

2007-08 Annual Report Transportation Geography Specialty Group (TGSG) of the Association of American Geographers

May 1, 2008

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. As noted below (section G), the TGSG has decided to offer free membership to individuals who join the AAG under the Developing Regions Membership Program.

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

II. Officers (2007-08)

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III. Accomplishments

The business meeting was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 during the AAG conference in Boston, MA. The accomplishments of the specialty group were assessed.

A. Ullman Award

The 2008 Edward L. Ullman Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Study of Transportation Geography (a plaque) went to Shih-Lung Shaw of University of Tennessee. Considered a leader in the field of geographic information systems for transportation (GIS-T), Dr. Shaw has published dozens of book chapters, conference proceedings, and journal articles, including in the first issue of *Journal of Transport Geography* as well as securing a variety of research grants. He co-authored a well-received text, *Geographic Information Systems for Transportation: Principles and Applications* (2001). One of Dr. Shaw's most important and ongoing contributions to the rapidly growing field of GIS-T has been in the representation and analysis of temporal patterns. Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw has won numerous awards for his teaching and has served the transport geography community in many ways, including as chair of the TGSG.

Recipients of the Ullman Award now include:

2008 - Shih-Lung Shaw
2007 - T. R. Lakshmanan
2006 - Barry Wellar
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

Four masters and four PhD dissertations were received for the competition. The winner of the PhD level award was Barton E. Cramer of the University of Iowa for "North American Freight Rail: Regulatory Evolution, Strategic Rejuvenation, and the Revival of an Ailing Industry", which he completed at the University of Iowa under Claire Pavlik. The winner of the Masters level award was Lisa J. Murawski of the University of California-Santa Barbara for "Maximal Covering Network Improvement Problem: Designing rural transport networks for accessibility to health care facilities." Ms. Murawski's supervisor was Richard L. Church. Both Dr. Cramer and Ms. Murawski received a plaque and a \$250 honorarium.

In addition, three students who were runners-up in the paper competitions were given \$100 travel awards to defray the costs of presenting their research at the AAG Annual Meeting in Boston: Chris Fowler (Ph.D., University of Washington), Carol Atkinson-Palombo (Ph.D., Arizona State University), and Shitij Mehta (Masters in GIS, University of Denver).

C. Transport Sessions at AAG 2008

Overall, at least 100 papers and posters were presented that were directly related to transportation. There were 20 sessions sponsored by the Transportation Geography Specialty Group (including the Fleming lecture, see section D) at the Boston AAG meeting:

- Fleming Lecture in Transportation Geography
- Alternative Fuels (2 sessions)
- The Atlantic Rim: Comparative Issues in North American and European Logistics (2 sessions)
- Challenges of Sustainability Transitions
- Changes in the Air: Three Decades of Airline Industry Liberalization
- Commuting, Land Use, and Spatial Structure (3 sessions)
- Exploring “New” Geographies of Mobility and Accessibility: Theory, Modeling, and Policy Implications (2 sessions)
- The Geographies of Aging and Advanced Age
- Time Geography: Emerging Theoretical Developments, Implementations, and Applications (2 sessions)
- New Measures of Transportation System Performance (2 sessions)
- Transport Meets Mobilities: Different Approaches, Common Subject?
- World City Network and Global Commodity Chains (2 sessions)

Transportation geographers continued to forge connections with other sub-disciplines. Co-sponsors for organized sessions listed above included Applied Geography, Economic Geography, Energy and Environment, Geographic Information Science and Systems Spatial Analysis and Modeling, and Urban Geography specialty groups.

D. Fleming Lecture in Transportation Geography

When Professor Douglas Fleming retired teaching at the University of Washington after a pioneering career in transportation geography (and his earlier career in merchant shipping) in 1992, the Department of Geography decided to fund an honorarium for a distinguished lecture at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. This lectureship is designed to recognize outstanding contributions in the field in transportation geography. The Department of Geography at the University of Washington solicits the TGSG’s recommendation each year of an outstanding person to so honor.

For the 2008 AAG in Boston, T. R. Lakshmanan (Boston University) was invited to give the Fleming Lecture, which was organized by Richard L. Morrill (University of Washington). Dr. Lakshmanan, who was the winner of the Ullman Award in

2007, gave a lecture titled “The Broader Economic Consequences of Transport Infrastructure Investments”. The introduction was provided by John Bowen (University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh) and Kingsley Haynes (George Mason University) was the discussant.

E. Membership

The 2007-2008 membership was down by 5 percent versus the previous year.

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	
2006	299	137
2007	298	129
2008	283	135

F. Past and New Officers

Joe Weber (University of Alabama) was elected to the position of chair. His 2-year term will expire in Spring 2010. Joe had ably served as vice-chair since 2006.

Ron Buliung (University of Toronto at Mississauga) was elected to fill the remaining year of Joe Weber’s term as Vice-Chair (expiring in Spring 2009).

Those present at the business meeting decided to re-elect Hongbo Yu (Oklahoma State University) and to elect Ed Zolnik (George Mason University) to two-year terms on the Board, expiring in Spring 2010.

G. Financial Report

*AAG Transportation Geography Specialty Group
Account Balance 2007 – 2008*

Date	Item	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
Date	Item	Expense	Receipt	Balance
3/1/07	Balance Forward			\$3,676.42
3/14/07	Smith - Masters Grant	250.00		\$3,426.42
3/20/07	4 Awards Luncheon tickets	180.00		\$3,246.42
3/31/07	Dues collected for March 2007		90.00	\$3,336.42
4/18/07	Chen - PhD dissertation award	250.00		\$3,086.42
4/30/07	Dues collected for April 2007		68.00	\$3,154.42
5/2/07	Bowen - Award Plaques Reimb	153.00		\$3,001.42
5/31/07	Dues collected for May 2007		22.00	\$3,023.42
6/30/07	Dues collected for June 2007		34.00	\$3,057.42
7/31/07	Dues collected for July 2007		37.00	\$3,094.42
8/31/07	Dues collected for August 2007		54.00	\$3,148.42
9/30/07	Dues collected for September 2007		74.00	\$3,222.42
10/31/07	Dues collected for October 2007		237.00	\$3,459.42
11/30/07	Dues collected for November 2007		69.00	\$3,528.42
12/31/07	Dues collected for December 2007		34.00	\$3,562.42
1/31/08	Dues collected for January 2008		93.00	\$3,655.42
2/29/08	Dues collected for February 2008		57.00	\$3,712.42

The TGSG balance as of February 29, 2008 was \$3,712.42, an increase of 1 percent over the previous year.

At the Boston business meeting, the chair suggested, based on a presentation made at the Specialty Group Chairs Business Meeting, that the TGSG offer free or reduced price membership to those individuals who join the AAG under its new Developing Regions Membership Program. After some discussion, those present at the meeting approved a proposal to make TGSG membership free in such cases.

This annual report was submitted by John Bowen, TGSG Chair (2006-2008).