

2009 SEDAAG MEETING

PANEL SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Active Learning Swap Shop

SEDAAG members are invited to a session on active learning. Many professors recognize the importance of including some active learning techniques to present material to their class. This session will be an active learning swap-shop where you will learn some innovative and creative ideas to increase student participation in the classroom. The ideas presented will be different than that presented in the first Active Learning Swap Shop which was well attended in 2008. Topics include: First-day class ice-breakers with Geography topics, Clickers in Class (a behind the scenes look at how clickers can be used in class and what is required of you, the professor, at the front and back end of this), A GPS scavenger hunt, Jing as a teaching tool).

Community Engagement: Actively Learning Geography in the Community

This panel discussion will bring together five geographers whose pedagogical experience involves various community engagement accomplishments. Helen Ruth Aspaas and George Lonberger will discuss their success with service learning and at the same time compare the experience in a large research institution with that of a junior college. Douglas R. Oetter will share his work with GIS students who provide mapping for community clients. Eric Spears will describe the work his students complete in a Brazilian urban slum while they do a study abroad course. Finally, Derek Alderman will discuss the university's perspective on the impact and value of students' participation in community engagement activities.

Does the marriage work? Geography in combined departments

Combined departments are an institutional reality for the discipline of geography in colleges and universities in the South. For example, sixty percent of the geography-degree granting departments in the SEDAAG region include geography and one or more other discipline. Of these combined departments, sixty percent are departments that combine geography with geology, earth sciences, and/or geosciences. Other combinations include geography with anthropology, political science, and/or planning. How well do these disciplinary "marriages" work? What are the advantages and disadvantages for the discipline of geography? In this session, panelists will explore these questions and reflect on how various departments negotiate these multi-disciplinary arrangements.

Making the Best of a Bad Economy: Challenges and Survival Strategies for Geography Programs

A group of current and former department chairs from a variety of states and university sizes come together in a panel to discuss the recent impact of the economic downturn on geography programs. Panelists discuss the challenges that recent budget cuts pose to geographers while also providing advice on what programs need to do to survive and maintain the health of the discipline.

Poster Madness

Creating a “WOW” poster. The do’s and don’ts of creating posters and discussion of delivering a poster presentation over oral presentations.

Right to the City: Activism in Knoxville

Peter Hossler, PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at University of Georgia, focuses on urban health care delivery systems and health care safety nets.

Chris Woodhull, Director of Tribe One, an outreach ministry to street youth and gang members

Patricia Robledo, represents the Hispanic community and serves on the East Tennessee Civil Rights Committee (she has a vast resume, including training police in diversity issues). She is excited to talk about geographic differences (rural.urban, different parts of the country, etc) in hispanic/latino issues.

Linda Rust, homeless advocate, neighborhood activist, master's student in geography

Student Issues & Concerns

Student members of SEDAAG are faced by a variety of different concerns and issues in their personal and professional development. The purpose of this session is to allow student members to discuss these issues in an open forum as well as raise concerns that they would like presented to the Executive Committee of SEDAAG. Members of the panel are students, faculty, and government researchers and can answer questions on a variety of topics including grant writing, early-career faculty issues, teaching in K-12 settings, employment in government jobs, research opportunities, honor societies, publishing opportunities, time management, and service to the profession. Students of all ages and faculty are encouraged to attend and participate.

Work-family relationship balance

This session continues a practice over the past several years of providing a venue at the SEDAAG meetings for networking with other women geographers in Southeast Region and attracts members to the SEDAAG Committee on the Status of Women in Geography. *Panelists will first offer short, 10 minute observations on balancing work and family and we will then open the floor for discussion.*