



Western Regional Science Association

Spring-Summer 2006

Newsletter

Call for Papers...

Newport Beach '07: WRSA back on the SoCal Coast, February 21-24

For many, the quintessential WRSA Annual Meeting venue is a resort hotel on the southern California Coast. We've not met on the Orange County oceanfront for more than two decades (1986, to be exact, when the 25th Annual Meeting was held at the Surf and Sand in Laguna Beach).

This coming February, the WRSA clan will gather for the 46th Annual Meeting at the Hyatt-Regency in Newport Beach. You owe it to yourself to be part of it!

Although most of the current hotel buildings are now new or renovated, longtime Association members will fondly recall its classic WRSA ambiance from the years back when it was known as the "Newporter." The resort hosted both our memorable 20th Annual Meeting in 1981 and our 8th in 1969. Located across the street from the world famous shopper's mecca, Fashion Island, the Hyatt's extensive grounds back onto a scenic marine estuary. Nearby seascapes, fine dining and sightseeing opportunities, and the now bustling John Wayne Orange County airport – just minutes away – make this is a superb location to enjoy a midwinter conference visit.

Get working on a paper for submittal by the customary October 15 deadline! We'd also love to hear from anyone who won't have a paper ready to go, but would like a spot or two on the Program as a discussant or/or session chair.

Call for Papers... Papers on all regional science topics are welcome. Please e-mail your paper before October 15. Draft versions are acceptable at this stage. Send the manuscript to Executive Secretary Dave Plane (plane@email.arizona.edu) as a Word, WordPerfect, or PDF file attachment. Please do not send large graphic files (high-resolution copies of figures can be transmitted directly to your chair and discussant later). For multiple-authored papers, clearly indicate which

authors plan to attend, and please include complete contact information for all intended participants.

Remember WRSA Board policy requires the submittal of *complete papers*. All papers are screened by the Program Committee before formal invitations to present are mailed. Program Committee decisions are never made on the basis of an abstract alone. Manuscripts may, however, be submitted in *draft* form, with the final version (the one to be sent out by the WRSA office to the discussant and session chair) due no later than December 31.

All Program participants at the conference are required to pay registration fees and be dues-paid 2007 members of the WRSA. We ask that only one paper be

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The Santa Fe 45th Annual Meeting: Conviviality and Sparkling Scholarship Experienced in Abundance

With the sun shining brightly, more than 200 participants from far and wide converged to bring off WRSA's spectacularly successful 45th Annual Meeting at the historic La Fonda hotel, on the Plaza, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. While enjoying the singular cuisine, architecture, and culture of the "Land of Enchantment," regional scientists from five continents and some two dozen countries presented their research in 42 invited paper sessions. Engaging in the kind of lively discussion and debate that WRSA's 45-minute-per-paper format fosters, the conference was both intellectually stimulating and highly convivial.

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Professor David A. Plane, Executive Secretary, Western Regional Science Association
Department of Geography & Regional Development / University of Arizona
Harvill Building, Box 2 (2nd and Olive Streets) / Tucson, Arizona 85721 USA
Telephone: (520) 621-1738 / FAX: (520) 621-2889
E-mail: plane@email.arizona.edu; Website: <http://geog.arizona.edu/wrsa/>

...*Santa Fe '06 Report (Continued from Page 1)*

A big group of early arrivers participated in a festive special luncheon on Wednesday, February 22, held in honor of WRSA (and RSAI) Past-President Antoine Bailly. Expertly organized and hosted by Lay and Janet Gibson, the event featured fine food, lively table conversation, the sharing of a number of favorite Tony stories, and, fittingly enough, the consumption of a modicum (well, maybe two or even three modicums) of good-quality wine.

Late Wednesday afternoon the academic program of the conference got kicked off in equally spectacular fashion, with a thoughtful and stimulating opening session focusing on Arizona and New Mexico. Entitled: "The Southwestern Heartland: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," the entwined twin presentations by Lee Reynis, University of New Mexico, and Marshall Vest, University of Arizona, provided interesting comparative insights into the economies, cultures, and social and political landscapes (and pathologies!) of these two rapidly growing states.

Following the opening session, participants and accompanying persons adjourned to La Fonda's lovely rooftop La Terraza Room for a well-attended and enjoyable Welcoming Reception.

Thursday's program got underway early, with a special plenary forum with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Sandy Baruah. A full day of seven concurrent paper sessions followed. Late that afternoon, the WRSA Board held its annual business meeting (see related article, elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.)

Friday again featured full morning and afternoon slates of WRSA's signature, seminar-style, invited-paper sessions. In addition, the Annual Banquet Luncheon and the President's Reception were, by many accounts, among the most successful in Association history. With the tables set with WRSA blue and yellow linens, the sunny La Terraza room was filled to capacity as the Springer and Tiebout Prizes were presented (see storiess elsewhere in this *Newsletter*) and WRSA 47th President, Jack Osman, delivered his Address: "A Regional Contrast in Tax Systems: Scandinavia and North America."

Friday evening President Osman hosted the traditional President's Reception for all conference participants and accompanying persons. Partiers enjoyed a lovely assortment of hors d'oeuvres, thanks to the generous financial support of the Office of the Provost, San Francisco State University. In fact, attending the party (not to mention serving as chair of one of the conference sessions), was SFSU's Provost himself – our old WRSA colleague, John Gemello.

Saturday morning conference-goers were back at work for the third and final day of paper sessions. Among the many topics featured on the Saturday program was the annual Western States Economic Outlook "session" – which, this time, was expanded to a session and a half, thanks to a record representation of states. Also taking place was a special roundtable discussion on consulting in regional science, organized by WRSA Vice President, Geoff Hewings, and the final two of three "Remote Regions" sessions organized by Lee Huskey.

By virtue of both the large turnout and the enthusiastic reactions of most participants, the Association's first Meeting to be held in Santa Fe (and our first in New Mexico) was a sparkling success!

...*Newport Beach '07 Plans (continued from Page 1)*

presented per fee-paying registrant. (Coauthors who do not attend the conference are not required to pay registration fees.)

Overview of Meeting Dates... To facilitate your travel planning, here's an overview of the schedule:

- ❖ **Wednesday, February 21:** *Note: Most participants will want to plan to arrive during the day on Wednesday; no paper sessions will be held on this day;* Registration opens; Opening Plenary Session (ca. 4:00 PM), followed by the Welcoming Reception (for all participants and accompanying persons)
- ❖ **Thursday, February 22:** Registration reopens and continues (Throughout the day); Concurrent Paper Sessions (All day); WRSA Board Meeting (Late afternoon; by invitation only)
- ❖ **Friday, February 23:** Registration continues (All day); Concurrent Paper Sessions (All day); Annual Banquet Luncheon (For all registered meeting participants); Evening President's Reception (For all participants and accompanying persons)
- ❖ **Saturday, February 24:** Registration continues (Throughout the morning); Concurrent Paper Sessions (All day)
- ❖ **Sunday, February 26:** No scheduled conference activities. *Note: Most participants should plan to depart on Sunday*

The WRSA website with full conference information is accessible at <http://geog.arizona.edu> More items will be posted in the months ahead, including hotel reservation information, the preregistration form, and (ca. January 1) the Preliminary Program. Drop an e-mail to Executive Secretary Plane if you have any questions.

WRSA's 46th Annual Meeting should be a great one. Encourage your colleagues to participate!

Kim chosen WRSA Vice President; Hewings Succeeds to President-Elect; Jackson and Newbold Added to Board

At its annual business meeting held Thursday, February 23, 2006, at the La Posada Resort and Spa during the Santa Fe Annual Meeting, the WRSA Board chose T. John Kim, Professor of Planning, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, as the Association's 2006-2007 Vice President. Professor Kim recently completed his term as coeditor of *The Annals of Regional Science* and has a long record of distinguished scholarship and service to regional science.

At the Santa Fe conference, Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, succeeded to become President-Elect for 2006-2007. Geoff will give his Presidential Address and host the President's Reception at the Newport Beach 46th Annual Meeting.

Our currently reigning, 47th President, Jack Osman, will complete his year-long term at the Newport Beach conference, where he will chair the Annual Banquet Luncheon Program.

46th President, Lee Huskey, serves during 2006–2007 in the post of Immediate Past President

Two new members of the Board were selected, for terms beginning with the 2006–2007 year: Randy Jackson, Professor and Director of the Regional Research Institute, West Virginia University, and K. Bruce Newbold, Professor of Geography, McMaster University.

Among other business items taken up for discussion at the meeting was the new Tiebout Endowment campaign, being spearheaded by Lee Huskey and Geoff Hewings. With lower interest rates than those in effect in earlier years of the competition it has become necessary to increase the principal in our account to maintain the level of the prize – as well as to potentially expand the number of annual awards to make it financially possible for additional top-quality graduate students to attend the Annual Meetings.

The Board agreed to direct Executive Secretary Plane to conduct a site inspection visit and negotiate a hotel contract in order to hold the 47th Annual Meeting on the Big Island of Hawai'i. After considerable discussion, a straw poll was held regarding future potential meeting sites. It was also noted that the 2009 North American Meetings of the RSAI are anticipated to be held in the west under WRSA sponsorship. Plane reported on some initial exploration of the possibilities of holding those Meetings in San Francisco.

WRSA Newsletter

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Editor and WRSA Executive Secretary: David A. Plane
Circulation Manager & WRSA Assistant: Beth Wilkinson

Please send items for inclusion in future issues to Plane and Wilkinson at: wrsa@email.arizona.edu

20th Anniversary Celebration of the Charles M. Tiebout Prize

At the Annual Banquet Luncheon in Santa Fe, a special observance was held to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Charles M. Tiebout Prize, which, over the past two decades, has become the preeminent student paper competition in regional science.

Ted Lane, Geoff Hewings, and Lee Huskey spoke about the founding of the prize and recognized a number of past winners of the competition in attendance at the conference.

The Prize is awarded annually at the WRSA Meeting for the best paper submitted by a graduate student. A Reading Committee consisting of the four most immediate Past Presidents of the Association selects the winning entry.

The prize honors the memory of Professor Charles M. Tiebout for his outstanding contributions to regional science before his untimely death in 1968. "Charlie" Tiebout brought wit, irreverence, and goodwill to everything he did and everyone he knew. He was particularly good in advising, counseling, and encouraging graduate students: thus, it is fitting that the WRSA's annual prize bearing his name be awarded to the best graduate student paper in regional science.

Rocco Huang Wins 20th Tiebout Prize

Rocco R. Huang, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and now employed at the World Bank, Washington, DC, was selected as the winner of the 20th Annual Competition for the Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science.

Huang presented his winning paper, titled, "Industry Choices and Social Interactions of Entrepreneurs: Identification by Residential Address," at the Santa Fe Annual Meeting on Friday morning, February 24, in a session on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Dr. Huang then accepted the \$1,000 winners check at the Annual Banquet Luncheon, which immediately followed the session.

Also honored at the luncheon were two other Finalists in the 20th Annual Competition. Receiving certificates at the luncheon attesting to their papers of high distinction were Ronald McChesney, The Ohio State University, and Feng Xie, University of Minnesota. McChesney's was titled "A Hierarchical Metropolitan Change," and Xie's "Measuring the Topology of Road Networks."

Sarah Low Takes 10th Springer Prize

At the Santa Fe Annual Meeting, Sarah A. Low, Federal Reserve Bank, Kansas City, was feted as the 10th winner of the Springer Prize.

The Springer Prize is awarded annually to the author of the best paper presented at the conference by an early-career-stage scholar – as judged by the Editors of *The Annals of Regional Science*.

Low's prize-winning paper was titled: "Where Are the Entrepreneurs? Examining the Location of Proprietor Breadth and Depth."

Western Regional Science Association Board and Officers



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Beth Wilkinson

Regional Science Meeting Calendar

37th Annual Conference, Midcontinent Regional Science Association, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, June 8–10, 2006

The conference will be held in conjunction with the biannual IMPLAN conference and held on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). For more information please visit the MCRSA website: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/mcrsa/>

9th PRSCO Summer Institute, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 18-20, 2006

The institute will be hosted by the Malaysian Regional Science Association and held at the Hilton Hotel. For conference brochure and registration form: <http://pkukmweb.ukm.my/~fep/seminar/prsco2006/>

36th Annual Conference of the British-Irish Section of the RSAI, Channel Islands, UK, August 16-18, 2006

For complete information: <http://www.rsai-bis.org/>

46th European Congress, ERSA 2006, Volos, Greece, August 30-September 3, 2006

The conference website: <http://www.prd.uth.gr/ersa2006/>
You may contact the ERSA 2006 Local Organizing Committee at: ersa2006@prd.uth.gr

30th Annual Conference, ANZRS AI, Beechworth, Victoria, Australia, September 26-29, 2006

For information: <http://www.anzrsai.org>

4th Meeting of the Brazilian RSA, Foz do Iguaçu City, Brazil, October 15-17, 2006

Visit the website for further information: <http://www.aber.fea.usp.br> or <http://www.iguassu.com.br/>

53rd North American Meetings of the RSAI, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, November 16–18, 2006

The Meetings will be held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. See the NARSC website for full details: <http://www.narsc.org/>

46th Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association, Newport Beach, California, USA, February 21–24, 2007

See article, pp. 1–2, this Newsletter. WRSA website has full conference information: <http://geog.arizona.edu/wrsa/>

46th Annual Meetings of the Southern Regional Science Association, Charleston, South Carolina, USA, March 29–31, 2007

The Meetings will be held at the Francis Marion Hotel. For more information in the months ahead visit the SRSA website: <http://www.regionalscience.org/srsa/>