

# PACIFICA

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers

Fall 2004



## COLOR COMES TO IRISH TOWNS: A LOW-RISK APPROACH TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Larry Ford

### Introduction

Historic preservation is a tricky business. On the one hand, it is important to save meaningful settings from the past, but on the other, it is important to avoid the creation of places that are frozen in time, museum cities that cannot reflect changing cultural values and populations. Kevin Lynch, in his seminal book *What Time is this Place?* (Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1972) argues that the present should be celebrated by heightening awareness of both the past and future. By managing and displaying change, we can better understand where we have been, where we are going, and at what speed. He suggests that the best landscapes provide opportunities to explore the past but also the ability to return.

The European and North American historic preservation movement grew out of a reaction to the sweeping changes that resulted from war, urban renewal and highway programs. Where massive changes occurred, preservationists rallied to try to stop change altogether. Official historic districts were created that mandated strict conformance to a variety of aesthetic codes, zoning regulations and height and bulk limits. European cities led the way in preserving, and often reinventing, official historic landscapes, but North America was not far behind. From Beacon Hill in Boston to Santa Fe, New Mexico, old neighborhoods were identified, gentrified and given official status. Such neighborhoods became anchors, links to an often romanticized past, in a sea of massive change.

For writers such as Lynch, however, strict preservation represents a high-risk response to threatening change because all the normal and gradual changes associated with living in a real place become impossible or contentious. If every change in architectural detail must be approved by a planning board, subtle changes in tastes and preferences

cannot be easily accommodated. This is especially true when only one time period can be officially represented as "the past". In such cases, former residents may return to a "preserved" district only to find that their pasts have been completely erased in favor of a more romantic and presentable era.

There are many other high-risk approaches in the search for "history". Some towns and cities have reinvented their evolution by exaggerating an ethnic identity. "Bavarian" Leavenworth, Washington and "Danish" Solvang, California are examples, but there are less obvious ones as well. While the two cities above have created blatantly faux Euroscapes, complete with towers and turrets, cities such as Santa Fe, New Mexico have used stealthier approaches.

While Taos had authentic pueblos, nineteenth century Santa Fe was a more typical Mexican-American western town. During the 1915 Panama California Exposition in San Diego, a New Mexico Building was constructed using a pueblo theme. Later, the architect was invited to Santa Fe to design a variety of public buildings in that style. By the 1920's, Santa Fe was on its way to being "stuccoed" into beige pueblo-ness. Victorian facades were covered as the Santa Fe landscape was reinvented. Soon Albuquerque joined the parade, and everything from the University of New Mexico to suburban housing featured pueblo style architecture.

New landscapes are also subjected to an increasing variety of restrictions in recent years. Commercial areas are blander while neighborhoods often ban driveway basketball hoops and certain types of vegetation. Such

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2005 Tempe, Arizona October 19-22, 2005

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## The Heart of Geography

*Jim Allen, California State University, Northridge*

This "President's Message" urges us to make sure that our students have the opportunity to connect with both the intellectual and the emotional heart of geography. Most of us geographers seem to share a set of pleasures and satisfactions that come from thinking geographically, asking geographical questions, and doing geography, regardless of whether the occasion is formalized as geography. However, recent shifts of curriculum emphasizing GIS and technical skills may permit some students to graduate in geography without experiencing the essential heart of geography as most of us know it. They may end up thinking of themselves more as GIS analysts, technicians, or planners than geographers.

What is the heart of geography? I'm less concerned here with the intellectual definition of our field--a perennially thorny matter--although some loose consensus on what is geography is useful. Personally, I often think of geography as "pattern and process," although that privileges spatiality and seems to ignore human-environmental interrelations. "Connections and contexts" may be useful because connections include both spatial interaction and the human-environmental dimension. However, regardless of how each of us conceptualizes geography, there is more to what we love about geography than its subject-matter definition.

For the remainder of this message, let's consider the emotional heart of geography--what fascinations and pleasures we find in our shared ways of thinking about the world. I think that geography becomes most exciting when we integrate academic learning and personal experiences. For me, and I expect for many geographers, exploring some area or some new map, finding surprises in visiting new places, asking questions prompted by field observations, and getting into unplanned conversations along the way are what renew my love for geography. After the long periods of routine and work, such experiences get my geographical juices flowing again.

I am concerned that some students may graduate from departments and not know the pleasures that come from imagining what a certain place on the map is like--or observing changes of vegetation during the course of a hike and wondering why and trying to connect these thoughts with what they learned in their courses--or speculating as to the regional impacts of warming tropical waters--or visiting the site of one's GIS project to see how its various components appear on the ground and learning what local residents or key players think--or seeing their own neighborhood through new perspectives presented in their urban geography class--or trying to explain the various foods, types of farming, housing styles, religions, technologies, and economies observed in travels by speculating as to the influences of cultural origin and diffusion; the variable character of the physical environment; and colonialism, capitalist investment, and government policies regarding trade and exports.

When students get excited about such questions and ways of looking at the world, they connect and feel comfortable with our discipline. If students do not enjoy the ways of thinking and doing that lie at the heart of geography, they may be more at home in other fields like history, sociology, geology, meteorology, planning, computer science, art, and biology, or in non-academic settings.

Perhaps the easiest way to make sure that students have the opportunity to experience the heart of geography is to make sure they get out of the computer lab, classroom, and library. Realizing that some of our students were graduating without any experience in the field, a few years our department at CSU

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# MINUTES OF THE APCG BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, September 11, 2004  
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Bob Richardson, CSU Sacramento

President David Plane called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. About thirty-one people attended ultimately.

1. Last year's Business Meeting minutes, as published in the Fall '03 issue of *Pacifica*, were approved unanimously.

2. Annual Meetings: (a) 2004—Jim Keese is taking a much-needed and well-deserved nap, but reports 194 attendees as the penultimate count. All agree it has been a very successful meeting.

(b) 2005—Dan Arreola reminded us of the flier in our registration packets announcing next year's meeting, October 19-22, in Phoenix—at long last! Maricopa Community College District (where several ASU Ph.D.'s are faculty) will co-sponsor. Space has been reserved at the ASU Downtown campus. Chris Lukinbeal is organizing workshops for the first day of the meeting, on the main campus, including GIS and ArcPad for a PDA tour of the campus. Field trips probably will include one of the Salt River Valley water system, a Fire Ecology field trip to the ponderosa burn areas, a social areas of Phoenix transect, a peripheral growth zones trip, an economic/landscape trip across the grid from downtown to peripheral commercial spaces, a Native American trip including rock art, and a self-guided downtown tour.

3. Election results (Bob Richardson): Jim Allen is President Elect (term begins at the close of these meetings), Jenny Zorn is Vice President Elect, and Stuart Aitken began his three-year term as our AAG Councillor on July 1. Participation in the election was excellent: 226 votes were returned, an all-time high. Thanks to Roger Pearson, Robin Datel, and Nancy Wilkinson for chairing the Nominations Committee.

4. Nominations Committee Report (Roger Pearson): thanks to all who participated, especially those who put up their names. Names of potential VP candidates for next year are welcomed by Roger.

5. Awards Committee Report (Dennis Dingemans): thirteen presentations have been heard, and awards will be given tonight at the banquet, including a tie in one instance, so that two awards will be given in that category.

6. AAG News. (a) Councillor's Report (Stuart Aitken): despite having only recently learned he has been our Councillor since July 1, Stuart has already sent an email survey to all the Department Chairs in our area on the health of departments. This happens to be one of AAG President Vicky Lawson's agenda items as well.

(b) Executive Director's Report (Doug Richardson): Doug began by reminding us that AAG bylaws do not require that Presidents be from the APCG region. He then narrated a very informative PowerPoint presentation on what the AAG has been doing of late. The overall goal is to strengthen the organization and provide support to geography. Financially the AAG is now in good shape after years of losses. The Advancing Geography Centennial Fund has almost \$900K pledged so far. Membership has been increasing nicely, reaching 8,475 last year, an all-time high. Don Vermeer deserves credit for his efforts to increase membership. New

services for the Specialty Groups include free listservs; Regional Division meetings now are covered under an umbrella policy (SLO is the first to take advantage of this, saving us \$640) and can have AAG handle banking and bookkeeping. Publications have a new look, including the Career Guide. Journals are on schedule with steady manuscript submission rates. Meridian Place, an old Victorian townhouse purchased for \$69K in the late 60's, is now an asset worth about \$2M. Recent improvements include new computer cabling, new HVAC, a new security and phone systems, and painting. There are many new research and outreach programs: Mapping the News, GIScience Conference, Race Ethnicity & Place Conference (at Howard U. where AAG hopes to establish a geography program), symposium on LANDSAT, Healthy Departments initiative. A Diversity taskforce has been established, to bring more blacks and Hispanics to geography—a serious problem. The Senior Associates Program aims to make use of the skills of geographers about to retire. A new Public Policy office with a full-time employee is monitoring the Hill (No Child Left Behind had no geography in it, as an example of the need). Geotechnologies is now identified by the Department of Labor as one of the three top emerging fields (article in *Nature* magazine). Educational Affairs has numerous activities. Over 5,000 attended the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia this year, all are urged to attend the Denver meeting (and hear Alec Murphy's Presidential Address). Barry Lopez (Arctic Dreams) will be keynote speaker at Denver. Doug closed by thanking the AAG staff for their excellent work.

7. *Pacifica* Report (Michael Schmandt): Michael encourages your suggestions and ask for submissions for feature article. Authors say they get more feedback from *Pacifica* articles than anything else they publish. Copies are available on-line.

8. *Yearbook* Report (Darrick Danta): Darrick's eighth volume has been sent to members. He will do two more to end his run, so it is time to begin thinking about his replacement. Suggestions or criticisms are welcome. He would like more manuscript submissions and book reviews, and would like at least one new editorial board member. The *Yearbook* will be in Project MUSE from now on, which will increase its visibility.

9. Membership Committee: despite not having a committee this year, membership is at an all-time high. Bob reported as of last week we had 666 members paid for 2004 (Mark of the Beast!). Last year's ultimate total of 716 members was a record which we probably won't quite match this year. Jim Allen reported that Kate Barry (UNR) has agreed to resurrect and Chair the Membership Committee this coming year, with some good ideas on ways to increase membership.

10 (a) Treasurer's Report (Bob Richardson): The Treasurer's Report (see page 4) shows Receipts almost \$11,600 in excess of Disbursements, nearly half because of the profit from Portland last year (thanks Martha, Keith, Teresa, et al.). One cautionary note: we have not been billed by Hawai'i Press for v.66, the net cost of which to us will probably be about \$3,700. Even without Portland's profit, we seem to be safely in the black. Both *Pacificas* and the ballots were mailed first-class this year, the benefit seeming worth the extra cost, given that we can afford it, and we have increased the student paper awards this year

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(BUSINESS MEETING - Continued from page 3)

(from \$100 to \$150). We may wish to increase student travel grants to \$150 this coming year, since we seem able to afford it.

Special funds are earning very low interest rates for now, but with a gift from Elliot McIntire, the Bailey fund just about broke even last year. The McKnight/Clemons fund received a most generous addition of \$1,500 this summer from Joan, bless her. The Trussell scholarships remained reduced at \$1,000 each this year and drew on principal, which is affordable for awhile. If interest rates remain low for another year or two we may need to reduce the scholarship amounts further. The Women's Network received a total of \$540 in gifts this year, from several sources, leaving it with enough money to give travel grants next year, but continued funding will require continued donations.

Because Hawai'i Press has not yet billed for v.66 (nor sent royalties for v.65) that picture is incomplete, and the financial consequences of Project MUSE are not clear, but the *Yearbook* seems affordable with our present membership fee structure.

(b) Budget Committee report (Nancy Wilkinson and Tina Kennedy): no problems with the Treasurer's Report were discovered (well, Tina mentioned a \$10,000 discrepancy, but thought it unkind to worry about). Jim Allen reported that Bob, for a few beers, has agreed to do another two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer.

11. Archivist's Report (none given—Andy Bach on sabbatical): Bob noted that the APCG website now has a link to our archives at the Center for Northwest Studies at WWU.

12. Women's Network Report (Dolly Freidel for Maria Fadiman, who returned to Florida between hurricanes): the WN Luncheon was well attended and very successful; only two travel grants were awarded, leaving money for next year. Because she now is on the East Coast, Maria has stepped down; Vicki Drake (Santa Monica CC) has offered to Chair the WN.

13. Applied Geographers (Terry Simmons): there are two major constituents—applied geographers who may be professionals working off campus and independent scholars doing traditional geography. There is now an applied geography listserv at Yahoo.com. Terry hopes to offer three kinds of awards for next year recognizing: a professional geographer, an independent scholar, and (with individual departments) graduates who are not going on to further study or academic careers in geography. All of these are aimed at increasing participation in the APCG by non-academics.

14. New and Other Business: Jim Allen will try to involve younger members in committee appointments. A meeting site for 2006 has yet to be set but discussions with Warren Gill at Simon Fraser are ongoing. Nothing is underway for 2007; all are encouraged to consider hosting. Teresa Bulman said Portland has a CD template for doing a meeting that has worked well for SLO and Dan says it is fabulous. Robin Datel suggested we return to Hawaii. California Geographical Society President Debra Sharkey invited all to attend their annual meeting in Yosemite, April 22-24.

15. David adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

**Forward at close of books, 9/10/03** **\$32,513.76**

**RECEIPTS**

Dues	\$12,521.00
Profit, 2003 Annual Meeting	\$5,506.45
AAG Regional Allocation	\$754.80
Interest on Regular Account	\$390.50
YEARBOOK income, v.62	\$32.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$19,204.75</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

APCG '01 Annual Meeting Grants & Awards	\$1,639.84	
Student Travel Awards (inc. GeoBowl)	\$1,300.00	
Presidents Awards	\$339.84	
<i>PACIFICA</i> Printing Production Postage		
F'03 (750x12 pp) \$721.00	\$402.00	\$1,123.00
S'04 (785x12 pp) \$587.30	\$435.60	\$1,022.90
Corporate Filing Fee (Olympia, WA)		\$10.00
Membership (mostly mailings)		\$1,151.56
YEARBOOK vol. 64 (mailing)		\$9.94
YEARBOOK vol. 65 (mailing)		\$126.95
YEARBOOK vol. 66 (copy edit, some mailing)		\$2,552.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$7,636.63</b>

**Balance on books, 9/1/04** **\$44,081.88**

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**SPECIAL FUNDS**

<b>Bailey Schl. Fund</b> (forward 9/10/03)	<b>\$3,136.06</b>
Interest earned on CD	\$56.47
Scholarship awarded at PSU	(\$100.00)
Gift from Elliot McIntire	\$39.84
Balance 9/1/04	<b>\$3,132.37</b>

<b>McKnight/Clemons Schl. Fund</b> (forward 9/10/03)	<b>\$11,920.92</b>
Interest earned on CD	\$207.71
Scholarship awarded at PSU	(\$200.00)
Gift from David Lee (in memory of Tom)	\$20.00
Gift from Joan	\$1,500.00
Balance 9/1/04	<b>\$13,448.63</b>

<b>Margaret Trussell Mem. Fund</b> (forward 9/10/03)	<b>\$63,224.23</b>
(\$60,650.46 of which is Trussell Scholarship fund)	
Interest	\$1,138.02
Trussell Scholarships (reimb—awarded 9/20/03)	(\$2,000.00)
Travel Grants to PSU (inc. membership)	(\$1,120.00)
Gifts to WN travel fund	\$540.00
Balance 9/1/04	<b>\$61,732.25</b>
(\$59,742.15 of which is Trussell Scholarship fund)	

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	ultimate in '01: 686
Membership 9/25/02:	593	ultimate in '02: 644
Membership 9/10/03:	625	ultimate in '03: 716
Membership 9/1/04:	666	

## FEATURE ARTICLE

(FEATURE ARTICLE - Continued from page 1)

restrictions can lead to landscapes frozen in time and unable to change with new values and preferences.

### *Color in the Landscape*

Colors were often vivid in landscapes of the past. Victorian houses featured colorful trim, and nineteenth century business buildings often had huge advertising signs and murals painted on their fronts and sides. As recently as the 1950s and 1960s, tract homes came in a variety of hues from pink and blue to canary yellow, and highways such as Route 66 were lined with motels and cafes with exotic, anthropomorphic icons in every color.



Color itself is sometimes perceived to be bad taste. In defending life in highly controlled (and often gated) communities, Americans often say “I don’t want my neighbor to paint his house red”. As a member of San Diego’s Historic Site Board during the 1980s, I “tongue in cheekily” proposed preserving an example of San Diego’s long history as a navy town by saving a classic peep show venue in the rapidly gentrifying Gaslamp Quarter. The building happened to be pink and purple and my opponents referred to the color scheme continuously, over and above its controversial use. “We can’t save that purple monstrosity.” The Gaslamp, they argued, was historic, and so tasteful colors should prevail.



By the 1980s, much of the color was gone. Bright colors were increasingly garish and inappropriate. Along commercial strips, sign control ordinances and other restrictions led to the more subdued and corporate imagery associated with chain establishments, and low rise “woody goody” architecture replaced giant revolving chickens.

In suburbia, the increasing dominance of massive planned unit developments featuring thousands of houses built at one time coupled with lender trepidation about anything that could possibly add risk to a multi-million dollar investment, led to extreme color control. You could have any color house you want as long as it was a variety of beige. I use the term “taupeography” for the study of these housing tracts.



The tasteful color theme has been replayed many times in both new and historic neighborhoods across the United States. While there have been some exceptions, like Charleston, South Carolina’s Rainbow Row, proper historic districts have usually exhibited dignified and subdued color schemes. Even when architectural changes are allowed, color is controlled. In Philadelphia’s Society Hill, for example, modern versions of classic row houses

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are allowed if they conform to the textures (brick) and colors of the historic district. In Lynchian terms, these structures demonstrate flexibility and the ability to explore, but they could be hard to “change back” if they become passé.



There are signs, however, that color may be returning to at least some North American central cities. Downtown San Diego has become increasingly colorful in recent years with the opening of Horton Plaza Shopping Center, inspired, at least tangentially, by Italian hill towns. Not far away, multi-colored condominium



projects front the streets of the newly invented, semi-historical district known as Little Italy. On the edge of downtown San Antonio, the new art museum is entirely decked out in a rich, red tone, and Mexican murals are common in the city's Mercado area. For many years now, Victorian houses have been repainted in colorful detail in San Francisco, and Canadian cities from Toronto to Vancouver have followed. Indeed, a few places, most notably Miami Beach, have used bright colors to create a new personality. It may be that a significant reversal of color stereotyping has taken place over the past few decades. The common view was once that cities were gray and dreary while suburbs were green and colorful. Today, central cities are more likely to be colorful while suburbs are drab and beige. Ponder this—what will changing color do for metropolitan imagery?

### *Color and the Sense of Time*

Color has long been used to paint “what's happening” on buildings. For centuries, European cities have had religious pictures and civic messages painted on building fronts to boost local pride and bring salvation to those who pass. In

North American cities, murals have played similar roles over the past three decades. Large and colorful murals allow a neighborhood to create an identity and claim territory even in the absence of significant architectural change. Beginning in Black and Latino neighborhoods in the late 1960s, murals became a way of painting “now” into the urban fabric. Depictions of current events, both good and bad, took main stage, at first in big city neighborhoods of New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, but they soon moved down the urban hierarchy. In San Diego, for example, neighborhood issues and identity were vividly displayed in Chicano Park murals by the mid-1970s.



Murals have become very important in the major cities of Northern Ireland over the past two decades. In Belfast and (London)Derry, both Protestants and Catholics have created extensive wall murals and graffiti to tell their sides of the story. Everything from community pride to memorials to the fallen is represented artistically. In this case, community stress has led to successful low risk responses. The murals are dominant and powerful, but they are, when times and values change, removable.

### *Color Comes to Irish Towns (at last)*

I lived in the small town of Athenry in western Ireland during the summer of 1968 while I was a graduate student at the University of Oregon. I lived with a family and quickly immersed myself in the life of the community. Over the summer, I visited at least thirty towns and cities, and, as a cultural geographer in the making, learned to pay close attention to the landscape. Although the countryside was overwhelmingly green, the towns were nearly always overwhelmingly gray. All the houses on my street were gray. The churches were gray. The shops and pubs were gray. The walls and fences were gray, and on “soft” mornings when the dark sky met the town horizon, everything blended into gray (see opposite page, top). The pubs were lively with music and conversation, but there was little in the landscape that reflected this conviviality. I returned to Ireland during the 1970s, the country was far more prosperous but by then “the troubles” in the north added another dimension to the bleak townscapes.

After a long hiatus, I returned during the summer of 2004 and traveled over 1,400 miles throughout the island, visiting about twenty-five towns and cities. I intended to

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

sample the local color but was unaware of how appropriate that phrase was. Even after a long, overnight flight, the vivid colors of Dublin quickly overtook me. Dublin has traditionally been a city of gray stone and Georgian red brick, but those hues are no longer so dominant. The hulking Dublin Castle government buildings have been painted bright reds and purples. The tall and narrow Georgian town houses along the Liffey River were draped with colorful palette of yellow, pink, or blue, alternatively painted without any one bright color overwhelming the street. The pedestrian Grafton Street shopping district and the gentrified Temple Bar



entertainment district are alive with color. Even though most of the Georgian terraces retain their untreated brick facades, splashes of color project a transformed image and reality of Dublin from a poor, dreary and somewhat oppressive city to a lively, prosperous center of creativity and innovation. In the process, little of Dublin's architectural heritage has been destroyed. The Georgian buildings and terraces are brushed into a brighter context.

Many of the smaller towns and cities have been transformed by color to an even greater degree. In some city centers, over half of the buildings have been painted in vivid colors. The ambience has certainly changed since the 1960s. In Athenry, for example, the drab main street is replaced with purple, orange, pink, green, red, and blue (see previous page, bottom). Even the residential areas have changed as houses, once gray, are now often bright pink or yellow. Many of the smaller towns are designated Heritage Towns and subject to a variety of architectural and design controls. The townscapes cannot be greatly altered, but they can be brightened up.

The national government provides, especially in historic towns, "paint up, fix up" grants. With the grants come professional advice on desired color combinations. Sometimes, however, this advice is not followed, and color

rules are seldom enforced. After all, this is a low risk design enhancement, and a building can easily be repainted if a "hue and cry" is raised. Generally, it is the entire building facade that is painted, not just the complex and detailed trim. This makes them easier to re-do than say San Francisco Victorians that are fun to paint up the first time, but over the years, fussy detailing can lead to burn out and neglect.

### *Contested Colors*

Just as murals can be controversial if they claim territory for a particular ethnic group or political persuasion, color itself can be problematic in Ireland. Even now, in and near Northern Ireland, the display of red, white, and blue and especially orange can be taken as an endorsement of British rule or the protestant Orangemen. Green, on the other hand, is the national color of the Republic of Ireland or Eire. As a result of former and possibly continuing conflict, colors tend to be more subdued in the North. In the Republic, however, it appears that anything goes. While red, white and blue seldom appear together, orange is increasingly common. A cellular phone company called Orange often paints its retail outlets that color has helped to depoliticize it. Green, of course, is common, often in combination with bright yellow.

More surprising is the use of dainty pinks and purples on the once "men only" pubs. It could be that formerly macho, gendered spaces are being transformed in part by new color combinations. Flower boxes, new signage, and a variety of other colorful embellishments are reinforcing the evolving character of social space.

As in the film *Pleasantville*, when the film's characters are seen in color only after they have a sexual awakening, Ireland is awakening from decades of sexual restraint. Its landscapes have gone from oppressed to wild and crazy over the past two decades. There is a positive energy and a new optimism that pervades this little island, and this change can be read in Ireland's landscape of color.





## RECAP OF APCG 2004 CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

The 67th annual meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers was held at Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo September 8-11, 2004. Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed brilliant weather in the mid-80s on California's central coast. The Business Building complex was the meeting site and offered spectacular views of two of the Morros (Cerro San Luis and Bishop's Peak). The conference opened with tributes to Bill Loy (given by Alexander Murphy) and Tom McKnight (given by Lay Gibson). The opening session was titled Conserving Open Space and Resources on the Central Coast. Neil Havlik (City of San Luis Obispo), Dan Berman (Morro Bay National Estuary Program), and Kara Blakeslee (American Land Conservancy) spoke on greenbelt land acquisition, watershed management, and conserving the 82,000-acre Hearst ranch.

Four field trips highlighted the open spaces and the varied coastal and rural landscapes of the region. Jennifer O'Brien led a trip to the Hearst Castle, San Simeon, and Ragged Point. Jorge Lizarraga and Bob Hoover took a group to Mission San Antonio, which also included a transect of the Santa Lucia Range, a drive down the southern Big Sur coastline, and lunch at the former Hearst hunting lodge (which was designed by Julia Morgan). Cal Wilvert led a trip that blended themes in physical and cultural geography, with stops at the Pismo Dunes and the town of Guadalupe in the Santa Maria Valley. The final trip, led by Jim Keese, traveled through the emerging wine region of Paso Robles and explored the theme of the Spanish imprint on California and the new grapescape. Field-trippers returned to the Thursday evening dinner and reception on the creekside terrace at Novo Restaurant, adjacent to Mission San Luis Obispo and the city's world famous farmers' market.

Friday and Saturday featured 81 papers and 10 posters in 19 sessions. The quality of the papers was outstanding, and participation by students was high. The President's Plenary Session was titled Major Directions in the Future of Population Geography of the Pacific Coast. David Plane moderated a panel that included James Allen (California State University, Northridge), Patricia Gober (Arizona State University), and Waldo Tobler (University of California at Santa Barbara). At the President's Reception on Friday evening AAG President Victoria Lawson gave an update on AAG issues. At the Saturday banquet, 101 participants were treated to a full-service dinner in the Garden Room at the fabulous Madonna Inn. APCG President David Plane enlightened and entertained us with his Presidential Address on "The Conditions of Coastality."

The geographers at Cal Poly wish to thank the APCG and everyone who attended for the opportunity to host the 2004 annual meeting. We were honored to be chosen, and it was a pleasure for us to show off a place that we hold so dear. We look forward to seeing you at the 2005 meeting in Tempe.

*Jim Keese, Coordinator, 2004 APCG Meeting*

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### NEXT MEETING: APCG 2005 - PHOENIX

The next APCG annual meeting is hosted by Arizona State University and the Maricopa Community Colleges, and it will be held at the ASU Downtown Center in Phoenix on October 19 - 22, 2005. Soon, the meeting website and the Spring *Pacifica* will include general conference information, the meeting program, a call for papers, a description of field trips and workshops, a registration form, and a list of accommodations.

<http://geography.asu.edu/apcg/>

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### SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to Joan Clemons for continuing the tradition she and Tom began by adding another \$1,500 to the McKnight/Clemons scholarship fund. David Lee contributed \$20 to the McKnight/Clemons fund in Tom's memory. Thanks to the following for their contributions to the Women's Network since last Fall's *Pacifica*: Jennifer Helzer (\$50), Barbara Fredrich (\$100, in memory of Tom McKnight); Dolly Freidel (\$40, in memory of Bill Loy); Teresa Bulman (\$100); Jenny Zorn (\$100 in memory of Tom McKnight), and Jan Monk (\$300 in honor of Joan Clemons).

*Bob Richardson, California State University, Sacramento*

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**NOMINATIONS FOR APCG POSTS INVITED**

All members are invited to contact Nancy Wilkinson as soon as possible with their suggestions for nominations for Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer. Please see the Directory on page 2 for Nancy's contact information.

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**APCG 2005 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

For the Phoenix meeting in fall 2005 the APCG will again provide quite a number of awards for research papers read by students during the regular sessions. Faculty are encouraged to give their students early encouragement to consider refining and submitting a paper. Prizes range from \$100 to at least \$200 for the best papers in nearly a half a dozen categories (best undergraduate paper, best presentation by a MA/MS student, best work by a Ph.D. student, best poster session entry, best work in several topical categories). Further details will come out in the Spring *Pacifica*, but for now it is sufficient to say that students will submit their papers (1) through the regular process of giving an abstract and signing up as all APCG meeting participants will do some time next summer, and (2) by filling out a short form that will be in the next *Pacifica* (and on line) to declare your intention to seek an award and by accompanying that form with an extended abstract (or if possible a version of the paper). For additional information contact this year's committee chair, Prof. Dolly Freidel (see contact information on page 2).

Dolly Freidel, Sonoma State University

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**GEORGE C. KIMBER, APCG'S FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

In June I received the following email message: *Hi, I'm living in Montreal (Qc) Canada and I recently bought a November 14, 1944 issue of Life Magazine. There was an address on it : George C. Kimber, Sacramento Jr College, Sacramento, CA. USA. Out of curiosity, I searched the Internet and found that, in 1935, the vice-president of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers was a George C. Kimber from Sacramento Jr. College...[on the APCG website] Incredible! I'm an history nut and would like to know a little about this Mr. Kimber. Was he a teacher, a searcher or a Sacramento College administrator? He must be dead by now... He would certainly be surprised to know that the Life Magazine he received in November 1944 (the US was at war in Europe and in Japan) is now a collectible and is now in Canada... I hope you will answer my message. Please excuse my poor English, I am French! -- Louise Chamard*

Living in Sacramento, I too had wondered about George Kimber, having seen his name on the list of Charter Members. I told my colleague Robin Dattel about the Canadian inquiry and she suggested that geographer Clarissa Kimber (recently retired from Texas A&M) might be George Kimber's daughter. I soon had email confirmation that indeed Clarissa is George's daughter, and asked if she might provide some biographical information on her father relating to geography and the APCG. The result was a lengthy and very interesting biography (available on the APCG History page of our website), which she was happy finally to write for her family as well as for us.

(Continued on page 11)

It is with great sadness that I send this announcement. Joan Clemons passed away peacefully early Sunday at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. She had recently returned from Australia after spreading the last of her husband Tom McKnight's ashes in one of their favorite locations.

I have worked with Joan for almost 15 years and am impressed with all she has been able to accomplish. Joan has been an advocate for so many 'under-appreciated' groups for so many years. She has fought for K-12 teacher empowerment, women in geography, and community college instructors. Indeed, she has written on each of these, in addition to her research on development and culture.

Joan was one of the original members of the group in Los Angeles who were the beginnings of the Geographic Alliances. She has served as coordinator of the Alliance and has always struggled to make it a valuable asset for K-12 educators. She is a leader in geography in California where she worked on the state standards for K-12 and served on the California Geographical Society Board of Directors for many years.

Joan was a founding member of the Women's Network in the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers. She has mentored so many women through this group. Her deep impact there has been far reaching. Her experiences as a faculty member and administrator have proven invaluable sources of advice and counsel for many women and men. She wrote the History of the Women's Network.

As the first Community College Faculty member to be elected President of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers she has fought for recognition of the contributions that community college instructors make to our discipline. She served as Chair of the Department of Geography at her community college before moving to UCLA and working with the Chancellor's office. She has researched the linkages between community colleges and 4-year institutions and published work in this research.

Joan gives in so many ways to various geography organizations, not just with her time, energy, and knowledge, but also financially. She has scholarship funds established for students in the California Geographical Society, the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, and probably elsewhere.

The geography community will deeply miss her. In her honor, please consider donations to:

Women's Network of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers  
Robert Richardson, APCG Treasurer  
Department of Geography, CSU Sacramento  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6003

and/or

McKnight-Clemons student paper awards of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers  
Robert Richardson, APCG Treasurer  
Department of Geography, CSU Sacramento  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6003

and/or

McKnight-Clemons student paper awards of the Los Angeles Geographical Society  
Gary Booher, LAGS Treasurer  
2286 Moss Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90065-3417

Jenny Zorn, CSU, San Bernardino

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following 82 new members who have joined since the last list was prepared for the Spring 2004 issue of *Pacifica*. Many joined in conjunction with registering for the Annual Meeting in SLO—thanks to Jim Keese for his diligence!

Jennifer Ann Adams  
Maurizio Antoninetti  
Jenny Arkle  
Christopher Ashley  
Daniel Bain  
Tyler N. Barrington  
Patrick Barron  
Sarah Battersby  
Scott Beckner  
Heather Bills  
Lawrence Cassen  
Julie Cidell

Wayne Coffey  
Brian Colson  
Helen Cox  
John Davenport  
Vincent J. Del Casino, Jr.  
Debra Do  
Chris Dougherty  
John Douglass  
Derek W. Eysenbach  
Annette Faurote  
Shasta Ferranto  
Ann Fletchall  
Harold D. Foster  
Tim Garner  
Ryan Gerhardt  
Barbara Gleghorn  
Kathleen Haupt  
Heidi Hausermann  
Marie Hedrick  
Michael Henderson  
Carrie Hofer  
Eric H. Honda  
Virginia Humphreys

Rich Hunter  
Sarah Jackel  
Harriett Jones  
Tuba Kayaaras  
Jason L. Kelley  
Steven Kemble  
Heather Kemp  
Peter Kirchner  
Steve Krug  
Heidi K. Lamoreaux  
Tom Luster  
Michael Machiaverna  
Brian Madigan  
Jennifer Marlon  
Meri Marsh  
Alison McNally  
S. Mark Meyers  
Conrad Moore  
Christopher Moreno  
William L. Mumbleau  
Emma Spenner Norman  
Vera Pavlakovich-Kochi  
Coralyn Peirson

Gardner Perry  
Linda Quiquívix  
Heather Rainford  
Gerard Reminiskey  
Melanie P. Renfrew  
Pattie Ridenour  
Holly Rietman  
Zia Salim  
Nathan J. Sessoms  
Paul Stangl  
Adam Steinberg  
Timothy Stiles  
Jonathan Taylor  
Anne Thomas  
Gina K. Thornburg  
Carlos Tovares  
Jamie Trammell  
Margath A. Walker  
David Walker  
Nicole Ward  
Chris Wayne  
Ronald L. Whisler  
Craig M. Williams  
Edward Woch

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### APCG Women's Network

*Vicki Drake*, Coordinator, Women's Network

#### *Travel Grants*

The Women's Network invites all faculty members of the APCG to nominate an outstanding female undergraduate or graduate student to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographer in Phoenix, Arizona, October 19-22. The Network will award recipients \$150 towards registration fees, a one year membership to the APCG, and travel costs associated with the meeting. It is not necessary that the student give a paper, rather the monetary award provides an opportunity for a student to gain experience from attending a major regional meeting. This initiative is funded through contributions to the Women's Network of the APCG.

Nominations must be postmarked by June 1, 2005 and should consist of a brief paragraph outlining the student's interests and abilities in geography. Please ask your student nominee to provide the Women's Network with a one-page statement detailing why they want to attend the meeting and their current interests and goals in the field of geography. Recipients will be notified in July.

The Women's Network will be having a no-host luncheon Saturday, October 21st at which time the award recipients will be asked to speak about their interests and goals and how the Network might assist them in reaching those goals. Nominations by APCG members and student statements should be sent to: Vicki Drake, Earth Science Department, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Questions about the travel grant or the Women's Network can be sent to: drake\_vicki@smc.edu.

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### Applied Geography

*Editor's Note:* Thanks to Terry Simmons for foregoing this issue's Applied Geography column, so we could present Joan Clemons' obituary. Please see item 13 in the Business Meeting minutes on page 4 for a brief Applied Geography update.

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*(GEORGE KIMBER - Continued from page 10)*

Very briefly, George Kimber (1898-1960) was a Stanford B.A. (Botany) who went from farming near Merced to teaching at Sacramento Jr. College. Because there already was a botanist on the faculty, he was invited to teach Geography and History. Geologist Hubert Jenkins (another APCG Charter Member) was a colleague at Sacramento JC. He, George, and Hubert's brother, Olaf (the State Geologist), went on many excursions together, often with students. Encouraged by Carl Sauer, George earned an MA in Geography (from Stanford) and became friends with other Berkeley geographers, including Charter Members R. W. Richardson and John Leighly, and—somewhat later—George Carter and Homer Aschmann. He ran for Congress twice, became Dean of Letters and Sciences, but always kept teaching geography. Eventually he earned a Ph.D. in Education at Berkeley, writing his dissertation on "The Development of Criteria for the Establishment of Junior Colleges in California."

I have barely scratched the surface and urge you to read the full story on the APCG website. Louise was thrilled to have all this information to go along with the copy of *Life* to give to a close friend. She "...bought the magazine for him because inside was a story about his idol, Charles De Gaulle, visiting, for the first time ever, the United States in November 1944."

*Bob Richardson*, CSU Sacramento

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*(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued from page 2)*

Northridge instituted a required field class. It is only one unit, and many students get additional field experiences as a component of other classes and internships. But at least this requirement insures that all our students will be exposed to situations where they can see and feel what so many of us find distinctively enjoyable about geography.

It is good to make sure we provide students—at least occasionally—with experiences that tap the wellsprings of geographical motivations and that provide a rich geographical satisfaction.

I hear wonderful reports from students about skilled and enthusiastic geographers in community colleges and universities. Why can so many geographers remain so enthusiastic about what they teach and learn? It is because they still feel the heart of geography and want their students to feel it too.

## 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.

Department of Geography  
CSU, Sacramento  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6003