

Symposium Report Examines Climate Change Ph.D. Programs

Climate change, one of the most pressing issues of the century, is by nature a complex and multi-disciplinary science. Many aspects of research in climate change, particularly those dealing with adaptation and impacts, require a much broader perspective and greater scientific knowledge than most traditional Ph.D. programs provide. How then can graduate programs meet both the disciplinary demands of traditional programs and the interdisciplinary needs of climate change research in order to best train the next generation of scientists?

To address this question, a March 2003 gathering of forty recent Ph.D. recipients from thirty-six institutions and eleven countries hosted by the Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) held several workshops on ideal climate change programs. These programs would produce well-trained, highly qualified Ph.D.s that are solidly grounded in their traditional disciplines, yet also are capable of interacting and collaborating with scientists from different disciplines. Topics covered ranged from course design to the role of faculty in professional development.

As the current academic system evolves to face the increasingly interdisciplinary and interconnected world, this report may help inform the conversation surrounding the creation and development of climate change departments, centers, and institutes. Workshop authors welcome the participation and input of geographers in this conversation. For further information and the full DISCCRS report, visit <http://aslo.org/phd.html>. ■

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Seven Geographers Become AAAS Fellows

Seven geographers were elected Fellows of American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2003. They are: **Philip J. Gersmehl**, University of Minnesota, for outstanding work in biogeography and agriculture and for leadership in curriculum innovation and multimedia presentation; **Lisa J. Graumlich**, Montana State University, for pioneering work defining the risks of severe, sustained droughts and for articulating the relationship between long-term climate variability, global change, and ecosystems; **Sally P. Horn**, University of Tennessee, for outstanding work on recent and long-term changes in vegetation and landscapes in Latin American tropics and on the interrelationships between environmental change and human society; **George Patrick Malanson**, University of Iowa, for quantitative biogeographical research in regions where the spatial patterns of riparian zones and alpine ecotones interact with environmental processes; **Kent Mathewson**, Louisiana State University, for notable research in historical cultural

ecology in Latin America and for exceptional service mentoring young scholars; **Ellen S. Mosley-Thompson**, Ohio State University, for documenting climate change through ice-core measurements, for leadership in the glacial research community, and for transmission of climate-change science to the world community; and **Alan H. Strahler**, Boston University, for pioneering work in remote sensing of land cover and land cover dynamics, including modeling and testing directional reflectance of plant canopies.

Election as a Fellow of AAAS is an honor bestowed upon members by their peers. This brings the total number to thirty geographers among the 300 plus fellows in the Association's Geology and Geography Section.

In addition, five geographers currently serve as AAG representatives to various sections of the AAAS. They are: John F. Schroeder, Jr. for Geology and Geography; Kent Mathewson for Anthropology; Roger E. Kasperson for Social, Economic, and Political Science; Katherine Klink for

Education; and Ellen Mosley-Thompson for Atmospheric Sciences.

The AAAS is the largest and among the world's oldest general scientific associations. It currently has a worldwide membership of some 140,000 scientists and scholars. From its inaugural meeting in Philadelphia chaired by Louis Agassiz and Joseph Henry, the role of earth scientists in the organization has been prominent. During the 19th century a third of the AAAS presidents came from Section E Geology and Geography, including two earth scientists, J.W. Foster and Julius L. Hilgard, who listed their disciplinary affiliations as geography. With the growth of the number of sections to twenty-four, the leadership positions have been distributed more widely in the past century. Isaiah Bowman and Kirtley F. Mather (a Harvard geologist who taught geography courses previously taught by W. M. Davis and W. W. Atwood) were among the presidents from Section E in the twentieth century. ■