



Western Regional Science Association

Spring/Summer 2012

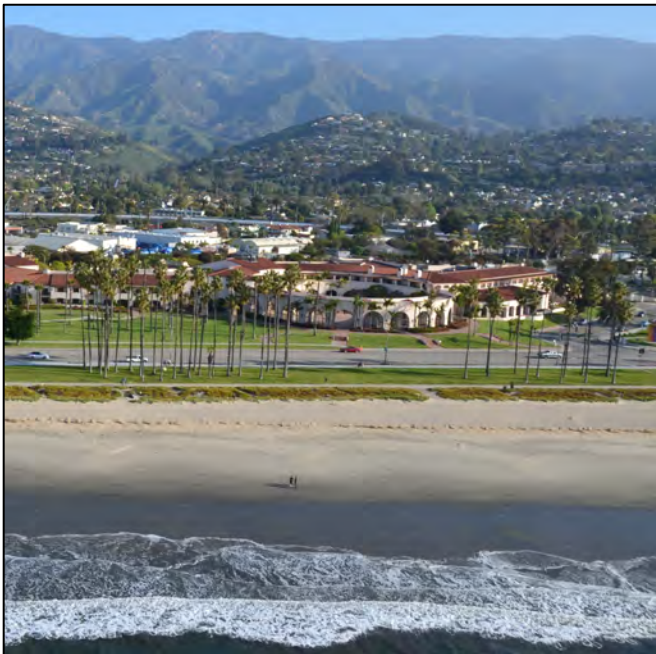
Newsletter

Save the Date!

52nd Annual Meeting ~ February 24–27, 2013 ~ Santa Barbara, California

It may hardly seem possible, but it's time already to begin making plans for WRSA's 52nd annual meeting. WRSA returns to Southern California next year, to meet February 24–27 in sunny Santa Barbara at the beautiful Fess Parker Doubletree Hotel. At WRSA international headquarters, the planning is already underway, with initial hotel arrangements to sort out, announcements for the 27th Annual Charles M. Tiebout Prize to send out, and meeting publicizing to accomplish (and you can help with that!).

As always, next year's meeting will feature WRSA's signature session format: 45 minutes for each invited presentation, an assigned paper discussant, and collegial seminar-style interaction. The session atmosphere is great for getting constructive research advice and feedback and the social interaction opportunities are always ample.



Fess Parker's Doubletree Hotel,
<http://www.fessparkersantabarbarahotel.com/>

It's important to keep in mind another fine WRSA tradition: the **October 15** paper submission deadline. Complete papers should be submitted by October 15, 2012 and will be screened by a member of the Program Committee before invitations are issued. Note that papers in draft format are acceptable as long as a final version is submitted by the end of the year. The Program Committee is always happy to accommodate volunteers to chair sessions or discuss papers; simply drop a line to Rachel Franklin sometime before the end of the year, letting her know your preferences.

The 52nd annual meeting will open on Sunday afternoon, February 24, with the 3rd Annual Lay James Gibson Plenary Session, followed by the Welcoming Reception. Paper sessions will run all day the following three days: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (Feb. 25–27).

We have negotiated an excellent room rate of \$185 per night (single or double, plus applicable taxes and fees) for meeting participants. For those with a little more time on their hands, the Doubletree is also honoring our room rate for the three days before and after the meeting, subject to availability. See the WRSA website for reservation instructions. Note that the hotel is only required to hold our room block until February 12, 2013; be sure to book early!

Additional Meeting Information... See the WRSA website (www.wrsa.info) for further meeting details. Over the next several months, the WRSA website will be updated with program and travel information. In the meantime, feel free to direct any unanswered questions to Rachel Franklin: Rachel_Franklin@brown.edu.

WRSA:

"The Way Academic Life Should Be."

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

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

Our 51st Annual Meeting ~ A Solid Start to WRSA's Next Half-Century

In early February, WRSA returned to the Hawaiian Islands for its 51st Annual Meeting. This was the Association's second time meeting at the Sheraton Kauai and the combination of venue and weather together made for one of the more pleasantly "outdoor" meetings the WRSA has enjoyed in recent years. The meeting program featured forty paper and panel sessions and there were approximately 220 meeting participants, not including another 30 accompanying persons. Although early morning sessions had initially been threatened, in the end the Program Committee was able to accommodate all paper sessions by running between six and eight concurrent sessions daily.

Attendees came from far and wide; as usual, a large proportion of attendees traveled from Asia and Europe to enjoy the singular combination of excellent weather and scholarship. The contingents from Korea, Japan, and Sweden in particular were large.



In spite of the stunning setting, session attendance was robust

The meeting opened with the 2nd Annual Lay James Gibson Plenary Session, which was presided over by WRSA Past President, Juanita Liu. Both plenary speakers, Makena Coffman and Daniel Spencer, hailed from the University of Hawaii and helped set the mood for the meeting by bringing a regional science touch to tourism and climate change challenges faced by their state.

The opening plenary was followed by a very well attended welcoming reception on the beach lawn of the hotel (pictured above). As noted, one of the many benefits of the meeting location was the number of opportunities attendees had to interact and socialize outdoors. Both receptions were held outside near the beach and even coffee breaks and the annual luncheon were held out in the balmy weather.

Although this year's annual luncheon lacked the extra zip provided by live musicians, Peter Gordon's Presidential Address and Peter Nijkamp's discussant remarks helped the luncheon fulfill its role as one of the highlights of the meeting. In addition, the 26th Tiebout Prize and the 16th Springer Prize were awarded during the luncheon (see related stories on Page 3).

Several specially organized sessions also helped contribute to the overall vibrancy of the meeting. As in past years, Lee Huskey graciously agreed to organize the Remote Regions sessions and Rich Wobbekind, unable to attend the conference this year, coordinated the organization of the AUBER "Keith Schwer Memorial Western Economic Outlook" session from afar. Michael Wenz organized a successful paper session on gambling and regional development.



Just a sample of the lush vegetation on show at the Sheraton Kauai

New in the WRSA session line-up for this year was a session organized by Qisheng Pan and sponsored by the International Association of China Planning (IACP). This paper session brought together researchers from around the world working in the area of planning in China. By all accounts it was an excellent session and provided a great opportunity especially for Chinese researchers to network with their colleagues in the U.S. and elsewhere. Karima Kourtit, Peter Nijkamp, and Mark Partridge's session, "The WRSA Symphony of Urban Voices" introduced a novel format to WRSA sessions with very short, informal presentations by a number of contributors. The large audience this session attracted kept the Sheraton staff busy with ever more requests for additional seating and at times the space was so crowded it was standing room only – surely a tale for the WRSA archives.

Carlianne Patrick Wins 26th Charles M. Tiebout Prize

Carlianne Patrick was awarded the 26th Annual Tiebout Prize at this year's WRSA meeting in Hawaii, with a paper titled "Do More Economic Development Incentives Result in More Jobs? An Examination of the Influence of the Economic Development Incentives Environment on County Jobs in the U.S., 1970–2000." Carlianne is completing her doctoral studies in Agricultural Economics at The Ohio State University and is supervised by Mark Partridge.



WRSA Past President, David Holland, awards the 26th Tiebout Prize to Carlianne Patrick

The Reading Committee also awarded a Second and Third Prize this year. Second Prize went to Viktor Venhorst of the University of Groningen for his paper, "Human Capital Spillovers in Dutch Cities: Consumption or Productivity?" His doctoral research was supervised by Jouke van Dijk. Third Prize was awarded to Alexandra Tsvetkova, who studies with Jean-Claude Thill at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, for her paper, "Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Regional Economic Outcomes: Empirical Test of Recent Theoretical Propositions."

The Tiebout Prize was created to help nurture the next generation of WRSA members. Winners of the prize are given \$1,000 to help defray the costs of participating in the annual meeting. This year's Tiebout Prize Reading Committee was composed of the following WRSA Past Presidents: David Holland (Chair), Geoff Hewings, T. John Kim, and Bob Stimson.

Contributions to the Tiebout Prize Endowment Fund are always welcomed! Please see the WRSA website. All donations are U.S. tax deductible.



Alexandra Tsvetkova, Carlianne Patrick, and Viktor Venhorst smile for the camera with David Holland

16th Springer Prize Awarded to Andrew Cassey

Also at the WRSA annual meeting in Kauai, Hawaii, Andrew Cassey of Washington State University was awarded the Springer Prize for his paper (coauthored with Katherine Schmeiser), "The Agglomeration of Exporters by Destination."

The Springer Prize is given each year at the WRSA annual meeting for the best conference paper presented by an early career scholar. The competition was judged by the three editors of WRSA's official journal, *The Annals of Regional Science*: Börje Johansson, Euijune Kim, and Janet Kohlhase.

To be eligible for the prize, all paper authors must have completed their doctoral studies within the past five years. Entering the Springer competition is easy: at the time of conference paper submission in the fall, or at any time before December 31, simply let Rachel Franklin know you'd like to be considered for the Prize. The winner receives a \$300 book voucher from Springer. See the WRSA website for further details.



Andrew Cassey accepts the 16th Springer Prize from Annals editors, Euijune Kim and Janet Kohlhase

Updates from the WRSA Board



Serge Rey Named Incoming Vice President and Hans Westlund President-Elect

When the WRSA Board holds its business meeting each year in conjunction with the annual conference, one of its main tasks is to select a new Vice President. The Vice President eventually becomes President and then, as a Past President, serves on the Tiebout Prize Reading Committee. This year, the Board named Serge Rey, from the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning at Arizona State University as incoming Vice President. Congratulations, Serge!



*WRSA's
New Vice President,
Serge Rey*

At the annual meeting, Hans Westlund ascended another rung of the presidential hierarchy to become President-Elect. At next year's 52nd annual meeting in Santa Barbara, Hans will give his presidential address and will host the President's Reception.

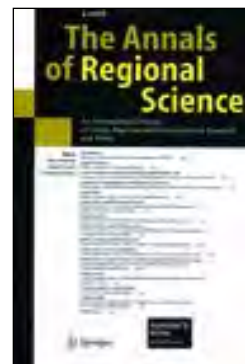
Welcome to New WRSA Board Members: Richard Church, Sandy Dall'Erba, and Alessandra Faggian

The WRSA Board also selected three additions to its ranks at its annual business meeting. Joining the Board this year are: Richard Church, from the University of California, Santa Barbara; Sandy Dall'Erba from the University of Arizona (WRSA's erstwhile home); and Alessandra Faggian from the Ohio State University.

Along with giving sage advice and long-range guidance to the Association, Board members also provide more mundane assistance, for example with screening papers submitted for the annual meeting program.



Hans Westlund, President-Elect, enjoying the warm Hawaiian weather with Waldo and Rachel Tobler



Submitting Papers to: The Annals of Regional Science

WRSA members are encouraged to submit their best research for publication consideration in the Association's official journal, *The Annals of Regional Science*.

For more information contact one of the three coeditors:

Börje Johansson, jobo@jibs.hj.se
Euijune Kim, euijune@snu.ac.kr
Janet E. Kohlhase, jkohlhase@uh.edu

Visit the *Annals* page on the Springer website:
<http://www.springer.com/economics/regional+science/journal/168>.



More of the beautiful meeting venue on Kauai



Photos from the 51st Annual Meeting of the WRSA

Many thanks to meeting attendees John Carruthers, Art Getis, and Maritha Sandberg Lööf for sending along the photos below (plus more, on the WRSA website).

The Welcoming Reception...



Hans Lööf, deep in conversation during a session coffee break



Peter Gordon gives his Presidential Address



New WRSA Board Member, Sandy Dall'Erba (right), converses with Past President, David Holland



Board members Christine Bae, Pete Parcels, and Genevieve Giuliano share a drink with WRSA President, Peter Gordon



Long-time WRSA members, Dick Morrill, Gordon Mulligan, and Geoff Hewings



Past President Juanita Liu (center) with Lay James Gibson Opening Plenary speakers, Makena Coffman and Daniel Spencer

WRSA Remembers Charlie Leven

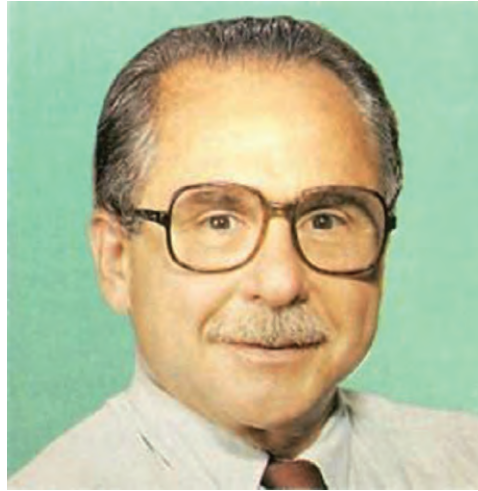


Photo Source: Cheshire, P. Sheppard, S. (2011) In memoriam: Charles Leven (1928-2011) *Papers in Regional Science* 90 (3): 447-449

Charlie Leven

Michael B. Teitz

Charlie Leven, whom, although his name was Charles, I never heard anyone call anything but “Charlie,” was a scholar, teacher, wit, raconteur, and bon vivant. He was a man who loved life, even as he might make some mordant comment on its failings. Not tall, and even in his youth, somewhat rotund, he projected an aura that was much larger. In the hallways at meetings of the Regional Science Association, one would hear him coming, his inimitable voice cutting through the crowd, often followed by laughter. That was especially so in those years when Charlie Leven and Charlie Tiebout were such a formidable combination together. When they were joined by Ben Stephens and Bill Alonso, amazing things might happen. There was a lot of joy and high spirits in those early days.

Fun loving as he was, Charlie was all seriousness as a scholar and teacher. I first encountered him in a year-long class on regional social accounting, which he taught in the Regional Science Department at the University of Pennsylvania, in 1960. Charlie had more or less invented regional accounting, which drew on the interest in and development of national economic accounting systems during the flowering of development economics after World War II (Leven, 1958, 1961). The course material was, to say the least, not intellectually captivating—dry, complex, and full of detail. Yet, it stays in my mind because of the way in which Charlie approached it. He led us into the thickets of economic accounting systems with a kind of verve that is hard to evoke. Paul Cheshire and Stephen Sheppard (2011, 447-449) describe it as wavering “...between the technical and the

anecdotal...” transmitting “...the excitement and curiosity that were part of Charlie’s essence.” To do this with regional accounting was no mean feat. Charlie thrived on good stories; so did his students.

As a scholar, Charlie combined insatiable curiosity and penetrating analysis with a skeptical cast of mind and a dry wit. Whether he was writing about urban renewal or quality of life, he seemed to be immune from current enthusiasms, always bringing to bear his sharp, analytical mind, while softening the blows with humor and his own special charm. Those blows, nonetheless, could be hard. After our first encounter at Penn at the turn of the 1960s, I mostly saw him at professional meetings, where listening to his words as a commentator on papers was a particular pleasure. He could take apart an argument in the nicest possible way. He also had a lighter kind of academic passion. For some reason, Charlie loved the idea of knowing the identifying letters of airports worldwide. No one could beat him at the game, played either to name the airport or the identifier. I can still see him bringing out some totally obscure place with a huge grin. He was a lovely man.

References

- Cheshire, P. Sheppard, S. (2011) In memoriam: Charles Leven (1928-2011). *Papers in Regional Science* 90 (3): 447-449.
- Leven, C. (1958) A theory of regional social accounting. *Papers in Regional Science* 4: 221-237.
- Leven, C. (1961) Regional income and product accounts: construction and application. In Hochwald, W (ed) *Design of regional accounts*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.

Charlie Leven, WRSA Legend

Jon R. Miller and Lee Huskey

Somewhere, sometime, someone should create a Regional Science Hall of Fame, with bronze busts, plaques, assorted memorabilia and lifetime statistics of its members. We could take our grandchildren to see it, most likely in a city, downtown Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, or maybe even Los Angeles. Perhaps the Hall could migrate from one city to another, escaping urban decay, in search of a better mix of public goods or an innovative milieu in which to thrive.

Without a doubt, Charlie Leven would be enshrined in this Regional Science Hall of Fame. All regional scientists would recognize his seminal contributions to the theory and practice of regional economic analysis and development. His early work in regional income and product accounting, along with his pioneering work in economic base theory and small area impact analysis would be enough to get him in. His work over a 50-year career on urban decline and city structure and the determinants of quality of life in cities would be icing on the cake. He was a contributor to the organizational structure of regional science itself, a member of the informal Committee on Urban Economics with other legendary figures and a founding member and past president of the Regional Science Association (1964-65).

These numerous academic and professional accomplishments, however, would not be the topic of conversation as we stood in front of Charlie's bronze likeness at the Regional Science Hall of Fame. No, we would all be sharing stories, Charlie stories, many of which we could not tell our grandchildren until they reached a more mature age, and maybe not even then. It was Charlie the man, the raconteur, the jokester and storyteller, himself, that worked his way into our hearts.

We were more fortunate than most in our accumulation of Charlie stories over the years. Charlie started out as our teacher in graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis in the late sixties and early seventies. He lured us into regional economics, supervised our dissertations, became our mentor and soon our life-long friend. That's what Charlie did, if you were one of the lucky ones.

He taught us the importance of "street smarts," introduced us to wine and practical Yiddish, and made us sing with him way too many Christmas carols. We rode with him, sometimes fearfully, through waves of urban decay in 1970s St. Louis, and later on narrow English roads, with branches scraping the sides of the car, in search of the perfect pub. Opening his mail was

a daily event in the econ coffee lounge, where he dispensed wisdom such as "happiness isn't everything, it can't buy money," and "I have nothing against religion. I just need less of it than most people."

Charlie's stories were central to his teaching. Stories in the classroom that might have seemed oddly placed at the time became means of holding on to and passing on the mechanics of regional growth or neighborhood filtering. The teaching stories found their way out of the classroom into those fearful urban decay tours or the days spent with Charlie on the shoulders of WRSA meetings in some beautiful place. We even came away from Charlie outings with our own stories good for teaching; nothing illustrates external cost like singing in a restaurant.

One way that Charlie lived the regional science paradigm was through his interest in other places. Charlie might not have been a "rolling stone," but he was surely a "travelin' man." Through travel to England, Israel, Poland and other parts of the world Charlie kept telling stories, spreading the gospel of regional economics, gathering material for more stories, and providing us with instant connections to people around the globe. He was not above using guilt to secure an invitation to a place, like the Idaho speaking engagement he was offered after the gentle reminder that Idaho was the only state he hadn't visited.

Charlie was a founding member of the Western Regional Science Association, its 14th president, a fellow of the Association, and a regular participant in its conferences. For much of our post-graduate school life, the WRSA meetings provided a place for catching up with Charlie. He would be holding forth over coffee or at dinner without a worry about who was listening. Like a stream of pedestrians on a busy city street, Charlie's conversations were continually flowing. You stepped into them and out of them where and when you chose. No matter how long you stayed, you often left with wisdom, questions, or directions. Charlie was one more amenity attracting us to the WRSA. We will miss him at the meetings.



Long-time WRSA members and former students of Charlie Leven, Jon Miller and Lee Huskey.



Western Regional Science Association

Officers for the 2012–2013 Year

President:

Peter Gordon, University of Southern California

President-Elect:

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

Vice President:

Sergio Rey, Arizona State University

Immediate Past President:

Warren Gill, Simon Fraser University

Executive Director:

Rachel Franklin, Brown University

WRSA's PRSCO Councilors:

Lay James Gibson, Rachel Franklin,

John Quigley, Roger Stough

WRSA's NARSC Councilor:

Rachel Franklin

Board of Directors

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John Carruthers, George Washington University

Richard Church, University of California, Santa Barbara

Terry Clower, University of North Texas

Sandy Dall'Erba, University of Arizona

Alessandra Faggian, Ohio State University

Henk Folmer, Wageningen Univ.

Genevieve Giuliano, Univ. Southern California

Timothy Hogan, Arizona State University

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Maureen Kilkenny, University of Nevada, Reno

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R. Pete Parcells, Whitman College

Matthias Ruth, University of Maryland

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Lay James Gibson, University of Arizona

Michael Greenwood, Colorado University

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Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, University of Illinois

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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

Regional Science Meeting Calendar

43rd Annual Conference of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association

Bloomington, Minnesota, June 6–8, 2012

<http://www.mcrsa.org/conference.html>

12th PRSCO Summer Institute

Beijing, China, July 3–6, 2012

<http://www.prsco2012.com/>

52nd European Congress of the RSAI

Bratislava, Slovakia, August 21–25, 2012

<http://www.ersa.org/ersa-congress/>

59th North American Meetings of the RSAI

Ottawa, Canada, November 7–10, 2012

http://www.narsc.org/newsite/?page_id=10

52nd Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association

Santa Barbara, California, February 8–11, 2013

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

<http://www.wrsa.info>

52nd Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association

Washington, DC, April 4–6, 2013

<http://www.srsa.org/conferencesub.htm>

News Contributions Welcomed!

The *WRSA Newsletter* is published twice yearly and welcomes contributions from members and friends.

Please feel free to send along news, employment opportunities, research updates, calls for papers, brief reviews of published work, or related items.

We especially appreciate updates from our peer regional science associations!

Newsletter submissions and address updates should be sent to:

Rachel Franklin,
WRSA Executive Director/Newsletter Editor,
at wrsa@brown.edu
or the mailing address on Page 1.