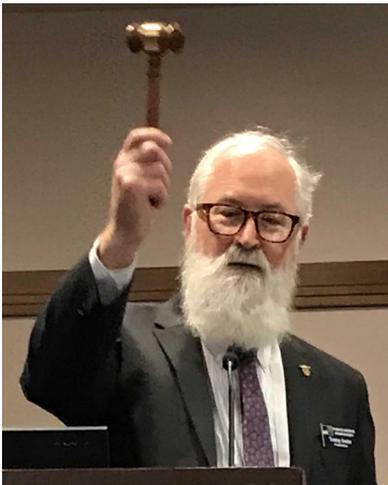


ASPRS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Tommy Jordan

Based on remarks made at the 2019 ASPRS/ILMF Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado



I am humbled and honored to be inducted as the 85th president of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. While attending the 2019 Annual Conference, I wondered how many of my fellow attendees were here for the very first time. My first time attending an ASPRS Annual Conference was 40 years ago. Can you imagine the changes in the world and technology in 40 years? We drew maps with pen and ink and the computers were so big that they filled entire rooms. Since then we have seen technological changes from analog to analytical to digital and changes in the way we look at and analyze images and data - first using our eyes and optical instruments. Now using artificial intelligence and computer vision methods. We embrace close range and aerial photogrammetry, satellite remote sensing, GIS, lidar, and now we have drones. Most of these technologies weren't even dreamed of 40 years ago. At every point in the course of these developments, ASPRS has been the guiding force that created the standards our colleagues use for guidance in the work they produce.

I want to use this time today to talk about what we do, its importance, and specifically, the value of this organization to the advancement of our profession.

People in this industry are some of the most quietly influential people on the planet with a hand in almost every facet of human life. We keep people moving safely by surveying roads and bridges using aerial photographs and lidar. We participate in keeping people fed and housed by performing inventories and analyses of crops and forests to help improve yields and sustainability. We develop and maintain the maps and underlying technology that people use to navigate their cars to the grocery store, to a national park, or to guide a first responder directly to the front door of the house where someone needs help. We can measure and monitor the retreat of glaciers to estimate the potential impact on sea level rise and on the water supplies of people who depend on meltwater for their lives and livelihoods.

When we survey the damage done by a hurricane to find collapsed buildings and damaged infrastructure, we save lives. When we develop an image processing method to distinguish buried land mines from the surrounding soil, we save lives. When we can inspect satellite images to identify refugee camps and estimate the number of people there, we help to bring food, water, medicine, supplies, and shelter they need to survive. We help save their lives.

We must never doubt that what we do is important and has meaning. That what we do has impact on everyone in the world. This is us. This is who we are in the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

Over the years, ASPRS has gone through organizational changes and financial challenges, and continues to evolve in response to changing situations. We have always worked to be at the forefront of our field. We have always been the organization that other mapping groups around the world have looked to for leadership and we have always tried to lead by example.

We have strong and flexible leaders – both staff and volunteer board members – who believe in ASPRS. As President Hillyer has stated, we are streamlining our business and financial operations through our partnership with P&N Association Management Company. This gives our staff more time to develop the programs that will add value to our members. Programs like Certification – we are strong here with almost 600 certified professionals in Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, GIS, Lidar and UAS. Programs like our publications, including PE&RS and the books and manuals we publish to support our work. We provide workshops and webinars on a variety of subjects and we intend to provide a higher level of material for our members' continuing education through the development of on-line training classes.

Above all, we need to continue to add value to being members of ASPRS. We need to make membership a necessity for professionals and students in the geospatial field. And to do this we all – everyone of us - need to be advocates. When we meet local GIS people, we need to ask them if they know about ASPRS. If not, point them in the right direction to find out more, then invite them to join ASPRS. When we give talks or demonstrations to clients and students, we need to talk about ASPRS. We all need to do this. We all need to help grow the membership of ASPRS. Especially with the recent growth of the UAS industry, there is a whole new class of professionals who need us as much as we need them. ASPRS is where these operators need to go for training. After all, mapping is not just about flying a drone and taking pretty pictures. We can provide that training to take them to the next level of professionalism with standards, workflows, and certification.

Over drinks the other night several of us were talking about how ASPRS, over our entire careers, has been our professional home. And how valuable the lasting friendships and contacts we have made have been to our lives.

I have been coming to the ASPRS Annual and Fall Conferences since 1979, my first year as a graduate student at the University of Georgia working with Roy Welch and studying close-range analytical photogrammetry. I have attended this meeting as a learner and to present about a million papers. I have spent many, many hours talking to vendors in the exhibit hall -- and I have been an exhibitor myself. Now I come as a board member and officer. It's been an evolution. One I owe in large part to my graduate advisor, boss and business partner, Roy Welch, who became president of ASPRS in 1984.

In 2007, my friend and colleague, Marguerite Madden, served as President of this Society. In 2014, my friend and classmate, Lynn Usery, was President. Marguerite, Lynn and I have all built our own careers, but all of us started in the same Center at the University of Georgia Department of Geography working with Roy Welch. We owe him a great debt and I want to thank him for starting me down this path by showing me those beautiful pictures of this world that were being produced by the early Landsat satellites. And for giving me a well-earned 'C' on the Kelsh Plotter exercise, proving to me once and for all that the future was in computers and analytics.

I cannot begin to imagine the path this field will take in the next 40 years, or what the incoming ASPRS president of 40 years from now will experience during his or her career. But I do know that there is no substitute for the face to face interactions and exchange of ideas and knowledge that we have here at ASPRS. I am looking forward to serving as president and I thank you for this opportunity.

Landsat's Enduring Legacy and many other ASPRS publications available at Amazon.com.

Order online at amazon.com

asprs THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

MESSAGE FROM ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jesse Winch

Based on remarks made at the 2019 ASPRS/ILMF Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado



will start my brief remarks with the assertion that the Society is in excellent hands and we have a clear vision for the way ahead! We have overcome some difficulties in the past couple of years through the hard work and determination of the headquarters staff and the Officers working closely with Managing Director Karen Schuckman, the committee chairs, Region officers, and Division Directors. As we celebrate 85 years as a professional society, we can look back at a rich history of scientific excellence and a consistently high quality of professional services.

President Hillyer has shared her vision as her term comes to an end and our treasurer, Stewart Walker, has reported on our financial status elsewhere.

The big news for ASPRS is that starting in 2019, ASPRS headquarters management will be assisted by an association management company, P&N, who will take over various duties in the membership department, will help manage our member database, will be our web master, finance managers and perform other important administrative activities.

HEADQUARTERS NOTES

- The weekly eNewsletter has shown a Delivery rate of over 90% and has become an important communicator among our members and others.
- Our weekly Headquarters Update – a zoom meeting for Board, region, division and committee chairs and members, has proved to be a great intra-society communication device. Thanks to Karen Schuckman for this Initiative.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Certification

Mike Zoltek, a national expert in licensing and former Director of the Professional Practice Division is the new Chair of the Evaluation for Certification Committee as past president Mike Renslow has retired. Mike Renslow, as most know, was a protégé of the late “Sky” Chamard, founder of the certification program in 1974, and brought with him tremendous experience and understanding of the workings of such an important professional service and oversaw many critical developments including achieving accreditation for our certification program from the Council on Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards.

Mike Zoltek has been very active in getting involved in all aspects of the certification program and with Mike’s help, we revised the eligibility requirements for the Geospatial Intern designation to cover students who have passed post-secondary studies in the geospatial sciences. This will effectively include community college students and those who have completed geospatial certificate programs.

Considering all applications for certification and/or recertification in all designations, we had over 130 applications in 2018, a record number.

The addition of the UAS certification has helped spur this growth but we are also seeing more photogrammetry and Lidar Certifications as well.



ASPRS
Rising Star
PROGRAM

Meet Our Rising Stars!

Chris Stayte | Corey Ochsman | Collin Hutcheson
Charles Krugger | Kristine Taniguchi-Quan

The Rising Star program is focused on mentorship of tomorrow’s leaders within ASPRS and the geospatial and remote sensing community. Geospatial companies, agencies, and ASPRS regions can all benefit by participation in the program through the advancement and professional development of their employees or associates through the process of sponsorship.

For more information go to www.asprs.org/rising-star-program.

Awards and Scholarships

2018 was Al Stevens’ last year as Chair of the Awards Committee. I have worked with Al for all of my 20+ years with ASPRS and it has been a rewarding and insightful experience for me and Al’s work has been a great benefit to ASPRS. We are extremely fortunate that Dr. Lindi Quackenbush has agreed to become the new Awards Committee Chair. Lindi has managed the Ta Liang Scholarship review committee for many years and is eminently qualified to lead the Awards Committee. Past president Steve DeGloria has agreed to take over the chair of the Ta Liang review committee. Jessica Fayne who has managed the on-line application process will be leaving that position this year and will be succeeded by Dr. Peng Fu.

PUBLICATIONS

PE&RS

Mike Renslow has also retired as technical editor of *PE&RS* and ASPRS has contracted with Allen Press to perform that role.

2018 saw the publication of *Landsat’s Enduring Legacy* which continues to sell quite well through bookstore and conference sales.

MRS4 is nearing completion and we hope to see a final publication by the end of Summer, 2019, if not sooner.

DEM Manual, 3rd Edition was debuted at the 2019 conference. Thanks to Dave Maune and Dewberry for making that happen.

We had several other publications from ASPRS member-authors available at the ASPRS exhibit hall booth.

Several ASPRS publications are now available through Amazon to buyers in the US and Canada. We will be distributing to Mexico very soon and hope to add additional International distribution in the near future. Member discounted pricing is not available through Amazon but regular as well as member and student discounted purchases may still be made through the ASPRS online bookstore.

These are just some of the exciting things that are happening in ASPRS and I would like to thank our active and sustaining members for their support of ASPRS, the *Imaging and Geospatial Information Society!*

The complete ASPRS 2019 Yearbook can be found on the ASPRS website.