



# Western Regional Science Association

Fall 2011

Newsletter



*The Sheraton Kauai: Additional photos and information at: <http://www.sheraton-kauai.com/>*

## ***Sun, Sea, Sand, and Scholarship***

### ***51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting ~ Sheraton Kauai, Poipu ~ February 8–11, 2012***

Aloha! It's time again to brush off our elementary Hawaiian: WRSA is meeting for the 9<sup>th</sup> time in Hawaii in February 2012. For this, WRSA's 51<sup>st</sup> annual meeting, we have just the location to get the next 50 years of association history and memory making started on the right track: the Sheraton Kauai Resort in Poipu, Hawaii. Many members will recall this hotel from WRSA's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, with its location right on the ocean, as well as its attractive meeting space, which is in the final throes of renovation just in time for our arrival.

Plan now to be part of what is sure to be a productive and enjoyable conference. As always, the paper submission deadline is October 15. The meeting will get underway on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 8 with an opening session and welcoming reception. Concurrent paper sessions will run all day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup>.

Along with a truly excellent location, the WRSA meeting will feature, as usual, its signature 45-minute paper slots, which include time for assigned discussant remarks and open discussion. WRSA meetings are a great venue for feedback on research!

And speaking of location, Kauai holds out the lure of not only a warm, sunny destination in the dead of winter, but also world-class beaches, stunning natural wonders like Waimea Canyon, and picturesque historic villages like Hanapepe. This northernmost of the Hawaiian Islands is often referred to as the "Garden Isle," for its lush tropical rainforests, soaring green mountains, and verdant valleys. Those who can spare the time may want to take a few extra days to soak up the Hawaiian atmosphere.

Do keep in mind that winter in Hawaii is popular. Be sure to make your flight and hotel arrangements early!

***Booking a Room at the Sheraton...*** We have negotiated an excellent room rate for winter in Hawaii: Garden View rooms are available at \$175 per night, plus tax, single or double occupancy. Deluxe Oceanfront rooms are also available, at \$225 per night, plus tax. These rates are valid Saturday, February 4 through the night of Sunday, February 12 and will hold for the three nights before and after these dates, subject to availability at the time of reservation. As always, some nights of our room block may fill, so please reserve early!

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Rachel S. Franklin, Executive Director, Western Regional Science Association

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Website: <http://www.wrsa.info> ~ WRSA is now on Facebook!

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...*Hawaii Arrangements* (continued from Page 1)

**Travel Information...** While it's true that Kauai, Hawaii is a little island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, its airport is well served by local Hawaiian airlines, as well as all the major U.S. carriers. In planning your travel to the meeting, you will want to book a flight to Lihue Airport. From the airport, the trip to the Sheraton will take about 30 minutes. To take advantage of the many sightseeing opportunities on Kauai, you may want to consider renting a car, although taxi and limousine service are also available from the airport to the hotel. For questions regarding ground transportation to or from the airport, the Sheraton Kauai concierge will be happy to help you at (808) 742-1661.

**Submitting a Paper...** Papers should be submitted by October 15. Remember that WRSA does not accept papers based on abstracts. However, draft papers will be considered, with the understanding that a complete version will arrive at WRSA headquarters by December 31. All papers are screened by the Program Committee before formal invitations are issued. Important to remember: Only one paper may be presented per registrant.

For papers with multiple authors, *please indicate which authors plan to attend the meeting* and include email addresses for all anticipated participants. Manuscripts should be emailed to Rachel Franklin (wrsa@brown.edu) as an attachment in either pdf or Word format.

The Preliminary Program will be posted by late December, at which time any papers in "draft" format will need to be updated with final versions.

Not expecting to have a paper completed in time? We're always happy to include you as a discussant and/or session chair on the Program. Simply drop us a note at wrsa@brown.edu.

**Meeting Preregistration...** Meeting registration is handled via the North American Regional Science Council's e-store, where payment can be made by major credit card or personal check (payable in U.S. dollars). The WRSA website has instructions and a link to the NARSC website.

All meeting attendees are required to pay registration fees and will, through their meeting participation, become 2012 members of WRSA.

**Meeting Schedule Overview...**

- ✿ **Wednesday, February 8:** *Note: no paper sessions will be held this day*; Registration opens in the early afternoon; Opening Gibson Plenary Session in the late afternoon, followed by Welcoming Reception (for all participants and accompanying persons)
- ✿ **Thursday, February 9:** Registration reopens and continues (all day); Concurrent Paper Sessions (all day); WRSA Board Meeting (late afternoon; by invitation only)
- ✿ **Friday, February 10:** Registration continues (all day); Concurrent Paper Sessions (all day); Annual Awards Luncheon (for all registered meeting participants; tickets and fee required for non-registered accompanying persons); Evening President's Reception (for all participants and accompanying persons)
- ✿ **Saturday, February 11:** Registration continues (morning); Concurrent Paper Sessions (all day); Conference ends (ca. 6:00 PM)

**More Information...** For full conference information, visit the WRSA website at [www.wrsa.info](http://www.wrsa.info). Questions? Contact Rachel Franklin, WRSA Executive Director: [rachel\\_franklin@brown.edu](mailto:rachel_franklin@brown.edu).

Encourage a colleague to join WRSA and discover "the way academic life should be." Mahalo!

***New Membership Directory***  
**2011 Membership**  
**Comes in at 231**

The 2011 Membership Directory is enclosed with this *Newsletter*. As always, WRSA's membership is truly international, with 41 percent of members calling Canada or other foreign parts home. U.S. members hail from 34 different states (plus DC) and 18 countries are represented in the international membership.

Aside from our members next door in Canada, who had 17 members, Swedes this year had the highest foreign representation, with 15 members. This was followed by Korea (13), Japan (12), and The Netherlands (11).

Please email the WRSA office with any updates or corrections to contact information at [wrsa@brown.edu](mailto:wrsa@brown.edu).



*In Memory of  
Alex Vias,  
Winner of the  
12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Tiebout Prize*

Alex Vias, Associate  
Professor of Geography

at the University of Connecticut, died of a heart attack on April 25, 2011. He was 51.

Alex was a widely respected population and economic geographer best known for his research on micropolitan areas, population change, economic-demographic linkages, and the settlement geography of rural America. He was very active in organizing and participating in rural geography sessions at AAG and regional science meetings. He also worked collaboratively with federal researchers from, e.g., the USDA Economic Research Service, and the Census Bureau.

Alex completed his M.A. and PhD at the University of Arizona in Tucson. His doctoral committee was comprised of three longtime WRSA members: Gordon Mulligan (Chair), David Plane, and Art Silvers. In 1998, Alex was awarded the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tiebout Prize for his paper, "An Analysis of Population and Employment Growth in the Rocky Mountain West, 1970–95."

From 1998–2002 Alex served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Northern Colorado. After subsequently moving to Storrs, he was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2005. In recent years he was the Director of UConn's Urban and Community Studies Program.

***Something to Contribute?***

The *WRSA Newsletter* is published twice yearly and welcomes contributions from members. Please feel free to send along news, research updates, calls for papers, or related items. We especially appreciate news from our peer regional science associations!

*Newsletter* submissions should be sent to Rachel Franklin at [wrsa@brown.edu](mailto:wrsa@brown.edu).

Springer  
the language of science

springer.com

**Springer Award**  
for outstanding papers in  
the field of Regional Science



The prize is awarded annually for the best paper presented by a recent post-graduate scholar of no more than 5 years\* at the Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association.

**Prize US \$300.-**  
(to be awarded in Springer books of the winner's choice)

The paper will be published in **The Annals of Regional Science**, official Journal of the WRSA, and announced on the Springer Website.

***More Things to 'Like' about  
WRSA***

Along with more traditional communication mechanisms, such as this newsletter and the email listserv, WRSA has recently stepped up its internet presence with an association page on Facebook and LinkedIn. Both of these social media platforms facilitate email postings to the entire membership, maintain an archive of previous announcements, and allow members to post or comment on any updates. In addition, individuals determine how much communication they want to see from the association through their account settings.

On Facebook, in particular, WRSA has been posting calls for papers, job openings, and related information for a few months. Hopefully this will become an effective way in which to broadcast news in the future. Especially for non-academic regional science practitioners or students, joining the WRSA group on LinkedIn is one way to let others know about your professional affiliations and expertise. Both platforms represent a great low-key way to stay in the know about what's going on with the best little regional science association in the world and also to post useful updates or information to these groups. To find WRSA on Facebook or LinkedIn, simply search for "Western Regional Science Association" and join – on Facebook this is accomplished by clicking the "like" button.





## Western Regional Science Association

### *Officers for the 2011–2012 Year*

#### *President:*

Warren Gill, Simon Fraser University

#### *President-Elect:*

Peter Gordon, University of Southern California

#### *Vice President:*

Hans Westlund, Royal Inst. of Tech., Stockholm  
and Jönköping International Business School, Sweden

#### *Immediate Past President:*

Robert Stimson, University of Melbourne, Australia

#### *Executive Director:*

Rachel Franklin, Brown University

#### *WRSA's PRSCO Councilors:*

Lay James Gibson, David Plane,

John Quigley, Roger Stough

#### *WRSA's NARSC Councilor:*

Rachel Franklin

### *Board of Directors*

Chang-Hee Christine Bae, University of Washington

John Carruthers, George Washington University

Terry Clower, University of North Texas

Henk Folmer, Wageningen Univ.

Genevieve Giuliano, Univ. Southern California

Timothy Hogan, Arizona State University

Randall Jackson, West Virginia University

Maureen Kilkenny, University of Nevada, Reno

Alan Murray, Arizona State University

K. Bruce Newbold, McMaster University

R. Pete Parcells, Whitman College

Sergio Rey, Arizona State University

Matthias Ruth, University of Maryland

### *Fellows*

Martin Beckmann, Brown University

Arthur Getis, San Diego State University

Lay James Gibson, University of Arizona

Michael Greenwood, Colorado University

Kingsley Haynes, George Mason University

Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, University of Illinois

Frank Mittelbach, University of California, Los Angeles

Robert Monahan, Western Washington University

Jack Osman, San Francisco State University

Jean Paelinck, Erasmus University

Anthony Pascal, The Rand Corporation

David Plane, University of Arizona

John Quigley, University of California, Berkeley

Harry Richardson, University of Southern California

Roger Stough, George Mason University

## *Support the Future: Contribute to the Tiebout Prize Endowment Fund*

Help ensure the future of WRSA's prestigious Charles M. Tiebout Prize Competition and the fostering of the professional growth and development of the next generation of regional scientists by making a contribution to the Tiebout Prize Endowment Fund.

Those wishing to contribute to the Tiebout Prize Endowment may make a donation easily on-line. Our funds are managed by the University of Arizona Foundation. The Foundation will send a letter thanking you for your donation that can be used for tax purposes. As no benefits are provided, donations are fully U.S. tax-deductible.

It's simple and easy to donate by credit card! To go to the cyber-secure, dedicated Tiebout Fund page on the University of Arizona Foundation's E- payment system use the link on the WRSA website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/brown.edu/wrsa/tiebout-prize/contribute>. If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to "University of Arizona Foundation" and note on the memo line of the check: "Donation: WRSA Tiebout Prize Fund." Checks should be mailed to Rachel Franklin, Executive Director, WRSA, at the address on Page 1 of this Newsletter.

### Regional Science Meeting Calendar

#### **58<sup>th</sup> North American Meetings of the RSAI and 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Regional Science Association of the Americas**

*Miami, Florida, November 9-12, 2011*

[www.narsc.org/newsite/?page\\_id=10](http://www.narsc.org/newsite/?page_id=10)

#### **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International**

*Canberra, Australia, December 6-9, 2011*

[www.anzrsai.org](http://www.anzrsai.org)

#### **51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science**

*Poipu, Kauai, Hawaii, February 8-11, 2012*

(See article, Page 1, this *Newsletter*)

[www.wrsa.info](http://www.wrsa.info)

#### **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association**

*Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, June 6-8, 2012*

[www.MCRSA.org](http://www.MCRSA.org)