

# Chapter 13

## Association of American Geographers Applied Geography Specialty Group 2009/2010: A Year in Review

Nairne Cameron  
Algoma University, Canada

### ABSTRACT

*This article reviews the activities of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Applied Geography Specialty Group over 2009/2010. The Applied Geography Specialty Group provides support to members in applied geography practice, education, and research. We also promote the discipline, facilitate dialogue amongst our members, and recognize remarkable individual applied geography contributions through our award programs. Highlights from the year include our student paper competition, newly launched class exercise competition, member communications including our electronic listserve and newsletters, linkages and collaboration with the Applied Geography Conference, AAG Annual Meeting paper and panel sessions, and annual business meeting with the election of our new board officers.*

### INTRODUCTION

The Association of American Geographers (AAG) Applied Geography Specialty Group is made up of over 300 members from 15 countries, including more than 150 students. Here, I review the

group's activities and progress over the past year. The objectives of the group are to support and advance the provision of geographical services in aid of customers, clients, and stakeholders in the public, private, and non-governmental sectors. We are also focused on applied geography education, as well as research activities which advance

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the theory, methodology, and in particular the practice of applied geography. The group strives to enhance the visibility of the field within the geographical community, and also more widely to the general public. We encourage and support communications among our members. Finally, our various award programs recognize contributions to the field of applied geography made by individuals; these include the Anderson Award, Citation Award, Praxis Award – Public Sector and Private Sector, and the Student Paper and Class Exercise Competitions.

We made progress on several fronts this year with our student and class exercise competitions; communications with members; collaboration with the Applied Geography Conference; and, our sessions at the Annual Meeting. While we did not issue any of our awards this past year, I describe the various programs which we continue to offer and recent award winners. Finally, I outline the proceedings of our annual business meeting and our directions for the coming year.

## **BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

Our collaborative team of board officers during the 2009/2010 year were Nairne Cameron (Algoma University) as Chair, Dave Clark (California Department of Transportation and University of California Davis) serving as Vice-Chair, Lucy Stanfield (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) as Secretary, and Demetra Voyagidis (Army Engineer Research & Development Centre) as Treasurer.

Board members during 2009/2010 included: Ed Butterworth (CACI International), Dawna Cerney (Youngstown State University), Michael DeMers (New Mexico State University), Sonya Glavac (University of New England, Australia) (Immediate Past Chair), Doug Heivly (City of Allentown), Jay Lee (Kent State University), Seth Marcus (US Department of Housing and Urban

Development), Michael Ratcliffe (U.S. Census Bureau), Nancy Torrieri (U.S. Census Bureau), Barry Wellar (Wellar Consulting), and Richard Wright (San Diego State University). Bill Hodge from Penn State and the City of Midland (Texas) became a new student representative, joining Melinda Butterworth who is a doctoral student at the University of Arizona.

## **STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

Dr. Dawna Cerney of Youngstown State University spearheaded the revitalization of our student competition. Students were asked to submit a paper prior to the conference in which they employ “geographic methods, techniques, or analysis . . . in service to a real world client” (Applied Geography Specialty Group, 2010). We received six entries for the competition representing diverse topics. These included: Stephanie Day (University of Kansas) “The Decline of the Greasy Spoon: Implications of Truck Drivers’ Spatial Perceptions and Preferences for the Truck-Stop Industry”, Jinwoong Yoo (with DeWitt D Braud and Robert V Rohli) (Louisiana State University) “Visualizing Null Value Locations from LIDAR Image Mosaics”, Clio Andris (with Dietmar Offenhuber and David Lee) (MIT) “Trash Track”, Emily Pabst (University of Kansas) “Locally Crafted and Produced: Placemaking Within a Marketing Strategy”, Nicholas Cuba (Clark University) “Spatial Analysis of Resettled Refugee Populations in Worcester, MA”, and Anna Klimaszewski-Patterson (New Mexico State University) “Geography and Geographic Education with Smartphones”. We held an Interactive Short Paper Session at the AAG Annual Meeting that allowed each presenter 10 minutes, followed by an interactive group discussion. Nicholas Cuba won the competition and received a \$500 prize. Another student paper competition will be offered in advance of next year’s 2011 AAG Annual Meeting in Seattle.

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