

PACIFICA



The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Spring 2008

CANDIDATES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY

Dorothy Freidel

Professor of Geography, Sonoma State University

PhD, Geography, 1993, University of Oregon
MA, Geography, 1989, University of Oregon
BA, Geography, 1987, Sonoma State

All my life I've had a passion for Geography, but just didn't know it. I think there are a lot of us who can say the same. There are plenty of high school seniors who know they're fascinated by Psychology or Criminal Justice, even if they've never had a course in the subject. They often have an idea of what Anthropology involves, or Geology, and certainly History or English or Biology. Most, however, think only of Geography as the part of Social Studies where they had to memorize place names or other trivial facts about a place. For me, even though from a young age I had a subscription to National Geographic, it never occurred to me that there was an actual discipline, a major that I could take, called Geography. I felt torn between my loves of earth sciences and human studies, and so was ecstatic when I discovered, at the age of 42, that I could study both within a single discipline. This story fits with the pattern that many majors recount, of trying a number of other majors before finding Geography, and many of them as mature students returning to school.

I returned to school to finish my BA at Sonoma State in 1984, majoring in Liberal Studies at the Ukiah campus at night. Thanks to a fortuitous class that fall with Dr. Claude Minard of the Geography Department, the second semester I dropped all my liberal studies classes and began commuting to Rohnert Park 100 miles each way to take all Geography classes. I was hooked! I had found my passion and have never looked back.

After finishing my BA at SSU in 1987, I enrolled in graduate

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Paul F. Starrs

Foundation Professor of Geography
University of Nevada, Reno

PhD, Geography, 1989, University of California, Berkeley
MA, Geography, 1984, University of California, Berkeley
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Deep Springs College (Deep Springs, CA), 1975-1977

Service to Geography / APCG: I tend not to be the most linear of practitioners, but zig-zag is a direction. I'm sure I was a member of the APCG in 1985, though I might have been inducted a year or two earlier. That's even likely: as I look back, it appears I presented papers at the APCG in 1985, '87, '88, '93 (the famed Berkeley meeting), '95, '98, 2000, '04, '05, and '06. In 1983, as a freshly-formed Berkeley grad student inexorably drawn into the orbit of Jim Parsons, Dan Lutten, Barney Nietschmann, Jay Vance, Louise Fortmann, and Ted Oberlander, joining up and attending APCG meetings was expected, once we were no longer wholly wet behind the ears and therefore to be considered presentable. A relationship was born.

I organized the Berkeley APCG meeting, and since (and before) have been available to chair sessions, keep time, organize the occasional APCG event, provide bonhomie and cash, support the Women's Network, and in the last decade or so, help bring a strong stream of UNR people to APCG meetings. In a moment of inspiration, I convinced the geographers in Reno to host the 1999 APCG meeting, and then decamped on sabbatical leave to western Spain for the actual event. I am Chair of the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship Committee. For geography as a discipline, I've reviewed dozens of grant proposals, article manuscripts, done formal reviews of 49 book manuscripts for sixteen university presses, with six-sevenths of them later coming out as

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My Kingdom for a Map!

Darrick Danta, CSU Northridge

Some 26 years have passed since John Fraser Hart (1982) made his clarion call to action in support of regional geography, a subject and approach he ably demonstrated lay at the heart of the discipline. While possessing neither the stature nor eloquence of Fraser, I nonetheless also feel a need to draw attention to what I see as the continued erosion of another of geography's pillars, cartography in general, and maps in particular.

Geographers through the ages have rightly identified the centrality of map making. The following are a sample of illustrative quotes:

- Hartshorne (1939, p. 425): "...if his problem cannot be studied fundamentally by maps...then it is questionable whether or not it is within the field of geography."
- Bryan (1944, p. 184) "The representation of data on maps is the heart of the geographic method in all fields."
- Schaefer (1953, p. 244): "Mapping has been called the shorthand of geography."
- Ullman (1953, p. 56): "The geographer uses the map as his primary tool."
- Sauer (1956, p. 289): "The map speaks across the barrier of language; it is sometimes claimed as the language of geography."
- Morrill (1983, p. 7): "It follows that the map, and cartography, are absolutely fundamental parts of the discipline..."

To this list I can offer my own: Maps are the fundamental means to geographic communication.

I am sure few reading this would argue with any of these statements, nor of the importance of cartography and maps to the geographic endeavor. However, a quarter century ago Muehrcke (1981, p. 397) already was noting "academic relations among geographers, maps, and cartographers have deteriorated dramatically over the past several decades." A study undertaken by Dennis Fitzsimmons and Eugene Turner, presented at the 2005 Phoenix APCG Meeting titled "Recent Trends in Mapping within Geography," documented a decline in cartographic expertise exhibited in key geography journals over the past two decades. I have also noted a lack of cartographic expertise in some articles submitted to the *APCG Yearbook* in some of my Editorial Notes; to his credit, the current Editor has made a concerted effort to improved graphic quality of the publication.

Thus, I was interested to assess the state of cartographic education in the APCG region. I began by looking at the latest Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas, according to which an impressive 22 out of 36 (61%) departments at BA or higher institutions in the APCG region include a check under Program Specialties, Cartography/Photogrammetry. Among the active faculty

PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN: MY KINGDOM FOR A MAP!

in these departments who list cartography or computer cartography as a specialty, I was able to identify 29 faculty. While this number appears healthy, compared to the total number of faculty in the region—474—this reveals that only about six percent of the geography faculty in the West claim cartography among their specializations and/or research interests. Of course this statistic is somewhat misleading since it does not count the closely allied fields of GIS, geovisualization, image processing, etc.; some faculty no doubt teach or practice cartography in some form while not identifying as such. Still, the number is small.

Next, I turned my attention to course offerings. On inspecting all the web sites for the APCG departments, I was pleased to find that nearly every department offers at least one, and in many cases two, courses with “cartography” in the title. Hawaii is particularly rich in offerings, with four; while Nevada-Reno lists two with a few more closely allied courses. I also discovered that while a majority of departments now offer a certificate in GIS, CSU East Bay, Long Beach, and Sacramento call theirs “Cartography and GIS.”

Finally, I looked at staff in each department, and found that only a few have full-time staff cartographers. The lucky departments include CSU Northridge, UC Berkeley, University of Oregon (3 listed in their InfoGraphics Lab), University of British Columbia, and University of Victoria (two listed cartographers).

The investigation thus shows that cartographic expertise, education, and support appear strong in APCG-land. However, my perusals also revealed that for every cartography or mapping class on the books, there usually were two or more GIS courses of some sort. Don't get me wrong: I'm not criticizing GIS and its allied subjects. I just want to reaffirm the need for continued cartographic

education. Design elements are too often sacrificed in the haste to produce a map product; doing so, however, sacrifices a rich tradition in geography of cartographic communication that would be a shame to lose.

My hope is that there are those out there who share my views and will continue to stress elements of good cartography. On the other hand, I fear that, like Richard III, rescue may not be forthcoming; this may be a situation not easy to bear.

If maps are to be the highest form of geographic communication, we must instruct not only in the grammar that is GIS, but in the style that is cartographic design. I hope to explore these issues in the Presidential Plenary at the Fairbanks Meeting. I welcome your comments.

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RESIDENTIAL SKYSCRAPERS IN DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO: FAD, FOLLY, OR FUTURE?

LARRY FORD, PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Most American downtowns encompass far too much land. There are some exceptions to this generalization of course since Boston, San Francisco, New York and a few other topographically confined central business districts do not have room to sprawl. Typical American downtowns, such as those in Denver, Columbus, Dallas, Phoenix, and Charlotte, occupy anywhere from two to four square miles and, for the past several decades, there have been problems finding enough profitable land uses to fill this space. San Diego, California is a prime example of this. Since there is no official census definition of downtown, it is difficult to delve into this topic with a high degree of precision, but most downtowns do have a generally accepted "inside the beltway" definition that is not controversial. With this in mind, I examine the recent attempts to use housing towers to fill the voids in cities such as San Diego.

American downtowns have not always had excess space. When rail yards, factories, warehouses, markets, and a wide variety of repair shops and stores were the norm, downtowns were often cramped and congested. Over the past five decades, however, most of these land uses have decamped leaving huge amounts of space to be recycled. While financial services, government and other office employment have boomed, most of this activity is housed in a few massive skyscrapers and so millions of square feet of leasible space can be built on just a few blocks. As a result, most downtowns have imploded. For a time, it seemed that retail and recreation activities could be used to fill the space abandoned by factories and warehouses. From Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco to Quincy Market in Boston, the festival marketplace became the ideal way to recycle the central city. By the 1990's, however, even retailing was nearly absent in all but the most touristy downtowns as department stores, malls, and even a few festival marketplaces closed.

Filling downtowns meant finding new space extensive land uses. Hotels and convention centers are obvious choices and the latter has the advantage of needing lots of horizontal space. A couple of big hotels, a convention center and the associated (required) parking garages can go a long way in soaking up excess space and so give increased scarcity value to nearby lots. Sports complexes, especially for baseball but also hockey and basketball, have also been used to fill empty downtown spaces, especially when combined with waterfront revitalization. Some cities have added large museums and libraries to this list but the options are not endless. A few cities, such as Atlanta (for the Olympics), even created a large park but this was not common. At the turn of the millennium, most American downtowns still had large amounts of underutilized space, either in the form of surface parking or decaying, one-story warehouses.

What About Housing?

The central business district, the core of what has come to

be known as downtown, has, by definition, been devoid of nearly all types of residential land uses. The main exceptions would be the largely disadvantaged people who lived over shops or in single room occupancy hotels. In the United States, unlike Europe, very few people who had an option lived in the downtown core. Until the 1950's or so, people did live in the downtown frame but populations there typically plummeted in the years that followed. Part of the problem lies with changing definitions of downtown. Many older neighborhoods were considered by their residents to be well outside of the downtown when they were new but gradually changes in zoning (or the introduction of zoning) led to invasions of commercial land uses inside the new (1960's) freeway inner-belts. People did not really move out of downtown, as scholars often contend, but rather they left older neighborhoods that had been "captured" by an expanding downtown. This "expectation of change" led to high rates of disinvestment and disinvestment as old buildings were slowly cleared for surface parking and other marginal downtown land uses. As Alexis de Tocqueville asserted in the nineteenth century, America is too lightly developed to ever be properly maintained. The combination of small, obsolete buildings, high land values and taxes, and weak demand resulted the typical, large "zone in transition" that characterizes the edges of most American downtowns.

Since Americans seemed to prefer life in the suburbs, housing was usually put on the back burner when plans for downtown revitalization were put forth. More accurately, plans for downtown housing have come in bits and spurts at various times and in various places throughout the twentieth century but with very mixed results. As a generalization, we can say that there have been three eras during which at least some attempts to create decent downtown housing options have been tried. They are the late 1920's, the early 1960's, and the early 2000's.

It is impossible (at least for me) to trace the time and place of construction of every apartment building in American downtowns over the past century but a surrogate is available. The website Emporis.com provides a listing of every tall building in America (and the world) along with data on the height, number of floors, picture(s), district location, and sometimes a detailed description for each building. A tall building is defined as one that is at least 35 meters (or about 115 feet). As a surrogate for a demand for downtown housing, I used 20+ story residential buildings. New York and Chicago had far too many buildings in this category to examine but few other American cities have presented problems. Sometimes it is difficult to determine the usage of a tower, especially since some were converted back and forth, but this was not a major problem either. I was therefore able to locate all the residential towers in every American downtown.

FILLING A NICHE: INDIGENT SCRAP COLLECTION AND RECYCLING IN SOFIA

MARK DANIEL LYNN CARPER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-ANCHORAGE

The economic austerity that has typically accompanied the transition of former communist states to market economies has also been experienced in Bulgaria. The result has not simply been increased tightening of the belt for families and individuals but also hardships to the point where an increasing portion of the population has become marginalized and has resorted to more downcast survival strategies, including the scavenging of waste bins for usable and sellable materials. Environmental degradation resultant from socialist industrialism as well as from the newly introduced consumerism of the free market and the disposability of excess packaging, also rank high in the challenges that Bulgaria has faced. This study examines the point at which both of these issues overlap and brings to light the conditions and practices for a specific sector of these fields – Sofia’s indigent scrap collectors.

Despite the personal difficulties that such individuals face, by collecting discarded materials and transporting them to collection centers for recycling, they are performing a beneficial service for society. Since recycling has not yet become a societal habit and there are no private businesses that provide collection from households and small business, Sofia’s indigent scrap collectors serve as an initial link in the recycling process in Sofia. The long-term goal of recycling in Bulgaria is that an advanced system similar to what can be found in West European countries will emerge where materials are presorted at the household and business levels and either taken to a collection site or picked up by a private firm. While indigent collectors would no longer play a large role in such a system, it is also a long-term goal that Bulgaria’s wide-spread austerity will fade and that the number of indigents will greatly decrease. However, in current circumstances they continue to play an important function.

Initial fieldwork for this study was conducted during a one-week period in the late summer of 2003, when predominantly closed questionnaires were administered. What follows is a summary and analysis of that project. In my many trips back to Bulgaria since that time, there have been some small changes. The city center now has recycling bins for paper, plastic, and metal cans, and the processing plants have gotten busier, primarily as a result of industry and business more directly sending recyclables. But the central city bins go largely unused or are contaminated by improper sorting, the fault being that there’s no well developed societal habit for recycling and there’s limited awareness of the types of items that can be recycled. With each visit, I see that there is still a small army of cash-strapped individuals packing and hauling cardboard and plastic bottles, stripping discarded mattresses for the bedsprings, and picking apart obsolete electronics for sellable parts.

The Collectors

Of the collectors who were interviewed, the only com-

monality shared was their poverty and their struggle to earn minimal returns for long hours of labor. To be sure, we encountered alcoholics, societal misfits, and the unambitious, but by and large we encountered hardworking, industrious, and even – despite the difficulties – fair humored individuals. However, a caveat should be clearly stated. At times it seemed that responses were exaggerated, and some skepticism should be present while considering their replies. In the discussion below, it has been indicated the points at which such a critical perspective should be applied and attempts to give a more realistic inference have been given.

The vast majority of the respondents were male, and the ethnic division was at 60% Bulgarian and the remaining 40% Roma. Their ages ranged from 28 to 80, and the educational backgrounds are as follows: 25% reported having no education (most of those being Roma), 34% had only a primary education (half being Roma), 29% graduated with a secondary education, and three had attended university and one a trade school.

Forty-three percent of the respondents reported living in a permanent structure, such as an apartment building or house, while 31% (more than half being Roma) said they lived in the open and without shelter. Five (3 Roma) reported living in some semi-permanent structure pieced together from scrap wood and/or metal, three (2 Roma) indicated that they lived in a temporary shelter made from cardboard or other scraps, and one reported that he stays in a shelter.

It is evident from both levels of education and housing arrangements, that the Roma are definitely more disenfranchised from mainstream Bulgarian society. Of those without any formal education, the majority of the respondents who indicated such were Roma, and those who are living in the worst possible arrangements are mostly Roma as well.

While most of the respondents were permanent residents of Sofia, 26 % migrated in with the hope of finding work. Fifty-seven percent (with more than half of these being Roma) indicated that this gathering scrap was their only source of income. Twenty percent (slightly less than half Roma) reported that this was their main source of income. Another twenty percent stated that this was only to supplement regular income, and one respondent stated gathering was only to supplement personal material goods rather than for sale.

In large part, those who stated that collecting recyclable materials was their only or main source of income were below retirement age. Those who indicated that such an activity was to supplement their income were pensioners, often being the main source, believable since pension earnings in

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school at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and after six years there, working with Pat McDowell and Bart Bartlein, I finished my M.A. (1989) and Ph.D. (1993), focusing on geomorphology, geoaerchaeology, and Quaternary environments. Upon finishing my degree I took a tenure track position at Univ. of Missouri Kansas City where I taught for two years. When in 1995 a position opened for a physical geographer at Sonoma State, I was delighted with the opportunity to return to the West Coast, where the landscapes are dramatic and my children are nearby.

I've enjoyed 13 years at SSU thus far, serving as Department Chair from 2003 to 2007. During this time I became involved with the APCG, first as a member of the Awards Committee and later as Chair, as well as co-Chair of the Women's Network with Jennifer Helzer. I've also been serving as Editor of *The California Geographer* since 2003 and for the past several years have been moderator of the APCG email list server. In the past few years I've been most interested in bringing undergraduates to the APCG meetings, to introduce them to the exciting range of topics presented by geographers, to meet students and faculty from other parts of the west, and on field trips to interact with and learn from the perspectives of their fellow participants.

My research interests have ranged from stratigraphic evidence of the environment of earliest human occupations in the Willamette Valley and Eastern Oregon to paleoclimate modeling of Pleistocene closed basin lakes in the Great Basin to pre-Classic Maya environments in Guatemala and Ecuador. Over the past several years I've also gotten involved with bringing students into the field in Guatemala, and for the past four years I've taken students on a two week field experience course in Ecuador during January intersession. I have found that field experience is by far the most vivid way for students to learn about Geography.

My goal is to find ways of exposing a greater number and diversity of students to Geography, particularly through first person experiences of their world. That way perhaps more students will know about this elusive option, to study the natural environment and the people who live there. Maybe more will get hooked, as I did.

books, (two internationally). I am most proud of having coached eighteen successful graduate students to their degrees, and they've continued either into the profession or on to PhD programs.

Professional Experience:

In a kind of parallel career, I did edit the *Geographical Review* for seven challenging years (1996–2002), and left a stamp there; it was a slightly bizarre calling for a barely-tenured professor, but indisputably interesting. I enjoyed dealing with various genteel and famous—and less so with a few of the most notorious—geographers in American life; an education in itself. I've served on various editorial boards, and done what I can for geography, including work for a variety of foundations, scholarly societies, and charitable trusts. I've conducted program reviews for four departments, two in the region (and all still extant!). With Peter Goin, I now own *Landscape* magazine, which we anticipate re-starting in another couple of years, if that proves plausible. I've taught in Reno for fifteen years, and was recently named to the University's highest rank.

Research Interests:

I am somewhat eclectic, but I write on writing, Spain and Portugal's oak woodlands and peoples, on film, on places and regions, on ranching, on land ownership and historical geography, on literature and geographic thought, on demography and resource exploitation, and I do fieldwork in all these fields.

Publications:

I've published two books (one coauthored), have multiple more under contract, and am working on a massive two-book undertaking for UC Press on California agriculture. I've written a number of articles, including a cheerful total of book reviews—I learned from lifelong APCG member Homer Aschmann that even if you're on hiatus from writing your own books, you can always read, appreciate, and applaud those by other people.

To-do for APCG?

Clearly, we have groupings of the active member schools and another cluster of the somnolent. Providing at least graduate and undergraduate students at all the APCG member-state campuses with encouragement to attend is a perpetual goal, but hardly any less worthwhile for being tried every few years. I think we have a great group of regulars, an interesting cadre of "sometimes" attendees, and possibilities to expand the fête to more still. And as geography rises as a field in the eyes of some campuses, it's worth adding effort to bringing students and faculty from those campuses to at least occasional meetings – not only will that provide future meeting sites, it can serve as great training for graduate students working on their presentation mojo, and for faculty wishing to present research from the conceptual to the perfectly honed. Bottom line? It's time to carry the party forward. I'd like to do that part for us, given the chance.

ANNUAL MEETING IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA: OCTOBER 8-11

Welcome to Alaska and your 2008 conference in America's Last Frontier Celebrating the International Polar Year 2007-2008

The University of Alaska Geography Program is pleased to host the 2008 APCG Annual Conference. The meeting will be held at the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Conference Center, Fairbanks, Alaska, October 8th - 11th. We have confirmed several outstanding keynote speakers who will address many of the dynamic geographic, historical, and political issues unique to Alaska and the Circumpolar North. This year's field trip will be a comprehensive, full-day outing that assures a true Alaskan experience, and our APCG colleagues will once again share rich and diverse perspectives during their presentations and poster sessions.

APCG conferences are known for their breadth and depth of paper presentations, organized sessions, and poster sessions. We hope that many of you will decide to submit program abstracts – assuring that our meeting will be an informative and educational experience for all. Paper Abstracts are due by August 10th and Poster Abstracts are due September 7, 2008.

The format for the 2008 conference will differ from previous meetings in a number of ways. The conference will be all-inclusive and fees will include:

- General conference fee
- Wednesday October 8th, Opening session with heavy hors d'oeuvres and keynote address by Dr. Terrence Cole, Professor of History, University of Alaska Fairbanks, "Crooked Past: The History of Fairbanks, Alaska, A Frontier Mining Camp."

Call for Papers, Posters and Sessions Paper Abstracts/Organized Sessions Due: 10 August 2008 Poster Abstracts Due: 1 September 2008

Conference Registration

Conference registration forms will be available shortly at www.geographyUA.org/apcg. The early registration deadline is set for June 29. Regular registration runs from June 30 through August 31. Late registration is anytime after August 31. As noted above, several meals will be included in the registration fee.

Submitting Papers & Posters

All papers and posters must be accompanied by a 200-250 word abstract. All papers are scheduled for 15-minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions. Posters are restricted to 4 x 6 feet (1.2 x 1.8 m) in size. All presenters must be current APCG members and pay meeting registration fees. If registration is not received by September 7, 2008 for all posters, the abstract will not be included in the program. If you are not a current member, your membership fee will be included in the cost of registration.

Each registrant is entitled to submit no more than one

- Thursday October 9th, lunch and keynote address by President Mark Hamilton, University of Alaska System, "Alaska's Role in the Circumpolar North and Pacific Rim."
- Thursday October 9, APCG Evening at the University of Alaska Museum of the North (reception and museum tour), and keynote address by Dr. John Walsh, Director, Center for Global Climate Change and Arctic Systems research, "Climate Change in the Circumpolar North."
- Friday October 10, lunch and keynote address by Mr. Mead Treadwell, Chairman, United States Arctic Research Commission, "US Arctic Science Policy in a Time of Change and Challenge."
- Friday October 10, Awards Banquet and Presidential Address, and an "Evening with Pamyua: Tribal Funk in the Last Frontier" (a unique blend of traditional Alaska Native music with a twist of a cappella funk - see tribalfunk.worldpress.com).

The APCG room rate at the Westmark Hotel and Convention Center in downtown Fairbanks is set at \$69/night plus tax. Additional information including registration forms and abstract submission guidelines will be available shortly on the conference website at www.geographyUA.org/apcg.

Come join your colleagues in beautiful Alaska – an experience of a lifetime!

Mike Sfraga
Roger Pearson
Katie Kennedy
Co-Coordinators, APCG 2008

abstract, either for a poster or for a spoken paper, although you may be listed as a non-presenting co-author on more than one abstract.

How to Submit Abstracts

The submission of paper and poster abstracts must be done electronically by emailing your abstract to katie.kennedy@alaska.edu by 11:59 PM on August 10, 2008 for papers and 11:59 PM on September 1, 2008 for posters. Your final inclusion in the Conference Program will be withheld until your registration is paid in full (see deadlines above).

Organized Sessions

The APCG strongly encourages submission of organized sessions, which focus on a particular theme of interest to our membership. To submit an organized session, you must do the following: (1) ask each member of your session to register for the conference; (2) collect all abstracts for your session; and (3) submit an entire organized session proposal with the title of the proposal and all abstracts electronically either as an attachment or in-text to katie.kennedy@alaska.edu by August 10, 2008. If you choose to submit a "Panel Session", you only need to include the names of the panel participants, a title of the panel, and an abstract

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ANNUAL MEETING IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA: OCTOBER 8-11

Conference Field Trip Alaska Past, Present, and Future

This excursion begins with a tour of the Large Animal Research Station (LARS) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (<http://www.uaf.edu/lars/>). You'll have the opportunity to get an up-close view of the musk oxen, caribou and reindeer that are maintained at LARS for research and education.

From the animal station, you will be taken to one of the most difficult and remarkable engineering feats of modern time: The Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Built in the 1970s after oil was discovered at Prudhoe Bay (1968), the 48-inch diameter, 800-mile pipeline links Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean with the terminal at Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in the Western Hemisphere. The flow from this pipeline accounts for roughly 20 percent of U.S. oil production annually.

Next, you'll head to the end of the Chena Hot Springs Road, 57 miles northeast of Fairbanks where the culmination of the day's excursion will be the Geo-Thermal Station at Chena Hot Springs Resort (<http://www.chenahotsprings.com/>). You will witness first hand the incredible technological strides that are being created in the geothermal field – right here in Alaska!

Other activities available to you at the resort: soak in the Rock Lake Hot Springs, experience the Aurora Ice Museum, visit the Chena Renewable Energy Center, and check out the Chena Garden and Greenhouse. Lunch at Chena Hot Springs is included in your tour.

Field trip fee of \$100.00 includes:

- Roundtrip transportation
- Box Breakfast
- All entrance fees and taxes
- Geo-Thermal Tour
- Ice Museum Tour
- Lunch at Chena Hot Springs

Pass to swim in Rock Lake Hot Springs (towel provided): \$15.00 per person additional

Information on independent pre and post-conference tour opportunities will be available at the conference website.

Margaret Trussell Scholarship

The APCG Women's Network announces its annual competition for 2008 Margaret Trussell Graduate Student Scholarships. The Women's Network has established the following criteria for students who are interested in applying:

1. Awards shall be made to support the research endeavors of women students pursuing graduate studies.
 2. Applicants must be members of the APCG during the year the award is given.
 3. Up to two awards will be made this year in the amount of \$1000 per award.
 4. The intention is to give one award to a geography student pursuing a master's degree and one to a student pursuing a doctoral degree. Please make clear in a cover letter whether you are a master's student or a doctoral student.
 5. Application requirements: a proposal of no more than 1000 words including project title, topic to be investigated, background, and methods (please include the applicant's name only on the title page of the proposal to insure anonymity of the proposal review process); a brief budget that lays out how the money is to be spent; two letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant's advisor; and transcripts from the last two years of academic work.
 6. Award recipients will be 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*. Publication in the *Yearbook* of the APCG is encouraged. Recipients must acknowledge receiving an APCG Margaret Trussell Scholarship in any publication based on the supported research.
 7. Submit to the chair of the Margaret Trussell Scholarship Committee, Martha Henderson, a hard copy of the complete package and an electronic copy of your cover letter, proposal and letters of recommendation.
- The deadline for submitting all required documents is 5:00 pm PDT on July 15, 2008.

Martha Henderson

CALL FOR PAPERS CONTINUED

for the entire session. Members of sessions who have not registered will not appear in the final program and they may be replaced with another paper presenter, so please make sure your session participants all register in time.

Digital and Other Media

Digital projectors compatible with standard formats will be available in each room, and there will be a PC laptop, with PowerPoint and MS Word on it, available for presenters. It is crucial for presenters to bring an electronic copy of their presentation on a USB drive or CD. We cannot attach personal laptops to the equipment. You are strongly encouraged to bring "Plan B" backups and hard copies (transparencies or handouts) for all digital media. Standard overhead projectors, slide projectors, or other media can be made available if requested via email by September 7, 2008 (send to: katie.kennedy@alaska.edu).

ANNUAL MEETING IN FAIRBANKS

Announcements, Competition and Grants

APCG Women's Network

The Network invites all faculty members of the APCG to nominate an outstanding female undergraduate or graduate student for a Women's Network Travel Grant to attend next year's meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. Owing to the extra expense of traveling to Alaska, the 2008 Travel Grant awards will be increased to \$300.00 per award. The Margaret Trussell Scholarship Committee also invites masters and doctoral candidates in the APCG service area to apply for the Trussell Scholarship. Look for the official announcements in this issue of *Pacifica*.

Nominations for the Women's Network Travel Grant must be postmarked by JULY 1, 2008 and should consist of a few paragraphs 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. Students need to include a contact phone number and address, as well as a current e-mail address, with their one-page statement. Recipients will be notified in August via email or 'snail-mail'.

The Travel Grant is entirely funded through contributions to the Women's Network of the APCG. The Women's Network was able to award 8 Travel Grants this year because of the contributions made by APCG members and interested parties. Last year, to assure a more secure funding for the Travel Grants, we introduced a successful fund-raising campaign to honor someone (living or passed on) who are (or have been) mentors in Geography. This year, we again gave members the opportunity to send a donation to the Women's Network Travel Grant, along with the name of the 'honoree'.

The Women's Network continues to encourage financial contributions from the APCG membership for the Travel Grant Fund. Please send donations in honor of your mentor to Bob Richardson, APCG Treasurer.

It is not necessary that the student present a paper; rather, the monetary award provides an opportunity for a student to gain experience from attending a major regional meeting.

The Women's Network will be having a no-host luncheon at the Fall 2008 conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, 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. Award participants must attend the luncheon and be currently registered as APCG members to receive their award.

Send nominations by APCG members and student statements (and any questions) to::

Vicki Drake
Earth Science Department, Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90405
Office Phone (310) 434-8652
drake_vicki@smc.edu

Travel Fund for Mexican American Students

This travel scholarship fund was created to help make it possible for worthy Mexican ancestry students interested in Geography to attend APCG annual meetings. This fund is particularly appropriate for the APCG because students of Mexican ethnic origin constitute the largest ethnic population in our region that is underrepresented in Geography. Awards are to be applied to travel, accommodation, and registration expenses at APCG meetings.

Application requires two steps: 1) a statement about the student's interests in geography and the student's Mexican family background, and 2) a supporting letter of reference from a faculty member.

Please encourage students to apply and to have letters sent to Dan Arreola, Chair APCG Mexican American Travel Grant, School of Geographical Sciences, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-0104 daniel.arreola@asu.edu. The deadline for receipt of applications and letters of reference is September 15, 2008.

For 2008, the committee has made two changes to the award. First, it has a new name—Mexican American Travel Scholarship (MATS). Second, graduate students of Mexican American ancestry as well as undergraduates can be nominated for the travel awards. Graduate students must present a paper or poster at the annual meeting to which they apply for travel funds, and attend the annual banquet to receive the award. Undergraduates need not present, but need to attend the meeting and the banquet.

Finally, thanks to the generosity of APCG members who have donated to this fund and especially to John and Bev Passerello who inspired the award, the committee will make two awards of \$300 each for the 2008 annual meeting in Fairbanks.

In Memoriam

Donald A. Schuder, 1929-2008

I met Don Schuder by chance about 1985 near my cabin in the Diamond Mountains south of Susanville. He and another Department of Water Resources worker had parked their DWR pickup in a meadow next to a storage precipitation gauge, making the annual reading and recharging it. I stopped to see what was going on and learned that Don had installed the gauge in 1958. A dozen years later, when I took over as Sec/Treas, I noticed that Don was a member—a contributing member at that. We do not have membership records for prior to 1994, but I believe he had been a member long before that. He was listed as a member of the AAG in my 1967 AAG Directory and very likely already was in the APCG by then as well.

I always wanted to find out what his link to geography stemmed from and maybe do a *Pacifica* piece on him, but have missed my chance. He was raised in Woodland and earned his BA at Sacramento State. He worked as a hydrologist for DWR for forty-two years. I always think of him when I drive by that 12-foot precipitation gauge.

Bob Richardson

ANNUAL MEETING IN FAIRBANKS
Announcements, Competition and Grants

Student Paper or Poster Competition

Papers by students are a significant portion of the presentations at our annual meeting. To encourage this activity, and to recognize and reward student scholarship, the APCG annually presents seven awards:

- 1) Tom McKnight and Joan Clemens Award for an Outstanding Student Paper, \$500
- 2) President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a Ph.D. Student, \$200
- 3) President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a Master's Student, \$200
- 4) President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an Undergraduate Student, \$200
- 5) Harry and Shirley Bailey Award for Outstanding Paper in Physical Geography, \$200
- 6) Committee Award for Regional Geography, \$200
- 7) President's Award for Outstanding Poster Presentation, \$200

The awards are open to undergraduate and graduate students who are APCG members. Papers and posters may be co-authored if all are students, and the paper or poster must be presented at the annual meeting. Evaluation is made by the APCG Awards Committee based on the extended abstract and the presentation.

Applicants need to: 1) Submit the regular short abstract (200 word max) to the conference coordinator in Fairbanks as outlined in the Call for Papers/Abstracts. 2) Submit an extended abstract (1,250 word max) AND a student paper and poster competition application form to Jim Keese at jkeese@calpoly.edu by September 19, 2008.

Travel Grants for Students

To encourage student participation, the APCG will commit \$3,000 to travel grants of \$300 each (except for students from Fairbanks who will receive registration fee grants of \$50 and students from Anchorage who will receive grants of \$150). If grant applications exceed the \$3,000 total, 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. However, you do not need to be entered into the paper/poster competition to be eligible for a travel grant. Travel grant applications can be emailed, mailed, or faxed to Jim Keese, jkeese@calpoly.edu, and must be received by September 19, 2008. Winners will be notified by September 22, 2008, and will be awarded grant checks at the banquet in Fairbanks (or by mail afterward)

Cultural Geography Scholarship

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG) announces the continuation of an annual tradition — a competition for a \$500 award for Cultural Geography Fieldwork.

There is an early deadline for the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship—01 June, this year. The goal of the awards committee and the donor is simple: We would like students who receive this award to have the \$500 available to them by the time quarter-based college and universities let out for the summer. Recipients can use the funds right away, and would then be able to present at least preliminary results at the October APCG meeting in Alaska.

1. The intention is to award a geography graduate student pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in cultural geography in a department of geography in the APCG region. (Applications from outside the region cannot be considered this year.)

2. Applicants must be members of the APCG.

3. One award will be made each year. The award committee may choose not to award in a given year if proposals are judged unworthy.

4. Application requirements:

a. Proposal from the applicant not to exceed 1,000 words. Proposal must include project title, topic to be investigated, the context of research, methods, and a brief budget that explains how the award will contribute to student field research for a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation.

b. Two letters of recommendation, including one letter from the applicant's major advisor that certifies the student will apply award to field research in cultural geography.

5. Award recipient will be required to present a paper or poster about the field research supported by the award at the APCG meeting at the meeting immediately following the award. In addition, the award recipient must write a brief summary of the field research findings for *Pacifica*. Recipient must acknowledge the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship from the APCG in any publication based on the supported field research. Publication in the *Yearbook of the APCG* is encouraged.

6. Submit three copies of the proposal and request letters of recommendation be sent directly to the Chair of the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship of APCG. Deadline for receipt of proposals is 01 June, 2008. Applicants will be notified in late June, and a check delivered shortly thereafter, which will also allow the award recipient to be feted at the annual meeting banquet.

Submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the application to the chair of the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship Committee:

Paul F. Starrs, Department of Geography
University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557

contact info: 775.784.6930, or starrs@unr.edu

NEW AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Welcome to the following 25 new members who have joined since the last list in the Fall 2007 issue of Pacifica. All but two joined in conjunction with registration for the Long Beach meeting last fall but their names did not come in time to be included in the last issue. (*Asterisk denotes a former member who has rejoined.)

Greg Armento
Jason Blackburn
Paul Colgrove
Samuel Cortez
Graydon Creed
Trush Cruz
Renee Cruz
Carol Davies
John Fawcett
Della Garcia
Berk Luviano
Nathan C. McClintock
Carlos Mireles
Thomas Nejely*
Samaria Padilla
Stephanie Pau
Emily Powers
Vicki Rabin
Diane Rachels
Antonio Solorio
Lora Stevens
Melissa Talley
Patrick Weber
Angela Wranic
Jenny Wrye

Many thanks to the following Contributing Members from 2007 and 2008. Of the 410 members who have renewed or joined for 2008 as of 3/20/08, 20% are Contributing Members (slightly down from same time last year). Of total dues received so far for 2008, Contributing Members have paid 37% of the total dues receipts.

Looked at another way, Contributing Members have paid \$1800 more than if they were Regular Members—and some are students or retired—and thirty-one have not yet renewed. At Long Beach the APCG gave travel grants totaling \$2,950 and President's awards totaling \$650. Without the extra money provided by Contributing Members, making these important grants and awards would be impossible.

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

Steve Bass
Charles F. Bennett
Warren R. Bland
Theodore R. Brandt
Mary Elizabeth Braun
Joseph Calbreath
Ronaldo I. Caluza
John A. Carthew
Robert W. Christopherson
Bobbé Z. Christopherson
Julie Cidell
Richard Cocke
Steve Connett
Michael P. Conzen
Mark & Christy Cook
Pamela Corcoran
Howard J. Critchfield
William K. Crowley
Darrick Danta
Robin Datel
Carolyn M. Daugherty
Mary Imandt de Jesus
Vincent J. Del Casino, Jr.
Tim Derry
Susan Digby
Dennis J. Dingemans
Valerie L. Dobbs
Kevin Donnelly
Gary S. Dunbar
Tom Edwards
Richard A. Eigenheer
Tracey Ferguson
Lloyd Flem
Larry Ford
Donald Gauthier
Barbara Gleghorn
Reginald Golledge
Glenn E. Griffith
Jeffrey D. Hackel
Keith Hadley
Tim Hallinan
James W. Harrington
James P. Harris
Gary Hausladen
John Heppen
Fred Hirsch
John E. Isom
Sharon G. Johnson/Edell
John P. Jones, III
Samanthe Kadar
Earl W. Kersten
Sriram Khé
William A. Koelsch

James S. Kus
David J. Larson
Kelli L. Larson
Joseph S. Leeper
Larry L. Loeher
Matthew Lofton
William G. Loy
Donald Lynch, Ph.D.
Robert MacLeod
Andrew Marcus
Elliot G. McIntire
Robert L. Monahan
Laura K. Moorhead
Lise Nelson
Betty R. Parsons
L. Homana Pawiki
Duilio Peruzzi
David A. Plane
Gregory J. Poseley
Rhea Presiado
Philip R. Pryde
Robert T. Richardson
Christine M. Rodrigue
Loretta Rose
Les Rowntree
Gundars Rudzitis
Randall Rush
William Russell
Dan Scanny
Michael Schmandt
Donald A. Schuder
James W. Scott
Dr. Nancy J. Selover
Debra Sharkey
Larry Simón
Everett G. Smith
William W. Speth
Paul F. Starrs
Dale Stradling
Nancy Summers
Cari Torres
Carlos Tovaes
Michael Tripp
Donald E. Vermeer
Philip L. Wagner
Hartmut Walter
James W. Wickes
Nancy Lee Wilkinson
Martha Works
Joanne Scott Wuerker
Elvin Wyly
Robert A. Young
Terence Young



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

LARRY FORD

Residential Towers in American Downtowns Over Time

Residential buildings are rare in American downtowns because land costs are high and so the only thing that pays is high density and we all know that (except in New York) Americans who have had a choice did not want to live in high density environments, at least until quite recently. During the 1920's boom, only a very few towers were built in American downtowns and they were usually located in the nicer parts of the "zone of assimilation". Aside from New York and Chicago, the only downtowns with 20-story residential buildings were Philadelphia, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Detroit. Of course, several other cities had moderately tall residential buildings but even those were the exception not the rule. These towers were mostly upscale and were located in nice corners of the downtown frame such as Rittenhouse Square (Philadelphia) and Russian Hill (San Francisco).

The Great Depression ended the apartment boom and began a nearly 30-year hiatus that ended only with enthusiasm for downtown urban renewal projects in the late 1950's and early 1960's. This new boom involved more cities, more types of locations, and more kinds of residential towers than the earlier one. Additional cities such as Milwaukee, Baltimore, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, and Pittsburgh joined the existing group. Some of the towers, especially in the South, involved midtown or even suburban locations while others, especially in Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Pittsburgh were located in urban renewal zones. A few towers were built for moderate-income populations and were subsidized through the urban renewal process. Still, by the end of the boom in the mid-1970's, there were only about a dozen cities with 20+ story residential towers in the continental U.S., although Honolulu and South Florida were beginning a different kind of beach tower binge. San Diego was not one of them.

The housing boom of the late 1990's and early 2000's has been by far the largest and most widespread. By 2007, approximately 30 American cities had at least one tall residential tower and some of these literally reached new heights at 40 floors or more. This era was fueled by three new developments. First, the incredible escalation of housing prices across most of the country meant that luxurious tower units that were extremely expensive to build could be priced competitively. Second, the new culture of conspicuous consumption and dazzling urbanity associated with the revitalization of at least some downtowns increased demand for a few "where it's at" locations. Finally, the advent of the condominium meant that ownership, tax write-offs, and equity gains could now be associated with what had been basically apartment living. The fact that the tower boom appeared near the tail end of two decades of housing inflation is related to the fact that much of its appeal was aimed at baby boom "empty nesters" who could sell their suburban tract homes for lots of money and invest

it in luxurious digs downtown. The boom also attracted speculators who felt that tower housing was a safe investment that would always increase in value. Many had no intention of ever living in the units they bought or even renting them but rather were playing "flip this condo".

By the turn of the millennium, the costs of tower construction were rising astronomically. Competition with China and other rapidly developing countries meant that everything from steel to cement was more expensive with each passing month. The only cities where developers could make money selling high-rise luxury condos were those that had very high housing prices in general. It was hard to get people to pay \$500,000 for a two-bedroom unit when a large tract house cost \$100,000. Such was not the case in San Diego where a typical house in a middle-class neighborhood could sell for as much as a downtown condo by the early 2000's.

High-Rise Living in Downtown San Diego

San Diego fits the generalizations about downtowns described above almost perfectly. In 1950, about 15,000 people lived in what is now considered to be downtown even though there were no large apartment buildings. Most people lived in older houses awaiting clearance on the edge of the downtown frame. By 1970, fewer than 10,000 people lived there and many of these were in institutional quarters such as the federal jail. Although a few new office towers were built during the 1960's and 1970's, the predominant land use in 1980 was surface parking. Both the image and the reality of downtown was that it was a very sleepy place but this began to change during the 1980's.

Horton Plaza, a new "post modern" shopping center opened in 1985 and the light rail system expanded throughout the 1980's. The Gaslamp Quarter, San Diego's version of Bourbon Street in New Orleans took off along with Horton Plaza and its nearby parking garage. Soon after, a huge waterfront convention center and two hotel towers went up. By the early 1990's a baseball stadium and a revitalized Little Italy added to downtown's attraction but there was still empty space and little demand for new office space or retail. Housing seemed like the obvious answer but things did not always go smoothly at first.

Early attempts to build housing downtown focused on low-rise "suburban style" condominiums around a small park. The first units were completed in the early 1980's just in time for a downturn in the market and they were slow to sell. When the market picked up in the late 1980's, the first residential towers were constructed but they were completed as California's defense-related real estate bust began in the early 1990's and there were jokes about a 40-story tower that had one resident. There was justifiable concern that downtown housing towers might not work.

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MARK CARPER

Bulgaria are notoriously low.

The average daily income from this activity during summer ranged from one to twenty leva with a mean of 5.08. For winter the range (0-10 leva) and mean (2.5 leva) dropped significantly. (Exchange rate at time of investigation was approximately 1.75 BGL = 1 USD) Earning potential from collection drastically, but predictably, drops during the winter season. This is a direct result of reduced hours of daylight for such activity as well as the severity of the cold. However, with the exception of cartons used for transporting fruits and vegetables, there is no significant decrease in the levels of materials in waste bins and this material ends up in the landfill.

The length of time that the respondents had been engaged in this activity ranged from 1 to 15 years. The largest initiation of people into this activity was just as the economic hardships of transition began. Another peak of such engagement occurred shortly after the severe economic crises of 1997. Despite macroeconomic stabilization, increases in the number of people who have begun such activity continued. Some explanation for this can be given by the fact that while prices of goods and services continue to rise, incomes remain unwaveringly low and inadequate.

Materials Collected

Paper and cardboard are the most frequently gathered materials, but metals of various types also make a sizable amount. Almost all items are sold to recycling centers for cash. While more than 90% include paper amongst the materials they collect, only 66% said it was the material they collected the most of. Despite a high percentage of those who include cardboard in their collection, very few concentrate on it. Clothing and foodstuffs, understandably, are typically gathered for private use.

Something that is very interesting are the indicators of how frequently collectors were able to find materials already sorted and placed beside the waste bins for them to gather, with paper, cardboard, and metals being the most commonly presorted materials. Such possibilities indicate the sympathy that members of the public have for the plight of these collectors.

Schedule of Activity and Gathering Routes

Eighty-six percent of the respondents engaged in collection on a full-time basis while the remaining only collected part-time. The time spent at such work ranged from three to seven hours per day with a mean of 11.2 hours. Most people gathered strictly during daylight hours citing the need for rest or avoidance of nighttime dangers and crime as reasons for avoiding this activity during the night. Only a handful also gathered at night stating that they could collect more by putting in more hours. A few collected only

in the morning (at least during the summer when these interviews were collected) to avoid the daytime heat.

The daily distances traveled for collection ranged from 3 to 50 kilometers, averaging near 19km. Most respondents travel less than twenty per day and the majority of these traveled less than ten. Surprisingly, it was those individuals who operated with small carts and big carts that traveled the greater distances (with the exception of one man who used no tools and who reported traveling 50 km per day in his work!).

Thirty-seven percent of the respondents preferred to work close to home, but there was a marked preference (57%) for collecting materials closer to the collection centers where they can be sold rather than going to where most of the materials could be found in greater quantity. Most likely this is because of the expense and unwieldiness of moving an armful of materials on and off crowded transports. Carts make it possible to carry larger loads, but they must also be navigated along busy streets and sidewalks as well as be pushed. Sixty-three percent of the collectors used a pushcart (evenly split between big and small), and 34% used no instruments to assist them in their efforts.

When asked what factors most affected when and where they collected, the respondents typically selected several. Following in rank order of influence are these variables: proximity to collection centers (83%), proximity to valuable and plentiful material (80%), avoidance of narrow streets where traffic is heavy (57%), disposal habits of population and companies (51%), proximity to own home (40%), pick-up schedule of city trucks (31%), public attitude toward them (20%), and self-perception (9%).

According to the responses of the scrap collectors, a majority of the collection centers purchase multiple materials while fewer of them specialize. From our interviews with the collection centers, these specializations were in paper and cardboard. Three possible explanations on why scrap collectors sell to more than one collection center (average 2.7) in a day's time are offered. The first is that collectors must travel to different places to sell all the different materials they had gathered. The second is that they must periodically drop off materials for sale because they cannot carry any more. Or, third, they gather in one area then sell their load before moving on to another area to resume collecting. That the heavy preference for collecting was near the recycling centers rather than near homes or the places where the most material could be found gives strength to the belief that the third explanation is the most likely. However, the average number of visits per day to a single collection center (1.8) indicates that the need to lighten loads is also a feasible explanation.

Maximum daily "best incomes" were largely quite low and

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SAN DIEGO ... CONT'D FROM PAGE 12

The median price for a house in San Diego at the time was about \$180,000 and that was not high enough to make the expensive construction of skyscraper residences competitive. By 1990, the downtown population had barely returned to the number counted in 1950. Things began to change, however, in the decade of the 1990's.

One of the longest housing booms ever recorded in the U.S. began in the mid 1990's and San Diego's boom was greater than almost anyplace else. By 2005, the median price of a residence had tripled, reaching about \$540,000 by November of that year. At the same time, average income in the region increased much more slowly. Nevertheless, downtown San Diego had great potential as not only a business district but also as an amenity location squeezed between San Diego Bay and Balboa Park. As an amenity location, it was seen to have more in common with cities like Miami, Honolulu, and Vancouver than business centers like Houston or Atlanta. Some buyers might want to live there for views of water and mountains if not for employment. Unlike Miami and Honolulu, however, San Diego had very little in the way of a residential tower tradition or much local expertise. There were a few mid-sized towers along the waterfronts in Coronado and La Jolla but even those were controversial. Some new ideas were needed.

Developers from outside San Diego began to see the downtown as a possible goldmine. Chief among these was the Bosa Corporation from Vancouver, B.C., a specialist in constructing housing towers in that city. At one point in the early 2000's, Bosa was doing half of the high-rise projects in San Diego. There were also dozens of mid-rise projects as well as industrial loft conversions and town houses. A map published by the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) in 2005 listed over 60 residential projects planned or under construction, although some of them are now on hold. Since 1975, CCDC has helped to create about 15,000 housing units downtown including 61 condo buildings, 47 apartment buildings, 40 live/work lofts, 10 seniors/assisted apartment buildings, and 50 SRO rental buildings. To sell (or rent) these units, new images of downtown had to be created and celebrated. One former warehouse zone was renamed "East Village" (a la New York) while another became "The Marina District". Little Italy and the new "Ball Park District" joined in the attempt at place making. Downtown was no longer to be an office core surrounded by a marginal zone in transition but rather a series of places each with its own identity.

How Much is Too Much?

Downtown San Diego now has 28 residential towers of more than 20 stories (29 if you count the correctional facility) and 8 of those are over 30 floors with the tallest having 43 floors. This puts the city in the top 5 "skyscraper condo" cities along with New York, Chicago, Miami-Mi-

ami Beach, and Honolulu. The first two cities are in a class by themselves and the latter two are very different in that skyscraper condos are largely beach related rather than part of downtown. There are only a few other cities, such as Minneapolis, Las Vegas, and Seattle, in the competition at all and so San Diego is on a very different path than most American urban places. The downtown is becoming as much a place to live as a place to work--maybe more so. But these towers are expensive to build and maintain and so they can be a risky venture in a slow economy. The real estate bubble is now a fact of life throughout America and especially in San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Miami where luxury condo and apartment construction have been unrealistically exuberant. Overall housing prices are down about 20% in San Diego over the past two years and the number of sales is down by over 30%. Downtown, the situation is mixed with resale condo prices declining by 21.5% from February 2007 to February 2008 while new condos still include multi-million dollar units and have an average price of \$952,000. The question is, who is buying? There is no easy way to tell how many of the units are occupied and walks around the city at night often demonstrate that few lights are on. Maybe everyone is having candle light dinners or they are out at the clubs.

The city estimates that there are about 30,000 people living downtown today but this seems high. The stated goal is to have 50,000 residents downtown by the year 2020 and 90,000 by 2030. This would make San Diego unique in its size category, more like Philadelphia and Boston than Dallas or Atlanta. Since there is relatively little high paying office employment in downtown San Diego, there is currently a mismatch between what people earn and what they have to pay for tower living. Although some affordable housing has been constructed, there is concern that the downtown could become a place for rich people from around the world to invest in a "pied-a-terre" rather than being a real neighborhood. The decline in the value of the dollar could make a place in the sun attractive to people from cold European or Japanese cities.

It will be interesting to see what is built during the next boom period. Perhaps mixed-use buildings will become more common. Pioneered by the John Hancock Building in Chicago (1969), a 92-story tower with offices and condos, the idea has been slow to catch on. More recently, mixed-use towers with housing, offices, multi-level retail, hotels and even museums have gone up in a wide variety of cities including Chicago, San Francisco, and Portland. It has not yet been tried in San Diego but it could be a way of providing jobs and urban life to the increasingly residential downtown. Downtown San Diego is not finished. Many projects are on hold now and there are plenty of vacant lots; but, change is sure to come.

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MARK CARPER

had problems with other collectors, although amiability amongst collectors was a little more difficult to achieve. At least in the perception of the collectors, public sympathy toward them barely edged out over public hostility while few showed any indifference. Self-perception of the collectors and their activity was largely as a pragmatic and practical one, viewing it simply as a means of earning cash. There were some positive outlooks reported, but there was also some shame expressed. Despite the suspicion that Roma, because they are largely scorned by society, would report greater conflict or persecution proved not to be the case.

Concluding Remarks

The recycling industry in Bulgaria remains quite small and many salvageable materials end up in the landfill. Since EU membership (January 2007), Bulgaria's waste management practices and recycling system have made improvements. Once the economic environment has finally shifted, this eco-economical function of gathering will be performed by another means. But until these changes are realized, the unfortunate circumstances of these scrap collectors pushes them into this function.

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Retirement

Bob Richardson, long-time Secretary-Treasurer of the APCG, will be retiring from California State University Sacramento at the end of this semester. You will still be able to reach him at his CSUS address, and he will continue to occupy his office there.

The department is planning a party for Bob, and for Mike Fitzwater, another retiring member of the Geography Department. The date is set for Sunday, June 1. If you are interested in attending or in sending your regards, please contact Laura Summers via phone (916-278-6109) or e-mail(summersl@csus.edu). Bob will continue in his historic and heroic service as APCG Secretary-Treasurer until his current term expires in Fall 2009. All of us should be concentrating our minds on envisioning a post-Bob APCG, when someone else will be needed to keep our books, handle membership renewals, run elections, correspond with the outside world . . .

Meanwhile, we at CSUS are feeling a little blue and would be cheered by your sending your good wishes to Bob via Laura.

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ENGLAND AND AMERICA SEPARATED BY A COMMON LANGUAGE ... AND IN THEIR APPROACH TO GEOGRAPHY

Editor's note: GCSE refers to the General Certificate for Secondary Education, for students in the UK. OCR is one of the three main companies that administer the GCSE exams. (The following is an excerpt from a BBC report http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/education/7346860.stm)

Tesco studies in geography GCSE

The impact of Tesco on local high streets is to become part of the syllabus in a modern "make-over" for GCSE geography.

The OCR exam board wants a more contemporary feel for the subject - including topics such as examining the influence of retail giants.

It also proposes studying climate change and the type of flooding that hit Tewkesbury last year.

Pupils will also be allowed to present work as cartoons, videos or poems. The exam board says the course reflects "pressing issues of the 21st century".

The draft for a new-look geography GCSE, aiming for a more immediate appeal to young people, will include looking at "the impact of real consumer decisions".

'Tesco towns'

Tesco's expansion has drawn criticism from those who fear that it threatens the diversity of local, independent shops - with accusations that it was creating "Tesco towns".

Geography students will be able to examine the retailer's "socio-economic impact on high streets".

The move to make geography more engaging follows a highly-critical report earlier this year from Ofsted inspectors - who warned that the subject was too often boring and lacking in relevance for young people.

The revised syllabus will include sustainability,

globalisation and development, with the aim of connecting geographical studies "to the real world".

There will also be "creative methods" allowed to present work, including "cartoons, reflective journals, poems and videos", in a unit worth 25% of the overall marks.

This issues-based approach to geography was backed by Friends of the Earth as a sign of "geography GCSE moving with the times".

The environmental campaigners' education co-ordinator, Vicki Felgate, says that "issues such as how our consumer choices impact upon the world around us is vital to giving young people an understanding of how they can be responsible citizens".

'Pious truisms'

Parool Patel, head of the exam board's GCSE project, said that it was important that the geography curriculum "reflects and provides today's pupils and tomorrow's global citizens with an opportunity to apply their own knowledge to the real world".

There is another draft form of the geography GCSE available which provides a "more familiar approach to the subject, covering favourite topics such as coastlines and natural hazards alongside new topics such as trade, aid and globalisation".

However moving towards a more issues-based approach to subjects such as geography and science has been criticised for "hollowing out" the academic content.

Robert Whelan, deputy director of the think-tank Civitas, says geography has become a vehicle for promoting environmentalism - which "spoon feeds pious truisms".

"It's part of a process of removing academic content and replacing it with politically correct dogma," he said.

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.

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 15, and for the Fall issue is a fortnight after the conclusion of the annual meeting.

For further information about *Pacifica* contact Sriram Khé at: khes@wou.edu or at 503-838-8852.

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 the APCG web site at www.csus.edu/apcg/ for 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 indicated 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.

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