



SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2005

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Stephen Walsh, *President*  
Clifton Dixon, *Vice President*  
Doug Gamble, *Secretary*  
Altha Cravey, *Treasurer*  
Tyrel Moore, *Regional Councilor*  
Ron Mitchelson, *Past President*

From the President

The November 2004 SEDAAG meeting held in Biloxi, Mississippi was another great success. The diversity of topics, methods, events, sessions, and geographic areas and issues represented at the meeting was truly remarkable. On behalf of SEDAAG and its membership, it is my pleasure to recognize Clifton “Skeeter” Dixon (University of Southern Mississippi), Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, and all the Committee members and assistants for a well organized and enjoyable meeting. I’d also like to thank Allan James (University of South Carolina), Vice-President and Program Chair, and members of the Program Committee for organizing a thoughtful program. Also, my thanks are extended to the out-going SEDAAG Officers (Eric Fournier, Secretary; Allan James, Vice-President; Kavita Pandit, Regional Councilor to the AAG), State Representatives (Jeff Patton, Lydia Pulsipher, Helen Ruth Aspaas, Skeeter Dixon, Hilda Kurtz), and those who have served SEDAAG on committees and in other capacities. Finally, I’d like to express my sincere appreciation for the excellent work of the World Geography Bowl Committee and Bill Carstensen, Chair of the Committee, for another fun and exciting event in Biloxi. The membership truly appreciates everyone’s efforts on behalf of SEDAAG.

Recently, I participated in a workshop that emphasized the spatial modeling of the human dimensions of environmental change. Participants gathered from a host of places from around the world and represented a number of academic institutions, fields, and skill sets. I want to take a moment and

talk about some of my impressions about the workshop, geography, and its identity that I drew from the meeting. To begin the workshop, we each introduced ourselves, stated our affiliations, and gave a short overview of our academic interests and links to the goals of the workshop. Participants described themselves as demographers, ecologists, modelers, statisticians, and more. There was a small group of geographers attending who described themselves and their work in ways that suggested spatial modeler, earth system scientist, hydrologist, geographic information scientist, and social scientist. However, to a person, they referred to themselves as a geographer. Those in attendance got a glimpse of what at least some geographers do, the diversity of our theories and practices, and the scholarly contributions being made by social, natural, and spatial scientists who regard themselves as a geographer. During the course of the workshop, I was very pleased to hear other scientists complement the geographers in attendance, and our discipline more broadly, for their integrative perspectives, thoughtful approaches, and a well defined analytical tool set. But I was most appreciative of helping to define or re-define to scholars from across the sciences what (some) geographers do, what contributions we make, and, while we share many commonalities with other scientists, to see areas of considerable uniqueness that are disciplinary and personal. In that one setting and in that one place and time, the small group of assembled geographers represented us well and helped define or re-define our academic identities in a most favorable way. I have a feeling that such “educational activities” that serve to set

*President* cont. on page 2

and/or expand our disciplinary and academic identities across other sciences happen in ways too often and too numerous to describe. The things that bind us together as a discipline and give us strength through our commonalities and differences are part of what keeps us vital, keeps us connected to the important scientific and societal issues of the day, and translates to our students an excitement for learning and discovery that we see in the field, classroom, and lab nearly every day.

Finally, let me briefly comment on something near and dear to my heart – the enhancement of graduate education through externally-funded research. I'm speaking of the importance of funded (and un-funded) faculty research as the context for student training and development. There are a number of reasons why we are pushed and/or pulled towards the competition for externally-funded research. Among the reasons near the top of my list are to enhance the opportunities and experiences of graduate students by engaging them in the many facets involved in the inquiry and administration of science. From proposal writing and hypothesis generation, to data collection and analysis, and to data interpretation and publication, research can effectively integrate classroom learning into sets of experiences that are rich in their data synthesis, theoretical frameworks, interpretation of meaning, and contextualizing effects of place and culture. This research experience is fundamental to graduate education, a precursor of academic life after graduation, and a wonderful training ground to develop and sharpen analytical skills, enhance creativity, and so much more, and to do so in ways that enrich students and faculty alike. Also, students who apply for fellowships and research grants from NSF, NASA, and other organizations and institutions do more than bring honor to themselves and their departments, they engage in a process of scientific inquiry that is an important element of scholarly development, in my view, a crucial part. So faculty, search out research opportunities and engage student wherever and whenever possible. And student, make your own opportunities and invite faculty along for

the fun. A good student-faculty partnership is one in which they both learn, they both come up with more questions than answers, and they both are rewarded through the experience.

Stephen J. Walsh, President  
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill  
swalsh@email.unc.edu

## First Call for Papers and Posters

*60th SEDAAG Meeting  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Nov. 20-22, 2005*

The 2005 annual meeting of SEDAAG will be held in West Palm Beach November 20-22. Field trips and thematic sessions for the West Palm Beach meeting are being arranged, and a room for displays will be provided at the conference center. For questions about local arrangements, contact Russ Ivy, Dept. of Geosciences, Florida Atlantic University, (561) 297-3295; ivy@fau.edu. (See the invitation elsewhere in this newsletter.)

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 *Gamma Theta Upsilon* (GTU) undergraduate paper session. The deadline for receipt of all papers, abstracts, and poster descriptions is Friday, **September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005**. Early submissions are encouraged. Guidelines for papers, poster descriptions, and abstracts are on the SEDAAG website ([www.sedaag.org](http://www.sedaag.org)). All paper and poster authors must be members of SEDAAG, but membership is inexpensive (forms can be found 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005**.

Check boxes for volunteering to chair a session or discuss a paper are included on the participation form in this Newsletter and online. Many more volunteers are needed to discuss papers than to chair sessions, so please consider volunteering to act as a discussant.

### Procedural Changes

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. With regards to submissions of papers and posters we will continue with the procedures implemented last year. First, we are relying upon the [www.sedaag.org](http://www.sedaag.org) website for basic information. *The Guidelines with Instructions for All Participants* can be found at [www.SEDAAG.org](http://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 post the abstracts on a web page linked to the SEDAAG website. A printed version of abstracts will not be available at the meeting but can be downloaded from 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, The University of Southern Mississippi, Box 5051, Hattiesburg, MS 39406; (601) 266-4729 (voice); [c.dixon@usm.edu](mailto:c.dixon@usm.edu).

## SEDAAG Membership: Further Comment

Dear Friends & Colleagues:

I'm writing to solicit your help in strongly encouraging students, faculty, and staff in your department (and other friends of geography) to continue their membership in SEDAAG, to join in the case of new students, faculty, and staff, or to rejoin for those who might have let their membership's lapse. There has been a substantial dip in SEDAAG's membership partly as a result of the change in publisher of our journal, the *Southeastern Geographer*, to the University of North Carolina Press and the manner of collecting dues. The Press now administers the collection of dues from our members, which is a service that will help the Division and its members by allowing the use of credit cards to pay dues and reducing the administrative and accounting activities of the Division's officers. However, the change in the way dues are collected and how members are contacted may have confused some into thinking that the mailings from the Press were just another advertisement or materials not connected to the Division. I hope you'll help by taking the lead in your department on behalf of a grateful Division, by encouraging membership in

SEDAAG and by directing geographers, and friends of geography, to consult SEDAAG's web page to obtain all the needed membership information and application material. The web site can be found at <http://www.sedaag.org>, where one can easily navigate to "Membership Application."

Membership fees in SEDAAG are extraordinarily low and members receive the *Southeastern Geographer*, a highly regarded journal edited by Derek Alderman and Scott Lecce, East Carolina University. The journal, newly configured and designed, publishes first-rate papers of regional and international interest on subjects that inform social, natural, and spatial scientists. Annual dues are \$30.00 for regular members, \$15.00 for students and retired faculty and staff, and \$32.00 for joint/spouse. In addition, the annual meeting of SEDAAG has long been described as the top divisional meeting of AAG drawing between 400-500 participants yearly. The 2005 meeting is planned for West Palm Beach, Florida on November 20-22.

In sum, please strongly encourage geographers in your department and beyond to join SEDAAG. Earlier this calendar year, dues notices were mailed by the UNC Press to current

members. Some may not have recognized the mailing as the now normal way of collecting Divisional dues and notifying its membership. The Press is not aware of new students and faculty in your department, and so they should be directed to the SEDAAG web site and encouraged to join SEDAAG, as it is the premier division of the AAG. Participation at the annual meeting is a great way for young scholars to present their research in a supportive environment and for young and established scholars to share findings and to serve as session chairs and discussants on a diversity of topics. Each paper is assigned a discussant, so feedback within a challenging but friendly environment is a hallmark of SEDAAG. Also, SEDAAG sponsors student paper and poster competitions with cash awards.

As I close, I offer my thanks and a DEAL! For any new faculty member in the Southeast (or a never before member of SEDAAG, or a faculty member whose membership in SEDAAG has lapsed for 3-years or more), SEDAAG will pay the first year of membership dues as a way of welcoming them into the Division and encouraging them to take a serious look at all that SEDAAG offers. They should send their membership application to the SEDAAG Treasurer, Altha Cravey, Department of Geography, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3220 for special handling. Let me conclude with a SUGGESTION and a CHALLENGE – some departments have chosen to pay the first year of new student memberships in SEDAAG and other Chairs pay faculty memberships in SEDAAG as a way of informing them about SEDAAG, its fall meeting, and encouraging participation in scholarly activities that are affordable, regional, and of exceptionally high quality. The sustained membership of SEDAAG at our traditional levels and even beyond is important to Geography and most certainly to the Division. Your help is truly appreciated.

Sincerely  
Stephen J. Walsh  
President of SEDAAG  
Professor of Geography  
UNC-Chapel Hill

## Invitation to the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual SEDAAG Meeting

The Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University welcomes the SEDAAG membership to convene in West Palm Beach, FL for the 60<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. The meeting will be held November 20-22, 2005 at the West Palm Beach Marriott near the City Place entertainment and dining district. Room rates for the conference are \$135 single/double per night, and reservations may be made by calling 561-833-1234. (Be sure to mention SEDAAG to get the special rate!) Planned activities for the meeting include an outdoor reception with food, drinks and a Caribbean-style band, an urban/historical walking tour of West Palm Beach and/or Palm Beach Island, and a physical geography field trip to Loxahatchee Slough. November is one of our more beautiful months in South Florida! Please plan to attend. If you have any further questions about the local arrangements, please contact Russ Ivy at 561-297-3295 or [ivy@fau.edu](mailto:ivy@fau.edu).

## Call for Nominations

### OFFICERS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

SEDAAG is soliciting nominations for the positions of President, Treasurer, and state representatives for Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, South Carolina, and West Virginia. A self-addressed return postcard is included in this Newsletter for making nominations.

Nominations should be returned by the date listed on the nominations card. Please send your nominations to: Dr. Vernon Meentemeyer, Chair, SEDAAG Nominations Committee, Department of Geography, Geography/Geology Building Rm. 204, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2502.

### 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 23, 2005 to:** Dr. Tim Warner, Chair SEDAAG Honors Committee, Department of Geology and Geography, 425 White Hall, PO Box 6300, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506. e-mail: [Tim.Warner@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Tim.Warner@mail.wvu.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 2005 Division meeting in West Palm Beach. 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 2004;
- (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 23, 2005 to: Dr. Tim Warner, Chair SEDAAG Honors Committee, Department of Geology and Geography, 425 White Hall, PO Box 6300, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506. e-mail:

[Tim.Warner@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Tim.Warner@mail.wvu.edu)

## Caribbean Outreach at 2005 Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, FL

In the spirit of recent discussions about including the Caribbean in SEDAAG activities, the SEDAAG Steering Committee encourages to include Caribbean geography in the 2005 Annual Meeting. Such activities can include an official invitation extended from SEDAAG to a colleague at a Caribbean university, paper and paper sessions focusing upon Caribbean research, or forums on field research and courses in the Caribbean. The location of West Palm Beach, FL offers lower travel costs for Caribbean geographers and a setting in a landscape that illustrates the connections between the Southeast and the Caribbean. If you have a Caribbean colleague you would like invited to the 2005 Annual meeting or are interested in organizing or participating in a Caribbean focused session, please contact Doug Gamble, UNC-Wilmington ([gambled@uncw.edu](mailto:gambled@uncw.edu)).

# Minutes of the 59<sup>th</sup> SEDAAG Business Meeting

## Preliminaries

The Business Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers was held on November 23 in the Bayview Hotel, Biloxi, Mississippi. SEDAAG President Stephen Walsh called the meeting to order at 10:25 AM with @ 30 members in attendance. Walsh introduced members of the Executive Committee and guests AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson and AAG President Vickie Lawson.

Agenda and 2003 minutes were approved unanimously. Recently deceased SEDAAG members Malcolm Murray (Georgia State University) and Roland "Rollie" Williams (West Liberty State) were recognized with a moment of silence. Truman Hartshorn of Georgia State read a tribute to Murray.

## Announcement of New Officers

Walsh thanked outgoing officers Allan James (VP) and Eric Fournier (Secretary) and announced the new SEDAAG Officers and State Representatives

**Vice President** — Skeeter Dixon

**Secretary** — Doug Gamble

**AAG Regional Councilor** — Tink Moore

**Mississippi State Rep**—Jerry Griffith

**Tennessee State Rep**—Evan Hart

**Georgia State Rep**—Angela Yao

**Virginia State Rep**—Michael Harrison

**North Carolina State Rep**—Jamie Strickland

## Presidents Report

President Walsh began by thanking new editors of *the Southeastern Geographer* for the new design and for making the editorial transition as smooth as possible. Free copies of *The Role of the South in American Geography* remain available to SEDAAG members. Departments will each be sent copies of the book.

Ron Mitchelson has agreed to fill the position of SEDAAG Historian for a three year term. Members are encouraged to send SEDAAG-related materials to Mitchelson at East Carolina University. President Walsh also thanked long-time SEDAAG Historian, Alan Bushong for his service on behalf of the Division.

President Walsh announced three actions of Steering Committee

1. The award for best Masters paper will be increased to \$500 next year
2. A poster competition will be held for the 2005 meeting. This will be open to graduate students and will carry an award comparable to the other awards. Details regarding submissions and judging criteria will be dealt with by the Program Committee.
3. There will now be a member discount for meeting registration fee. Non-SEEDAAG members will be required to pay an extra fee to attend and/or present papers at subsequent meetings.

The Association needs to work to increase membership. Renewal notices will now be managed by UNC Press (publisher of *Southeastern Geographer*). Members will now be able to pay fees via credit card. Contributions to SEDAAG beyond basic membership will still be sent to the SEDAAG Treasurer (Altha Cravey, UCN-Chapel Hill). President Walsh will write letters, work with Department Chairs, and State Reps to boost membership. SEDAAG needs a minimum of 600 members to remain a viable organization and to keep membership fees at their current level.

## Vice President's Report on the 2004 Meeting

SEDAAG Vice President Allan James reported that meeting registration and participation was strong with 29 sessions, 14 paper sessions, 5 panel sessions, 2 GTU sessions, 2 poster sessions. There were 150 presenters.

The Wheeler award for first submission went to Derek Alderman. The migration to digital submissions went smoothly with the vast majority of SEDAAG members participating. Three web sites were used to manage submission and meeting news:

1. Permanent web site (will have links to other two)
2. Program site
3. Local arrangements site

He noted a need to control file sizes, but continued to encourage electronic submissions, both for savings of time and money.

## Fiscal Affairs

Altha Cravey (UNC—Chapel Hill) accepted a request from the Executive Committee to serve as SEDAAG Treasurer after Leo Zonn left the region for another position. She was in the process of making the transition to the office and submitted a preliminary report. She reported \$52,517.67 in the bank (based on November statement). The Endowment account has a balance of \$22,140.46.

## Liaison with AAG

Regional Councilor Kavita Pandit reported that the status of the AAG is quite good. She noted the Healthy Departments Initiative. Incoming President Richard Marsten plans to work on strengthening physical geography within the AAG.

There is a new PG editor and two new editors for *Annals AAG* need to be appointed.

Online versions of PG and *Annals* will soon be available. The AAG newsletter has improved—and is now valuable tool for the discipline.

Many new initiatives

- specialty conferences
- race ethnicity and place conference
- Geography in Humanities symposium
- AAG NSF funds to support travel to IGU, will be renewed for Brisbane 2006
- Educational projects—led by Michael Solem
- Senior Associates Program—retired geographers, Jan Monk.
- Future meeting sites
- Personal note: Thanks for the opportunity to serve

*Minutes* cont. on page 6

*Minutes* cont. from page 5

AAG President Vicky Lawson began by thanking SEDAAG and congratulating the association for an excellent meeting. She noted the energy of students and the quality of the papers at the meeting. She said that geography is strong, vibrant, reaching new departments, and that the AAG is very strong right now. She credited the staff of the AAG and leadership of Doug Richardson for his humanity and professionalism.

Her priorities as president include supporting the Healthy Departments Initiative (workshops designed for geography leaders). Next one will be held in Portland, Me. in June; promoting the diversification of AAG via the Diversity Task Force. The AAG sponsored a Race, Place, and Ethnicity Conference and will encourage underrepresented students to attend Denver AAG. Ask departments to support travel. The AAG has received a FIPSE grant to boost diversity (Michael Solem).

AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson began by thanking Local Arrangements Chair Skeeter Dixon and outgoing AAG Councilor Kavita Pandit, and by welcoming in-coming AAG Councilor Tink Moore. Richardson reported that AAG finances are strong,

the Centennial fund continues to grow, membership continues to rise (currently 8,475 members). The AAG has worked with lapsed members to boost enrollment, primarily by development of more benefits. He noted that the AAG will continue to build support for specialty groups including free listservs for automatic updates by polling membership database. The AAG can also do finances for specialty groups and do book-keeping for regions. 3,450 abstracts have been submitted for Denver meeting; all done electronically. These systems save the association money and serve members more efficiently. He thanked the current team at the AAG headquarters for their excellent work (Robin Friedman, Oscar Larson, Michael Solem, and Robert Andelman).

### Concluding Items

Resolutions Committee Report (Joe Nicholas)

Russ Ivy invited SEDAAG members to Florida in 2005 for the 60<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in November 2005. The meeting will be held in the newly renovated city place area of West Palm Beach .

Adjournment Move to adjourn: 12:35. Submitted by Eric J. Fournier (SEDAAG Secretary).

### Resolutions Committee Report 2004 SEDAAG Resolutions

*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 **L. Allan James**, outgoing Vice President, **Eric J. Fournier**, outgoing Secretary, and to **Allen Bushong** for his years of service as Division Historian.

*Whereas* **Kavita Pandit** has served both the Division and the Association of American Geographers capably as Regional Councilor for three years, therefore be it resolved that the secretary convey the division's gratitude.

*Whereas* the state representatives from **Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and 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 **Hilda Kurtz, Skeeter Dixon, Jeff Patton, Lydia Pulsipher, and Helen Ruth Aspaas**.

*Whereas* the 59th 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 Biloxi, 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 **Skeeter Dixon**, Local Arrangements Chair.

*Whereas* **Walt Grayson** 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**, Vice President and Chair of the Program Committee, and to members **Joby Bass, Martin Bosman, Dawn Bowen, Michael Brown, Arleen Hill, Paul Karan, Lisle Mitchell, Brent McCusker, John Rodgers, Amy Ross, Dan Royall, Roy Stine, Selima Sultana, Linda Wang, and Gerald Webster**, with additional thanks to

### 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 2005 dues as soon as possible, so as not to jeopardize your delivery of the May issue.

### Electronic Reference of the *Southeastern Geographer*

The *Southeastern Geographer* can now be accessed online through Project Muse, Proquest, and InfoTrak Onefile.

**Greg Carbone, Carl Dahlman, and Ed Carr.**

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 **Lizbeth Pyle**, Honors Committee Chair, and to committee members **Timothy Warner, Holly Barcus, Thomas Mote, and Rebecca Torres.**

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 **Victoria Lawson**, President of the Association of American Geographers has graced us with her 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: Joseph Nicholas (Chair), Mary Kimsey, and Henri Grissino-Mayer.

23 November 2004

Biloxi, Mississippi

## State Reports

*This section offers a summary for the 2004 SEDAAG State Reports. The full text of each report can be found at the SEDAAG website ([www.sedaag.org](http://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. An ambitious plan to restructure property taxes and increase funding for education was decisively defeated by the voters. In response to stagnant funding, politicians have pitted K-12, against two-year colleges, against four-year Universities in an unproductive fight for limited resources. In order to find more funding for schools, just this last week the legislature passed a series of bills that may ultimately reduce the health benefits currently possessed by University employees. This, on top of salaries already significantly below both National and Regional averages, will make it increasingly 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.

#### Summary data for the State:

Number of undergraduate courses: 20

Number of graduate course sections: 52

Number of students enrolled in all undergraduate courses: 6414

Number of students enrolled in all graduate courses: 286

Number of undergraduate majors: 232

Number of Master's students: 18

Number of full-time faculty: 27

Number of part-time faculty: 7

### FLORIDA

*Sharon Cobb, University of North Florida*

The state of Florida survived 4 hurricanes and the 2004 Presidential Election this year and the economy appears to be slowly rebounding with an increase in tax receipts through post-hurricane rebuilding. The threat of call-backs for higher education funding appears to be diminishing. Rhetoric from Governor Jeb Bush's office, the Florida legislature, and the State Board of Governors is placing increasing emphasis on higher education accountability, and outcomes assessment and measurement. The state plans to create Academic Learning Compacts where "universities will clearly identify what baccalaureate students will learn in terms of content knowledge, as well as communication and critical thinking skills, by the time they graduate" (Florida Department of Education, 2004). Many university educators are nervously waiting for State attempts to create a 'University FCAT' (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) in a similar fashion to the tests that all 3<sup>rd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade students take each year.

Despite the relative lack of funding for higher education in Florida and Tallahassee rhetoric, geography appears to be in good shape. With an 80% response rate from all institutions, Florida geography graduated 39 students with a BA; 80 with BS; 8 with MA; 12 with MS and 8 with Ph.D. Forty percent of respondents offer geography courses either in combined departments with geology or economics, or under the rubric of other disciplines such as international relations, environmental studies, or environmental science. Geography tracks or minors within these departments are attracting greater numbers of students. Notable was the first geography degree awarded (BA) within the International Relations Department at Florida International

*Florida* cont. on page 8

Florida cont. from page 7

University. This program was initiated in Fall 2001 and the number of majors is growing rapidly with two or more graduates expected in Spring 2005. The department is also waiting for administration's response to change the name to the Department of International Relations and Geography.

In summary, geography in Florida is healthy, productive, and gaining increasing respect from other disciplines resulting in increased student enrollment and the development of new programs such as certificates and tracks. Two major trends in higher education have worked to the benefit of geography programs in Florida. First, increasing respect for GIS as an important spatial analytic tool has generated interest in geography, and second, the growing significance of inter-disciplinary collaboration and research has allowed for geography to become a relevant part of the curriculum due to the discipline's broad approach.

## GEORGIA

*Hilda E. Kurtz, University of Georgia*

Survey forms were sent to the twelve institutions within the University System of Georgia that have geography in their curriculum. Seven departments had returned surveys at the time of this report. Information received by department is summarized in the table below.

Institution	Faculty		Majors		Enrollment		Courses/Sections	
	FT	PT	UG	G	UG	G	UG	G
Dalton College		1	2		171		6	
Georgia College and State U.	2	0	0	0	120	2	4	0
Georgia Perimeter College	2	3	0	0	1121	0	44	0
Georgia State University	6	2	48	37	2189	165	38	33
University of Georgia	19	4	75	73	5364	500	88	40
State University of West Georgia	4		20	n/a	600	8	12	2
Valdosta State University	8		47	1923	68			

However, budget constraints during a time of shrinking state coffers were a common theme in this year's state reports. Geography in Georgia seems to be holding steady in this context.

## KENTUCKY

*Alice Turkington, University of Kentucky*

Geography departments in Kentucky are continuing to experience a high demand for geo-technology, and many institutions experience considerable university-wide support for courses and support services in this area. The University of Louisville, EKU and WKU have strong GIS programs and attract many students from other disciplines to these courses. GIS also continues to be an area of program expansion in many Kentucky schools. Undergraduate student numbers have declined somewhat, for example in the University of Kentucky and EKU, though most departments of geography report strong support from college deans and university administrations.

The challenge of finding resources to fund geography programs is ongoing in most institutions, with many reports of tighter departmental budgets. Northern Kentucky

University, for example, has experienced delays in renovation and movement of GIS laboratories. NKU and UK have implemented some fees for students to obtain photocopied material or to participate on fieldtrips. For the most part, geography seems to be holding its own in the face of considerable reductions in state funding for higher education. Many institutions, for example UK, EKU and UoL, anticipate replacement of faculty who retire or leave and enjoy excellent relations with other departments and administrative bodies in their respective institutions.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

*Carl Dahlman, University of South Carolina*

Based on recent surveys, twenty-seven institutions of higher education in South Carolina offer geography courses on a regular basis. Two of these institutions, USC-Columbia and Clemson University, offer graduate courses in geography. Only USC-Columbia offers a degree program, though Francis Marion students may earn a degree through a fourth-year cooperative program with USC. USC-Columbia offers the only geography graduate degree program in the state. Statewide, 34 full-time faculty and 25 part-time faculty taught 213 undergraduate and 22 graduate courses with an enrollment of 7,682 (undergraduate) and 347(graduate). At most institutions, large sections of introductory geography or world regional geography courses account for highest enrollments. There are two new full-time faculty members teaching geography in the state.

## North Carolina

The status of geography across the state of North Carolina appears to be quite strong. Virtually every department across the state reported increasing enrollments. The number of undergraduate students enrolled in geography courses rose by nearly 3000, a 20% increase over the previous year's reported

enrollment. Graduate student enrollment rose by 229, a 27% increase. As there was only an increase of 29 undergraduate majors and 4 graduate majors reported in geography across the state, most of this increase appears to a result of students in non-geography programs augmenting their undergraduate and graduate education with geography course work. To meet the increased demand there were 5 more full-time geography faculty that the year before. In addition, several new lines were authorized across the state and should be filled for the start of the 2005 academic year. NC Pembroke reports that they are hoping to establish a department of geography in AY 2005-2006, East Carolina has created 3 new laboratory facilities and has instituted a new certificate program in Atmospheric Science, UNC Chapel Hill's department is now back into newly renovated Saunders Hall, UNC Greensboro is constructing new research laboratory facilities, initiated a new post-baccalaureate certificate program in Urban Economic Development and has 13 new students in their inaugural doctoral class, and UNC Wilmington has added a new certificate program in undergraduate minor in geography. Overall 2003-2004 appears to have been a year of solid growth for the discipline and a highly successful year for many faculty and students across the state.

## TENNESSEE

*Lydia M. Pulsipher, University of Tennessee*

Information submitted by geographers across the state of Tennessee indicates that most programs appear to have shrunk a bit in enrollment when compared to the data submitted in previous years. This is, in part explained by the 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. However, I note that in the case of my own department, the numbers are down, and yet I know that we actually have more and better majors and more and better graduate students than in the past. To

some extent, the discrepancies are due to miss-reporting in the past. As last year, the mood of some Tennessee geographers appears to be a bit grim, with several noting tight finances and the fact that their departments have been merged with other disciplines. Hence they feel a loss of status and identity and also feel overworked. Despite such difficulties graduates with Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. degrees are finding jobs across the country in academics, environmental consulting, GIS, cartography, remote sensing, logistics, law, business, medicine and planning as well as attending graduate school. The Tennessee Geographic Alliance, the Department of Geosciences at Middle Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville teamed up to send 15 Tennessee teachers to Mexico City for a summer workshop on *Mexico City: A Window into the Culture and Population of Mexico*.

## VIRGINIA

*Helen Ruth Aspaas, Virginia Commonwealth University*

Fourteen geography programs or individual geography instructors responded to the annual survey report. Of these, one came from a junior college instructor, four came from instructors who are housed in departments or programs other than geography, one came from a program that offers a minor in geography, six came from programs that offer a B.A. or B.S. in geography and one came from the only institution in Virginia that offers a masters degree in geography. The total enrollment of students in undergraduate geography courses ranged from 70 to 1500. The mean enrollment was 760 students per institution for the past year. The number of courses taught ranged from 6 to 48 and the mean was 20 courses per year.

Geography is generally thriving in all the reporting institutions with classes filled each semester and demand for additional courses growing. GIS is increasingly viewed as an attractive aspect of the university curriculum. Two certificate programs at Old Dominion University (ODU) are proving to be

successful, one in GIS and the second in spatial analysis of coastal environments. Overall, the institutions reported a very optimistic outlook for geography within their respective settings. Several institutions have had successful hiring experiences and have brought dynamic researchers into their programs. Efforts for integrating with other disciplines are proving to be successful avenues for increasing funding and enhancing research agendas. Increase enrollments, successful teaching and research endeavors, a growing recognition for the value of GIS as a research and analytical tool, and successful efforts to respond to student demands for diversified geography courses bode well for the future of geography in Virginia.

## WEST VIRGINIA

*Brent McCuster, West Virginia University*

Geography in West Virginia continues to grow, especially with recent hires at Marshall University, West Virginia University and an expected hire at West Liberty State College. 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. Geographers continue to meet informally at state conferences such as the yearly FACDIS (Faculty and Course Development in International Studies Program) conference and at the Appalachian Studies Association conference. 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.

The state of geography in West Virginia is inexorably linked to the crisis in higher education that affects us all. Funding is a major issue across the board. WVU has taken a pro-active approach to these challenges and has begun reorganizing major university procedures for overhead and has begun to implement a workload equity model for all departments. We all recognize the challenge of these times and that universities in West Virginia have responded to serious financial challenges with remarkable creativity and insight.

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You may use this form or supply the information on a separate sheet.

Type of presentation:

- Paper       Student Honors Paper       GTU Undergraduate Paper       Poster  
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