Letter from the Chair

With the successful Minneapolis annual meeting behind us, UGSG begins its eighth year of operation. Even though we are thriving and still rank as the AAG's largest specialty group, I do want to get in an early reminder to all members to be sure to check off UGSG when renewing your AAG membership in the near future. This will help maintain our high visibility in the profession, and maximize the resources that enable us to pursue our myriad activities.

It is a pleasure to welcome my new fellow officers, Randy Smith and Hazel Morrow-Jones, and new board members Tom Baerwald, Susan Christopherson, and Gerry Pratt. After two years of outstanding leadership at the helm of UGSG, Bob Lake now becomes past-chairperson—a post that ensures another year of his valuable contributions to this organization. And we continue to benefit from the active participation of our holdover board members—Eric Sheppard, Neil Smith, and Rebecca Smith—and I would like to take this occasion to publicly thank all of the aforementioned people for their energetic dedication to the many endeavors that make UGSG's expanding program possible. We are also most grateful to the many individuals who serve on our committees.

One of the most important tasks is the editing of the UGSG Newsletter, and we have been particularly fortunate to have had a sequence of superb editors since this publication's inception in 1980. I am therefore very pleased to announce that our streak continues with the appointment of John Paul Jones, III as the new editor. He is joining the faculty of the University of Kentucky this summer, and we are most appreciative of the support that department has already pledged.

Please keep in mind that this newsletter is your forum, and all of us at this end cordially invite you to submit items whenever appropriate. In fact, I am charged by the overwhelming approval of the Long Range Planning Committee's recommendations at the 1986 business meeting to urge our members to take the initiative in supplying newsletter input, and it is one of my primary goals to see such an expansion of this publication by the fall of 1987. I also exhort you to get involved in the implementation of the Committee's other recommendations (which are reported elsewhere in this issue).

There is every indication that 1986-87 will be another successful year in the growth of American urban geography. A high point in that effort is certain to be the Portland AAG Meeting next April, and Joanna Regulska has graciously volunteered to supervise the newest assemblage of stimulating special sessions that has become a hallmark of our specialty group over the past few years.

Best wishes for a productive summer and new academic year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the other officers and board members if we can be of any assistance.

Peter O. Muller
Chair, UGSG

Thanks...

Production of the UGSG Newsletter was generously supported by the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky, and was supervised by Stanley D. Brunn.

UGSG Officers

Chairperson (1986-87)
Peter O. Muller
Department of Geography
University of Miami
Coral Gables, FL 33124-8152
(305) 284-4087

Vice-Chairperson (1986-87)
W. Randy Smith
Department of Geography
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 422-0178

Secretary-Treasurer (1986-87)
Hazel A. Morrow-Jones
Department of Geography
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309
(303) 492-8311
Board of Directors

Board of Directors (1986-87)
Hazel A. Morrow-Jones
(address above)
Eric S. Sheppard
Department of Geography
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 373-2666

Rebecca Smith
Department of Geology and Geography
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
(413) 545-0724

Board of Directors (1986-88)
Thomas J. Baerwald
Geography Department
Science Museum of Minnesota
10 East 10 Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 221-4760

Susan Christopherson
Department of Geography
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 825-4655

Ex-Officio Board Members (1986-87)

Past Chairperson
Robert W. Lake
Center for Urban Policy Research
Kilmer Campus, Building 4051
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
(201) 932-3135

Newsletter Editor
John Paul-Jones, III
Department of Geography
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0027
(606) 257-2931

Committee Appointments

DISSERTATION AWARD COMMITTEE
Neil Smith (Chair; address above)
Susan Christopherson (address above)
Janet Washbon
Urban Information Consultants
Post Office Box 5127
Madison, WI 53705

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Robert W. Lake (Chair; address above)
Dennis Dingemans
Department of Geography
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616
Kristin Nelson
Department of Geography
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dues Reminder

UGSG MEMBERS: REMEMBER TO MARK THE UGSG ON YOUR AAG MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM AND PAY YOUR DUES BY JANUARY 1, 1987

UGSG members are reminded that in order to keep your membership in the specialty group you must designate the UGSG on your AAG membership renewal form each year. Do not confuse the specialty group codes with the area codes or topical specialty codes. We receive a rebate from the AAG only for those who have paid their dues by January 1, 1987.
UGSG Business Meeting Minutes

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis
May 5, 1986

The meeting was called to order shortly after 4:00 p.m. by Robert Lake, the Chair for 1985-1986.

1. The election results were announced. The new officers are: Peter Muller (Chair), W. Randy Smith (Vice Chair), and Geraldine Pratt, Susan Christopherson, and Thomas Baerwald (new board members). The chair expressed the group's thanks to those board members who are stepping down: Bravel Holcomb, Jennifer Wolch, and Randy Smith. The last was also Secretary-Treasurer, a post being taken over by current board member Hazel Morrow-Jones.

2. Randy Smith distributed and discussed the Treasurer's report noting that we started last year with $826.62, had no expenses, added interest payments of $46.37, and the AAG rebate of $286.50 for our current balance of $1159.49. There were no expenses because Temple University paid for the newsletter, a situation that will no longer be in force. The Board of Directors discussed possible uses of the budget surplus we currently have at their meeting on May 4, 1986, and determined that this money may be needed for newsletter costs and so should be held in reserve for that event. It may be especially important if the AAG rebate to specialty groups is curtailed.

3. Issues discussed and decisions made at the Board of Director's meeting on May 4, 1986 were presented.
   a. Don Dahmann reported for the dissertation award committee. The committee, consisting of Don, Bravel Holcomb, and Neil Smith, considered six dissertations and gave two awards. The awards went to Annapurna Shaw (Ph.D. from Illinois, now at Kentucky) for a dissertation entitled "The Role of the Casual Poor in a Third World Urban Economy; A Case Study of Calcutta, India" and Gerald Macdonald (Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins, now at Villanova) for a dissertation entitled "Politics and Public Works: Baltimore before Progressivism". The awards include a certificate from the UGSG and a selection of books provided by John Wiley publishers. Next year's committee will be chaired by Neil Smith. Susan Christopherson and Janet Washbon will serve with him. In the six years of the dissertation competition there have been a total of 24 entries. UGSG members must encourage students to submit their dissertations in order for the competition to continue to be successful. Winners do not attend the annual meetings as consistently as we'd like. There was some discussion of this point with suggestions that people be required or strongly urged to attend. The committee will write encouraging letters to the winners inviting them to the meetings and suggesting that their colleges and departments help provide the funds for the trip.
   b. Next year's nominating committee will consist of Bob Lake (the committee's chair), Dennis Dingemans, and Kristin Nelson.
   c. Joanna Regulska of Rutgers will be the UGSG program coordinator for the 1987 Portland meetings. She issued a blanket invitation to people to contact her with ideas about things for UGSG to sponsor. All ideas are welcome.
   d. The newsletter needs a new editor. Janet Washbon has done an excellent job and Temple University has generously paid the costs, but Janet is stepping down. This is an extremely important job to the specialty group. It can be time consuming, but it can also be rewarding. Some suggestions have been made, but others are welcome. [NOTE: since the meeting, John Paul Jones, III of the University of Kentucky at Lexington has agreed to serve in this capacity.] Donations will be needed to cover the cost of producing and mailing the newsletter. Departments might volunteer to type or mail an issue or part of an issue. Please check with your department.
   The newsletter mailing list contains over 600 names; the AAG check off only shows us with 382 members. We are going to have to bring the mailing list up to date. A reminder to members: be sure to list the UGSG every year when you rejoin the AAG, and to pay your dues before Jan. 1 so that UGSG can get the rebate for your membership.

4. Other Business:
   a. Tom Baerwald asked for a volunteer to chair a Wednesday afternoon session. He also suggested that those interested in working with Joanna on next year's meetings talk to her at the end of the business meeting.
   b. Don Dahmann announced a research conference sponsored by the Census Bureau and suggested that geographers should be more active in that event.
   c. Bob Sinclair brought up the IGU commission for urban systems (Urban Systems in Transition) and its newsletter and suggested an exchange of newsletters and other forms of cooperation between the two groups. This ties to some ideas in the long range planning document.

5. The remainder of the hour was spent discussing the long range planning document. Bob Lake summarized the document and noted that the Board of Directors had reached a consensus that the four general recommendations should be pursued even though there might be disagreement on the best way to proceed. People have volunteered to act as initial coordinators for each of the four, and we are looking for others to join them and commit to involvement in the project. The coordinators are: recommendation number one (policy review committee) - Bob Lake, recommendation number two (increase student interest and involvement) - Neil Smith, recommendation number three (improve the teaching of urban geography) - Randy Smith, recommendation number four (expand the newsletter) - the new newsletter editor.
The chair called for discussion/ comments/ suggestions/ concerns. Lyn Brown suggested that we break up into groups interested in working on each of the suggestions. Bob asked for a consensus among the membership that the document outlines appropriate directions for the group to go. Several questions were raised and discussed. A motion to adopt the report was made and seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The chair suggested that people could be involved in more than one activity if they wished, and the group broke up into four discussion groups at about 4:35. The meeting adjourned at 5:00.

Submitted by Hazel Morrow-Jones, University of Colorado

1987 Portland Meetings

Urban Geography Specialty Group is in the process of organizing a number of special sessions for the AAG meetings in Portland, Oregon. To date the following sessions have been proposed:

1. Topic: "Industrial Change and Geographical Shifts"
   Organizer: Neil Smith
   Department of Geography
   Rutgers University
   New Brunswick, NJ 08903

2. Topic: "UG Young Researchers"
   Organizer: Neil Smith
   Department of Geography
   Rutgers University
   New Brunswick, NJ 08903

3. Topic: "Author Meets Critics"
   Organizer: Robert Lake
   Center for Urban and Policy Research
   Rutgers University
   New Brunswick, NJ 08903

4. Topic: "Policy Analysis" (session and/or workshop)
   (in cooperation with Political Geography Specialty Group)
   Organizers: Janet E. Kodras
   Department of Geography
   Florida State University
   Tallahassee, FL 32306
   John Paul Jones, III
   Department of Geography
   University of Kentucky
   Lexington, KY 40506

5. Topic: "Urban Ethnic/Locational Conflict" (in cooperation with Political Geography Specialty Group)
   Organizer: Fred M. Shelley
   Department of Geography
   University of Southern California
   Los Angeles, CA 90089

6. Topic: "Urban Social Movements"
   Organizer: Joanna Regulska
   Department of Geography
   Rutgers University
   New Brunswick, NJ 08903

7. Topic: "Urban Settlement Working Group IGU"
   Organizer: Larry Bourne
   Department of Geography
   University of Toronto
   Toronto, Canada M5S 1A1

Besides the above sessions, several others are in preparation. If you have any suggestions or questions please contact:

Joanna Regulska
Department of Geography
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
Phone: (201) 932-4018 or 4103

UGSG Dissertation Award

The Urban Geography Specialty Group is pleased to announce that the 1985 Urban Geography Dissertation Award was presented to co-winners at the AAG Annual Meeting in May. The winners are Annapurna Shaw (University of Kentucky) and Gerald Macdonald (Villanova University). Dr. Shaw's dissertation, entitled "The Role of the Casual Poor in a Third World Urban Economy: a Case Study of Calcutta, India," was completed at the University of Illinois. Dr. Macdonald's dissertation, "Politics and Public Works: Baltimore Before Progressivism," was completed at Johns Hopkins University. The winners received certificates and book awards provided by John Wiley and Sons. The fourth annual Urban Geography Dissertation Competition attracted six dissertations, and was conducted by Donald Dahmann (U.S. Bureau of the Census), Briavel Holcomb (Rutgers University) and Neil Smith (Rutgers University) for the Urban Geography Specialty Group.
The basic aim of this research is to examine the conjecture that the linkages between the non-industrialized sector and the modern sector in the Third World result in a net transfer of value from the non-industrialized sector. The presence of these sectors is most strikingly illustrated in the urban economy of the Third World where a small, modern sector exists side by side with a much larger non-industrialized sector. The research is based on a field survey of 135 slum households in Calcutta, India. The data provide the basis for a rich descriptive analysis of the working life of slum inhabitants, their migration histories, and labor market characteristics. Secondly, the data have been used for more rigorous statistical tests which indicate the existence of a lower strata among the slum population, that is, people with low and unstable incomes termed the casual poor. Using both primary data as well as secondary data, the research aims to answer the following questions: (i) to what extent do the casual poor serve as a source of undervalued labor for the modern sector; (ii) to what extent do the casual poor serve as a source of undervalued goods and services; and (iii) to what extent do the casual poor serve the welfare needs of the urban population. The analysis of data from Calcutta indicates that while the casual poor are a source of cheap labor, cheap wage goods, particularly clothing and house-hold articles, and services, they are not alone in subsidizing the living costs of urban workers. The analysis indicates the increasing importance of the role of the state government in the provision of wage subsidies to the working class. However, in terms of transfers of value through unequal trade, the casual poor continue to play an important role.

POLITICS AND PUBLIC WORKS: BALTIMORE BEFORE PROGRESSIVISM

Gerald Michael MacDonald, Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland in the second half of the nineteenth century was a large, industrializing urban center having an excellent natural harbor and serving as the node of an extensive railroad network. Between the early 1850’s and 1890, the city engaged in various public works projects as well as created and adapted municipal offices to the changing demands of an urban society. In this way it was highly typical of American cities of the period. The analysis covers a selection of urban projects and municipal offices in order to shed light on the relationship between the highly volatile world of politics and the technically constrained world of public works development.

The linchpin in the analysis is the role of the civil engineer in the midst of urban politics. As a railroad trained professional, he was a vector of technological innovation in city government. As both a practical man of proven effectiveness and a disciple of efficiency in business, he was given a great deal of discretion in designing the city’s response to industrialization.

In Baltimore, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad served as the training ground for the engineers who later built the city’s water supply, urban transit, public parks, and who often held important appointive municipal offices.

Examination of the years leading up to the Progressive Era speaks to prevailing notions of the meaning of "Progressivism" in history. In the context of nineteenth century cities, the nature of change, especially as exemplified by the "Machine vs. Reform" model is evaluated against the material reorganizations in government preceding and laying the groundwork for later reforms -- chiefly bureaucracy, efficiency, charter reform.

Ultimately, much continuity is found in the midst of the massive social changes associated with the era. The individual changes made, as well as the older forms retained or adapted to new conditions are specific to the history of different cities. Baltimore’s eccentricities lead to different adjustments in the Progressive Era than other cities, yet the process of development and change is remarkably consistent both over time and across cities.

IGU Commission

The Commission on Urban Systems in Transition (UST) was initiated at the IGU Congress in Paris in 1984 to further international dialogue and comparative research on urbanization and urban systems. Like its predecessor on National Settlement Systems, the new Commission attempts to integrate theoretical concerns with empirical and policy-oriented research. The principal topics of interest to date have included analyses of the structural properties of urban systems, the relationships between changes in the space economy and demography, migration and population redistribution, the role of the service sector in urban development, comparative experience in urban policy evaluation and labour market reorganization. Membership currently includes nearly 80 corresponding members and associates from over 35 countries in the developed and developing worlds, with particular emphasis on bringing scholars from East and West together.
Long-Range Planning Committee

The report of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is based on a series of discussions among UGSG members over the past year. The first meeting of the LRPC was held at the AAG Annual Meeting in Detroit in April 1985, and served to establish an agenda for the Committee. The November UGSG Newsletter carried a member survey asking for preferences and evaluations of an extensive list of possible Specialty Group activities. Results of the member survey were distributed to the LRPC, the Board of Directors, and interested individuals. The report represents the results of LRPC discussions, the member survey, and letters and comments from members received throughout the past year.

The report takes the form of four recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors and the members of the UGSG. These recommendations provide suggestions for new or expanded UGSG activities, and a series of specific strategies or options for implementing the recommendations. We have focused on actions that can be implemented virtually immediately with little or no cost but with a high probability of success. The report concludes with suggestions for more complex activities that the UGSG might consider over the longer term.

The report was approved at the UGSG Board Meeting on Sunday in Minneapolis. The membership discussed and approved the report on Monday's meeting (see minutes). Coordinators for each recommendation (listed below) should be contacted for information.

RECOMMENDATION #1

The UGSG should establish a Policy Review Committee to coordinate preparation and dissemination of UGSG-sponsored reviews of government policies pertinent to the subfield of urban geography.

The focus of reviews is to assess the substantive content and anticipated substantive outcome of the policy proposed in the subject document, as seen from the vantage point of an urban geographic perspective. Preparation of such reviews would provide for UGSG input to the national policy debate. It would contribute an urban geographic perspective to policy evaluation and development. And it would increase the visibility of the UGSG and of urban geography in areas where the expertise of the discipline arguably should find expression.

The Policy Review Committee (PRC) will be constituted as a working group of four to six members appointed to one- or two-year terms by the UGSG Board of Directors. The functions of the PRC are to:

(1) Identify appropriate policy documents for review. Likely items might include the President’s National Urban Policy Report (due to be released in June/July 1986), Presidential Commission reports, reports by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, etc. Identification of appropriate documents for review will be based on the contacts, experience, judgment, and interests of members of the PRC working group. We might anticipate reviewing one or two such documents a year at the outset, with the extent of the effort expanding or contracting as we assess our experience with the process.

(2) Prepare a formal review in a form suitable for publication in a scholarly journal. Reviews will be identified as written by their author(s) “on behalf of the Urban Geography Specialty Group of the AAG.” The review(s) will be presented at a UGSG-sponsored session at the AAG Annual Meeting, at which time an opportunity will be available for expression of a “minority report” or dissenting views. An arrangement should be sought with an appropriate journal (e.g., Urban Geography) to provide for publication and provide reprints for dissemination.

(3) Arrange for dissemination of the review. Copies of the review should be distributed to appropriate media, Congressional and governmental offices, other professional associations, and elsewhere as appropriate. The UGSG should budget a small allocation of funds to facilitate such dissemination.

Coordinator: Robert W. Lake, Rutgers University
RECOMMENDATION #12
The UGSG should seek innovative ways to increase student interest and involvement in the UGSG and in urban geography.

Responses to the UGSG member survey indicate strong support for efforts aimed at increasing student interest in urban geography and involvement in the UGSG. A special effort is required to encourage student appreciation of the substantive concerns of urban geography and to provide for "maximum feasible participation" by young geographers in UGSG activities. Several easily implemented means toward this goal can be identified:

(1) Continue to expand the UGSG dissertation award competition. The award competition is an excellent way to recognize high-quality student work in urban geography. Last year's award committee chair, Don Dahmann, has codified procedures for publicizing the competition and for distributing submitted dissertations to a geographically-dispersed competition committee.

An effort should be made to seek additional publishers willing to contribute a book or books to the competition prize.

(2) Initiate a student column in the UGSG Newsletter. The column, provided by a different institution for each issue of the Newsletter, will report on student activities and/or raise issues of particular interest or concern to students.

(3) Organize an open discussion for young geographers at AAG Annual Meetings. The UGSG should sponsor a regular session at Annual Meetings for an open discussion of issues of interest to students and junior faculty in urban geography. The session could be devoted to issues such as obtaining funding, deciding on further graduate study, choosing dissertation committees, interacting with senior faculty, career options, etc.

(4) Maximize student participation in all on-going UGSG activities. Examples include actively seeking student participation in UGSG-sponsored Annual Meeting sessions, nominating student candidates to the Board of Directors, facilitating student access to the Newsletter.

Coordinator: Neil Smith, Rutgers University

RECOMMENDATION #13
The UGSG should establish an ad hoc Task Force on Improving the Teaching of Urban Geography. Several suggestions have already been made by UGSG members and should be seriously considered by the Task Force. Among these suggestions are:

(1) Establish a syllabus exchange. A Task Force member will be needed to serve as a coordinator or facilitator. UGSG members can be solicited through the UGSG Newsletter to send pertinent course syllabi to the coordinator, who in turn will distribute copies of such material, at cost, to those who wish to receive it.

(2) Organize a panel discussion on teaching urban geography for the AAG Annual Meeting. The task Force could assemble a panel to discuss a variety of perspectives on organizing and presenting introductory and/or advanced urban geography courses.

(3) Organize a special issue of a journal on teaching urban geography. Perhaps as an outgrowth of a panel discussion at an Annual Meeting, the organizers should pursue opportunities to sponsor a special issue of a journal on issues in teaching urban geography. Appropriate outlets for such an effort might include Urban Geography, the Journal of Geography, or the PG.

Coordinator: Randy Smith, Ohio State University

RECOMMENDATION #14
The UGSG Newsletter should be expanded, with increased material submitted to rather than written by the Editor. With input from members, the Newsletter can easily be expanded to include reports on recent research activities of members, funding received for urban geographic research, and publications of interest to urban geographers. The Newsletter can serve as a forum for reporting activities of urban geographers abroad, for reporting on conferences of interest to urban geographers, and for reporting on activities of non-academic geographers working in urban contexts. UGSG members should not wait to be solicited by the Editor, but should submit material of interest for publication in the Newsletter.

Coordinator: John Paul Jones, University of Kentucky

From the Long Range Planning Committee: Robert W. Lake (Chair), Marilyn A. Brown, Donald C. Dahmann, David C. Hodge, Edward K. Muller, W. Randy Smith
Your Newsletter

The success of the UGSG Newsletter depends on the materials submitted by UGSG members. The LRPC report, detailed above, calls for an expanded Newsletter with a greater number of items contributed, rather than written by the editor. Pursuant to this document, I would like to solicit the following materials for inclusion in the November Newsletter:

1. Summaries of ongoing or completed large-scale research projects.
2. Short book reviews of general interest to the membership.
3. Reports of conferences.
4. Notes of UGSG member activities (books published, grants awarded, etc.)
5. A student-written column.

Please contribute items, and change of addresses, to:

John Paul Jones, III
Department of Geography
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0027
The digital version of this document was created by the Digitisation team at the University of Manchester Library, November 2013

University of Manchester Library,
Oxford Rd,
Manchester,
M13 9PP
UK

The University of Manchester