

## NWRA Annual Meeting Held in Mesquite

About 220 people traveled to Mesquite, Nevada to attend the Nevada Water Resources Association's (NWRA) annual meeting, held Feb. 24-26, 2004. The meeting's theme, "Drought Without Crisis," was addressed in keynote speeches by U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Bennett Raley and California's new director of the Department of Water Resources, Lester Snow. In addition, a panel of experts from the Arizona Water Banking Authority, the Utah Department of Water Resources, Denver Water, and Truckee Meadows Water Authority provided insights as to how drought and water shortages are being addressed in those areas. Additional panels discussed hard-to-define issues such as public interest and perennial yield, and how to balance environmental needs with demand, conservation issues, and water quality in ephemeral and effluent-dominated streams. Several technical sessions were also held.

Competitions initiated at this year's meeting led to the awarding of Project of the Year to Steven King and Timothy Russells for the City of Fallon Water Treatment Plant; Educational Program of the Year to Genie Azad and Mary Kay Reidl for the Carson River Coalition's program; and Rural Education Program of the Year to Chris Weiss and Amy Best for the Kyle Canyon water management plan.

NWRA's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Pat Glancy, retired hydrologist from the U.S. Geological Survey in Carson City, Nevada. Although Glancy officially retired in 1994, his contributions to and involvement in Nevada hydrology continue to the present.

Visit [www.nvwra.org](http://www.nvwra.org).

## AZ Water Resources Research Center Appoints New Director

The Arizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) will have a new director effective June 30, 2004, when current director Peter Wierenga steps down from the position to return to faculty status. Sharon Megdal, assistant director of the organization since 2002, will become the new director. Along with her WRRC position, Megdal is a professor and specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Arizona.

Visit [www.cals.arizona.edu/azwater](http://www.cals.arizona.edu/azwater).

## DRI Awards 2004 Nevada Medal to Farouk El-Baz

From *DRI News*, Spring 2004

The Desert Research Institute (DRI) awarded the 2004 Nevada Medal to Boston University scientist Farouk El-Baz, a veteran of NASA's Apollo Program and a pioneer in the study of Earth from space, DRI President Stephen G. Wells announced. Wells said El-Baz, research

professor and director of BU's Center for Remote Sensing, is particularly renowned for his contributions to understanding the origin and evolution of desert landforms. The Nevada Medal, presented annually by DRI since 1988, includes a \$20,000 honorarium and a minted silver medal.

El-Baz led NASA's effort in selecting landing sites for the Apollo moon missions more than 30 years ago. The impact of his work has been acknowledged in popular culture as well as among the scientific community. While in lunar orbit in the summer of 1971, Apollo 15 command module pilot Alfred Worden commented, "I feel like I've been here before," due to his intense preparation by El-Baz. The TV series "From the Earth to the Moon," produced by Tom Hanks for HBO, featured El-Baz' role in the training of the Apollo astronauts in a segment entitled "The Brain of Farouk El-Baz." In the popular 1990s television series, "Star Trek: The Next Generation," a shuttlecraft prominently used in the program was named "El-Baz" in his honor.

A native of Egypt, El-Baz was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2002 for his role in the Apollo missions and for pioneering methods of discovering groundwater from space. El-Baz began his work on the Apollo Program in 1967 and remained with it until it concluded in 1972.

El-Baz also served as Science Advisor to Anwar Sadat, the late president of Egypt, working to identify environmentally sustainable areas in the Egyptian desert to allow its growing population to expand out of the Nile River Valley. He later used his analytical techniques to assess environmental damage in arid environments of Kuwait immediately following the Gulf War in 1991. His publications on that project are regarded as a definitive body of work for satellite observations of arid environments.

Visit [www.dri.edu](http://www.dri.edu).

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