

## EDUCATION-COMMUNICATIONS EVENT REPORT

Event: Annual Conference of the  
American Society of Photogrammetry and  
Remote Sensing (ASPRS) - 2004

Attendee and Report Writer's Name:  
Joseph Kerski, Geographer

Location: Denver, Colorado

Other USGS Participants: Approximately  
40 USGS professionals who use remote  
sensing and GIS technology.

Date: 24-28 May 2004

### Background

The ASPRS (American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) is a scientific association that includes over 7,000 international members. Its mission is to advance knowledge about mapping sciences to promote responsible applications of photogrammetry, remote sensing, GIS, and other geo-technologies.

ASPRS refers to itself as "The Imaging and Geospatial Information Society." The philosophy of the organization, and indeed of the 2004 conference, is the interdependence in these fields among the academic, public, and private sectors. They seek to maximize the scientific, societal, and commercial benefits to be realized from geospatial information. It should come as no surprise, then, that ASPRS members include those from private industry, the government, and academia, in a wide variety of positions including analysts, specialists, educators, engineers, managers, administrators, manufacturers, product developers,

operators, technicians, trainees, marketers, scientists, and researchers. They represent a wide variety of fields as well, such as geography, agriculture, archaeology, biology, cartography, ecology, environmental studies, forestry, geodesy, geology, hydrology, land appraisal, medicine, transportation, and urban planning, to name a few.



*An estimated 2,000 people attended the 2004 ASPRS conference. I was very encouraged by the educational contacts that I made at the conference and the partnership activities that may result from these contacts. This was my second ASPRS conference, and I was very impressed by the enthusiasm and expertise of the attendees.*

An estimated 40 USGS staffpersons

attended the event, supporting the event through a demo room, educational exhibit, and a myriad of paper presentations on a diverse set of topics including education, DOQ production, geospatial standards, The National Map, fire science, and many others.



*Where can one have this much fun posing in front of a globe but at an ASPRS conference?*

Next year's conference is in Baltimore, Maryland. I recommend that the USGS continue to participate in the ASPRS conferences, and throughout the year, in many ways.

### **Educational Track**

The ASPRS conference featured four days of plenary sessions and concurrent papers, as well as field trips and special events. One of the events was to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of ASPRS in 1934.

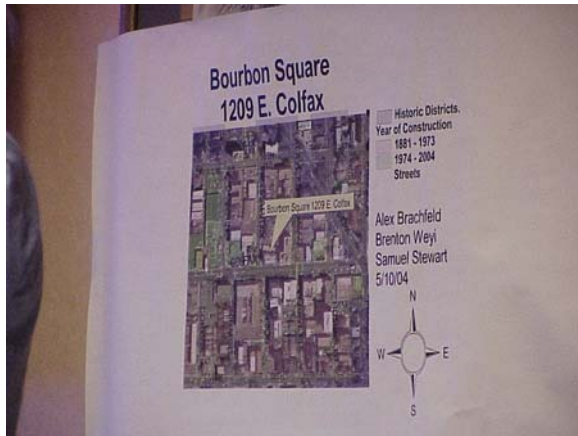
Thanks to the efforts of ASPRS, the conference featured three days of an educational track. This was attended by professors, government, nonprofit, business, and K-12 teachers.



*The education track was well attended and generated much discussion and ideas for future collaboration. I conducted a paper about the educational resources I am developing around the Global GIS project during the track. It's probably the only time when I've been scheduled as Presenter 1, Paper 1 for a conference! We were glad to have the conference organizer, Allen Cook, moderate the first session.*



*Julie Dintamin and two of her middle school students discuss their GIS work in Denver Public Schools. I had the privilege of working with Ms Dintamin last year--the students and I geocached at GIS in the Rockies, and when they came to the USGS on GIS Day. It marked the first time that middle school students had presented at ASPRS!*



*One of the posters created by the middle school students. The students explained themselves quite well and it was a pleasure to show them around the exhibit hall at the conference.*

Later, Robb Menzies and Barb Keiser from Denver Public Schools discussed the implementation of the DPS district wide ESRI license. Day 1 of this track also featured presenters from NASA Ames, the University of Wisconsin, Larry Handley of the USGS, The University of Mississippi, Michigan State University, and Salem State College.

### **Exhibit Hall**

As usual, the exhibit hall at ASPRS was quite impressive with the latest geospatial technologies on display. These were in two large rooms at the conference site.



*One of my favorite discoveries this year was an amazing 3-D plotter from Z Corporation (above) that actually used plaster powder and adhesive to plot landscapes and other 3D structures (below).*



*Another impressive item in the exhibit hall was this touch-screen fly through*

software and hardware (above).



Split-screen visualizations were some of the highlights of the exhibits.

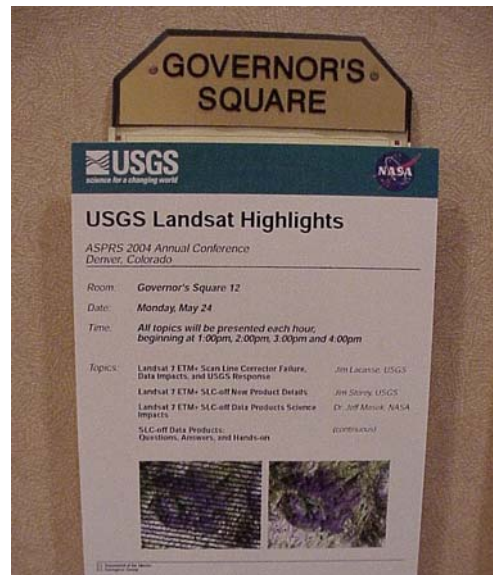


It was good to discover that our exhibit was adjacent to some of the organizations we frequently work with—NASA, above, the Geospatial Information Technology Association, and the Association of American Geographers. The 2005 conferences for GITA and AAG will both be in Denver next spring, in March and April, respectively.

## USGS Demo Room



USGS staff from EROS Data Center conducted a series of presentations during the first afternoon of the conference in a demonstration room that was devoted entirely to the USGS. The focus was on Landsat data products and applications.



Poster advertising the USGS demonstration room.



*We covered the walls with some very impressive posters created by the USGS EDC staff.*

## USGS Exhibit



*USGS staffpersons Ron Beck, Mike Poppen, Gyanesh Chander, and Joseph Kerski at the USGS exhibit. Many visitors to our exhibit had questions about our programs (education, The National Map, research, and so on) and data (NLCD, SRTM, MODIS, Landsat, ASTER, NED, and others). Some stayed for in-depth chats and it was a privilege to be speaking with some of the smartest people in the industry.*



*Joseph Kerski at our USGS exhibit. Through a collective rush of creativity, we all turned the exhibit to face the exhibit hall attendees as they walked in, rather than use the existing configuration. We used two structures and featured USGS information on imagery, geospatial standards, applications, data, and The National Map. USGS EDC made a very impressive Landsat mosaic poster.*



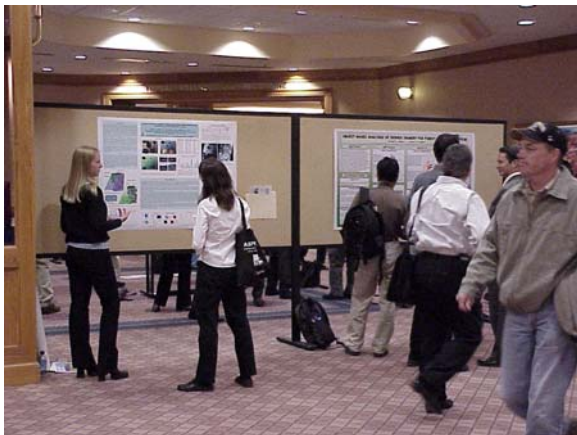
*I am pointing to some impressive historical aerials and land cover data produced by Carol Mladinich in her land use change assessment project along the Colorado Front Range.*



*Remotely sensed view of our exhibit from above!*

## **Other Activities**

### *Poster Session*



*The poster session at the ASPRS conference even featured a satellite image collected the first day of the conference!*

### *Special Visitors*



*Susan Stitt (left) and Joseph Kerski (right) talk with Don Lauer, ASPRS President and former USGS scientist. It was a pleasure to see Don and we thanked him for having us at the conference.*



*Former USGS National Mapping Chief Lowell Starr visited our exhibit; above (left) with USGS scientist Ron Beck (right).*

### *AAG - MyCOE Telecon*

I participated in a telecon during the conference with AAG where we discussed future educational collaboration focused on sustainability, GLOBE, and the My Community-Our Earth project.

### *AAG Planning Meeting*

I participated in a meeting with the AAG staff and others to plan the 2005 Association of American Geographers annual meeting. The conference will take place in April 2005 at the same hotel as the 2004 ASPRS conference—the Denver Adams Mark. University of Colorado-Denver professor John Wyckoff and I are the co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee.

### **Acknowledgements**

I thank all those who coordinated, attended, and presented at this conference, or otherwise supported the conference in a myriad of ways, for making the event valuable to so many people.

I would like to especially thank Allen Cook and Roger Hoffer of ASPRS who were so supportive of our educational track. I also thank Sherry Jackson, Stewart Wright, Carol Mladinich, Rynn Lamb, Jonathan Walkes, Steve Vandas, Ron Beck, Gene Jackson, and Rosemary Cecil for materials and logistics support, and the USGS staffpersons I worked with in the exhibit—Mike Poppen, Gyanesh Chander, Rynn Lamb, Ron Beck, Susan Stitt, Carol Mladinich, Catherine Costello, and others.

Other USGS staff presenting and participating at the conference included Hutchison, Ji, Girl, Raumann, Kelmelis, Garle, Wayne, Van Wagtendonk, Vogelmann, Ohlen, Handley, Dewitz, Baer, Kosovich, List, Zoschenko, Fox, Loveland, Halsing, Boyko, Lee, Mikuni, Marinaro, Greenlee, Stoker, Gesch, Lawrence, Rufe, Christopherson, Nebert, Lukas, Eaton, Finn, Pettinger, Skalet,

Flynn, Starbuck, Usery, Weaver, Jaromack, Craun, Altheide, Brown, Faundeen, Hallam, Trusty, Coan, Cushing, Wood, Duncan, Stensaas, Ouren, and Watts. I am sure I have missed some but your efforts are much appreciated in communicating USGS science to others.

\*\*\* End of ASPRS 2004 Report \*\*\*