

# Place and Culture

The Newsletter of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group of the  
Association of American Geographers

March, 2014

Winter/Spring

## Letter from the Chair



Hello Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you are all having an excellent spring semester wherever you are. Spring, of course, brings warmer weather (some of us have to wait longer or this than others) and a sense of re-growth. For my family, it means adding a kiddo! Indeed, it will be busy but fun, sleepless but never boring. With our annual meeting occurring in April more consistently, many of us are also very near our summer breaks, which brings more ex-

tensive research time. If you're like me and teach a four-course teaching load each term, that's a welcome season!

I want to thank all of you for your support of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group. Merely by joining, you enable our group to fund graduate student research, host our marquee speaker, and coordinate special sessions and guest speakers with other specialty groups. It is truly a great achievement to support this level of scholarly activity every year.

This year's meeting is highlighted by five special CGSG events in addition to dozens of sponsored paper sessions (which you can find on pages 10-13). First is our annual Marquee Speaker session on Friday, April 11 at 4:40 (Salon VI Marriott 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor). This year we welcome Joseph Scarpaci, Executive Director of the *Center for the Study of Cuban Culture + Economy*. Professor Scarpaci is one of the foremost experts on Cuba's landscape, economic development, and culture. His talk, titled "Material and Cultural Consumption in Cuba: New Reference Groups in the New Millennium," will no doubt help fulfill a meaningful experience in the Tampa Bay region.

To kickoff this session, Dr. Scarpaci will also help us hand out our Graduate Student Awards, including our PhD-level Denis Cosgrove (Research) and Terry Jordan Bychkov (Paper) Awards. Details of all awards and last year's awardees are on pages 6-7.

Our Graduate Student Representatives—Weronika Kusek and Don Colley—have organized our annual Graduate Student Breakfast. This year's breakfast will be held at Moxies, 514 N. Tampa St., on Thursday, April 10, from 7am-9am. and the CGSG will foot the bill up to \$200. Come chat with good friends and drink good coffee!

I also encourage you to participate in our annual Photo Exhibit, which this year comes with a new and exciting change. This year's exhibition will also be judged as a competition. The winner(s) will be invited to submit their photo and accompanying essay for review and potential publication in *FOCUS on Geography* for their "A Picture is Worth 1000 Words" section. The exhibit is put together by our grad student reps and will be held Wednesday through Friday in the Exhibition Hall.

Finally, I ask you to attend our business meeting on Friday, April 11, at 11:50am in Rm 17 of the TCC (1<sup>st</sup> Floor). At this meeting, we'll assess the successes of the past year and the current meeting, and any goals we want to accomplish before we reconvene in Chicago in 2015. One item is the approval of modifications and updates made to our bylaws. We will also brainstorm ideas for a Marquee Speaker for next year's meeting in Chicago. Finally, we will elect several new members to our Executive Board: Secretary/Treasurer, Program Director, Nominations Chair, and one Graduate Student Representative. One of those could be YOU! Self nominations are welcome.

There were three main advancements for the group over the past few months. First, we have an updated bylaws, which you can peruse on our website and will be up for approval in Tampa at the business meeting. Second, we established the relationship between our Photo Exhibit and *FOCUS*. Third, is a move of our website. The CGSG's website has been hosted at the University of Missouri for about seven years thanks to the leadership of former CGSG Chair Soren Larsen and his continued work with the site. We have moved the site to Kent State at Stark's domain. The new URL is <http://www.stark.kent.edu/CGSG>. We encourage you to check the website for news and information about all of our activities and events at the annual AAG meeting.

Continued...

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All of this exciting news said, and as much as I appreciate your membership, the CGSG needs **your involvement**. With 781 members as I write this, the CGSG is the fifth-largest specialty group within the AAG (behind only Cultural and Political Ecology, GIS, Spatial Analysis and Modeling, and Urban Geography). Last year in Los Angeles we had 10 attendees at our annual Business Meeting. That's 10 participants out of 781 members—a .013 batting average, far below any scholarly version of a "Mendoza Line," if I've ever seen one (Warning: Baseball reference!). I understand many of you choose to get involved and serve leadership positions in more content-specific SGs, such as the Landscape or Ethnic Geography SGs. Unfortunately, this lack of participation in the CGSG has impacted our ability to merely administer the group. Last year we elected a member to the executive board who has never once communicated with the group, not even to say they were nominated and not interested in serving. This person exists. They have an excellent scholarly record. But such ignorance of duty and professionalism is unacceptable. I was forced to ask another Board member to take on these duties. With greater participation by members—both faculty and graduate students—we can avoid such embarrassing circumstances. We wouldn't have to elect nominees who do not even attend the business meeting. We would have more engaging discussions at our business meeting and would be better able to serve you—our members. And it's a great line to put on your CV. Previous Chairs such as Terry Jordan-Bychkov, Joseph Wood, Derek Alderman, Soren Larson, Beth Schlemper, and the late Artimus Keiffer worked tirelessly to make this an active and rewarding group to belong to. Please help me continue this trend by getting involved. Attend our marquee session, attend our business meeting, participate in our photo exhibit, have a cup of coffee at our breakfast, or even run for a board position. We appreciate your membership. We'd LOVE your action.

Thanks for your time and attention to this newsletter and our events in Tampa. I look forward to seeing you there!

Chris Post  
Kent State University  
cpost2@kent.edu

**Joe Scarpaci to Deliver the 2014 CGSG Annual Marquee Address in Tampa**  
Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy  
Co-Sponsored with the *Journal of Cultural Geography*

**"Material and Cultural Consumption in Cuba:  
New Reference Groups in the New Millennium"**

**Friday, April 11, 4:40 p.m.  
Florida Salon VI, Marriott 2nd Floor**



Dr. Joseph L. Scarpaci is a geographer and Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy. He also serves as Chair and Associate Professor of Marketing of the Department of Marketing and Management at West Liberty University. Dr. Scarpaci has been involved with cultural and educational travel to Cuba since 1991. He is the author of three books and dozens of articles about Cuba. These include:

*Cuban Landscapes: Heritage, Memory and Place* (New York: Guilford, 2009);

*Plazas & Barrios: Heritage Tourism and Globalization in the Latin American Centro Histórico* (University of Arizona Press, 2005);

*Havana: Two Faces of the Antillean Metropolis* (London and Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002).

Before Dr. Scarpaci's talk, we will be handing out and celebrating our annual Student Award Winners, including those for our *Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov* and *Denis E. Cosgrove Awards*.

# Cultural Geography on the “Edge of the Prairie”

Gareth E. John, Department of Geography and Planning, St. Cloud State University

I first discovered Garrison Keillor’s APM-syndicated live radio show *A Prairie Home Companion* in 1999 when I was a graduate student at the University of Kentucky. I became instantly hooked and ‘The News from Lake Wobegon’ monologue soon became my favorite segment. The stories of life in Lake Wobegon (pop. 942), a fictional small-town set in Central Minnesota, afforded me a connection to America that reminded me somewhat of my native Wales which I had left only a few years before: the ‘sing-songy’ accent, the matter-of-fact manner of communication, and the quirkiness of the characters. But this wasn’t Wales it was America, and rural America at that (I am from Cardiff, pop. 346,000), and descriptions of the rhythms of Minnesota’s seasons characterized by impossibly cold temperatures and blizzards in winter and sub-tropical heat and humidity in summer, and of a lakes and plains landscape given over to walleye fishing and the raising of corn by Norwegian bachelor farmers, set that straight. Yet the monologues conjured a romantic nostalgia (indeed, it took me a while to realize that it wasn’t set in the 1950s) that was compelling. As a Ph.D. student in Kentucky, I never imagined that I might someday work and live in the region that inspired the Lake Wobegon saga, but in 2003 I moved to Minnesota and two years later I began a tenure-track position in the geography department at St. Cloud State University, in Stearns County, Minnesota.

Finding myself teaching introductory cultural geography in Central Minnesota there was nothing for it but to develop a presentation on the rich imaginative geographies of Lake Wobegon from Keillor’s radio show and related books. The class draws primarily on an article

by Garrison Keillor entitled “In Search of Lake Wobegon” that appeared in the December, 2000 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, and features the evocative black and white photography of Richard Olsenius. Associated online features (at least those that are still available) include an audiovisual slideshow of some of Olsenius’s images of life in Central Minnesota with selections from Keillor’s article narrated by the author, which I play in class. Despite Keillor’s explanation that the town appears on no actual maps of the state because of a miscalculation by Minnesota’s surveyors who “found they had surveyed more of Minnesota than there was room for . . . so the corners had to be overlapped in the middle, and Lake Wobegon wound up on the bottom flap” (Keillor 2000, 90), there is much to recommend Lake Wobegon as a cultural-geographic case-study.



Figure 1. Welcoming Water Tower, Freeport, Minnesota (pop. 632). Photograph by Author.

‘The News from Lake Wobegon’ always begins with Keillor’s much-anticipated line, ‘Well it’s been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon, Minnesota, my hometown, out on the edge of the prairie’ and, following applause by the live audience, proceeds with a description of the recent weather and the sights, sounds and aromas of the season, all of which set the scene for the unfolding tales of everyday life, rife with humor and irony. Before moving to Central Minnesota I hadn’t realized that Keillor describes the actual weather encountered in the region the previous week, thereby affording his St. Paul audience and local listeners a roll acknowledgement at their collective suffering. Our class then segues into consideration of the distinctive regional characteristics of the town’s landscape and predominantly German- and Norwegian-descended population (the latter Keillor admits to have ‘bussed in’ to Stearns County as the region

is mostly German) and what it shares in common with the actual region of Stearns County and its towns, such as Holdingford, New Munich, Albany, Avon and Freeport, upon which Lake Wobegon is based. Ralph’s Pretty Good Grocery, the Sidetrack Tap, the Chatterbox Café, Krebsbach Motors, and Our Lady of Perpetual Responsibility Catholic Church are all modeled after establishments in the region. Of these, Charlie’s Café in Freeport (which celebrates its connection to Lake Wobegon by selling recordings of the shows and Keillor’s books; Figure 2) has become something of a regional treasure, with loud yellow and red billboards along I-94 announcing its presence.

The affection Keillor shows for small-town life in Minnesota is matched by his unveiled disdain for St. Cloud’s Division St., “a four-mile strip of free enterprise in full riot, the fast-food discount multiplex warehouse cosmos adrift in its asphalt sea, the no-man’s-land of 24-hour gas stations that sell groceries and photocopies” (Keillor, 2000, 94). Driving west from St. Cloud, by contrast, cosmos peters out and you emerge from hell and come into paradise, rural Minnesota. “the cosmos peters out and you emerge from hell and come into paradise, rural Minnesota.” Associated with this moral geographical tension between the traditional and the modern, the rural and the urban, or the country and the city, is the possibility of the despoliation of rural Minnesota by the encroaching specter of placelessness in the form of garish strip developments and subdivisions with “suburban street names like Angelfish Avenue, Baracuda, Char” (Keillor, 2000, 95). Central Minnesota, like much of rural America, is a region in flux and for Keillor and his listeners Lake Wobegon serves as a venue for celebrating the virtues of a small-town way of life under threat.



Figure 2. Penn State Historical Geographer Deryck Holdsworth standing in front of Charlie’s Café on a tour of Central Minnesota during his 2006 visit to St. Cloud State University. Photograph by Author.

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# 2014 Call for Nominations

The CGSG has four open positions on the Executive Board this year for two year terms (2014-2016), including Secretary/Treasurer, Nominations Director, Program Director, and Graduate Student Representative. We will hold an election during the CGSG business meeting at the AAG meeting in April. We thank all of those who are willing to provide service to the CGSG. Please encourage everyone to attend the business meeting in Tampa!

**Secretary/Treasurer** (two year term, 2014-2016)

The Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for receiving and disbursing all funds of the CGSG; maintaining an up-to-date list of all members of the CGSG; keeping minutes and presenting a financial statement of the CGSG at the annual business meeting; and helping the Chairperson with the publication of the CGSG annual newsletter.

**Nominations Director** (two year term, 2014-2016)

The Nominations Director will organize and solicit all elections for the CGSG. Directors are also responsible for discussing and evaluating the activities of the CGSG, participating in the annual business meeting, and voting on specialty group business.

**Program Director** (two year term, 2014-2016)

The Program Director is responsible for organizing, arranging, or sponsoring (or co-sponsoring with other specialty groups) cultural geography sessions at the annual meetings of the AAG. With the other members of the executive committee, the Program Director will also assist in selecting and convening the speaker for the annual CGSG Lecture Series.

**One graduate student representative** (two year term, 2014-2016.)

The Graduate Student Representative is responsible for overseeing and encouraging graduate student participation in the specialty group and at events held at the AAG Annual Meeting; organizing the breakfast social event and organizing the landscape photography exhibit at the AAG Annual Meeting.

Balloting will take place at the CGSG Business Meeting at the Association of the American Geographers Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida. Self-nominations are highly encouraged. To nominate, please send the following information to Sharon Wilcox (sharonwadams@utexas.edu), CGSG Nominations Director, by March 15, 2014.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Nominee's name and affiliation
- 2) Brief (paragraph) biography
- 3) Qualifications and platforms for respective Positions

Should you have questions about the roles, please do not hesitate to contact Sharon Wilcox (sharonwadams@utexas.edu) or CGSG Chair, Chris Post (cpost2@kent.edu)

**VOTE IN**  
**TAMPA**

**Come to the CGSG Business Meeting at 11:50am on Friday, April 11, 2014 in Room 17 of the TCC to cast your vote for these positions. Write-in candidates are acceptable too.**

# Come to the CGSG Business Meeting!

Friday, April 11 @ 11:50am  
Rm 17 TCC 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Officer Elections!  
Discussion and Voting on New By-laws!  
Ideas for speakers and other events for AAG 2015 in Chicago!  
Budget Discussion!

What more could you want? Come and join the fun!!!



# Report from the Awards Director

Dear CGSG Members,

It is my pleasure to announce the results of the 2013 research and student paper awards, which were formally presented at the Marquee Speaker Session in Los Angeles. We received a record number of exceptionally strong applications for these awards. As part of the award competition, the anonymous judges provided each applicant with feedback on their paper or proposal to help strengthen and focus these research projects.

Jennifer Titanski-Hooper (Penn State University) received the \$500 Denis Cosgrove PhD Research Grant Award for her proposal titled “Resisting Europeanization: Livelihoods and National Identity in Croatia”. Margaret Holleman (University of Oklahoma) received the \$250 MA Research Grant Award for her proposal titled “Mediating transborder geographies: Indigenous development, social justice activism, and faith-based motivations in Oaxaca, Mexico”.



Timur Hammond (UCLA) received the \$250 Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov PhD Student Paper Award for his paper “Matters of the Mosque: Assemblage, Islam, and Eyüp Sultan”. Duncan Ranslem (University of British Columbia) received the \$200 MA Level Student Paper Award for his paper titled “Precipitating permanence in urban resettlement: The insolubility of ‘decantment’, ‘transit’, and ‘temporary relocation’”.

Congratulations to the recipients for their excellent work! Thank you to all the student members who submitted proposals and papers and to the faculty members who encouraged your students to participate!

I look forward to seeing you all at our Marquee Speaker Session in Tampa where we will announce the results of our 2014 research and paper award competitions. Judging is underway for these awards and I am very excited to continue CGSG’s strong tradition of student research support!

Regards,  
Angela G. Subulwa  
CGSG Awards Chair  
subulwaa@uwosh.edu

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Each year we ask our research grant awardees to provide an update on their projects. I am pleased to pass along these updates to CGSG members so we can all see how beneficial these grants are to our graduate students.

**Jennifer L. Titanski-Hooper**, Ph.D. Candidate, Penn State University  
“Resisting Europeanization: Livelihoods and National Identity in Croatia”

The CGSG Research Grant supported a portion of my dissertation fieldwork in Zagreb, Croatia. While in Zagreb, I conducted ethnographic research to determine how livelihood practices and identity are performed and debated in the city’s tržnice (farmer’s markets), particularly in relation to new legislation and practices associated with Croatia’s impending entrance to the European Union (EU). My fieldwork was funded by a Fulbright Fellowship from September 2012-June 2013, and the CGSG Research Grant funded the final month of my research in July 2013. Croatia became an official member of the EU on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and important EU supported tax legislation, known as *fiskalizacija*, did not take effect until that day. This legislation has had a particularly large effect on the tržnice, where vendors must adapt to new and often expensive requirements which state that businesses and sellers register accounts with the government, supply customers with paper receipts at the time of transaction, and implement the use of cash registers that automatically report sales to tax authorities. Concern over the effects of *fiskalizacija* led markets vendors to go on strike for several weeks following Croatia’s EU accession, and ultimately threatens to change the landscape of these spaces permanently, as some vendors may not be able to afford the new requirements. Without the CGSG Research Grant, I would not have been present for these important events, which enriched the dissertation project immeasurably.



The tržnice are an integral part of the daily lived experience of Croatian communities. In Zagreb alone, there are over 20 different tržnice, open daily. Shopping at the tržnice is a daily routine for many and a traditional experience for others who want to feel in touch with Zagreb’s history and culture. The tržnice in Zagreb are intertwined with the recent history of the city itself, so much so that this, the largest and most-centrally located market, the Dolac, is known as ‘The Belly of Zagreb’.

**Margaret Holleman**, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Oklahoma

“Mediating transborder geographies: Indigenous development, social justice activism, and faith-based motivations in Oaxaca, Mexico”.

It was mid-July and tourists from all over the world were flooding into Oaxaca de Juarez, the capital city of the southern Mexican state. As Oaxacans and tourists geared up for the annual *Guelaguetza*, I was preparing for a trip to the Mixteca town of Tlaxiaco. This is where I planned to meet Noel Vasquez, a community leader of Guadalupe Miramar Yucuhiti. Shortly after arriving in Tlaxiaco, Noel and I took a two hour bumpy taxi ride through the clouds to his hometown Miramar. There, I spent four days and five nights meeting residents, speaking to women working in the community, and learning about the small-scale development projects in the community including the town’s new taxi cooperative that connects residents to surrounding villages and marketplaces and the micro tunnel greenhouses that allow families to grow food year round.

Last year while researching faith-based non-profit organizations doing development work in Mexico, I discovered Broetje First Fruits Orchards in Prescott, Washington, and the company’s foundation Vista Hermosa. This foundation supports the development projects in Miramar. The funds also help create comfortable and safe living conditions for Broetje Orchard employees and their families, many of them immigrants from Miramar.

With the funds I received from the Cultural Geography Specialty Group, I was able to travel to Oaxaca and visit Miramar. With the award, I was also able to travel Juchitán, Oaxaca, where I visited another Vista Hermosa project called Center for Sharing (*Centro de Compartimiento*), a home for young indigenous women seeking an education. Adela, one of the directors, spoke with me about her motivations for doing the kind of work she does and how she likes working with the Vista Hermosa Foundation.

I focus my research on groups such as Vista Hermosa Foundation because my research aims to learn more about how organizations concerned with social justice approach “transborder” development. Furthermore, in the midst of high rates of emigration from indigenous regions of Mexico, it is important to understand how organizations negotiate cultural differences in development. I continue my research interviewing mediators/activists in the U.S. working in rural development in order to better understand how and why they dedicate their lives to working with Indigenous communities.



Taxi cooperative in Guadalupe Miramar Yucuhiti, Oaxaca, established with help from Vista Hermosa Foundation in Prescott, WA. The town started the taxi service for the benefit of the community and runs 7 days a week to and from surrounding communities and other parts of the state of Oaxaca.

## CGSG Coffee and Breakfast (Organized by the Graduate Student Reps)

**Moxies**

514 N. Tampa St.

Thursday, April 10th 7am-9am

The CGSG will buy the first \$200 worth of coffee and food for CGSG members. Come on over before the tab closes!

# Report from the Graduate Student Representatives Landscape Photography Exhibit and a Breakfast Social in Tampa



Dear CGSG Members,

It has been my honor to serve as a Graduate Student Representative during the 2012-2014 timeframe, and although it feels great to say I will be graduating with my PhD in a few months it is a bittersweet feeling to leave my role with the CGSG. I have been fortunate to work with many wonderful and talented members of the CGSG, and together we were able to achieve a few successes I would like to highlight in this report.

Together with Nick Crane from the Ohio State University we organized a few very successful events during the 2013 AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. Respectful of tradition, we organized the Landscape Photography Exhibit which has been part of CGSG programming since 2009. I am happy to report that the submissions for the photo exhibit have steadily been increasing since its inauguration at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas five years ago. I am convinced that this wonderful event will become a permanent feature of the CGSG, and that the submissions this year will be as fruitful. A formal call for contributions has been circulated through email. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to submit photographs and captions to

me ([wkusek@kent.edu](mailto:wkusek@kent.edu)). Similarly to previous years, the approved submissions will be displayed at the AAG's Annual Meeting. I invite you all to take a quick break from the sessions to browse the Landscape Photo Exhibit.

I am also very excited to report that the Breakfast Social in Los Angeles was a very successful event during which we had the opportunity to socialize with fellow cultural geographers. This year, I would like to invite you to join me at the Breakfast Social in Tampa as well; the date, time, and place TBA soon. This event will be informal so please feel free to stop by anytime, enjoy breakfast, and take an opportunity to meet and/or catch up with colleagues.

I am also very proud of the two sessions Nick and I organized in Los Angeles, which resulted in a special issue on qualitative methodologies used in cultural geography, which will be published in the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, June 2014.

I look forward to seeing you all in Tampa, and I hope to receive the opportunity to contribute to the CGSG in a different role in the near future.

Respectfully,

Weronika Kusek  
[wkusek@kent.edu](mailto:wkusek@kent.edu)

Please Participate in our Annual

## CGSG Photography Exhibit

Winner(s) will be invited to submit their photo and accompanying essay for review for *FOCUS on Geography* and their "A Picture is Worth 1000 Words" section.

The exhibit and voting will be available Wednesday through Friday in the Exhibit Hall.





# Report from the Treasurer



The budget shows that the CGSG has ample funds to support the upcoming year's projects. All of our income this year came from dues collected from members. Our expenses include cash awards given to the recipients of our student grant and paper competitions. In addition, we have hosted a keynote speaker the last four years and offered them a travel stipend, as well as an honorarium. Last year's speaker was Lily Kong. Finally, we reimbursed our graduate student representative for the costs of hosting the annual Graduate Student Social at the AAG. Any questions regarding the budget can be addressed to the treasurer at:

[sbkeough@svsu.edu](mailto:sbkeough@svsu.edu)

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Beth Keough  
CGSG Treasurer

<b>Paid Members (as of February 2013)</b>	<b>728</b>
USA	582
Canada	44
UK	19
Ireland	8
France	6
Australia	6
Germany	6
Mexico	4
Netherlands, Korea, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, China, Dominican Republic, Finland, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, *	52

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Balance</b>
1/31/13	Dues collected Jan 2013	163.00		4281.12
2/28/13	Dues collected Feb 2013	181.00		4462.12
3/7/13	Informa wire received-speaker sponsorship	365.58		4827.70
3/29/13	Ranselm-MA Paper Award		200.00	4627.70
3/29/13	Kong-Speaker Stipend		1595.00	3032.70
3/29/13	Titanski-Hooper—PhD Grant		500.00	2532.70
3/29/13	Hammond—PhD Paper Award		250.00	2282.70
3/29/13	Holleman—MA Grant		250.00	2032.70
3/29/13	Alexander—Paper Judging Stipend		50.00	1982.70
3/29/13	Subulwa		50.00	1932.70
3/31/13	Dues collected March 2013	172.00		2104.70
4/11/13	Keough—reimb for bfast mtng		193.39	1911.31
4/30/13	Dues collected April 2013	188.00		2099.31
5/31/13	Dues collected May 2013	80.00		2179.31
6/30/13	Dues collected June 2013	98.00		2277.31
7/31/13	Dues collected July 2013	83.00		2360.31
8/31/13	Dues collected August 2013	104.99		2465.30
9/30/13	Dues collected Sept 2013	163.00		2628.30
10/31/13	Dues collected Oct 2013	359.00		2987.30
11/30/13	Dues collected Nov 2013	312.00		3299.30
12/31/13	Dues collected Dec 2013	301.00		3600.30
<b>12/31/13</b>	<b>Year End Balance</b>			<b>3600.30</b>

# Cultural Geography Specialty Group Sponsored Sessions at the 2014 AAG Meeting

Prepared by Sharon Wilcox

For the 2014 Annual Meeting in Tampa, the CGSG is sponsoring 64 sessions examining a diverse set of methods, subjects and perspectives within cultural geography. The 2014 Cultural Geography Specialty Group Marquee Address features Joseph Scarpaci, Executive Director of The Center for the Study of Cuban Culture + Economy. Professor Scarpaci's talk is titled "Material and Cultural Consumption in Cuba: New Reference Groups in the New Millennium."

Dr. Scarpaci writes, "Marketers define 'reference groups' as go-to clusters of consumers/citizens who validate contemporary fashion and values and, in the case of Cuba (like the former Soviet bloc countries), nuanced political positions. Their expressions of material and cultural consumption are muted because of carefully monitored media outlets, neighborhood watch groups, and a thick security of clothed and plain-clothed onlookers. This paper reviews the behaviors, trends and symbolism displayed by three reference groups: the Cuban Diaspora, Cuban Gen-Xers/Millennials, and an emerging self-employed sector. I argue that these hybrid forces -youthful Cubans abroad and on the island—forge a new mélange of social change that is chipping away at extant power structures."

## *--CGSG FEATURED SESSIONS AND EVENTS--*

**4667 CGSG Marquee Address: Dr. Joseph Scarpaci, "Material and Cultural Consumption in Cuba: New Reference Groups in the New Millennium."**

Friday, 4/11/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Florida Salon VI, Marriott, Second Floor

**4317 Cultural Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting**

Friday, 4/11/2014, from 11:50 AM - 12:30 PM in Room 17, TCC, First Floor

**Annual Landscape Photography Exhibit**

Wednesday-Friday

This year's exhibit will include a competition and opportunity to be published in FOCUS' "A Picture is Worth 1000 Words" section. Location details for this exhibit are pending. Please come and vote.

**Annual Graduate Student Coffee and Breakfast at Moxie's**

Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 7:00 am-9:00 am.

The CGSG will cover the first \$200 towards coffee and pastries for all CGSG members. Get there before the tab runs out! Moxie's is at 514 North Tampa St. in downtown.

## *--YOUR GUIDE TO CGSG SESSIONS IN TAMPA--*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014**

**1168 Cities of Diversity and Encounter: Theorizing Social and Economic Class in Urban Places**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Meeting Room 1, Marriott, Second Floor

**1180 Geographies of Comics and Graphic Novels I**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Meeting Room 11, Marriott, Third Floor

**1182 Reimagining Nationalisms: Communities and Borders in Moments of Transition I**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Meeting Room 13, Marriott, Third Floor

**1207 FQG: Geographies of Adolescent Sexualities**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Room 7, TCC, First Floor

**1268 Cities of Diversity and Encounter: Theorizing Social and Economic Class in Urban Places**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 1, Marriott, Second Floor

**1280 Geographies of Comics and Graphic Novels II**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 11, Marriott, Third Floor

Continued...

**1282 Reimagining Nationalisms: Communities and Borders in Moments of Transition II**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 13, Marriott, Third Floor

**1454 Material Culture and Geography I: Borders and Historical Landscapes**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Grand Salon C, Marriott, Second Floor

**1460 American Odyssey: Historical Geographies of North America**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Grand Salon I, Marriott, Second Floor

**1554 Material Culture and Geography II: Home Structures, Images, and Designs**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Grand Salon C, Marriott, Second Floor

**1640 The Making and Unmaking of 21st century Rio de Janeiro**

Tuesday, 4/8/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Room 30B, TCC, Fourth Floor

*Wednesday, April 9, 2014*

**2109 Place as Material-Semiotic Phenomenon I**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Room 9, TCC, First Floor

**2158 Narrating the Nation through Urban Space I**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Grand Salon G, Marriott, Second Floor

**2177 Social Impacts of International Migration on Families Left Behind**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Meeting Room 8, Marriott, Third Floor

**2209 Place as Material-Semiotic Phenomenon II**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Room 9, TCC, First Floor

**2258 Narrating the Nation through Urban Space II**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Grand Salon G, Marriott, Second Floor

**2269 Geographies of Media 1: Digital Media**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 2, Marriott, Second Floor

**2277 Social Impacts of International Migration on Communities Left Behind**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 8, Marriott, Third Floor

**2404 Interdisciplinary perspectives on the geographies of islands 3: topologies and topographies**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Room 4, TCC, First Floor

**2421 Cultural Geographies Annual Lecture**

Organized by the editors of the Sage journal, *cultural geographies*, now in its 21st year.

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Room 21, TCC, First Floor

**2458 Narrating the Nation through Urban Space III**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Grand Salon G, Marriott, Second Floor

**2469 Geographies of Media 2: Television and Video Games**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Meeting Room 2, Marriott, Second Floor

**2477 The Southern Plantation Museum: The "Tough Stuff" of Heritage Tourism Research I: The Power of Narrative**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Meeting Room 8, Marriott, Third Floor

**2531 Globalization, migration, trans-border relations**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Room 31, TCC, Fourth Floor

**2569 Geographies of Media 3: Music Geography**

Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Meeting Room 2, Marriott, Second Floor

Continued...

**2577 The Southern Plantation Museum: The "Tough Stuff" of Heritage Tourism Research II: The Museum Experience**  
Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Meeting Room 8, Marriott, Third Floor

**2624 Connecting the Social and the Religious, New Spaces of Inquiry**  
Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Room 24, TCC, First Floor

**2669 Geographies of Media 4: Geography & Public Discourse**  
Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Meeting Room 2, Marriott, Second Floor

**2677 The Southern Plantation Museum: The "Tough Stuff" of Heritage Tourism Research III: Recontextualizing the South**  
Wednesday, 4/9/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Meeting Room 8, Marriott, Third Floor

*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

**Annual Graduate Student Coffee and Breakfast at Moxie's**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 7:00 am-9:00 am at Moxie's, 514 North Tampa Street

**3108 Geopoetics**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Room 8, TCC, First Floor

**3155 The politics of the negative: exhaustion, alienation, hesitancy**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Grand Salon D, Marriott, Second Floor

**3168 Geographies of Media 5: Cinema and the Postindustrial City**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Meeting Room 1, Marriott, Second Floor

**3208 Geopoetics II**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Room 8, TCC, First Floor

**3468 Geography of the Holy Land: New Insights**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Meeting Room 1, Marriott, Second Floor

**3480 Geographies of Education 1: Pedagogical Strategies and Praxis in the Teaching of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate Change**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Meeting Room 11, Marriott, Third Floor

**3505 The Business of Place Naming: A Session in Honor of Wilbur Zelinsky**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Room 5, TCC, First Floor

**3580 Geographies of Education 2: Pedagogical Strategies and Praxis in the Teaching of GIS and Geospatial Technology**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Meeting Room 11, Marriott, Third Floor

**3617 Teaching Ethnic Geography in the 21st Century**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Room 17, TCC, First Floor

**3668 Geographies of Media 8: Author Meets Critics: Geographies of Urban Sound (2014, Ashgate) by Torsten Wissmann**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Meeting Room 1, Marriott, Second Floor

**3669 Memorials in the Making: Planning, Designing and Contesting Commemorative Places**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Meeting Room 2, Marriott, Second Floor

**3680 Geographies of Education 3: Pedagogical Strategies and Praxis from Geo-Capabilities to Flexible Learning**  
Thursday, 4/10/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Meeting Room 11, Marriott, Third Floor

Continued...

**4280 Geographies of Education 5: Pedagogical Strategies and Praxis in Geographic Education and Geo-Literacy II**

Friday, 4/11/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 11, Marriott, Third Floor

**4417 Geography of Beer: Regions, Environment and Societies**

Friday, 4/11/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Room 17, TCC, First Floor

**4424 Critical Artsapes / Resilient Artists: Art and Gentrification Exhibition**

Friday, 4/11/2014, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Room 24, TCC, First Floor

**4533 Doing Geography: Fieldwork, Research, and Teaching**

Friday, 4/11/2014, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Room 33, TCC, Fourth Floor

**4679 Reanimating Region**

Friday, 4/11/2014, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Meeting Room 10, Marriott, Third Floor

*Saturday, April 12, 2014*

**5111 Political Ecology and Tourism: Concepts, Constructs and Practices I**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Room 11, TCC, First Floor

**5136 New Spaces of Internet Activity 1: Cyber-infrastructure, Cyber-geopolitics and the State**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Room 36, TCC, Fourth Floor

**5159 Criminology and Geography: Order and Conflict in the Public Space 1**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Grand Salon H, Marriott, Second Floor

**5211 Political Ecology and Tourism: Concepts, Constructs and Practices II**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Room 11, TCC, First Floor

**5236 New Spaces of Internet Activity 2: Social Media, Digital Culture and the Internet and Society**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Room 36, TCC, Fourth Floor

**5259 Criminology and Geography: Order and Conflict in the Public Space 2**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Grand Salon H, Marriott, Second Floor

**5270 Vital Geographical Themes: Crime, Ethnicity, and Cities**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 3, Marriott, Second Floor

**5278 Regenerating Routes of the Decolonial Option: Rooting Decoloniality in Afro-descendant and Indigenous Forest/River Territories in Latin America**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Meeting Room 9, Marriott, Third Floor

**5436 New Spaces of Internet Activity 3: Intersecting digital geographies and material futures**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 2:00 PM - 3:40 PM in Room 36, TCC, Fourth Floor

**5459 Criminology and Geography: Order and Conflict in the Public Space 3**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 2:00 PM - 3:40 PM in Grand Salon H, Marriott, Second Floor

**5530 Patrimonialization: Constructing Geographies of Heritage and Patrimony**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 4:00 PM - 5:40 PM in Room 30A, TCC, Fourth Floor

**5559 Criminology and Geography: Order and Conflict in the Public Space 4**

Saturday, 4/12/2014, from 4:00 PM - 5:40 PM in Grand Salon H, Marriott, Second Floor

# Cultural Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting Minutes, New York City, 2012

## Cultural Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting Minutes

Friday April 12, 2013 7:30-8:30pm

Officers present: Beth Schlemper, Sara Beth Keough, Sara Smiley, Weronika Kusek, Nicholas Crane

### **Welcome (Beth)**

### **Chairs Report (Beth)**

Info from AAG Specialty Group Chairs Meeting  
AAG Newsletter is now online  
Use Knowledge Communities as much as possible  
We've been able to balance out our speaker costs over the last few years  
Newsletter had good participation (1x per year)  
Chairs complained about timing for Specialty Group Meetings

### **Nominations Director report and balloting (Sarah Smiley for Charles Travis)**

Sarah distributed ballots  
Don Colley—write in for Grad Student Rep

### **Program Director (Beth for Sharon Adams)**

# of sponsored sessions is down from last year, but we still have lots of sponsored sessions

### **Awards Director Report (Sarah Smiley)**

18 total applications across all awards (more variety of schools represented)  
PhD Paper winner is here

### **Secretary/Treasure (Sara Beth Keough)**

Newsletter came out about 4 weeks before the meeting, nice to have submissions beyond officer reports  
Budget is in good shape. Cost of breakfast social was \$193.39. Biggest cost was bringing Lily Kong, but that was anticipated.  
We had support from other specialty groups and Taylor & Francis

### **Grad Student Representative Report**

Breakfast social was successful: 20-25 people  
Landscape Photography Exhibit was nice (12 submissions), looking to do something with these photos beyond the meeting.  
Options: Material Culture, CGSG website, AAG Newsletter  
Sessions organized by Grad Reps were well-attended. JCG is interested in publishing papers from the sessions.

### **Marquee Speaker ideas for Tampa meeting 2014**

Joe Scarpaci, Heika Alberts (UW Oshgosh), Ray Oldakowski, person who wrote political ecology paper on Everglades

### **Awards Procedure Discussion**

Does board want to continue to judge research grants? Conversation needed.  
Specific guidelines for who can apply for grants/awards are needed.

### **Elections Results**

Chris Post: President  
Angela Subulwa: Awards Director  
Nathaniel Lewis: Nominations Director  
Don Colley: Grad Student Rep

**Meeting adjourned 8:30pm**

Continued...

# CALL FOR PAPERS:

## The Geographies of *Back to the Future*

2015 collection to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the influential film trilogy, imagined geographies of Hill Valley, CA, time travel, and hoverboards.

**OVERVIEW:** Inspecting the *Back to the Future* film series through geographic analysis and theory to reveal the intricate landscapes presented by Hill Valley, California. This collection aims to cover diverse topics ranging from the emotional geographies and geopolitical conceptions presented within the films to the geographic consumption of the films across the world. The *Back to the Future* franchise, one of the most popular ever produced, has never been approached from a geographic perspective. Tim Cresswell stated “even a totally imaginary place has an imaginary form in order to make it place-like,” and Hill Valley has grown for the past three decades into a tangible reality. Here we hope to present complex geographic concepts and theories through the examination of this iconic trilogy.

We aim to create a compilation of papers as timeless as the films while also gaining invaluable experience writing, editing, and publishing a collaborative volume. Our goals include compiling a professional and serious analysis related to an accessible theme that can also be used in introductory-level curriculum in innumerable geographic fields. We are aiming for an early 2015 release and hope that this project will spawn panels at various geographic conferences where the numerous authors can present on the geographic themes surrounding the trilogy. Finally while this is a serious project that will maintain high levels of professionalism to achieve serious academic examination, we aim to enjoy the examination of an engaging imagined, yet tangible, geographic space as we dissect Hill Valley, and the world of *Back to the Future*.

**SCOPE OF TOPICS:** Concepts to be addressed can include but not be limited to...

- The depiction of Hill Valley as a Western literary ideal in 1885 (from III)
- The social spaces and dynamics of Hill Valley
- Reflection of geopolitical realities of the 1980's
- Concepts of urban development and dissolution
- The changing face of the town square
- The mapping of imaginary spaces

### SUBMISSION OF PAPER PROPOSALS:

Parties interested in contributing please contact [SaveTheClockTower2015@gmail.com](mailto:SaveTheClockTower2015@gmail.com) with an abstract no more than 250 words by **Wednesday, March 19th**.

In the body of your email, please include your abstract, your title/affiliation, your level of scholarship (MA/PhD), and any publications (or a link to a personal website that includes these).

### GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS:

Proposed chapters do not need to focus exclusively on the *Back to the Future* trilogy, characters within the films, or Hill Valley, but they must include a reference to the trilogy in some form. Proposals deemed too distant from a focus on *BTF* or concepts inherent to the films will not be considered.

Proposed papers must be original and if published elsewhere, include the consent of that publisher.

Completed manuscripts will be invited starting May 2014 and final drafts will be expected no later than August 2014 to ensure publication in 2015.

Visit [ClockTower2015.org](http://ClockTower2015.org), ‘like’ us on FaceBook at [facebook.com/clocktower2015](https://facebook.com/clocktower2015) and follow us on Twitter @ClockTower2015 for updates.

## Continued from Page 3 . . . Edge of the Prairie

So too is Lake Wobegon open to a more critical geographical perspective, including an analysis of the place as a pastoral ideal of landscape perpetuating a mythical discourse of the Midwest as principally agrarian and by association unproblematically white and European (Fry 1998, citing Scholl 1993). In a larger region where you are more and more likely to see a Somali café or a former gas station serving as an East African grocery, Lake Wobegon becomes interesting as a venue for what it omits as much if not more than what it includes about the realities of the Central Minnesotan scene. This is not to suggest that Keillor incorporate a more ethnically diverse range of characters and issues into Lake Wobegon, as interesting as that would be, or even to say that Lake Wobegon is unrealistic in its portrayal. Rather it is to make the basic but no less important point that, like any other representation, it is a partial perspective on place and its people and from a cultural-geographical point of view needs to be understood and addressed as such.

'Lake Wobegon Country' as the local MPR station calls the area, presents itself as intriguing and multifaceted case-study on the role of fiction, subjective knowledge, and the media (in this case radio and literature) in the formulation of cultural geographical imaginations and place images (Crang 1998). As a real-and-imagined place, Lake Wobegon has in recent years made its mark on the Central Minnesotan cultural landscape. Keillor acknowledged this ironic turnaround in his *National Geographic* article with the opening in 1998 of the Lake Wobegon Regional Trail, a cycle track now 62-miles long. With Lake Wobegon still (after almost 40 years) a literary place in the making, the blurring of the fictional place with the real place will likely continue. And what I have touched on here is just some of the potential for exploring the many cultural geographies of Lake Wobegon, "where the women are strong, the men good-looking, and all the children are above average."

### References

Crang, Mike 1998. *Cultural Geography*. London: Routledge

Fry, Katherine G. 1998. "A Cultural Geography of Lake Wobegon," *The Howard Journal of Communications* 9: 303-321.

Keillor, Garrison 2000. "In Search of Lake Wobegon," *National Geographic* 189(6 December): 86-109.

Scholl, Peter A. 1993. *Garrison Keillor*. New York: Twayne Publishers

### Resources

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0012/feature5/index.html>