



SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, No. 1

Spring 2006

Inside:

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>First Call for Papers and Posters</i>	3
<i>Invitation of the 61st Annual SEDAAG Meeting</i>	3
<i>Call for Nominations</i>	4
<i>Minutes of 60th SEDAAG Business Meeting</i>	6
<i>State Reports</i>	8
<i>News from the Southeastern Geographer</i>	11
<i>Of Southern Interest</i>	12

Gerald Webster, *President*
Clifton Dixon, *Vice President*
Doug Gamble, *Secretary*
Altha Cravey, *Treasurer*
Tyrel Moore, *Regional Councilor*
Steve Walsh, *Past President*

From the President

The November SEDAAG meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida was a great success, most particularly given the events suffered by the Division's members and institutions during the past hurricane season. Many members may have noticed little pre-meeting disruption in the submission and program construction process. But this appearance of normality was facilitated by the Herculean efforts of several SEDAAG members. Due to the devastation of the Mississippi coast by Hurricane Katrina which made Vice President Skeeter Dixon's (University of South Mississippi) task as Program Chair all but impossible, SEDAAG's Executive Committee quickly made alternative arrangements to receive presentation submissions. The Division owes a great measure of gratitude to Steve Walsh (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Ron Mitchelson (East Carolina University), Allan James (University of South Carolina), Tink Moore (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), Derek Alderman (East Carolina University), Scott Lecce (East Carolina University), Altha Cravey (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Doug Gamble (University of North Carolina at Wilmington), Bill Carstensen (Virginia Tech) and Russell Ivy (Florida Atlantic University) for the success of the meeting. The willingness of SEDAAG members to jump to the aid of the

organization has been a hallmark of the Division during my 25 years of membership.

The Division also owes a great debt of gratitude to the Local Arrangements Committee for their efforts in organizing and hosting an excellent meeting. Chaired by Russell Ivy, the Committee's members included Charles Roberts, Jackie Gallagher, Maria Fadiman, Liem Tran and Bill O'Brien from Florida Atlantic University, and Mary Caravelis from Barry University. The West Palm Beach meeting included fourteen regular paper sessions, eight special sessions, three panel sessions, two poster sessions, two student honors sessions and one GTU session. In total, there were 148 meeting participants, one greater than last year, an outstanding accomplishment given the weather related disruptions of this past year.

I found the presentations and discussion in those sessions I visited well organized and thoughtful. As always, the World Geography Bowl generated great interest and added to the participation at the meeting. The Honors Banquet was well attended and organized. Thanks to Tim Warner (West Virginia University) for his gracious and thoughtful presentations of SEDAAG awards to our honorees. Congratulations to those recognized including John Pickles (Research), Kavita Pandit (Service), C.P. Lo and Neal Lineback (Lifetime Achievement),

Dave Cowen (Honorary Life Membership) and to Heather Smith and Owen Furuseth (Best Article in the *Southeastern Geographer*). Particular congratulations to the student paper awardees including Sara Schwartz (Masters level, University of South Carolina), Joshua Durkee (Ph.D. level, University of Georgia), and Robert Yarbrough (Ph.D. level, University of Georgia). Finally, congratulations to Sol Wuensch for receiving the Merle C. Prunty Scholarship. In addition to the \$500 checks these four students will receive from SEDAAG, AAG President Richard Marston has also provided one-year memberships in our national association.

The Division also owes a great deal of appreciation to Past President Steve Walsh. Under Steve's guidance over the past two years SEDAAG has continued to thrive. He further made some important changes in the annual meeting schedule that appear to have been excellent decisions. First and foremost among these was moving the Honors Banquet to Monday evening as opposed to Tuesday afternoon. This change resulted in a dramatic increase in attendance, and a more leisurely pace in which to celebrate the achievements of our members. Those present were also treated to an excellent address by AAG President Richard Marston. Thanks to Steve for his leadership and willingness to innovate. As one friend told me, "Steve will be a hard act to follow." I fully concur.

Issues and Ideas

There are several issues needing the Division's attention, but no issue is as important as our membership. SEDAAG's vitality is reflected in the size, diversity and activity of its members. A large membership is also key to keeping the costs of membership

low. Regular SEDAAG memberships have been declining over the past few years in spite of pleas by the last two Presidents of the Division, Steve Walsh and Ron Mitchelson, in this column. The decline in membership by faculty in some of the larger departments in the Division is of particular concern.

I presented my first professional paper at the 1981 SEDAAG meeting in Atlanta. At the time I was a first year Ph.D. student at the University of Kentucky. I also presented papers as a student at the 1982 and 1983 SEDAAG meetings. Though I left the region for a few years, I maintained my SEDAAG membership and became active in the annual meetings again upon my return to the Division in 1989. My commitment to the Division is in part due to the wonderful opportunity SEDAAG facilitated as I made an effort to become professionally active as a student. I believe there is a lesson in my experience – those who become active in SEDAAG as students will likely continue their activity as faculty members if they become employed at an institution in the region. I believe this is true of both Masters and Doctoral students. Thus, it is important for those of us who advise graduate students to encourage their participation in SEDAAG, most particularly as presenters. Our students will not only get the opportunity to present their research efforts in a sympathetic setting, but also to begin the process of developing a professional record. And they may well reward the Division by continuing their membership and activity as faculty members in future years.

The Executive and Steering Committees also focused on membership issues at the meeting and we will continue these discussions in coming months. Last year President Steve Walsh sent letters to all chairs of

Departments of Geography in SEDAAG requesting help in increasing membership in the Division. Steve also received authorization from the Executive Committee to extend a one-year free membership to new faculty members taking jobs at institutions in SEDAAG states. I believe both of these efforts should be continued. To manage the second effort, I ask the membership to forward the names of new hires to their state representatives. It seems likely that an introduction to the Division via a membership will encourage continuing membership and may lead to participation at our annual meeting. And I believe those who participate in our annual meeting are likely to continue regular activity in the Division and at our annual meeting. It would also be helpful for our current members to encourage their existing colleagues to join SEDAAG and to become active in the Division. It seems unlikely that there are many professional organizations that offer so much for the nominal membership cost of \$30 per year. New members will add to the representation of the Division in the AAG, and receive two issues of this Newsletter and two issues of the *Southeastern Geographer*.

I found two items in our aggregate meeting session and participation tallies notable in terms of attendance. First, there were eight special sessions, double the number at the 2004 meeting in Biloxi. It is not uncommon to hear some of our members complain that there are too few papers or sessions on topics of interest to them to justify their attendance at the annual meeting. One clear method of tackling this issue is to organize special sessions in areas that are traditionally under-represented at the meeting. In the past decade political geographers have regularly organized special sessions and this has frequently

led geographers from institutions outside of SEDAAG to attend our annual meetings. Second, I attended one panel session and participated in a second. The discussion generated in both of these sessions was outstanding. I believe that the expansion of the number of focused panel discussions on important issues and cutting edge topics can facilitate increased participation at the annual meeting. Such sessions may include as many as seven or eight panelists making short focused 5-7 minute presentations to be followed by general discussion.

A final initiative that seems highly valuable to actively pursue involves an effort to identify and involve geographers employed at institutions without geography departments or programs. Led by Tom Howard (Armstrong Atlantic University), Helen Ruth Aspaas (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Mark Long (College of Charleston), these "Stand Alone Geographers" have created an AAG affinity group called SAGE. In West Palm Beach a panel session entitled "Promoting Geography for Solo Practitioners" was dedicated to a discussion of their unique problems in maintaining professional contacts and activities. I think this is an excellent opportunity for the Division to provide support for our stand-alone colleagues. In past SEDAAG Newsletters both Kavita Pandit and Ron Mitchelson have reiterated the organization's mission which includes the promotion of acquaintance and discussion which aids in the advancement of the field. Building bridges to stand-alone geographers in the region's colleges and universities clearly has fidelity to this goal. I encourage all members to contact stand-alone geographers employed at institutions in their states and invite them to become members of SEDAAG. Inform these colleagues about the

Division and our interest in having them participate in our annual meetings. I am sure the current leaders of SAGE would be happy to make personal contacts as well. I ask that our member pass along the names of stand-alone geographers to their state representatives to facilitate this effort.

Next year we will meet jointly with MAD in Morgantown, West Virginia, November 19-21. Ann Oberhauser (West Virginia University) is serving as the chair of the local arrangements committee. Having had the pleasure of attending a professional meeting in Morgantown some years ago, I know you will find it and the surrounding area fascinating. Thanks go to Ann and her colleagues for assuming the responsibility of organizing our next meeting. I have no doubt it will be well organized and a valuable forum in which to exchange research ideas and to renew friendships.

Should you have comments, ideas, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Gerald R. Webster, SEDAAG President
University of Alabama,
gwebster@bama.ua.edu*

First Call for Papers and Posters

*61st SEDAAG Meeting
Morgantown, WV
Nov. 19-21, 2006*

The 2006 annual meeting of SEDAAG will be a joint meeting with MAD held in Morgantown November 19-21. Field trips and thematic sessions for the Morgantown meeting are being arranged, and a room for displays will be provided at the conference center. For questions about local arrangements, contact: Ann Oberhauser, (304) 293-5603 ext. 4329, or at sedaag2006@mail.wvu.edu. You may also want to view the website at www.geo.wvu.edu/SEDAAG2006. (See the invitation below) The MAD contact for the meeting is Sheryl Luzzader-Beach, George Mason University 703-993-1213, slbeach@gmu.edu.

You are invited to attend the meeting, participate in the program, and submit a paper or a poster. Students are encouraged to participate in meeting activities and to prepare papers for the *Student Honors Competition* and the

Invitation to the 61st Annual SEDAAG Meeting

The Department of Geology and Geography at West Virginia University welcomes the SEDAAG and MAD membership to Morgantown, WV for the joint annual meeting of these divisions. The meeting will be held November 19-21, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel at Waterfront Place along the scenic Monongahela River. Room rates for the conference are \$79 single/double per night. Reservations may be made by calling (304)296-1700. (Mention SEDAAG to get the special rate.) Planned activities for the meeting include a reception on the waterfront with authentic Appalachian music, a coal-camp tour, and a field trip to the Potomac Highlands. We look forward to seeing you in Morgantown next November!! For further information contact Ann Oberhauser at (304)293-5603 or SEDAAG2006@mail.wvu.edu.

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) undergraduate paper sessions. The deadline for receipt of all papers, abstracts, and poster descriptions is Friday, **September 15th, 2006**. Early submissions are encouraged. Guidelines for papers, poster descriptions, and abstracts are on the SEDAAG website (**www.SEDAAG.org**). All paper and poster authors must be members of SEDAAG, but membership is inexpensive (a form is available online). Specially organized thematic paper sessions (special sessions) are also welcome: their focus on common interests often makes them the most successful sessions. Those who wish to arrange special sessions, conduct workshops, or schedule meetings should contact participants as soon as possible and notify the Program Chair no later than **September 8th, 2006**. Check boxes for volunteering to chair a session or discuss a paper are included on the participation form accompanying this Newsletter and online at the SEDAAG website. Many more people are needed to discuss papers than to chair sessions, so please consider volunteering to serve as a discussant.

Paper and poster presentations at the meeting will be very much like they have been in the past. Electronic projectors and overhead projectors will be provided; 35-mm slide projectors will NOT be provided. *The Guidelines with Instructions for All Participants* can be found at www.SEDAAG.org. We will continue to use the SEDAAG website this year for disseminating both the "Abstracts of Papers and Posters" and "Preliminary Program." Only the final Program will be printed and distributed as part of the registration material. One month before the meeting, we will list the abstracts on a web page linked to the SEDAAG website. A printed version of abstracts will not be available at the meetings.

Since we do not have a list of members' email addresses, pre-meeting announcements of the abstracts being listed online will only be made in this Newsletter, so it is incumbent upon you to check the SEDAAG web site in early November. Second, we are continuing with the voluntary move toward email submissions of all papers and posters except for the student honors competition.

Contact me if you have any questions, and don't forget to volunteer to be a discussant and/or session chair. Dr. Skeeter Dixon, SEDAAG Program Chair, Department of Geography and Geology, The University of Southern Mississippi, Box 5051, Hattiesburg, MS 39406; (601) 266-4729 (voice); c.dixon@usm.edu.

Call for Nominations

OFFICERS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

SEDAAG is soliciting nominations for the positions of **Vice-President, Secretary, and state representatives for Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia**. A form is included in this Newsletter for making nominations. Please send your nominations form via e-mail by April 1, 2006 to Dr. William Graves, Chair, SEDAAG Nominations Committee, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, bgraves@email.uncc.edu.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award: Nominees for this award should meet the following criteria:

- (1) An extensive record of research and publication in scholarly journals, books, and other appropriate forms;

- (2) A record of excellence in teaching and advising as evidenced by teaching awards, students advised, and other appropriate measures;
- (3) A record of service contributions to the individual's educational institution in the form of administrative positions, committee work, and community contact;
- (4) A record of support to the geography profession whether through formal services to international, national, or regional organizations or informal work in the public domain.

Research Honors Award: Nominees for this award should meet the following criteria:

- (1) A significant record of quality research and publication in scholarly journals, books, and other appropriate formats. This record may reflect the cumulative work of several years or the publication of important contributions in a shorter period of time;
- (2) Evidence of research leadership at both an institutional (college, university, industry) and organizational level (professional associations) where scholarly papers are presented and students and colleagues are advised.

Outstanding Service Award: Nominees for this award should meet the following criteria:

- (1) Evidence of exceptional professional commitment to geography at any level, including service to professional organizations; colleges and universities; primary and secondary education; local,

state, or national government; private business and industry;

- (2) Examples of worthy contributions include but are not limited to appointed or elected professional offices, journal editorships, professional organization committees, speaking or otherwise providing leadership in a variety of public forums, and publication in the popular press.

Send nominations with FULL CV of candidate and 3 letters of support by September 25, 2006 to: Dr. Katie Algeo, Chair SEDAAG Honors Committee, Department of Geography and Geology, Western Kentucky University, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101-1056. e-mail: Katie.Algeo@wku.edu

MERLE C. PRUNTY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers annually awards the Merle C. Prunty Scholarship to an outstanding undergraduate student from our region with the objective of encouraging talented undergraduate students to pursue professional careers in geography.

Eligibility: Applicants must currently be juniors or seniors and enrolled as geography majors (or geography minors) in a college or university located within the Southeastern Division. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a professional career or the clear potential to pursue academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree. Applicants are evaluated by the SEDAAG Honors Committee on the basis of scholastic record and professional promise.

Notification: Award recipients will be named at the Honors Banquet at the 2006 Division meeting in Morgantown. All applicants will be informed of the outcome by mail.

Application Materials: Materials submitted in the application must include:

- (1) A cover letter that includes a summary of educational background and academic honors;
- (2) A statement of professional goals, not to exceed two typewritten pages;
- (3) One copy of each undergraduate transcript inclusive of college course work through Fall 2006;
- (4) Letters of recommendation from three persons familiar with the academic work and professional aspirations of the applicant. The letters should include an evaluation of the applicant's potential for development as a professional geographer.

Send nominations by September 25, 2006 to: Dr. Katie Algeo, Chair SEDAAG Honors Committee, Department of Geography and Geology, Western Kentucky University, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101-1056. e-mail: Katie.Algeo@wku.edu

Caribbean Positions

Our friends at University of West Indies-Mona would like to bring to the attention of SEDAAG members two open positions in the Department of Geography and Geology. The positions are a Lecturer in biogeography and a Lecturer in physical geography/GIS. For more information contact Dr. David Dodman, david.dodman@uwimona.edu.jm

Congratulations to the 2005 SEDAAG Award Winners!!

- Best Masters Paper:* Sarah Schwartz, University of South Carolina, Discourse as a means of understanding ecotourism: An example from Wechiau, Ghana
- Best Ph.D. Papers:* Josh Durkee, University of Georgia, The Spatial and Temporal Variability in Mesoscale Convective Complex Precipitation Efficiency, and Robert A. Yarbrough, University of Georgia, Becoming Hispanic: The Negotiation of Racialized Identities Among Central American Immigrants in Atlanta, GA, USA
- Merle C. Prunty Scholarship:* Sol Wuensch, East Carolina University
- Research Honors Award:* John Pickles, UNC-Chapel Hill
- Outstanding Service Award:* Kavita Pandit, University of Georgia
- Lifetime Achievement Award:* C.P. Lo, University of Georgia and Neal Lineback, Appalachia State University
- Honorary Life Membership:* Dave Cowan, University of South Carolina
- Best Article in Southeastern Geographer:* Heather Smith and Owen Furseth, UNC-Charlotte

SEDAAG Dues Reminder

SEDAAG dues are due on a calendar year basis. You were sent a renewal notice in January by the UNC Press. Included in your dues payment is a subscription to *Southeastern Geographer* which has issues in May and November. We strongly encourage you to pay your 2006 dues as soon as possible, so as not to jeopardize your delivery of the May issue.

Minutes of the 59th SEDAAG Business Meeting

Preliminaries

The Business Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers was called to order by SEDAAG President Stephen Walsh at 10:21AM November 22, 2005 in the Sanibel Room of the West Palm Beach Marriot. Approval of agenda and of minutes from the 2004 meeting was unanimous.

A moment of silence was held in memory of SEDAAG member Robert Fuson, University of South Florida, Tampa. In addition we recognized victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Announcement of New Officers

Walsh thanked outgoing officers Stephen Walsh (President) and Altha Cravey (Treasurer) and announced the new SEDAAG Officers and State Representatives

President — Gerald Webster

Treasurer — Altha Cravey

Alabama State Rep — Joe Weber

Florida State Rep — Heidi Lannon

Kentucky State Rep — Michael Crutcher

South Carolina State Rep — Ed Carr

West Virginia State Rep — George Towers

Presidents Report

President Walsh began by thanking local arrangements committee for an excellent meeting. The *SEDAAG Newsletter* will only be available in electronic format this year. This will save SEDAAG about \$1,000 per year. The Newsletter will be e-mailed to each member and also posted on the SEDAAG Website. The migration to an electronic newsletter represents greater use of the SEDAAG web page, which this year also contained information from the Local Arrangements Committee and the

program for the annual meeting. The submission of papers and abstracts will continue to be electronic through e-mail. Thanks is offered to the the SEDAAG Executive Committee for their response to Hurricane Katrina and its disruption of paper submissions to the University of Southern Mississippi. President Walsh also noted that SEDAAG membership continues to be an issue. Renewal is now controlled by UNC Press. Despite this improvement, it is suggested to create an ad hoc membership committee in order to increase members. He suggested that new faculty members in the region be given free membership. Some departments pay for graduate memberships and he encouraged others to do this. The next meeting will be held in Morgantown, WV, and the 2007 should be held in a "core location" perhaps Columbia, South Carolina, or maybe Greensboro, NC. We will have a joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic region in 2006. The National Council for Geographic Education is exploring the idea of sharing a regional meeting with SEDAAG. Education Committee Chair, Eric Fournier, will coordinate that effort with NCGE.

Vice President's Report on the 2005 Meeting

Vice President Skeeter Dixon reported that moving the banquet to Monday night received a positive response from members and was well-attended. Based upon the response this format should and will become a new feature of the meeting. He said electronic submissions to the program will continue, though we may need to simplify instructions. There were 129 participants in the 2005 meeting, and SEDAAG needs to increase the number up to 150 to ensure the continued success and vitality of the organization.

Bill Carstensen suggests making a permanent submission web site. He concluded his remarks by thanking field trip leaders Jacqueline Gallagher and Charles Roberts, Geography Bowl volunteers, Steve Walsh, and Russ Ivy for ensuring another successful meeting. He also announced the Wheeler Award for first paper submission went to Steve Birdsall of UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Tim Warner, Chair, Honors Committee said that nominations for honors were scarce and that the Honor's committee must actively solicit nominations from members.

Report from Local Arrangements Committee

Total registration for the 2005 meeting was 309 including 159 students. 262 registered prior to the meeting and 48 registered onsite. The registration fee increased this year in part because of the beginning of high season of Florida and the increased costs of audio/visual (one machine \$550/day for LCD projector). He suggested future local arrangements committees pursue more vendors and sponsors. This year they raised almost \$5,000 in vendor and sponsor contributions.

Fiscal Affairs

Treasurer Altha Cravey reported that SEDAAG has an operating fund of \$39,000, the Hart Award of \$10,000, a reserve account of \$11,000, an endowment \$22,400 for a total of about \$84,000 in total assets. Some budgetary items still need to be adjusted with more funds due from Biloxi and Charlotte meetings. Mike Harrison of the Audit Committee approved of the figures presented by the Treasurer. Scott Lecce reported SEDAAG membership at 440 individual members (259 regular, 127

students, 30 retired, and 18 joint) and 166 institutional members.

Liaison with AAG

SEDAAG Regional Councillor Tink Moore began by thanking the membership of SEDAAG. He spoke about the invisible efforts at the AAG office and how he has come to appreciate their work. All members benefit from the work of the AAG staff and leadership. He invited SEDAAG department chairs and heads to Vicky Lawson's Healthy Departments Workshop in Athens, GA June 2006. Owen Furuseth, Susan Cutter, and Kavita Pandit will be featured speakers. He expressed his concern about the state of geography in regions—particularly the lack of participation from Ph.D programs. He believes the biggest programs have abandoned the regional meetings and we need to work on this membership erosion in SEDAAG.

AAG President Richard Marston began by thanking Steve Walsh and Russ Ivy for a fabulous meeting. He invited SEDAAG members to Chicago and noted the past President's address "Geography of Caring". He asked "Why continue as a member of AAG?" and answered, "Why would you NOT?" He said the AAG is out front pushing the discipline, and there are lots of good reasons to be a member. One pleasant challenge for the AAG leadership is deciding how we manage all the good news.

AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson began by thanking SEDAAG and the local arrangements committee. He noted good SEDAAG representation on AAG Council. He also offered thanks to AAG officers, Dick Marston, Vicky Lawson, and Kavita Pandit. The AAG continues to have financial improvement. Net assets are @ \$700,000. Membership is up to 9,400 (added 3000 in the past 5 years). This is part of a focused

recruitment effort that includes better use of reminders, automatic membership renewal, and increased member support. He also announced a new category for retired lifetime memberships, and suggests this would make a great gift for retiring faculty members. Almost all membership work is now done online with AAG servers onsite at Meridian Place. The AAG is promoting the internationalization of the discipline in several ways. The Guide to Programs in the Americas (drop the north). Efforts are being made to support Caribbean geography and Latin America too. The AAG responded to Hurricane Katrina by providing a clearing house for contacts, donors, and accommodating students. The association continues to serve needs of geography programs in the affected regions (USM, LSU). Richardson said the AAG would continue to inform members about the needs of institutions in the area as issues arise. The AAG is focused expansion of geography. A new GIS program is being established at Harvard—significant and symbolic. Howard University is also adding geographers to the faculty. The AAG continues to organize and sponsor specialty conferences (Geography and Drug addiction symposium (NIH/AAG). Geography and the Humanities; Geography and the Law; Race/Ethnicity and Place; GIScience). Other initiatives include Diversity Task Force (ten measurable efforts), Senior Associates Program, Careers and Employment (related to diversity), DOL, GENIP, NSF-EDGE. The AAG continues to work in areas of public policy including: working on funding support in Washington and scientific freedom issues. Richardson noted the prominent role geographers played in the aftermath of Katrina and suggested that it helped our image as an integrative science. He concluded by announcing that about 4,500

registered for the Chicago AAG meeting and that we might set a record for attendance in Chicago. Finally the Advancing Geography Fund—now over \$1 million. The AAG is aiming towards \$2 million, and this initiative is essential to continued success of the organization and discipline.

Concluding Items

President Walsh concluded the meeting by inviting SEDAAG members to Morgantown, WV for next year's meeting. Members expressed thanks to President Walsh and outgoing officers. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Eric Fournier (for Doug Gamble).

Resolutions Committee Report 2005

Whereas the outgoing officers of the Division have served admirably, contributing their expertise and time to the continued well-being of the Division, therefore be it resolved that the secretary convey the Division's gratitude to **Stephen J. Walsh**, outgoing President and **Altha Cravey**, outgoing Treasurer.

Whereas the state representatives from **Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, South Carolina, and West Virginia** collected and synthesized information on the status of geography in their states, encouraged membership, served the interests of members in their states, and contributed their professional wisdom and personal commitment to the well-being of the Division, therefore be it resolved that the secretary express the Division's gratitude to **Kelly Gregg, Sharon Cobb, Alice Tarkington, Carl Dahlman, and Brent McCusker**.

Whereas the 60th meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers has provided

opportunities to share research and ideas, and to build and renew collegial relationships, therefore be it resolved that by this action, the Division thanks all participants, especially student participants and new members, for their time, commitment, and efforts in making this a successful conference; further be it resolved by this resolution, that the Division thanks the authors, panelists, discussants, session chairs, and field trip leaders for their excellent contributions to the conference program.

Whereas the Local Arrangements Committee has extended hospitality to the participants and Division members in inviting and hosting us in West Palm Beach, and whereas committee members have created a stimulating program for the opening session and field trips, therefore be it resolved that the secretary express the Division's gratitude to **Russ Ivy**, Local Arrangements Chair.

Whereas **Stephen Leatherman** provided us with a delightful keynote lecture at the opening session, therefore be it resolved that the president convey the Division's gratitude to him.

Whereas the Program Committee has freely given of their time to review submissions for the meeting and helped plan a substantive and thoughtful meeting, therefore be it resolved that the secretary express the Division's gratitude to **L. Allan James** and **Ronald Mitchelson** Co-Chairs of the Program Committee, and to members **Derek Alderman**, **Altha Cravey**, **Doug Gamble**, **Tyrel "Tink" Moore**, and **Steve Walsh**.

Whereas the Honors Committee has generously donated their time, commitment, and expertise to the review of Honors papers and presentations, and to the consideration of Divisional awards, therefore be it resolved that the

secretary express the Division's gratitude to **Tim Warner**, Honors Committee Chair, and to committee members **Katie Algeo**, **Hilda Kurtz**, **Dan Royall**, and **Jim Young**.

Whereas **Bill Carstensen** has organized another World Geography Bowl, thereby providing another opportunity for our students to enjoy friendly competition at this meeting therefore be it resolved that the secretary convey the Division's gratitude.

Whereas **Derek Alderman** and **Scott Lecce**, Co-Editors of the *Southeastern Geographer*, have completed another successful year in editing our regional journal and maintaining its high standards, therefore be it resolved that the secretary convey the Division's gratitude.

Whereas **Richard Marston**, President of the Association of American Geographers has graced us with his presence, and kindly agreed to present the Honors Luncheon address, therefore be it resolved that the secretary convey the Division's gratitude.

Whereas **Douglas Richardson**, Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers has faithfully joined the Division again this year for our annual meeting, and shared with us his vision and experience, therefore be it resolved that the secretary convey the Division's thanks.

The Resolutions Committee moves these resolutions, and requests their adoption by acclamation.

By the Resolutions Committee: Selima Sultana (Chair), Johnathan Walker, and Michael Brown.

22 November 2005

West Palm Beach, Florida

State Reports

This section offers a summary for the 2005 SEDAAG State Reports. The full text of each report can be found at the SEDAAG website (www.sedaag.org)

ALABAMA

Kelly D. Gregg, Jacksonville State University

The entire State-supported system of education in Alabama continues to have major budgetary problems, although this year was better than most. Salaries significantly below both National and Regional averages continue to make it somewhat difficult to attract and retain faculty. On the positive side, thanks to many excellent faculty at institutions throughout the State, Geography is at least holding its own if not growing in importance. Much of this growth continues to be in geographic techniques, spurred by an excellent job market. For the most part, University administrations recognize the value of Geography, and are very supportive, within their often limited means. Geography's role in K-12 courses of study is minimal at this time, but this will be changing over the next several years. Now that the State is requiring a passing score on the PRAXIS exam for certification, Geography programs might expect to play a larger role in teacher preparation.

FLORIDA

Sharon Cobb, University of North Florida

Florida geography seems to be in a positive state with nine new geography faculty added to universities in the state plus plans to add at least 4 more tenure-track positions in the 2005-06 academic year. Nearly 15,000 students were enrolled in undergraduate geography courses in Florida last year and 750 students enrolled in graduate courses. Florida has over 400 undergraduate geography

majors and 148 graduate student majors. The graduate students are enrolled in the state's three Ph.D. granting institutions (University of Florida, Florida State University, and University of South Florida) and three masters granting institutions - Florida Atlantic University, University of West Florida, and University of Miami.

GEORGIA

Angela Yao, University of Georgia

Geography in Georgia is thriving despite the budgetary constraints. Among the eight programs that returned survey forms this year, five have reported growth in faculty, students, and/or courses. Three institutions are making preliminary plans of offering a new major or minor in geography in the near future. Geographic information Science (GIScience) and environmental issues seem to be the most popular areas in terms of job placement and course offering in several institutions. In three of the eight institutions that returned survey forms, there is no geography program and each institution has only one geographer offering general geography courses on campus. Recognition of geography as a discipline is a challenge in those institutions. The sole geographer in those institutions needs a supporting group to do that.

KENTUCKY

Alice Turkington, University of Kentucky

The state of geography at the University of Louisville is very good. The department has an extensive network with employers in the immediate vicinity and with the four local high schools where we supported their development of GIS courses. The "State of Geography" at EKU is improving with each passing semester, and there is some exciting news to announce. The number of majors has

increased from a low of 24 in Fall semester of 2003 to over 50 for the current fall semester. In the University of Kentucky, faculty members and students continue to publish monographs, edit books and publish articles in top-tier international journals. The department recently won a campus wide competition to enhance departmental research and graduate teaching, which gave the department three additional lines. Overall, geography departments in Kentucky are blossoming and enjoying considerable success in research and teaching. Recent budget shortages seem to have eased, and student numbers continue to grow in almost every institution. Both faculty and student bodies have many representatives on the program for both the SEDAAG meeting and the national meeting of AAG in Chicago this year.

MISSISSIPPI

Jerry Griffith, University of Southern Mississippi

Geography in the state of Mississippi continues to remain healthy, despite Hurricane Katrina. Approval was given for a Ph.D. program in Geography at University of Southern Mississippi in environmental geography (land use/land cover impacts and monitoring, geospatial applications, and Latin America) effective immediately. In addition, a merger of the Geography and Geology Departments was completed at University of Southern Mississippi. Mark Bonta of Delta State University published two books in 2004-2005, received a Montgomery Research Fellow at Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami, FL, and was awarded a Delta State University Faculty Research Award. The number of geography faculty in the state (faculty with degrees in geography) is 25; one higher than reported last year. However, the effect of Hurricane

Katrina on geography in Mississippi was significant causing the loss of GIS lab at USM's Gulf Park campus, where the first floor of buildings were washed out, loss of enrollment at USM's Gulf Park campus, including at least a few Geography undergraduate and graduate majors. Some positive aspects of the hurricane are that no known research sites of geographers were affected by the storm. George Raber will be completing debris field and storm surge mapping for a MS coast engineering firm, and preliminary planning for collaborative research between USM (Griffith, Raber, Janke) and Naval Research Laboratory for littoral and urban impact assessment through remote sensing.

NORTH CAROLINA

Jamie Strickland, UNC-Charlotte

The state of Geography in North Carolina remained robust in the 2004-2005 academic year. Well over 12,000 students were enrolled in undergraduate Geography courses across the state, with departmental offerings averaging 58 sections. Graduate education also remained strong in the state with over 500 students enrolled in Master's or Doctoral degree programs. The connection between Geography and Planning remains an important component of several programs in the state, but was expanded by the incorporation of Planning in the Department of Geography at East Carolina University. In addition to the continued success of established M.A. and Ph.D. programs, UNC Charlotte was granted permission to plan a Ph.D. in Geography and Urban Regional Analysis. The teaching, research and service accomplishments of several North Carolina geography faculty were noted in 2004-2005. At UNC Wilmington, Doug Gamble was the recipient of the NCGE Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award. At UNC

Charlotte, Walter Martin was one of five finalists for the university's highest teaching accolade, the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence. Tyrel Moore was also recognized by the UNC Charlotte GTU chapter with an inaugural Outstanding Mentor award. At UNC Chapel Hill, Martin Doyle was awarded a NSF Early Career Development grant. Scott Kirsch received a Short-Term Fellowship in the History of Cartography at the Newberry Library in Chicago. At East Carolina University, Scott Curtis was designated a NASA fellow and Derek Alderman was recognized as an outstanding teacher-scholar and UNC Board of Governors award recipient. It is also worthy of note that North Carolina geographers remain prominent in disciplinary service to both SEDAAG and the AAG.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Carl Dahlman, University of South Carolina

Based on updates to the survey of geography departments, trends have continued unchanged across the state, showing slow but steady increases in both enrollment and staffing. Notably, the Department of Political Science at the College of Charleston hired Dr. Patrick Hurley, whose appointment began this fall. He is the second geographer hired by that department, which now offers several geography courses in a departmental curriculum serving several hundred majors. They are also currently searching for another geographer to join the department. Graduate courses in the state are offered by the Department of History and Geography at Clemson University and the Department of Geography at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Both continue to have solid enrollments, especially for courses in geoscience technology at USC.

Geography at USC also welcomed three new faculty members this fall: Dr. John Kupfer (Associate Professor) and Dr. Amy Mills, and Dr. Monica Fisher (both Assistant Professors). The South Carolina Geographic Alliance, housed in the Department of Geography at USC, continued its dynamic campaign of reaching out to educators at all levels across the state. This year marked the first year of Dr. Jerry Mitchell's directorship of the Alliance, having served in an interim capacity during the previous academic year. The Alliance, in cooperation with the Department of Geography at USC, has created a new atlas with 50 color maps illustrating the physical and cultural landscapes of the state. To date, they have sold more than 9,000 copies of *South Carolina: An Atlas* to schools and individuals. This Alliance continued its drive to promote geography in the K-12 curriculum in South Carolina and again offered its very well-attended biannual GEOFESTs one-day workshops for elementary and secondary school teachers.

TENNESSEE

Evan Hart, Tennessee Tech

Information submitted by geographers across the state of Tennessee indicates that most programs still remain healthy despite financial difficulties the state of Tennessee has undergone, and in some cases by overt efforts on the part of school administrations to limit enrollments and upgrade the overall quality of students admitted to universities. The state has seven colleges and universities offering geography courses with about 5500 undergraduate students enrolled. These programs have over 220 undergraduate and over 80 graduate majors and approximately 30 full-time faculty. The faculty remain active publishing articles, securing grants and winning teaching

awards. Individual accomplishments of note include John Rehder recently winning the Fred Kniffen Award for his book *Appalachian Folkways*, Carol Harden won a career achievement award from the Mountain Geomorphology specialty group. Future growth in geography will continue with two programs indicating potential hires in the next year and several indicating an expansion of program offerings.

VIRGINIA

Michael Harrison, University of Richmond

Geography continues to have a strong presence in the curricula of colleges and universities in Virginia. Within the SEDAAG portion of Virginia (institutions in the greater Washington, DC area of Virginia are members of the Mid-Atlantic Division of the AAG), a total of fourteen (14) institutions were identified as offering courses in geography, and a total of nine of these institutions responded to the survey. Of these, one school (Virginia Tech) offered graduate degrees in Geography, five offered undergraduate degrees (Emory and Henry College, Old Dominion University, Radford University, University of Mary Washington, and Virginia Commonwealth University), and three offered other degrees that Geography helped to support (College of William and Mary, Longwood University, and University of Richmond).

Overall, geospatial technology-related courses (primarily GIS) continue to be a huge draw among the students taking Geography courses. Several schools are reporting that GIS-related industries (public and private) are a major "consumer" of Geography students, a fact that continues to garner interest among the administrations of many of the schools. The interest in GIS is helping bring more students into the

discipline, and many, if not most, of the Geography sections being offered are showing very high enrollments, helping to boost the number of students being engaged by the Geography curricula. While Virginia has not been immune from the apparent nationwide shortfall of educational funding, the budgetary situation has not been as extreme as in some other states, and several Geography programs are able to advertise for new tenure-track faculty. Therefore, the overall state of Geography in Virginia continues to improve, with rising enrollments and more faculty lines being filled. Individual highlights for the state include Ed Davis of Emory and Henry College being appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Natural Resources Foundation, David Hardin of Longwood College received a Fulbright scholarship to continue his work in Croatia and Serbia, and Helen Ruth Aspaas of Virginia Commonwealth University was awarded a Fulbright research fellowship to support her work in Africa.

WEST VIRGINIA

Brent McCuster, West Virginia University

Geography in West Virginia continues to grow. Marshall University is expected to hire a physical geographer this year and the Department of Geology and Geography at West Virginia University continues the process of moving into its new \$25 million building. Demolition of the old building is slated to begin in December 2005. In departments across the state, there are robust curricula and vibrant research projects. The number of students enrolling in geography courses and becoming majors is healthy and growing slightly. Geography courses are taught at Shepherd University, Fairmont State

University, and West Liberty State University as part of broader social science programs. Marshall University, Concord University, and West Virginia University all have departments in which geography is housed. WVU Geography proudly reported to the WVU Board of Governors a 100% placement of its M.A. students over the last ten years in jobs directly related to their field of study. Individual accomplishments for 2005 include Joe Manzo of Concord University receiving a Grosvenor Grant from the National Geographic Society for and George Towers winning the 2005 Joseph Friedl Award for outstanding professor of the year at Concord University. James Leonard and Sarah Brinegar of Marshall University have been awarded a Teacher Improvement Grant from the West Virginia Higher Education Planning Commission to teach secondary school teachers in Lincoln and Mingo Counties how to integrate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into their curricula to meet state content standards.

News from the *Southeastern Geographer*

Over the past year, the *Southeastern Geographer* has obtained greater exposure in electronic literature databases and academic indexes. Full text versions of articles are now available online by subscription through *Project MUSE* as well as *Proquest* and *InfoTrak Onefile*. These efforts, which are a result of the journal's new affiliation with UNC Press, will lead to greater visibility for authors and the regional division overall. The editors of the *Southeastern Geographer* have also recently applied for coverage in the ISI-Thomson Scientific citation databases, which include the *Science Citation*

Index®, *Social Sciences Citation Index*®, and *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*®. Inclusion in ISI is noteworthy and applicants go through an extensive evaluation process. A status report on the progress of the journal's application will be filed at the 2006 SEDAAG meeting in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The November 2005 issue of the *Southeastern Geographer* was noteworthy for several reasons. Guest editor Rebecca Torres (East Carolina University) organized a special issue on "The Caribbean." Dr. Torres wrote the introduction for the Caribbean issue and assembled an impressive and diverse array of writings—four of the scholars are based in southeastern universities, another three from U.S. institutions outside the South, and three internationally-based authors. The November issue reflects the editors' ongoing efforts to place the American South in a critical, global context. An article published in the Caribbean issue by Janet Momsen (University of California-Davis) is being considered for a publication award sponsored by The Agricultural History Society and the journal *Agricultural History*. Congratulations to Janet! The November 2005 issue of the *Southeastern Geographer* also contained the journal's first paid advertisement in recent memory. It was an advertisement for the graduate program at UNC-Charlotte. Other universities interested in buying ad space in the journal should contact Dr. Christopher Meindl (cmeindl@stpt.usf.edu), who can quote rates and page/image specifications for the ad.

The editors of the *Southeastern Geographer* remain committed to raising the number of subscriptions, both among institutions/libraries and individual members. Membership to SEDAAG carries with it an automatic subscription

to the journal as well as several other benefits (newsletter, faculty and student awards, etc.) The journal alone is worth the reasonable membership fee of \$30 for regular members and \$15 for students and retirees. Faculty, students and other professionals are encouraged to join SEDAAG to receive the journal even if they do not regularly attend the annual meetings. Authors can submit their work for possible publication at anytime during the year. New guidelines for contributors can be found at the SEDAAG web site (www.sedaag.org) or in a recently published issue of the *Southeastern Geographer*.

The May 2006 issue of the *Southeastern Geographer* has been sent to UNC Press and should reach members/subscribers on schedule. The issue reflects some of the outstanding submissions received in physical and environmental geography and the editors' desire to strike a balance among the discipline's various sub-fields. Research articles forthcoming in Volume 46, No. 1 are as follows:

Spatial Patterns of Surface Soil

Magnetism and Soil Redistribution Across a Fallow Field, Northern Alabama (by Chad E. Landgraf and Dan Royall)

Estimates of Soil Erosion from

Perched Cemeteries, Sampson County, North Carolina (by Rodney D. Jackson)

Land Use Change and Sinkhole

Flooding in Cookeville, Tennessee (by Evan A. Hart)

Forty Years and More Trees: Land

Cover Change and Coffee Production in Honduras (by J. O. Joby Bass)

Hazard Response Capabilities of a

Small Community: A Case Study of Falmouth, Kentucky and the 1997 Flood (by Erin P. Hughey and Graham A. Tobin)

Religious Diversity in the Southeastern

U.S. (by Peter Vincent, Morton Winsberg, and Barney Warf)

Exploring Inequalities in Health Care

Coverage by Degree of Rurality in Western North Carolina (by Wil Gesler and colleagues)

Re-Created Heritage Villages of the

Midwest: A Four-Stage Development Model (by Royal Berglee)

Analysis of Aggregate Passenger

Routes in Air Travel: An Atlanta-Based Study (by Wei Song)

Of Southern Interest

No Lonesome Road: Selected Prose and Poems by Don West, edited by Jeff Biggers and George Brosi. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2004.

Students of the American South will find *No Lonesome Road* to be an exciting look into the life and writings of poet-activist Don West (1906-1992). A neglected figure in histories of southern and Appalachian literature, West is perhaps best known for co-founding Tennessee's Highlander Folk School, which later trained civil rights activists such as Rosa Parks. Actually, the author wore many hats in life, including labor organizer, farmer, ordained minister, political militant, and progressive educator. *No Lonesome Road* is an annotated collection of over five decades of West's poems, nonfiction essays, letters, and short stories (along with an introduction by Jeff Biggers and personal reflections from long-time associate George Brosi). Coming of age in the politically and economically volatile 1930s, West sought to give voice to the experiences and struggles of textile workers, coal miners, and sharecroppers—"the people with rough hands, big feet, and hard bodies, the real men and women

of the South." A white southerner from north Georgia, he openly challenged the region's aristocratic, slave-master tradition with stories of a Mountain South populated with abolitionists, Union sympathizers, and supporters of the Underground Railroad movement. Calls for racial equality and integration figured prominently into West's prose and personal actions. In 1934, a "wanted dead or alive" warrant forced him to flee Georgia after defending African-American communist organizer Angelo Herndon. Herndon had been charged with "insurrection" for organizing poor and unemployed blacks and whites in Atlanta. As West did with many of his experiences, he recounted his narrow escape and Herndon's mistreatment in a published article. For Don West, writing was more than just literary expression. As he argued: "Poetry and other creative struggles should be levers, weapons to be used in the people's struggle for understanding, human rights, and decency." Consequently, *No Lonesome Road* is more than a book of poems and stories. The book is a chronicle of radical activism in the South before the Civil Rights Movement and thus essential reading for anyone interested in the social and political history of the region.

Contributed by Derek H. Alderman, East Carolina University

If you have a research or teaching resource you would like to share with SEDAAG, contact Secretary Douglas Gamble (gambled@uncw.edu).