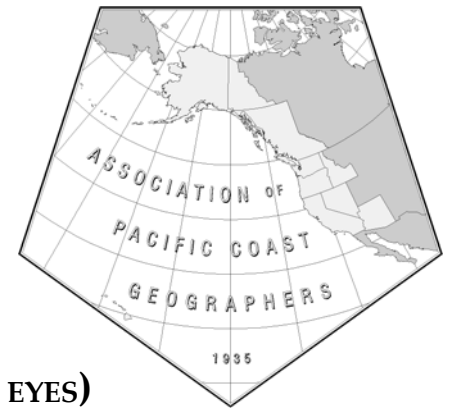


PACIFICA

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers

Spring 2004



SEEING THE WEST (THROUGH ALMOND EYES)

Evelyn Ng

Introduction

Culture shock has little to do with city size. I moved from Singapore, an island of 3.5 million people living on 250 square miles of land 1.5 degrees north of the equator, to Laramie, Wyoming, a town of 26,000 living at 7,200 feet of elevation on a seemingly endless stretch of land. After spending two years in Wyoming, I moved to metropolitan Phoenix. People thought moving back to a city of 3.5 million, albeit spread over a much larger area, would feel more like home to me. In truth, I experienced more culture shock here than I did in rural Wyoming.

Researching the Old West

My dream research is to discover how tourists experience and analyze place underwater (yes, underwater), but there is plenty happening on land, which keeps us geographers fully occupied. Strains of the tropics, however, run deep in me, and my keen interest in coastal and marine tourism lies latent. However, here I am, residing in a region of sand, rattlesnakes, cowboys, and American Indians - also regarded as a region of emerald green golf courses, relocated mid-Westerners, urban traffic, endless sprawl, and biotech dreams.

Giving up marine tourism for logistical and financial reasons, I turned to see what aspects of tourism geography I could explore in the West and found Scottsdale intriguing. People talked of Scottsdale as the primo tourist destination, and the city is almost synonymous with Arizona. On a visit to Redwood City, California, I was asked to show my driver's license to complete a purchase. Upon seeing my Arizona card, the salesgirl quipped, "oh, where do you live? [followed by a short pause] Scottsdale?" Tempe, home of Arizona State University (ASU) and 57,000 Sun Devils, did not ring a bell.

I spent a couple of semesters looking at Scottsdale, especially the Old Town area which desperately clings to its proclamation of being "The West's Most Western Town." Old Town Scottsdale, almost entirely a tourist

destination, was oftentimes unnerving for me. I have never felt so strange and foreign. In a paper for one of my courses, I wrote that I had felt I could blend in as a tourist, but somehow I didn't look like one, which made my presence even stranger. Why would a foreigner who wasn't a tourist be there? In a course paper on the tourist landscape of Scottsdale, I described the decoration at one of the storefronts as the "wooden bar that horses were tied up at". My instructor underlined the phrase and emphatically wrote "hitching post. Give it its proper name." A brief moment of indignation passed after I read that comment, followed quickly by amusement. I had never heard of the term "hitching post" and could only describe the physical structure and its function. However, that memorable jab from my professor's pen drove home to me that I was possibly ill equipped to attempt cultural research in a region that I did not know intimately.



(Continued on page 8)

THIS ISSUE

- 1 **FROM BEYOND THE WEST** Evelyn Ng, a graduate student from Singapore, provides some thoughts and reflections about cultural differences and her struggle to complete cultural research in the American West.
- 2 **WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?** Busy? Tired? So is President David Plane. He reflects about the meaning of academic life and the APCG's role in recharging it.

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APCG ANNUAL MEETING SITES

2004 San Luis Obispo, California Sept. 8 - 11

2005 Tempe, Arizona

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**"That's what it's all about"**

David Plane, University of Arizona

As I finally spew out this long-overdue column, our kids' spring break looms. Number One Daughter, a high school junior, is taking a college-visit tour up the Pacific Coast with mom. Meanwhile, I'll be stuck on campus dealing with the ongoing hecticcy and zaniness of the annual spring-semester "end game."

While lecturing to back-to-back sections of 200+ freshmen (many now feeling their oats, having survived an initial year), while meeting my upper-division class of 75 (many now no longer attending, having put their faith in note-taking combines), while dispensing repetitive advice about next fall's courses or completing senior checks and mulling over career options with our continuing or graduating majors, while marking up the dissertations of my outgoing cohort of doctoral students (turned in just in time for defenses scheduled at the last possible moment before their committees disperse to the summer winds), while attending the same-old-same-old meetings of departmental faculty search and annual performance peer review committees, while writing umpteen more faux-enthusiastic letters of recommendation, and while frittering away endless hours emailing (composing apologetic messages about overdue referee reports, book prospectuses, and collaborative research projects), I've also been pondering what to put into my spring *Pacifica* column? While doing the modern-day academic hockey-pokey, I've been turning over that old question: What's it all about?

Several years ago, I made up a slogan for the other professional association to which I devote considerable energies: the Western Regional Science Association. As you'll see if you go to their website (geog.arizona.edu/wrsa), my slogan is (with mild apologies to the great State of Maine) "The way academic life should be."

It strikes me that certain professional associations--like APCG and WRSA--really are what make the academic life one worth living. The WRSA has been run over most of its 43 years by geographers well-known to APCGers: before me it was my Arizona colleague, Lay Gibson, before that, Bob Monahan from Western Washington. Where else but at an APCG or a WRSA conference does one get to experience the rush that comes from considering anew one's own recent research? The thrill of seeing where others with similar interests have gone off to? The pleasures of collegiality among a reasonably sized group of fellow travelers assembled for a brief moment together at some special spot. Equally important, by committing to hanging out at a conference, you escape the humdrum numbing that comes from faithfully doing one's academic chores.

Both WRSA and APCG are groups that carry forward the customs and traditions and ambiances of an earlier time when academic life was certainly less hectic, probably less stressful, and, perhaps (dare I contend?), rather more meaningful.

Next September, we'll be coming together again at an interesting spot on California's mid-coast: San Luis Obispo. I urge everybody to check out all the arrangement details for our forthcoming conference on the gorgeous conference website put up by organizer Jim Keese. Amidst all the bustle and hustle of post-modern campus life this spring, take the time to talk up APCG with your faculty and student colleagues. Some of mine think they're way too busy to take time out to attend a mere "regional" conference. I happen to think that it's precisely because we're all way too busy that we need to make the time for APCG. It's the way academic life should be. And that's what it's all about!

2004 APCG Margaret Trussell Scholarships

The APCG Women's Network announces its annual competition for 2004 Margaret Trussell Graduate Student Scholarships. Professor Trussell was APCG President in 1985-86 and founder of the organization's active Women's Network. She left the Network a generous bequest in 1999 that makes these scholarships possible. The Women's Network has established the following criteria for students who are interested in applying for one of these scholarships:

1. Awards support the research endeavors of women students pursuing graduate studies in geography.
2. Applicants must be APCG members.
3. Up to two \$1000 awards will be made this year.
4. The intention is to give one award to geography students pursuing a master's degree and one to a student pursuing a doctoral degree. Please make clear in your application whether you are a master's or Ph.D. student.
5. Application requirements: Please include the applicant's name only on the cover sheet of the application to insure anonymity in the review process; two recommendation letters, including one from the applicant's advisor; a proposal of no more than 1000 words including project title, topic to be investigated, background, and methods; a brief budget describing how the money is to be spent; and transcripts from the last two years of academic work.
6. Award recipients are required to present a paper concerning the research supported by the award at the APCG meetings in the year following the award and to write a brief summary of their findings for *Pacifica*. Recipients must acknowledge receiving an APCG Margaret Trussell Scholarship in any publication based on the supported research. Publication in the *Yearbook* is encouraged.
7. The deadline for submitting three copies of all required documents (to the Scholarship Committee chair) is June 1, 2004. Applicants will be notified in early July and recipients will be announced at the annual meeting in San Luis Obispo.
8. Submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy of your application and other supporting materials to the Chair of the Margaret Trussell Scholarship Committee:

Martha A. Works, Chair, Portland State Univ. (see contact information on Page 2)

APCG World Geography Bowl

The APCG World Geography Bowl Team made an outstanding showing at the recent AAG meetings in Philadelphia. Undergraduate student Christina Roberts, CSU San Bernardino; graduate students Tina White, CSU Northridge; Liam Reidy, UC Berkeley; Dave Wahl, UC Berkeley; and Jamie Conley, CSU San Bernardino enjoyed a fun evening of challenging questions. Once again our team was identified as the most fun. Chris Lukinbeal of ASU and former APCG bowl team member will coach the team next year as I retire from the coaching ranks after seven years of organizing the team. (Photo left to right: Christine Roberts, Jamie Conley, Liam Reidy, Dave Wahl, and Tina White.)

Jenny Zorn, CSU, San Bernardino



The National Scene

Judy Walton, Portland State University, Regional Councillor

The Centennial meeting of the AAG in Philly was an affair to remember--from the Gaia Gala to the Hall of History--including the APCG poster created by Bob Richardson and Robin Dattel. Those attending got a taste of snow, sleet, and sunshine as we wandered the streets (and markets) of Philadelphia.

Since this is my final report as Regional Councillor (in July, I pass the baton to a successor), let me just say what a truly wonderful and exciting experience this was, and thank you again for electing me. Now on to the report...[Complete Council minutes will soon be available in the *AAG Newsletter*.]

Regional and National Concerns

Despite pervasive budgetary gloom, reports from regional and national councillors paint a relatively healthy picture for geography nationwide. Concerns expressed by certain councillors included lack of rigor in undergraduate and graduate training, the "corporatization" of universities, the privileging of fundable research, and a worry that geography's pursuit of "currentness" may cause it to lose depth and substance. Sound familiar?

AAG Initiatives

With Vice President Vicky Lawson's "Healthy Departments Initiative," department chairs should soon have an arsenal of tools and information at their disposal to help make the case for geography to administrators -- and avoid reinventing the wheel. President Alec Murphy's initiative to raise geography's public profile has also been paying off, with a second "Mapping the News" conference this year and continued efforts to establish geography departments in the Ivy League schools. For information on other efforts underway, including initiatives on diversity and early career development, contact the AAG.

Finances, Membership, and Officers

AAG membership is at an all-time high, with nearly 8,500 members. Finances have also turned around, and the AAG is now on its way to a stable financial future. The Centennial campaign has brought in over \$600,000 so far toward the \$2 million goal. Dick Marston was elected as the next AAG Vice President. Many in our region know Dick from his undergraduate days at UCLA and graduate days at Oregon State.

Space constraints force me to limit my ramblings. See you at the next APCG meeting in San Luis Obispo!

Great News from Portland

On the Ides of March, Martha Works completed final accounting from APCG 2003 and notified me that they managed a net profit of \$3,941.45. They spared no expense in hosting us, but with outstanding planning and all-out effort to attract large numbers to the meeting, income substantially exceeded expenses--even after deducting \$1,378.60 for repairs to a van damaged on a field trip!

Thanks and bravo to Martha, Keith Hadley, Teresa Bulman, and all the other PSU folks who made our 2003 Annual Meeting a great success in all regards.

Bob Richardson, CSU, Sacramento

APCG 2004 - San Luis Obispo - September 8 - 11, 2004

The Geographers at Cal Poly State University are pleased to invite you to the meetings on September 8-11, 2004. Come and enjoy the small-town charm, Mediterranean climate, and fabulous open spaces of California's central coast. Details and updated information about the meeting-including field trips, lodging, registration form, abstract submission, and program information-are available on the Conferences link of the APCG website <http://www.csus.edu/apcg/>.

Conference coordinator: *Jim Keese*, jkeese@calpoly.edu

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, September 8

Registration	4p - 8p
Reception	5p - 7p
Opening Session	7p - 9p

Thursday, September 9

Field Trips	8a - 5p
Registration/Information	9a - 5p
Creekside/Farmers' Market Reception	6p - 8p

Friday, September 10

Executive Committee Breakfast	7a - 8:30a
Registration	8a - 5p
Exhibitor's Hall	9a - 5p
Paper Session I	8:30a - 10a
Paper Session II	10:15a - Noon
Lunch	Noon- 1:15p

Women's Network Luncheon	Noon- 1:15p
Paper Session III	1:30p - 3:15p
President's Plenary Session	3:30p - 5p
President's Reception & Poster Session	5p - 6:30p

Saturday, September 11

Registration	8a - Noon
Exhibitors	9a - 3:30p
Paper Session IV	8:30a - 10a
Paper Session V	10:15a - Noon
Lunch	Noon - 1:15p
Chair's Lunch	Noon - 1:15p
Paper Session VI	1:30p - 3:15p
Geography Bowl	3:30p - 4:30p
Annual Business Meeting	4:30p - 5:30p
Reception	6:30p - 7:30p
Banquet	7:30p - 10p

Call for Papers, Posters, and Sessions

Abstracts due: July 1, 2004

Submitting Papers & Posters

If you plan to present a paper or poster, please submit an abstract of 100-200 words by **July 1, 2004**. Papers are scheduled for 15-minute presentations with 5 minutes for questions. Posters are restricted to 4' x 6' in size. All presenters must be current APCG members and pay meeting registration fees.

Preparing the Abstract

In the header of the abstract include the name, affiliation, and e-mail address of each presenter and the title of the paper. Skip a line and type the body of the abstract. After the abstract, indicate if submission is a "paper" or "poster" and if it is a "student competition" entry. If you are willing to chair a session, please indicate it on a separate line. A sample abstract is provided on the conference website.

Notes on Digital and Other Media

Digital projectors compatible with standard formats will be available. You should make arrangements to bring/borrow a laptop computer if needed. Please familiarize yourself with all hardware and software before presenting. You are strongly encouraged to bring backups and hard copies (transparencies) for all digital media. Standard overhead and slide projectors are also available.

Student Paper or Poster Competition, Travel Grants

Each year the APCG offers certificates and monetary awards in several categories to outstanding student papers and posters presented at the annual meeting. To enter the student paper or poster competition, students must complete the following steps.

- 1) Submit the regular 100-200-word abstract at outlined above to Jim Keese by **July 1, 2004**

- 2) Submit a student paper and poster competition application form AND a 1000+ word extended abstract (and/or full paper, if available) to Dennis Dingemans at djdingemans@ucdavis.edu by **August 15, 2004**. (see contact information for Dennis Dingemans on Page 2 if you don't have e-mail).
- 3) Register for the conference and be a member of the APCG.

The paper or poster must be presented at the annual meeting. Papers may be co-authored if all authors are students. Evaluation is made by the APCG Awards Committee based on the extended abstract and the presentation. Student presenters may apply for a travel grant by **July 1, 2004**. Information on the student competition and travel grants, and the application forms, are available on the Grants link on the APCG website (<http://www.csus.edu/apcg/>). For more information on the paper competition and travel grants see page 10 and contact Dennis Dingemans at djdingemans@ucdavis.edu.

Organizing or Chairing a Session

If you wish to organize a special session, please have all abstracts emailed directly to you. Then, forward a single e-mail packet by **July 1, 2004**.

Where to Send Abstracts

Please send abstracts via e-mail, preferably as an attachment as a Word file, or pasted directly into the e-mail, and use the subject "APCG Abstract." If you do not have access to e-mail, send the abstract on a PC-compatible disk and a paper copy to Jim Keese, APCG 2004, P.O. Box 12227, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Label the disk and file with your name. For more information about papers & posters contact Jim Keese at jkeese@calpoly.edu or 805-756-1170.

APCG 2004 - San Luis Obispo - September 8 - 11, 2004

Field Trips

All guided field trips are on Thursday, September 9, 2004, and depart from the Veterans Memorial Building parking lot on the corner of Monterey St. and Grande Ave.

Hearst Castle Tour, San Simeon, Coastal Open Spaces

Cost: \$45, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Limit: 52

The Hearst Castle is located in San Simeon on scenic Highway 1 about an hour north of San Luis Obispo. Julia Morgan designed the Castle in the 1920s and 1930s for William Randolph Hearst. Situated on 127 acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Castle is known for its architecture and art collection. A tour of the Hearst Castle is a must for any visitor to the Central Coast. The tour starts in the National Geographic Theater (IMAX-type) where you will see *The Hearst Castle: Building a Dream*. Then you board a bus for the climb up the Santa Lucia Range to the Castle site. Tour 1 includes the Casa Grande, Casa del Sol guesthouse, and the Neptune and Roman pools. After the tour, you will visit San Simeon, the elephant seal colony, and Ragged Point. The drive up the coast takes you through portions of the 82,000 acre Hearst Ranch, which will soon be protected under a conservation agreement. Trip includes transportation, movie, castle tour, box lunch, snacks, and drinks.

Mission San Antonio, Hearst Hunting Lodge, Southern Big Sur Coast

Cost: \$35, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Limit: 25

Mission San Antonio de Padua is located on Fort Hunter Liggett in southern Monterey County (about 1½ hours north of San Luis Obispo off Highway 101). It is the most authentically restored of all the missions and known for its archeological sites and collection, and undeveloped setting. After visiting the mission, you will buy lunch at the Hacienda Restaurant, formerly the Hearst Ranch hunting lodge, which was designed by Julia Morgan in 1930 for the Hearst family. After lunch, you will travel 14 miles over the Santa Lucia Range on the narrow and precipitous Nacimiento Road to Highway 1. The trip is a transect through five of California's principal vegetation zones (grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, coastland redwoods, coastal sage). The return trip down Highway 1 includes 20 miles of the spectacular Big Sur coastline, as well as stops at Ragged Point and the elephant seal colony. Trip includes transportation, snacks, and drinks.

Morro Bay National Estuary, Watershed Management, Montaña de Oro State Park

Cost: \$30, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Limit: 25

Morro Bay National Estuary Program staff will give you a tour of the lands around the bay and the watershed. The trip starts with a quarter-mile hike up Black Hill for a spectacular panorama of the bay, rock, urbanized areas, the Morros (a series of ancient volcanoes), and the Chorro and Los Osos valleys. Next, you will visit the Chorro Flats sediment trap and wetlands restoration area. Then you will buy lunch in Morro Bay. After lunch, you will visit Montaña de Oro State Park for an easy walk to view coastal vegetation and geomorphology. A stop to view watershed enhancement projects on Cal Poly lands within the watershed might also be added. Trip includes transportation, snacks, and drinks.

Pismo Dunes, Oso Flaco Preserve, the town of Guadalupe

Cost: \$30, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Limit: 25

This trip is a fascinating mix of physical and cultural geography. Participants will travel south on Highway 1 through the Arroyo

Grande Valley, over the Nipomo Mesa, and into the Santa Maria Valley. The first stop will be the Oso Flaco Preserve and Pismo Dunes. You will walk about half a mile through the wetland reserve and dunes to the ocean. A staff member of the Land Conservancy of S.L.O. County will discuss vegetation restoration projects and land management issues. Next, you will visit the farmworker town of Guadalupe, which looks like a throw-back to the 1950s. (The chain and box stores missed this place!) In Guadalupe you will purchase lunch, visit the Dunes Center, and tour the cemetery, which reveals the diverse ethnic history of California. Trip includes transportation, snacks, and drinks.

Paso Robles Wine Tour, Landscapes of Old California and the New Grapescape

Cost: \$40, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Limit: 25

This tour starts with a bit of history by examining the Spanish imprint on California. The first stop is Mission San Miguel, about 35 minutes north of San Luis Obispo on Highway 101. Then, you will head east into the hinterlands to examine land use change patterns. Cattle ranching and dry farmed grains are giving way to vineyards and the 90 wineries of the Paso Robles region. Wine tasting will highlight the reds of the east side and the whites of the west side. Lunch (with wine) will be served in the cavern room at Eberle, where you will also get a tour of the vineyard and the production facility. Trip includes transportation, lunch, snacks, and drinks.

Accommodations and Travel

Hotels

Urgent note about hotel availability in San Luis Obispo. Please read now! Friday and Saturday nights of the conference coincide with the arrival of the Fall 2004 Cal Poly freshman class and their parents. It is possible that every room in San Luis Obispo County will eventually be booked for these two nights. If you think that you might attend the conference, it is essential that you make a hotel reservation immediately! Also, be aware that prices for Friday and Saturday nights will be inflated. The following hotels have rooms blocked at conference rates for the APCG. A complete list of all hotels in San Luis Obispo and other recommendations are available on the meeting website.

Quality Suites (Rooms blocked until August 8, 24-hour cancellation policy), 1631 Monterey St., 805-541-5001, King bed or two doubles (all suites) \$119 (includes cooked-to-order breakfast & beer/wine/snacks in evening).

Sands Suites and Motel (Rooms blocked until August 8, 24-hour cancellation policy), 1930 Monterey St., 800-441-4567, 805-544-0500, Single: W/Th \$59, F/Sat \$119, Double: W/Th \$69, F/Sat \$119

Super 8 Motel (Rooms blocked until July 28, two night minimum, 7-day cancellation policy), 1951 Monterey St., 805-544-6888, Queen: W/Th \$69.95, F/Sat \$99.95, King: W/Th \$69.95, F/Sat \$99.95, Two Doubles: W/Th \$69.95, F/Sat \$139.95

Travel

San Luis Obispo is centrally located with regular air connections from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Phoenix airports. By car, we are 3 ½ hours north of Los Angeles or 4 hours south of San Francisco on Highway 101.

APCG 2004 - San Luis Obispo - September 8 - 11, 2004

Registration Form APCG 2004 San Luis Obispo, California September 8 - 11, 2004

Name & Affiliation _____
(As it should appear on name tag)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Registration

	<i>early</i>	<i>regular</i>	<i>late</i>
	Before 7/1	7/2 – 8/1	After 8/1 & on-site
Regular APCG Member	\$60 _____	\$75 _____	\$85 _____
Regular Non-Member (includes membership)	\$80 _____	\$95 _____	\$105 _____
Student APCG Member	\$25 _____	\$30 _____	\$35 _____
Student Non-Member (includes membership)	\$35 _____	\$40 _____	\$45 _____
Accompanying Guest	\$30 _____	\$30 _____	\$30 _____

Field Trips (Thursday, September 18)

1. Hearst Castle Tour/Coastal Open Space	\$45 _____
2. Mission San Antonio/So. Big Sur Coast	\$35 _____
3. Morro Bay Watershed/Montaña de Oro	\$30 _____
4. Pismo Dunes/Guadalupe	\$30 _____
5. Paso Robles Wines/New Grapescape	\$40 _____

There is a \$10 service charge for refunds or cancellations. No refunds after August 25. Pre-paid fees for field trips that have been cancelled or filled will be refunded.

Meals

Student Meal Package (Thurs and Sat evening meals)	\$30 _____
Thursday Night Creekside/Farmers' Market Reception Novo Restaurant (Gourmet lite-fare and soft drinks provided. Sample the farmers' market barbeques at your pleasure.)	\$12 _____
Friday Women's Network Luncheon	\$12 _____
Saturday Department Chair's Luncheon	\$12 _____
Saturday Awards Banquet (includes beverages) Full-service dinner at the Madonna Inn Choose One: ___ Top Sirloin, ___ Chicken Breast, or ___ Vegetarian Lasagna	\$30 _____

Parking Permit

Permit (valid for all 4 days) \$ 8 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Send this form and payment to:
APCG 2004 Meeting
P.O. Box 12227
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Meeting website <http://www.csus.edu/apcg/>
Click on *Conferences* link

E-mail questions to: jkeese@calpoly.edu

PAYMENT: Checks Only. Make payable to "APCG 2004 Meeting"

APCG 2004 ELECTIONS

Members whose dues are paid will soon be sent ballots, due back in early June. Check your mailing label on this issue to see the status of your dues. Contact Bob Richardson, Secretary/Treasurer if you have any questions.

For President: James Allen (unopposed)

For Vice President: Barbara Fredrich and Jenny Zorn
(biographies below)

For AAG Councilor: Stuart Aitken and Daniel Arreola
(biographies below)

Barbara Fredrich, V. P. Candidate

Professor, Dept. of Geography, SDSU. Ph.D. (1975) and M.A. (1969) UCLA, B.A. (1966) Univ. Wisconsin, Madison.

Service to Geography: Co-leader of two field trips in Baja California (AAG 1992), co-leader of field trips: Tijuana-Tecate field excursion sponsored by the Calif. Geography Alliance for K-12 teachers (1996, 1998, 2000), co-leader of field trips: "Art and Geography" and "Xeriscapes" for Calif. Geography Alliance-sponsored for K-12 Teachers (2002), member, APCG -Margaret Trussel Awards Committee, 2000-2004.

Professional Experience: I have taught introductory cultural geography and introductory physical geography at SDSU for ten years. I have taught the geography of Middle America and the geography of natural vegetation for over thirty years.

Research Interests: My main research interests include human-plant interactions in Latin America and the U.S. Southwest. I am currently working on pedagogy to link art and geography.

Selected Publications: Co-authored with A.R. Osborn: "Tijuana: Modernization of an International Boundary Area," in: *San Diego: an Introduction to the Region*, 4th ed., Philip R. Pryde, Editor (2004); co-authored with A.R. Osborn: "The Summer Geography Institute Workshop: Sharing a Passion for Landscape through Field Trips," *Social Studies Review*: 42 (2): 67-71 (2003); co-authored with K. Fuller: "What We See and What They See: Slide Tests in Geography," *Journal of Geography* 97 (2): 63-71 (1998); co-authored with K. Fuller: "Linking Geography and Art: Inness' 'The Lackawanna Valley'," *Journal of Geography* 95 (6): 254-263 (1996). The last article was ranked as "best article in *Journal of Geography* for elementary teachers" (National Council for Geographic Education, Oct. 1998).

Goals: I presented my first APCG paper at the Fresno meetings in June, 1975, and I still remember fondly the warm reception given to me by senior APCG members. The APCG has always created an environment where constructive criticism can occur; it is an important tradition. I support the continuation of that legacy. While I am not a 'hi-tech' person, I support the use of all technologies to further the cause of geography, in K-12, community colleges and universities.

Jenny Zorn, V. P. Candidate

Professor, Geography Dept. and Associate Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences; CSU, San Bernardino. Ph.D. (1990) and M.A. (1982) Ohio State Univ., B.A. (1980) Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida.

Service: APCG Meetings Organizer, 2002; APCG World Geography Bowl Team Coach, 1997-2004; Member, APCG Nominations Committee, 2001; Acting Chair, APCG Awards Committee, 1994;

Member, APCG Women's Network, 1990-present; Member, AAG Local Arrangements Committee, Los Angeles meetings, 2002; Member, AAG Committee on the Status of Women, 1994-1997; Newsletter Editor, AAG Geography in Education Specialty Group, 1994-1997; Board Member, AAG Geography in Education Specialty Group, 1991-1994; Board Member, AAG GPOW Specialty Group, 1985-1987; Co-Chair, NCGE Women's Special Interest Network, 1997-2000; President (2001-2003), Vice President (1999-2001), California Geographical Society (CGS); CGS *Bulletin* Editor, (1994-2001); CGS Meetings Organizer, 1998 and 2002; Founding Co-Director, Inland Region Geographic Alliance, 1991-2000; Member, California Geographic Alliance, 1991-present; Co-Organizer and Program Chair, First (and Second) International Conference on GIS in Education, 2000 and 2001.

Professional Experience: I joined the Geography Dept at CSUSB as an Asst. Professor in 1989 and am now Full Professor, assumed Assistant Dean duties in 1994-1996, and was named the Associate Dean of Social & Behavioral Sciences in 1997. I worked extensively with U.S. Census data in two previous positions: as a Research Specialist for the Office of Research/Ohio Data Users Center in the Ohio Dept of Development, 1982-1984 and as a Graduate Research Assoc. for the Automated Reference/Information Services Dept. at Ohio State Univ., 1985-1989.

Research Interests: Gender Wage Gaps, Women in the Paid Labor Force, Geographic Education, North America.

Publications: I have published articles and book reviews in the *Annals of the AAG*; the *California Geographer*; *Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences*, Gazi University, Turkey; and *Modeling and Simulation*.

Goals: I welcome the opportunity to serve the APCG because of the organization's dedication to a meaningful annual meeting, commitment to produce a high quality journal, and devotion to students. The APCG provides the setting for a more intimate meeting of professional geographers to exchange ideas in a scholarly setting in our western region. The networking opportunities this organization provides is beneficial for faculty and students from varying levels of higher education and for applied geographers from different sectors.

Stuart Aitken, AAG Councilor Candidate

Professor of Geography at SDSU.

Publications: *Philosophies, People, Places and Practices* (with Gill Valentine, Sage 2004), *Geographies of Young People: The Morally Contested Spaces of Identity* (Routledge 2001), *Family Fantasies and Community Space* (Rutgers University Press, 1998), *Place, Space, Situation and Spectacle: A Geography of Film* (with Leo Zonn, Rowman and Littlefield, 1994) and *Putting Children in Their Place* (1994, Washington DC: AAG). He has also published widely in academic journals including the *Annals of the AAG*, *Geographical Review*, *Antipode*, *The Professional Geographer*, *Transactions of the IBG*, *CaGIS*, *Society and Space*, *Journal of Geography* and *Environment and Planning A* as well as various edited book collections. Stuart is past co-editor of *The Professional Geographer* and current North American editor of *Children's Geographies*.

His interests include film and media, critical social theory, qualitative methods, public participation GIS, children, families and communities.

(Continued on next page)

APCG 2004 ELECTIONS

Statement of Purpose: As I see it, the job of APCG Regional Councilor is to communicate changes in AAG policy and purpose to the membership of the region. A seat on council also provides an opportunity for the region's collective voice to be heard. Broad issues concerning politics, funding, publications, the national meetings, international connections and the general status of geography in America are of concern to the APCG. As a councilor, I would endeavor to communicate discussion and action on these issues, garner input from the APCG membership, and ensure that our collective voices are heard nationally.

Daniel D. Arreola, AAG Councilor Candidate

Professor, Dept. of Geography, ASU, Ph. D., UCLA (1980); M.A., CSU, Hayward (1975); B.A., UCLA (1972).

Service to Geography: APCG: Editor, *Pacifica* (1993-1996); Nominations Committee (1993); Vice President (1996-1997); President (1997-1998); Past President (1998-1999); Chair,

Organizing Committee, Annual Meeting 2005, Phoenix. AAG: Editorial Board, *Professional Geographer* (1988-1991); Affirmative Action Committee (1989); Advisory Board for Minority Recruitment and Retention (1990); Nominating Committee (2001); Editorial Board, *Annals of the AAG* (2001-2004). Other: College Board, Advanced Placement Geography Committee (1996-1997); Contributing Editor, Mexico, Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress (2000-present).

Research Interests: Cultural Geography, Landscapes, Mexican American Borderland.

Publications: *The Mexican Border Cities: Landscape Anatomy and Place Personality* (w/ James R. Curtis) (Univ. of Arizona Press 1993); *Tejano South Texas: A Mexican American Cultural Province* (Univ. of Texas Press 2002); *Hispanic Spaces, Latino Places: Community and Cultural Diversity in Hispanic America*, edited (Univ. of Texas Press 2004). Papers in, for example, *Geographical Review*; *Journal of Historical Geography*; *Journal of Cultural Geography*; *Landscape Journal*; *Journal of the Southwest*; *Journal of the West*; *Places: A Quarterly Journal of Environmental Design*.

FEATURE ARTICLE

FEATURE ARTICLE (Continued from page 1)

Being the 'other' is not really the exclusive prerogative of non-locals. Ethnographic research demands that the researcher know and earn the trust of the group he or she is studying. Little political and social nuances that lend meaning to positions on issues are gleaned only after spending substantial time with the subjects under investigation.

I have missed huge, glaring nuances. In my first semester at ASU, I was involved with a multi-disciplinary research team that sought to analyze the social and environmental meanings of Eastlake Park, a public park in central Phoenix that is now nominated as a 'Phoenix Point of Pride' for its African-American cultural significance. At one point, some outrage was reported over the building of 'Randy Johnson Field' within the park's boundaries. Even after getting the 3-second explanation of who Randy Johnson was, I was still clueless about the level

of emotion expressed over building a field in this baseball player's name. It was only later when I became a fan of the Arizona Diamondbacks when I understood why this was controversial. Randy Johnson was not only an excellent pitcher destined for the 'Hall of Fame', but he was white, rich, and alive; he was not some dead sport or war hero as I had initially suspected!

Here's the question: how does one who is from such a vastly different context try to interpret and distill meaning from landscape observations or interviews with locals? The critical issue is cultural interpretation. Though English is my native language, I do not have the same level of understanding as my fellow qualitative cultural geographers. What I find novel, they may consider mundane...and vice versa. Nonetheless, I've been told that I bring untainted lenses and will probably have inimitable elucidations on research.

Speech! Speech!

I am often asked where I am from or how long I have lived in the United States and my answers would be followed by the inevitable exclamation of "but your English is so good!" I am still trying to get used to the awkwardness I feel when I play my role in this repeated skit. Before I came to the U.S., I had an array of slick sarcastic answers like "why, so is yours!" or "oh, only when I try really hard!" I am pleased to report that I have never used any of them here, and I never realized that I had no accent or sometimes a British accent. Customer service agents on the phone have asked if I was British or Australian, and sometimes just assumed it. Once, halfway through taking my service request, an agent with Qwest Phone Company laughed and told me, "You British are so funny!" I learnt that academic people with British accents are often held in awe, and I made a mental note to enhance it when necessary.

Taught and Teaching (The Unteachables?)

Having moved from a world where students never ate, drank, read newspapers or chatted when they



FEATURE ARTICLE

were in a classroom, and addressed faculty by full rank and last name ("Good morning Associate Professor Raguraman!"), being in the American classroom was a new experience.

At Wyoming, a first-semester classmate of mine who was an older returning student (a rarity in my country), declared she would never address any professor by anything other than his or her first name. I was awed by, what seemed to me at that time, her brazenness, and self-confidence. I have since come to appreciate and enjoy being able to address some faculty by their first names. It makes me feel that my contributions are somehow worthy of equal consideration. Although I still feel very much the lowly Ph.D. student (outranking only baccalaureate and Masters' students), being on a first-name basis with professors is like having a friend in the business.

I am also slowly getting use to the fizzling sounds of carbonated drinks as cans or bottles are opened in lecture rooms, the rustle of plastic bags being opened and the crunch of snacks being consumed. I have even begun to bring edibles into class myself, as I sometimes sit back and picnic through a leisurely lecture instead of writing furiously, perched on the edge of my seat as I would have been in my home country. There is much to be said about absorbing academic material with a relaxed mind, cramp-free fingers, and glucose-enriched blood stream.

Much of the material that we teach in introductory physical and human geography courses were covered when I was in secondary school (the equivalent of American 7th and 8th grades). It has been difficult sometimes, especially teaching physical geography labs, when students groan and grumble about having to do simple math. One of my favorite and yet dreaded lessons is the one on adiabatic lapse rates that predict changes in temperature and humidity in a parcel of air as it ascends a mountain. The students are to apply the lapse rate to the given elevations to calculate what the temperature will be when the air parcel reaches each elevation. Invariably, several students are lost, many will not learn it unless they memorize the calculation formula, and a few will never be able to master the problem at all. Mathematics was not my best subject when I was in high school, but I am slightly appalled by the amount of fear that the mention of math strikes into the hearts of college-level students.

Baseball Speak

Here's why it might be difficult to finish a graduate degree here. When you have your dissertation together then you are ready to "step up to the plate" and defend it. You may have ensured that you've "covered all your bases," but at some inopportune moment somebody from your committee might "throw you a curve" and suddenly you'll find yourself in "a whole new ball game." What you should do is correctly discern that the comment

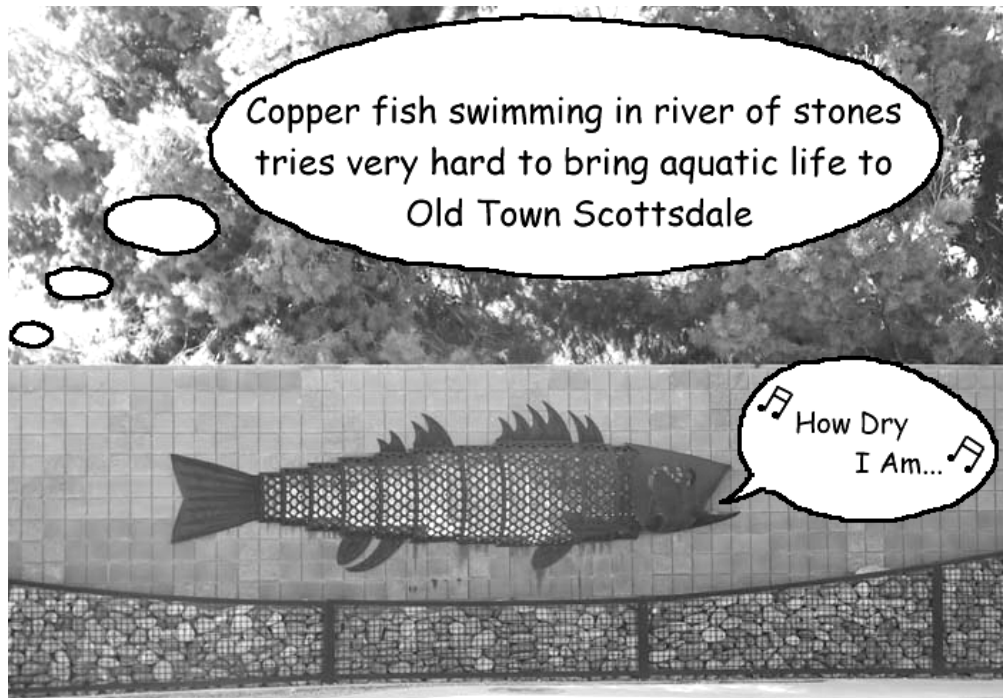
was really "way out in left field", and hopefully your advisor will "go to bat for you." This is especially since you cannot very well get someone else to "come off the bench" for you and prove that you have "hit one out of the park."

Western colloquial language is peppered with sports metaphors, especially from baseball. I never really understood baseball, as the game is not played much in Southeast Asia. In fact, other than football (the soccer kind) and the Olympics, sports seem not to be meant for television. That all changed for me when I moved to Arizona and found we had a baseball team that seemed underdogish and therefore lovable and compelling. I found myself fascinated by the game, especially the lingo and the astounding array of statistical analysis that went along with it. Now I know what to say when my students whine about having to use mathematics and statistical calculations in introductory physical geography classes. How can you begin to understand a game as complex as baseball without understanding probability and statistics? The Arizona Diamondbacks sealed my membership in their fan club by winning the World Series.

And so the adventure continues....

I have to say above all, I'm certainly living it up and loving it here in the Wild West. My advisor once said I was "more American than Americans", and people congratulated me on that. At first, I didn't know whether to feel insulted or complimented, but I am opting for the latter. While I chameleon through my stay in the Southwest, I continue to appreciate little aspects of American life and culture like getting free water with my restaurant meals. Ah, water. The tropical ocean quietly beckons, but for now I'm content with backyard swimming pools and symbols of Scottsdale's tourist landscape.

Evelyn Ng is a Ph.D. student in the Geography Department at Arizona State University. She can be contacted at EveNg@asu.edu.



IN MEMORY

Bill Loy

Bill Loy died Nov. 25, 2003 of complications associated with cancer at the age of 67. He completed graduate degrees in geography at the Univ. of Chicago and the Univ. of Minnesota. He had a 30-year career at the Univ. of Oregon. A distinguished cartographer, Bill served as Director, Editor, and cartographer for the Atlas of Oregon. It is a masterpiece. The atlas has won many awards and has served as a model for other atlases.

He was a dedicated teacher. He taught a number of students that went on to make careers for themselves as mapmakers. For this and other work, he received numerous awards including the Distinguished Service Award from the Univ. of Oregon, Scientist of the Year from the Oregon Academy of Science, and Distinguished Service Award from the APCG. David Begun, Univ. of Oregon's Assistant Dean called Bill a "consummate, understated gentleman-always a positive and kind word; always time for someone needing help; the best greeter of new people to campus ever." I think that for many of us, we know Bill this way.

Bill was a leading member of the APCG. He served as President, Vice President, and, perhaps most importantly, as Chair of the Membership Committee. It was during his tenure as Membership Committee Chair that APCG membership soared. He accomplished this by making a personal contact with at least one person from every geography department within the APCG's territory. He was dedicated to this organization, and many may wish to honor him in return. One of the best ways to honor Bill's life and his accomplishments is to make a memorial contribution in the name of Bill Loy to the Geography Department (geography.uoregon.edu or Bill Loy Memorial, Univ. of Oregon Foundation, P.O. Box 3346, Eugene, OR 97403-3346).

Tom L. McKnight

Tom McKnight died February 16, 2004 following complications from surgery. He received degrees from Southern Methodist University (BA - 1949), the University of Colorado (MA - 1951), and the University of Wisconsin (Ph.D. - 1955). He spent almost forty years as a professor at UCLA, touching many lives personally, and tens of thousands through his physical and regional geography textbooks and other writings.

He was a tireless attendee and presenter at geographic conferences including the APCG, an indefatigable traveler, a lover of all "critters", and an extremely generous benefactor of student scholarships and awards (including the APCG's Tom McKnight and Joan Clemons Award for Outstanding Student Paper). He was pivotal in furthering local geographical education through development of the UCLA/Community College Geography Alliance. He received many professional awards in recognition of his work in geography, including the Canadian Association of Geographers Life Membership Award, the Institute of Australian Geographers Australia-International Medal, and the APCG's Distinguished Service Award.

His wife Joan Clemons adds that Tom's ashes will be taken to some of the places he loved: Rocky Mountain National Park (specifically Speciman Mountain), Yellowstone, Adelaide in South Australia, and lower Tilden Avenue in Los Angeles. Tom was a gracious presence and will be greatly missed.

Donations may be made to Friends of Geography, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1524. For additional information please contact Glen MacDonald, Chair of Geography, UCLA macdonal@geog.ucla.edu.

Most of the above was taken from comments made by *Glen M. MacDonald* and *Joan Clemons*

Incentives for Students to Present at San Luis Obispo

Student Paper Competition and Travel Awards:

Here is an excellent opportunity for students to benefit from the challenge of presenting to a diverse audience and receiving expert feedback. Papers by students are a significant proportion of presentations at our meetings. To encourage this activity, and to recognize and reward student scholarship, the APCG annually presents seven awards:

- 1) Tom McKnight and Joan Clemons Award for Outstanding Student Paper; \$250 award;
- 2) President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a Ph.D. Student; \$150 award
- 3) President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an M.A. or M.S. Student; \$150 award
- 4) President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an Undergraduate; \$150 award
- 5) Harry and Shirley Bailey Award for Outstanding Paper by a Ph.D. Student; \$150 award
- 6) President's Award for Outstanding Student Poster Presentation; \$150 award.
- 7) Committee Award for Regional Geography (open to non-students); \$200 award (subject to APCG approval)

The awards are open to students who are APCG members. Applicants need to: 1) Submit a short abstract (200 word max.) with registration form to the San Luis Obispo meeting organizers, via e-mail (jkeese@calpoly.edu), preferably as a MS Word

attachment by **July 1, 2004**. 2) Submit a 1000+ word **extended abstract** (and/or, if available, completed paper) with application form to Dennis Dingemans (see contact information on Page 2) by **August 15, 2004**. 3) present at the annual meeting. Papers may be co-authored if all authors are students. Evaluation is made by the APCG Awards Committee based on the extended abstract (and the written paper, if provided) and the presentation at the meeting.

San Luis Obispo Travel Awards for Students:

To encourage student participation, the APCG offers 10 travel grants of \$100 each. Because these grants are limited in number and there may be more applicants than grants, recipients will be selected by a random lottery. To be eligible for a travel grant, a student must be an APCG member and must present a paper or poster at the annual meeting. Presenters are notified of their grant well before the meeting and will be awarded their grant checks at the banquet in San Luis Obispo. The **deadline** for applications to be received by the Awards Committee is **July 1, 2004**. They may be mailed, faxed, or sent as attachments by email. Winners are notified by mail shortly after July 6th. Please address your applications to: Dennis Dingemans, (see contact information on Page 2).

To obtain applications for travel grants and student awards, you may download the applications (PDF files) from the APCG web page (www.csus.edu/apcg/) or contact *Dennis Dingemans*.

MEMBERS

Welcome to the following 14 new members who have joined since last October.

B. Batterson-Rossi
Gary Booher
Patrick Brosnen
Alicia Cox
Garrett S. Duncan
Amy Hamlin
Hugh H. Howard
Melissa J. Kelly
Sara Linthicum
Duane F. Marble
Colin A. Mattison
Shane Walker
Leigh Ann Wolfe
David Young

Many thanks to the following Contributing Members from 2003 and 2004. The money they contribute more than equals the amount we give to Student Travel Awards. Of the 490 members who have renewed or joined for 2004 as of 3/13/04, 20% are Contributing Members. Their dues make up 36% of the total received.

Mitchell A. Alford
James P. Allen
Brigham Arnold
Daniel D. Arreola
Louise Aschmann
Martin Balikov

Charles F. Bennett
Warren R. Bland
James D. Blick
James E. Brooks
Teresa L. Bulman
Elizabeth K. Burns
Joseph Calbreath
Steven A. Carlson
Lisa Chaddock
Robert W. Christopherson
Bobbé Z. Christopherson
Joan Clemons
Mark & Christy Cook
Douglas M. Cotner
Howard J. Critchfield
William K. Crowley
Darrick Danta
Robin Datel
Carolyn M. Daugherty
Mary Imandt de Jesus
Cary de Wit
Dennis J. Dingemans
Kevin Donnelly
Gary S. Dunbar
Tom Edwards
Richard A. Eigenheer
Christopher H. Exline
Tracey Ferguson
Lloyd Flem
Larry Ford
Barbara E. Fredrich
Robert E. Frenkel
John F. Gaines
Reginald Golledge
Glenn E. Griffith
Jeffrey D. Hackel
Keith Hadley

Tim Hallinan
Dr. Bill Hamilton
James W. Harrington
Gary Hausladen
John Heppen
Cynthia M. Hohbach
Richard Jarvis
Sharon G. Johnson/Edell
Samanthe Kadar
Tina Kennedy
Sriram Khé
William A. Koelsch
James S. Kus
David J. Larson
David Lee
Joseph S. Leeper
Matthew Lofton
William G. Loy
Donald Lynch
Robert MacLeod
Andrew Marcus
Gordon E. McColl
Margaret McCrea
Elliot G. McIntire
Tom McKnight
Peter H. Meserve
Robert L. Monahan
Laura K. Moorhead
Roscoe Moss
Alexander B. Murphy
Harold E. Murray
George N. Nasse
Douglas J. Nicol
Michael J. O'Connor
Betty R. Parsons
Clyde Patton
Roger Pearson

Duilio Peruzzi
Robert Phillips
David A. Plane
Cari Pogan
Donna Prince
Philip R. Pryde
Susan P. Reynolds
Robert T. Richardson
Christine M. Rodrigue
Jim Rogers
Loretta Rose
Les Rowntree
Gundars Rudzitis
Randall Rush
William Russell
Dan Scanny
Michael Schmandt
Donald A. Schuder
James W. Scott
Larry Simón
Everett G. Smith
Norman R. Stewart
Dale Stradling
Nancy Summers
Michael Tripp
Donald E. Vermeer
Philip L. Wagner
Hartmut Walter
Barbara Wanish
Dorismae Weber
James W. Wickes
Nancy Lee Wilkinson
Matthew Winston
John A. Wolter
Martha Works
Robert A. Young

APCG Women's Network

Maria Fadiman, Chair, Women's Network

The Women's Network invites all faculty members of the APCG to nominate an outstanding female undergraduate or graduate student to attend the APCG Meeting in San Luis Obispo, California on September 8-11.

The Network awards 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.

Nominations must be postmarked by **June 1, 2004** 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 geography. Recipients are notified in July.

The Women's Network is having a no-host luncheon at the conference (Fri., Sept. 10, Noon - 1:15) at which time the award recipients are asked to speak about their interests and goals and how the Network might assist them in reaching those goals.

Send nominations by APCG members and student statements (and any questions) to Maria Fadiman (see contact information on Page 2).

Applied Geography Opportunities at SLO

Terry Simmons, Chair, Applied Geographers

All independent scholars of Geography, applied geographers, based both on and off campus, graduated graduate students, and exiled or retired professors of Geography are invited to convene at Cal Poly SLO. Let's do something interesting. In Portland, two sessions were devoted explicitly to applied topics, and about a third of all the papers presented contained applied content. The APCG Applied Geographers Committee and the Business, Industry and Government Geographers (BIGG) welcome program suggestions and participation at our next annual meeting in San Luis Obispo.

More generally, we encourage local leaders, on and off the campus, from Alaska to Arizona, to recruit applied geographers, off-campus professional geographers, and independent scholars for local professional activities on campus or downtown.

Help wanted. This is your opportunity for fame and fortune. A volunteer is needed to replace me. Unfortunately, I will resign as Chair of the APCG Applied Geographers Committee at the end of the San Luis Obispo meetings.

All potential leaders and participants are urged to contact me (see contact information on Page 2).



Thanks to River City Bank of Sacramento for providing all of our banking services and supplies at no cost for the past six and a half years.

NEWS AND NOTES

We Must Do Better

A. George Graff, Ph.D.

In the farmers' market, adjacent to the Portland State University student union, two senior APCG members grumbled over crab sandwiches. Some papers heard that morning were annoying, frustrating, or simply poor. Unfortunately, the quality of APCG papers had declined again. Your humble servant could not disagree. Modest examples and suggestions for improvement follow. We must do better. (Names and specific examples are changed or obscured to protect the guilty.)

Paper Presentation Skills

a. A paper presentation is a twenty minute speech to a mixed audience. The APCG is not the place to read a formal journal article. They can be found later in the library or the mailbox. Please do not read a dull summary or wade through a pile of overheads or PowerPoint slides. (Remember the audience knows how to read too. Overheads and slides need only outline or illustrate the oral presentation.) Instead, capture our attention; tell us why your research or analysis is important, and why we should care. Arouse our curiosity; stimulate our thoughts. The best paper I heard in Portland was a complete surprise; it was presented by an unknown individual and covered a completely unfamiliar topic.

b. Please do not read a detailed executive summary for a M. A. thesis or Ph.D. dissertation. We are not members of the speaker's dissertation committee. Most listeners really do not care about pro forma theoretical considerations or data sampling methods unless they are relevant, distinctive, or novel. Instead, tell us something important and interesting. In Portland, a recent Ph.D. dissertation on an out-of-date topic was described in detail; one learned that the research was ordinary and pointless. Sorry. Please tell us why one should care about your research. Equally important, tell us why the speaker cares about the research.

c. Fundamental public speaking techniques are important. Learn to use vocal variety and physical gestures properly. Learn to enunciate well and to avoid "ahs," "ums," "you knows," and other distracting speaking habits. Speeches must be within time, of course. Excellent content is obscured by poor speaking skills. Learn and practice basic public speaking skills.

d. Some paper sessions were not well managed. Session chairs must be prepared to be both good hosts and traffic cops who keep speakers on time. Each session should have a session chair, preferably a person who is not presenting a paper; a timer to flash those dreaded, but effective cards; and a person to handle technical audio-visual problems. See, for example, Terry Simmons submission, titled "How to Chair an Academic Paper Session," on page 4 of the Spring 2000 Pacifica. Good housekeeping is important.

Annoying, Frustrating, and Disgusting Content

Your humble servant comes to listen and learn. I am open minded and welcome new, different, and challenging papers. I do not mind strong opinions, but I am annoyed and frustrated by blatant propaganda. One disgusting, one-sided paper was controversial, factually wrong, and failed completely to acknowledge the rest of the story. Papers presented for the

mere sake of adding to one's curriculum vitae or justify a travel grant are a waste of time. Faculty should advise their graduate students. Faculty themselves should exercise self-discipline. High quality papers are always welcome on all topics.

a. The next APCG meeting will be held during the height of the American election campaign. Please exercise restraint; leave the braying donkeys and roaring elephants outside. Rational, informed political discourse is valuable in its proper place. One presentation in Portland, however, consisted of two separate papers in one. The first was an explicit political editorial that belonged on the Portland Oregonian op-ed page. The second was a completely unrelated, scholarly paper. Both papers would have been welcome in their respective places, but they were not. Another, more subtle instance occurred when a speaker made interesting, but provocative public policy remarks about the price of eggs in Denmark. Unfortunately, when questioned after the paper, the speaker revealed that she knew nothing about chickens or Denmark. It was simply biased, unexamined political commentary. Formal academic papers are not the place for blatant political editorials, Arnold Schwarzenegger jokes, or for politically correct, unfounded, self-serving speculations.

b. The most annoying papers did not involve politics. Several papers in Portland demonstrated an unfortunate fact. Half-baked papers are indigestible. Too many papers report no research and offer no insights. They are just speculative, incomplete discourses on prospective research. Please reserve preliminary speculations, grant applications, and dissertation proposals to departmental meetings and other internal reviews. Immature papers are presumptuous and frustrating.

c. Geography is a broad discipline. Many geographers read widely, and have real experience around the world. As I mentioned before, the best paper I heard in Portland was presented by an unknown individual and about a completely unfamiliar topic. It was a pleasant surprise.

Your humble servant was frustrated and angry with two speakers who presented speculative papers about which they knew nothing. While their intentions may have been good, their papers contained pure speculation about subject matter they did not understand. In another instance, the speakers simply had not read the literature or completed required research. Without sufficient knowledge and perspective, the papers were mm edioce. The speakers exposed their ignorance, but were well received by the audience. With proper scholarly preparation and insight, future papers may reveal worthy research.

Your humble servant drove hundreds of miles to Portland to hear intellectually stimulating papers, and to learn about current research. One need not attend to participate in an academic competition, in an academic meat market, or to add to one's curriculum vitae. Instead, one searches for excellent papers, and old and new friends. Some excellent papers were heard in Portland despite my obvious disappointments and frustrations. The 2003 APCG was successful. Still, we must do better.

A. George Graff is a nom de plume for a long time APCG member.

NEWS AND NOTES

Library Named for Jim Brooks

Central Washington University's Board of Trustees named the CWU Library in honor of Dr. James E. Brooks. The naming of the library is a tribute to Jim's long-term efforts to improve the library and its holdings.

A CWU alumnus and former faculty member, Brooks became CWU president at the age of 35 and served as the university's chief administrator from 1961 through 1978. He is the only CWU graduate to be appointed to this post. The library, now named in his honor, was planned, built and opened during his administration. After stepping down as president, Brooks continued as a member of the university's geography and land studies faculty through 1993.

Dedicated to enriching the quality of education on campus, Dr. Brooks piloted the restoration of Friends of the Library in 1995, a program of great support to the library. A longtime APCG member, he has made contributions to CWU as a student, faculty member and leader, and through his role in Friends of the Library. Karl Lillquist adds that "he has long been the key supporter of scholarships for our top geography students," and that he "can't think of a better example of a person involved in public service.

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. Visit our web site at 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 or phone (209) 667-3557.

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