

COMMUNICATIONS EVENT REPORT

Purpose of Event:

USGS 2002 Central Region
Open House and Dedication
of Fort Collins Science
Center

Attendee's Name:

Joseph J. Kerski
Geographer: Education/GIS
Denver

Location: Fort Collins Colorado

Web Site:

www.fort.usgs.gov

Other USGS Attendees:

Dr Chip Groat, Tom Casadevall, Central
Region Communications Staff, several
USGS scientists from Central Region GD,
WRD, and NMD, as well as entire BRD staff
from Fort Collins Science Center

Event Date(s):

23 August 2002

Purpose of Event:

1. USGS Central Region Open House
2. Dedication of USGS Fort Collins Science Center.

My Activities at Event:

Operate Educational Exhibit, highlighting
USGS education work in the Central Region
and especially in Colorado, including:

- 1) Front Range Biodiversity Project involving the USGS, CSU, CU, UNC, the CO Division of Wildlife, School Districts, and the CO Natural Heritage Program.
- 2) Partnerships with the Colorado

Geographic Alliance, universities, school districts, and ESRI;

3) GIS in education training, lessons, and partnerships at university, community college, secondary, and elementary levels.

4) Other USGS educational resources.

Acknowledgements

Obviously, putting together an open house and a dedication ceremony required the effort of many people. I thought Juliette Wilson and Natalie Sexton of the Fort Collins Science Center did an excellent job of coordinating the event. I know that Michele Banowetz, Heidi Koontz, and Pat Schassburger worked on publicity and media as well. In my opinion, hosting the open house together with the dedication ceremony was a perfect plan. I appreciated the high attention given to this event by top USGS officials, evidenced by their attendance, and even more so, by their support and the support of many others to see this center become a reality.



The Fort Collins USGS Science Center, from the south. The center conducts research and develops technical applications to assist land managers in understanding and managing biological resources, habitats, and ecosystems.

I was pleased to be a part of the USGS Open House and the Dedication of the Fort Collins Science Center. The day began with a series of speakers under a large tent, which was followed by tours of the facility and open exhibit time until late afternoon. I have visited 3 USGS biological research centers (Great Lakes, National Wetlands, and Fort Collins) and I have been quite impressed by the staffs and the facilities of each one.

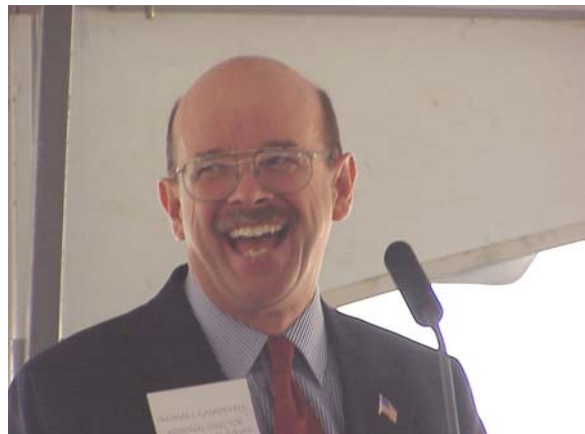
Over 110 federal employees, 40 contractors, and partnerships with government, university, and private organizations make up the science center. The web site for the research center is <http://www.fort.usgs.gov/>



Dr Yates, CSU President, was instrumental in bringing the USGS to his campus.



US Senator from Colorado, Wayne Allard, who was one of the supporters of the project, spoke at the dedication. The USGS facility is part of a Natural Resources Research Center campus, which will, by 2004, include 6 buildings (3 currently exist). When complete, the campus will include 1,200 professionals. The USGS is one of six agencies housed on the campus. The campus is 29 acres and on the south end of the CSU campus.



USGS Central Region Director Tom Casadevall was one of the speakers at the dedication. The staff moved into their new facilities on 9 July 2002.



Duane Asherin, Assistant Director, Fort Collins Science Center, led the effort to bring the USGS to their new facility. Center director Doug Posson was also in attendance.



USGS Director Dr Chip Groat spoke at the dedication and open house about the interdisciplinary science and partnerships that are made possible by the new facility.



Dennis Fenn, Director of the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, USGS.



Fort Collins City Manager John Fischbach welcomed the USGS to its new site. The Fort Collins Mayor was also in attendance.



Open House attendees under one of the tents rented for the occasion. The weather was perfect and I made several unexpectedly good contacts with regards to education and spatial data.



Joseph Kerski operated an education exhibit at the event.



The Valentine City Barbershop Chorus sang the National Anthem at the event.



The Fabrication Shop, site of most of the exhibits during the open house. The remainder of the exhibits were housed in the main research building. The exhibits at the open house were busy all day. I did not experience a lack of people stopping by the exhibit until nearly 4 pm.



Part of the interior of the impressive Fort Collins Science Center. I had particular interest in the GIS facilities and the library.



USGS Central Region Geographer Max Etheridge speaks with others at the education exhibit. We had at least one media person stop by, a reporter from KMGH Channel 7 in Denver.

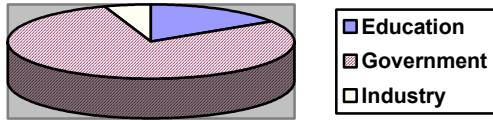


I displayed articles, project descriptions, and lessons I have written concerning geography and science education in the region, including GIS in education. I also displayed USGS educational resources, booklets, and maps. The maps that I brought attracted the most attention of all, including the surface water map of the USA and the new Colorado shaded relief from NED data.



Getting set up for the open house and dedication...

Communication Focus Area



Next outreach events that I am involved with:

- 4-7 Sep: Teach GIS at UTEP
- 23-24 Sep: Teach GIS at USGS Denver
- 2 Oct: Sherrill Scholar Program,
University of Arizona
- 8-11 Oct: GIS in the Rockies
- 16-19 Oct: National Council for
Geographic Education
Conference, Philadelphia
- 27 Oct – 1 Nov: Teach GIS at USGS
Menlo Park
- 3-6 Nov: National Indian Education
Association Conference,
Albuquerque
- 6-11 Nov: Pecora Remote Sensing
Conference, Denver
- 11-14 Nov: National Interpretation
Association Conference,
Williamsburg
- 20 Nov: GIS Day, Denver
- 21-22 Nov: Colorado Association
of Science Teachers
Convention, Denver

*** End of 2002 USGS Open House and
USGS Fort Collins Science Center
Dedication Report ***