

## AAG to Present William L. Garrison Award

**S**téphane Joost, of the Zootechnics Institute in Piacenza, Italy, has been named winner of the AAG's first William L. Garrison Award for best dissertation in computational geography. Joost's dissertation, "GIScience joining with molecular biology: a novel approach of detecting signatures of natural selection within the genome" describes an innovative method of spatial analysis for detecting regions of the genome being shaped by natural selection, applying multiple univariate regressions to test for associations between targeted areas of the genome and environmental variables.

Presentation of the Garrison Award will take place on Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 1:00pm, at the AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco, in session 3416. Speakers will include Doug Richardson, executive director of the Association of American Geographers; Duane Marble, professor emeritus, the Ohio State University, and William L. Garrison, professor emeritus, the University of California, Berkeley.

The biennial Garrison Award supports innovative research in computational geo-



Joost

graphy. The award is an activity of the Marble Fund for Geographic Science of the AAG. A \$3,500 prize accompanies the award.

Elizabeth Groff received honorable mention for her dissertation, "Exploring the geography of routine activity theory: a spatio-temporal model using street robbery" which she completed at the University of Maryland at College Park. Groff now works for the Institute for Law and Justice, in Alexandria, Virginia. ■

## AAG Welcomes New Interns

**T**he AAG recently welcomed two new interns to its Meridian Place offices in Washington, D.C. Karim Thompson, a senior majoring in GIS at the University of Maryland at College Park, has been gathering information and



Thompson

doing other support work to facilitate collaborations among geographers in various countries. A native of Jamaica, Karim hopes to pursue a graduate degree in GIS following his May graduation.

Melissa DeSomma is currently finishing up her final semester at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where in May she will



DeSomma

earn a bachelors degree in environmental studies with a minor in biology. In the future, she hopes to pursue studies in environmental policy, especially those involving alternative fuels. Melissa has been assisting with the many details necessary to make the AAG's 2007 Annual Meeting a success. ■

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### Evaluation of Professional Development Materials

The EDGE project is preparing numerous publications for future dissemination to graduate programs, including books focusing on preparing individuals for academic careers and teaching geography in higher education, an online *Guide to Careers in Geography*, and a website with resources for maintaining healthy departments and building leadership qualities among department chairs. A collaborative approach is being taken with regard to these publications, with dozens of geography professors and graduate students

involved in their development and formative evaluation. The materials being produced incorporate recommendations from AAG committees (e.g., Diversity Task Force and Healthy Departments Committee), AAG staff, and a consortium of faculty development professionals affiliated with the Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education, the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL), and other national and international organizations dedicated to the improvement of graduate education. The AAG is currently negotiating a contract

with a commercial publisher for these resources, with a tentative publication date set for the first-quarter of 2008.

In the coming year the EDGE project will develop more detailed analyses in each of the areas described above, while expanding its outreach and dissemination activities. For additional information about the research methodology, preliminary findings, and resources under development, please visit [www.aag.org/edge](http://www.aag.org/edge) or contact Michael Solem at [msolem@aag.org](mailto:msolem@aag.org). ■