Here is the AAG paper abstract as submitted. Thanks for agreeing! --Ken

Dear Ken Orvis,

Congratulations on a successful submission of your abstract to the 2008 Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts. Your Program Identification Number (PIN) is: 20000479. Your abstract details are as follows:

**Title:** Professional Benefits of GK-12 Participation for Fellows Engaged with Middle School Science Curricula in Rural East Tennessee

**Keywords:** GK-12 Program, Graduate education, K-12 education

**Type:** Paper

**Abstract:** Our GK-12 project at the University of Tennessee, "Enriching Earth Science in Rural Tennessee Middle Schools Through Research-Based Activities on Climate and Environmental History," embodies dual aims of enriching the educational experiences of middle school students both directly and indirectly, and enriching the professional preparation of participating Fellows. Ten Fellows each year from the Departments of Geography and of Earth and Planetary Sciences pursue graduate research related to natural archives of environmental change. In this paper we examine the effects on Fellows of GK-12 participation. Several themes have surfaced over the first year and a half of the project. On a scientific level, Fellows comment on the strong impetus toward breadth of expertise: middle-school Earth science curricula are very broad, and Fellows must delve into aspects of Earth science (and other areas of science) that are outside their established foci, resulting in a stronger and better-integrated grasp of broader aspects of their fields of study, and of science in general. Partly as a result, some Fellows have added new research foci or analytic approaches that reflect new interests or improved perspectives. GK-12 experiences have also affected teaching interests: one former Fellow, now an assistant professor, is teaching a course on natural archives of environmental change. Other aspects of professionalization are also apparent. The experience of effectively interacting with below-college-level students, keeping their interest and imparting new knowledge, has proven to be extremely potent training for both appreciating and effectively communicating with members of the public and with incoming undergraduates.

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**Topics:** Geography Education

**A/V Equipment:** None

**Notes:**

You are responsible for the content of your abstract, title and authors, please review your abstract and make necessary edits. You may return to the submission console to edit your abstract and/or submit as session if you wish.

Reminder: Your Program Identification Number (PIN) is 20000479.