

## 2009 AAG Honors Recipients

Each year, the AAG Honors Committee invites nominations for awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the advancement or welfare of the discipline. This year, six individuals will receive 2009 AAG Honors in recognition of lifetime achievement, scholarship, service, and education, to be presented at the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.



Jensen

**John R. Jensen**, University of South Carolina, will receive *AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors* in recognition of his exceptional productivity and leadership in academic, applied, and govern-

mental teaching and research. Jensen has been and continues to be a prolific scholar, pedagogical leader, and inspirational mentor. As an early innovator in remote sensing and GIScience, he applied his expertise in natural sciences to geographic techniques, first in biophysical remote sensing, and later through development of geographic technologies for urban area research. Several major journals in GIScience and remote sensing benefited from his service in editorial positions. Jensen has also been an avid advocate of applying geography to some of the most pressing technological and environmental issues of our times, serving in advisory capacities to NASA and other state and federal agencies. His impressive set of publications numbers more than 500 articles, papers, and technical reports. He has directly supervised over 30 PhD students and over 60 masters students who have been placed throughout academia, industry, NGOs, and state and federal government agencies. Jensen has also been sole author on two internationally-acclaimed textbooks. His contributions have inspired numerous research and service awards from his peers, including from the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group and NASA, which recently

recognized him with the William T. Pecora Award. Jensen has been a tireless voice for the role of geographers in leading landscape and environmental research, and in combining thematic and technological areas of geographic expertise.



Kobayashi

Her theoretically sophisticated work in cultural and social geography has been both informative and inspirational, and her service efforts, especially on behalf of geographers in Canada and the United States, have been significant. Kobayashi serves as a superb role model for all geographers, but in particular, women, minorities, and those with disabilities. Collectively her works have greatly advanced geographical understandings of the experiences of immigrants, minorities, women, and marginalized social groups in general. Much of her scholarship has important transdisciplinary policy implications concerning employment equity, social justice, and civic participation. She has also served in consulting roles for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Kobayashi has been the recipient of prestigious awards in research, teaching and service alike, including a Fulbright Fellowship, the Service Award from the Canadian Association of Geographers, the Marion Porter Prize for most significant feminist Canadian research article, and a Teaching Excellence Award from Queen's University. Her leadership on the AAG Council and as *AAG Annals* Editor has brought her knowledge, dedication, and insight to bear upon important aspects of the association.

**Audrey Kobayashi**, Queens University, will receive *AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors* for her outstanding contributions to advanced scholarship, innovative teaching, and exemplary service.

*AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honors* will be presented to **David F. Ley**, University of British Columbia, in recognition of his notable achievements as a scholar and public intellectual in urban, immigrant and transnational issues. His extensive publications and incisive thinking have influenced emerging and established academics, fostered cross-disciplinary and transnational dialogue, and informed public policy in Canada and beyond. A creative thinker whose writings consistently identify, challenge and advance understandings of the most salient social issues of our time, Ley placed human agency at the center of urban geographical analysis, and in so doing reestablished qualitative methods and humanistic concerns as critical to geographical research.



Ley

Ley's intellectual inquiry spans three decades and encompasses global trends, national policy, local conditions, and individual actors, guided by a sense of social justice and commitment to excellence. The compelling theory-building that characterizes Ley's work is grounded in the empirical reality of contemporary society, enriching the contributions by scholars throughout the world to scholarship on urban social geography and the transnational experience. As noted by one colleague, "His distinctive understanding of the cultural dynamics of immigration and social diversity ... has had a tremendous impact on the evolution of Canadian immigration policy." The combination of powerful theorizing, rigorous empiricism, and public outreach that is the hallmark of Ley's scholarship promises to shape key debates in human geography, urban studies and public policy for years to come.

AAG Ronald F. Abler Honors for Distinguished Service will recognize **Donald G. Janelle**, University of California, Santa Barbara, in acknowledgement of his superlative



Janelle

record of service to the association and to the discipline broadly through a wide variety of capacities. He has performed many elected leadership roles, including AAG Councillor, Chair of the AAG East Lakes

Division, International Geographical Union Board of Directors, and Canadian Regional Science Association Councilor. In service to the academic enterprise, Janelle has been editor of *The Canadian Geographer* and on the editorial boards of the *Annals of the AAG*, *the East Lakes Geographer*, *The Professional Geographer*, and *The Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, and has served on the AAG Publications Committee. Janelle has helped to organize major conferences and symposia, including co-chairing the AAG Centennial Coordinating Committee. At the University of Western Ontario, he served many years as Assistant Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs, and as Chair of the Geography Department. For much of the past decade, Janelle has also served the discipline in a significant way by instructing junior and senior scholars in other social science fields in the models and theories used by geographers, including from political science, sociology, anthropology, and economics, achieved through his summer institutes, interdisciplinary collaborations, and other outreach. Colleagues note that he has been "a major and innovative force" and that "he has been a key 'thought' player" in his service work, whose "creativity and energy were constantly evident."

**Laurence J.C. Ma**, University of Akron, will receive AAG Ronald F. Abler Honors for Distinguished Service in recognition of his energetic and enduring efforts to promote scholarly understanding of China, to establish productive linkages with Chinese geographers, and to mentor a generation of China scholars in the U.S. For more than three decades, Ma has demonstrated leadership in advancing the relationships and understanding among American and Chinese geographers. He was an early and long-term advocate of bringing students from China to the U.S., and he began long before such recruiting became part of the mainstream in American universities. Ma worked tirelessly to break the long-term isolation between U.S. and Chinese geographers in the 1970s following the initial opening of China to U.S. scholars, and his efforts led to the first formal exchanges in the late 1970s. He has been diligent in his encouragement of and work with students, not just his own, but a full generation of China scholars in the U.S. His students also rank among the top scholars advancing our understanding of China and its geography. A careful and thoughtful researcher, Ma has been a leader in advancing scholarship on China and its geography, both in his own work on Chinese cities and urbanization and in his collaborations, evidenced especially in his remarkable record as author, editor and guest editor of key works in the field.



Ma

**Donald J. Zeigler**, Old Dominion University, will be presented with the AAG Gilbert Grosvenor Honors for Geographic Education in recognition of his exceptional record of leadership in advancing geography education both at the university level and in K-12 schools. Fulfilling important leadership roles

in the National Council for Geographic Education as President, the Virginia Geographic Alliance, and the Virginia Social Science Association, he has shown professional vision, direction, and dedication. Zeigler has been a key proponent of the successful movement to establish Advanced Placement Human Geography in high schools in Virginia and throughout the U.S. His service on the state committee revising the Standards of Learning has helped to secure a framework to enhance geographic and general education alike. His collaborations, service, and grants with educational organizations, such as the Virginia Department of Education, has positioned him to play an essential role in leading international education, study abroad programs, and teacher exchanges at secondary and postsecondary institutions. In addition, Zeigler is recognized for his innovative curriculum development that excites students and teachers alike and enriches the learning experience through technology-based instructional materials. In these capacities and through his geographic education materials, Zeigler's expertise and passion for geography has inspired students, teachers in K-12 classrooms, and colleagues throughout the discipline.



Zeigler

We invite you to join us in applauding these honors recipients on Friday, March 27 at the AAG Awards Luncheon in Las Vegas. Single luncheon tickets are \$55. Tickets for a table of 10 are \$495. Tickets may be purchased online at the time you register. If you have already registered, please fax the form on page 18 of this issue to (202) 234-2744, or mail the form to: AAG, 1710 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-3198. ■

## Thanks to Annual Meeting Sponsors

The AAG would like to thank *Directions Magazine* and *Vector 1 Magazine* for sponsoring the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. See [www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009](http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009) for conference details.