



Photographs by Michaela Buenemann

From the Chair

Geography in Interesting Times

“May you live in interesting times” is an expression often attributed (apparently with tenuous foundation) as an ancient Chinese curse. Whatever the origins of the saying, I think we would all agree that we do indeed live in times marked by remarkable developments.

As geographers, we are as attuned as anyone to the far-reaching impacts of the big issues of our time: globalization, climate change, and growing economic disparity, among other challenges. As academics, many of us are also aware of the emerging issues that challenge our departments and institutions: cutbacks, institutional reform, enrollment pressures, the emergence of MOOCs, and a variety of other concerns are circling our discipline and having an impact on our plans. For both the “real world” and academia, we all know the importance of being proactive and staying in front of such challenges.

There is no doubt that “staying in front” is no less important for SWAAG. As a regional organization, we benefit from understanding the trends that impact our discipline, and from using

this knowledge to choose strategies that support our regional academic programs and diverse membership. How can we best use our division's resources to this end?

Our well-attended annual meeting, *Southwestern Geographer* (SWG) journal, and annual student awards all represent resources that can help us “grow” geography in the southwest. In each of these cases, there are possibilities for doing more. For example, the SWG is our regional venue dedicated to research about the Southwest and done by Southwestern geographers. Yet, manuscript submission and citation rates are low, and more support is needed for our hard-working SWG editorial team. We can do better. However, a coherent vision is necessary so we don't simply do “change for change's sake.” It is also important that we don't fix problems that SWAAG members don't see as problems. Our discussions (and actions) need to continue.

To this end, I hope to see you at our SWAAG 2013 annual meeting, October 24-26, in Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches is a venue that is particularly symbolic of challenge, being located in the historic border region between former Spanish and French territories, and the site of a pivotal 1832 battle in the drive for Texas' independence. Of course, past struggles have been resolved, and freedom gained (I know you will be relieved to hear that). But we can continue to draw good lessons from the people and events that came before us. History, friendly hosts, interesting conversation, and (as always), excellent food: SWAAG 2013 will be a good time.

So please plan on engaging with us as we participate in numerous paper and panel sessions, visit with and hear from AAG President Julie Winkler, and gather in our SWAAG business meeting to discuss new initiatives for promoting geography amidst some very interesting times indeed.

Murray Rice
SWAAG Chair
University of North Texas

SWAAG Annual Meeting
October 24-26th, 2013
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas

SWAAG/Midsouth ASPRS Fall Meeting
Space and Place In Time

The Fall 2013 conference will be a joint meeting of the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) and the Midsouth Region of the American Society of Remote Sensing (ASPRS). There will be paper and poster sessions with competitions at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Standard power point environments will be available in each presentation room. Special arrangements must be made 1 month in advance before conference dates for alternative presentations modes.

The meeting will be held October 24-26th, 2013 in Nacogdoches, Texas. The meetings and functions will be held at the Fredonia Hotel. Their number is 936-564-1234. Rooms will be reserved in a block (SWAAG) at a

rate of \$ 99.00 per night. There are a number of additional hotels located about 1.5 miles from the meeting site (a list will be made available in July). In addition, there are two period bed and breakfasts inns located within walking distance of the conference site – Hardeman Guest House (936-569-1947) and The Jones House (936-569-1487) – limited space and one would need to book early.

Preliminary meeting schedule:

Thursday

10 am – 4:30 pm – Registration – Foyer of the Fredonia Hotel

1:30 – 5:00 pm – Paper sessions

5:30 – 7:30 pm – Pool side social (with live music)

Dinner on your own

Friday

7:30 am – 12:00 pm – Registration –

8:30 am – 2:00 pm – Paper Sessions in morning

Lunch (part of registration) 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Featured speaker: Mr. Phil Cross – Caddo Historical Maps (tentative title)

1:30 – 5:30 pm – Paper sessions in afternoon

7:00 – 9:00 pm (included in registration) – Dinner

Featured speaker: Dr. Julie Winkler, President, Association of American Geographers –
Climate of Geography (tentative title)

Saturday morning

Field trips:

Historical African American landscapes in Nacogdoches (walking tour) 2.5 hours

The Columbia Shuttle Debris Trail: 10 Years Down the Road – 5 hours (transportation and snack provided)
Limit 20

Canoeing the Neches River – designated for National Wild River Designation

Limit 20 people – 5-6 hours (depends on how much rain falls this summer) - transportation and canoe provided

Mushroom Hunting in the Forest – led by Dr. Heinz Gaylord – 4 hours

Limit 15

Transportation to Nacogdoches

There is no direct air service to Nacogdoches. Nearest airports are Shreveport, Tyler, Houston and Dallas.

Sincerely,

Darrel L. McDonald

Professor Geography and Geospatial Sciences

Social and Cultural Analysis

Stephen F. Austin State University

New Appointments

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

- Guofeng Cao (GIS, University of California, Santa Barbara PhD), now Assistant Professor at Texas Tech.
- Ipsita Chatterjee (Cities, Globalization, Conflict, Gender, Clark University PhD), now Assistant Professor at University of North Texas.
- Amy Frazier (Remote Sensing, Landscape Ecology, Natural Resource Management, Human-Environment Interactions, Spatial Analysis, University at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo) PhD), now Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University.
- Colleen Hiner (Environmental management, cultural ecology, urban-rural fringe, University of California-Davis PhD), now Assistant Professor at Texas State University.
- Jason Julian (Water resources, eco-hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill PhD), now Associate Professor at Texas State University.
- Darrell Kruger (previously Interim Associate Vice President for research and graduate studies at Illinois State University, Louisiana State University PhD), now Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of New Orleans.
- Kimberly Meitzen (Fluvial processes and geomorphology, river basin management, biogeography, University of South Carolina PhD), now Assistant Professor at Texas State University.

SWAAG Election Results

Nominations to fill the entire slate of SWAAG offices were held at the SWAAG 2012 meeting in Las Cruces. Darren Purcell (University of Oklahoma) then conducted a SurveyMonkey survey (completed in November 2013). A total of 60 votes were cast. The elected officers include: Murray Rice (University of North Texas) chair, Rebecca Sheehan (Oklahoma State University) secretary, and Michaela Buenemann (New Mexico State) treasurer.



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SWAAG Treasurer's Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
8/31/11	Balance forward			\$ 5,117.48
10/14/11	Ck rec'd - Southwest Geographer	15.00		5,132.48
10/14/11	Ck rec'd - Southwest Geographer	15.00		5,147.48
10/14/11	Ck rec'd - Southwest Geographer	15.00		5,162.48
10/14/11	Ck rec'd - Southwest Geographer	15.00		5,177.48
10/14/11	Ck rec'd - Southwest Geographer	15.00		5,192.48
10/14/11	Ck rec'd - Southwest Geographer	30.00		5,222.48
10/28/11	LSU - Reissued ck from 2002 conference	500.00		5,722.48
11/30/11	Anaz - 1st Place in Poster Competition		(100.00)	5,622.48
11/30/11	Thomas - 2nd Place in Poster Competition		(75.00)	5,547.48
11/30/11	Parafina - 3rd Place in Poster Competition		(50.00)	5,497.48
11/30/11	Chi - 1st Place in Paper Competition		(100.00)	5,397.48
11/30/11	Sounny-Slitine - 2nd Place in Paper Competition		(75.00)	5,322.48
11/30/11	Wolf - 3rd Place in Paper Competition		(50.00)	5,272.48
4/3/12	MI Services - Printing of SW Geographer V. 15		(2,498.00)	2,774.48
8/31/12	Capitation FYE 2012	1,500.00		4,274.48
8/31/12	BALANCE			4,274.48
8/31/12	Balance forward			\$ 4,274.48
11/2/12	Jewell - 2nd place Grad. Poster Competition Award		(150.00)	4,124.48
11/2/12	Swann - 1st Place SWAGG Grad. Paper		(200.00)	3,924.48
11/2/12	Slaughter - 1st Place SWAGG Grad. Poster Award		(200.00)	3,724.48
11/2/12	Jackson - 1st Place Undergrad Paper Award		(200.00)	3,524.48
11/2/12	Walker - 3rd Place Grad Poster Award		(100.00)	3,424.48
11/2/12	McNair - 2nd Place SWAGG Grad Paper Award		(150.00)	3,274.48
11/7/12	Lester - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Comp.		(100.00)	3,174.48
11/7/12	Whitney - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Comp.		(100.00)	3,074.48
11/12/12	Richman - 3rd Place Grad Paper Comp.		(100.00)	2,974.48
4/3/13	AAG contribution to WGB 2013	500.00		3,474.48
4/23/13	Gray - SWAAG WGB 2013		(125.00)	3,349.48
4/24/13	Sinha - WGB 2013		(125.00)	3,224.48
4/24/13	Joslin - WGB 2013		(125.00)	3,099.48
4/24/13	Sirdeshmukh - WGB 2013		(125.00)	2,974.48
5/15/13	Void CK#16758 for N. Sirdeshmukh and reissue	125.00		3,099.48
5/15/13	Sirdeshmukh - Reissue CK#16758 WGB 2013		(125.00)	2,974.48
6/30/13	BALANCE			2,974.48

Source: Teri Martin, AAG Accounting Manager

Submitted by: Michaela Buenemann, SWAAG Treasurer (2012)



Photograph by Toni Klemm