

Autodesk University 2008 “Experts, Like You”



The 17th annual Autodesk University (AU) began on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at the Venetian Hotel and Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. “Experts, Like You” was this year’s theme, which highlighted the expert technical skills of Autodesk users and their willingness to share their knowledge with their peers. Autodesk’s CEO Carl Bass also spread the theme of Design Innovation and how it is up to each person to bring their design ideas to life and make them real. This year brought over 9,000 users from over 74 countries to Las Vegas, and the conference did not disappoint with the hundreds of sessions and numerous networking events.

OSM sponsored 9 attendees from the agency and its partner states. Attending AU is always important to TIPS CAD team members and especially significant due to the release of AutoCAD Map 2009 this past year. Attending AU allows the team to keep current with software and make sure the latest features are incorporated in the 6 TIPS CAD courses and associated material. Without the opportunity to attend these technical lectures and hands on labs, the evolution of Autodesk software could

not be reflected within the TIPS Training Program.

Several attendees were first timers this year and were amazed at how much the conference had to offer in training and information. Li-Tai Bilbao from OSM’s Headquarters Office remarked, “I was impressed with the knowledge of the speakers, interactive presentations, hands-on labs but most of all I enjoyed the AU theater where the speakers showed innovative techniques in a small gathering venue. Everything was outstanding and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate.” Another new participant to AU, Joe Matyus, felt “the classes and labs allowed him to concentrate on areas of AutoCAD that would enhance his ability to perform as an instructor in the TIPS program.”

With the newest versions of both AutoCAD Map and Raster Design out for industry use, many of the geospatial sessions and labs focused on these two software packages. But in addition to the traditional software sessions, many were able to participate in classes incorporating newer programs such as Google Earth with traditional CAD functions.

Stefanie Self, an OSM participant noted, “one of my favorite parts of attending AU is the opportunity to see new tools being demonstrated by the programmers themselves. I was able to attend a session on the “Google Earth Publishing Extension for Autodesk products” introduced in April 2008. This extension allows for image and terrain data to be brought from Google Earth into AutoCAD products, and then to

publish DWG-based designs and data to Google Earth.”



Not only does each participant become familiar with new tools and product elements as Stefanie mentioned, but they have the opportunity to network with others in the geospatial/CAD industry and make new contacts for future projects and software.

Midway through the conference, OSM sponsored attendees met to discuss the week's events and future activities for the TIPS CAD team. The meeting allowed both State and OSM staff to discuss both CAD achievements and challenges along with ideas for overcoming these challenges and new thoughts for upcoming TIPS training courses.

In 2009, Autodesk University will again be held in Las Vegas but at the Mandalay Bay Hotel from December 1-4th. This year's attendees can't wait to see what Autodesk has in store next for this dynamic software!