

2005-06 Annual Report Transportation Geography Specialty Group (TGSG) of the Association of American Geographers

April 25, 2006

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 (2005-06)

Chair (Two-year term ending Spring 2006):

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III. Accomplishments

The business meeting was held on Wednesday March 8 2006 during the AAG conference in Chicago, Illinois. The accomplishments of the specialty group were assessed.

A. Ullman Award

The 2006 Edward L. Ullman Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Study of Transportation Geography (a plaque) went to Barry Wellar of the University of Ottawa. Dr. Wellar is recognized as a leader in transportation research for his insights into optimization techniques, interactive land use-transportation models, applications of GIS in transportation planning, new approaches in the design and

implementation of alternative transportation strategies, and new thinking about the conceptualization of the sustainable transportation test. Throughout his career as professor, public servant and consultant, Dr. Wellar has demonstrated an exceptional ability to combine theories, methods, and empirical evidence from a number of disciplines, including geography, economics, mathematics, operations research, planning, civil engineering, sociology, political science and computers/communications.

Recipients of the Ullman Award now include:

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

Two masters and three PhD theses were received for the competition. The winner of the award (PhD level) is Hongbo Yu for a thesis titled “Temporal GIS Design of an Extended Time-Geographic Framework for Physical and Virtual Activities”, conducted at The University of Tennessee and directed by Shi Leung Shaw. The winner of the award (Masters level) is Bradley Lane for a thesis titled “Plains, Trains, and Automobiles: Land Use, Rail Transit, and Urban Travel in Selected Us Cities” conducted at the University of Indiana and directed by William Black. These awards came with a plaque and a \$250 honorarium for each recipient.

C. Transport Sessions at AAG 2005

There were 19 sessions sponsored by the transport geography specialty group (including the Fleming lecture, see section D) at the Chicago AAG meeting. Overall, 63 papers that were presented were directly related to transportation. Thus, the number of transport-related sessions is increasing from previous years and the level of attendance for each session also appears to be increasing.

- Applied Transportation Research
- Fleming Lecture in Transportation Geography
- Gateway Cities: Materials, People and the Flows of Globalization (2 sessions)

- Recent Innovations in Activity-Travel Behaviour Research: Behavioural Analysis, Modelling and Policy Linkages (3 sessions)
- Regional Transportation Sustainability: Alternatives to Fossil Fuels
- The 2010 Decennial Census Program
- Transport Geography: Assessing the Current State of the Subdiscipline
- Transport Geography: Identifying Emerging Research Trends and New Directions in the Subdiscipline
- Transport In The Asia Pacific: Challenges and Prospects for Development
- Transportation and Political Ecology
- Transportation GIS (3 sessions)
- Urban Transport in the Age of Sprawl (2 sessions)

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 2006 AAG in Chicago, Prof. Mae-Po Kwan (Ohio State University), the recipient of the 2005 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 “Mobile Communications and Transportation Geography”. The introduction was provided by Jean-Paul Rodrigue (Hofstra University) and William Black (Indiana University) was the discussant.

E. Membership

The 2005-2006 membership has stabilized after two years of very significant growth. According to AAG figures, membership was at 299 members.

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

Note: 2006 figures are as of March.

F. Past and New Officers

The Chair thanked two departing board members, Julie Cidell (California State University) and Joe Weber (University of Alabama) for their two years of service.

Two new board members were elected to replace the departing members. Ron Buliung (University of Toronto at Mississauga) and Hongbo Yu (Oklahoma State University) are board members for a 2 year mandate expiring in 2008.

The Chair informed the audience that the current Vice-Chair, Bob Czerniak (New Mexico State University), has decided to step down. The Chair carried a motion that another Vice-Chair should be elected. Joe Weber was elected to carry the Vice-chairmanship until 2007.

The mandate of the Chair, Jean-Paul Rodrigue (Hofstra University), was also expiring and the election of a new Chair took place. John Bowen (University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh) was elected to be Chair of the TGSG until 2008.

G. Financial Report

*AAG Transportation Geography Specialty Group
Account Balance 2005 – 2006*

Date	Activity	Payment	Receipt	Balance
01/31/05	Dues collected for January 2005		\$107.00	\$2,975.92
02/28/05	Dues collected for February 2005		\$34.00	\$3,009.92
03/17/05	Rodrigue - Plaques	\$108.00		\$2,901.92
03/17/05	Tierney - Student Paper Award	\$150.00		\$2,751.92
03/31/05	Dues collected for March 2005		\$106.00	\$2,857.92
04/09/05	Rodrigue - Awards Luncheon	\$160.00		\$2,697.92
04/30/05	Dues collected for April 2005		\$41.00	\$2,738.92
05/31/05	Dues collected for May 2005		\$58.00	\$2,796.92
06/30/05	Dues collected for June 2005		\$64.00	\$2,860.92
07/31/05	Dues collected for July 2005		\$46.00	\$2,906.92
08/31/05	Dues collected for August 2005		\$96.00	\$3,002.92
09/30/05	Dues collected for September 2005		\$60.00	\$3,062.92
10/31/05	Dues collected for October 2005		\$145.00	\$3,207.92
11/30/05	Dues collected for November 2005		\$112.00	\$3,319.92

12/31/05	Dues collected for December 2005		\$77.00	\$3,396.92
01/31/06	Dues collected for January 2006		\$92.00	\$3,488.92

The TGSG balance as of February 1st 2006 was \$3,488.92. This represents an increase of \$620 from the 2005 balance. It is expected that the cash flow will remain positive, so a similar level of yearly expenses (plaques, awards luncheon) can be maintained.

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