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## AAG Senior Associates Program Update

The AAG Senior Associates Program, which was launched one year ago (see D. Richardson, "AAG Initiates Program for Senior Geographers," *AAG Newsletter*, September 2004), is designed to make greater use of the talent and resources of our membership, in particular of the large cohort of academic and professional geographers who are now approaching retirement age. The program offers volunteers meaningful engagement in AAG projects and programs as either AAG Senior Associates or AAG Senior Fellows. *AAG Senior Associates* contribute time and effort directed toward specific, focused, short-term tasks that benefit from the support of their particular expertise and *AAG Senior Fellows* volunteer their experience and skills toward longer-term or sustained activities, many that may be related to externally-funded projects or major on-going initiatives of the association.

For seven senior geographers, life after retirement has presented new opportunities to contribute to the discipline. Through the innovative Senior Associates Program established last year by the AAG, these geographers have been engaged in stimulating work that recognizes their talents and experience and that directly supports the work of the association and the discipline.

### AAG Senior Fellows

As a Senior Fellow, former AAG President Janice Monk helps coordinate

the AAG Senior Associates Program. In conjunction with AAG staff liaison Patricia Solís and Doug Richardson, she provides core leadership and networking to recruit Senior Associates, identify appropriate projects and tasks, and seek sources of funding to support activities, honoraria, and travel expenses. She maintains close contact with the volunteers and guides the development and expansion of the initiative. She is also collaborating in the AAG's NSF-funded Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education (EDGE) project which aims to strengthen graduate programs in geography.

David Hill, Emeritus Professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, is working closely with AAG on the Teacher's Guide to Modern Geography project, part of a three year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Through this project, he is a contributing author to chapters in the CD units and the Teacher's Guide, serves as a reviewer of materials, and helps to connect the project to broader efforts promoting geography education at the district, state, and national levels.

Norm Stewart is undertaking a special project to review and curate archival records and materials of the association held in the AGS/AAG Collection at the Golda Meir Library at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is also connecting

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Monk



Hill



Stewart



Calkins



Flad



Ray



Smith



Marble



Foschi

with past AAG presidents and other members who wish to contribute their materials to the AAG Archives.

### AAG Senior Associates

The late Hugh Calkins, formerly of the Department of Geography at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, helped launch a new focus on bringing greater numbers of geographers into Fulbright Programs, particularly the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program.

**Harvey K. Flad**, Emeritus Professor of Geography at Vassar College and a past Fulbright recipient and U.S. Information Agency consultant, also contributes to Fulbright recruitment efforts and assists in gathering information regarding international opportunities for geographers, particularly within the Fulbright programs. He is collaborating with colleagues and program officials to hold informational sessions at the AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago on these opportunities and co-authored an article on Fulbright opportunities for the September 2005 *AAG Newsletter*.

**John Ray** volunteers his experience working with geographic information science and systems to help undergraduate and graduate students present their work in spatial and geographic analysis at scholarly conferences and professional meetings.

**Ethan (Tim) Smith**, retired from the USGS and current Executive Secretary

of the Water Information Coordination Program, has engaged his knowledge of water resource issues with recent global events, assisting the AAG to respond to natural disaster events. In particular, he rapidly gathered and organized information from multiple sources on tsunamis and related research by geographers after last year's tsunami disaster in South Asia.

**Duane F. Marble**, Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University, advises the AAG on GIScience curricula issues and participates in AAG careers in geography projects.

Additional geographers who have expressed interest in participation include Gordon Taylor (formerly of the Canadian National Parks), E. Joan Wilson Miller (Professor Emerita/Adjunct Professor at Illinois State University), and Patricia Foschi (San Francisco State University).

### Program Development and Opportunities

The Senior Associates Program was developed with the advice of an AAG advisory committee consisting of Richard Morrill, former AAG President and current President of the Retired Geographers Affinity Group; former AAG President John Adams of the University of Minnesota; James McConnell, University at Buffalo, SUNY; Lydia Pulsipher, University of Tennessee; Sandra Shaw, formerly of the U.S. Department of State; Jan Monk of the

Southwest Institute for Research on Women at the University of Arizona; and AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson.

Volunteers are welcome to serve as Senior Associates. Many opportunities exist for new projects that might include such activities as interacting with local congressional representatives to increase support for educational and other policy issues related to geography; developing "talent banks" for media and other outreach; building capacity for international collaborative work; mentoring for early and mid-career geographers; assisting in the development of proposals to foundations and federal agencies; helping with special fundraising activities; and building bridges to geographers working in small or interdisciplinary programs or at community colleges.

If you would like more information on the program, have suggestions to share, or have an interest in participating in the program, please contact Jan Monk, Patricia Solís, or Doug Richardson. ■

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