

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

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USPS 987-380 ISSN 0275-3995

The AAG Newsletter ISSN 0275-3995 is published monthly with July/August combined, by the Association of American Geographers, 1710 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-3198. The cost of an annual subscription is \$25.00. The subscription price is included in the annual dues of the Association. Not available to non-members. Periodicals postage paid in Washington, DC. All news items and letters, including job listings, should be sent to the Editor at the address below or to newsletter@aag.org.

All Newsletter materials must arrive at the Association office by the 1st of the month preceding the month of the publication. This includes job listings. Material will be published on a space available basis and at the discretion of the editorial staff.

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Las Vegas: Building Partnerships for Geography

The 2009 Annual Meeting was one of the larger and most diverse gatherings of geographers and associated scholars in the history of the AAG.

This year, the total number of presentations topped 4,300, while over 6,400 geographers and friends from 61 countries registered for the meeting. In addition, one of every five participants attended from somewhere outside of the United States. That diversity coupled with the meeting's continuing engagement with the full range of the discipline illustrates the progress we are all making to strengthen geography's standing in the university and increase its relevance to contemporary issues across the globe.

The AAG Staff would like to thank all of you for making the Las Vegas meeting a great success and for working so hard to push the discipline along new and promising pathways while extending the core strengths of our discipline, advancing research, scholarship, teaching, and service to geography and the world at large.

Following is a brief photo montage from the Las Vegas meeting. We look forward to welcoming you to Washington D.C. next year for the 2010 Annual Meeting. Best wishes from all of us at the Meridian. ■



Richardson

Doug Richardson
and the AAG Staff



The AAG signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Professional Geographers India, to cooperate on programs and projects of mutual interest in the future.



Yonette Thomas of the NIH builds on collaborations with the AAG on health issues.



Tom Baerwald gave the Past President's Address, "Prospects for Geography as an Interdisciplinary Discipline."



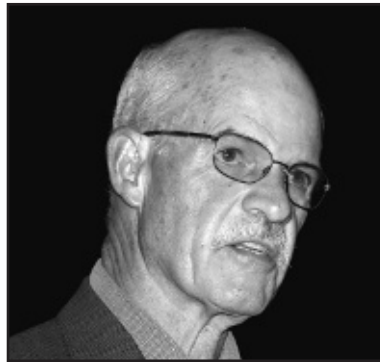
AAG President John Agnew (left) welcomes speakers (left to right) James Powell, Patricia Gober, Glen McDonald, and William Rinne to the opening plenary, "The Future of Water in the American West."

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The Geography in the Americas panel (L to R) Ibrahim M. Shaqir, Ned Strong, Jessica Robin, Santiago Borrero, Nicole Stablmann, Patricia Solís, and Mark Caicado, with Doug Richardson (far right).



Noted author James Powell spoke on the Colorado River in the opening plenary session, "The Future of Water in the American West."



Chelsea Teale, a graduate student at Penn State, discusses her poster with interested onlookers in the Exhibition Hall.



Panelists (left to right) John Adler, NOAA, John Cromartie, USDA, Marc Perry, U.S. Census Bureau, Peter Claggett, USGS, Lowry Taylor, U.S. Department of State, and Paul Weise, NGA, discussed "Employment in the Public Sector: Getting a job with the Federal Government."



The JIG Center remained busy with many visitors.



Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI, was the featured speaker at the Brown Bag Plenary, "Geography, GIS, and Africa."



Peter Ndunda, GIS Director for Wangari Maathi's Greenbelt Movement in Kenya, with Indy Hurt of the University of California, Santa Barbara.



Distinguished biographer and environmental historian Donald Worster discussed the life and work of John Wesley Powell.