

AAG Urban Geography Specialty Group

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4, No. 2

June/July 1984

Letter from the Chair

I am delighted to welcome Janet Byler as the new editor of the UGSG Newsletter. She was selected for this position at the UGSG Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C., following the search that was initiated early this year after Tom Baerwald announced his decision to step down.

Janet is Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Assistant Director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies at Temple University. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in Conflict Analysis and Peace Research (1983), where she was a key researcher on the HUD-funded Community Development Strategies Evaluation Project. Her B.A. in Anthropology and M.S. in Geography are both from Northwestern University. At Temple, Janet teaches courses in urban policy, location analysis, and applied urban research. Her own research focuses on the development of urban industrial complexes and regional growth and decline.

I am happy that Janet has accepted the responsibilities of the Newsletter and know that she can count on the support of all UGSG members. Janet can be contacted as follows:

Dr. Janet Byler
Urban Studies Program
Temple University 025-27
Philadelphia, PA 19122
(215) 787-5157

Volunteers needed...

We are searching for volunteer institutions to help defray the costs of putting out the UGSG Newsletter. A subsidy from the College of Arts and Sciences at Temple University for the coming year makes the need for assistance less pressing than it has been in the past. Nevertheless, it would be extremely helpful if other institutions agreed to assume part of the greatest cost, that for mailing. More than 500 copies of this Newsletter are mailed with each issue. We encourage persons who could mail some portion of the October/November or February issues (which we would provide pre-addressed) to contact either Janet Byler or Roman Cybriwsky at their earliest convenience.

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UGSG Plans 8 Sessions for Detroit Meetings

A full round of specialty group sessions is being put together for the AAG meeting in Detroit, April 21-24, 1985. The program is still in the preliminary stages, but shapes up as follows:

A session on Detroit (Renaissance Center, Poletown, etc.)
Organizer: Robert Sinclair (Wayne State University)

Roundtable Discussion: Social Theory and the Future of Urban Geography
Organizers: Gordon Clark (University of Chicago) and Jennifer Wolch (University of Southern California)

Joint session with the Society and Space Group: "Social Theory and Urban Form"
Organizers: Gordon Clark and Jennifer Wolch

Joint session with the Industrial Geography Specialty Group: "Implications of Metropolitan Manufacturing Specialization for Reindustrialization"
Organizer: David Meyer (Urban Studies, Brown University)

Joint session with the Committee on the Status of Women Geographers: "Women in the City"
Organizer: Briavel Holcomb (Rutgers University)

A session on international comparisons of urban spatial structure
Organizer: Peter O. Muller (University of Miami)

A joint session with the Socialist Geographers Specialty Group on some aspect of current urban change
Organizer: Neil Smith (Columbia University)

A session that showcases examples of applied research in urban geography and how it has been implemented
Organizer: Fred Stutz (San Diego State University)

Please contact the organizers of the individual sessions for additional information. A number of these sessions are still being planned and have openings for papers, discussants, etc. Because of the early deadline for submitting materials for participation at the Detroit meetings (September 28), we urge that you act as soon as possible.

The coordinator for the UGSG program thus far has been Roman Cybriwsky. Because he will soon be leaving for Japan, the responsibilities of the UGSG Program Chair have been assumed jointly by Marilyn Brown and Peter Muller. Marilyn will be responsible for the planning of specialty group sessions, and has the detailed information and forms that are needed to institute any additional UGSG sessions. Pete has agreed to look after the logistics of the UGSG program and to work with the organizers of sessions to see that all deadlines are met. The Co-Chairs are contacted as follows:

Dr. Marilyn Brown
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Building 4500N MS G-22
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Oak Ridge, TN 37831
(615) 576-8152

Dr. Peter O. Muller
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(305) 284-4087

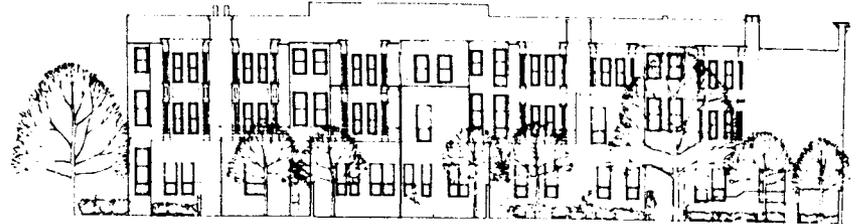
Changes at *URBAN GEOGRAPHY*

Beginning in 1984, *Urban Geography* will have a new editorial team and a new format. After four years during which the journal has become firmly established in the discipline, Reg Golledge (UC-Santa Barbara) is stepping down as co-editor. Brian Berry (Carnegie-Mellon) is assuming the role of editor in chief, with James O. Wheeler (University of Georgia) and Robert W. Lake (Rutgers) serving as co-editors.

The journal will continue to publish high-quality refereed articles covering all facets of urban geography. Our editorial policy calls for a balance of theoretical, applied, and policy-oriented work and for international coverage of the field. The upcoming issue (Vol. 5, No. 1) includes articles by Maurice Yeates (Queen's University, Ontario) on "Urbanization in the Windsor-Quebec City Corridor, 1921-1981;" Peter Scholler (Ruhr Universitat, Germany), "Urban Values: A Review of Japanese and German Attitudes;" Abdul Khakee (University of Umea, Sweden), "Urban Models and Municipal Planning;" Gary Talarcheck (Xavier University, New Orleans), "Energy and Urban Spatial Structures;" and Glen Norcliffe (York University, Ontario), "Nonmetropolitan Industrialization and the Theory of Production."

Several new sections that will be added to *Urban Geography* during 1984 include Progress Reports on current literature and research, a section for comment and debate, review essays, and an expanded book review section. At least one issue a year will be a special issue focused on a single theme.

We invite submission of high quality manuscripts on any aspect of urban geography. Manuscripts can be sent to either Jim Wheeler or Bob Lake. Subscriptions are available for \$50 (\$65 for libraries and institutions) from Victor Winston and Son, Inc., 7961 Eastern Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.



Urban Affairs Association to meet in Norfolk

The 1985 Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association will be held in Norfolk, Virginia, April 17-20, immediately preceding the AAG meetings set for Detroit. Founded in 1969, the UAA is a professional organization for those engaged in education, research, or service in urban affairs. The theme of the 1985 conference--Managing the City: What Lies Ahead--is meant to include the political, social, and economic issues of urban affairs as well as the role and operation of government. For more information about the 1985 UAA conference please contact:

Dr. Susan Morris, Assistant Dean
Graduate School of Management and Urban Professions
The New School for Social Research
66 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

UGSG Dissertation Competition

The UGSG successfully completed its second dissertation competition and announced the winner at its Business Meeting in Washington, DC. The competition committee (composed of Marilyn Brown, Eric Moore, and Edward Muller) was very impressed by the quality of the dissertations submitted. The winner of the competition was:

Robin Datel, for her dissertation on "Historic Districts in three American and Two Western European Cities: A Geographic Study."
Datel's advisor was John Adams of the University of Minnesota.

Datel will be awarded a book of her choice by John Wiley and Sons.

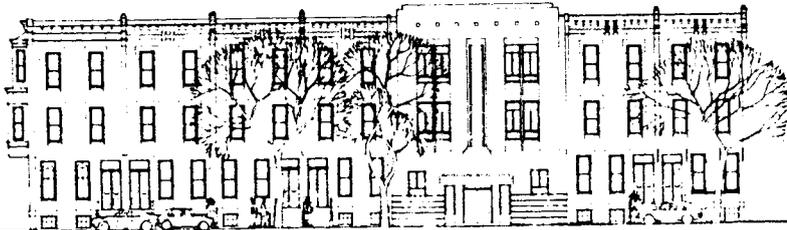
The Committee felt that three of the other competitors submitted meritorious dissertations. A category called "honorable mention" was therefore created. The following individuals were in this category:

Paul Groth, for his dissertation on "Forbidden Housing: The Evolution and Exclusion of Hotels, Boarding Houses, Rooming Houses, and Lodging Houses in American Cities, 1880-1930", (Advisor: James E. Vance, Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley).

Mary E. McConney, for her dissertation on "An Empirical Investigation of the Repair Behavior of Neighborhood Homeowners", (Advisor: Ralph B. Ginsberg, Regional Science, University of Pennsylvania).

Stanley V. Psutka, for his dissertation on "The Spatial Behavior Structure and Impacts of Labour Unions in Canada", (Advisor: James W. Simmons, Department of Geography, University of Toronto).

The 1984 competition committee will be chaired by Edward Muller, University of Pittsburgh, who will call for competitors later this year.



Thanks...

Thanks to the staff of the Urban Studies Program and the Department of Geography at Temple University for assistance in putting together this issue of the UGSG Newsletter.

Abstract of winning entry in 1984 Dissertation Competition

Historic districts are areas officially recognized and protected for their age, association with noteworthy people and events, embodiment of past architectural styles, or treasured familiarity. Comparative research on historic districts was carried out in five metropolitan regions: Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Paris, and London. Three questions about historic districts were addressed: What factors have contributed to the emergence and growing popularity of urban historic districts? In what parts of the metropolitan region (including the city, the suburbs, and the exurbs) have historic districts been created? What have been the influences of historic districts on the urban areas where they have been created?

The development of preservation efforts in the five cities was tied to historicism and romanticism, the striving to create place-based identities, the evolution of history and art history as scholarly disciplines, the rise of mass tourism, reactions against social and physical upheavals associated with urbanization and modern city-building and gentrification.

Historic districts were common features of the regulatory maps of all five regions. Significant variations existed among the regions in number of districts designated, share of territory encompassed, and kinds of places designated (villages, residential areas, open spaces, institutional groups, industrial landscapes, mixed-use areas of the urban core). These variations were related to different resource bases, different pressures on the resource bases, different levels of appreciation, and different degrees of willingness to regulate. Distribution of historic districts within metropolitan regions was related to patterns of building age and rarity, historical and architectural significance as assessed professionally, clarity of boundaries in the landscape, gentrification, the activity of neighborhood groups, particular environmental threats, tourism, and the operation of alternative means of development control.

The Impacts of historic district designation varied among places within a single metropolitan region as much as among metropolitan regions. Historic district designation was associated with major restorations (typically accompanied by social change), deflections of proposed development, modifications of new landscape elements to complement the old, and alterations of attitudes toward places.

Responses to a survey questionnaire sent to preservation organizations in the three American cities supplemented the findings based on archival and field methods. The 199 groups that responded proved to be diverse, although the pro-preservation arguments that they used showed their common concern for memories and places. The groups most often used arguments for historic preservation that had to do with understanding, honoring, and benefiting from contact with the past. Only slightly less popular were environmental and architectural arguments in favor of preservation. The groups also employed, although less frequently, more practical arguments (relating to tourism, conservation, taxes and jobs) in an effort to broaden their base of support and adapt to a world where profit and efficiency concerns often dominate.

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