – who are both popular moderates willing to cross party lines on key votes – and Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, who as we noted in the previous article is likely to retire in the next two years.

Democrats have also won a number of targeted House races in the north-east region in the last two elections and now control a remarkable 56 of the 64 House seats in these eight states. Most striking in the last two years has been the shift in Connecticut – which went from three Republicans and two Democrats in the 109th Congress to five Democratic members in the current Congress. New Hampshire's two House seats went from R to D in 2006 and Democrats have picked up six New York House seats in the last two elections.

Equally notable, perhaps, is the shift that has transpired in Virginia during the same timeframe. During the 109th Congress, Virginia Republicans controlled both of the Commonwealth's U.S. Senate seats and eight of the state's 11 House seats. Following the last two elections, however, the Democrats now control both Senate seats and six of the House seats. The biggest change in Virginia occurred in 2008, when the Democrats picked up three House seats and the U.S. Senate seat won by Mark Warner, but these results were perhaps foreshadowed by Jim Webb's upset victory over George Allen in 2006.

But what do the past two results mean for 2010? As far as House elections are concerned, it is clear that the Democrats will be very hard pressed to have a result matching their immediate past successes. The party's biggest obstacle will be the simple fact that many of the close, winnable districts have already changed hands. As we have noted, Democrats have done very well in states and areas that have undergone demographic shifts and were the most (negatively) impacted by the Bush presidency. The big wildcard, of course, will be the success of the Obama presidency and the economy. If things go well, the Democrats could make additional gains in 2010, but these would likely be contained to the remaining targeted dis-

Continued on page 12

amenable and attractive to Las Vegas' diverse residents.

Early Settlements in Las Vegas

The first non-natives came in the 1830s, linking the valley to the Old Spanish Trail trading route. In June of 1855, Mormon missionaries began construction on a fort alongside Las Vegas Creek. Within a matter of months, the missionaries had completed a fort and established some modest improvements with the use of irrigation. After only two years, most of the settlers returned to Salt Lake City and left the fort abandoned just a mile north of what would one day become Downtown Las Vegas.

In 1904, Senator William Clark of Montana chose the little settlement of Las Vegas as a major stop on his new Salt Lake City to Los Angeles railroad. Like the Mormons, Clark chose the valley because it was roughly halfway between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles and because it had a plentiful water supply from natural springs. As construction on the railroad and repair yards began, Las Vegas boomed. A tent city grew on the west side of the railroad, offering lodging, restaurants, saloons, and stores. Just a year later, though, Clark auctioned off 1,200 lots on the east side of the tracks, effectively shutting down the tent city. Settlers quickly started work on building a city adjacent to the tracks around the intersections of Main and Fremont. Las Vegas, as a railroad town, was born. Without competition for hundreds of miles in any direction, Las Vegas thrived around the railroad industry, saloons, and legalized gambling halls.

A Steady Decline

1941 proved to be a pivotal year in the future of Downtown's history. Just a few miles north, construction on what would become Nellis Air Force Base began, near the modern city of North Las Vegas. To the far southeast, the Basic Magnesium Inc. (BMI) plant opened up at an isolated military installation. BMI grew to employ over 14,000 workers during the war effort, most of them housed in the federal development that would become Henderson. The addition of thousands of people to the region spurred some subdivision development in the core, but ultimately these developments opened up two frontiers of suburban expansion. Even today, North Las Vegas and Henderson both rank in the top ten of fastest growing U.S. cities.

1941 also marked the beginning of the end of big time gaming in Downtown Las Vegas. The *El Rancho* casino opened on a newly improved Highway 91, now known as Las Vegas Boulevard (The Strip). *El Rancho's* owner, Thomas Hull, imagined his casino being a resort hotel – an oasis in the desert and a retreat from lowbrow Downtown establishments. A year later, *Last Frontier* opened. In '46, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel opened *The Flamingo* as the City of Las Vegas attempted to annex The Strip, anticipating harmful competition. They would try again in 1950, but by this point the Strip owners were firmly entrenched in remaining unincorporated. With every new opening on The Strip, Downtown's "Glitter Gulch" lost revenue.

Scholars have pointed out that Downtown may have been able to recover had it been reinvented during the 1950s



The intersection of Main and Fremont streets in Las Vegas.

CREDIT: DEREK EYENBACH

or 60s. However, civic improvements like McCarran Airport, the convention center, hospitals and the university were all sited along Strip-adjacent corridors. Furthermore, the impact of cheap, desert sprawl development drew more people away from older neighborhoods and into new subdivisions. By the time *The Mirage* opened on the Strip in 1989, Downtown was on life support. Even local residents, who tended to avoid the touristy Strip, eschewed Downtown and sought entertainment at the so-called neighborhood casinos.

Rehabilitating Glitter Gulch

The City's first real effort at redevelopment was the disastrous public-private venture of the *Main Street Station* casino-hotel on Main Street, just east of Fremont Street. The City partnered with an out-of-town developer and invested \$17 million into the luxury project. Other casino owners were furious at the City's meddling in their competition. Ultimately, it did not matter. By June of 1992, a mere nine months after its grand opening, *Main Street Station* was closed and

tricts around the country that the Republicans were able to hold through the last two cycles.

Democratic fortunes will probably be better in the U.S. Senate. While the economy and Obama's performance remain key indicators, the Senate election cycles (only one-third of the 100 seats are elected every two years) mean that despite recent gains the Democrats remain posi-

tioned to pick up seats in 2010. There are currently slated to be 36 Senate elections in 2010 (34 seats on the standard cycle – plus special elections in New York and Delaware resulting from the resignations of Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Clinton). Five Senate Republicans have already announced that they will retire – and Democrats could have a shot at all five seats if a few things break in their

favor. The most vulnerable Democrats are likely Roland Burris of Illinois and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York – two recent gubernatorial appointees who may face strong primary challenges. Stay tuned!

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in bankruptcy court. Everyone agreed that Downtown needed a signature attraction to draw Strip tourists to Fremont Street. After a series of absurd proposals, including a 23-story, full-size replica of the *Starship Enterprise*, local casino mogul Steve Wynn (then-owner of Fremont Street's *Golden Nugget*) entered the fray along with architect Jon Jerde.

Together, they proposed the *Fremont Street Experience*. The plan closed a five-block stretch of Fremont to vehicles and created a pedestrian-only promenade. Above this mall, a canopy of lights was erected to provide stunning shows synchronized to music. The light show has since been redesigned as a video screen five blocks long, and remains one of the biggest tourist attractions in town.

A Renewed Relevance

Efforts to renew Downtown beyond the Fremont Street gaming corridor and have turned to the tried and true strategies of historic preservation and new development, especially with a focus on



The Old Mormon Fort.

CREDIT: DEREK EYSENBACH

improving of Downtown's local civic function. The John S. Park neighborhood received a local historic designation, which stimulated an appreciation of property values and investment. Historic structures, including the art deco Las Vegas High School and the old federal courthouse/post office have been listed on the Federal Historic Register and repurposed. The high school has become a prestigious magnet school and the old federal building is a museum. Just north of Downtown, the Old Mormon Fort and the Neon Museum boneyard preserve two unique chapters of Vegas history.

New buildings are going up, as well. A new City Hall and several other government buildings refreshed some of the dismal Downtown blocks. The Clark County Government Building was built just south of Downtown. One startling new feature in the skyline is the loft condo towers in the neighborhoods just south of Downtown. Their development has coincided with a creative reuse of abandoned warehouses and factories in these same neighborhoods by artists. Collectively known as the Arts District, these galleries and workshops host a monthly "First Friday" event that feature tours of open art galleries, dining at upscale cafes, and a nightlife scene at newly opened bars.

The Future

Efforts of redevelopment and renewal are coming full-circle and are now focused on the foundational land of the city. Through the years, the old Union Pacific railyard, along the western edge of Downtown, became a 61-acre brown-field. Upon taking office in 1999, Mayor Oscar Goodman made remediation and redevelopment of this parcel a top priority. Originally, Goodman lobbied for a sports facility on the site, with the hopes of drawing a professional franchise. As these prospects dimmed, Goodman encouraged the site to be developed as a multi-purpose extension of the city.

In early 2008, plans for the site finally materialized and ground was broken. "Union Park" will be a neighborhood of a number of notable developments. At the southern end of the site, the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute, an academic medical research center, will reside in a new building designed by Frank Gehry. The northern end of the site will feature a tower of over 50 stories housing the World Jewelry Center. This building will be designated a foreign trade zone and is expected to make Las Vegas one of the world's central gem-trading centers. In between these focal points will be an urban village featuring the Smith Center for the Performing Arts. Goodman has touted the Smith Center as the civic anchor for the entire project—a public project created for Las Vegas,



The Lou Ruvo Brain Institute, designed by Frank Gehry.

CREDIT: DEREK EYSENBACH

not for tourists. Upscale restaurants, a boutique hotel and casino, and over 3,200 residential units will round out the neighborhood.

This urban renewal certainly has its critics. Besides a dazzling canopy, Fremont Street features a cadre of private security, police, and casino personnel patrolling the pedestrian zone and shooing away individuals and groups that might disrupt the "experience." Las Vegas' skid row consists of a strip of shelters and agencies along North Main Street, across the freeway from Fremont. Activists fear that this small neighborhood will become even more concentrated with homeless as squatters and low-income residents are cleared from gentrifying neighborhoods. West Las Vegas, the old segregated and redlined neighborhood adjacent to Union Park, is essentially being left out of the planning process and cut off in terms of physical access to the renewed neighborhoods. Perhaps most significantly, many critics feel affordable housing, open space, and access have not been sufficiently addressed in Union Park's master plan—a troubling observation considering the time and money that went into the planning process.

As Las Vegas reaches the physical and political limits of sprawl, planners will have to take a sober look at issues like infill and transportation. As the city matures, planners will undoubtedly return to the Downtown crucible for lessons. To that end, Downtown Las Vegas is more relevant than ever.

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Geography in the Americas Panel to Discuss Resources for Supporting International Collaboration

The ability to carry out projects that cross cultural, national, linguistic, and disciplinary borders has become increasingly important for geographers throughout the Americas. A special panel session to be held at the AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, on Monday, March 23 at 3:10pm will explore resources available from programs and services – including but also beyond funding – that can help geographers across the Americas to garner the support needed to pursue international collaboration. Representatives from public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and foundations will share information, experiences and advice on how to develop successful research projects, how to take full advantage of the unique nature of international collaboration, and how to best pursue opportunities for support.

Panelists include: **Santiago Borrero**, Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), an organization of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Mexico City, Mexico; **Ned Strong** is Executive Director of LASPAU: Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas, a non-profit organization affiliated with Harvard University that administers Fulbright Programs in the Americas; **Nicole**

Stahlmann is Director of Fellowship Programs of the American Council of Learned Societies and previously directed international fellowship programs at the Social Science Research Council; **Ibrahim M. Shaqir** is Director of the Office of International Research Programs within the Agricultural Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture; **Mark Caicedo** supports the administration of the Inter-American Foundation (IAF)'s Fellowship Program for grassroots development topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, which he had managed until its suspension in 1999, and helped to relaunch in 2007; **Jessica Robin**, Program Officer of the Americas Program in the Office of International Science and Engineering at the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and former geographer with NASA Goddard and the University of Maryland - Baltimore County.

Sponsored by the AAG, and co-sponsored by the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) and the AAG Latin America Specialty Group, this panel continues the fourth year in a series of featured *Geography in the Americas* sessions focused on topics related to international collaboration among geographers of the Americas. For more details and panelist biographies, see www.aag.org/Developing/Latin-America/americas2009.htm. ■



Borrero



Strong



Stahlmann



Shaqir



Caicedo



Robin

AAG Diversity Ambassadors in Las Vegas

A group of graduate students will be serving as AAG Diversity Ambassadors at the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. Volunteers will share their experiences and give advice about college life, graduate school, job searches, networking, navigating the Annual Meeting, and other issues to other graduate or undergraduate students. Faculty or employers who are looking to implement activities to achieve greater diversity in their programs and

workforces, and who wish to converse about ideas and experiences, are also welcome. This informal venue seeks to provide an open forum to share recent success stories, engage in conversations regarding recruiting and retention strategies, understanding student and faculty mentoring needs, and other insights from the unique perspectives of the ambassadors.

Volunteers will be available on Wednesday, March 25, from 9:30 a.m.

to 4:30 p.m. in the Jobs in Geography (JIG) area across from AAG meeting registration.

Organizers: *Patricia Solís (AAG) and Nathan Sessoms (University of Southern California).*

Co-sponsored by the Association of American Geographers and the AAG Enhancing Diversity Committee.

Borrowed Names Evoke a Peculiar Sense of Place in Las Vegas

We're off to the Riviera in March! And to New York, New York and Luxor! Westward Ho! all the way to Klondike, with a stop at Paradise! It'll be a busy week indeed, for our visit to Las Vegas for the AAG Annual Meeting is a unique opportunity to travel not only in space, but in time. The menu for time travelers includes several stops in an imaginary Italy: from ancient Rome (Caesars Palace) to Lake Como in the nineteenth century (The Bellagio) through Renaissance Venice (The Venetian). These journeys will be astonishingly convenient, for the world and The Stratosphere are compressed within a few miles and follow the predictable service standards of urban America.

Geography is all over the namescape of Las Vegas – for a good reason. Names carry considerable associative and emotional power and shape the identities of people, places, and products. Las Vegas is a globally recognized brand, made by men whose names dot the landscape (Harrah, Wynn, etc.). The choices made in Las Vegas resonate across the globe, for it is the center of gaming capital and know-how in the world's expanding gaming market. On sale are fantasy, entertainment, and a twist to one's experiential

boundaries. The transfer away from the everyday begins with the promise of a fantastic journey, which one can take anywhere, anywhen, safely and right now. This explains why place names are important tools of image-making and product distinction for Las Vegas casino developers. The name of the casino sets its tone and theme, evoking and advertising a particular sense of place.

The general emphasis in this casino name geography is on cities, coasts, or their combinations. "Real" geography can be twisted and fantasy can be added to reach the desired effect (as in Mandalay Bay). The weather conditions are nice, for the destinations fall between the southern 23rd parallel (Rio) and the northern 49th parallel (Paris) in this make-believe world. Its map has clear centers and peripheries. Europe, and the Mediterranean sphere, is popular, but Sub-Saharan Africa and Australia are absent. A nod is made to Asia through "Oriental" references (Imperial Palace) and to Latin America's most famous party towns. But there is no Casino Costa Rica, Casino Calcutta, or other references to conflict or human misery – even if these names would rhyme well or have the full polysemous potential of "the Rich Coast" in Spanish.

Over time, the namescape of Las Vegas has gone increasingly global. World cities, glamorous gambling towns (Monte Carlo), and exotic ports of call somewhere in the world's Tropicana have pushed aside many old Western references that used to dominate the scene. But there is regional variation in the naming of casinos within the metropolitan area. International glamour concentrates on the Strip, where megaresorts line up along the old highway to Los Angeles. Those who prefer a scale more modest, the frontier American West, or references to gambling and local legends (Arizona Charlie's, Ellis Island, Four Queens) will



The Mirage Hotel and Casino. Its name illustrates the slippery middle ground between the real and imagined in Las Vegas.

CREDIT: PAULIINA RAENTO

feel at home in Downtown and suburban Las Vegas, and on the Boulder Strip toward Arizona. There, multiple associations and people meet at buzzing intersections such as Sam's Town and Texas Station.

And there is more, beyond space and time. The Las Vegas namescape is also rich in references to wealth, opulence, sex, comfort, movement, eternal youth, and precious minerals. Many of the names follow the standards of power marketing where some letters, colors, and languages are more seductive than others. A detailed look is an entertaining and instructive journey to one New Frontier of cultural geography. ■

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CREDIT: PAULIINA RAENTO

It's not only the names that sometimes seem out of place in Las Vegas.

Sources: De Wit, C. (1992). "Food-place associations on American product labels." *The Geographical Review* 83, 323–330; Douglass, W. A. & P. Raento (2004). "The tradition of invention. Conceiving Las Vegas." *Annals of Tourism Research* 31, 7–23; Raento, P. & W. A. Douglass (2001). "The naming of gaming in Las Vegas." *Names* 49, 1–35; Raento, P. & S. Flusty (2006). Three trips to Italy. Deconstructing the New Las Vegas. In Minca, C. & T. Oakes (eds) *Travels in Paradox*, 97–124 (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield).

Thanks to Geography Bowl from Team UK

In the summer of 2007, the University of Wolverhampton was invited to submit a team of students to the World Geography Bowl competition at the 2008 AAG Annual Meeting. We were told that ours would be the first non-American team in the history of the event, which usually includes only teams of students from the different AAG regions.

Drs. Chris Young, John Smith, Anne Wheeler and Matt Bates received funding from the Learning and Teaching Research Network at the University of Wolverhampton to organize an "Inter-University Challenge" in the UK, to evaluate the perceptions of students participating in an international practitioner network and to explore research-teaching links in the context of an international conference. Derek France and Carolyn Roberts helped to co-ordinate the UK events and undergraduate students from the Universities of Wolverhampton, Chester and Gloucestershire took part.

From the original group of more than 40 students, the best six (two from each institution) were selected for the UK team. In order to develop team spirit, the students were invited to come overnight to Wolverhampton to play a team made up of staff from the 3 Universities, and then go for a night on the town together.

Staff and students travelled together to Boston. Following registration, the students soon found that they had quite a significant task on their hands in choosing from the 4,350 papers and deciding on which sessions to attend, in addition to

preparing for the Bowl. The team had "Team UK" t-shirts printed in Boston and anticipated the quiz night with nervous excitement. Unfortunately, all did not go as well as hoped. However, the staff and other UK members of the audience were proud that the students did so well, as they were all undergraduates and they had scored points in every round of the competition.

The students went on to attend many conference sessions. As they did, their thoughts about the experience were recorded in a number of ways: questionnaires, focus group meetings, emotional intelligence workbooks, informal conversations with staff, and reflective diaries. From the rich sources of information, four themes have been identified: research-led/subject engagement; research-orientated/skills development; research-based/learning; and relationships/personal growth. There was clear evidence of preparation for the WGB, attendance at sessions specific to students' course interests, and engagement with place in Boston and the surrounding area. As one student stated, "I have much more of an understanding of what geography is, how vast it is, and how by using the main principles, and applying them to areas which appeal to me, I can explore all of my interests in a geographic context."

The students further developed two key skills through group work and presentation observation. The links between learning and research were developed in a number of ways in that it stimulated thinking about research skills within the discipline and their research projects, they began to explore postgraduate opportunities, and they used the conference for networking and meeting researchers. It was also important that the students were able to see that all of the staff that accompanied the students to Boston presented papers at the AAG. The influence of this experience was evidenced through the following statement: "I would like a career where I have the opportunity to take part in research...

Seeing these professionals has inspired me to continue studying after my degree." There were also comments that indicated there was reflection on relationships and personal growth. For example, "Winning a place on the team really did increase my confidence in my ability. It also enforced the idea that anything is possible if you work hard enough."

The whole experience of attending the AAG and competing in the World Geography Bowl was resoundingly positive for both staff and students and was topped off by a trip by all to see the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park.

The importance of being part of an international practitioner network is probably best illustrated by the following quotes from the students at the end of their reflective diaries: "...a massive benefit to me both academically and personally, possibly the most important week of my life so far," and "It's been an amazing week that in some ways has changed my opinions of me, my subject and my future."

For the staff, it is comments like those above that made all of the work in organizing the events in the UK and making the trip to Boston worthwhile. In conclusion, the staff would like to thank Lisa, Robyn, Amanda, Catherine, Craig and David for their participation and commitment throughout, and thank you to World Geography Bowl organizer Bill Carstensen.

We wish the best of luck to the Canadian team that will be participating at the 2009 World Geography Bowl in Las Vegas! ■

Anne Wheeler, Aston University
Team UK at the World Geography
Bowl 2008



Team UK with University of Chester lecturer, Derek France (left).

New Appointments

George Mason University, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Roger R. Stough. PhD 1978, Johns Hopkins University.

University of Arizona, Professor, Diana Liverman. PhD 1983, University of California-Los Angeles.

University of Central Arkansas, Assistant Professor, Mindy McConyers. PhD 2009, Texas State University, San Marcos.

University of Texas at Austin, Assistant Professor, Ipsita Chatterjee. PhD 2007, Clark University.

University of Texas at Dallas, Head, Program in Geospatial Information Sciences, Denis Dean. PhD 1991, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.

University of Toronto, Mississauga, Assistant Professor, Yuhong He. PhD 2008, University of Saskatchewan.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Assistant Professor, Keith Woodward. PhD 2007, University of Arizona.

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Assistant Professor, Lucius Hallett, IV. PhD 2007, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Visiting Assistant Professor, Jason Ortegren. PhD 2008, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

AAG Five-Year Membership Offer

For a limited time only, the AAG is offering a five-year membership renewal plan at today's rates. Members can lock in current AAG membership rates and avoid increasing dues costs by joining or renewing now for five years. To take advantage of this offer, please contact Adam Thocher at 202-234-1450 or by email at athocher@aag.org. This offer expires on June 30, 2009.

Correction

Please note that the correct citation for an upcoming article in the April 2009 AAG *Annals* is... "Pastoral Herd Management, Drought Coping Strategies, and Cattle Mobility in Southern Kenya" by Bilal Butt, Ashton Shortridge and Antoinette M.G.A. WinklerPrins.

AAG ADVANCING GEOGRAPHY FUND

I (we) pledge to contribute _____ to the Association of American Geographers as part of the Advancing Geography Campaign.

Giving levels include:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 to \$999	Scholars Circle
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 to \$4,999	Millennium Circle
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 to \$9,999	Century Circle
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 to \$24,999	Explorers Circle
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 and above	Leadership Circle

This gift will be made as follows:

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Plus annual payments of: \$ _____

If you intend to fulfill your pledge through a gift other than cash, check, or marketable securities, please check:

☐ credit card ☐ bequest ☐ other

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Account Number _____

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Signature _____

☐ My (our) gift will be matched by my employer

I would like my gift to go toward:

- ☐ Endowment for Geography's Future
- ☐ Developing Regions Membership Fund
- ☐ AAG Student Travel Fund
- ☐ Mel Marcus Fund for Physical Geography
- ☐ AAG International Education Fund
- ☐ Marble Fund for Geographic Science
- ☐ AAG Public Policy Initiatives
- ☐ Enhancing Diversity Fund
- ☐ Area of Greatest Need
- ☐ Other _____

Name _____

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Please send this pledge form to:

AAG Advancing Geography Fund
1710 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, DC 20009

Tables Available for Purchase at AAG Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon

The AAG Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon will be held on Friday, March 27, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada. We invite you to join us and enjoy the event with your colleagues, friends, and family. We are offering the purchase of 10 discounted tickets to reserve a full table. If you wish to reserve a full table for

your department, AAG Specialty Group, students, or friends, you may do so at this time. Individual tickets are \$55 and tickets for a table (seats 10) are \$495. If you have not yet paid your Annual Meeting registration fee, you may purchase the Luncheon tickets online at the time you pay. If you have already paid your registration

fee, please fax this form to 202-234-2744 or mail it to 2009 AAG Annual Meeting, Association of American Geographers, 1710 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-3198. For more information contact meeting@aag.org. ■

2009 AAG Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon Form Las Vegas, NV — March 27, 2009 12:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Single Ticket
\$55.00

Qty

Table for 10
\$495.00

Qty

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Payment Method: Check or money order (payable to the Association of American Geographers)

Visa or MasterCard Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

AAG Journals Editors Reception

Meet the editors of the *AAG Annals* and the *Professional Geographer* at a special reception organized by Routledge. The reception will take place in the Exhibition Hall at the AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. Coffee and canapés will be provided at the Routledge booth (402-406) at 11:30am on Tuesday, March 24. All are welcome.

AAG Standing Committee Nominations

The AAG is currently seeking nominations for AAG standing committees. See page 5 for details.

AAG Annual Meeting Program is available at www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009

AAG 2009 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM (www.aag.org)

Everyone who attends the AAG Annual Meeting must register. **You may use this form if you do not wish to register online, or if you wish to add events but have already registered for the meeting.** Space is limited for all events, field trips, and workshops. AAG reserves the right to cancel any event with insufficient enrollment. All fees are payable in US dollars, by check, money order, Visa, or MasterCard. All cancellation requests must be made in writing to meeting@aag.org by the stated deadlines. Cancellation requests received by December 10, 2008 will incur a 25% cancellation fee. Requests received by February 10, 2009 will incur a 50% cancellation fee. Requests received by March 11, 2009 will incur a 75% cancellation fee. *Requests received after March 11, 2009 cannot be processed.*

FIRST _____ M.I. _____ LAST _____

AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ POSTAL CODE _____ COUNTRY _____

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*NAME OF COMPANION/SPOUSE who is registering (please indicate if field trip is for companion/spouse) _____

[If you are a "companion/spouse" of a registered attendee, you MUST be registered for the meeting in order to register for a field trip.]

Do you have any disabilities or special needs? Please explain: _____

I. REGISTRATION FEES

☐ Check here if you have already registered for the meeting.

*Those registering under the companion/spouse category may *not* present a paper or participate as a panelist or session organizer, and must submit a paper form via fax or mail (not online).

	<i>Before 3/10</i>	<i>After 3/10</i>	
Regular Member	\$265	\$315	\$ _____
Student Member / Retired Member	\$145	\$185	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$390	\$435	\$ _____
Non-Member Student	\$215	\$235	\$ _____
Companion / Spouse*	\$90	\$140	\$ _____
One day registration	\$215	\$235	\$ _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES			\$ _____

II. FIELD TRIPS

Full descriptions are available at www.aag.org. Field trips (and workshops) are in date order. You must be registered for the meeting to attend a field trip.

	Quantity	Price
1. Grand Canyon Three-Day Tour (3/19-21)	____ @	\$650 \$ _____
2. The Oasis Two-Day Tour (3/20-3/21)	____ @	\$125 \$ _____
3. Death Valley National Park (3/21)	____ @	\$91 \$ _____
4. Wild about Mojave Wildflowers (3/22)	____ @	\$45 \$ _____
5. Southwest Utah / Zion National Park (3/23)	____ @	\$96 \$ _____
6. Threatened Desert Tortoise (3/23)	____ @	\$65 \$ _____
7. Arid Lands: Sustainability in LV (3/24)	____ @	\$110 \$ _____
8. This is Vegas! Cultural Landscapes (3/24)	____ @	\$97 \$ _____
9. Death Valley National Park (3/24)	____ @	\$61 \$ _____
10. Hoover Dam / Springs Preserve (3/25)	____ @	\$95 \$ _____
11. Sustainable Casinos (3/25)	____ @	\$30 \$ _____
20. Grand Dam Tour (3/25-3/26)	____ @	\$548 \$ _____
13. Pahrump Winery Tour and Lunch (3/26)	____ @	\$60 \$ _____
14. Planning LV: Urban Planning (3/26)	____ @	\$35 \$ _____
15. LV: Sustainable Culture in Desert (3/26)	____ @	\$45 \$ _____
17. W to E Grand Canyon Four-Day (3/26-29)	____ @	\$489 \$ _____
TOTAL FEES FOR FIELD TRIPS		\$ _____

III. SPECIAL EVENTS / BOOKS

	Quantity	Price
Awards Luncheon - individual ticket	____ @	\$55.00 \$ _____
Awards Luncheon Table - 10 tickets	____ @	\$495.00 \$ _____
Lonely Planet Las Vegas City Guide	____ @	\$17.10 \$ _____
Lonely Planet Grand Canyon Nat'l Park	____ @	\$18.00 \$ _____
Off the Beaten Path Nevada	____ @	\$12.55 \$ _____
TOTAL FEES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS / BOOKS		\$ _____

IV. WORKSHOPS

	Quantity	Price
1. Metadata with Cyberinfrastructure (3/22)	____ @	\$65 \$ _____
7. EDGE: Prof. Development Topics (3/22)	____ @	\$5 \$ _____
3. Field Mapping Fundamentals (3/22)	____ @	\$125 \$ _____
5. NSF: Writing Proposals (3/23)	____ @	\$0 \$ _____
6. NSF: Writing Doctoral Dissert. Proposals (3/23)	____ @	\$0 \$ _____
2. EDGE: Time Management (3/23)	____ @	\$5 \$ _____
8. WileyPlus / Human Geography (3/23)	____ @	\$65 \$ _____
9. Teaching with ArcGIS (3/23)	____ @	\$50 \$ _____
10. Spatial Analysis w/ArcGIS (3/23)	____ @	\$50 \$ _____
11. Undergraduate Research Program (3/23)	____ @	\$10 \$ _____
12. NSF: Writing CAREER Proposals (3/24)	____ @	\$0 \$ _____
13. NSF: Writing Proposals (same as #6; 3/24)	____ @	\$0 \$ _____
14. Using Photography / Urban Landscape (3/24)	____ @	\$60 \$ _____
15. EDGE: Advising Students in Geog. (3/24)	____ @	\$5 \$ _____
4. EDGE: Academic Publishing (3/24)	____ @	\$5 \$ _____
16. Teaching Geog: Spatial Thinking Skills (3/24)	____ @	\$20 \$ _____
26. Wine Tasting: Italian Wines (3/24)	____ @	\$40 \$ _____
17. Ortelius - Cartography Software for Mac (3/25)	____ @	\$20 \$ _____
18. Wine Tasting: World Style Wines (3/25)	____ @	\$36 \$ _____
20. CGGE No Passports Required (3/25)	____ @	\$5 \$ _____
21. Publishing Your Scholarly Book (3/25)	____ @	\$5 \$ _____
27. Apply Your Science to Service Society (3/25)	____ @	\$0 \$ _____
22. Hands on w/ GPS Range Finder / Camera (3/26)	____ @	\$25 \$ _____
23. EDGE: GIS / Mapping Technologies (3/26)	____ @	\$5 \$ _____
24. Land Change Modeling Methods (3/26)	____ @	\$75 \$ _____
25. Geog Approach & Spatial Literacy (3/26)	____ @	\$20 \$ _____
TOTAL FEES FOR WORKSHOPS		\$ _____

V. ABSTRACT BOOKS / CDs

Abstracts are available online to all registrants at no charge. If you also wish to purchase a printed abstract book or an abstract CD, sign up here.

	Quantity	Price
2009 Meeting Abstract Book	____ @	\$50 \$ _____
2009 Meeting Abstract CD	____ @	\$25 \$ _____
TOTAL FEES FOR ABSTRACT BOOKS/ CDs		\$ _____

IV. SUMMARY / PAYMENT

Registration Fees	\$ _____
Field Trips	\$ _____
Special Events / Books	\$ _____
Workshops	\$ _____
Abstract Books / CDs	\$ _____

GRAND TOTAL (U.S. Dollars Only) \$ _____

☐ Check for \$ _____ attached (Payable to AAG)

☐ Please charge \$ _____ to my VISA/MC (Sorry, no AmEx or Discover)

Card # _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ Signature _____

Please register online at www.aag.org or return this completed form along with payment to: **AAG 2009 Annual Meeting Registration**
1710 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009
Fax (202) 234-2744; Questions? (202) 234-1450 or www.aag.org

AAG Specialty Group Highlighted Sessions

AAG specialty groups are voluntary associations of AAG members who share interests in regions or topics. Below we list the some of the many highlights from special sessions sponsored by specialty groups at the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

Biogeography Specialty Group

PhD Student Paper Presentation Competition

Thursday, March 26, 1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Room: North Hall N110, Las Vegas Convention Center

Organizer and Chair: Michelle Goman, Cornell University

Presenters:

1:00 Crystal Kolden, Clark University; John T. Abatzoglou, San Jose State University, *A landscape perspective on historic range of variability of wildfire in Alaska*

1:20 Evan R. Larson, University of Minnesota; Kurt F. Kipmuller, University of Minnesota, *The relative roles of climate and fire suppression in driving whitebark pine forest structure*

1:40 Trevor J. Porter - Carleton University; Michael F.J. Pisarcic - Carleton University, *Climate-tree growth relations in Old Crow Flats, northern Yukon, Canada*

2:00 Michele M. Tobias, University of California-Davis, *California Beach Plant Biogeomorphology*

2:20 Nancy A. Brown, The Pennsylvania State University; Kyle Merriam, Regional Ecologist - USDA FS Pacific Southwest Region; Alan H. Taylor, Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, *Interactions of site quality and genetic variability in Cupressus bakeri, Baker cypress*

Cartography Specialty Group

GeoJournal Plenary Lecture on "Citizens as sensors: The world of volunteered geography" by Michael F. Goodchild

Tuesday, March 24, 5:20 pm - 7:00 pm

Room: Royale Pavilion 2, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

(co-sponsored by Geographic Information Science and Systems Specialty Group and the Wine Specialty Group)

Organizer and Chair: Daniel Z. Sui - Texas A&M

Introducer: Daniel Z. Sui - Texas A&M

Presenter: Michael F. Goodchild, University of California, Santa Barbara

Discussants: Barbara Poore, United States Geological Survey; Sarah Elwood, University of Washington; Donald Cooke

Climate Specialty Group

Plenary Speaker Julio L. Betancourt:

Climate and Ecosystems in the Western U.S. - History and Prospectus

Wednesday, March 25, 5:20 pm - 7:00 pm

Room: Royale Pavilion 3, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizer and Chair: Michael A. Palecki, National Climatic Data Center

Speaker: Julio L. Betancourt

Communication Geography Specialty Group

Media Geography II: Teaching Media Geography

Monday, March 23, 10:10 am - 11:50 am

Room: North Hall N119, Las Vegas Convention Center

(Co-sponsored by Qualitative Research Specialty Group, Cultural Geography Specialty Group)

Organizers: James Craine, California State University-Northridge; Christina Dando, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Chair: Jason Dittmer, University College London

Introducer: Jason Dittmer, University College London

Panelist(s): Paul C. Adams, University of Texas at Austin; Peta Mitchell, University of Queensland; Giorgio Hadi Curti, San Diego State University; Christopher Lukinbeal, Arizona State University; James Craine, California State University-Northridge; Christina Dando, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Community College Affinity Group

Las Vegas: a mirage of water, power, and unreality

Thursday, March 26, 5:20 pm - 7:00 pm

Room: North Hall N109, Las Vegas Convention Center

Organizer and Chair: Kerry Lyste, Everett Community College

Introducer: Kerry Lyste, Everett Community College

Panelists: Robert W. Christopherson, American River College; Darrel Hess, City College of San Francisco; Bruce L. Seivertson, Imperial Valley College; Ann Johnson, ESRI

Cultural Geography Specialty Group

A River Running West: Don Worster on John Wesley Powell

Tuesday, March 24, 1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Room: Royale Pavilion 4, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor (Panel Session)

(Co-sponsored by the History of Geography Specialty Group and the Historical Geography Specialty Group)

Organizer and Introducer: Soren Larsen, University of Missouri

Presenter: Donald Worster, University of Kansas

Cyberinfrastructure Specialty Group

Free and Open Source solutions for Geographers I

Tuesday, March 24, 1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Room: Skybox 211, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Organizers: Alexander Mandel, University of California-Davis; Stacey Ellis, University of California-Davis

Chair: Stacey Ellis, University of California-Davis

Presenters:

1:00 Stacey Ellis, University of California-Davis, *A Wiki for every Geography*

1:20 Ron N. Buliung, University of Toronto at Mississauga, *Opening up the Geographers' Craft*

1:40 Michael S. Treichler, University of California-Davis, *Case Study in Sales Territory Definition using Open Source Software*

2:00 Andrew Turner, FortiusOne, *OpenStreetMap As A Successful Model for User-Generated Geospatial Content*

2:20 Joshua S. Campbell, University of Kansas, *The Disruptive Potential of GIS 2.0*

Development Geographies Specialty Group

Emerging Topics in International Development

Thursday, March 26, 8:00 am - 9:40 am

Room: North Hall N120, Las Vegas Convention Center

(Co-sponsored by Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group)

Organizers: Brian King, The Pennsylvania State University; Jeffrey Bury, University of California-Santa Cruz

Chair: Jeffrey Bury, University of California-Santa Cruz

Panelists: Molly E. Brown, NASA; Ed Carr, University of South Carolina; Brent McCusker, West Virginia University; Jeffrey Bury, University of California-Santa Cruz; Brian King, The Pennsylvania State University

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AAG Specialty Group News from page 20

Economic Geography Specialty Group

Roepke Lecture in Economic Geography
 Tuesday, March 24, 5:20 pm - 7:00 pm
 Room: Grande Ballroom G, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizers: Yuko Aoyama, Clark University;
 Julie Cidell, University of Illinois
 Chair: Norma Rantisi
 Presenter: Ronald Leonard Martin, University of Cambridge, *The Rhetoric and Realities of Regional Competitiveness*
 Discussant: Amy Glasmeier, Penn State University

Energy and Environment Specialty Group

Nuclear Waste Management: An International Comparison
 Tuesday, March 24, 1:00 pm - 2:40 pm
 Room: North Hall N112, Las Vegas Convention Center

Organizers: Barry Solomon, Michigan Technological University
 Chair and Introducer: Barry Solomon, Michigan Technological University
 Panelists: Barry Solomon, Michigan Technological University; David Hassenzahl, University of Nevada-Las Vegas; Urban Strandberg, University of Gothenburg; Mats Andrén, University of Gothenburg; William Y. Osei, Algoma University College; Carmel Letourneau, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Ethics, Justice, and Human Rights Specialty Group

American Subprime Dilemma: Race, Risk, and Responsibility
 Thursday, March 26, 10:10 am - 11:50 am
 Room: Royale Pavilion 4, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor
 (co-sponsored by the Urban Geography Specialty Group)

Organizer and Chair: Monica W. Varsanyi, John Jay College-City University of New York
 Panelist: Elvin K. Wyly, University of British Columbia
 Introducer: James DeFilippis, Rutgers University

Geographic Information Science and Systems Specialty Group

Waldo Tobler Distinguished Lecture in GIScience
 Thursday, March 26, 5:20 pm - 7:00 pm
 Room: Top of the Riviera Ballroom South, Riviera Monaco Tower, 24th Floor

Organizer and Chair: Tom Cova, University of Utah
 Speaker: David M. Mark, University at Buffalo

Geomorphology Specialty Group

Taylor-Francis/Routledge Distinguished Lecture on Geomorphology and Society
 Wednesday, March 25, 11:50 am - 12:50 pm
 Room: North Hall N107, Las Vegas Convention Center
 Organizer and Chair: Scott A. Lecce, East Carolina University
 Presenter: James C. Knox, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *Flood Geomorphology in the Upper Mississippi Valley*

Graduate Student Affinity Group

Geography's diversity, coherence, prospects
 Thursday, March 26, 10:10 am - 11:50 am
 Room: Capri 112, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor
 (co-sponsored by the Population Specialty Group)

Organizer and Chair: Timothy Lee Hawthorne, The Ohio State University
 Speakers: Hyowon Ban, The Ohio State University; John Paul C. Catungal, University of Toronto; Nathan Lee Clough, University of Minnesota; Timothy Lee Hawthorne, The Ohio State University; Tristan Sturm, UCLA

Hazards Specialty Group

Emerging Scholars in Hazards Research: Winners of the Jeanne X. Kasperson Student Paper Award
 Wednesday, March 25, 5:20 pm - 7:00 pm
 Room: Capri 116, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizer and Chair: Ron R. Hagelman, Texas State University
 Presenters:
 5:20 Angela Gilbert, University of South Florida, *Hazardous Air Pollutants and Environmental Justice: The Geography of Health Risks in Florida*
 5:40 Christopher G. Burton, University of South Carolina, *From Conceptual Framework to Assessment: The Operationalization of a Place-Based Model for Understanding Community Resilience to Natural Disasters*
 6:00 Khila R. Dahal, Texas State University, *Hazard and Risk: Perception of Glacial Lake Outburst Flooding from Tsho Rolpa Lake, Nepal*
 6:20 Monica Zappa, Northern Illinois University, *Social, Economic, and Cultural Impacts on Hurricane Vulnerability in Bluefields, Nicaragua*

Discussant: Ron R. Hagelman, Texas State University

Health & Medical Geography Specialty Group

Film Screening: Critical Lens: Ethics and Human Rights in Health and Health Care Delivery
 Monday March 23, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm (tentative)
 Room: TBA
 (co-sponsors: Ethics, Justice and Human Rights Specialty Group, Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group)

Organizer: Vandana Wadhwa, Boston University, Boston, MA
 Screening 1: When the Bough Breaks (Unnatural Causes, episode 2 – 29 minutes)
 Presenter and Discussant: Sue Grady, Michigan State University,
 Screening 2: Aborto Sin Pena (Abortion without Shame/Penalty – 28 minutes)
 Presenter: Gregory Berger (Filmmaker)
 Discussant: Ben Wisner, Development Studies Institute, London School of Economics
 Screening 3: Health for Sale (25-30 minutes)
 Presenter and Discussant: Paul Henkel, Meharry Medical College, Nashville,

Historical Geography Specialty Group

Distinguished Historical Geography Lecture
 Wednesday, March 25, 5:20 pm - 7:00 pm
 Room: Royale Pavilion 7, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizers: Karen M. Morin, Bucknell University; Garth Andrew Myers, University of Kansas
 Chair: Dydia DeLyser, Louisiana State University
 Introducer: Karen M. Morin, Bucknell University
 Panelist: Miles Ogborn

Latin America Specialty Group

Geography in the Americas: Resources for Supporting International Collaboration (co-sponsored by the Association of American Geographers and the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers)
 Monday, March 23, 3:10 pm - 4:50 pm
 Room: Skybox 201, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Organizers: Patricia Solís, Association of American Geographers; Matthew

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AAG Specialty Group News from page 21

Hamilton, Association of American Geographers
 Chair: Patricia Solís, Association of American Geographers
 Panelists: Nicole Stahlmann, American Council of Learned Societies; Santiago Borrero, PAIGH; Mark Caicedo, Inter-American Foundation; Ibrahim M. Shaqir, Office of International Research Programs, USDA-Agricultural Research Service; Ned Strong

Paleoenvironmental Change Specialty Group

How to Perform Interdisciplinary Paleoenvironmental Research

Wednesday, March 25, 1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Room: Grande Ballroom C, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizers: Zachary P. Taylor, University of Tennessee; Trevor Porter, Carleton University
 Chair: Zachary P. Taylor, University of Tennessee
 Panelists: Glen M. MacDonald, UCLA; James H. Speer, Indiana State University; Kam-Biu Liu, Louisiana State University; Sally P. Horn, University of Tennessee; Timothy Beach, Georgetown University; Bryan Shuman, University of Wyoming

Population Specialty Group

Population Specialty Group and Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Joint Plenary Session: Laura Pulido

Thursday, March 26, 3:10 pm - 4:50 pm

Room: Grande Ballroom H, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor
 (co-sponsored by the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group)

Organizer: Suzanne Davies Withers, University of Washington
 Chair: Wei Li, Arizona State University
 Discussants: Laura Pulido; Suzanne Davies Withers, University of Washington
 Introducer: Wei Li, Arizona State University; Emily H. Skop, The University of Texas at Austin
 Presenter: Laura Pulido, University of Southern California, *Latino/a Racial Subjectivity in Southern California*

Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group

A Date with Social Geography:

Celebrating Dr. Allen G. Noble's

Distinguished Scholarship and Career

Wednesday, March 25, 3:10 pm - 4:50 pm

Room: North Hall N112, Las Vegas Convention Center

Organizers: Vandana Wadhwa, Boston University; Frank J. Costa

Chair: Ashok K. Dutt, University of Akron
 Introducer: Ashok K. Dutt, University of Akron

Speaker: Frank J. Costa

Panelists: John E. Benhart, Shippensburg University; Pradyumna P. Karan, University of Kentucky; Laurence J.C. Ma, The University Of Akron; Yehua Dennis Wei, University of Utah; Samuel Thompson, Western Illinois University; Ramesh C. Dhussa, Drake University; Rajrani Kalra, California State University-San Bernardino; Sudhir K. Thakur, California State University Sacramento; Baleshwar Thakur, University of Delhi

Remote Sensing Specialty Group

RSSG Student Honors Paper Competition I

Wednesday, March 25, 1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Room: Royale Pavilion 2, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizers: Paul Merani, University of Nebraska; Benjamin Tuttle, University of Denver/University of Colorado-Boulder
 Chair: Paul Merani, University of Nebraska
 Presenters:

1:00 Daniel Redo, Texas A&M University; Andrew C Millington, Texas A&M University, *A Hybrid Remote Sensing Protocol for Tracking Land Change Types in the Seasonal Tropics*

1:20 Rana Nasseem Al-Jawarneh, University of Oklahoma; Thomas Paradise, University of Arkansas, *Spatial Analysis of Land Cover and Land Use in Evaluating Land Degradation in Northwestern Al-Mafraq City, Jordan*

1:40 Libin Zhou, Florida State University; Xiaojun Yang, Florida State University, *Impacts of Neural Networks Architectures on Land Cover Mapping from Satellite Imagery*

2:00 Liheng Zhong, University of California Berkeley; Peng Gong, University of California Berkeley, *A Phenology-based Classification Approach in Agricultural Land Mapping*

Rural Geography Specialty Group

The Impacts of Ruralness to Indigenous Peoples (co-sponsored by Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group)

Sunday, March 22, 1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Room: North Hall N103, Las Vegas Convention Center

Organizer and Chair: William Gribb, University Of Wyoming

Presenters:

1:00 Scott Warren, Montana State University, *Neoliberalism and Place-Identity in the Great Plains Reservation Community of Poplar, Montana*

1:20 Mehmet T. Aritan, University of Wisconsin, *Spatial Distribution of American Indian Casinos in Relation to Population Clusters*

1:40 Dick G. Winchell, Eastern Washington University, *Native Identity, Rural Isolation, and Strategies for and against the American Indian: American Indian Reservation History and Tribal Transportation Programs*

2:00 William J Gribb, University Of Wyoming, *The Spatial Distribution of Reservations and Its Impact on Economic Development: The Wind River Reservation Example*

2:20 Daniel Gerard Cole, Smithsonian Institution, *Gambling Inequities: A Spatial Analysis of Gaming Activities in Indian Country*

Russian, Central Eurasian, and East European Specialty Group

Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union: 20 Years On

Tuesday, March 24, 8:00 am - 9:40 am

Room: North Hall N116, Las Vegas Convention Center

Organizer: Chad Staddon, University of the West of England

Panelists: Beth Mitchneck, University of Arizona; Robert Kaiser; Darren Purcell, University of Oklahoma; Craig Young, Manchester Metropolitan University; Chad Staddon, University of the West of England

Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group

Spatial Analysis and Modeling Plenary Lecture and Geographical Analysis Reception

Wednesday, March 25, 5:20 pm - 7:00 pm

Room: Capri 105, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizers: Daniel A. Griffith, University of Texas, Dallas; Yongwan Chun, The University of Texas, Dallas

Chair and Introducer: Daniel A. Griffith, University of Texas, Dallas

Presenter: Denise Pumain, University Paris I, *Modelling spatial evolution: the example of urban systems*

Study of the American South Specialty Group

Race, Ethnicity and the Dynamic American South

Continued on page 23

Kathleen Baker, Assistant Professor of Geography at Western Michigan University, has received a grant of \$1,180,115 from the United States Department of Agriculture for her project titled "Synoptic weather forecasting and web-based information delivery systems for managing crop disease risk in multiple regions of the U.S." The project will create crop-specific weather-based disease risk forecasts for leaf spot of peanut in Georgia and northern Florida, Fusarium head blight of barley in the northern Great Plains, and late blight of potato in Michigan. The web-based information delivery systems will make forecasts available to growers on a daily basis. The four-year project is being conducted in collaboration with the following researchers: Joel Paz, University of Georgia; Jeffrey Stein, South Dakota State University; William Kirk, Michigan State University; Phillip Wharton, Michigan State University; and Dennis Todey, South Dakota State University.

Jason Jones, University of Southern Mississippi, has been awarded the Kenneth J. Osborn Memorial Scholarship from the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

Jin-Kyu Jung, Department of Geography at the University of North Dakota, has been awarded a prestigious 2009 Visiting International Scholar Fellowship by the Institute of Social Research (ISR), Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, UK. The goal of the program is to foster the development of sociological methods. Only one to three fellowships are awarded by competition each year. ISR is the home of the Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS). Jung will work with ISR Director Nigel Fielding and other researchers to integrate geographic information systems and CAQDAS.

Eric Keys, assistant professor at the University of Florida, has been awarded the Wrigley-Fairchild Prize for his article "Exploring Market-Based Developments: Market Intermediaries and Farmers in Calakul, Mexico," which appeared in the *Geographical Review*. The Wrigley-Fairchild Prize was established by AGS in 1993 in honor of Gladys Wrigley (1916-1948) and Wilma Fairchild (1949-1971).

Doug Reardon, Associate Professor in the Department of History, Geography and Global Studies at Coppin State University,

has received a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand the Geography program and to equip a laboratory. Reardon also is principal investigator for a two-year curriculum development project at Coppin State University supported by a \$140,000 grant from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Ed Zolnik, **Kevin Curtin** and **Tim Leslie** from the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science at George Mason University have been awarded a \$144,438 grant from the General Services Administration of the federal government. This competitive award is part of the federal government's initiative entitled, "Envisioning the Future Federal Workplace in the Washington, DC Region." This initiative seeks to cultivate innovative regional coordination, design and planning practices for accommodating federal offices in the Washington, DC region over the next half century. The award-winning team from George Mason will develop a GIS-based, decision support tool to help the federal government assess the costs and benefits of various siting scenarios throughout the National Capital Region. ■

Specialty Group News

AAG Specialty Group News from page 22

Tuesday, March 24, from 8:00 am - 9:40 am
Room: Capri 113, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizers: E. Arnold Modlin, Louisiana State University; Derek H. Alderman, East Carolina University

Chair: E. Arnold Modlin, Louisiana State University

Presenters:

8:00 E. Arnold Modlin Jr., Louisiana State University and Derek H. Alderman, East Carolina University, *Visibility of the Enslaved within Plantation Tourism Marketing on the Internet: A Textual Analysis of North Carolina Websites*

8:20 Stephen Hanna, University of Mary Washington, *Cartographic Memories of Slavery and Freedom: Examining John Washington's Map of Fredericksburg*

8:40 Rebecca Ginsburg, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, *Deconstructing the Triangle Trade Map*

9:00 Katie Berchak, Louisiana State University, *Nueva Orleans*

Transportation Geography Specialty Group

Fleming Lecture in Transportation Geography

Tuesday, March 24, 1:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Room: Capri 116, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizer and Chair: Richard L. Morrill, University of Washington

Introducer(s): Richard L. Morrill, University of Washington; Joe Weber, University of Alabama

Presenter: Shih-Lung Shaw, University of Tennessee, *Individual-based Tracking Data: Potentials and Challenges to Transportation Geography*

Discussant: Donald Janelle, University of California-Santa Barbara

Water Resources Specialty Group

Climate Change, Ecosystems and Research Agendas in the Lower Colorado River Basin

Thursday, March 26, 10:10 am - 11:50 am

Room: Royale Pavilion 3, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

(co-sponsored by the Climate Specialty Group, and the Biogeography Specialty Group)

Organizers: Kin M. Ma, Grand Valley State University; William J. Smith, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Chair: Cort J. Willmott, University of Delaware

Panelists: Katie Hirschboeck, University Of Arizona; Connie Woodhouse, University of Arizona; Franco Biondi, DendroLab, University of Nevada; Jay Arnone, Desert Research Institute; Thomas Piechota, University of Nevada Las Vegas; Brett Riddle, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Discussant: Stanley Smith, University of Nevada Las Vegas ■

Geography in the Re-Design of Social Studies Curriculum: Recent Penn State Experience

Background to Teacher Curriculum Re-Design and Geography

Departments of Geography throughout the United States are faced with the general challenge of the re-design of the social studies curriculum within teacher education at their colleges and universities. Much change of this sort needs to be seen as a consequence of the 2001 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – commonly known as “No Child Left Behind” or “NCLB” – that has significantly impacted school funding, assessment and accountability, and teacher qualifications. Geography is identified as a core academic subject in the NCLB legislation, although without a funding mandate. Through a variety of efforts, academic standards for geography now exist independently or as part of social studies standards in all 50 states. GENIP (the Geography Education National Implementation Project) has evaluated the position of geography in NCLB and defined what constitutes a “highly qualified” geography teacher (see <http://genip.tamu.edu>).¹

Our recent experience with the re-design of teacher education curricula at Penn State lead us to believe that it is incumbent upon Geography Departments to collaborate with their education colleagues in order to ensure that teacher candidates are well-qualified to teach geography content in K-12 schools. A surprisingly large number of colleges and universities provide teacher preparation programs that interact substantially with Geography Department, and our recent experience suggests that this interaction can be mutually beneficial. This article presents a short account of this experience, beginning with the current context of teacher curriculum re-design at Penn State, the role and rationale of the Geography Department in creating a proposal for this re-design, and its current status including plans for the final version of the new curriculum.

Context: Existing Teacher Education Curricula at Penn State

At present, secondary education majors planning to teach social studies can choose one of two options at Penn State. The 51-credit “Citizenship Education Teaching” option focuses on the four disciplines for which there are state academic standards: civics and government (effectively political science), economics, geography, and history; this option has required that a student complete a minor in either history or geography. The 54-credit “Social Studies Teaching” option includes some coursework in all four of the aforementioned academic standards-disciplines, but adds courses in anthropology and sociology; it does not require students to complete a minor. In practice, a majority of teacher education students choose the Social Studies Teaching option over the Citizenship Education Teaching option, while, at the same time, some students end up completing both history and geography minors.

A contextual factor vital to the Geography Department is concerned with how well the pre-existing curricular design addressed the areas mandated by the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Geography. These areas are: A) Basic Geographic Literacy; B) The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions; C) The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions; D) The Interactions Between People and Places.² Current options require Penn State teacher education students to take classes in either three of these geographic areas (in the case of Social Studies Teaching) or all four areas (in the case of Citizenship Education Teaching).

One additional contextual factor has also been central as background to Geography’s role in the curriculum re-design. Like other baccalaureate degree programs at our university, the design of teacher education has been based on a foundation of 45 credits (15 courses) of general education required of all undergraduates and 41 core credits common to all students

in the secondary education major. Requirements for options within the degree major vary from 41-69 credits. Penn State strongly encourages programs to keep as close as possible to a maximum of 120 total required credits in order to allow students at the University to complete the program in 8 semesters of 15 credits each. These credit-based guidelines have proven to be critical to considerations in the curriculum re-design, as discussed below.

Initiation of the Current Re-Design

Beginning recently Penn State’s College of Education has been faced with the challenge of restructuring its secondary education curriculum. One goal of this challenge is to comply with state-mandated inclusion of additional special education and world language courses for teacher candidates. Perhaps even more importantly the College of Education has expressed a strong desire to consolidate and thereby streamline and update the existing options in Social Studies Teaching and Citizenship Education Teaching. Academic programs that plan to revise curricula are required to consult with “affected units.” An initial social studies revision proposal was circulated to the Geography Department. This proposal included a geography option whereby students would earn a minor in the discipline, but diminished the required geography content for all other students.³ The College of Education proposal raised concerns that the students not selecting the geography option (which we expected would be the large majority of majors) would only be required to take 1-3 geography courses – and thus have formal academic preparation in as few as one of the four content areas (and no more than three of these areas) that are addressed in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Geography.

Continued on page 25

AAG Newsletter Op-Eds

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.

Current Proposal for Re-Design of the Teacher Curriculum

There ensued a highly productive discussion among College of Education and Department of Geography faculty and administrators as well as those of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (in which Geography is housed at Penn State). This discussion led to a proposal that now will go forward to the University's Administrative Council on Undergraduate Education. It calls for a multi-level Social Studies Education Teaching Option of 57 credits (19 courses). This includes 30 credits of required or prescribed courses (taken by all students), 12 credits of additional courses (students select from several choices), and a 15-credit group of concentration courses in one of four possible options: Citizenship Education (the "generalist" option); Civics & Government; Economics; Geography; or Heritage Education.

Geography courses are now central to the courses in each level of the teacher education proposal. The prescribed courses include two geographic foundations, "Introduction to Physical Geography" and "Introduction to Human Geography", in addition to the courses of other departments that here include Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy (Economics), Western Heritage I and II (History), American Civilization To 1877 and Since 1877 (History), Introduction to American National

Government (History), and Teaching Secondary Social Studies I and II (Education).

The core group of additional courses is proposed to include choices from another pair of geographic foundations, "Geographic Perspectives on Sustainability and Human-Environment Systems" and "Mapping Our Changing World." The other choices, and corresponding departments, within this level of coursework are Cultural Anthropology (Anthropology), Microeconomic Analysis and Policy (Economics), Introduction to Comparative Politics (Political Science), International Relations (Political Science), Introductory Sociology (Sociology), and Heritage Education (Education).

Concentration courses within the proposed Geography option courses would include "Mapping Our Changing World", three credits of intermediate human geography, three credits of intermediate physical geography, and six credits of advanced geography; students enrolled in this option would graduate with a geography minor. The proposed Citizenship Education option would include one geography concentration course, to be chosen from "Geographic Perspectives on Sustainability and Human-Environment Systems" or "Mapping Our Changing World"; students in this option (expected to be the majority of majors) would graduate with at least one course addressing each of Pennsylvania's academic standards in geography.

As a result of our continuing dialogue with the College of Education, the Penn State Department of Geography is not only contributing much-needed improvements to the secondary social studies curriculum but also we are now forging stronger ties with our Education colleagues. Teacher candidates will be better prepared to teach geography content in their classrooms, and we expect to develop additional collaborations to benefit pre-service and in-service teachers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. ■

Jodi Vender
Undergraduate Coordinator
Pennsylvania State University

Karl Zimmerer
Department Head
Pennsylvania State University

¹ The Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP) is comprised of representatives of the Association of American Geographers, American Geographical Society, and National Council for Geographic Education, and National Geographic Society.

² Definition of these areas is based directly on the National Geography Standards.

³ Options in the initial proposal included citizenship (political science), economics, geography, and general "social education." All students in the major would earn a history minor; all but those in social education would also earn a minor in economics, geography, or political science.

similar to those of the nearest mainlands? In addition, geographic variation of species and of groups of species in space, as exemplified by South American rheas, offered a snapshot of variation in time that constituted another central piece of evidence for the fact of evolution. Biogeography was even more important for Wallace than for Darwin, because of the eight years that Wallace spent criss-crossing the line that has become known in his honor as Wallace's Line, and that constitutes the world's most striking biogeographic transition. Wallace's books are credited with having founded the science of biogeography.

If Darwin had not become famous as a biologist, we would instead remember him as a physical geographer. Like Wallace, Darwin constantly asked questions about the origins of the Earth's physical landscapes, including

its coral atolls, its geological strata, and its oceanic and continental islands. We would also remember Darwin as a human geographer, who became deeply impressed, during the voyage of the Beagle, by differences in the physical appearances and the lifestyles of people around the globe. In Darwin's subsequent great book, *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex*, he grappled with the question of how human geographic variation (so called racial variation) had arisen, and how to account for the distinctive lifestyles of Patagonian Indians (who especially impressed him) and other peoples.

All of these questions remain alive today. Many geography departments formally recognize separate subdisciplines of biological, physical, and human geography. Biogeography has become transformed by the intro-

duction of quantitative methods, and by the recognition that the Earth's configuration has changed throughout Earth history even more than Darwin and Wallace guessed. When I was learning biogeography as a postdoctoral student in the early 1960s, it was still routine to explain current plant and animal distributions in terms of assumed constancy of the continents. Now, however, we know that continental drift is a fact and must be taken into account whenever one discusses species distributions on time scales of tens of millions of years. Physical geography has also been transformed by new methods. Imagine Darwin's and Wallace's excitement if they could have seen photographs of the Earth from Space, photographs of the ocean's hydrother-

Continued on page 26

GTU Election Results

Don Zeigler of the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center of Old Dominion University has been elected President of GTU for the 2009-2010 calendar years. Randy Bertolas of Wayne State University was elected First Vice President for the same period. Tom Wikle of Oklahoma State University was elected Second Vice President for the same period. Dawn Drake, graduate student at the University of Tennessee was elected Student representative. Howard Johnson, retired from Jacksonville State University, rotates into a two-year term as Past President. All other officers remain the same.

Information on GTU can be found at www.gammathetaupsilon.org. Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) is an international honor society in geography. Gamma Theta Upsilon was founded in 1928 and became a national organization in 1931. Members of GTU have met academic requirements and share a background and interest in geography. GTU chapter activities support geography knowledge and awareness. Initiates must have completed a minimum of 3 geography courses, have a GPA of at least 3.3 overall and in geography, and shall have completed at least 3 semesters or 5 quarters of college course work.

AGS Excursion 2012

The American Geographical Society is planning an ambitious program of travel, lectures, and other activities, under the title "Centennial Transcontinental Excursion of 2012 of the American Geographical Society." The program will commemorate the 1912 voyage led by William Morris Davis throughout the United States by retracing its steps. The 2012 AGS excursion will feature first-class accommodations, including vintage Pullman cars upgraded to current standards of comfort and safety, and accommodations in period hotels when possible, many of them the same buildings used by participants in the original 1912 Transcontinental Excursion.

AGS is seeking involvement and advice from professional geographers and other interested parties in the planning and execution of this excursion. Inquiries, suggestions, and expressions of interest should be directed to the Excursion's organizer, Frederick E. Nelson, at fnelson@udel.edu. The AGS website is available at www.amergeog.org.

Hand Drawn Map Contest

The Hand Drawn Map Association is a collection of maps and other interesting

diagrams drawn by hand and archived on the HDMA website. The group is currently collecting maps for a book to be published in 2010. HDMA accepts submissions of hand drawn maps on an ongoing basis. They are currently conducting a contest (for a series of limited edition monoprints) through **April 30, 2009** to encourage submissions. For complete contest guidelines, visit www.handmaps.org.

New Journal

A new peer-reviewed journal, *Nature and Culture*, explores the relationship of human activity with the natural world, combining theory, methodology, criticism, and concrete observation from a variety of disciplines. For more information, including submission guidelines and subscription details, see <http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/nc>.

The AAG Newsletter accepts submissions of a wide range of items for the "Of Note" section. Please send your submissions to newsletter@aag.org and write "Of Note Submission" in the subject line. ■

Darwin and Geography from page 25

mal vents, and seismic and drilling evidence of the Earth's composition below its visible skin.

Human geography is also becoming transformed by evolutionary thinking. Historians have traditionally been embarrassed to wonder, with Darwin, why the Patagonians and many other peoples were "uncivilized." To ask the question seemed to imply a racist answer, and it was considered better not to ask the question at all. That failure created a huge moral and intellectual gap. Every member of the public can see that modern peoples differ in their wealth and power, and that they also differ in their physical appearances. Historians' failure to address the origins of differences in wealth and power virtually invited the public to fall back on racist interpretations. Increasingly, though, economists and political scientists now realize

that geography has influenced human societies, just as it has influenced the bodies of humans and other animals. The development of "civilization" required the food surpluses, sedentary lifestyles, and dense populations made possible by agriculture and herding, whose origins in turn depended on that small proportion of wild plant and animal species that lent themselves to domestication.

Figuratively as well as literally, the world is not flat. Some parts of the world harbored far more domesticable plant and animal species than did other parts. Within the last half-dozen years, social scientists have been analyzing how the geographically uneven origins of agriculture, beginning 11,000 years ago, have contributed to the uneven distribution of wealth and power today. This does not mean that "geography is destiny"

and that countries are helpless pawns of their geographical heritage. Instead, it means that, in geography as in other disciplines, knowledge is power. Countries that recognize their geographic heritage, like the recently burgeoning economic powerhouses of Southeast Asia, will be the countries best able to draw advantages and to overcome disadvantages of their geographic heritage.

In short, geography was central to Darwin's and Wallace's thinking. Today too, in our globalized modern world, geography is, more than ever, a central discipline.

Jared Diamond
Department of Geography, UCLA

Sneak Preview of Map Exhibition to Take Place in Las Vegas

A sneak preview of the 17th century maps and manuscripts of Ottoman Turkish cartographer Katib Celebi will be on display at the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas in the Grande Ballroom Foyer of the Riviera Hotel, March 24-26. The maps are scheduled for their first official U.S. exhibition this spring and summer. The only west coast venue for this collection will be at the Center for Islamic and Middle Eastern

Studies at California State University, San Bernardino.

The most important work of geography written in the 17th century was *Displaying the World*, by Katib Celebi (1609-1657). The volume consisted of two parts: the first dealing only with seas, rivers and islands, the second with continents, cities, and countries. Intended as a book of general geography, *Displaying the World* contained maps of the

known world, including America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and other regions.

Many of Celeb's manuscripts were later expanded with supplements added by copyists. Adding to his work became a tradition which continued until the advent of modern western cartography and its study in educational institutions in the 19th century.

An overview of the exhibit is available at <http://cimes.csusb.edu/worldview.html>. ■



Resm-i İklim-i Avrupa (The Continent of Europe)



İklim-i Asya (The Continent of Asia)

Necrology

Leslie Curry

Leslie Curry, Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Toronto, died on January 12, 2009, at the age of 86.

Curry was born and raised in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. He volunteered for the Royal Navy at age 18 and joined the 14th Destroyer Flotilla as a radar mechanic during World War II. Following the war, Curry graduated from Kings College at the University of Durham. In 1951, he received a master's degree in geography from Johns Hopkins University while a Fulbright Scholar. He worked as an economist at the United Nations and then at Charles Warren Thornthwaite's Laboratory of Climatology in Seabrook, New Jersey. Curry received his doctorate in geography from the University of Auckland in New Zealand in 1959 and later taught at the University of Washington, the University of Maryland, and Arizona State University before moving to

the University of Toronto, where he spent 21 years before retiring in 1985.

As a theoretician, Les Curry was a modeler, using stochastic analysis to delve deeply into processes, especially economic, that produce the patterns and flows across the globe. One of his early papers showed that natural climatic change could occur as the result of random exchanges involving heat storage in the oceans, while another early paper treated central places in terms of inventory management and stochastic processes.

Curry received the Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Scholarly Distinction in 1977. Other honors included a Visiting Commonwealth Professorship in



Curry

the U.S., a Guggenheim Fellowship at Cambridge University, an inaugural Connaught Senior Fellowship in the Social Sciences, a residency at the Rockefeller Foundation's Study Center in Bellagio, a fellowship at the Australian National University, a citation for Meritorious Contributions from the Association of American Geographers, and the International Geographical Union's prestigious Lauréat d'Honneur.

Author of the book, *The Random Spatial Economy and Its Evolution* (1998), Curry was featured in *Geographical Voices* (2002), an anthology of autobiographical essays by 14 eminent geographers, edited by Peter Gould and Forrest Pitts.

A celebration of Les Curry's life will be held at the Faculty Club, University of Toronto, on Monday, April 20, 2009. If you would like to attend, please contact Andrew Malcolm at UTAGA@geog.utoronto.ca. ■

ASPIRING ACADEMICS

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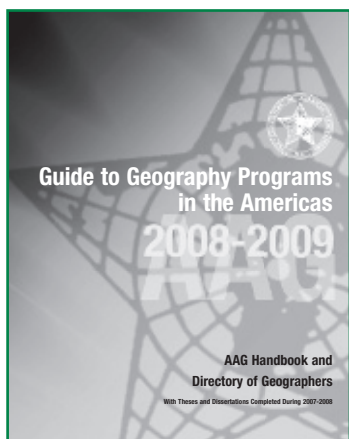
AAG Offers Two New Books

Teaching College Geography is a new book designed to help you become a more effective teacher from the very first day of class, addressing the nuts-and-bolts of classroom teaching as well as topics such as geospatial technology and designing field studies.

Aspiring Academics is a set of essays examining issues of concern to graduate students and early career faculty, and also features a companion website with activities for use in workshops, seminars, and informal gatherings.

Both books have been produced through the AAG's Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education (EDGE) Project and are published by Pearson Prentice Hall.

For details and to order: www.aag.org/edge/edge_materials.cfm.



Now Accepting Orders for the New AAG Guide to Geography Programs

The 2008-2009 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.

Order your copy of the *Guide* today using the form below or the form available at www.aag.org/Publications/Guide_form.htm.

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Jobs in Geography

UNITED STATES

*CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.

Scholar of Turkey or the western Balkans. The International Institute and the Division of Social Sciences Division at UCLA invite applications for a joint, tenure-track **Assistant Professor** position. Applicants for the position must have research and teaching interests that offer a social science perspective on Turkey or the western Balkans in the 20th century.

The ideal candidate would situate his or her regional interests in the context of cross-regional processes (e.g. EU expansion, democratization, politicization of religion, cross-border ethnonational conflict, or Turkey's deepening involvement with post-Soviet central Asian countries) drawing on the theories and methodologies of one or more social science disciplines.

We seek a scholar with a strong potential in research and a commitment to graduate and undergraduate education. The preferred candidate will be a dynamic program builder, who will help coordinate UCLA's initiatives in this region

and contribute to interdisciplinary dialogue with colleagues throughout the University. The successful candidate must be able to teach core courses in his/her discipline as well as area-focused courses. PhD or ABD close to completion by June 30, 2009 is required.

Apply: applications, to include a c.v., a statement of research and teaching interests, a representative recent paper or article, and three references, should be submitted to: Ms. Tara Wake, Search Committee for Turkey/Balkans Scholar, Tracking Number 3835-0809-01, International Institute, 11230 Bunche Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095.

Review of applications will begin April 1, 2009. However, applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.

UCLA is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and has a strong commitment to the achievement of excellence and diversity among its faculty and staff.

MAR 09-045

*CALIFORNIA, REDLANDS.

The School of Education at the University of Redlands invites applications for a tenure-track position in **Teacher Education: Curriculum and Instructional Methods with Emphasis in Geography or Geospatial Applications**. This is an 11-month contract, rank open, beginning in July 2009. Candidates must have an earned doctorate and experience working with geography or geospatial applications in educational settings, be able to work collaboratively with school personnel, have excellent teaching skills, and an active engagement in scholarship.

Preference given for expertise in one or more of the following areas: secondary teaching experience, curriculum development, and supervision of student fieldwork. The University implements spatial thinking across its own curriculum and this position contributes to that tradition.

We seek candidates experienced with various teaching methods and curricular perspectives, and an interest in developing and implementing curricula. We are committed to our credo of "Standing for Academic Excellence and Educational Justice." Applicants should share in our vision of preparing culturally proficient educational leaders who will help all students become successful learners. For additional information, see www.redlands.edu/4152.asp.

Apply: please send a cover letter, Curriculum Vitae, a sample of your professional writing, and three reference letters to: School of Education Faculty Search, University of Redlands, P.O. Box 3080, Redlands, CA 92373.

Application review begins January, 2009 and continues until filled. The University of Redlands is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Members of underrepresented groups are strongly urged to apply.

MAR 09-040

FLORIDA, BOCA RATON.

The Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University invites applications for a tenure track **Assistant Professor in GIScience** at our Davie campus in suburban Ft. Lauderdale. We seek an individual with a strong background in applying geospatial techniques to diversify and complement our existing strengths in GIScience education and research. Research experience/interests in wetland, vegetation, or coastal systems are preferred. The Department currently offers undergraduate and master's level degrees in both geography and geology and will institute a new doctoral degree in Geosciences in Fall 2009.

"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

The successful candidate will interact with faculty and students on the Boca Raton campus as well as build student enrollments on the Davie campus. Florida Atlantic University is located in Southeastern Florida. This region's geographic relationship to sensitive ecosystems combined with its rapidly expanding human population has put extreme stress on environmental resources. The Department of Geosciences and FAU's interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences program are partnering with several state and federal agencies to address the region's unique environmental problems and the successful candidate will have the opportunity to make a major contribution to this partnership. Teaching duties will include undergraduate and graduate courses in GIScience and the candidate's area of expertise. Candidates should have a PhD, demonstrated potential for establishing programs of funded research, and clear promise of excellent teaching.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, letter of application stating qualifications for the position, up to three representative publications, and names and contact information for three professional references. Send the application materials to Dr. Zhixiao Xie, Search Committee Chair, Department of Geosciences, Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431. Additionally, an official FAU application must be submitted electronically for the Geoscientist Position (# 991719) at <http://jobs.fau.edu>. The position is open until filled. Applications will be reviewed beginning February 13, 2009.

Florida Atlantic University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action Employer.

FEB 09-022

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE.

Coppin State University. The Department of History, Geography and Global Studies seeks an **Assistant Professor** to help build its geography program. A dynamic teacher with strengths in Urban, Historical, Cultural Geography or Geography/Social Studies Teacher Education would complement the existing program. GIS experience is desirable as is an ability to teach a regional course (Latin America, Middle East, Africa, Asia.) Must love the classroom and excel at recruiting. ABD considered, PhD preferred. Start in August 2009. This post is funded through AY 10/11 as a contractual position. Very competitive salary.

Apply: send a cover letter, CV with contact information for three references, and a transcript to Dr. Douglas Reardon, Associate Professor, Dept. of History, Geography and Global Studies, Coppin State University, 2500 W. North Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216.

Inquiries welcomed by Dr. Reardon on (410) 951-3441 or to dreardon@coppin.edu.

CSU is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

FEB 09-033

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE.

Coppin State University. The Department of History, Geography and Global Studies seeks a **part-time Lecturer and Geospatial Laboratory Assistant**. Global Studies program desires an enthusiastic Geographer to support teaching and student research using remote sensing and GIS. Lab facilities include workstations with ESRI and ERDAS site licenses, a large format color plotter, Trimble Nomads and Garmin GPS units. Knowledge about national security/ international affairs a plus. Hours will accommodate graduate's schedule. Good pay. Great experience. Start in Spring. MA required.

Apply: send a cover letter, CV and a transcript to Dr. Douglas Reardon, Associate Professor, Dept. of History, Geography and Global Studies, Coppin State University, 2500 W. North Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216.

Inquiries welcomed by Dr. Reardon on (410) 951-3441 or to dreardon@coppin.edu.

CSU is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

FEB 09-034

MICHIGAN, MARQUETTE

Northern Michigan University seeks applications for **Professor and Head of the Department of Geography**. This is a full time, 12-month, tenured administrative and teaching position. The position requires a PhD in Geography, Earth or Environmental Science, or a related field. We seek an individual with a strong record of interdisciplinary scholarship, service, teaching, and publication appropriate for appointment at the rank of Professor with tenure.

The successful candidate will demonstrate sensitivity to the needs of a small diverse department, and join a progressive faculty actively engaged in a responsive, evolving, student- focused curriculum. Responsibilities will include teaching courses in areas of expertise, overseeing the daily operations of the department, representing the department to the campus and public, working with the University administration, and working towards ongoing fundraising opportunities.

NMU is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, along the pristine shores of Lake Superior. The local environment offers many possibilities for research and instruction, as well as an exceptional quality of life. The Department of Geography has seven full-time faculty members providing outstanding student focused opportu-

nities to more than 200 Geography, Earth, and Environmental Science majors. For information about the University and Department of Geography visit www.nmu.edu. Application review will begin on January 19, 2009 and will continue until the position is filled.

Apply: Applicants should send a hardcopy curriculum vitae; statement of teaching, research, and leadership philosophies; and contact information for three references to: Chair, Department Head Search Committee, Department of Geography, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, MI 49855-5342; (906) 227-2500 (voice).

NMU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is strongly committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty.

FEB 09-015

*MICHIGAN, YPSILANTI.

Department Head. The Department of Geography & Geology, Eastern Michigan University, is seeking an academic leader for the position of department head effective July 1, 2009. This is a twelve-month administrative position that carries a rank of **Associate or Full Professor**. The successful candidate will be responsible for promoting the growth and stature of the department, overseeing budgetary and personnel matters, developing faculty teaching schedules, and providing appropriate service to the university. We are looking for a person who will provide energetic leadership, work cooperatively with a multidisciplinary faculty and staff and a diverse student body, and promote and advocate for the department programs and disciplines within and external to the university. The department head is also expected to teach one course per year.

Requirements: PhD or equivalent terminal degree in a field represented in the department; Evidence of leadership and administrative experience including organizational, budgetary, interpersonal communication, development and outreach skills; Demonstrated commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate instruction and research; Record of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service sufficient to warrant appointment as associate or full professor in the department.

The Department of Geography and Geology currently includes eighteen tenure-track faculty and offers degree programs in Earth System Science, Geographic Information Systems, Geography, Geology, Historic Preservation, and Urban Planning (www.emich.edu/public/geo/welcome.html).

EMU is a comprehensive regional institution with approximately 22,000 students located in Ypsilanti, five miles from Ann Arbor and 40 miles from Detroit (www.emich.edu), and offers excellent quality of life and amenities. EMU is one

of the largest producers of K-12 Earth Science teachers in the country. The EMU faculty is represented by an AAUP collective bargaining unit.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, letter of interest, contact information of at least four professional references, evidence of administrative and teaching ability, and a statement summarizing administrative philosophy and goals of leadership for the department. Review of applications will begin February 15, 2009 and continue until the position is filled.

Apply: Email application materials to: academic_hr@emich.edu and geo_dhsearch@emich.edu Please reference "Posting #APAA0914" in the subject line.

Do not put information the body of the email (attachments only). Please address any questions to geo_dhsearch@emich.edu or by phone at (734) 487-7586.

MAR 09-041

*NEBRASKA, LINCOLN.

Applied Climate Scientist/Director, High Plains Regional Climate Center, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Tenure-track position beginning July 2009. PhD is required in climatology, meteorology, geography or a closely related field relevant to the mission of the School of Natural Resources (SNR) and a minimum of 4 years experience.

Provide administrative leadership for the High Plains Regional Climate Center, one of six NOAA Regional Climate Centers and coordinate with other regional climate centers. Conduct research on basic meteorological processes that govern the climate of Nebraska and the surrounding region to improve monitoring and modeling of climatological processes and the detection of their influence on agriculture and natural resources. Establish collaborative research and outreach activities with State Climate programs in the region. Seek external funding in support of the research and service/outreach programs of the HPRCC and SNR and prepare research reports and publish research results in refereed publications. Develop and lead a proactive educational program in climate variability and climate change in Nebraska and beyond, especially as it relates to improving water use/management and our understanding of the impact of climate on natural resources and agricultural production. Continue development of the regional Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN) and the use of these data in new and existing programs to provide climatological information to clientele for a wide range of operational activities. Teach courses in applied climate science with a focus on climate variability and change science, impacts, and adaptation.

The preferred qualifications of the successful candidate will include a record of excellence in research and teaching experience in applied climate sciences using innovative teaching methods. Teaching assignments will be at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Performance of duties of the HPRCC director requires administrative experience and excellent leadership skills. The School of Natural Resources (<http://snr.unl.edu/>) has strong programs in applied climate science, water science, applied ecology, geography, GIScience, soils, and human dimensions of natural resources, and includes several prominent centers including the National Drought Mitigation Center (<http://drought.unl.edu>). We are especially interested in candidates who have expertise that clearly complements existing SNR strengths.

Apply: go to <http://employment.unl.edu>. Search for position #090020. Complete the faculty academic administrative information form. Attach a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of research and teaching interests (Other), and names and full contact information for at least three references. Review of applications will begin on March 15, 2009, but the position will remain open until filled.

The University of Nebraska has an active National Science Foundation ADVANCE gender equity program, and is committed to a pluralistic campus community through affirmative action, equal opportunity, work-life balance, and dual careers.

MAR 09-037

*NEVADA, LAS VEGAS.

The Greenspun College of Urban Affairs invites applications for a **joint appointment** in the Departments of **Environmental Studies and Public Administration**. The appointment will be at the **Full Professor** rank. The College is exploring possible endowment funding to support the new position. The College is investigating the combination of these departments into a new School of Environmental and Public Affairs.

The plans are at an early stage, and the College is seeking a distinguished leader and scholar who bridges both fields to aid in the planning and development process. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the graduate level.

Apply: for job and application details visit <https://hrsearch.unlv.edu>. For assistance with UNLV's on-line applicant portal contact Jen Martens at (702) 895-2894 or hrsearch@unlv.edu.

UNLV is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity educator and employer committed to excellence through diversity.

MAR 09-035

NORTH CAROLINA, FAYETTEVILLE.

The Department of Government and History at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina invites applications for a **Tenure-Track Assistant Professor** position in **Geography/GIS** beginning August 15, 2009. Candidate will be expected to teach two geography courses and advanced courses in GIS. We seek a broadly based Geographer with expertise in Geographic Information Systems.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide technical support to an existing GIS laboratory. Doctorate is preferred in Geography or related disciplines with expertise in Geographic Information System and its application in social, behavioral and policy studies/research. ABD in Geography or GIS related discipline will be considered with expected conferment not later than August 15, 2009. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Screening will begin January 15, 2009 and will continue until position is filled.

Apply: send a letter of application, current vita, official graduate and undergraduate transcripts, and three letters of reference to: Dr. Adegoke Ademiluyi, Professor and Chair, Department of Government and History, Fayetteville State University, 1200 Murchison Road, Fayetteville, NC 28301-4298.

To learn more about the position, feel free to contact the Search Committee Chair by email at dnathaniel@uncfsu.edu or by telephone at (910) 672-1047. To learn more about FSU, visit our web site at <http://www.uncfsu.edu>.

Fayetteville State University is an EEO/AA employer.

FEB 09-019

OHIO, BOWLING GREEN.

The Center for Regional Development at Bowling Green State University is seeking a full-time tenure-track **Economic Geographer** at the **Assistant/Associate** level to join its interdisciplinary research team. The Center is currently engaged in a number of regional and international research projects related to local economic development, innovation strategy, and policy.

The Center is seeking a scholar with teaching and research interests in several of the following areas: spatial statistics, GIS, environmental economics, regional economic development, local economic development, industrial policy, rural economic/community development. The successful candidate will have a PhD at the time of appointment and have a strong research record with demonstrated experience in obtaining external research funds. The expected teaching load is two courses per year in the areas of economic geography, urban and regional geogra-

phy, and economic development in the School of Earth, Environment and Society. Candidates with experience in international research collaborations are especially encouraged to apply.

The Center for Regional Development (CRD) is a University chartered research center of Bowling Green State University. CRD is dedicated to regional economic and community development through interdisciplinary research conducted by research partners at Bowling Green State University, from the region, and around the globe. The Center is one of three rural university centers funded by the State of Ohio. CRD is also a Department of Commerce EDA University Center.

Apply: Send curriculum vita, official transcripts, and three current letters of recommendation to the following address: Dr. Michael Carroll, Chair of Search Committee, Center for Regional Development, 109 South Hall, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0181. Review of applications will begin on February 15, 2009 and will continue until the position is filled.

Bowling Green State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer.

FEB 09-014

OHIO, COLUMBUS.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at The Ohio State University is pleased to announce the establishment of the SBS Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. The goals of the Fellowship Program are to support promising scholars who are committed to diversity in the academy and to prepare those scholars to enter tenure track faculty positions. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from individuals who are members of groups that historically have been underrepresented in the American professoriate.

Fellows will be affiliated with one of the eight academic units of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Communication, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Speech and Hearing Science (additional information at <http://sbs.osu.edu>). The College also houses four interdisciplinary research units: the Criminal Justice Research Center, the Center for Human Resource Research, the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis, and the Initiative in Population Research. Fellows may also have the opportunity to participate in the activities of the Kirwan Institute for Race and Ethnicity, a multidisciplinary center founded jointly by the Colleges of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Humanities, and Law.

Eligibility: Applicants must have completed all requirements for a doctoral degree in the social sciences by August 2009. Preference will be given to individuals who are within five years of their degree. Applicants must be committed to an academic career. Applicants must be a citizen of the United States. Awards: Up to three fellowships will be awarded. The appointments are intended for two years, with re-appointment for the second year contingent upon a successful performance review. The appointments will begin in September 2009. The fellowships provide a \$40,000 annual stipend, university medical benefits, and some support for travel and research expenses.

Application Process: Required application materials: (1) Applicants should clearly identify a unit within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at OSU with which they would be affiliated during the Fellowship period, and are encouraged to suggest one or more tenured faculty members within that unit who could serve as a host and mentor; (2) a curriculum vitae; (3) a one page dissertation abstract; (4) a statement outlining the specific research proposed to be undertaken during the Fellowship period, and the significance of that research (four-page limit, double-spaced); (5) a personal statement describing the applicant's background and commitment to the goal of diversity in higher education (three-page limit, double-spaced). Applicants should submit all of these materials electronically in Microsoft Word. (Please identify all of the documents with the last name and document type, e.g., smithcv.doc or smithresearchstatement.doc.) In addition, three letters of recommendation should be submitted electronically.

All materials must be received by March 15, 2009, and should be submitted to sbspostdocs@polisci.osu.edu. Questions can be directed to Prof. Kathleen M. McGraw (mcgraw.36@osu.edu).

FEB 09-023

*OHIO, KENT.

The Department of Geography at Kent State University invites applications for a **non-tenure track assistant professor** to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of **GIS, cartography, quantitative methods, and/or other service courses**. Pending final approval by the University, the successful candidate will start in Fall 2009.

A scholar with a broad background in GIS and a demonstrated record of excellence in teaching or the ability to develop advanced/programming courses in GIS is preferred. Candidates with PhD in Geography or relevant fields are preferred but ABD will be considered. Salary is competitive and commensurate to qualifications and experience

and will be consistent with existing collegiate and University policies.

Review of applications will begin on March 1, 2009 and will continue until the position is filled.

Apply: Please submit a cover letter, CV, three letters of reference, a statement of teaching philosophy, evidence of excellence in teaching, sample syllabi, and sample publications to Dr. Jay Lee, Professor and Chair, Department of Geography, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242-0001, USA. Please forward any inquiry about this position to jlee@kent.edu.

Kent State University is an equal opportunity employer supporting diversity in the workforce.

MAR 09-038

*OKLAHOMA, STILLWATER.

Oklahoma State University. The Department of Geography invites applications for a visiting **Assistant Professor** beginning Fall 2009. The appointment period is one academic year, with the possibility of annual renewal. The department is searching for a specialist in **Conservation/ Natural Resources**. Ability to teach outdoor recreation and a regional course on Africa or Europe also desired. A PhD or ABD in Geography or closely related field is required.

OSU Geography is a growing, doctoral-granting department housed in the College of Arts and Sciences. There are currently 14 tenured/tenure-track faculty, 55 undergraduate majors, and 40 graduate students. OSU is a Land Grant University with a student population of approximately 22,000. Stillwater is an attractive community of 50,000 equidistant from Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Further information on the department is available at www.geog.okstate.edu.

Applicants must submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and a list of three references by May 1, 2009. Letters of reference will be solicited for short-listed candidates.

Apply: Dr. Jon Comer, Personnel Committee Chair, Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-4073. Voice: 405-744-6250. Fax: 405-744-5620. E-Mail: jon.comer@okstate.edu.

OSU is an EEO/AA/E-Verify employer committed to diversity. OSU-Stillwater is a tobacco-free campus.

MAR 09-042

OREGON, PORTLAND.

Portland State University seeks a highly qualified candidate to fill a tenure track position at the level of **Assistant/Associate Professor** with research and teaching interests in the area of **Ecohydrologic Systems/ Green Infrastructure**. The successful candidate will have scholarly interests that complement and strengthen Portland

State's programs that address approaches to ecohydrologic systems and green infrastructure at the technical and policy levels.

Given Portland State's ongoing activities and leadership in these areas and the pressing need for more research to address critical urban and regional challenges, candidates with expertise in urban stormwater management, related infrastructure, and the urban-rural context for green infrastructure are of particular interest. Specific expertise can address a broad range of topic areas, including but not limited to patterns and processes of urban and urban-rural systems and their relationship to the integrity of human and ecological conditions; technologies and strategies for low impact development; assessment of ecohydrological impacts from development; management of rainfall quantity and of ways to improve the quality of the runoff; natural and engineered chemical, biological and/or physical water treatment technologies; infrastructure systems related to energy, water, and air quality, including controls and information systems; and evaluation expertise including best management practices and understanding of performance metrics relating to green infrastructure and green development in an urban-rural context.

Teaching responsibilities include specific courses in ecohydrologic systems and green infrastructure taught in their home department which will be tailored to the candidate's expertise. In addition, teaching responsibilities will likely include collaborative cross-campus courses related to sustainability policy and practice. The successful candidate will receive a primary appointment in the most appropriate department or program and will also be an affiliated member of the university's Center for Sustainable Processes and Practices (CSP2), expected to participate in cross-campus research, engagement opportunities, and other initiatives related to sustainability. This position is one of five coordinated sustainability-related searches that are intended to broaden and deepen the university's expertise in sustainability. Interested candidates should review the university's sustainability investment strategy at www.pdx.edu/sustainability.

Applicants must have a PhD in a relevant science or engineering discipline, including but not limited to Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, and Hydrology. Applicants should have a well-developed, applied research agenda that supports the university's growth in and interdisciplinary approach to sustainability. The successful candidate must have a commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and team teaching and track record in an interdisciplinary work environment.

Faculty Rank and salary are commensurate with experience. Benefits package includes fully paid health care, a retirement package; and reduced tuition rates for employee, spouse, or dependent at any of the University System Schools.

Apply: Applicants should submit a letter of application including a brief statement of research and teaching agenda, curriculum vitae, the names and contact information of three references to: Chair, Ecohydrologic Systems and Green Infrastructure Search, Center for Sustainable Processes and Practices, Mail Code OIA, P.O. Box 751, Portland OR, 97207-0751 or send as an attachment via email to sustainability@pdx.edu (Attn: Ecohydrologic Systems/ Green Infrastructure Search).

Application review will begin on January 15, 2009 and continue until the position is filled. Non U.S. residents must state their visa status.

Portland State University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity institution and welcomes applications from diverse candidates and candidates who support diversity.

FEB 09-027

PENNSYLVANIA, CARLISLE.

Dickinson College invites applications for an 18-month Mellon Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar in **Sustainability of Human-Environment Interactions** to begin August 2009. The successful candidate will execute a proposed research project using geographic information science methods to explore questions about human interactions with the environment and implications for sustainability and will teach one or two courses. The research project should be broadly interdisciplinary and address questions at the interface of at least two of the following: humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. The Visiting Scholar will be affiliated with Dickinson's new Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education and other departments as appropriate. Review of applications will begin on February 2, 2009, and will continue until the position is filled. Dickinson is committed to diversity and we encourage candidates who will contribute to meeting that goal to apply.

Apply: please visit jobs.dickinson.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50670.

FEB 09-020

PENNSYLVANIA, SLIPPERY ROCK.

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania is seeking applicants for one (1) full time, tenure track position at the **Assistant Professor** level in the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment, beginning in August 2009. A PhD at time of appointment is required. Successful performance in an on-campus interview, including teaching and research demonstrations, is also

required. The candidates must demonstrate a commitment to the education of diverse populations.

The Department seeks an assistant professor with an active research and publication agenda and a research and teaching focus on environmental issues, particularly sustainability. The selected candidate will be responsible for teaching introductory environmental courses, upper division courses in her/his area of expertise, and contributing to the department's newly developed Master of Science in Sustainable Systems. Preference will be given to candidates who also demonstrate the ability to teach one or more of the following courses: Principles of Sustainability, Energy and Society, Green Building Design, and Planning for Sustainable Communities. The Department has a tradition of providing students with opportunities for research, field experiences, and travel; the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to these efforts. We encourage applicants across a broad range of research interests, theoretical frameworks, and methodological approaches.

Apply: Send letter of interest, statements of teaching philosophy and research agenda, curriculum vita, graduate and undergraduate transcripts (official transcripts are required before hiring), and letters from three references (include a list of their names, addresses and phone numbers) to:

Dr. Langdon Smith, Department of Geography, Geology, and Environment, 319 Advanced Technology and Science Hall, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Email: langdon.smith@sru.edu (For questions only. No electronic submissions will be accepted.)

Review of complete application materials will begin on February 21, 2009, continuing until the positions are filled. Background investigation required for employment.

Slippery Rock University of PA is a member of the State System of Higher Education and is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Visit our web page at www.sru.edu. Further information about the Department is available at <http://academics.sru.edu/gge/index.html>.

FEB 09-026

*SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON.

Assistant Professor, Urban Policy and Planning. Department of Political Science, College of Charleston. The position will serve both the undergraduate major in Political Science and the Master of Public Administration program, with responsibilities for coordinating the graduate certificate program in Urban and Regional Planning. The normal teaching load is nine contact hours per semester, along with advising and supervision of independent research. Candidates must possess a PhD in Political Science, Geography, or a related field. The Political Science Department

has 21 faculty, 400 undergraduate majors (www.polisci.cofc.edu), and supports a Master of Public Administration (www.cofc.edu/~puba) program that typically enrolls about 55 degree seeking students.

Apply: Letter of application, curriculum vita, copies of graduate transcripts, statements of teaching and research interests, evidence of teaching effectiveness (including course syllabi and course evaluations), examples of scholarly research, and three letters of reference to Urban Policy and Planning Search Committee, Department of Political Science, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424. Review of applications will begin March 15, 2009 and continue until the position is filled.

The College of Charleston is an AA/EQ employer and strongly encourages women and minority candidates to apply.

MAR 09-039

VIRGINIA, BLACKSBURG.

PhD Assistantship in Mapping Ecosystem Services. This position is part of a multidisci-

plinary effort to examine where/when biological conservation enhances delivery of aquatic ecosystem services. Candidate will participate in conceptual-model development for and spatial analyses of relations among conservation practices, biodiversity, delivery of ecosystem services, and human well being in a U.S. river basin. Candidate will be in charge of project data analysis and report writing, while completing PhD coursework. Qualifications: Master's degree in landscape ecology, geography, ecological economics, conservation biology, or related discipline; demonstrated scientific productivity, including peer-reviewed publications; strong statistical skills; experience with large geo-spatial datasets; excellent writing skills. Salary: \$22,000-24,000/yr plus tuition. Closing date: July 31, 2009.

Apply: Send letter of interest, resume, GRE scores, names of three references to: Paul Angermeier, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321; 540-231-4501; biota@vt.edu.

FEB 09-025

INTERNATIONAL

*NEW ZEALAND, DUNEDIN.

The Centre for the Study of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CSAFE) seeks applicants for a **two-year postdoctoral fellowship** in the area of agricultural/rural change in New Zealand. The fellowship is a full time research position working with Associate Professor Hugh Campbell (CSAFE) and Dr. Rob Burton (AgResearch) in the Rural Futures research program. CSAFE (www.csafe.org.nz) is an established research center based in the University of Otago's Department of Geography, with a research focus on agriculture and rural change at the interface of social and environmental science. Applicants are sought from the fields of rural/agricultural geography, rural sociology or an associated social science discipline.

Full application information is available at www.otago.ac.nz/vacancies. Review of applications begins February 5, 2009. For specific enquiries email: hugh.campbell@otago.ac.nz.

MAR 09-036

GIM
INTERNATIONAL

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2009

MARCH

16-17. TUGIS 2009 Geographic Information Sciences Conference. Towson University, MD. <http://tugis.towson.edu>.

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

APRIL

12-16. International Association for Landscape Ecology Conference. Snowbird, UT. www.usiale.org/snowbird2009.

16-17. 40th Annual South Dakota State Geography Convention. Brookings, SD. www3.sdstate.edu.

MAY

19-20. National Geography Bee. Washington, DC. www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee.

26-30. Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting. Carleton University, Ottawa. www.cag-acg.ca.

27-30. GeoSummit: An International Symposium on Teaching and Learning in Geography. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, San Marcos, TX. www.geo.txstate.edu/grosvenor/geosummit2009.

JUNE

14-20. Geography Faculty Development Alliance (GFDA) Workshop. <http://aag.org/GFDA/earlycareer.htm>.

15-19. GSIDI-11. Rotterdam, the Netherlands. <http://gsdi.org/gsdi11>.

17-19. XII Iberoamerican Conference on GIS. Heredia, Costa Rica. www.fundauna.org/csig.

JULY

6-11. International Association of Geomorphologists, 7th International Conference. Melbourne, Australia. www.geomorphology2009.com.

7-10. GI Forum 2009. Salzburg, Austria. www.gi-forum.org.

10-11. **AAG Department Leadership Workshop.** Wilmington, NC. www.aag.org.

10-13. 13th World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics, and Informatics. Orlando, FL. www.iiis2009.org/wmsci.

12-17. 23rd International Conference on the History of Cartography. Copenhagen, Denmark. www.ichc2009.dk.

13-17. ESRI User Conference. San Diego, CA. www.esri.com.

20-22. Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining Conference. Athens, Greece. www.asonam.org.

AUGUST

16-19. Tenth Asian Urbanization Conference. Hong Kong. www.hku.hk/asia2009.

17-21. Space, Time and Place Conference 2009: Remote Sensing in Archeology. Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India. www.spacetimeplace2009.org.

23-27. 14th International Conference of Historical Geographers (ICHG). Kyoto, Japan. www.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ichg.

26-28. RGS/IBG Annual Conference. Manchester, England. www.rgs.org.

SEPTEMBER

21-25. COSIT 09, 9th International Conference on Spatial Information Theory. Aber Wrac'h, France. www.cosit.info.

24-27. National Conference on Geography Education. San Juan, Puerto Rico. www.ncge.org.

25-26. **Great Plains/Rocky Mountain AAG Regional Meeting.** Logan, UT. Contact: Doug Ramsey (doug.ramsey@usu.edu). <http://geography.unco.edu/GPRM>.

30-Oct. 3. **Pacific Coast AAG Regional Meeting.** San Diego, CA. <http://geography.sdsu.edu/apcg>.

OCTOBER

2-3. **Middle Atlantic AAG Regional Meeting.** Germantown, MD. Contact: Tanya Allison (tanya.allison@montgomerycollege.edu).

11-13. 50th Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries. Raleigh, NC. www.sochistdisc.org.

24. **East Lakes AAG Regional Meeting.** Dayton, OH. www.aag.org/Regions/East_lakes.cfm.

26-29. AfricaGIS 2009, Kampala Uganda. www.africagis2009.org.

28-30. Applied Geography Conference. Baton Rouge, LA. <http://applied.geog.kent.edu/appliedgeog>.

29-31. **Southwest AAG Regional Meeting.** North Little Rock, AR. www2.geog.okstate.edu/swaag.

30-31. **West Lakes AAG Regional Meeting.** Saint Paul, MN. www.macal-ester.edu/geography/09aagwestlakes.

NOVEMBER

6-7. **Middle States AAG Regional Meeting.** New Paltz, NY. Contact: Larry McGlinn (mcglinnl@newpaltz.edu).

6-7. **Nestval AAG Regional Meeting.** Salem, MA. Contact: Steven Young (syoung@salemstate.edu).

15-21. 24th International Cartography Conference. Santiago, Chile. www.icc2009.cl.

24-26. **Southeast AAG Regional Meeting.** Knoxville, TN. Contact: Ron Kalafsky (kalafsky@utk.edu).

2010

APRIL

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

2011

APRIL

12-16. AAG Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington. www.aag.org.

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.

JIG CENTER 2009 in Las Vegas

The Jobs in Geography (JIG) Center will be located on the first floor of the Riviera Hotel, in Capri 102 just across from AAG Annual Meeting Registration. The JIG Center will host representatives from many private companies, government agencies, and universities. Space will be provided for these organizations to hold interviews and meet with conference attendees. Employers present at this year's JIG Center will include ESRI, the U.S. Census Bureau, ASRC Research and Technology Solutions, the Las Vegas Planning and Development Department,

FUGRO EarthData, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the University of Toronto. Numerous job postings in all fields of geography will also be on display. In addition to the JIG Center, special AAG Jobs in Geography sessions have been organized at the Annual Meeting. These will feature extensive information on careers in geography, professional development, and employment opportunities.

JIG Center Hours:

Tuesday, March 24, 9:30am – 4:30pm
Wednesday, March 25, 9:30am – 4:30pm
Thursday, March 26, 9:30am – 4:30pm

World Geography Bowl 2009

The 2009 World Geography Bowl will take place Tuesday, March 24, beginning at 7:00pm at the AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. The Championship Round will begin at approximately 10:00pm. Check your conference program for location. Student teams from the AAG's regional divisions plus one Canadian team will compete. The 2009 World Geography Bowl Committee would like to thank the AAG, Rand McNally, the U.S. Census Bureau, Oxford University Press, and the National Geographic Society for sponsoring this year's competition, as well as Lonely Planet and Penguin Books for donating additional prizes.

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