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

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

Chair (Two-year term ending Spring 2006):
Jean-Paul Rodrigue
Department of Economics & Geography
Hofstra University
Room 200 Barnard Hall Hempstead, NY 11549
Phone: (516) 463-5765
FAX: (516) 463-6519
E-mail: Jean-paul.Rodrigue@Hofstra.edu

Vice-Chair (Two-year term ending Spring 2007)
Robert J. Czerniak
Department of Geography
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
Phone: (505) 646-2815
FAX: (505) 646-7430
E-mail: rczernia@nmsu.edu

Julie Cidell (Two-year term ending Spring 2006)
Department of Geography
California State University
Sacramento, CA 95819
Phone: 626-796-3196
E-mail: jlcidell@csus.edu

Selima Sultana (Two-year term ending Spring 2007)
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
P.O. Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170
Phone: (336) 334-5388
FAX: (336) 334-5864
E-mail: s_sultan@uncg.edu

Tim Schwanen (Two-year term ending Spring 2007)
Utrecht University
Faculty of Geosciences
P.O. box 80115
3508 TC Utrecht
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 30 2534437
Fax: +31-30-2532037
E-mail: t.schwanen@geo.uu.nl

Joseph Weber (Two-year term ending Spring 2006)
Department of Geography
The University of Alabama
236 Farrah Hall Box 870322,
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0322
Phone: (205) 348-0086
FAX: (205) 348-2278
E-mail: jweber2@bama.ua.edu

Sean Tierney (Student representative, 2-year term ending Spring 2007)
Department of Geography
University of Denver
Boettcher Center West, 2050 East Iliff Avenue
Denver, CO 80208-0183
Phone: (303) 871-2513
FAX: (303) 871-2201
E-mail: seantierney22@comcast.net

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.
2002 - Brian Slack.
2001 - Thomas Leinbach.
2000 - Donald Janelle.
1999 - Bruce Ralston.
1997 - Susan Hanson.
1996 - James Vance.
1993 - No award given.
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.

- 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.

• 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.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Student Membership</th>
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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)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Payments</th>
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<th>Balance</th>
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<td>$1,793.66</td>
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<td><strong>$1,214.00</strong></td>
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</table>

The TGSG balance as of January 1st 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).