

AAG Newsletter
of the
**Association of American
Geographers**

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Boston: Traditions and New Directions in Geography

The 2008 AAG Annual Meeting in Boston was the largest gathering of geographers and associated scholars in the history of the AAG, and perhaps one of the most rewarding. I was particularly struck by the energy and excitement present throughout the meeting, from the large crowd that attended Jeffrey Sachs' opening address to the enthusiasm of Saturday's awards ceremonies.

The presentations and discussions in which I was involved (both formal and informal), and the many comments I overheard lead me to realize that geography's continuing progress is nothing short of remarkable. I would like to thank all of you for making the Boston meeting a great success and for working so hard to enrich geography's traditional strengths as well as to push the discipline along new and

promising pathways, advancing research, scholarship, teaching, and service to the discipline and the world at large.

This year, over 7,000 geographers and friends from 61 countries registered for the annual meeting, with approximately one-fourth of them from outside the U.S. That growth, coupled with the meeting's continuing successes on the ground, illustrate the progress we are all making to strengthen our discipline's standing in the university and increase its relevance to contemporary issues.

Following is a brief photo montage from the Boston meeting. Best wishes from all of us at the Meridian. ■

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The AAG's Doug Richardson conducts interview with Noam Chomsky during the Boston Meeting. The interview will be available on the AAG website.



Kavita Pandit presented the AAG Presidential Achievement Award to David Ward.



Jeffrey Sachs delivers AAG Keynote Address.

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Henry Bulley discusses his research with attendees at the poster session.



USGS Director Mark Myers shares USGS science vision for the next decade.



AAG Honorary Geographer Charles Mann discusses his book 1491.



AAG Archivist Geoffrey Martin (left) and Wes Dow (center right) of the Geographers on Film project are recognized during a special session by Richardson and Fritz Nelson (right).



Michael Kaufman inspects the inflatable globe.



The Exhibition Hall remained busy throughout the meeting.



Jeffrey Sachs and Doug Richardson confer following the AAG Opening Session.



Larry Brown addresses the audience after receiving AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors at the Awards Luncheon.



A large crowd enjoyed the music of the Boston band "The Awesome" at the AAG Opening Reception.



Kavita Pandit delivering the Past President's Address following the AAG Banquet.



Employers were kept busy at the AAG Jobs in Geography Center.



Laura Pulido presents the Antipode Lecture.



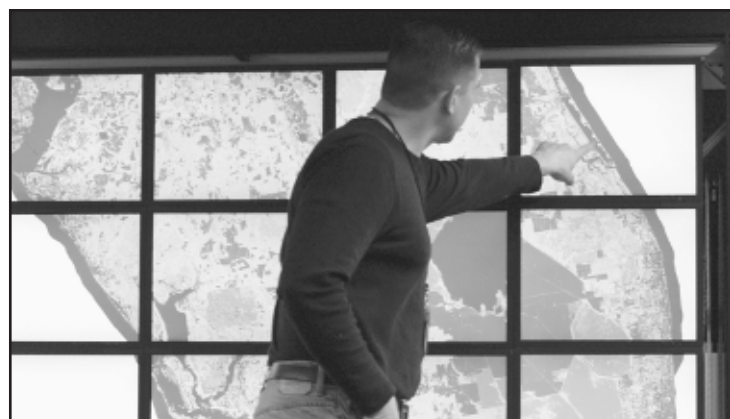
Chomsky surveys an appreciative audience following his conversation with Richardson.



AAG staff members (R to L) Gayathri Gopriam, Adam Thoche, and David Coronado assisting with the registration of over 7,000 meeting attendees.



The Middle States team won the World Geography Bowl.



The high tech USGS display in the Exhibition Hall engaged many visitors.



New 50-year AAG members Ladis Kristof (left) and Sanford Bederman (middle) are congratulated by AAG President Tom Baerwald.



The Annual Meeting provides a friendly atmosphere for families.



Vicky Lawson (left) with Richardson and Jenny Zorn at the AAG Banquet.