

2006-07 Annual Report Transportation Geography Specialty Group (TGSG) of the Association of American Geographers

June 8, 2007

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 (2006-07)

Chair (Two-year term ending Spring 2008):

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III. Accomplishments

The business meeting was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 during the AAG conference in San Francisco, CA. The accomplishments of the specialty group were assessed.

A. Ullman Award

The 2007 Edward L. Ullman Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Study of Transportation Geography (a plaque) went to T. R. Lakshmanan of Boston

University. In a career spanning more than 50 years, Professor T. R. Lakshmanan of Boston University has earned the high esteem of colleagues in academia, the private sector, and government. Professor Lakshmanan's professional journey began in Madras where he earned his Masters and then worked as a lecturer. After completing his Ph.D. at the Ohio State University in the 1960s, Dr. Lakshmanan built upon his expertise in urban and transportation planning while pursuing a very successful career in consulting. His work on urban and regional development projects, including large-scale transportation modeling, took him to places as diverse as New Zealand, Venezuela, and Detroit. In 1973, Dr. Lakshmanan returned to teaching and academia full-time as a professor of Geography and Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University; and then in 1978, he moved to Boston University where he remains today as a professor of geography and director of the Center for Transportation Studies. Along the way, Professor Lakshmanan has won literally dozens of grants from agencies including the National Science Foundation, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. His research has been especially influential upon the study of the economic and environmental impacts of transportation systems. Still another way in which Professor Lakshmanan served our subdiscipline was through his term in the 1990s as head of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Finally, Professor Lakshmanan has been a prolific author. His most recent work is *Structural Change in Transportation and Communications in the Knowledge Society* which he co-edited with Kiyoshi Kobayashi and William Anderson. Interestingly, one of the chapters in the book co-written by Professor Lakshmanan is about the Central Artery Tunnel or Big Dig project, which has reshaped Boston, the host city for next year's AAG conference.

Recipients of the Ullman Award now include:

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

Two masters and three PhD dissertations were received for the competition. The winner of the PhD level award was Xuwei Chen for her dissertation “Microsimulation of Evacuation Strategies” which she completed at Texas State University-San Marcos under Ben Zhan. Dr. Chen’s dissertation also won the AAG’s J. Warren Nystrom Award. The winner of the Masters level award was Laura G. Smith of George Washington University for “Neighborhoods Apart: How the Physical Environment Reinforces Concentrated Poverty and Isolation East of Washington’s Anacostia River.” Ms. Smith’s supervisor was David Rain. Both Dr. Chen and Ms. Smith received a plaque and a \$250 honorarium.

C. Transport Sessions at AAG 2007

The number of transportation related papers, posters, and organized sessions continues to climb. Overall, at least 100 papers and posters were presented that were directly related to transportation. There were 22 sessions sponsored by the Transportation Geography Specialty Group (including the Fleming lecture, see section D) at the San Francisco AAG meeting:

- Fleming Lecture in Transportation Geography
- Globalization & Freight Transportation in a Containerized World (3 sessions)
- Mobility, Business Travel, and the Airline Industry in the Network Society (3 sessions)
- Alternative Fuels (2 sessions)
- GIS for Transportation: Recent Challenges and Developments (2 sessions)
- Improving the Mobility of Children (2 sessions)
- Innovation in Activity-Travel Behavior Research: Behavioral Analysis, Modeling, and Policy (2 sessions)
- Applied Geographic Research
- Changing Geographies of Governance and Mobility
- The Freeway Revolt Era: Lessons from San Francisco and other Cities in the 1960s and 1970s
- The Role of Alternative Transport Modes: Travel Patterns and Urban Form
- Russia and Globalization: Perspectives from Transportation Geography
- Transport and Travel in Changing Urban Environments
- Urban and Regional Sustainable Growth

Transportation geographers continued to forge connections with other sub-disciplines. Co-sponsors for organized sessions listed above included the Energy and Environment, Geographic Information Science and Systems, Spatial Analysis and Modeling, Economic Geography, Historical Geography, Urban Geography, Political Geography, and Regional Development and Planning 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 2007 AAG in San Francisco, Barry Wellar (principal of Wellar Consulting and retired professor from the University of Ottawa) was invited to give the Fleming Lecture, which was organized by Richard L. Morrill (University of Washington). Dr. Wellar, who was the winner of the Ullman Award in 2006, gave a lecture titled “Making Geographic Factors a Core Element of Best Practices in Sustainable Transport”. The introduction was provided by John Bowen (University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh) and Susan Hanson (Clark University) was the discussant.

E. Membership

The 2006-2007 membership was down by 1 person 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

Note: 2007 figures are as of March.

F. Past and New Officers

Upon the recommendation of the chair, those present at the business meeting elected Vice-Chair Joe Weber to a full 2-year term expiring in Spring 2009. Joe had been elected in 2006 to serve out the remaining year on the term of the previous vice-chair who decided to step down.

Those present at the business meeting also decided to re-elect Selima Sultana (University of North Carolina, Greensboro) and Tim Schwanen (Utrecht University) to new two-year terms expiring in Spring 2009.

Ms. Ling Yin (University of Tennessee) was elected as the new student representative. Her two-year term expires in Spring 2009.

G. Financial Report

*AAG Transportation Geography Specialty Group
Account Balance 2006 – 2007*

Date	Item	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
1/31/06	Balance Forward			3,488.92
2/28/06	Dues collected for February 2006	29.00		3,517.92
3/21/06	Rodrigue - Reimburse expenses		(130.50)	3,387.42
3/21/06	Student paper award		(250.00)	3,137.42
3/21/06	Student paper award		(250.00)	2,887.42
3/24/06	Rodrigue, Jean-Paul AM06		(90.00)	2,797.42
3/31/06	Dues collected for March 2006	76.00		2,873.42
4/30/06	Dues collected for April 2006	56.00		2,929.42
5/31/06	Dues collected for May 2006	75.00		3,004.42
6/30/06	Dues collected for June 2006	54.00		3,058.42
7/31/06	Dues collected for July 2006	31.00		3,089.42
8/31/06	Dues collected for August 2006	63.00		3,152.42
9/30/06	Dues collected for September 2006	44.00		3,196.42
10/31/06	Dues collected for October 2006	151.00		3,347.42
11/30/06	Dues collected for November 2006	161.00		3,508.42
12/31/06	Dues collected for December 2006	50.00		3,558.42
1/31/07	Dues collected for January 2007	66.00		3,624.42

The TGSG balance as of February 1, 2007 was \$3,624.42, an increase of 4.5 percent over the previous year.

At the San Francisco business meeting, the chair proposed, based on discussion with several officers, that the TGSG give \$100 to runners-up for the two student awards to defray the costs of presenting their work at the annual Association of American Geographers (AAG) conference. After an extended discussion, those present at the meeting approved this proposal provided that no more than five such travel awards are given in any academic year.

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