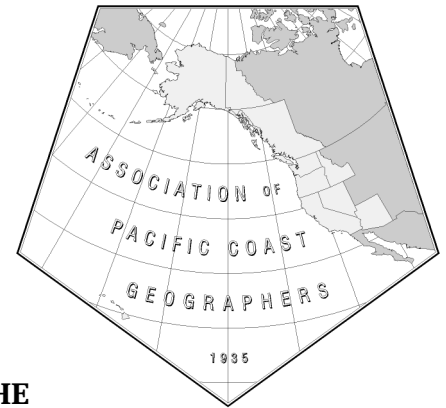


# PACIFICA

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Fall 2001



## ON MENTORING AND TRAVELING THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Michael Schmandt

It is approaching 7:30 on Friday morning, June 8, 2001, and I'm collecting the last few items we will need for our field reconnaissance through the San Joaquin Valley. The journey's overall purpose is to put together an itinerary for a 1-unit, guided field trip that I will offer this fall semester. Over the next 3 days, we will visit museums, parks, Okie labor camps, and churches. We will drive through its countryside and walk its downtown streets. This trip will help me decide which stops, including which restaurants and motels, I will include next fall.

This past spring semester was brutal on me both personally and professionally. My duties as interim department chair, urban and community planning director, GIS Lab manager, and even APCG *Pacifica* editor engulfed my time and left my full teaching schedule a blur. With this active academic agenda, my personal life—as some of you can relate—is pathetic. The few women I have dated during the past year are attractive and fine, but, as my place mat tells me every time I eat Chinese food, as a dragon I have a complicated character. Yes, I do.

I'm 37, and—let me make this clear—I love to teach. Almost everyday, however, when I return home with fast food or to a TV dinner, I state “I hate my job,” and more recently that has turned into a loud shout of “I hate my life” as the coffee mugs stack up by the sink and the front lawn needs cutting.

The Dean here at California State University, Stanislaus (CSUS) has stated for 5 years that I am running ragged and that my department needs more personnel, but it seems that our best chance for a new faculty position is now put off again until fall 2003. I won't hold my breath, and I can't conceive of waiting. I think of quitting everyday, and starting fresh elsewhere, but where else—another university, the private sector, a non-profit organization?

Yet, today I'm beginning a 3-day tour of the San Joaquin Valley, and I'm taking along a young, enthusiastic student of mine named Nolan Lamb. I have been looking forward to this trip for quite a few weeks not so much for its main purpose or the places we would be visiting but for the company I would be keeping. Nolan intrinsically knows what geography is without

having it defined for him. While taking my introductory World Regional course, Nolan told me that he wanted to switch his major from liberal studies to geography because of my example. Professors can attest to the pride one feels when a student utters those words, yet Nolan still stands out from the others who have said those words to me. He is no doubt my favorite, not just for his brightness and promise, but because I see myself in him. He resembles a young me only with greater promise. I know his character

(Continued on page 6)



### THIS ISSUE

- 1 **FEATURE ARTICLE** **Traveling the San Joaquin Valley**  
This past summer, *Michael Schmandt* set out to define a new regional field course. What he received was a lesson on mentoring, being mentored, and a renewed pleasure in reading the landscape.
- 2 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** Since September 11, many big questions are being asked. *Nancy Wilkinson* asks for our help in pulling together Central Asian resources.

- 3 **MINUTES OF THE SANTA BARBARA BUSINESS MEETING**  
*Bob Richardson* recaps the meeting.
- 5 **SAN BERNARDINO MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**  
insert **MAP CORNER** *Michael Schmandt* traces his route through the San Joaquin Valley.

### APCG ANNUAL MEETING SITES

- |      |                                         |
|------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2002 | San Bernardino, California, October 2-6 |
| 2003 | Portland, Oregon                        |

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Some Thoughts On Community and Current Events

Nancy Wilkinson, San Francisco State University

The declaration of "America's New War" leaves many of us pondering big questions. Do the lives we're living reflect our priorities? Are we devoting as much time as we should to our families and communities? Are we giving (and getting) what we should in our personal and professional relationships? And regarding the courses we teach, are they preparing students to live and work responsibly in our world?

My first instinct after the horrors of September eleventh was to stay home and guard my kids from whatever threats might find their way to coastal suburbs, but on Thursday I drove south to our annual APCG meetings in Goleta. It was grounding to spend time with colleagues and friends who have been important in my life, and a great comfort to see two friends who have survived huge personal ordeals going about their business calmly and capably. APCG is an important community for so many of us who study or teach geography in these westernmost states, and that value was never more apparent than in Santa Barbara.

Personal conversations at the meetings often touched on "the news" – the World Trade Center collapse, the hijacked planes – but presenters had prepared their papers days or weeks in advance, and—of course—they dealt with other topics entirely. Sometimes it was a challenge to concentrate on papers that lacked a sense of urgency or timeliness when I needed to learn more about things that were on my mind: Islam, Central Asia, Afghanistan, terrorism, emergency response, the spread of fundamentalism, the political and economic repercussions of globalization. Where was the information and perspective I could bring back to my classes for immediate use?

It's difficult to address highly politicized and emotionally-charged topics in a collegial forum, yet just as clear that we must speak together in a constructive way about world affairs to keep our geography useful and relevant. I remember a grad student observing that both World War II and Vietnam passed unnoticed in the AAG Annals. I really appreciated people's efforts one lunchtime at UCSB to contribute ideas about where we could learn more.

Since returning from Goleta, I've learned some of what I already should have known about Central Asian political and cultural geography, history and peoples. I've pursued linkages between the courses I'm teaching this fall — Scope and Method of Geography, Environmental Perception — and the body of knowledge my students and I need to fathom the current events unfolding around us.

Several members of our Pacific Coast geography community are knowledgeable about Central Asia and could help fill the gaps in our knowledge and perspective. I hope to bring some of them together in a plenary session at the San Bernardino meetings next Fall, by which time our baseline knowledge about the region will be better developed than in September 2001 and our questions more sophisticated. Meanwhile, let me invite you all to suggest books, articles, websites and films worth examining. Send titles to me at nancyw@sfsu.edu and I will ask

(Continued on page 14)

# MINUTES OF THE APCG BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, September 15, 2001  
University of California, Santa Barbara

Bob Richardson, CSU Sacramento

1. President Roger Pearson called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. Twenty-two people were present at the start, a few more arriving somewhat later.

2. Last year's Business Meeting minutes, as published in the Fall '00 issue of *Pacifica*, were approved unanimously.

3. AAG Business: AAG President Janice Monk began her remarks by discussing the challenges leadership presents—the roles to lead, to support, to help sustain the organization. The AAG has hired recently Doug Richardson to work on a strategic initiative aimed at developing projects that will generate financial support and better links between research, education and application, across sectors of business, academia, and government. International relations of the AAG are of particular concern to Jan. About 850 foreign geographers attended the New York meeting, including about 100 British graduate students, but only 5 Mexicans. She would like to help support participation from lower income countries, especially from Mexico, at the Los Angeles meeting in 2002. The IGU has historically not had strong US participation. The AAG has travel grants for the regional meeting in Durban (August, 2002). The next international meeting is in Glasgow in 2004. The International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee is becoming more active and a grant application has been submitted to offer a workshop in Race, Space, and Urban Development that would bring international geographers to the AAG. The Centennial Committee (chaired by Don Janelle at UCSB) continues planning for the 2004 meeting, including making a time line for AAG geography. Web links and on-line field guides will highlight the Los Angeles area for the 2002 meeting. Membership concerns, common to other fields in physical and social sciences, pose financial problems. Membership has been over 7000 but now is about 6500 and many retirements are expected soon from faculty who began teaching in the late 60's. The AAG is pleased that the APCG has sustained membership and is considering rewards in recognizing regional attention to membership. AAG is also looking to establish an endowment fund, probably related to the Centennial project, that is needed for future financial health. While very successful in developing Standards, working with Alliances, and in other K-12 matters, the AAG needs to develop an overall strategy concerning geographic education from K through professional development in order to link its various committees and efforts, particularly because the NGS will change the way it provides funding support.

4. Election Results: Nancy Wilkinson (President), Teresa Bulman (Vice President), Bob Richardson (Secretary-Treasurer), Judy Walton (AAG Regional Councillor). Roger thanked them and Stuart Aitkin and Terry Simmons for standing for office.

5. Publications reports: (a) Asked how things were going, *Yearbook* editor Darrick Danta replied succinctly, "very good." The 2001 *Yearbook* is already on the streets, fulfilling Darrick's goal of getting the publication back on schedule. His five-year stint is up (actually five volumes in four years) and he is willing

to continue for another five years. He likes the format and content of the *Yearbook* as it is now, but if members have other ideas he will gladly pass them on for consideration to the Editorial Board members, whom he thanked for their work. He is trying to be more flexible in his time schedule, but hopes articles will be submitted by January. Book reviews are encouraged. In articles by APCG presenters and others on western topics he is looking for evidence of good geographic scholarly work.

(b) *Pacifica* editor Michael Schmandt would like feedback about changes members may wish to see. He hopes to make it more participatory, as with his call for recommendations on restaurants in the west, which should appear in the Spring 2002 issue with a map of the west. October 15 is the deadline for submissions for the Fall 2001 issue.

6. Committee reports: (a) Awards Committee Chair Mark Wilson (filling in for new dad Bill Preston) said the number of student papers this year was low for a wide variety of reasons. Rather than mailing information about awards to department chairs for dissemination, the committee next year would like email individual faculty and graduate students. Dolly Freidel (Sonoma State) will chair the committee next year. See page 12 for this year's award winners.

(b) Membership Committee report (Stephen Frenkel): Stephen was unable to attend, as were the two committee members from Alaska (Tom Eley, Cherie Northon). Bob Richardson reported that membership was slightly up from the same time last year (645 versus 623), but the rate of non-renewal is also slightly up and our end-of-year membership may not match last year's, depending a lot on how many new memberships came here at UCSB with meeting registration. We need to continue efforts to attract new members and retain existing members.

(c) Women's Network report: with no representative present, Bob R. reported that yesterday's Women's Network luncheon was well attended. The eight Travel Award winners were introduced, each speaking briefly about her background and goals. Please see page 14 for further information regarding Women's Network activities and the names of award winners.

(d) Applied Geographers report: Terry Simmons pointed out that 90% of the membership doesn't exist yet, by which he meant that the vast majority of people with academic backgrounds in geography, from undergraduate to postgraduate, are not involved in the APCG. He hopes to broaden the appeal of the APCG to those working outside academia and would like names and contact information of geographers who are doing things off campus.

(e) Archivist's report: Andy Bach was not present, but it was called to Janice Monk's attention that the APCG does have proper archives.

7. (a) Treasurer's report (Bob Richardson): The Treasurer's Report (see page 5) shows our budget again to be in very good shape, but is more sanguine than would be the case had it been

(Continued on next page)

## APCG NEWS

written after September 11. Receipts exceeded disbursements by \$3502, helped greatly by David Miller's generous donation of \$2500 in memory of his late wife, Enid. Actually the surplus is \$6502 because \$3000 was temporarily advanced to pay the first two Margaret Trussell scholarships, but much of David Miller's gift will be given to the Women's Network to support travel grants. The increase in dues last year did not cause a decline in membership and Contributing Members kept their average donation well above the specified \$25. The costs of our first *Yearbook* with Hawai'i Press were about \$1100 below what had been cautiously projected. The cost per member of volume 62 was only about \$2 more than before, which the dues increase comfortably has covered. For a variety of reasons, the Arcata meeting generated only a very small profit (\$59) and this year's meeting, as a result of the events of September 11, will surely run significantly in the red.

Special funds are again in excellent health. The Bailey scholarship fund is earning more interest than it gives out each year. Tom McKnight and Joan Clemons contributed another \$1000 this year to their fund, which now is earning much more annually than it pays out. The Margaret Trussell Scholarship Fund awarded its first two scholarships, each for \$1500. Continued funding of travel for women geographers will require unidentified sources of funding in the future. Perhaps the Women's Network can raise funds for this purpose through their new listserve.

The increased costs of switching to first-class mail were presented, but in view of post September 11 budget picture, we are not likely to switch from nonprofit now, despite very frustrating delays in mail delivery. As an informational note, the Sec/Treas has recently discovered that the APCG needs to file form 990 with the IRS because the Trussell bequests put our annual income over the non-filing limit. We should not owe taxes, however.

(b) Budget Committee report: neither member (Dan Turbeville, Lay Gibson) was able to attend, but they had received files of the spreadsheet containing full financial data for the year.

8. New and Other Business: (a) Jenny Zorn handed out a colorful flier and gave an overview of the 2002 meeting which will be hosted by CSU San Bernardino. A number of possible field trips are being considered, including Palm Springs/San Andreas Fault, route 66, wineries in Temecula, Lake Arrowhead, various urban topics in S.B. and L.A., and an ESRI tour. Computer workshops will be given in the brand new (we hope!) Social and Behavioral Sciences building. Meeting dates will be October 2-6, two weeks before the NCGE meets. See page 5 for more information.

(b) Future meetings: Portland State University will host in 2003. Beyond then, nothing is set yet. Roger has been underwhelmed with offers, but has written British Columbia to see if we could meet again in Canada for the first time since 1971.

(c) Hawai'i Press has asked if we might wish to have the *Yearbook* in the MUSE project (electronic publication through Johns Hopkins University with a large list of subscribing libraries). An ad hoc committee including Darrick Danta, Roger Pearson, and Michael Schmandt, plus perhaps someone else,

will look into the issue in detail and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

(d) Webmaster: discussions have been continuing regarding the feasibility of hiring a webmaster, in part to reduce some of the work load of the Secretary-Treasurer, who inevitably must be closely involved. Having a permanently registered address was discussed (unfortunately, [www.apcg.org](http://www.apcg.org) is not available). Bob will consider the options.

(e) Santa Barbara 2001 report (Matt Rice): prior to September 11 they had anticipated 200-250 registrants, but now it looks to be somewhat over 100. Immediately after the news on Tuesday the UCSB organizing committee conferred and got in touch with Roger Pearson and Bob Richardson. The consensus was that it would be a good thing to go ahead and hold the meeting, and except for sharply reduced numbers, everything has gone very well and people have had a good time in all respects. The timing made it impossible to scale back on most commitments, such the number of meals ordered and of programs printed. Financially the meeting is likely to run a significant deficit. Matt set up a lot of automated web materials for registration which will be available for future hosts if wanted. See page 12 for a full report on the meeting.

9. AAG Councillor report (Jack Mrowka): Jack thanked the APCG for giving him a thrilling three years as Councillor. He invites us all to the Los Angeles AAG meeting this coming March (19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>) and reminds us that New Orleans will be the next venue, just before Mardi Gras in 2003. He noted that Ron Abler expects to retire in a few more years, leaving a critical vacancy in the AAG. Senior members from our region are urged to consider Ron's replacement—a great deal is at stake. Finally, Jack urged that we inform new hires of the importance of AAG membership, for their future and that of the organization.

Generous applause acknowledged Jack's three years of hard work on behalf of the AAG and the APCG as Councillor.

*Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.*

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## SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks again, for yet another year, to Tom McKnight and Joan Clemons for adding another \$1,000 to their scholarship fund. They generously offered to fund the special President's Award of \$250 given to Matt Rice, a graduate student at UCSB, for his outstanding efforts in helping make the 2001 Annual Meeting a memorable success.

Thanks also to Larry Ford who, a few hours before the Business Meeting, handed me a check for \$914.70 to add to APCG coffers. The exact origin of this windfall is not entirely clear to me, but it was money sitting in a dormant account left over from something or other. Larry thought we could use it—a fine thought, indeed!

*Bob Richardson, California State University, Sacramento*

## APCG TREASURER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 15, 2001

Robert T. Richardson, CSU Sacramento

Transactions for September 1, 2000—September 7, 2001.

## APCG 2002 - SAN BERNARDINO GATEWAY TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS

**Forward at close of books, 9/1/00** **\$26918.43**

### RECEIPTS

Dues	\$11,847.00
Profit, 1999 Annual Meeting	\$59.23
AAG Regional Allocation	\$832.80
Interest on Regular Account	\$938.62
Gift from D. Miller in memory of E. Miller	\$2,500.00
YEARBOOK income (v.60 and earlier)	\$164.30
YEARBOOK income (mostly v.61)	\$91.43
YEARBOOK income (v.62—see disbursements below)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$16,433.48</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS

APCG '00 Annual Meeting Grants & Awards	\$1,739.84
Student Travel Awards (inc. GeoBowl)	\$1,300.00
Presidents Awards	\$400.00
Distinguished Service plaque	\$39.84
<b>PACIFICA</b> Printing Production Postage	
F'00 (675x12 pp) \$533.63	\$156.95
S'01 (735x16 pp) \$710.37	\$144.02
Corporate Filing Fee (Olympia, WA)	\$10.00
Membership (mostly postage)	\$815.28
YEARBOOK vol. 61 (includes some older volumes)	\$19.55
YEARBOOK vol. 62 (including our 50% royalty)	\$3,601.87
YEARBOOK vol. 63	\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$12,931.51</b>

**Balance on books, 9/7/01** **\$30,420.40**

### SPECIAL FUNDS

<b>Bailey Schl. Fund</b> (forward 9/1/00)	<b>\$2,924.51</b>
Interest earned on CD	\$139.32
Scholarship awarded (Arcata, 9/00)	\$-100.00
Balance 9/7/01	<b>\$2,963.83</b>

<b>McKnight/Clemons Schl. Fund</b> (forward 9/1/00)	<b>\$7,098.09</b>
Interest earned on CD	\$358.61
Additional gifts from T. McKnight/J. Clemons	\$1,000.00
Scholarship awarded (Arcata, 9/00)	\$-100.00
Balance 9/7/01	<b>\$9,522.81</b>

<b>Margaret Trussell Mem. Fund</b> (forward 9/1/00)	<b>\$61,660.57</b>
(\$57,907.91 of which is Trussell Scholarship fund)	
(Luncheon costs in HSU's accounting)	
Interest	\$2,748.34
Travel Grants—to Arcata meeting	\$-1568.00
Balance 9/7/01	<b>\$62,840.91</b>
(\$58,912.42 of which is Trussell Scholarship fund)	

Membership 6/10/94:	280	
Membership 5/31/95:	408	
Membership 5/15/96:	442	ultimate in '96: 479
Membership 8/29/97:	464	ultimate in '97: 477
Membership 9/30/98:	532	ultimate in '98: 555
Membership 9/17/99:	619	ultimate in '99: 636
Membership 9/01/00:	623	ultimate in '00: 686
Membership 9/7/01:	645	

The Geography Department at California State University at San Bernardino is honored to host the APCG meetings October 2-6, 2002. We are anxious for all of the pacific coast geographers to visit our campus and community. Our campus is home to 16,000 students and continues to grow each year. We are building a new social and behavioral sciences building which will house Geography and Environmental Studies. The doors to this new building will open in the fall, making the APCG conference the first to be hosted in the new building.

Situated directly at the foot of the San Bernardino mountains with the Cleveland National Forest as its northern boundary, CSUSB is a dramatic physical setting. Geographers love this place. Visible from the university library, the San Andreas Fault runs a mere 100 yards north of campus. The community is diverse, providing lots of ethnic dining opportunities. We'll provide you a list.

There's a lot to see and do in the Inland Empire, and we'll be providing you with a taste of it all. We plan to take a group to Palm Springs to ride the brand new rotating tram to the top of Mount San Jacinto for a quiet dinner at the top or a bit of a hike for those who'd like to eat in the forest. A geomorphology field trip is planned for the western Mojave desert while mountain types will drive up the hill to Lake Arrowhead for a boat ride and a tour of the mountain resort community. An urban field trip to San Bernardino will focus on Route 66 and San Bernardino's Vision 2020 Lakes and Streams Project to build a San Antonio-like downtown area. We're also planning for those who'd like to see more of southern California with field trips to Brea, a metrolink excursion to Olvera Street and Little Tokyo, and a wine tasting tour of Temecula. Hands on GIS computer workshops are also being developed. With our location just minutes from ESRI we'll be offering a trip to see their "campus" too.

Traveling to San Bernardino is easy. Flights to Ontario Airport bring you 25 minutes from campus and the affordable conference hotel, the Radisson, in downtown San Bernardino. They will provide shuttle service to and from the airport. We'll provide shuttle service to and from the hotel and campus.

Those who have never been on our campus are impressed with its park like setting at the northern edge of San Bernardino. Those who haven't been to the campus in 5 or 10 years are impressed by how its grown. We're pleased to have you visit our corner of the world.

Jenny Zorn, Coordinator of the 2002 APCG Meeting

### ROBERT G. LEBLANC MEMORIAL FUND

The APCG has contributed \$100 to the Robert G. LeBlanc Memorial Fund. Members who wish to contribute to the fund may do so by sending donations to the Robert G. LeBlanc Memorial Fund, c/o the UNH Foundation, 9 Edgewood Rd., Durham, NH 03824.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

(Continued from page 1)

and even his experiences are familiar. As my academic son, I want what is best for him, and that includes his leaving CSUS.

With my urging, he is transferring to San Diego State University (SDSU) this fall at the end of his sophomore year. CSUS is too small—too restrictive—for him. His hungry eyes seek greater breadth and experience, and SDSU can offer him more. This trip is important to me more from a mentoring perspective than for the roads we will be taking. It is my last major opportunity to guide Nolan before he leaves for San Diego.

### **Turlock to Porterville**

The San Joaquin Valley is raw, utilitarian, highly transformed, and functional. It is not an ideal or romantic landscape invented by poets, but during this leg of the trip we will encounter some of its more picturesque settings. To begin this trip, I want to get beyond Modesto, Turlock and Merced, an area most of my students are familiar with, and delve deeper into the Valley. We head south on Highway 99 and stop near Chowchilla at one of the last functioning Mammoth Orange stands (1), a highway stop, shaped like a giant orange and protected by a huge corrugated metal ramada, that specializes in what else—freshly squeezed orange juice. After quenching our thirst, we strain to hear the attendant over the noise of passing trucks that this vernacular landmark will be torn down and covered by a Highway 99/152 interchange in about two years. It is part of the vanishing Valley.

About a mile south of the stand, we unexpectedly come across a bull-fighting ring (2). This is an unmistakable sign that we are in Portuguese country, but the ring differs from many of the others in the Valley by brazenly calling attention to itself with its bright red and white striped exterior facade. I have seen “bloodless” bullfights before in the small town of Stevinson just south of Turlock. They are machismo events where matadors, brought over from Spain and Portugal at great expense, taunt the bulls with Velcro-tipped (and reportedly fish hooked-tipped) spears. The main fights occur on weekends associated with the Portuguese religious festivals called feshtas. On almost every summer weekend a Portuguese community, most of which are in the northern San Joaquin Valley, hosts a feshta, which

includes a Catholic mass, parade, and food like blood sausages, linguica, and sopas.

At Madera, we head east over a gently rolling landscape towards Millerton Lake and Friant Dam on the eastern edge of the Valley. The dam (3) reroutes the vast majority of the San Joaquin River’s water to the Friant-Kern canal and smaller Madera canal that meander along the southeastern edge of the Valley. This infrastructure is a small—but significant—piece of Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Central Valley Project (CVP). As Bill Preston states, this leg of the CVP only slightly expanded the amount of irrigated land, but it brought consistency to farming by making water allocations reliable. To replace the river flow lost to the canals, water is pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, essentially Sacramento River water, near the City of Tracy up about 200 feet into the Delta-Mendota Canal and moved southward 120 miles to Mendota on the San Joaquin River. The water diversion schemes associated with the CVP and later with the State Water Project (SWP) seem puzzling, even ridiculous, but water is the Valley’s most important resource. This Valley is the richest farming region in the history of the world, and water makes it all possible.

We drive south into Fresno and come across a road sign that asks the question, “Millerton Lake, San Joaquin River Water, Whose is it?, the Valley’s or Los Angeles?” The sign denotes the confronting, adversarial relationship the Valley has with the state’s other regions, but the sign’s author may simultaneously be asking the question is the water for agriculture or for homes? One does not have to venture as far as Los Angeles to ask this question; it can be asked within the Valley, perhaps in no better city than Fresno. The 2000 census now ranks Fresno’s population (427,652) above Sacramento’s (407,018). Although it has the greatest population of any city in the Great Central Valley, a region combining the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, its metropolitan population is still dwarfed by the capital city’s.

Highly simplified, Fresno is really two communities: one is prosperous, largely white, tree-laden, lush and immaculate while the other is lower income, dominated by an assortment of ethnic groups (including Hmong and Hispanic), and visually loud. If you envision a capital “L”, the more prosperous community would be roughly the north south





tending line following such roads as Van Ness Blvd and incorporating such districts as Woodward Park and Fig Garden. At the southern tip of the axis you enter the gentrifying, middle income Tower District and further south you enter downtown Fresno. The lower income community follows an axis that leads east away from the downtown through the Roosevelt district along Kings Canyon Road and Belmont Avenue. Fanning between the two lines of the “L” exists a third community of mixed income and ethnicity.

In downtown Fresno, we stop at its small Chinatown (4) to walk its streets and listen to some jazz at a free concert. Although the temperature was pushing 100 degrees, a modest lunchtime crowd was present, made up of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Anglos. We wander away and stop at a hot sauce shop owned by a Mexican-American, but managed that day by a Black-Cuban. It is further evidence that despite the contrasting communities just described, Central Valley cities are more integrated than other U.S. and Californian cities.

Leaving Fresno, we head southeastward through the small picturesque hamlets of Minkler and Centerville, the City of Reedley with its Germanic-Mennonite past, and Yettam, like Fresno an Armenian stronghold, with its majestic Armenian church. Much of this route is part of the Blossom Trail, a self-guided, 62-mile driving tour that is best taken in March when the deciduous orchards (like peaches and pears) are their most colorful. Orange and lemon groves intertwine as

we enter the northern extent of the state’s largest citrus belt. To the east, the flat Valley abruptly gives way to the picturesque Sierra foothills. Orange trees flow up their western flank but only to a point, leaving the grass and rocky tops to grazing cattle.

We enter Exeter (5). More and more frequently, Central Valley cities are draping themselves with murals, usually denoting agriculture but simultaneously expressing ethnicity, civic pride, and even technology. Perhaps no Valley city has done this to the extent Exeter has. We get out to take pictures. As we walk its compact downtown and look at the restored late 19th and early 20th century buildings, we are greeted with “hello” by almost everyone that crosses our path. It is a type of friendliness, a “southern” hospitality, which was also exhibited in Fresno and some smaller towns like Yettam. While attending Fresno State, I would walk along a sidewalk and nod at the passersby and about 90 percent would return the gesture or state a polite greeting. When I moved to Phoenix, the percentage plummeted to about 10 percent. Not a particularly friendly city I thought. This hospitality does not exist everywhere in the Valley, however; it has been lost in most parts of the northern San Joaquin where I currently live. Nolan deliberately starts a kind of game by nodding, waving, and greeting people. He is not disappointed.

As we leave downtown Exeter and cross the railroad tracks, Nolan asks me to stop at a youth center he notices. The stop  
(Continued on next page)

## FEATURE ARTICLE

would not have been on my itinerary, but I had told Nolan that we could stop anywhere he desired. The youth center was named U-turn, and my mind quickly reasoned that this center is for wayward youths who were trying to change their ways, make a “U-turn” in their lives. The center itself is in a rather small, older building that probably serves as a hall and office, but the grounds flanking the building are used for skateboarding and chairs are set up for a youth rock band practicing on an adjacent stage. As Nolan talks to the skateboarders and takes pictures of them doing tricks, I approach and notice the poor condition of their boards and clothes and even their disappointing skateboarding skills. As we left, Nolan tells me that despite the name of the center, these were not wayward sons. “They’ve probably never been in serious trouble,” he explains. “Kids these days like to belong to groups like this to rebel against trouble.” As I drive listening to Nolan, my mind is trying to grasp the notion of a group of kids forming a counter-culture against breaking norms, or perhaps trouble was the norm that they were standing up against. When I mentioned the condition of their boards and clothes, Nolan said “they go through a skateboard every month. And that taller Hispanic kid is wearing a fifty-dollar shirt. They are not from poor families.” That was a surprising stop.

Traveling on back roads through Lindsay and Strathmore, we head to Porterville (6) for the night. I went to high school there, but had not returned for an overnight stay in about 15 years.

### **Porterville to Taft**

I tell Nolan that we will feast at an old Chinese restaurant called Gang Sues that is regionally well known for its cuisine, including their homemade noodles. As we approach the restaurant, I see that it is closed, even boarded up. “How could this be?”, I state out loud. Later, I learn that the elderly couple that owned it divorced and closed the restaurant. Still stunned and getting hungry, I nevertheless decide that we will go to dinner after we check into our motel, the Paul Bunyan Lodge, another landmark. Entering its deserted parking lot, I thought it too is closed. No, its open, barely, but its abandoned appearance means that it is no longer the place to stay despite the tempting sign proclaiming rooms from \$28 (\$5 cheaper than Motel 6). Okay, I know things change, but as I drive around this sprawling little city, it seems that even the order of its streets are scrambled from those of my mind’s mental map. Porterville seems strange even foreign, and it wasn’t just me. Nolan later confessed that he resisted the urge to shout, “Let’s get out of here.” I wish he would have.

Heading south towards Ducor, a hamlet once known as Dutch Corners but shortened, we come to a prickly-pear cactus farm that is laid out in neat rows like the orange and olive groves that neighbor it. I wondered whether the paddles and fruit of this crop are consumed inside or outside the Valley. My guess is that a fair percentage is consumed locally for the Valley is *la frontera*. The Hispanic population, in terms of numbers and percentage, is rapidly growing; census figures indicate a 63 percent increase from 1990 to 2000 in the eight counties that make up the bulk of the San Joaquin. Tulare County, our current location, is the first Valley county in which Hispanics have surpassed 50 percent of the total population.



Further south on Highway 65 near the Kern County line, the undulating land gives up its orchards and is dominated by grazing cattle and oil. As we approach Oildale and Bakersfield it is clear that we are entering a different Valley subregion—to me this is Gerald Haslam country. Haslam is the region’s preeminent author, and his short stories and books convey this land and its inhabitants better than any. In one of my favorite essays, simply titled “Oildale,” he takes us on a complex look at his hometown and its mostly white, mostly poor and working class inhabitants and the cause of their well-known racism. He argues that the local racism is derived not from race but class—poverty and ignorance. Although there are other groups that have a disproportionately higher rate of poverty and are not as “racist,” the people of Oildale possess a type of “siege mentality” that derives from their simultaneously possessing both hope and hopelessness. Oildale may have the racist rap, but at least to some degree, it is a mirror that can be held up to the rest of the Valley.

The landscape is stark, glaring, undulating, and lacks sizable vegetation. Despite the rolling nature of its hills, it is not a pretty landscape or is it? In Haslam’s most recent book, *Straight White Male*, he describes the bluffs of the Kern River in somewhat erotic terms, “...low beige hills—barely more than mounds—waver and bulge in light bent by heat. The land itself appears to sweat—hot, so hot. Those brown California hills, creased and rounded like supine hips...” (2000, 6). In Oildale (7), I drive to the bank of the Kern River and look, really look, at the bluffs in the distance. I see their golden brown color and feel the heat on my face, but I am not aroused. It is a reminder that experience changes our perception: I have never made love in those hills; Haslam has.

Earlier, just north of Oildale, we searched unsuccessfully for the Discovery Well, the first oil derrick in this region. Now in Bakersfield, I want to photograph and drive under the Bakersfield arch, but again it eludes us. We drive along the old Highway 99 (Union Ave.) and many other streets for about 45 minutes looking for it. Later that night, Nolan learned that the arch was slated for demolition, but someone bought it and moved it to a new development. That

## FEATURE ARTICLE

someone, I found out after our trip, was Buck Owens, Bakersfield's country music icon, but he was a bit too late. The arch was demolished. Owens purchased the rubble with its once gleaming neon letters for reportedly \$175,000 and resurrected the arch next to his Crystal Palace nightclub.

Nolan and I both have diverse music tastes and there is considerable overlap. One musical aspect that we both share is our desire to listen on the car stereo to regional music, particularly when we are in that region. In Bakersfield, as in much of the Valley, that means country music and specifically a local flavor called the Bakersfield Sound. It's a raw, unpolished form with high nasal tones and loads of steel guitar. Although I had brought music CDs of Owens, Merle Haggard, and even Woody Guthrie, I only subjected Nolan to a couple tracts from Dwight Yokam, including his duet with, and remake of, Buck Owen's *Streets of Bakersfield*. The song touches on the "inferiority complex" that exists here and in the rest of the Valley. You don't know me, but you don't like me / You say you care less how I feel / But how many of you that sit and judge me / Have ever walked the streets of Bakersfield?

Guthrie's ballads of *Tom Joad* and *Do-re-me* would have to wait for another trip even as we approached the Sunset Labor Camp (8), a once federally controlled labor facility with barrack style housing, south of Bakersfield near the little communities of Arvin and Weedpatch. Camps like this, immortalized by John Steinbeck and Dorothea Lange, were called many names including Okie camps, dust bowl camps, and Hoovervilles. Today the Sunset camp operates under county auspices, and Mexicans have replaced the Okies. Still, the dust bowl immigrants remember the "good ole days" with their annual Dust Bowl Days festival every October. At the entrance of the camp near the front gate, several of the original FDR era buildings remain and funding is sought for their restoration. The desire to remember this past may sound rather strange to an outsider, but people these days boast of their Okie roots. As Haggard sings, I take a lot of pride in what I am.

Again, oil takes center stage as we drive southwest into Maricopa and Taft. At first it is surprising to hear, but understandable as one drives Highway 33 from Maricopa up through McKittrick, that Kern County is the leading oil producing county in the nation, and that these West Kern oilfields (which do not include Bakersfield or Oildale) produce almost half (48.8 percent) of California's total oil production. The land is filled with derricks; oil consumes the landscape. It is a sight that words and pictures cannot do justice. Your jaw just drops. Today the landscape, however, is far cleaner than it once was. Bright shiny pipelines with horseshoe bends deliver the oil from derrick to repository when in the past black oil would simply move slowly through endless open dirt ditches and produce an overwhelming oil smell. Today the odor of these fields and their abutting oil towns is not as intense.

We stop at the West Kern Oil Museum (9), where two volunteers (one a retired derrick man) show us around and answer questions. Although we learned about the oil production process, two of their comments stand out above

the others: 1) the large oil conglomerates are putting the small independent oil operators out of business, and 2) there is plenty of oil left under the region but the oil companies want to discourage its use until other lands are opened up to drilling. I'm not sure of the facts myself, but the veracity of their beliefs I do not question.

We stay in Taft for the night. In some respects it is a disappointing day for me. I consider this Valley my home, and Porterville in some way was at the core of this feeling since it was my hearth, the first place I lived, in the San Joaquin. As we sat eating atrocious pizza the night before in a hall in downtown Porterville, I looked around the room at the large and loud crowd and did not fit. Consequently, I feel that I belong less to the entire Valley. In addition, portions of today were spent wandering, looking unsuccessfully for a couple "landmarks," and now I am dining alone. A friend of Nolan's from CSUS lives in Taft, and she whisked him away for dinner and a swim at her parent's house. Later they go for a tour of the town. In his absence, the thoughts of my situation invade and seize my mind. Upon Nolan's return, I am stuck on his words like I once was to television. He tells me of the city's two prisons, tarantulas and tarantula hawks, coyotes that chase children through town, and what Taft kids do for fun (get drunk and ride the derricks or go to Bakersfield).

Yes, Taft is a tough town, and the friendliness of folk that we experienced yesterday is mostly absent from this region. I'm not sure why, but perhaps it's because places like Taft were developed as oil towns, not necessarily permanent, and largely populated by men. Westside towns like Taft even look starker as Jim Parsons once noted: there are few large established trees, even in the older districts, and even fewer illustrious buildings. Nolan tells me that while his friend was driving him around, they came to a stoplight and a young woman pulled up in the adjacent lane beside their car. "My friend and the other woman began to rev their engines," states Nolan baffled by their aggressiveness. "Do you know her," he asks his friend. "No" she says. Speaking to me, Nolan grows increasingly animated and says "And their cars were nothing."

### **Taft to Turlock**

It is Sunday morning and the day is cooler: highs will be in the high 80s in the southern portion of the Valley and around 80 closer to the Delta. Driving to breakfast, we begin listening to a CD by Caedmon's Call, a Christian rock group and a particular favorite of Nolan's. When we left on this trip, I told Nolan to grab his CDs—the case he brought was filled with Christian rock, and probably more time was spent on our journey listening to this genre—performers like Jars of Clay, Newsboys, and lesser-known ones including Poor Old Lu—than any other.

We talk about religion, God, and our personal religious histories, and these conversations are particularly appropriate for the region we were driving through. Much of the Valley falls within the western extension of America's Bible Belt, and here in Kern County, the most conservative county in the largely conservative Valley, the big three are God, the Republican Party, and agribusiness. While the region's churches are the most visually prominent features, signs, billboards, and even "revival" tents contribute to the

*(Continued on next page)*



landscape's strong religious tone. Many Valley towns and small cities, especially those dominantly Anglo like Taft, adhere plaques to their city's welcome signs for each of their community's prominent churches.

After stopping and looking at a small herd of about fifteen, mostly male elk at Tule Elk Reserve State Park (10) near Buttonwillow, we head north on Highway 43 and pass through Shafter and Wasco. These two communities are largely populated by agricultural workers, mostly Hispanic, and a large landscape component of these towns are the residences that house these temporary, semi-permanent, and permanent workers. Worker housing is found in apartment complexes that once served as highway motels, trailers and discarded mobile homes, and outbuildings behind small cottages. The conditions of these quarters vary from good to makeshift shelters using waxed cardboard and corrugated metal pieces for roofs and walls. It is a landscape similar to those we saw in communities like Orange Cove and will see later today in Firebaugh and Mendota as we drive further north. Although these two communities have a persistent problem with poverty, both—despite their lack of distinctive buildings—look somehow pleasant and exhibit a degree of community pride. Murals and new downtown streetscapes mark both communities. Wasco has the added bonus of literally smelling like roses since it is known for the production of this crop.

Farther up Highway 43 we enter Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park (11), once a Black-American colony. The grounds are essentially a drive-thru museum of mostly restored early 20th century buildings (predominantly homes with an occasional civic building), one or two per block. The community folded with the death of Col. Allensworth, the rejection of a Black American trade school by the state legislature, and competition for water. Still, like the Okies, descendants of those who lived in Allensworth return to the park every May for a jubilee. The dreams and hopes of these settlers impress me. They believed that

through the hard toil of the Valley's soil, an economic and social ladder would appear. This belief, this promise, is held by a multitude of immigrants that make this Valley their home. The ladder has appeared for many groups including the Okies, Armenians, Portuguese, Swedes, and it appears to be materializing for parts of the Hispanic community today. It never appeared for many other settlers including the early Chinese and Japanese populations.

Although much of the Valley floor is very flat, a flatlander can keenly point out even slight undulations in a landscape that's just "flat" to others. This area, however, is so flat pouring water might just stand still. We drive across portions of the former Tulare Lake (12), always a shallow water body,

but it once was California's most expansive lake. The lakebed and much of its basin seem to be the epitome of the human control of nature; indeed, it is difficult to see nature's role in this *Cadillac Desert* when the region's rivers are diverted, lakes dammed, canals constructed, a grid imposed, and its fields plowed. This statement describes almost the entire Valley, but somehow human adaptation seems extreme, more atypical, here. One reason for this, I believe, is that this sub-region is a showcase of corporate agriculture, which dominates the Valley's southwest corner. Nolan and I see field crops in endless rows. That's it. There is nothing tall, nothing to break the line of sight. Infrequently the berm of a snaking canal interrupts the view, but there are very few structures, no trees, and certainly no homes. This endless scene is in direct contrast to the family farmscape of the eastside with its barns, homes, and tank houses that we drove through on the first day. When it rains, really rains, the Valley floods and Tulare Lake reemerges. Temporarily, nature reigns.

Just to the northeast of the lakebed, near the communities of Hanford, Lemoore, and Riverdale the landscape changes dramatically. There are more trees, some orchards, more family farms, and many intermittent streams. Here the Kaweah and Kings rivers, which once fed Tulare Lake, form distributaries as they cross this flat land. They carve out a sort of island, bounded not by seas but by river water and a transect of trees. At one time, these islands must have seemed a bit more like true islands when the rivers had greater flow and the tree trails were riverine forests.

As we visit the town square of Hanford (13) and crisscross the region north to the San Joaquin River, Nolan and I are listening to Radio Bilingue out of Fresno, a mostly Spanish language radio network with an assortment of music including Tejano, Mexican Norteno, and Argentine Tango. Nolan recounts situations and memories of his trips to Argentina and teaches me the characteristics of Argentine Folklore, a traditional music. I respond in turn with Brazil and Bossa Nova sounds. Privately, I regret allowing 10 years to pass since my last trip to Brazil.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

Speaking of regret, many years ago, Kevin Blake, one of my best friends, revealed the contents of a conversation he had with my mentor, and his, Daniel Arreola. Kevin and I were both in graduate school working on our doctorates, and I was in need of a pep talk for one of those academic hurdles I had to make. Kevin grabbed my attention and said, "Dan thinks you're a great person." I lashed back, "Notice he did not say great geographer." Kevin, a bit stunned by my answer and that his words did not do their job, asked the rhetorical question, "What would you rather be known as a great geographer or a great person?" I nodded ashamedly and thanked Kevin as I played the answer he expected me to give, but at my core I knew the answer was "great geographer." It is a conversation that I will never forget and one that embarrasses me. There is no doubt, graduate school changed me, like it changes all of us to some extent, but I cannot place my finger on a particular instance that made me want to define myself almost entirely as a geographer. Perhaps it was the example most of the geography professors around me set, and those that did not live their lives that way were often not promoted and respected by their colleagues.

I set out on this trip to mentor Nolan, but ironically he has mentored me. I look at Nolan, and there incased in a 20 year old is an example of how I once lived, and probably should live, my life. He is a great young man and possesses the potential to become a great geographer. Will he be both? Can he be both? Pride will fill me when I hear of his journey and see the geographer he becomes, but he must not lose himself like I lost myself.

Near Dos Palos (14), our trip about over, we enter extensive

wetlands I simply call the Grasslands. Feed by numerous rivers including the Fresno, Chowchilla, and Merced, this region that includes both the Merced and San Luis National Wildlife Refuges are covered in tall grasses and water that team with ducks, herons, egrets, and hawks. Someone once called it California's Serengeti.

We are surrounded and followed by gentle movements, rustling sounds, and sweet scents of bulrushes and cattails. Here the grasslands speak to me freely and without restraint, even when I have not asked a question. They seem to know what it is all about. Perhaps the Valley was waiting for the right time and place to respond to my earlier scattered questions and fears. The grass's voice grows stronger. I shudder. It breathes; I breathe. A gentle feeling of home wraps me and leads to some clarity in my mind—I must retrieve who I am. At the end of these 3 days, I cannot be certain what Nolan took from this trip, but I am grateful to both him and the Valley. Now I look forward to my rediscovery.

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## RECAP OF APCG 2001

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting took place between September 12 -15. The devastating events of September 11 cast a somber mood over the conference, but for many attendees it was a positive time to reflect on the recent tragedy and talk with friends and colleagues. By the end of the conference, 135 people had gathered together to share research, renew friendships, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow APCG members. We were greatly encouraged by the 135 participants who made monumental efforts to reach the conference, in some cases traveling 12-18 hours by car from destinations as far away as Portland and Tucson. John Heppen, (Carthage College, Wisconsin) is, according to our records, the only person both brave and lucky enough to find a rescheduled flight and travel to the conference entirely by airline. For those who were stranded by the airline shut-down or too far away to travel by car, we missed you and look forward to seeing you next year at APCG 2002 in San Bernardino.

The terrorist disaster hit particularly close to home for the local organizing committee when we learned that our colleague, Dr. Robert LeBlanc, had died in the terrorist attack while traveling to our meeting from New Hampshire aboard United Airlines Flight 175 (see Page 13). In addition, several other individuals passed away in the disaster including Joe Ferguson and Ann Judge of the National Geographic Society, three Washington D.C. teachers, and three Washington D.C. students. All were traveling to the Channel Islands to participate in a field trip associated with National Geographic's Sustainable Seas Program. Ironically, Dr. LeBlanc had registered for the APCG Channel Islands field trip and presumably left Tuesday to enjoy the much anticipated field trip.

While the mood of the conference was notably subdued, the activities and meeting agenda remained intact, with the exception of two field trips which were canceled due to lower than expected turnout and travel difficulties faced by conference attendees and organizers. APCG members that pre-paid for either the Channel Islands or the Santa Ynez Hike are welcome to submit a request for reimbursement by visiting our conference website, <http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/~apcg2001>. For questions about reimbursement of conference registration, meals, and field trip fees, please review the reimbursement policy and refund request form posted on the website

Wednesday's opening plenary session was hosted by UCSB Geography Department Chair Keith Clarke. Dr. Clarke welcomed conference participants and offered a tribute and moment of silence for all the victims of the previous day's terrorist strike. France Cordova, UCSB's Vice-Chancellor of Research, spoke on the contribution of the UCSB Geography Department to campus research efforts, followed by Joel Michaelsen who spoke on the geography of the Santa Barbara area and the history of the UCSB Geography Department. Jim Neuman, Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Region Economic Community Project, offered insight on the development and growth of the Santa Barbara South Coast Region.

Thursday morning saw the arrival of many more conference attendees and the beginning of four excellent field trips, including "Walking the Riviera", led by Susan Baumgart; "Santa Ynez Valley Oak Woodlands and Wineries", led by Ann Dittmer; "A

Tour of Santa Barbara's Water History", led by Hugo Loaiciga; and "Santa Barbara Coastal Wetlands Ecology", led by Chris Pyke. After the field trips and a short rest, we gathered with more new arrivals and enjoyed dinner at the Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens. This was a memorable event, held at a well-known and well-loved scenic vista overlooking the Santa Barbara Harbor. Everyone in attendance received a healthy helping of tri-tip, salad, and apple pie while enjoying the beautiful views of the sunset and the harbor.

Friday's and Saturday's paper and poster sessions included 78 presentations by 105 different authors and contributors. The sessions remained generally intact, with some changes and alterations made to accommodate travel schedules and cancellations. The Presidential Plenary Session on Friday afternoon was an exceptional event. The keynote speaker, The Honorable

*(continued on Page 15)*

## AWARDS PRESENTED AT ARCATA

Special President's Award for Outstanding Service by a Student presented to Matt Rice, UC Santa Barbara, for his outstanding work on the APCG 2001 Organizing Committee.

Gwen Scott, University of Oregon, President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a Ph.D. Student ("The Asia-Pacific Triangle: Constructing the Pacific 'Savage' and Reconciling Racism in U.S. Immigration Policy")

Elizabeth Watson, UC Berkeley, President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an MA Student ("Calibration of Microfossil Assemblages with an Environmental Gradient in the Marshes of the San Francisco Estuary").

Julienne Gard, Long Beach City College, President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a BA Student ("Fever Trees: The Geography of Malaria")

Student Travel Grants: Rachel Burke (University of Arizona), Julienne Gard (Long Beach City College), Sandra Holland (University of Arizona), Jim Labbe (Portland State University), Gwen Scott (University of Oregon).

## HONORS

The Institute of Australian Geographers is the principal professional geography organization in Australia. It awards the Australia-International Medal "in recognition of outstanding contributions to the understanding of the geography of Australia by geographers permanently residing outside Australia."

The medal has been awarded three times to Tom McKnight, UCLA; Janice Monk, University of Arizona; and Reginald Golledge, UC Santa Barbara pictured below who gathered at the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers' annual meetings in Santa Barbara in September, 2001.



Jenny Zorn, California State University San Bernardino

## NEWS AND NOTES

### IN MEMORY - ROBERT LeBLANC

Professor Emeritus of Geography, Robert G. LeBlanc earned his B.A. at University of New Hampshire and his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. Professor LeBlanc, a cultural geographer, began his career at UNH in 1963 and served with distinction until his retirement in 1999. He served as acting chair and chair of the department for nearly ten years.

Professor LeBlanc was a scholar in Canadian studies, studying Franco-American communities in New England mill towns. He traveled the world and brought his experiences back to Durham, sharing them with the hundreds of students he taught over his career.

He was honored as a Whiting Foundation Fellow in 1983, received the 1988 Distinguished Service Award of the New England Geography Society in 1988, and participated in the N.H. Council for the Humanities Franco-American Project, the New Hampshire Council for Canadian Studies and served as incorporator of the Franco-American Center of Manchester.

In a 1997 interview with the UNH News Bureau in anticipation of Geography Awareness Week, LeBlanc was excited about the resurgence of interest in geography, not only at the university but in grades K through 12 as well. He said, "While history is the study of events through time, geography focuses on the where and why. Studying geography is studying maps, but also human interaction with the environment, the importance of location and conditions to an event."

Professor LeBlanc was on United Flight 175 that crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

The above was taken from a UNH Media Advisory by Kim Billings

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The PBS news program, *The News Hour*, featured a story on victims of Flight 77 on September 18. In fact, it was about Ann Judge, Joe Ferguson, a D.C. schoolteacher, and a D.C. student among the 8 NGS passengers en route to the Channel Islands. A realaudio clip of the audio portion of this 6:20 segment can be retrieved at [http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/terrorism/july-dec01/victims\\_9-18.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/terrorism/july-dec01/victims_9-18.html). (Download the real audio player for free, if you do not have it.)

Terry Simmons

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### NOMINATIONS FOR APCG POST INVITED

All members are invited to contact the nominations committee as soon as possible with their suggestions for nominations for Vice-President. Check the APCG directory link from the APCG homepage for new Nominations Committee members, not available as of press time.

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### APCG SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Faculty are invited to submit nominations for next fall's APCG Service Award to Awards Committee. Please contact Dolly Freidel, Dept. of Geography, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, email [dorothy.freidel@sonoma.edu](mailto:dorothy.freidel@sonoma.edu)

### IN MEMORY - CHESTER "CHET" COLE

An impressive presence (6 feet 5 ½ inches and a booming voice at volume triple "F"), Chet Cole was born in Spokane, Washington in 1916, and he earned a B.A. from Eastern Washington College in 1937, a M.A. from the Univ. of Washington in 1941, and a Ph.D. from Univ. of Nebraska in 1951. He began his career at Fresno State College (later University) in 1947, and he was the key figure in building its Geography Department. During the 50s, 60s, and 70s, he was elected 14 times as Chair, and the reason was obvious: he had the experience (retired from the Army at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel), he was good at it, and—importantly—he enjoyed it. The faculty grew from 3 to 16.

A historical and political geographer, Cole's vita lists 33 publications, 3 editorships, 8 summer visiting professorships, 14 organizational memberships, and innumerable speaking engagements. He served as APCG President in 1963-64. The Chester F. Cole endowment was established and distributes scholarships annually to students following an academic program in Geography at Fresno State.

Dr. John Crosby, his friend and colleague, states, "Hundreds of students and faculty have their own anecdotes about Chet Cole. Somehow, he seemed to invite them. But for those of us who were fortunate to know Chet Cole as student, friend or colleague, realized, early in our acquaintance, that he was a truly unique individual, and that we were favored to have shared the same time and space on this planet."

Most of the above was taken and edited from a 3-page obituary titled "*Taps*" for "*Mister Faculty*": *Remembering Professor Chet Cole* by John Crosby.

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### APCG 2002 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Faculty are encouraged to tell their students about next fall's Student Paper Competition well ahead of time. At past meetings, I have seen numerous student papers presented that would have been very competitive if only the authors had submitted them into the contest. And we award Money to the winners! Prizes range from \$100 to \$250 for the top scoring paper. There are categories for undergraduate, Masters, and Ph.D. papers, as well as one for posters.

The students must submit an extended abstract of no more than 6 pages double-spaced plus diagrams, and papers should be submitted by the end of July, 2002 for consideration at the San Bernardino meeting. The papers are judged on the basis of the written work plus the presentation. In the past eligible papers have been single author; papers with a faculty member as second author are not considered. The papers should present the original research of the student, in any of our myriad subdisciplines of geography.

So let's get a great field of competitors by planning early! For further information please contact Professor Dolly Freidel, Dept. of Geography, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, (707) 664-2314, email [dorothy.freidel@sonoma.edu](mailto:dorothy.freidel@sonoma.edu).

Dolly Freidel, Sonoma State University

## NEWS AND NOTES

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from page 2)

Michael Schmandt to print them in the next *Pacifica*.

Finally, let me pass along an observation I found encouraging. Students in my department assured me that they were getting useful insights even from those of us whose expertise lies at some distance from the unfolding events. For example, environmental issues classes have helped them understand the global dangers of fossil fuel dependence and accelerating consumption of the earth's resources – both topics with great relevance to current affairs, topics that will need to be addressed in any resolution of the present conflict. Along with newer geographies – ethnic, gender, critical – the “human-land tradition” still has a lot to offer.

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### APPLIED GEOGRAPHERS NEWS

#### **Over Troubled Waters, Terror Is Normal**

In early November 2001, Governor Gray Davis warned that terrorists planned to attack four major California bridges, according to credible reports. The California Highway Patrol and California National Guard stood on guard visibly. Alas, the Golden Gate Bridge spans the San Francisco Bay still; nothing happened. Fortunately, the credible threats to bridges throughout the American West were not.

Nevertheless, Osama bin Laden stated clearly, “The real targets (of the September 11 attacks) were America's icons of military and economic power.” (“Journalist Says He Met Bin Laden,” Washington Post, November 10, 2001) Absolutely, “terrorism” is a war about ideology, symbols and icons, not territory. The World Trade Towers were (and still are in different respects) icons of New York City as the capitol of global capital.

The Golden Gate Bridge is Northern California's most important cultural icon. The bridge is essential for daily commuters from Marin County to San Francisco's Financial District, is a monumental engineering achievement, the sailor's beacon of safe harbor, and Northern California's best known landmark. The Golden Gate Bridge is an obvious target for sabotage.

Still, Osama bin Laden is not the only terrorist. Massive disruptions, chaos, and surprise are normal aspects of modern life. Mother Nature has been and still is the most successful terrorist in the San Francisco Bay Area. She demolished the San Francisco Bay Bridge in 1989 and burned The City in 1906. Both achievements far exceed Osama bin Laden's ability or ambition. Terrorism is normal.

Geographers have important opportunities and a duty to demonstrate their talents on the university campus, in business and government. Geographers have an obligation to understand the dangers of both international geopolitics and earthquakes, to explain them to students and the general public, and to guard against these dangers.

#### **APCG Applied Geographers Opportunities**

APCG applied geographers sponsored an excellent paper session on Water Resources Management at the Santa Barbara meeting. Philip Pryde, San Diego State University, explained “What the Babbitt Water Initiatives Mean for Southern California.” Keith Warner, University of California, Santa Cruz,

evaluated the implications of possible demolition of two dams on the Yuba River in “A River Might Run Through It Again.” Terry Simmons, Center for Global Policy Studies, spoke on “Geography and Law: Theory and Practice,” with emphasis on water law, policy, and management in California and Nevada. The papers were followed by a highly productive, integrated discussion of all three papers.

The APCG Applied Geographers Committee with its Business, Industry and Government Geographers (BIGG) network welcomes local leaders and members, from Alaska to Arizona, to recruit applied geographers and to organize local professional activities. In addition, we hope to see you next year in San Bernardino. Please e-mail Terry Simmons at [terry@environment-lawyer.com](mailto:terry@environment-lawyer.com) or telephone him at (775) 322-3333.

*Terry Simmons*, Chair, APCG Applied Geographers Committee

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### WOMEN'S NETWORK NEWS

At this year's annual meeting, the Women's Network organized a panel discussion and forum entitled, Networking for the Future. Panelists discussed a wide variety of topics including the origin and development of the Network, future mentoring needs, mentoring roles and responsibilities and the acknowledgment of women's contributions to geography. Attendees spoke of the need to focus on undergraduate and community college mentoring and career options for geographers outside of academia. Many expressed a strong interest in the Network planning more informal retreats and exchanges that might coincide with upcoming annual meetings. The forum was attended by AAG President Janice Monk who spoke of the importance of tracking women's history in geography and proposed ways for the Network to expand its current role.

The lively discussion carried over to the annual Women's Network luncheon. During the luncheon, the recipients of the Women's Network Travel Grants were introduced. Each of the recipients spoke about effective mentoring in their educational experience and their current activities. We all appreciated their enthusiasm and hearing about their interests and future goals in geography. A special thanks also goes to the faculty nominators, many of whom attended the panel discussion and luncheon.

The Network invites all faculty members of the APCG to nominate an outstanding female undergraduate or graduate for a Women's Network Travel Grant to attend next year's meeting in San Bernardino. The Margaret Trussell Scholarship Committee also invites master's and doctoral students in the APCG service area to apply for the Trussell Scholarship. Look for the official announcements in the spring edition of the *Pacifica*.

*Women's Network Travel Grant: July 1, 2002*

*Margaret Trussell Scholarship: June 1, 2002*

The Women's Network currently supports a managed listserve and will be launching a new website this spring. If you are interested in being added to the listserve or have suggestions for the website, please send a message to Jennifer Helzer ([jhelzer@stan.csustan.edu](mailto:jhelzer@stan.csustan.edu)).

(Continued on next page)

## NEWS AND NOTES

Recipients of the Margaret Trussell Award (\$1500 each) include Susan Hume (doctoral student), Dept. of Geography, University of Oregon and Kelly Pohl (master's student), Dept. of Geography, Portland State University

Recipients of the Women's Network Travel Grants (\$250 each). The name of the faculty nominator is in parentheses. Jennifer Cesca, Portland State University (Keith Hadley), Stacey Clarke, University of Nevada, Reno (Jennifer Helzer), Emily Duenwald, University of Alaska (Kenneth Barrick), Julieanne Gard, Long Beach City College (Ray Sumner), Liz Lotz, Sonoma State University (Ross Meentemeyer), Lee Miles, CSU, Hayward (David Larson), Melanie Paquin, Portland State University



(Teresa Bulman), Kimberly Saunders, CSU, Northridge (Amalie Jo Orme), Gwen Scott, University of Oregon (Susan Hardwick), and Emily Skop, Arizona State University (Kevin McHugh).

*Jennifer Helzer, Coordinator, Women's Network*

### CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS

"Canada in North America" for the Canadian Studies  
Section of the 44th Annual Western Social Sciences  
Association Conference, 10-13 April 2002  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Interested APCG members are cordially invited to submit proposals for papers and panels for the Western Canadian Studies Association section of the Western Social Science Association 2002 annual conference. Topics may include (but are not limited to) urban and environmental issues, First Nations, immigration, cultural diversity, NAFTA and economic issues, society and the arts, gender issues, resources, borders and security, political and constitutional issues, and Canada's place in a rapidly changing North America.

The deadline for proposals is 01 January 2002. Please include the following information: Title, name and affiliation, address, telephone, e-mail and fax of author(s), and an abstract not to exceed 150 words. Those wishing to serve as moderators or discussants should so indicate. All conference participants are to preregister by 01 March 2002. <http://wssa.asu.edu/2002conference.htm>

Send proposals as Word attachments via e-mail to the Canadian Studies Section Coordinators: Dr. Dan Turbeville, Dept. of Geography, Eastern Washington University, [dturbeville@mail.ewu.edu](mailto:dturbeville@mail.ewu.edu) and Fr. Michael Treleaven, SJ, Dept. of Political Science, Gonzaga University, [treleaven@gem.gonzaga.edu](mailto:treleaven@gem.gonzaga.edu)

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following 45 new members who have joined since 3/17/01 when the last list was prepared for the Spring *Pacifica*. In addition to these a number of new members joined with their APCG 2001 registration, but their names are not yet available.

Sharolyn Anderson  
Martin Balikov  
Joanne Beechel  
Wendy Bigler  
David P. Brown  
Rachel Burke  
Michael Byrne  
Colleen Callin  
David P. Carlson  
Janet Choate  
Timothy W. Collins  
Katie Comer  
Thomas E. Diltz  
Thomas Anthony Ellrott  
Dean H. K. Fairbanks  
Terri Fashing  
Julienne Gard  
Colleen Garrity

Sandra C. Holland  
Kanghu Hsu  
Shaun Huston  
Edward L. Jackiewicz  
Nathalie Jacob  
Clarence P. Knuth  
Vicky Lawson  
Xiaohang Liu  
Diana Liverman  
Matthew Alan Lord  
Nancy A. Lowery  
David Lulka  
Mary Ann Marcus  
Amber Marra  
John A. Menary  
Jennifer Miller  
Evelyn Ng  
Ayn Perry  
John H. Pine  
Gregory J. Poseley  
Rebecca Powell  
Jennifer Prokos  
James L. Sell  
Mariela Soto  
Barbara Wanish  
Elizabeth Watson  
Terence Young

RECAP OF 2001 APCG (Continued from page 12)

Walter J. Hickel (former Governor of Alaska and former Secretary of the Interior) was stranded in Alaska and could not join us in person but joined us via telephone, which was seamlessly broadcast over the auditorium PA System. His address was a reflection on the Santa Barbara Oil Spill of 1969, which occurred while he was the Secretary of the Interior in the Nixon administration. After a question and answer session we heard from local journalist, author, and environmental activist Robert Sollen, who founded the local organization "Get Oil Out" (GOO) as a lobby and activist group to oppose more south coast oil drilling after the catastrophic 1969 oil spill.

Saturday Evening's Banquet was a memorable event complete with delicious salmon, chicken, and vegetables prepared by the UCSB catering services. APCG President-elect Nancy Wilkinson (SFSU) presided over the festivities, with student award presentations by Mark Wilson (Humboldt State University), resolutions by Donald F. Lynch (University of Alaska), and musical entertainment by the Santa Barbara Treble Clef Chorus, directed by LaNell Lucius (NCGIA Executive Administrator and APCG 2001 local organizer). The Presidential Address, delivered by Roger Pearson, focused on the geography of Alaska: Its landscape, resources, and management. Dr. Pearson's address left many of us looking to Alaska as an example of managing natural resources in an equitable and sustainable manner.

We left the conference better than we started it, and hope that next year's conference is well attended and not fraught with the same life and world changing events. Special congratulations must go to the many people who traveled a great distance to be at our conference, including President Roger Pearson who, according to quick assessment, wins the long distance travel award for combining a Herculean 2400 miles by airline (Anchorage to Portland) and car (Portland to Santa Barbara). It was truly inspiring to see the enormous effort he made to arrive at this year's conference. We look forward to seeing you all of you at APCG 2002 in San Bernardino.

Respectfully submitted by *Matt Rice*

## ABOUT THE APCG

Founded in 1935 by a gathering of geographers including graduate students and faculty from universities, normal schools and junior colleges, and a few from government and industry, the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers has a long and rich history promoting geographical education, research, and knowledge. Members gather at the annual meetings for social and intellectual interaction. They receive the annual *Yearbook*, first published in 1935, that includes abstracts of papers from the meetings and a number of full-length peer-reviewed articles. Members also receive the bi-annual newsletter *Pacifica*, first published in Fall 1994. Since 1952 the APCG has also been the Pacific Coast Regional Division of the Association of American Geographers, serving AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, BC, and YT.

## MEMBERSHIP

Questions about membership should be directed to Bob Richardson at the address below, or phone (916) 278-6410, fax (916) 278-7584, or e-mail [apcg@csus.edu](mailto:apcg@csus.edu). Visit our web site at [www.csus.edu/apcg/index.html](http://www.csus.edu/apcg/index.html) for lots of information about the organization and for a new member application form.

APCG member dues, although raised for 2001, remain modest: Regular \$20; Joint (2 people at same address) \$23; Student and

Retired \$10; Contributing \$25 or more (any contribution over \$20 is tax deductible). Joint members receive only one copy of *Pacifica* and one *Yearbook*.

Dues are paid for the calendar year. Unless you indicate otherwise, checks dated before November 1 will be credited to the current year, while those dated after November 1 will be credited to the next year. Only current year members receive the *Yearbook*. Current members will be sent a membership renewal notice near the end of the calendar year.

## CORRECT ADDRESS?

Most mailings to members are done using the APCG's Non-Profit authorization. Non-Profit mail is not forwarded, so to be sure you receive your copies of *Pacifica* and the *Yearbook* it is critical that you provide new address information to the Association.

**PACIFICA** is a publication of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, a regional division of the Association of American Geographers. The newsletter appears two times a year in fall and spring. The deadline for submission of announcements and reports for the Spring issue is March 1 and for the Fall issue is October 20. For further information contact Michael Schmandt at [schmandt@toto.csustan.edu](mailto:schmandt@toto.csustan.edu) or phone (209) 667-3557.

**The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Inc.**

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