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Letter from the chair:

The end of every term entails landmarks and deadlines: graduate students defend their theses, dissertations, and proposals; undergraduates submit research papers. These markers induce anxiety in many ways (both for the students and for the instructors and supervisors charged with evaluating work on tight deadlines). Yet, they also highlight the very high quality research and writing produced by many students in the discipline.

In this regard I would like to, once again, highlight the competitions that are held by the UGSG each year. These competitions (listed on page 3) recognize quality student work at all levels – from doctoral to undergraduate. I encourage those of you who are currently evaluating students to keep these competitions in mind as potential venues to showcase the best research in your programs. I would also suggest to students that they should not be shy about submitting their own high quality research and writing, even if they have not received direct encouragement from faculty.

Doctoral candidates who are looking beyond the end of this term towards dissertation research in the near future should also consider applying for an Urban Geography Graduate Student Fellowship to help fund their work.

Finally, those of you who are planning to attend the AAG meeting in San Francisco in the spring might also consider applying for UGSG Student Travel Support. This fund will help a number of students attend the conference and, of course, engage in the numerous UGSG sponsored sessions that board member Jim Fraser has worked so hard to coordinate over the last few months. Full details of the sessions will appear in a subsequent newsletter.

This time of year is, then, a time of endings and opportunities. I hope that the former don't induce too much stress and that you take advantage of the latter.

Have a great winter break.

Eugene McCann
Burnaby, British Columbia
December 2006

From the Editor

Dear Group Members,

This December 2006 issue of the UGSG *Newsletter* arrives quickly on the heels of the Autumn 2006 newsletter. With rapidly approaching deadlines, the issue highlights the many UGSG and AAG awards and competitions available to students and faculty.

The *InConversation* feature column in the *Newsletter*, implemented last year to create and stimulate conversation among urban geographers about all things urban, does not appear in the current issue. In past columns, Eugene McCann (August 2005) initiated the conversation by raising awareness to the current status of participation and vitality in the specialty group. To enhance student interest and participation in the academic work of urban geography, Laura Smith (December 2005) highlighted the importance of capturing student passion through “real world” education of “real world” urban problems. Daniel Trudeau (October 2006) similarly noted the significance of pedagogy to the list of techniques and strategies by which urban geographers engage the urban. Two Urban Geography Specialty Group members are lined up to continue the conversation in upcoming issues. Be looking for these articles in the near future.

The next issue will be the Pre-AAG *Newsletter*, published in advance of the 2007 AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The issue will contain a list of all UGSG sponsored sessions, special urban related events, and any pertinent AAG meeting announcements.

Finally, I'd like to again extend a special note of appreciation to Mark D. Schwartz, Professor at UW-Milwaukee, Department of Geography. Mark is not a UGSG member, but is always so kind to help us out by posting the *Newsletter* on the UGSG website hosted at UWM.

As always, suggestions for the *Newsletter* are welcome, as are any submissions appropriate for dissemination to interested urban geographers.

Sincerely,

Eric Boschmann, *Newsletter* Editor
boschmann.1@osu.edu

UGSG Membership Information

- **UGSG Membership:** \$7 with AAG membership; student membership is free.
- **Address and e-mail changes** of UGSG members should be sent to: address@aaq.org, where a master membership list is maintained.
- To subscribe to URBGEOG, the UGSG's **discussion forum and listserv**, follow these instructions: [1] Send an e-mail message to listserv@listserv.arizona.edu with no subject line, and include the following message, with appropriate name changes: **subscribe urbgeog firstname lastname**
- [2] Make sure to disable automatic e-mail signature functions [3] You will be sent an automated message that provides information on how to post to the list and how to unsubscribe, etc.
- Calls for submission and notifications of availability of the Newsletter are e-mailed to **both** the listserv and Specialty Group membership list. Distribution of the Newsletter is via the UGSG website. This Newsletter is currently published 3 times per year.

Executive Board

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emccann@sfu.ca

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ewyly@geog.ubc.ca

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thomas.1672@osu.edu

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UGSG Website:

www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/ugsq/

UGSG AWARD AND COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

Urban Geography Graduate Student Fellowship, 2007

Each year, the Urban Geography Specialty Group will award one or more fellowships, each approximately \$500, to support urban-oriented doctoral research. Fellowships are intended to provide targeted support at a relatively early stage of doctoral dissertation research – while also ensuring that award recipients have well-developed research proposals that have a high likelihood of completion. Fellowship support may be used for any reasonable expenses associated with a research proposal. Eligibility is limited to current student members of the Urban Geography Specialty Group who will have completed all Ph.D. requirements except the dissertation by the end of the semester or term in which any award is approved. Dissertation supervisors must certify eligibility. Submit applications by email to Eugene McCann, Chair, emccann@sfu.ca, by **January 31, 2007**. Applications received after this date cannot be considered. Award decisions are made by the Board of the Urban Geography Specialty Group on the basis of the quality and feasibility of the research proposal. Applicants will be informed of the award decisions shortly before the AAG Annual Meeting. Applications are available from the UGSG website, <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/ugsg/>.

Dissertation Competition

The UGSG Dissertation Award Committee solicits submissions of dissertations for the 2006 UGSG Dissertation Award. The winner of the award will receive \$250. The dissertation must have been completed during the 2006 calendar year. Dissertations submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. *Send one copy to each of the two judges:* **James DeFilippis**, Baruch College – CUNY James_DeFilippis@baruch.cuny.edu; and **Mary Thomas**, Department of Geography, Ohio State University thomas.1672@osu.edu. **Deadline: January 31st, 2007**

Masters Thesis Competition

The UGSG Masters Thesis Awards Committee solicits submissions of theses for the 2007 UGSG Masters Thesis Award. The winner of the award will receive \$150. The thesis must have been completed during the 2006 calendar year. Theses submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. *Send one copy to each of the two judges:* **Kate Boyer**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute boyerl@rpi.edu; and **Jason Hackworth****, Department of Geography, University of Toronto, 100 St. George St., Rm. 5047, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G3, Canada — jason.hackworth@utoronto.ca. **Deadline: January 31st, 2007**

Student Paper Competition

The Student Paper Competition Committee solicits submissions. This award goes to the best paper on any aspect of Urban Geography given by a student at any professional meeting in the 12 months preceding (and including) the San Francisco AAG conference. Preference will be given to fully developed academic papers. The winner of the award will receive \$50 and an invitation to submit the paper to *Urban Geography*. *Send one copy to each of the judges,* **Caitlin Cahill** University of Utah – caitlin.cahill@csbs.utah.edu; and **Eugene McCann**, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. Canada— emccann@sfu.ca **Deadline: February 15th, 2007**

UGSG Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper Award

Please encourage your students to consider submitting papers to the Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper competition. This award goes to the best paper on an urban geographic topic written by an undergraduate student, *regardless of membership in the AAG or participation in the 2006 meetings*. The winner of the award will receive \$50. Papers submitted for awards to other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. *Send one copy to each of the judges,* **Norma Rantisi****, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University, Hall 1255-37, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 Canada— nrantisi@alcor.concordia.ca; and **Stephanie Campbell** Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University sac1@sfu.ca **Deadline: February 15th, 2007**

Student Travel Support

The UGSG has a small amount of money available to support students presenting on urban topics at the San Francisco AAG. Individual travel awards are \$100, and are intended to support presentations on topics related to the urban focus of the specialty group. To apply, send a short letter stating your degree program, your institutional affiliation, and your goals and purposes in attending the conference. Also include copies of your abstract and conference registration. Send materials to **Elvin Wyly**, UGSG Treasurer, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, 1984 West Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2 Canada. Email submissions may be sent to ewyly@geog.ubc.ca. The **deadline** for receipt of applications is **January 31, 2007**, and awards will be announced as soon as possible thereafter.

**For thesis and paper submissions to Jason Hackworth and Norma Rantisi, please send copies via postal mail only, to the addresses provided. Also send an e-mail note informing them that your paper has been sent.

AAG AWARD AND COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

Each year the AAG offers numerous grants and awards to geographers. The following is a list of opportunities available for recognition or grant support. Unless otherwise noted, all deadlines are **December 31, 2006**. Please consult full descriptions posted on the AAG website at www.aag.org/grantsawards/index.cfm.

Meredith F. Burrill Award: To stimulate and reward talented individuals and groups who have completed work of exceptional merit and quality that lies at or near the intersection of basic research and practical applications or local, national, or international policy implications. <http://www.aag.org/Grantsawards/burrill.htm>

George and Viola Hoffman Award: To support student research toward a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation on a geographical subject in Eastern Europe. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/Hoffmanfund.html

Glenda Laws Award: To recognize outstanding contributions to geographic research on social issues. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/glendalawsaward.htm

Darrel Hess Community College Geography Scholarships: To support students from community colleges, junior colleges, city colleges, or similar two-year institutions to transfer as geography majors to four-year colleges and universities. <http://www.aag.org/Grantsawards/hess.html>

Anne U. White Fund: To support field research conducted by a member of the AAG jointly with her or his spouse, regardless of any formal training in geography. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/Annwhitefund.html

AAG E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Award in Geography: To recognize members of the AAG who have made truly outstanding contributions to the geographic field due to special competence in teaching or research. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/miller.html

AAG Research Grants for 2007: To support direct expenses of research or fieldwork that address questions of major import to the discipline (excluding master's or doctoral dissertation research). www.aag.org/Grantsawards/Generalresearch.html

AAG Dissertation Research Grants for 2007: To support direct expenses of master's or doctoral dissertation research to eligible individuals. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/Dissertationresearch.html

AAG International Geographic Information Fund: To support full-time students who are currently registered in an undergraduate or graduate degree program within the United States, and who are working in any area of spatial analysis or geographic information science or systems, through Student Travel Grants, Graduate Research Awards, and Student Paper Awards. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/IGIF.cfm

AAG Meridian Book Award for the Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography 2006: To recognize geographer authors or co-authors who have published a book in calendar year 2006 that makes an unusually important contribution to advancing the science and art of geography. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/meridian_book_award.cfm

AAG Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography 2006: To recognize geographer authors or co-authors who have published a book in calendar year 2006 that conveys most powerfully the nature and importance of geography to the nonacademic world. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/globe.cfm

AAG John Brinckerhoff Jackson Prize for 2006: To encourage and reward American geographers who write books about the United States that convey the insights of professional geography in language that is interesting and attractive to a lay audience. www.aag.org/Grantsawards/Jacksonprize.html

OTHER AWARD AND COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

EDRA/*Places* Award Competition: Every year, EDRA collaborates with *Places* to sponsor an awards program that gives recognition to projects in design, research and planning that is directed towards the creation and understanding of places. Six awards are given and the winning entries are published in *Places* along with an extended commentary, jury comments and essays by jurors reflecting on the issues raised by the competition. Awards are presented at EDRA's annual conference, which will be in Sacramento May 30th - June 3rd, 2007. Please consider entering outstanding work with which you've been involved and bring it to the attention of colleagues who have done work of exceptional quality. The entry forms and more detailed descriptions of the program will be posted on the EDRA web site (<http://edra.org>). **The submission date is January 30, 2007.**

JOB & GRADUATE OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Department of Geography at Trent University invites applications for a tenure track appointment in Human Geography scheduled to commence July 1, 2007, budgetary approval pending. The appointment will be made at either the Associate or Full Professor rank.

The department is seeking an **urban social geographer** with expertise preferred in **gender and/or transnational issues**. The successful candidate will: maintain an active research program; complement and expand existing geography faculty strengths within Trent's multi-disciplinary graduate programs, particularly the M.A. and Ph.D programs in Canadian Studies; and teach undergraduate courses in urban geography and research methods. Further information about the geography department, as well as Trent's setting and intellectual environment can be obtained at www.trentu.ca/geography.

Applications should include in hard copy a covering letter; a statement of research and teaching interests; curriculum vitae; sample publications or manuscripts (not exceeding three); and the names and contact information of three referees. In the event the applicant is short-listed, the department will invite each of the referees to comment on the applicant's scholarly record and teaching capability.

Deadline for receipt of the application is December 8, 2006. The application should be sent directly to:

Prof. Cheryl McKenna Neuman, Chair
Department of Geography
Trent University
1600 West Bank Drive
Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 7B8
Phone: 705-748-1011 Ext 1440
e-mail: cmckneuman@trentu.ca

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian and permanent residents will be given priority. Trent University is an employment equity employer and especially invites applications from women, Aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, and persons with disabilities.

Graduate Student Opportunities in Urban Governance Issues in East Asia

I have a funded research project in Urban Governance in East Asia and am seeking to recruit MA and PhD students with interests in various topics related to urban change and urban governance in the East Asian region (especially Japanese cities). Such topics could include the geographical and public policy implications of economic restructuring, urban development and new infrastructure projects, ageing of populations, overseas immigration and foreign workers, homelessness and urban sustainability. My research project has funds to allow graduate students to travel to East Asia for field work and to collect data.

My own project examines how the largest cities in Japan are tackling a range of contemporary issues, including a marked reduction in the tempo of the economy and urban tax base in the past 15 years; the need to restructure the urban economy to focus on even higher levels of technology compared with cities in nearby competitor countries (such as South Korea and Taiwan); continuing overseas investment of Japan's production sector to mainland China; higher aspirations among local communities relating to the environment, welfare and quality of life; rapid aging of the population; and an increasingly more diverse local community due to higher levels of foreign workers in Japan.

Comparative research between Japan, China and South Korea is being considered.

The Geography Graduate Programme at University of British Columbia offers attractive financial packages to incoming students. To qualify for internal scholarships applicants must have a two-year average of at least A-. Further details of the programme are available at: http://www.geog.ubc.ca/undergraduate/gradinfo_under.html.

If you are interested in discussing this opportunity then please contact me at the address below.

David W. Edgington – Director, Centre for Japanese Research (<http://www.iar.ubc.ca/centres/cjr/>)
Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T1Z2
Tel:1-604-822-5612; Fax:1-604-822-6150

HONORS RECEIVED

Major Award from NIEHS: Juliana Maantay of Lehman College, City University of New York, in collaboration with Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the community-based organization For a Better Bronx, recently received a major award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The funding provided with this award is intended to help facilitate the work of the South Bronx Environmental Justice Partnership (SBEJP), which consists of the four collaborating organizations, in improving the health of the people who live in the South Bronx, in what is the poorest Congressional District in the United States. It is a four-year grant of approximately one million dollars.

Juliana Maantay, Associate Professor of Urban Environmental Geography, the Director of the Geographic Information Science (GISc) program in Lehman College's Department of Environmental, Geographic, and Geological Sciences (EGGS), and Associate Professor in the Earth and Environmental Sciences program at the CUNY Graduate Center, is the Lehman College Co-PI for the project.

The Lehman team plans to work very closely with the participating community-based organizations and medical experts in developing and implementing the research design for the project. Lehman's main tasks in the Partnership are to conduct Geographic Information Systems environmental health research on cardiovascular disease and diabetes related to air pollution and land use in the Bronx, including epidemiological and small area analyses describing the spatial relationships between hospitalizations for diabetes and heart disease and potential sources of endocrine disruptors, stationary and mobile sources of air pollution, and noxious land uses such as brownfields, waste transfer stations, and high-volume roadways, as well as mitigating features of the built environment, such as parks, community gardens, etc. They will also examine the possible spatial correspondence between health disparities and areas with a high degree of residential segregation by race and ethnicity. Lehman's Urban GIS Lab will then develop culturally- and linguistically-appropriate maps, tables, graphs, and risk communication materials for community presentation to promote community education and social action.

NEW BOOKS

GIS for the Urban Environment, by Juliana Maantay and John Ziegler, with a foreword by John Pickles, was published this summer by Environmental Systems Research Institute Press (ESRI Press). It is an introduction to urban planning applications and problem solving with GIS, appropriate for students and professionals in the fields of geography, urban studies, urban planning, urban public health, urban environmental assessment, demography, and hazard and emergency management. The book consists of 3 parts: the first part contains a thorough description of analytical concepts in GIS, enabling full use and understanding of GIS techniques. Chapters include mapping and GIS concepts, data classification techniques, data visualization and map design, data acquisition, modeling and spatial analysis, institutional issues and project management, ethics in GIS, and new technologies in GIS.

The second part is a compendium of urban GIS case studies, including crime pattern analysis, archaeology and historic preservation, infrastructure mapping, urban environmental planning, emergency management and disaster response, environmental health justice, public health services and access, community-based planning, housing initiatives and urban services, habitat and open space assessment, and advocacy and public information dissemination.

The third part is a series of laboratory exercises that work towards constructing an actual project, and entail real-world activities that are often required in urban GIS projects but rarely included in prepared lab work, such as data acquisition, integrating data into the GIS, and manipulation of real data. Project design and analysis methodologies are also demonstrated with real-world examples of urban GIS projects. The book includes a CD of data used in the lab exercises, and also hundreds of full-color illustrations.

Urban and Regional Technology Planning: Planning Practice in the Global Knowledge Economy, by Kenneth E. Corey and Mark I. Wilson, (Routledge, 2006). The contribution of the book is to empower regional and urban planners to work with and mobilize other local stakeholders to engage and plan for the opportunities and challenges that are presented by the forces of globalization. A principal theme is that these forces are facilitated by information and communications technologies (ICT). A further emphasis is the need for local communities to be innovative and planful by creating productive content for the ICTs to enable. The book's message is constructed from analyses of global knowledge economy trends, relational planning theory and local knowledge-economy cases from the global economy's three primary technology-economic regions from Eastern Asia, Western Europe and North America. For additional information on the book, refer to: www.planningpractice.org

Gone Tomorrow: The Hidden Life of Garbage, by Heather Rogers (New Press, 2005). Book/speaker recommendation from Kate Boyer:

Heather came and spoke to my class this spring and my students were mesmerized. She is not a Geographer (she's a journalist and filmmaker), but her book has a strong critical and urban geography sensibility. Her analysis distills a range of complex issues related to consumer culture, garbage production, urbanization and land use and weaves it together in a way that is both fascinating and easily grasped (very like Eric Schlosser's *Fastfood Nation* in this way). Although *Gone Tomorrow* carries a glowing endorsement from David Harvey (see below), Heather said she was having problems breaking in to the academic market. I agreed to lend a hand with advertising in Geography.

DESCRIPTION (From *Gone Tomorrow's* website: <http://gonetomorrow.org/>): Every day a phantasmagoric rush of spent, used and broken riches flows through our homes, offices, and cars. Eat a take-out meal, buy a pair of shoes, or read a newspaper, and you're soon faced with a bewildering amount of trash. The United States is the planet's number one producer of garbage, with each American throwing out 4.5 pounds daily. But garbage is also a global problem; the middle of the Pacific Ocean is six times more abundant with plastic waste than zooplankton. So how did we end up with this much trash? And why do we handle it the way we do?

Journalist Heather Rogers addresses these issues by guiding us through the grisly, oddly fascinating underworld of trash. Combining a gripping exposé with a potent argument for change, Rogers's book traces the connections

between modern industrial production, consumer culture and our throwaway lifestyle.

Endorsement from David Harvey: "Victor Hugo once wrote that 'the history of civilization lies in its sewers.' In this cogent and beautifully written work, Heather Rogers offers a compelling commentary on the state of our contemporary civilization by examining not only how much but what we throw out and where it all ends up. *Gone Tomorrow* amounts to an imposing brief to take urgent action now to reconstruct our lives around more environmentally sane and, hence, more civilized values."

CONFERENCE CALLS & INFORMATION

A Suburban World? Global Decentralization and the New Metropolis: Call for abstracts (due by April 30, 2007, submission opens January 1st, 2007)

International Conference, Reston, Virginia, USA, April 6-April 8, 2008

Hosted by Dr. Robert Lang (Metropolitan Institute), Dr. Paul Knox (Virginia Tech), and Dr. Edward Blakeley (University of Sydney)

We have entered a new era where the areas outside worldwide core cities are forming different settlement systems. In Europe, even tight building controls have not curbed the appetite of households to move out of the central cities. China and India, with fast-growing middle classes, are witnessing a startling expansion of their urban areas with rapid auto-dependent growth on the fringe. Mexico and Indonesia are beginning to adapt American-style suburban development patterns. As urban form changes, new research and policy have to be created to address the challenges of sprawl, congestion, and affordable housing. This conference will explore these and other issues in the American as well as international context.

Tracks:

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Immigration/Changing Demographics of the Suburbs | * Gated Communities |
| * Special Segregation by Lifestyle/Economics; | * Megapolitans/Metropolitan Form |
| * Transportation | * Energy Consumption/Sustainable Environment |
| * Disasters/Adaptation | * Transnational Communities/Residential Tourism |
| * Governance & Regulation | * Urban Form at the Neighborhood Level |
| * Suburban Decline | * Newburbia/Newtowns |
| * Business of Suburbia/Economic Development/Economic Space | |

Conference Website:

<http://www.mi.vt.edu/>

Questions:

asuburbanworld@vt.edu

Planners Network 2007 Conference: New Orleans, Louisiana, May 30-June 2, 2007. For more information or to help out with the conference, contact Alex Schafran at schafran@gmail.com. Theme: "Race, Class and Community Recovery in New Orleans: From the Neighborhood to the Nation and Beyond". Hurricane Katrina exposed tremendous rifts over class, race and community, not just in New Orleans but throughout the United States and around the world. It also shook the very foundation of planning and governance, whose failures were broadcast in high definition to the global community. Yet the effort to dig out and rebuild has been marked by tremendous innovation and will on the part of local communities in New Orleans, despite continued abandonment at the federal level. The 2007 Planners Network Conference will confront issues of race, class, injustice and the failures of planning, while seeking to learn from the work of community-based organizations, local planners, and individuals impacted by Katrina.