letter from the chair

Recently, I received an email message from an undergraduate geography student. She would be reporting to her classmates on urban geography and asked for information on the specialty group’s membership. - How many members belong to the UGSG? What issues concern them? In response, I sent off the list of session (and paper) titles sponsored by our specialty group at the last AAG conference and a copy of the 2000-01 report, which includes membership numbers (565 subscribers) and a record of our annual business meeting.

This representation of our membership apparently did the trick. She responded with both thanks and assurance that she felt fortunate to be the student making a presentation on the group her classmates find most interesting! Such exchanges are common in my role as chair. I find these inquiries encouraging - not only because of the interest and early support shown but also because it demonstrates that students are being asked to consider the organizational aspects of our discipline. There are geographers behind the geographies produced for public consumption. That obvious point can be lost - as many a perplexed face has indicated in my Geographic Thought course when we begin discussing the sociology of knowledge.

That brings me to my message to the membership in this Fall newsletter. Much of our ‘organizing’ depends on material contained in this issue. The ballot is enclosed - please vote! Helga Leitner, chair of the nominating committee, has assembled a collection of strong candidates. Your votes will help insure that the board is representative of its members’ interests. Please send your ballots to me by January 25th either in their paper form or by email.

Also, students (and advisers), please note the information on the annual student paper and thesis/dissertation competitions. Although we have seen some very good entries, greater participation is always a goal. Not only is it an opportunity to earn recognition for your work and compensation for your travel, the judges provide comments that may assist you with your work.

With that reminder of why we do the things we do, I must return to the end of the semester rush. I would appreciate hearing from you if you have thoughts on the specialty group’s operation. While I frequently respond to students, I only occasionally hear from current members. What are we missing ?-

Have a wonderful winter break.

Judith Kenny
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Jkenny@csd.uwm.edu

annual student competitions

Dissertation Competition
Deadline: January 15th, 2002
The UGSG Dissertation and Masters Thesis Awards Committee (Geraldine Pratt, Chair, Katharyne Mitchell, and Jamie Peck) solicits submissions of dissertations for the 2001 UGSG Dissertation Award. The winner of the award will receive $250. The dissertation must have been completed during the 2001 calendar. Dissertations submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. Send one copy to each of the judges: Professor Geraldine Pratt, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C. V6T 1Z2 Canada - gpratt@geog.ubc.ca; Professor Katharyne Mitchell, Department of Geography, The University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195 – kmitch@u.washington.edu; Professor Jamie Peck, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, – jpeck@geography.wisc.edu. Arrangements may be made to send the dissertation as an email attachment or disk copy if you confirm this with each of the judges. Please contact Geraldine Pratt gpratt@geog.ubc.ca with questions.

Masters Thesis Competition
Deadline: January 15th, 2002
The UGSG Dissertation and Masters Thesis Awards Committee (Geraldine Pratt, Chair, Katharyne Mitchell, and Jamie Peck) solicits submissions of theses for the 2001 UGSG Masters Thesis Award. The winner of the award will receive $150. The thesis must have been completed during the 2001 calendar. Theses submitted for awards with other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. Send one copy to each of the judges (listed in the Dissertation competition announcement, above). Arrangements may be made to send the dissertation as an email attachment or disk copy if you confirm this with each of the judges. Please contact Geraldine Pratt gpratt@geog.ubc.ca with questions.

MORE COMPETITIONS, OVER ®

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Geography as well as a graduate level seminar in the same area.

1995 – 1996  
Research Assistant, Hesperian Foundation, Berkeley, California.  
Duties: Organized the reference library at the Foundation offices and conducted research for a women’s health book for developing countries entitled Where Women Have No Doctor.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS  
2001 – 2002  
Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of California Institute for Labor and Employment.

2000 – 2001  
Dissertation Research Grant, University of California Mexus Program.

1999 – 2000  
Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Fellowship, National Science Foundation.

1999  
Centro for Latino Policy Research Minigrant.

1990  
Phi Kappa Kappa

1990  
National Honor Society

PUBLICATIONS  


CONFERENCES AND SHOVELS  

