



# SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS NEWSLETTER

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2011

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to Eric for ‘modernizing’ the meeting registration. Another important change that came out of the meeting was a strong commitment by the Executive Committee to move SEDAAG to online voting. Jackie Gallagher, Chair of the SEDAAG Tellers Committee, and the rest of the Tellers Committee investigated several online voting options and Jackie presented those at the meeting of the Steering Committee in Birmingham. She was given the ‘green light’ to move forward, the first trial being the SEDAAG Regional Councilor election in April. Many hours went into testing and setting this up, and I cannot thank Jackie and her crew enough for moving us forward. We will continue with online voting in the regular election at the beginning of the Fall 2011 term.

Two other important initiatives came out of the business meetings in Birmingham. One was a call from student members to make the SEDAAG meeting more ‘green’. Ideas were discussed ranging from recycling conference materials (programs and name badge holders) to giving back to the host community in some way. It was decided to let the SEDAAG Student Representative work with the Local Arrangements and Executive Committees to make recommendations for action in Savannah. Another proposed idea/initiative was the expansion of the SEDAAG region to include Puerto Rico and possibly other parts of the Caribbean. Doug Gamble, SEDAAG Regional Councilor at the time, was asked to investigate the procedure for officially changing our boundaries, which requires a vote of the membership. You will hear more about that debate and process shortly.

On a less positive note, post-analysis of the meeting showed the necessity of reminding the membership about their individual responsibilities in keeping the SEDAAG meeting and organization alive and healthy. As reported at the business meeting in Birmingham, SEDAAG membership dropped considerably from 2009 to 2010. We all know that it is a requirement to have current membership in SEDAAG in order to be listed on the program. Post-analysis indicated that several people gave posters, papers and participated in panel sessions

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dr. Russell L. Ivy, Florida Atlantic University*

I hope that everyone is having an enjoyable and productive summer; celebrating the end of a successful school year and looking forward to the next. As we are making preparations for the upcoming meeting in Savannah, I would like to offer my thanks to everyone who participated in the Birmingham meeting last fall. Particularly, I would like to thank Eric Fournier and the rest of the Local Arrangements Committee as well as Jonathan Leib and the Program Committee for a job well done. If you have never served on either committee, let me assure you that a great deal of time goes into putting the meeting together and coordinating with the local venue to make sure that everything runs smoothly, as it did in Birmingham.

In addition to the great scholarship that came out of the meeting, SEDAAG was moved forward by Eric Fournier with 123 Signup which allowed online payment for meeting registration. Even though a slight surcharge is assessed for the service, the convenience of online payment far outweighs that charge, which was subsidized by SEDAAG as opposed to placing it on top of the meeting registration fee. Thanks again

without current memberships, and probably most of those are unaware of their lapsed memberships. I would like to think that we do not have to police this issue, but apparently we do. For the meeting in Savannah, Ron Kalafsky, SEDAAG Vice President and Program Chair, will not be permitted to place any accepted paper, poster or panel on the program until I have confirmed the current membership of the participant. If you know your membership has lapsed, please go to the website and update your membership now ([www.sedaag.org](http://www.sedaag.org)). Please contact SEDAAG Treasurer, Sharon Cobb ([scobb@unf.edu](mailto:scobb@unf.edu)) if you have questions about the currency of your membership.

Post-analysis of the meeting from the venue in Birmingham revealed that we did not live up to the requirements of the contract, and thus we were charged approximately \$5,000 in additional fees by the Wynfrey [Actually, Eric Fournier got the hotel to meet us halfway with the charge—we actually owed almost \$10,000 EXTRA for the meeting rooms according to the terms of the contract]. The meeting registration fee that you pay does NOT include the meeting rooms, but instead goes towards food and beverage, audiovisual rental, easels for posters and other miscellaneous expenses. Most of the membership is perhaps unaware that when we book a conference at a hotel, whether or not we are charged for the meeting room space is dependent upon certain things agreed to in the contract signed. Generally, we agree that the membership will book a particular number of sleeping room nights at the hotel and that a particular amount of money will be spent on food and beverage. If those requirements are not met, then we are liable for the regular rate for the actual meeting room space, which can be several thousand per day. In other words, what we are charged for the meeting room space can be either \$0 or several thousand dollars.

This is the first time in many years that we have had to pay the penalty for not meeting the requirements of the hotel contract. Why did we fail to meet the terms of the contract in Birmingham? The contract was negotiated before my Presidency, but I assure you the terms were fair in today's conference market and were certainly in line with contracts that have been negotiated during my Presidency for Savannah in 2011 and Asheville in 2012. I can also assure you that the meeting attendance in Birmingham was high enough to have supported the terms of the contract. The obvious issue was that many people who attended the conference did not support the conference hotel. In fact, I overheard several people at the meeting mention that they had saved \$10 or \$15 per night by booking at another nearby hotel. I realize that these are tough financial times for all of our departments and all of us as individuals, but frankly, this is exactly what caused us to not meet the terms of the contract and to have to pay an additional \$5,000 to the hotel. I think we all need to realize that supporting the conference hotel is very important to subsidize your 'share' of the meeting room space. This has impacted us more than the \$5,000 of unexpected expenditure. It has impacted our reputation with conference hotels. The Hyatt in Savannah has confirmed with Birmingham that we did not meet the requirements and they are getting nervous about holding such a large block of sleeping rooms for us. We need to make sure we meet the sleeping room requirements in Savannah or this will seriously impact our negotiation powers

in the future. Please support the conference hotel and **BOOK NOW!** We all know the general pattern of the meeting and know exactly when you need to be there. Hotel booking information can be found on the SEDAAG website. We will keep you informed of the progress of the Savannah meeting. The Call for Papers was sent earlier in the summer with all of the specific deadlines and requirements for submission. If you did not get the Call for Papers, please visit the SEDAAG website ([www.sedaag.org](http://www.sedaag.org)). Let's make the Savannah meeting the best on record!

## **World Geography Bowl Birmingham, AL**

*Written by Dr. Jennifer Collins, University of South Florida*



Winning Florida team, from left to right: Jason Ortegren (Co-Coach), Cindy Shaw, Bill Carstensen (Bowl Organizer), Nick Campiz, Kenneth Foote (AAG President), Nicole Motzer, David Roache, Ashley Weatherall, Mike Nesius, Jennifer Collins (Co-Coach).

At the annual meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, the World Geography Bowl organized and hosted by Dr. Laurence W. (Bill) Carstensen (Virginia Tech) stirred up its usual excitement. The Florida team (co-coached by Dr. Jason Ortegren of the University of West Florida and Dr. Jennifer Collins of the University of South Florida) scored 7-0 in the preliminary rounds. The Georgia team (coached by Dr. Katherine Hankins of Georgia State University) also did especially well (5-2) in the preliminaries and the two teams competed in the final round. With a competitive final round, the Florida team maintained their edge. Incidentally, out of the last four years, Florida has held on to this title three times. Last year was exciting as Florida and Virginia both had a score of 8-1 in the preliminaries, but Florida was defeated in the final round by Virginia. All students on the Florida team received plaques for winning and received the new two-tier Geography Bowl. The Florida team consisted of University of South Florida student: David Roache; University of Florida students: Nicole Motzer and Nick Campiz; Florida State University student: Mike Nesius; Florida Atlantic University student: Cindy Shaw; and University of West Florida student: Ashley Weatherall. Both females on the team were undergraduate students. The Georgia team comprised of students from Georgia State University: Harrison Layer, Michael Husebo,

Dee Jordan, Jamie Bruce, and Cheryl Nye, and of Jacob McDonald from the University of Georgia.

Questions were entertaining asking, for example “A 25 hour train ride from Beijing, this Asian capital city gets its name from the term “flat land”. It is the only Communist capital to ever fall into enemy hands when it fell in the 1950s. For ten points, name this city, home to the Arch of Reunification, the Dear Leader and his successor Kim Jung-Un, which serves as the capital of North Korea”.

The dream team animated round was written and moderated by Dr. Jeff Neff and the final animated round was written by Caleb Smith of William Carey University and moderated by Bill Carstensen. The dream team round was just as fun where students competed against several AAG/SEDAAG officers (President of the AAG: Ken Foote; President of SEDAAG: Russ Ivy; Vice President of SEDAAG: Jonathon Leib; and SEDAAAG at-large representatives Tom Howard, Dawn Bowen and Jason Ortegren. The Student all-star team won doing particularly well with several movie questions with a geographical theme.

Dr. Bill Carstensen has organized the Geography Bowl at the regional and national level for the last 10 years, after taking over the role from Bowl Competition originator Dr. Neal Lineback. It has been run so that the bowl runs so smoothly on the night, but Bill has put in much behind the scenes work to make that happen. Bill stepped down as main organizer of the SEDAAG competition and will be participating as director of the bowl at the national competition for the last time in April. Taking over the bowl for the SEDAAG conference will be Jamison Conley from West Virginia University. SEDAAG thanks Bill for the years of service to a competition which further encourages undergraduate and graduate students to participate at the conferences.

## Awards and Honors

### Ph.D. Student David Roache receives awards in Florida

*Written by Dr. Jennifer Collins*

Doctoral student David Roache wins two awards in a single week! His paper "Analysis of a Mechanism for the Onset of the Eastern North Pacific Basin Hurricane Season" won best graduate student paper at the Florida Society of Geographers (FSG) annual meeting held February 18-20. Also, David was awarded the Dewey M. Stowers Award for Excellence in Meteorology at the West Central Florida Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (WCFLAMS) annual meeting on February 23rd.

Please visit: [http://gep.usf.edu/data/david\\_roache\\_awards.pdf](http://gep.usf.edu/data/david_roache_awards.pdf) for all the details and photo!

### Professor wins lifetime achievement award

*Written by Amanda Collins*

Geography professor Graham Tobin, Ph.D., was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG).

Tobin, who also serves as associate vice president for academic affairs, received the award in response to his lifetime

contributions to teaching, research and service. He has published five books, eight edited books and monographs, 22 chapters, more than 85 refereed articles and proceedings, 49 technical reports and working papers, 24 book reviews and presented more than 200 academic papers. Tobin also has received more than \$1.5 million in grant money as well as served on many university and national committees.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is not the first award Tobin has received from SEDAAG; he also received the Research Honors Award from the association in 2001.

“[I am] honored to receive this award especially as it comes from my peers, it is very much appreciated,” Tobin said. “The award recognizes achievements in all academic areas, teaching, research and service, both to the university and the geographic profession, which is exactly what being a professor is all about. Of course, success in one’s career is always contingent on the great support of others, and over the years I have been most fortunate to collaborate with many wonderful scholars from USF and beyond.”

Originally published on the University of South Florida website. Link: <http://www.cas.usf.edu/news/s/103>

### Professor Wins Excellence in Teaching Award

*Written by Amanda Collins*

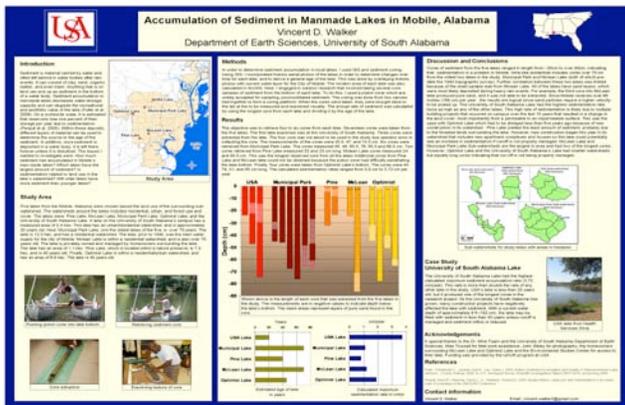
Dr. Collins was awarded SEDAAG’s “Excellence in Teaching Award”. Dr. Collins was nominated for this award by a few colleagues who have worked closely with her including Dr. Naomi Yavneh (Director of Undergraduate Research and Associate Dean of the Honors College) who wrote in her nomination letter about Dr. Collins that, “Her careful guidance – in recommending bibliography, in discussing ideas, field work, in reading (and rereading and rereading) drafts – allowed these students [from the Hurricane Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program] to flourish...”. Dr. Yavneh further notes that Dr. Collins has been “Consistently creative, energetic and resolved in her commitment to the best possible programs and the most nurturing and challenging research experiences to our students”. Dr. Brinkmann (former Chair of her department) described Dr. Collins as “truly innovative – she uses new techniques and technologies in her classroom regularly”. Her students have described her as “A fantastic inspiration and ...role model”. A visiting student to USF on the Hurricane REU program wrote to Dr. Collins with her appreciation saying, “With your constant encouragement and commitment to making sure I understood all the aspects of the project, I felt you pushed me to excel as part of the team. As my mentor, I feel that you went above and beyond what was required of you during the REU and made my experience as a visiting student one of your priorities”. Former undergraduate student who wanted to support Dr. Collis’ nomination said about Dr. Collins and her classes, “Before these classes, I had no plans for after graduation, and had never considered going to graduate school. It was because of these experiences, and Dr. Collins’ enthusiasm for teaching, that I discovered a passion for physical geography, specifically meteorology and climatology. Due to her encouragement I was accepted into Graduate School”. This recognition of her teaching by her discipline was not a surprise to USF who previously awarded her the USF “Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award” and the

“Outstanding Student Advisor Award”. Collins notes that she considers teaching and research as two sides of the same coin and she involves students in her research helping them get a learning experience outside of the classroom. This year she has one paper already published and 2 in press all on the topic of hurricanes, with the latter two involving her graduate student. Last year, she published 5 papers with one of them lead authored by her graduate student and two of them involving her undergraduate student.

## The Teaching Corner

*Written by Dr. Jennifer Collins (Chair, Education Committee)*  
 The Education Committee organized SEDAAG’s first Undergraduate Student poster competition in Birmingham, AL. The purpose of the award is to recognize the achievements of undergraduate students and encourage these students to participate at SEDAAG. Not only is undergraduate research important to the student, but through these students’ achievements, undergraduate research is also important for institutions. In addition to the new Undergraduate Student Poster Competition, there are other opportunities for undergraduate students to participate at SEDAAG including the GTU paper session and the Geography Bowl competition where an undergraduate student is needed on every team. Eleven undergraduate posters were presented at the competition on topics such as “Urban Heat Island Mitigation Strategies”, “Using ArcGIS on the iPhone for Campus and Study Abroad Applications” and “Magic City Railroad Reimagined”.

Figure 1



All undergraduate students who presented did very well but two of these stood out and they both received the award. Both students received a small monetary award and will receive a plaque. Vincent Walker (University of South Alabama) received the award for his work titled, “Accumulation of sediment in man-made lakes in Mobile, Alabama”. His mentor is Dr. Mimi Fearn who commented, “He is a wonderful young man with a great future ahead of him. It is my privilege to help him get started”.

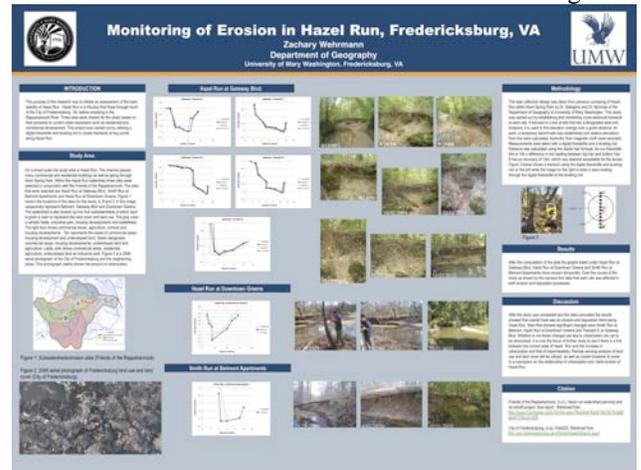
Figure 1 shows Vincent's poster and Figure 2 shows Vincent in the field with fellow student being engaged in his research project. Zachery Wehrmann (University of Mary Washington) received the award for his work (Figure 3) titled, “Monitoring of Erosion of Hazel Run, Fredericksburg, Virginia”. His mentor is Jackie Gallagher who commented about Zac, "He is excited

and enthusiastic and capable, and will definitely go on to bigger and better things". See picture of Zac in the field (Figure 4).

Figure 2



Figure 3



Due to the level of interest in the competition and several great posters, SEDAAG is going to offer a first prize of \$250 with a SEDAAG membership, as well as a second and third prize which will consist of SEDAAG memberships to recognize the awardees at the next annual meeting. The Education Committee would like to thank the mentors for encouraging students to participate and helping them with their journey towards research and future success. Mentors may want to identify undergraduate students now so they can submit an abstract on their undergraduate research project for the upcoming meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

Figure 4



## Difficult Memories and Monumental Words on Savannah's River Street

*Written by Derek H. Alderman, East Carolina University*

In November of this year, the Southeastern Division of the AAG will hold its annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah, Georgia. Near the base of the Hyatt along River Street is a monument that might interest those who study the African American experience and the politics of commemoration in the U.S. South. The Savannah monument displays a sculpture of an African American family in modern dress with broken chains at their feet and an inscription that pulls from the words of noted author Maya Angelou to describe the inhumanity of the transatlantic slave trade that brought enslaved Africans to the Americas.

Georgia's founder, James Oglethorpe, initially prohibited slavery in the colony upon its founding in 1733, but the ban was lifted seventeen years later in response to growing demands for labor on plantations. During Savannah's involvement in the slave trade, it received enslaved West Africans for almost fifty years in the late eighteenth century. By 1850, slaves made up 46 percent of Savannah's population and had established, with free people of color, a vibrant African American community in the antebellum period. In addition to providing critical know how and labor to rice cultivation in the region, the enslaved carried out much of the loading and unloading of ships at Savannah's port, created and repaired fortifications, reinforced the militia, ran the city's fire department, cared for white households sickened by malaria and yellow fever, and constructed many of the structures that would eventually become the Savannah historic district.

Despite the historical importance of slavery to the development of Savannah, there was little public commemoration of the enslaved before retired educator and African American activist Abigail Jordan proposed to build the monument that now overlooks the waters of the Savannah River. For Jordan, the legacy of slavery in Savannah was an "invisible story" that had been publicly forgotten for too many years. She captured this forgetfulness when she wrote: "Over five million visitors will walk [this year] on the unmarked cobblestones of River Street with no understanding of the [slave] hands that laid them or of the notorious [slave] ships that docked at River Street two centuries ago. Underlying Jordan's project, and similar commemorative projects across America and the South, is a belief that engaging in critical discussions about slavery is not only historically important but also necessary if we hope to achieve racial reconciliation and social justice.

The apparent weightiness and permanence of the River Street monument might suggest otherwise, but this important commemoration almost did not happen. For over a decade, Jordan raised money, formed an African American Monument Association, and engaged in numerous public negotiations and disagreements with Savannah officials. Several aspects of the design and location of the monument drew intense debate before it was finally unveiled in 2002—none more so than its inscription. Indeed, while the inscription proposed by Jordan certainly drew resistance from some whites, it also angered and created anxiety among African

Americans who wanted to avoid using what they considered uncomfortable and divisive words. As Savannah City Councilman David Jones was quoted as saying: "I myself wouldn't want to be reminded of [the horrors of slavery] every time I looked at it [the monument]. History's a hell of a thing. It can hurt." In response to opposition from Jones and another outspoken African American city official, the final, approved inscription on the monument retained the originally proposed text but was appended with a more upbeat ending. The inscription on the monument reads:

We were stolen, sold and bought together from the African continent. We got on the slave ships together. We lay back to belly in the holds of the slave ships in each other's excrement and urine together, sometimes died together, and our lifeless bodies thrown overboard together. Today, we are standing up together, with faith and even some joy.



The River Street monument became a politically charged symbol in the city and received national and international media attention. An analysis of public comments made at the time indicate that the inscription served as an arena for competing ideas about how best to represent African Americans as victims of slavery, the legacy of slavery and racism in contemporary America, as well as competing personal and political visions within the black community. In addition to being an important chapter in Savannah's landscape history, the monument serves as a key analytical moment for scholars. As historian James Loewen has asserted, every commemorative site tells at least two different stories. The first and most obvious is the story of the past communicated through the site's text and artwork. The other is a deeper yet no less critical tale of how the monument was

erected, by whom, and for what ideological purpose. In this respect, Savannah's monument to African Americans on River Street, particularly its inscription, is valuable not only as a public story about the atrocities of slavery but also as a story of how present-day African Americans struggle to come to terms with these difficult memories and the monumental words used to describe them.

To read more about the monument inscription debate in Savannah, see: Alderman, Derek H. 2010. "Surrogation and the Politics of Remembering Slavery in Savannah, Georgia (USA)." *Journal of Historical Geography* 36: 90-101.

To read more about the history of Savannah and the role of African Americans in the city, see: Fraser, Walter J. 2003. *Savannah in the Old South*. Athens: University of Georgia Press; and Jones, Jacqueline. 2008. *Saving Savannah: The City and the Civil War*. New York: Knopf.

To read more about the use of monuments and memorials to remember tragedy and trauma, see: Doss, Erika. 2010. *Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; and Foote, Kenneth E. 2003. *Shadowed Ground: America's Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy*, Revised and Updated. Austin: University of Texas Press.

## **Community Geography Initiative (CGI) at Georgia Southern University**

*Written by Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Georgia Southern University*

In fall 2008, Drs. Rob Yarbrough (Department of Geology and Geography, Georgia Southern University) and Tom Chapman (Department of Political Science and Geography, Old Dominion University) started a Community Geography Initiative (CGI) program at Georgia Southern University. This initiative is dedicated to providing a service to, and serving as a resource for community groups, social service agencies, faith-based agencies, and nonprofit organizations that would like to use GIS to address a community concern but lack the resources or technical capacity. Following the model of the Community Geographer at Syracuse University, Chapman and Yarbrough have sought to create a program that utilizes geographic information to support community based organizations in Southeast Georgia. Community Based Mapping is committed to addressing community challenges that relate broadly to themes such as health inequalities and disparities, social and environmental justice, and neighborhood planning and economic development. One primary focus of CGI at Georgia Southern is to help circumvent barriers to using GIS software including staff, time and financial constraints. Successful implementation of community geography projects also have the potential to address issues associated with geographic data creation, collection, and management.

The overall objectives of this community geography initiative are to contribute a geographic perspective to the goals and initiatives of community partners and to ultimately affect

positive change in rural Southeast Georgia in the areas of social justice, community development and public health. The area covered is broadly defined, and roughly includes a nine county region covering the southeast portion of the state. The initiative seeks to assist the community by making and distributing maps and providing assistance in more elaborate spatial analyses of community challenges—for example, studying the relationships between the demographic characteristics of a community, its geographic location, and access to health resources or social services. Current and past projects include: "Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Detecting Substandard Housing in Camden County, GA", "Rural Community Asset Mapping in Vidalia Onion Country", "Assessing Services and Needs for a Local Area Health Education Center (AHEC)", and "Locating Areas of Need for Tax Preparation Assistance". These projects have been funded through internal service and research awards at Georgia Southern University and Chapman and Yarbrough are extremely grateful for the support they have received from the university. This support has enabled the hiring of four undergraduate student interns over the past three years, providing an added student-centered component to the myriad benefits that the Community Geography Initiative has provided during this time. Maps generated this way can be the departure point for community-wide decision-making by focusing attention on the objective depiction of a wide range of social and economic data. Longer term plans include taking on emerging projects that explore the relationships between race, poverty, rural neighborhoods and public health.

## **The A.S. Williams III Americana Collection**

*Written by Dr. Jerry Webster, University of Wyoming*

Members of SEDAAG with research and teaching interests focusing on the American South will be interested in a recent large donation of historical materials by A. S. Williams III to the University of Alabama libraries. Williams, a former insurance executive, made the donation this past summer, and the collection is currently being organized by theme. Totalling over 33,000 items, the collection is organized into major subdivisions including a Presidential Collection, American Civil War Collection, Southern Literature Collection, and County and Local History Collection.

One of the largest subdivisions pertains to Southern Fiction including first editions by William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe, Endora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, Mark Twain, Truman Capote and Langston Hughes, among many others.

Among these are first editions of W. J. Cash's *The Mind of the South* and Carl Carmer's *Stars Fell on Alabama* – sitting next to the latter are the original galleys! The Southern Fiction Collection also includes a substantial quantity of correspondence between notable southern authors.

The collection also includes a significant number of maps focusing on the South, and Alabama in particular. While most of these maps are housed in a map cabinet, many others are framed and displaced on the wall of the collection room including "Mitchell's Reference and Distance Map of the United States" from 1846. A large proportion of the maps

pertain to the Civil War, but there are also early “pocket maps” from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and a set of Sandborn Maps of Birmingham and Mobile dating from the 1920s.

The U.S. Presidential Collection includes the signature of every president on a document from George Washington through George W. Bush, as well as campaign buttons, photos, letters, pamphlets and books.

The Civil War Collection includes over 6,000 books dating from secession, with many published in the Confederacy. Also included in this subdivision are letters, diaries, newspapers and business records. Among these are Confederate imprints such as *The Southern Friend: A Religious, Literary and Agricultural Journal*.

Also of interest is a collection of 12,000 photographs dating from the 1850s to the 1930s, and the Great Depression. Some of the earliest items are daguerreotypes and ambrotypes.

A large number of the photographs document the Civil War in the South, with many others pertaining to general southern photography with an emphasis on Alabama.

The collection includes a number of items pertinent to research on slavery, race and African American History generally. Notably, there is an emphasis on African American educational institutions such as Tuskegee Institute. Visitors will find a number of items on both George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington including photos, books and pamphlets.

The Southern History Collection includes hundreds of books, pamphlets and photos dating from the early nineteenth century to the present. While many items pertain to the South generally, there are a tremendous number of volumes from the nineteenth century focused on the local histories of towns and counties in Alabama.

Given their historical significance, the items in the A.S. Williams III Americana Collection are non-circulating. The collection is housed in room 301 of the Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library on the University of Alabama campus. Dr. Nancy DuPree currently serves as the collection’s curator ([ndupree@lib.ua.edu](mailto:ndupree@lib.ua.edu)). A more complete overview of the collection is provided at <http://www.lib.ua.edu/williamscollection/>.

## **In Passing**

**Sam Bowers Hilliard** passed away Friday, August 5, 2011 at the age of 80. After graduating from Hartwell High School, Sam enlisted in the US Navy, serving for four years in the Korean conflict. He then obtained his BA and MA from the University of Georgia, followed by MS and PhD degrees at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. After teaching positions at UW Milwaukee and Southern Illinois University, Sam moved his family to Baton Rouge, LA to join the faculty of the Geography and Anthropology Department at Louisiana State University. His research interests included historical geography, agricultural practices and landscapes of the past. During his tenure at LSU he wrote 6 books, including *Hogmeat and Hoecake: Foodstuff Self*

*Sufficiency in the Antebellum South*, described by one reviewer as “often brilliant and sometimes profound”. He published dozens of journal articles, including major editing efforts for three National Geographic special publications. As a member of the LSU faculty he mentored graduate students, served as Department Head, Director of the School of the Geosciences, and Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA. Sam served as major professor for 12 doctoral and 5 masters students. He was the recipient of an LSU Alumni Professorship and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers. Upon retirement Sam and Joyce moved back to the land they loved, their farm in Hart County that had been in the family for 3 generations. He blended his academic interests and his love of place in his retirement pursuits, editing three books on the churches of the area, writing articles on historical topics for the Hartwell Sun, giving presentations to civic groups, restoring antique farm equipment and taking an active role in the Hart and Franklin county historical societies. He served on the Board of the Hart County Historical Society and Museum and as official historian of Hart County. He was awarded the Rotary Four Way Test Award and the DAR Medal of Honor for his service to the area. Sam is survived by wife Joyce, his son Steven and daughter-in-law Amy Edwards, daughter Joy and son-in-law Tim Courville, grandchildren Landon and Sydney Courville.

## **SEDAAG Elections 2011**

**Remember to vote in this year’s SEDAAG elections.** Up for election this year are President and Treasurer, and State Representatives from Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, South Carolina and West Virginia (*Vote ONLY for State Representative from the state in which you are a member*).

<b>SEDAAG will be going paperless this year! Please look for an email with instructions on electronic voting.</b>
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### **PRESIDENT**

**Douglas W. Gamble** (PhD, 1997, Geography, University of Georgia) is an Associate Professor of Geography and the Director of the Laboratory for Applied Climate Research in the Department of Geography and Geology, University of North Carolina Wilmington. He has been an active member of SEDAAG since 1992, serving as Geography Bowl Team Coach, Mississippi State Representative, paper discussant, session chair, member of the Honors Committee, member of the *Southeastern Geographer* Editorial Board, Secretary, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, Regional Councillor, and facilitating SEDAAG Caribbean collaboration. He has

attended every SEDAAG meeting since 1992. Dr. Gamble's current research interests include droughts and the hydroclimatology of the Caribbean, vulnerability to sea-level rise in North Carolina, and the impact of climate change upon Jamaican agriculture. His research has received funding from the Association of American Geographers, the National Science Foundation, and NOAA, and published in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Climate Research*, *International Journal of Climatology*, *Journal of Coastal Research*, *Physical Geography*, *Southeastern Geographer*, and *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*. Nearly half of his publications are co-authored with students. He has taught a wide-variety of physical and environmental geography courses during his career. He has received the NCGE Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award (2005), SEDAAG Excellence in Teaching Award (2009), and the UNCW Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award (2010). In 2004 and 2005, he was a co-leader of the Geography Faculty Development Alliance Workshops at University of Colorado, Boulder.

**L. Allan James** (Ph.D. 1988, M.S. 1983 & 1981, University of Wisconsin, Madison; B.S. 1978, University of California, Berkeley) is Professor of Geography at the University of South Carolina. He also taught at the University of Georgia (1987-88) and the University of Oregon (1987). He has been an active member of SEDAAG since 1988. His service to SEDAAG includes Endowment Committee member (2008-present), Vice President (2002-04), Program Chair (three times 2002-05), Secretary/Newsletter Editor (1998-2000), Honors Committee (1998), and State Representative (1996-98 & 1990-92). Allan has guest edited the *Southeastern Geographer*, organized several sessions at SEDAAG annual meetings, and participated in many others. He serves on editorial boards of *Southeastern Geographer* (2003-present), *Geomorphology* (2005-present), *Royal Geographic Society Advancing Geography...* book series (2008-present), and *Professional Geographer* (1998-2000). As a lifetime member of the AAG (1978-present), he is currently a National Councilor (2009-present), and on the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography (2010-present). He was elected to the AAG Honors Committee (2006-08), chair of Water Resources Specialty Group (2002-04), chair of Geomorphology Specialty Group (1995-96), secretary-treasurer of WRSO (2000-02) and GSG (1994-95). He chaired the Nystrom Awards Committee (2001; 1999), and was founding web-editor for WRSO (1999-2006) and GSG (1996-2006). Allan has served on panels for the *National Research Council*, *National Science Foundation* (four times), *Environmental Protection Agency*, and others. He has received extramural funding from the NSF, U.S. Geological Survey, and other sources. His primary research is in river science, water resources, and GIScience applications to these fields. He has published in the *Annals*, *Catena*, *Geomorphology*, *Geography Compass*, *Natural Hazards Review*, *Physical Geography*, *Professional Geographer*, *Quaternary Research*, *Remote Sensing*, *Southeastern Geographer*, *Water Resources Research*, and many other journals. Allan envisions SEDAAG as an organization that is highly supportive of student and young faculty involvement and firmly linked to the national AAG organization. If elected, he will work to strengthen these traditions. We are in a period

of contraction, so he will establish initiatives to stimulate recruitment and retention. He will build on traditional strengths in Geography that integrate humanism, science, and geospatial technology. We are well positioned to take advantage of the increasing dependence on GIScience and growing concerns over global change, human impacts, and sustainability science. Allan will encourage interactions within our discipline that facilitate our integrative strengths and promote our skills.

## TREASURER

**Heidi Lannon** (Ph.D., University of Florida; Master of Public Administration, University of West Florida; B.Sc. (Hons) University of Ulster, Ireland) is an Associate Professor of Geography at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida. She has been a member of AAG and SEDAAG since 1994. Heidi has served SEDAAG as the Florida State Representative from 2006 to 2007, and was a member of the SEDAAG Nominating Committee in 2008 and 2009. In 2009 Heidi received an Early Faculty Award from SEDAAG for travel to the annual meeting. She was a Student Honors participant at the Lexington, Chapel Hill SEDAAG meetings, participated in the World Geography Bowl in Tampa and Lexington, and has presented research papers and acted as a session discussant at recent meetings. Heidi is currently a member of the SEDAAG Education Committee. Heidi has been involved with the Stand Alone Geographers (SAGE) and Women in Geography. Heidi is the immediate Past President of the Florida Society of Geographers. Prior to joining the Santa Fe Faculty, Heidi had a career in industry and government, where she was the Director of the Office of Management and Budget for a municipal corporation with a budget in excess of \$150 million. She was the Manager of Financial and Demand Side Management for a full service utility in Florida where she designed rate structures and conservation programs for electricity, telecommunications, natural gas, water, and wastewater systems. Heidi's research interests are in coastal geomorphology and its relevance to the human components on the coast.

**Jeff Popke** (Ph.D. 1999 and M.A. 1993, University of Kentucky; B.A. 1989, Dartmouth College) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at East Carolina University. His work explores how social theory, and in particular theories of ethics and responsibility, can contribute to geographical scholarship and also shed light on the uneven dynamics of global change. He is currently investigating the relationships between neoliberal restructuring, migration, and rural change in Jamaica, Mexico and the US South. His work has appeared in *Progress in Human Geography*, *Geoforum*, *The North Carolina Geographer* and *The Southeastern Geographer*, among other venues. Jeff has been an active member of SEDAAG since 1992, and has served on SEDAAG Honors and Tellers committees. He has served on the Steering Committee for the North Carolina Geographical Society and as co-editor of *The North Carolina Geographer*. He served for 10 years as treasurer for the Ethics, Justice and Human Rights specialty group of the AAG.

## ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Jennifer Rahn** (Ph.D., 2001, University of Florida) Though originally from the Garden State, Jennifer Rahn graduated with a Ph.D. from University of Florida's Geography Department and worked in Texas and Virginia before settling in Alabama, teaching as an Assistant Professor at Samford University in Birmingham. She teaches courses in physical and coastal geography, GIS and Latin America. Her research interests include Caribbean cobble beach and coral reef geomorphology, and geographic education. She is chair of the AAG Coastal and Marine specialty group, chair of the SEDAAG education committee and is a board member of Alabama URISA.

**Jason Senkbeil** (Ph.D. Geography Kent State 07, M.S. Geosciences Mississippi State 03, B.S. Geography South Alabama 98) is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Environmental Science Program at Alabama. Senkbeil has been a SEDAAG member since 2007, and in that time he has served on the Program, Nominations, and currently Honors Committees. He has also coached team Alabama in the WGB for the past 3 years in addition to multiple SEDAAG presentations per year. He has dual research emphases in hurricane hazards and synoptic/applied climatology, and his research has been published in a variety of journals. Senkbeil's hurricane hazard research is at the interface of physical and human systems focusing on the accuracy and knowledge of public perception of specific storm-related hazards. In addition to his SEDAAG activities, he is also an AAG member active in both the Climatology and Hazards specialty groups. In his spare time he pursues a futile attempt to get back into optimal cardiovascular condition, and enjoys spending time with his wife and 2 boys.

## FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Corene Matyas** (Ph.D. Geography 2005, Pennsylvania State University; M.A. 2001 Geography, Arizona State University; B.S. Environmental Geoscience 1999, Clarion University of Pennsylvania) is an assistant professor on the Department of Geography at the University of Florida. She is a physical geographer with a research focus on the spatial patterns of precipitation and tropical cyclones, which she analyzes using GIS. Her work has been published in the *Professional Geographer*, *Southeastern Geographer*, *Physical Geography*, *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*, and the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*, and other journals. She received a Teacher of the Year Award from the University of Florida in 2009. She currently serves on the Executive Board of the Florida Society of Geographers and is also a member of the Society of Women Geographers. She has presented papers and served as a discussant at SEDAAG meetings, and has taken more than 25 undergraduate and graduate students to regional and national conferences.

**Christopher F. "Chris" Meindl** (Ph.D. University of Florida, 1996; M.A. [Geography] University of North Dakota, 1992; M.A. [History] San Diego State University, 1990; B.S. Florida Southern College, 1983) is an associate professor of geography

at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, where he has taught since 2003. He teaches a range of courses for freshman, upper division and graduate students in his campus's Florida Studies and Environmental Science, Policy and Geography programs. Chris regularly participates in the activities of the Florida Society of Geographers, reviews manuscripts for, recently served as book review editor for, and served as the guest editor for a 2009 special issue of the *Southeastern Geographer* devoted to Florida. His research interests include both historical and contemporary environmental geography, especially wetlands, water resources, and natural hazards. Indeed, he recently led an effort to produce an updated edition of Nelson M. Blake's classic book *Land into Water, Water Into Land: A History of Water Management in Florida*, published in 2010 by the University Press of Florida.

## KENTUCKY STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Daehyun Kim** (Ph.D. 2009, Texas A&M University; M.A. 2004 & B.A. 2000, Seoul National University) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky. He has been a member of SEDAAG for one and half years, since he joined UK geography in fall, 2009. Daehyun has a strong willingness to learn more about and contribute to SEDAAG by serving as the Kentucky State Representative. His first talk in SEDAAG was presented at the New Voices session in 2009. In the latest SEDAAG conference, he served as the chair of a Biogeography session. He has organized several paper sessions at recent AAG meetings. He intends to continue being actively involved in the AAG and SEDAAG in the future. Daehyun is a broadly trained physical geographer with major focus on interactive relationships among vegetation, soil, climate, and geomorphology. He has investigated such relationships in coastal dune, salt marshes, and forested ecosystems. His overarching goal is to develop both conceptual and simulation models that articulate how reciprocal feedback mechanisms between abiotic and biotic components mold biogeographic and biogeomorphic patterns across spatial scales. To achieve the goal, he adopts ecological multivariate analysis/simulation modeling and a variety of geospatial techniques. Daehyun has published his research in disciplinary journals such as *Annals of the AAG*, *Physical Geography*, *Geography Compass*, and *Danish Journal of Geography*, as well as in specialized journals, including *Plant Ecology*, *Journal of Coastal Research*, and *GIScience & Remote Sensing*. Selected significant awards he has received are as follows: Regents Fellowship from Texas A&M University, NSF DDRI, European Union Center of Excellence Award, and Visiting Scientist Award from the Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences. In terms of community service, he is currently the primary advisor of UK Korean Student Association.

**Jason S. Polk**, Ph.D. is the Associate Director of Science for the Hoffman Environmental Research Institute and an Assistant Professor of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University. He earned his doctorate degree from the University of South Florida in Geography and Environmental Science and Policy, where his research focused on karst speleogenesis,

climate change, and water resources. Dr. Polk's current research investigates the geomorphology and hydrology (including water quality) of karst environments, isotope geochemistry, karst resource inventory and management, and climate change in the tropics. He has published over 30 peer-reviewed papers and abstracts, and is a member of the National Speleological Society, Geological Society of America, American Geophysical Union, International Association of Hydrogeologists, and Association of American Geographers.

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Jean Ellis** received her undergraduate and master's degree from the University of Southern California and her PhD from Texas A&M University in 2006. She is currently an Assistant Professor at University of South Carolina in Geography and Marine Science. Prior to joining the USC faculty in 2009, she worked at NASA Stennis Space Center in Mississippi and at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. Her broad research interests are in coastal science. She approaches her studies using a wide range of spatial and temporal scales. Recently, her focus has been studying meso-scale aeolian transport processes in field environments and providing data products to coastal managers to aid them in decision-making regarding the threat of climate change and with planning restoration and conservation activities. She and her co-authors have published works in journals such as *Geomorphology*, *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, *Geophysical Research Letters*, *Aeolian Research*, and *Journal of Coastal Conservation*. She has served on multiple review panels for NASA, and has been on the Board for the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group since 2007 and for the International Society of Aeolian Research since 2010.

**Christa Ann Smith** (Ph.D. 2000, University of Tennessee; MA 1990, Marshall University) is an Associate Professor of Geography at Clemson University. Christa's research and teaching interests focus on historic preservation, urban geography and the American South. She has published articles in the *Southeastern Geographer* and *Focus on Geography*, and has contributed chapters to an edited volume on small towns in America and the *Encyclopedia of Urban History*. She is also the author of numerous National Register nominations and several of her projects have been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Additionally, Christa has presented several papers at SEDAAG and AAG and has served as both panel and paper discussants at the regional and national

meetings.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Godwin Djietror** (Ph.D. 2003, McMaster University; M.A. 1997 (The University of Toledo); B.A. (Hons) 1991 (University of Ghana), is currently an Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department of Geography at Marshall University. Godwin teaches Economic Geography, Urban Geography, Principles and Methods of Planning, Urban Land Use Planning, and Geographic Research. He has two main research interests. One is the broad determinants of urban land use behavior regarding residential, commercial, and industrial land use. He is particularly interested in planning, zoning, and subdivision regulation. His current work involves tracking the physical wellness of residential neighborhoods and examining the link between municipal code violations and the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of urban residents. Godwin's second interest, the geography of health, has focused on understanding spatial variations in cardiovascular disease outcomes, particularly at the ecological level. He is also interested in studying the public health implications of urban planning, and residential, commercial, and industrial land use. He is a member of SEDAAG and a reviewer for *Environmental Health*, *International Journal of Environmental Health Research*, *the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*, and *the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

**Robert Kruse, PhD** earned his PhD in Geography from Kent State University. His scholarly work lies within cultural geography with specific interests in geographies of popular culture and disabilities. He is the author of two books and several book chapters. His work has appeared in *Antipode*, *Area*, *Canadian Geographer*, *Journal of Cultural Geography*, *Journal of Geography*, *Social and Cultural Geography*, and *Southeastern Geographer*. He served on the SEDAAG Teller's Committee in 2009, and was the recipient of the *Southeastern Geographer* Outstanding Article award in 2010. Dr. Kruse currently serves as Interim Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at West Liberty University. He enjoys the challenges of teaching and scholarly work at a small university located in a vital and frequently misunderstood region of the United States.

