

# SWAAG Newsletter



Editor: Murray Rice

Summer 2012

## From the Chair

### Is a Passport Needed to Travel to New Mexico?

Thinking about the Land of Enchantment, where New Mexico State University will host the 2012 SWAAG meeting in Las Cruces, I could not help but recall the role of various places in the state and their roles in framing New Mexico's image. For some readers, the voice of Mel Blanc (a.k.a. Bugs Bunny) saying he should have made "a left turn at Albuquerque" lives on in the memory. Being a budding geographer in 1974 I actually went to the encyclopedia and looked up the city on the map. The USA Network's *In Plain Sight* was filmed in Albuquerque, a show focusing on agents in the federal witness protection program. Most recently, the AMC television series *Breaking Bad* has shaped the geographical imagination of many a viewer as the show explores the transformation of a milquetoast chemistry teacher facing a terminal cancer diagnosis into a meth-making drug kingpin with Albuquerque as the setting.

Of course, the state is often the backdrop for out-of-this world television and movies. Sci-fi fans might recall *Roswell*, which was never filmed in New Mexico and helped launch the careers of actresses who would grace the shows *Grey's Anatomy* and *Lost*. *Roswell* figures prominently in the imagination of those

entertaining the idea of aliens, with references to an alleged UFO crash in 1947 pervading several sci-fi staples, such as an episode *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, the movie *Independence Day*, and the animated series *Futurama*.

While the question of needing a passport to travel to New Mexico is a very rare question<sup>1</sup>, several websites devoted to crowdsourcing answers did have to deal with the question in light of New Mexico's issues with the US Real I.D. Act. Even a simple perusal of the most banal of identity markers, the license plate, bears the phrase, "New Mexico USA" to remind the country that indeed New Mexico is one of the fifty states. Examples of the New Mexico USA tagline can be found on plates dating back to the late 1960s and early 1970s, dropped for a time only to return in the late 1980s and early 1990s. (Thank you to former NMSU faculty member Jonathan Leib for the license plate history lesson).

With these images in mind, let me invite the SWAAG membership to come out in force to Las Cruces, NM for this year's meeting. Eric Sheppard (UCLA, AAG President) will be giving the evening talk during the awards banquet and Billie Lee Turner (Arizona State)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.chacha.com/question/is-a-passport-needed-to-travel-to-new-mexico>

will have a luncheon address as well. The Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group as well as the Communications Geography Specialty Group, both proactively embracing the AAG's call to bring specialty groups into the fabric of the regional meetings, are organizing special sessions. The local arrangements committee has arranged for interesting field trips to learn more about Las Cruces and nearby Mesilla, NM, as well as a second field trip headed to White Sands National Monument. All in all, a very robust program.

I look forward to seeing you in Las Cruces.

*Darren Purcell*  
SWAAG Chair  
University of Oklahoma

### **SWAAG Annual Meeting**

**October 25-27, 2012**

**New Mexico State University**

**Las Cruces, NM**

The 2012 annual meeting of the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) will be held in Las Cruces, NM. The "City of the Crosses" is the home of New Mexico State University and the economic center of the Mesilla Valley, a vibrant agricultural region centered on the Rio Grande River. Las Cruces is also located in the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion and just west of the Organ Mountains, a haven for hikers and adventure seekers. Late October will be a wonderful time to explore Las Cruces and the surrounding area.

Our meetings will be held at the Ramada Palms Hotel and Conference Center, which is also our conference hotel. Discounted room rates (\$79 for 1 King Bed Rooms, \$85 per night for 2 Queen Bed Rooms) are available at the Ramada until October 15. To be eligible to present at the

meeting, participants must be registered and have submitted an abstract (which can all be done online) by October 11.

An informal reception will take place at the Ramada Palms on the evening of Thursday, October 25. Paper sessions will run on both Thursday and Friday (October 25 and 26). Two field trips will be held on Saturday, October 27. One will allow participants to explore historic Mesilla and downtown Las Cruces (\$15), while the other will explore White Sands National Monument (\$25). Both field trips include transportation and lunch and are limited to 20 people, first come, first served. Again, registration for these field trips can be done online.

More information and registration links can be found at the conference web page:

<http://geography.nmsu.edu/swaag2012/>

### **Conference Call for Papers**

#### **SWAAG session focused on Indigenous Geographies**

*Sponsored by the Indigenous Peoples Specialty  
Group of the AAG*

Indigenous peoples, places and practices have long been the subjects of geographic inquiry and cartographic representation. Furthermore, federal, state, and tribal management of Indigenous lands, resources, and spiritual sites are important issues among Indigenous people. More recently Indigenous communities, individuals, and organizations have become more widely recognized as authors of authoritative geographic knowledge. Collaborative research and innovative use of digital technologies contribute to these partial and ongoing reconfigurations of author-ity.

This session seeks to bring together emergent and established scholarship focused on Indigenous geographies. We welcome 15-minute presentations that address any of the below (or related) topics:

- Indigenous peoples and environmental resource management
- Indigenous peoples and place: spirituality, territoriality, and governance
- Indigenous peoples and health, education, and community well-being
- Indigenous peoples, politics and water
- Indigenous peoples and climate change
- Indigenous histories: continuities and discontinuities
- Indigenous peoples, maps, and other means of technoscientific mediation
- Indigenous movements: activism, art, and advocacy
- Indigenous identities: age, gender, racializations, and sexualities

To participate in this session, please craft your paper abstract according to the guidelines found at <http://www2.geog.okstate.edu/swaag/>, and submit it to session co-organizers Mark Palmer (University of Missouri, [palmermh@missouri.edu](mailto:palmermh@missouri.edu)) and Laurel Smith (University of Oklahoma, [laurel@ou.edu](mailto:laurel@ou.edu)) by October 5, 2012.

## SWAAG News

### New Appointments

SWAAG welcomes the following geographers to new positions in our region:

- **Waquar Ahmed** (Economic Geography, Clark University PhD), now Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas
- **Heather Basara** (Occupational and Environmental Health, University of

Oklahoma PhD), now Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma

- **Kumkum Bhattacharyya** (Natural Resource Management, University of Burdwan PhD), now Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Central Arkansas
- **Amanda Coleman** (Cultural Geography and Race, Oregon PhD), now Assistant Professor at Northeastern State University
- **Travis Gliedt** (Green Energy, University of Waterloo PhD), now Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma
- **Ellen Hostetter** (Cultural Geography, University of Kentucky PhD), now Assistant Professor at the University of Central Arkansas
- **Injeong Jo** (Geography Education, Texas A&M PhD), now Assistant Professor at Texas State University
- **Christopher Lippitt** (GIScience/Remote Sensing, San Diego State PhD), now at the University of New Mexico
- **Renee McPherson** (Meteorology, University of Oklahoma PhD), now renewable term Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma
- **Chie Sakakibara** (Cultural Geography, University of Oklahoma PhD), now lecturer at the University of Oklahoma
- **Mark Shafer** (Climate Impacts, University of Oklahoma PhD), now renewable term Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma

Apologies to anyone omitted from the above, and welcome to all!

## More SWAAG News

### SWAAG Election Results

In December 2011, elections were held to fill the entire slate of SWAAG offices. Darren Purcell (University of Oklahoma) was elected chair, Murray Rice (University of North Texas) secretary, and Rebecca Sheehan (Oklahoma State University) treasurer. Votes were cast via both a Doodle poll and mailed ballots.

In September 2012, SWAAG membership voted on a measure to double the dollar amount awarded in SWAAG's annual student competition. With 52 votes submitted via Doodle poll and 2 votes submitted via e-mail, this measure passed unanimously. The student award increase will take effect with the 2012 SWAAG student competitions in Las Cruces.

### Journal Calls for Papers

The following are calls for papers from selected journals edited by SWAAG members.

***International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research (IJAGR)*** The Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research (IJAGR) invites authors to submit manuscripts for consideration in this scholarly journal. The International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research (IJAGR) publishes research that exemplifies the usage of geographic information science and technology (GIS&T) to explore and resolve geographical issues from various application domains within the social and/or physical sciences. IJAGR is designed to provide planners and policy analysts, practitioners, academicians, and others using GIS&T useful studies that might support decision-making activities. Topics to be discussed in this journal include (but are not

limited to) the following: biogeography, business and marketing geography, climatology, economic geography, geography of crime, geomorphology, historical geography, medical geography, military geography, natural hazards, political geography, population geography, tourism geography, transportation geography, and other geographic subfields. All submissions and inquiries should be directed to the attention of: Donald P. Albert, Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research, Department of Geography and Geology, LDB #332, Sam Houston State University, 1900 Ave I, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2148, USA, Tel: 1-936-294-1453, Fax: 1-936-294-4203, Email: [geo\\_dpa@shsu.edu](mailto:geo_dpa@shsu.edu). For more information please visit IJAGR's website at <http://www.igi-global.com/IJAGR>.

***The Industrial Geographer*** The editors and editorial board of *The Industrial Geographer* invite papers to be submitted for publication consideration. Research published in the journal is peer-reviewed and covers location-focused economic issues encompassing all sectors and geographic scales. The Industrial Geographer encourages submissions that are theoretically-informed and empirically-based from all areas of economic geography, as the *IG* defines "industry" in a broad context. As an open access journal, *The Industrial Geographer* is widely accessible and is distributed by the EBSCO and Proquest databases to institutional subscribers. Please consult the journal web site ([www.industrialgeographer.org](http://www.industrialgeographer.org)) for author guidelines. Full manuscripts should not exceed 5,000 words. Research notes under 2,500 words are also welcome. Please submit articles to Ron Kalafsky, [kalafsky@utk.edu](mailto:kalafsky@utk.edu), and research notes and discussion items to Murray Rice, [rice@unt.edu](mailto:rice@unt.edu).

## SWAAG Treasurer's Report

Date	Description	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
8/31/10	Balance forward			\$ 4,028.17
10/28/10	Wan - 3rd Place Winner SWAAG Paper Competition		(50.00)	3,978.17
10/28/10	Evans - 2nd Place Winner SWAAG Paper Competition		(75.00)	3,903.17
10/28/10	McNair - 1st Place Winner SWAAG Paper Competition		(100.00)	3,803.17
10/28/10	Latterman - 1st Place Winner SWAAG Poster Competition		(100.00)	3,703.17
10/28/10	Cherokee Nation - registration for regional meeting	285.00		3,988.17
2/23/11	MI Services - Printing of SW Geographer V. 14		(2,258.29)	1,729.88
3/4/11	EBSCO check for SW Geographer	75.00		1,804.88
3/4/11	EBSCO check for SW Geographer	15.00		1,819.88
5/12/11	NSU - revenue from SWAGG 2010 mtg.	287.40		2,107.28
5/12/11	NSU Foundation - reimb. for conf. exp.	500.00		2,607.28
5/12/11	Ziehr - revenue from SWAGG 2010 meeting	1,010.20		3,617.48
8/1/11	Capitation FYE 2011	1,500.00		5,117.48
8/31/11	Balance			5,117.48

**Source:** Teri Martin, AAG Accounting Manager

**Submitted by:** Murray Rice, SWAAG Treasurer (2011)