

The Recreation Tourism, and Sport Newsletter

June 2004

<http://www.geog.nau.edu/rts/>

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From the RTS Chair – Deborah Che

Dear Group Members:

The Centennial Meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held in Philadelphia from March 14-19, 2004. RTS sponsored or co-sponsored 21 sessions, a record number, which included many people new to RTS. Over 70 papers were presented in RTS sessions organized on the following diverse themes: Constructing Nature for Tourism; Dynamics and Implications of Elder Residential Concentration; Mountain Tourism; Coastal Tourism; Heritage Management and Tourism at Sites of Human Tragedy; Teaching Tourism, New Perspectives on Tourism; Caribbean Cultural Geographies: Migration, Tourism, and Mobility; Tourism Planning for Sustainable Economic Planning; Tourism, Recreation, and Environmental Health; Urban Identity; Tourism and the New Geographies of Culture, Politics, and Economy; Tourism in Transboundary Regions; Tourism and Agriculture Relationships; and National Parks and the Political Process. RTS co-sponsored sessions with the Rural Geography, Cultural Geography, Canadian Studies, Cultural and Political Ecology, Hazards; Latin American, Regional Development and Planning, Urban Geography, and Coastal and Marine specialty groups. RTS' co-sponsoring sessions with other specialty groups fit the AAG Council's recommendations on co-sponsorship as a way to foster communication across subfields.

Additionally in conjunction with the Centennial Meeting, RTS sponsored several retrospect/prospect panel sessions focusing on tourism geography education, applied research, and the relationship between RTS and geography. From these panels, issues and

recommendations emerged regarding RTS' audience and the visibility, relevance, and contribution of RTS research, teaching, and service within the discipline of geography; tourism, recreation, and hospitality studies; and the relevant communities outside academia. A report on these panels will be in a forthcoming issue of *Tourism Geographies*.

I would like to thank everyone who worked organized and chaired sessions at the Centennial Meeting. Additionally I would also like to thank the individual paper and panel presenters, who also made the conference a success. Participation at the Centennial Meeting was global, with presenters from the United States, Canada, New Zealand, the West Indies, Israel, the United Kingdom, Spain, Switzerland, and Fiji. The RTS sessions at the AAG Annual Meetings have provided a forum for the interaction of scholars from around the world. I hope RTS sessions at the 2005 AAG Annual Meeting in Denver will continue to be a worldwide draw for recreation, tourism, and sport scholars. This newsletter includes information about sessions that have already been proposed for Denver. Please contact the organizers if you are interested in being part of any session. Please also consider organizing sessions on other themes and posting announcements to the RTS list-serve. Sessions will also be organized to follow up on the strategic issues raised in the retrospect/prospect panels in Philadelphia.

I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Denver.

Sincerely,
Deborah Che
Western Michigan University

Minutes of the RTS Specialty Group Business Meeting held March 15, 2004 at the Association of American Geographers Centennial Meeting - Philadelphia, PA

AAG Specialty Group Chairs Meeting Report

Specialty Group Sponsored Sessions

Deborah Che reported that the number of organized specialty group sessions was raised. On one hand, the AAG Council believed the bottom-up nature of specialty groups' organizing sessions indicated that the needs of specialty group members were being met. On the other hand, the proliferation of sessions could lead to fragmentation of the discipline. Having sessions co-sponsored by a number of specialty groups was seen as a way to address this fragmentation as well as a way to foster communication across sub-fields. In the end, the AAG Council felt that there should not be a limit to the number of sessions, but that specialty groups should focus on assembling the highest quality sessions. Lisle Mitchell commented that RTS is sponsoring or co-sponsoring¹ 21 sessions, which included many people new to RTS. In addition to sponsoring sessions at the AAG Annual Meeting, specialty groups could sponsor them at the AAG Regional Meetings.

Specialty Group Membership and Activity

The "health" of specialty groups was also discussed at the Chairs meeting with the number now at 54 with the addition of a new Wine and Viticulture group. The AAG has the authority to pull specialty groups with less than 100 members. It is not inclined to enforce this minimum membership requirement, in part because this could mean

¹ RTS is co-sponsoring sessions with the Rural Geography, Cultural Geography, Canadian Studies, Cultural and Political Ecology, Regional Development and Planning, Urban Geography, and Coastal and Marine specialty groups.

the end of more than _ of all specialty groups. Additionally, specialty groups with 40 or 50 active members could be vibrant and serve the association's membership. But for instance, one specialty group chair who was also a member of the Aging specialty group, which had a small number of members and no sponsored sessions during the Centennial Meeting, suggested that the future of this specialty group be considered. The AAG would also look at reports of activities and future plans regarding any decisions on specialty groups. As of May 2003, when the AAG most recently sent a membership list, RTS had 214 members.

Specialty Group Membership Lists and List-Serves

Dr. Che reviewed the discussion on whether the AAG could and/or should house specialty group list-serves as well as issues with getting AAG specialty group members on list-serves. Currently the AAG sends out specialty group membership lists, but many specialty groups have separate list-serves which include non-AAG members. Their list-serves may not include all specialty group members since one must choose to join the list-serve. The issue of the AAG housing all specialty group list-serves (which could necessitate another staff person) will require further discussion.

Specialty Group Financial Administration

As agreed at last year's business meeting, RTS will be turning over financial administration to the AAG. Thus after this year, the check for dues will no longer be sent to the Chair and deposited by the Treasurer. The Treasurer will authorize disbursements.

Treasurer's Report and Discussion of Further Student Support

David Truly reported that the RTS balance as of March 16, 2004 was \$1,882.15. This balance will soon be reduced by \$300 due to the 2004 Student Paper Awards. Discussion followed regarding using some of

the funds (possibly \$500-600) to support travel to the AAG Meeting and/or for field research. These funds would be new awards in addition to the current student paper competition. Using funds for student registration and travel to the AAG Meeting could foster greater student involvement, especially when departmental support for student attendance was not available or limited. Michelle Metro-Roland, a Ph.D. student from Indiana University, said that as her department already supported travel to the AAG, she preferred RTS funds be used to support field research. RTS members suggested that such field research awards could be given out on the basis of a 1-2 page research proposal which included a rough breakdown of costs. Awards could also require presenting the research findings at a forthcoming AAG meeting. The RTS Board, which has a student representative (Daniel Olsen), will consider the nature of further student support (dollar amount, AAG travel and/or field research).

RTS Paper Competition

The RTS Board members involved in judging the papers noted the large number of entrants for the student paper competition and the difficulty in selecting the award winners. Gyan Nyaupane (The Pennsylvania State University) received the first place award for 'Searching for a Tourism Development Model for Developing Mountain Regions: A Controlled Comparison of Annapurna, Nepal and Northwest Yunnan, China'. Glenn W. Gentry (East Carolina University) received the second place award for 'Negotiating Savannah's Tourist Landscape: Walking and the Experience of Place through Ghost Walk Tours'. Daniel H. Olsen (University of Waterloo) received the third place award for 'Examining Religious Views of Tourism'.

RTS members discussed the possibility of separate awards for undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D. students. All of the entrants for this year's competition were graduate students, but the award winners included

both students at the master's and at the Ph.D. level. Dimitri Ioannides suggested in addition to the monetary award, the RTS paper competition winner could also receive assistance towards getting the paper published in *Tourism Geographies*. This would not entail a guarantee of publication since the journal articles are peer-reviewed, but assistance towards possible publication.

Plans for AAG 2005-Denver

For next year's meeting in Denver, the following session themes were proposed (organizers in parentheses): 1) urban tourism (Rudi Hartmann), 2) mountain tourism (Sanjay Nepal), 3) sport tourism (Theodore Gouge), 4) post-colonialism and tourism (Anne-Marie d'Hauteserre), 5) implications of the extension of the European Union for tourism (Rudi Hartmann) and 6) tourism theory (Michelle Metro-Roland). Additionally a possible RTS field trip (a ski train up to the Rockies) was suggested.

Minutes submitted by:

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New Publications By RTS members

(1) A Companion to Tourism

Edited by: Alan A. Lew (Northern Arizona University), C. Michael Hall (University of Otago), Allan M. Williams (University of Exeter)

Available June 2004 - Blackwell Companions to Geography Series, Includes 48 essays, written by more than 50 tourism scholars from around the world.

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/0631235647>

(2) Seductions of Place: Geographical Perspectives on Globalization and Touristed Landscapes.

Edited by: Carolyn Cartier (Univ. of Southern California), Alan A. Lew (Northern Arizona

University)

Available August 2004 - Taylor and Francis
Explores questions at the crossroads of
contemporary issues in travel and tourism,
human geography, and the complex cultural,
political, and economic activities at stake in
touristed landscapes as a result of
globalization.

<http://tinyurl.com/2m6c8>

The Encyclopedia of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation,

Edited by: Professor John Pigram (University
of New England) and Dr John Jenkins
(University of Newcastle, Australia)

Published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis.
Several contributions provided by RTS
Specialty Group members. The price is 120
English pounds is a bit of a steadier but
libraries might be interested. It was a great
joint effort and covers the field well.

***Building San Francisco's Parks, 1850-
1930.*** Author: Terence Young (California
State Polytechnic University, Pomona)

http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title_pages/1254.html

“Freud, Tourism, and Terror: Traversing the
Fantasies of Post September 11 Travel
Magazines,” Journal of Travel and Tourism
Marketing, 15:2/3 pp. 39-61, 2004. Paul
Kingsbury and Stanley D. Brunn

“Freud, Tourism, and Terror: Traversing the
Fantasies of Post September 11 Travel
Magazines,” in C. M. Hall, D. J. Timothy,
and D. T. Duval, Eds. Tourism, Security,
Safety. Haworth Press: New York, pp. 39-
61. by Paul Kingsbury and Stanley D.
Brunn,

Mark Your Conference Calendar

*10TH International Symposium for Society and
Resource Management, "Past and Future",
Keystone Resort, Colorado June 2 to 5, 2004*
www.cnr.colostate.edu/2004ISSRM/theme.htm

*Tourism and Literature: Travel, Imagination
and Myth. Harrogate, Yorkshire U.K. July
22-26, 2004.* www.tourism-culture.com

*30TH Congress of the International
Geographical Union, Glasgow, U.K. August
15-20, 2004* [www.meetingmakers.co.uk/IGC-
UK2004](http://www.meetingmakers.co.uk/IGC-UK2004)

*AAG Pacific Coast Division – APCG Meeting,
San Luis Obispo, California September 8-11,
2004.* <http://cla.calpoly.edu/~jkeese/>

*AAG 101st Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
April 5-9, 2005* www.aag.org

*Northeast Recreation Research Symposium,
Bolton Landing, NY. April 10-12, 2005*
<http://www.esf.edu/nerr/>

*Canadian Association of Geographers,
London, Ontario CA May 28- June 5, 2005.*
[http://www.cag-
acg.ca/en/news_index.html_1.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/news_index.html_1.html)

*Border Tourism Conference in China's
Golden Triangle July, 2005 (dates TBA-
please visit website for current details)*

The IGU Tourism Commission and the
Tourism Commission of the China
Geographical Society will host a conference
on Border Tourism and Community
Development in Xishuanbanna, Yunnan
Province in July 2005. The conference site is
in the heart of Asia's Golden Triangle
region, bordering Laos, Myanmar and
Thailand. A 5-day Pre-conference Field Trip
is being planned across these borders,
followed by a full 3-days of papers and
workshops.

For more information visit:
[http://www.geog.nau.edu/igust/Xishuangban
na2005/index.html](http://www.geog.nau.edu/igust/Xishuangbanna2005/index.html), or email:
Alan.Lew@NAU.EDU

From the Newsletter Editor – R.E. Pfister

Here are a couple of additional items just in -

Rudi Hartmann (U. of Colorado-Denver) asks me to let members know he plans to organize two sessions for the AAG Denver meeting—1) Urban Tourism and Parks, with special emphasis on the renaissance of U.S. downtown neighborhoods; and 2) A Joint Session with the AAG European Group on the theme of “The 2004 Extension of the EU to Eastern Europe: Implications for Recreation & Tourism Development and Second Home Ownership”. As Rudi serves on the local host committee, he will keep us posted on items of special interest to RTS members.

I am sure each RTS member has some information or announcement to share with your colleagues so please note my email address and sent in your material in time to be included in the next issue of our newsletter.

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The next edition of the RTS Newsletter is scheduled for December 2004

The Recreation, Tourism and Sport Specialty Group Newsletter.

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