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Letter from the Chair:

Wintertime and exam time have come to British Columbia. As the weather gets colder, the heat of deadlines, grading, etc. seems to increase. I'm sure many of you are similarly busy, so you'll be pleased to see that this issue of the newsletter is 'bite sized' and easily digestible.

The main thing I'd like to draw your attention to in the newsletter is the list of UGSG student competitions. We are offering a graduate student paper award, a dissertation award, the Glenda Laws undergraduate paper award, and our student travel awards. Beyond these, we continue our support for student research through our Graduate Student Fellowship competition, which includes opportunities for both doctoral and master's students. We look forward to seeing the entries in January! (Full details are on page 3)

Enjoy your winter break.

Eugene McCann
Burnaby, British Columbia
December 2007

In the next issue....

The 2008 AAG Annual Meeting UGSG Special Issue

The Newsletter will feature all Urban Geography related events, including a complete list of UGSG sponsored sessions for the **April 15-19** meeting in **Boston**.

Look for the call for Newsletter submissions in March, and the published Newsletter in early April.

EXPLORE THE NEW UGSG WEBSITE!

<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~ewyly/ugsg.html>

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.

UGSG Website: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~ewyly/ugsg.html>

Executive Board**Chair**

Eugene McCann (2006-2008)
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emccann@sfu.ca

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James DeFilippis (2006 – 2008)
Rutgers University
jdefilip@rci.rutgers.edu

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Elvin Wyly, University of British Columbia
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lkb1f06@soton.ac.uk

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2007 – 2009

Laura Liu, The New School
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AAG Urban Geography Specialty Group Student Awards, 2008

Graduate Student Paper Competition: *Deadline, January 31st, 2008*

The UGSG Graduate Student Paper Competition Committee solicits submissions of single-authored papers presented by a student at any professional meeting in the 12 months preceding (and including) the Boston AAG conference. Preference will be given to fully developed academic papers. The winner of the award will receive \$100 and an invitation to submit the paper to Urban Geography. Send one copy to each of the judges: Kate Boyer (lkb1f06@soton.ac.uk); Caitlin Cahill (caitcahill@gmail.com); and Steve Herbert (skherb@u.washington.edu).

Dissertation Competition: *Deadline January 31st, 2008*

The UGSG Dissertation Competition Committee solicits submissions of single-authored papers based on the applicant's dissertation (not full dissertations). The dissertation must have been completed during the 2007 calendar year. The paper need not be presented at the 2008 AAG meeting in order to be eligible. Preference will be given to fully developed academic papers. Papers submitted to the UGSG Graduate Student Paper Competition will not be considered for the Dissertation Award. Papers submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. The winner of the award will receive \$250 and an invitation to submit the paper to Urban Geography. Send one copy to each of the judges: Jim Fraser (pavement@vanderbilt.edu); Laura Liu (lauraliu@optonline.net); and Eugene McCann (emccann@sfu.ca).

Glenda Laws Undergraduate Paper Award: *Deadline January 31st, 2008*

Please encourage your students to submit 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 AAG 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: James DeFilippis (jdefilip@rci.rutgers.edu); and Russ Smith (rsmith24@elon.edu).

Student Travel Support: *Deadline January 31st, 2008*

The UGSG has a small amount of money available to support students presenting on urban topics at the Boston AAG meeting. A limited number of travel awards, each worth \$100, will be awarded. They 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. Awards will be announced as soon as possible after the deadline. The specialty group cannot guarantee that every applicant will receive an award.

Urban Geography Graduate Student Fellowships: *Deadline January 31st, 2008*

Each year, the Urban Geography Specialty Group will award one Master's fellowship (approximately \$300) and one or more doctoral fellowships (each approximately \$500), to support urban-oriented Master's and doctoral research. Fellowships are intended to provide targeted support for original Master's research and for those 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 Master's or Ph.D. requirements except the thesis or dissertation by the end of the semester or term in which any award is approved. Dissertation supervisors must certify eligibility by signing the application form or emailing emccann@sfu.ca. Submit applications by email to Eugene McCann, emccann@sfu.ca, or fax 778.782.5841, by January 31, 2008. 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. 2008 Fellowship Application Form: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/~ewyly/ugsg/fellowship08.doc>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Housing Policy Debate provides a venue for original housing and urban affairs research on a broad range of domestic and international topics. Subjects include the analysis of real estate market trends, land use regulations, and metropolitan development patterns as they impact directly or indirectly on housing.

We invite you to submit manuscripts for publication consideration. Currently, *Housing Policy Debate* is especially interested in papers on international metropolitan issues, market-rate housing, the role of changing demographics on housing preferences and choice, and the influence of planning policy on housing dynamics. Manuscripts must be original, unpublished works not under consideration for publication elsewhere. **For more information about Housing Policy Debate, visit www.mi.vt.edu**

To submit manuscripts, please contact:

Housing Policy Debate
Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech
1021 Prince Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-838-8320
Email: HousingPolicyDebate@vt.edu

RESEARCH NOTE

Research on the
Geographic Aspects of
Sustainable Transport Best Practices

I discussed this topic in the Fleming Lecture that I gave at the 2007 AAG conference in San Francisco. The background paper that I prepared for the Lecture is posted on Transportation Geography Specialty Group website, and can be viewed at:

<http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/tqsg/news/fleminglecture.htm>

More recently, I again addressed this topic as the international speaker at the 2007 TravelWise Association (NTWA) conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland, November 7-9.

The background paper for my NTWA plenary address was titled "Sustainable transport: Is there anybody here who can win this game?", and the PowerPoint slide presentation was titled, "Sustainable transport by design or by default? Either way the wasteful ride is over". The background paper and the PowerPoint slides can be viewed at: <http://www.transport2000.ca>.

It appears to be very clear that while we are a long way from confirming and ranking the full list of sustainable transport best practices, urban regions in Europe are far ahead of their North American counterparts when it comes to identifying, adopting, and implementing the practices that have been achieved.

However, it also appears to be very clear that in both Europe and North America, we are in the very early stages of investigating whether, why and how factors of geography affect the processes of identifying, adopting, and implementing sustainable transport best practices.

The purpose of this note, therefore, is to draw attention to an applied research domain in the field of urban transportation that provides students at all levels, as well as faculty members, an outstanding opportunity to engage in an increasingly important body of research that is in serious need of examination from a geographic perspective.

Barry Wellar
Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa
Distinguished Research Fellow, Transport 2000 Canada
President, Wellar Consulting Inc.

PEOPLE & PUBLICATIONS

- **Joe Scarpaci** (Virginia Tech) taught a short course at the Universidad de Panama on sustainable tourism between November 26 and December 2.

- **Rémy Tremblay** is the Guest Editor for the forthcoming issue of the Canadian Journal of Regional Science. This special issue is dealing with the multiple sociospatial dimensions of the Creative Class Theory. Those who want to subscribe to the Journal or buy this issue can email him directly (tremblay.remy@teluq.ugam.ca) or visit http://eratos.erin.utoronto.ca/crsa-acsr/home_en.htm

- **Rémy Tremblay** and **Nick Novakowski** are the editors of *Perspective on Ottawa's High-Tech Sector*. This book, to be published by Peter Lang of Brussels, will be available in January 2008. For more details visit www.peterlang.com

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

- *From the URBGEOG listserve:* Hi, I am a prof teaching and **developing online geography courses**. I thought it might be a good idea to **create an informal group** for online geography profs. We could meet informally at AAG meetings and, if the need is there, have our own AAG Specialty Group and even an online journal. I hope to hear from you. - Remy Tremblay, Ph.D., Université du Québec à Montréal tremblay.remy@teluq.ugam.ca

- Dear colleagues: I thought you might be interested in a **new mailing list for people with an interest at the intersection of Science and Technology Studies (STS) and the built environment** (cities, infrastructure, architecture etc.). Its purpose is not narrowly defined but there is no dearth of ideas. It enables all subscribers to disseminate and receive information about new projects, publications, job adverts, events, guest lectures, conferences, workshops etc. to like-minded peers (currently over 100 people). BESTS is currently moderated by Ralf Brand and Liam Sharratt at the Manchester Architecture Research Centre at the University of Manchester, UK.

There are three ways to subscribe to the BESTS mailing list:

- 1) With a few clicks at www.jiscmail.ac.uk/bests
- 2) With an email to LISTSERV@jiscmail.ac.uk, containing nothing but the following command in the email body: SUBSCRIBE BESTS forename surname
- 3) With an informal email to ralf.brand@manchester.ac.uk

Once you have subscribed you can post a message to all subscribers by sending an email to bests@jiscmail.ac.uk.

We look forward to welcoming new members; and please feel encouraged to spread the word to any one else who might want to join us.

Happy communicating! **Ralf G. Brand**, Ph.D., Lecturer, Manchester Architecture Research Centre

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

PN2008 WINNIPEG PLANNERS NETWORK CONFERENCE JULY 17-20, 2008 PLANNING IN CHALLENGING CLIMATES

PLANNERS NETWORK is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems. Winnipeg and Manitoba have long histories with struggles for social justice. The city was the site of Canada's best known general strike in 1919. It played significant roles in the development of the co-operative movement in the mid-twentieth century. This led to the formation of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) a political party that supported farmers and workers, and called for public health insurance, public housing, and public ownership of major industries. In the early 1960s, with the Canadian Labour Congress, the CCF became the New Democratic Party – and Manitoba is currently the only province with an NDP government. There is strong history of community economic development in the city, and it is known for its high rate of volunteerism and its vibrant arts culture. The region is also known for its long winters. Unfortunately this is not the only challenging climate faced by progressive planners and advocates for social and environmental justice. The pervasive neo-liberal climate has undermined social programs; sprawl has created a climate intolerant to active transportation, and competes with the downtown core for amenities; and the growing aboriginal population struggles to overcome a history of oppression.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION: PN2008 will bring together an array of planning practitioners, community and economic development professionals, organizers, policy analysts, designers, students and faculty. They will discuss strategies addressing social and environmental justice in challenging climates - including social, political and economic climates. Topics of interest to the conference include, but are not limited to: models for community economic development • inner city community development • art and the city • planning and aboriginal communities • neighbourhood revitalization • downtown redevelopment • housing and homelessness • promoting active transportation • urban ecology • green buildings and sustainable communities • social impacts of sprawl • heritage planning • progressive planning and the media • age-friendly communities. A range of session types are encouraged, from conventional panels to participatory workshops and "how-to" sessions. Please send proposals for individual contributions or full sessions to PN2008Sessions@pnmb.org . The deadline for proposals is **April 30, 2008**. Space is limited. Please include the proposed session content, format and a list of potential speakers, panelists or participants. Additional conference information, including preliminary schedule, accommodations and mobile workshops, is available at www.pnmb.org . The web site will be updated regularly as the conference program develops.

PLANet YOUTH: NYC 2008, "Celebrating Youth Leadership in Planning" Brooklyn, NY April 3-6, 2008

-Are you a young person involved in a planning, policy or other action in your community? -Are you an adult ally to young people engaged in planning, policy or community building activities? -Do you want to meet youth from across the country who are making an impact in their communities? -Do you want to join national efforts to advocate for youth involvement in planning and policy making? -Do you have ideas, strategies and success stories you would like to share with your peers? -Do you want to learn how you can get involved in the Young Planners Network?

The Young Planners Network invites you to submit your presentation proposals for our second annual conference! Proposals must be received no later than January 15, 2008! Visit www.aupnyc.org/ypn for updates and registration information for PLANet Youth: NYC 2008. And if you have any questions, please email Meredith.urbanplanning@gmail.com.

5th international conference of the interdisciplinary research network "private urban governance/gated communities"

**March 30 to April 4 2009
University of Chile, Santiago de Chile**

Call for panels:

Cities around the globe are witnessing the development of new institutional arrangements by which urban spaces are organised – especially on a subcommunal scale. These new institutions involve public and private organisations, different forms of community organisations as well as organisations which cut across the public/private dichotomy. The governance of existing neighbourhoods is becoming re-engineered by institutions such as horizontal homeowner associations and business improvement districts. Newly urbanised areas are organised as private and often gated residential communities; as shopping, commercial and industrial neighbourhoods governed under multi-tenant property ownership and private government of communal space and services. The 5th conference of the research network on "private urban governance" will offer an international forum for the interdisciplinary discussion of the causes and consequences of these new forms of urban governance.

The research network was established in 1999 and is an open network of currently more than 100 researchers from urban geography, planning, architecture, regional economy, political science, sociology, anthropology and other disciplines. The preparation of the conference follows a two-tiered scheme. We invite everybody interested to organise a panel (with three to six participants) on any topic related to private urban governance to send us the title for the proposed panel and an abstract outlining the idea of the panel (ca. 200 words).

Panel proposals should be submitted before the end of December 2007. Please do indicate if you already have in mind some papers to be presented in this panel (title, presenter, general ideal of the paper). Panels might for example focus on specific forms of private urban governance (e.g. business improvement districts, gated communities, tax exempt improvement areas); on specific theories and approaches which might help to understand and/or evaluate the development of private urban governance (e. g. new institutional economics, theories of social segregation, politic-economic approaches, discourse theory etc); or on the development of private urban governance in specific countries or regions. Based on these proposals the scientific committee will establish a structure of panels and publish the call for papers in spring 2008.

Scientific Committee:

Sarah Blandy, University of Leeds (lawyer)
Eric Charmes, University of Paris VIII (urban planner)
Viviana Fernandez Prajoux, University of Chile (urban planner)
Klaus Frantz, University of Innsbruck (geographer)
Georg Glasze, University of Mainz (geographer)
Jenny Dixon, University of Auckland (urban planner)
Renaud le Goix, University of Paris I (geographer)
Karina Landman, CSIR Pretoria (planner and architect)
Setha Low, City University New York (anthropologist and psychologist)
Evan McKenzie, University of Illinois in Chicago (political scientist and lawyer)
Elisabeth, Peyroux, CIRUS-CIEU CNRS Toulouse (geographer)
Chris Webster, Cardiff University (urban planner and economist)

Contact: Dr. Georg Glasze (glasze@uni-mainz.de; www.geo.uni-mainz.de/glasze)