

# **2004-05 Annual Report Transportation Geography Specialty Group (TGSG) of the Association of American Geographers**

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April 15, 2005

## **I. Review of Statement**

Statement of the TGSG: "To encourage and facilitate interactions among individuals who are interested in research, practice, and education of transportation-related topics."

TGSG membership dues: Regular Members \$5.00. Student Members \$2.00.

Home page: <http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/tgsg/>

## **II. Officers**

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### **III. Accomplishments**

The business meeting was held on Thursday April 7 2005 during the AAG conference in Denver, Colorado. The accomplishments of the specialty group were assessed.

#### **A. Ullman Award**

The 2005 Edward L. Ullman Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Study of Transportation Geography (a plaque) went to Mei-Po Kwan of Ohio State University who combined the theoretical and empirical consideration of accessibility with visualization using innovative GIS tools. She has been influential in developing innovative work on the relationships between Information &

Communication Technology (ICT) and travel behavior, and modeling of emergency response through 3D network analysis. She thus has contributed to set the agenda in transportation and communication, spatial representation, and mobility.

Recipients of the Ullman Award now include:

- 2005 - Mei-Po Kwan.
- 2004 - Richard Knowles.
- 2003 - Kingsley E. Haynes.
- 2002 - Brian Slack.
- 2001 - Thomas Leinbach.
- 2000 - Donald Janelle.
- 1999 - Bruce Ralston.
- 1998 - Morton O'Kelly.
- 1997 - Susan Hanson.
- 1996 - James Vance.
- 1995 - William R. Black.
- 1994 - William Garrison.
- 1993 - No award given.
- 1992 - Howard Gauthier.
- 1991 - Harold M. Mayer.
- 1990 - Edward J. Taaffe.

### **B. Student Papers Award**

Two masters thesis were received for the competition and no PhD thesis. The winner of the award (masters level) is Sean Tierney for a thesis titled “Airline and Airport Choice by Passengers in Multi-Airport Regions: The Effect of Southwest Airlines”, conducted at Arizona State University and directed by Michael Kuby. This award came with a plaque and a \$150 honorarium.

### **C. Transport Sessions at AAG 2005**

There were 13 sessions sponsored by the transport geography specialty group (including the Fleming lecture, see section D) at the Denver AAG meeting. Overall, 56 papers that were presented were directly related to transportation. Thus, the number of transport-related sessions remains stable from previous years and the level of attendance for each session appears to be increasing.

- Applied Transportation Research Projects. Barry Wellar - University of Ottawa.
- Emerging Spatial Technologies, Transportation and Social Exclusion. Joe Weber - University Of Alabama and Irene Casas - SUNY at Buffalo.
- Geography of Air Transportation. Andrew R. Goetz - University Of Denver.
- Global Production Networks, Logistics and Transport (Part I and II). Jean-Paul Rodrigue - Hofstra University, Martin H. Hess - University Of Manchester, Markus Hesse - Free University of Berlin.

- Minority Issues in Urban Transport Geography. Selima Sultana - University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo - SUNY Cortland.
- Research Frontiers in Time Geography: A Tribute to Torsten Hagerstrand (Part 1 and 2). Scott Bridwell - University of Utah, Mei-Po Kwan - Ohio State University, Harvey J. Miller - University Of Utah.
- The Hydrogen Economy. Michael Kuby - Arizona State University.
- Transportation and Urban Sprawl (Part I and II). Joe Weber - University of Alabama, Selima Sultana - University of North Carolina-Greensboro.
- Transportation Implications of Canada s Aging Population: A GEOIDE Project. Bruce Newbold - McMaster University, Darren M. Scott - McMaster University.

#### **D. Fleming Lecture in Transportation Geography**

When in 1992 Professor Douglas Fleming retired from his teaching career in transportation at the University of Washington (and his earlier career in merchant shipping), the Department of Geography decided to create a fund that would enable to offer an honorarium for a distinguished lecture at the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers. This lectureship, which honors the long tradition of transportation studies at Washington, including William Garrison and Edward Ullman, as well as Doug Fleming, is designed to recognize outstanding contributions in the field. Since the Transportation Geography Specialty Group includes most of the academic specialists as well as many people in the transportation sectors of the economy, the department at Washington solicits the recommendation each year of an outstanding person to honor.

For the 2005 AAG in Denver, Prof. Richard Knowles (Professor of Transport Geography at the University of Salford), the recipient of the 2004 Ullman Award, was invited to give the Fleming lecture, which was organized by Richard L. Morrill (University of Washington). The title of the presentation was “Transport Shaping Space”. The introduction was provided by Jean-Paul Rodrigue (Hofstra University) and Donald Janelle (University of California, Santa Barbara) was the discussant.

#### **E. Membership**

The 2004-2005 membership has seen a remarkable growth. It was standing, according to AAG figures provided to the Chair before the business meeting, at 302 members. This represents a growth of 75 new members from the 227 members reported in 2003 and is the highest membership level ever reported by the specialty group.

Year	Total Membership	Student Membership
1985	255	
1986	243	
1987	234	
1988	231	
1989	240	
1990	240	
1991	221	

1992	238	
1993	238	
1994	194	
1995	221	
1996	231	
1997	233	
1998	235	58
1999	225	41
2000	224	38
2001	228	45
2002	212	76
2003	227	
2004	274	
2005	302	

Note: 2005 figures are as of April.

#### **F. Past and New Officers**

The Chair thanked two departing board members, John Bowen (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh) and Mei-Po Kwan (Ohio State University) for their two years of service. Also, Mr. Hongbo Yu (University of Kentucky) was thanked for his two years of service as student representative.

The Chair carried a motion to have the tenure of the Secretary/Treasurer (Bob Czerniak) be extended by two years since the current appointment would involve both the Chair and the Secretary/Treasurer to be elected at the same time (2006), thus undermining the continuity and the stability of the board. The motion was carried.

#### **G. Change of Title for Secretary/ Treasurer**

Since the AAG manages the finances of the specialty group, including the issuance of cheques, the chair moved a motion to change the title of “Secretary / Treasurer” to “Vice-Chair”. The main rationale is that the function of secretary / treasurer is no longer relevant in the current context. For instance, if the chair needs a cheque to be issued (plaques, student papers award, etc.) a simple email sent to the AAG is just what is required. In addition, the AAG sends financial reports in Excel format that requires very limited bookkeeping. The new position of “vice-chair” is similar to the traditional function of the secretary / treasurer but does not put emphasis on its financial aspect. The motion was carried.

#### **H. Eligibility to the Student Paper Award**

Due to the growing number of international submissions, the issue of eligibility for the student paper award, both at the Masters and PhD levels, has been raised by the Chair. Alternatives were discussed and a consensus was reached that the eligibility to the award would require that the person submitting the thesis must be a member of the AAG. It could be for instance the student, his/her thesis director or the departmental chair. A motion was thus moved in this sense and was carried. In addition, a motion was moved that have the amount of the award, both at the Masters and PhD levels, to be increased to \$250 (from \$150). This motion was also carried.

## I. Financial Report

### *AAG Transportation Geography Specialty Group Account Balance 2004 – 2005*

*Submitted by Robert Czerniak, TGSG Secretary / Treasurer (now Vice-Chair)*

		Payments	Receipts	Balance
01/01/04	Beginning Balance			\$2,223.66
03/26/04	Zhan AM04 awards lunch	\$40.00		\$2,183.66
03/26/04	Shaw AM04 awards lunch	\$40.00		\$2,143.66
03/26/04	Cidell AM04 awards lunch	\$50.00		\$2,093.66
03/29/04	Cidell paper award	\$150.00		\$1,943.66
03/29/04	Tharpe paper award	\$150.00		\$1,793.66
03/29/04	Dues collected 9/1/03 - 5/31/04		\$623.00	\$2,416.66
06/30/04	Dues collected for June 2004		\$73.00	\$2,489.66
07/31/04	Dues collected for July 2004		\$72.00	\$2,561.66
08/31/04	Dues collected for August 2004		\$56.00	\$2,617.66
09/30/04	Dues collected for September 2004		\$94.00	\$2,711.66
10/31/04	Dues collected for October 2004		\$130.00	\$2,841.66
11/09/04	Plaques	\$138.74		\$2,702.92
11/30/04	Dues collected for November 2004		\$109.00	\$2,811.92
12/31/04	Dues collected for December 2004		\$57.00	\$2,868.92
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$568.74</b>	<b>\$1,214.00</b>	<b>\$2,868.92</b>

The TGSG balance as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 was \$2,868.92. This represents an increase of more than \$600 from the 2004 balance. The goal is to keep a positive cash flow and decide eventually to do something with any additional amount (e.g. support for students traveling to the AAG conference). It is likely that the increase of the student paper awards to \$250 will lessen the growth of the balance in the following years.

## J. AAG 2006

The chair requested some ideas for transport sessions for the 2006 AAG meeting in Chicago. Tim Vowles (Victoria University, New Zealand) suggested a session about the transport geography of Asia-Pacific, which would correspond to a special issue of the Asia Pacific Viewpoints journal. Mei-Po Kwan (Ohio State) suggested a session about information and communication technologies (ICT). Andy Goetz (University of Denver) will set up a panel of air transportation. Edmund Zolnik (Binghamton University) suggested a session about alternative transit. Collaboration with the Royal Geographic Society (RGS) Transportation Geography Research Group (TGSG) should also be encouraged.

In view of the large number of sessions at AAG meetings and of the difficulties of getting good time slots, Mei-Po Kwan suggested that students should be encouraged to present poster sessions instead of regular papers. This would also increase the exposure their work would get. It has also been discussed that a

transport poster session should be organized for next year to maximize such an exposure.

**K. Online Initiative**

The Chair proposed a strategy to promote transport geography online, which would mainly involve making available on the TGSG web site in a section that could be labeled “Tutorials” as set of exercises (mainly GIS related) reflecting methodologies in transport geography. It was also suggested to hyperlinks to specific accomplishments by members to be provided.

This annual report was submitted by Jean-Paul Rodrigue, TGSG Chair (2004-2006).