

## NABGG 2003 Conference held in conjunction with the GSA Convention, Seattle, Nov. 1-5

NABGG held its annual conference in conjunction with the Geological Society of America Annual Convention in Seattle, WA.



Two of our main events were held on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 1 and 2, at the Sheraton Hotel, downtown Seattle. We had the Kickoff and Scholarship Awards reception Saturday evening and the Annual Conference business meeting on Sunday afternoon. Nov. 2-5, NABGG had a booth in the exhibits hall at the Washington Trade and Convention Center.



We presented a two - hour technical session in the convention center on Monday, Nov. 3. This session entitled "Panel Discussion:

Diversity Issues in the Geosciences" featured a proclamation from the Governor of Washington presented by a Washington State Representative pictured next to



Zelma Maine-Jackson, NABGG conference Chairperson, in the photo to the left.



Afterwards, there was a private reception at the Sheraton Hotel for the panelists, NABGG members, and GSA convention attendees interested in continuing the discussion (right photo). That night, we had an NABGG dinner at a Cajun and Creole restaurant with two of our panelists as our guests.



On Tuesday, NABGG had a group excursion, a ferry boat ride on Puget Sound where we saw Mt. Rainier and the Olympia Mts in the distance as well as the beautiful islands in Puget Sound.



At our Kickoff and Awards Reception, we announced that twelve students would receive NABGG awards for the 2003-2004 School year. We also thanked BP for sponsoring our Kickoff Reception and Annual Conference Business meeting and acknowledged Pat Hall, BP Manager of Geosciences recruiting, for providing timely assistance.



The main decisions from our business meeting on Sunday were to hold the next conference in either San Antonio or Austin, to restart regional chapters, and to increase our outreach participation in schools and colleges throughout the United States as well as increase our technical programs and mentoring. The exhibits booth was very effective in promoting NABGG to other geoscientists and organizations, signing up new members, and attracting individuals, universities, companies, and organizations interested in our outreach goals and our membership as a source for employees. At the booth, NABGG acknowledged the 14 NABGG members who either presented or coauthored talks and poster sessions at GSA. All in all, the conference was a memorable, bonding experience that provided a firm foundation for NABGG plans for 2004.