

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

RECREATION, TOURISM, & SPECIALTY GROUP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

1) Mission Statement

To provide a forum and to encourage research and teaching of applied academic aspects of recreation, tourism, and sport geography.

2) RTS Dues

Regular members: \$5; Students: \$1

3) Executive Officers and Board of Directors

Chair

Sanjay K. Nepal (Texas A&M University)
sknepal@tamu.edu

Treasurer

David Truly (Central Connecticut State University)
trulyd@ccsu.edu

Immediate Past-Chair

Robert Pfister (East Carolina University)
pfisterr@ecu.edu

Directors

Anne Soper (Indiana University)
asoper@sprynet.com

Lorri K. Krebs (Salem State University)
lkrebs@salemstate.edu

Anne-Marie d'Hautessere – Director
adhautes@waikato.ac.nz

Daniel (Dan) Knudsen – Director
knudsen@indiana.edu

Michael Pesses – Student Representative
michael.pesses.21@csun.edu

4) Accomplishments

The accomplishments of RTS Specialty Group are many and include - -

- organizing 14 paper sessions at the Boston Annual Meeting;
- Awarded two best paper awards: first place award to Gillian McCrum for her paper “Developing sustainable tourism indicators: What should we be considering?” McCrum is a PhD student at Aberdeen University; second place award to Joomi Lee of University of Texas for her paper “Riad phenomenon: Tourism development and the changing medina property market in Morocco”.
- Publishing a RTS Newsletter to keep members informed on issues affecting the group as well as showcasing the achievement of various members;
- Submitting an annual report to ensure the parental organization is proud of its thirty year old active, involved, and internationally-focused, RTS specialty group.

Boston AGM Sessions:

A total of 100 papers presented at SF AAG containing the keyword “tourism”, some of which were not in RTS sponsored sessions. A total of 21 sessions were sponsored or co-sponsored by RTS:

- Mountain Tourism – Aspects of Change
- Graduate Student Papers in Tourism Studies I and II
- Tourism Geography Education
- Heritage Tourism: Implications for Culture and Nature
- The Aesthetics of Tourist/Travel Landscapes and Self-realization
- Events, Industrial Governance and the Space Economy
- Tourism and Economic Geography
- Tourism Development in Towns and Rural Areas: Promises, Trends, and Change
- Indigenous Tourism I & II
- Conversations with the Arch Amenity I, II & III

In addition, several RTS-themed papers were presented at sessions organized by the AAG 2008 Annual Meeting Program Committee. These sessions included:

- Agricultural Geography, Recreation and Tourism, Energy and Economic
- Alternative & Competing Cultural Economies: Moving Beyond Cultural Tourism and the "Creative Class"
- Ecotourism: Latin America and Caribbean
- International Tourism Development and Potential
- Tourism Imageries
- Tourism: Protecting the Protected
- Urban Tourism
- Visitor Profiles in Tourism
- Urban Built Environment, Environmental Justice, and Health I & II
- Critical Sports Geography

RTS Business Meeting:

In attendance: Sanjay K. Nepal - Texas A&M U., Daniel H. Olsen - U. of Waterloo, Anne-Marie d’Hauteserre - U. of Waikato, Joomi Lee - U. of Texas, Culum Canally - Wilfrid Laurier U., Dallen Timothy - Arizona State U., Lorri Krebs - Salem State College, Michelle Metro-Roland - Indiana State U., Daniel C. Knudsen – Indiana State U., David J. Truly – Central Connecticut State U., Steve Matchak – Salem State College, Gillian McCrum - Aberdeen University, Dimitri Ioannides – Missouri Salem U.

- This year’s business meeting was took place in Boston Beer Works (April 18, 7:00 pm). The meeting was combined with a social dinner.
- RTS Specialty Group makes awards for student-authored (and presented) papers that address topics germane to Recreation, Tourism, or Sport Geography. A \$400 first-place prize, and a \$250 second-place prize. These awards were increased from \$150 and \$ 100 respectively. Current membership in the AAG is requisite to program participation. The awards were given out to the two winning students.
- The Roy Wolfe Professional Achievement Award was given to Victor Teye of Arizona State U.
- The Rooney Award for contribution to the applied field of RTS was given to Wes Roehl of Temple University.
- After a discussion about supporting an “Illustrated Issues in RTS Development”, a motion put forward by Stephen Matchak, Salem State College and seconded by David Truly of Central Connecticut State University, the RTS Board approved the establishment of a Best Poster Award in RTS to be given out starting 2009. The award will carry a sum of \$150.
- Alan Lew (via Sanjay Nepal) informed that there will be a Routledge-sponsored plenary speaker at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.
- Several new (2008) publications were announced: 1) World Geography of Tourism by Alan Lew, Michael Hall & Dallen Timothy; and 2) Landscape, Tourism and Meaning by Dan Knudsen (Ashgate), among others.
- Dallen Timothy informed that Journal of Heritage Tourism is now published by Taylor and Francis; Channel View was its former publisher.
- Dimitri Ioannides of Missouri State University informed that he is moving to the Mid-Sweden University in Sweden for a year. Similarly, Dallen Timothy informed that he is returning to Arizona State University from Brigham Young University.

- David Truly presented the Treasurer's Report – as of April 18, 2008 the RTS budget has a healthy balance of \$3,323.87 (see Item No. 6 below)
- Sanjay Nepal gave a brief summary of the 2008 Specialty Group Chairs' Meeting (for more details see Item No. 7 below).

5) Membership and Participation

The AAG listed 229 dues-paying RTS members as of April 2000 and 291 dues-paying member in January 2006. No updates are available.

6) Financial Report

TREASURER'S REPORT

Recreation, Tourism and Sport Specialty Group
April 18, 2008

Balance as of March 1, 2007	\$3051.03
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Income:

March 2007-March 2008	\$571.00
Subtotal Balance	\$3,622.03

Expenditures:

Awards 2007 (Rooney et al)	\$98.16
Student Paper Award	\$200.00
Total Expenditures	\$298.16

Account Balance as of April 18, 2008	\$3,323.87
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Treasurer Notes: We recently increased our student awards to \$400 and \$250 respectively for 1st and 2nd place papers. The Rooney and Wolfe awards cost approximately \$100 for both (although the Wolfe award has not been regularly awarded), and the optional social costs approximately \$250. With yearly dues usually around \$600, we can expect a loss of approximately \$400 a year, and with our current balance, we have few years before we need to worry about cash flow issues.

7) AAG Specialty Group Chairs' Meeting Summary

- Major highlights include:
 - With the addition of two new specialty groups – Cyber Infrastructure SG and Business SG – AAG now has a total of 58 SGs;
 - the introduction of the Developing Regions Membership Program; members from eligible developing countries have a reduced membership fee of \$20; fees for Specialty Groups are up to the SG, and it is ok to have no fees charged at all. Brochures have been printed in English, Portuguese, Spanish, French and Arabic;
 - AAG is undergoing a major website change;
 - current membership is over 10,000 – over 7000 registrants for AAG-Boston with over 5,000 people checked in at the registration desk;
 - Annals of the AAG now has a new look and a new publisher (Routledge); it will now be possible to include color features, an online only format is also possible for subscription;
 - Annals will bring out the fifth special issue, which will be on peace and armed conflict, approx. 40 papers are expected
 - A special issue of the Annals during 2009-10 will focus on climate change.
 - The 2008 AAG Council meeting has approved a new initiative on “integrative geography” to foster collaborative projects involving both human and physical geography; examples of projects include consequences of drought in the US, tourism, immigration and border issues.

8) Current concerns

1. Student awards – The promotional efforts by the RTS board to increase student participation and paper submission seems to have worked. We had two sessions focused exclusively on graduate student papers. We need to continue this. Also, it seems graduate students are more receptive to poster sessions. The AAG Specialty Group Chairs meeting has suggested increasing the number of poster sessions; it appears the RTS decision to establish the illustrated poster award is timely.
2. RTS newsletter – Lorri Krebs at Salem State College is currently working to create the RTS blog. More details will follow soon.
3. RTS-themed papers not presented at RTS-sponsored sessions. As mentioned earlier, the AAG Annual Meeting Program Committee organized eight sessions consisting of papers that were submitted directly to the organizing committee. During the SG Chairs Meeting the RTS Chair raised the issue of whether the so called “loose

papers” could be redirected to the SG Chairs who would then organize them into relevant sessions. This was considered not practical due to the fact that many papers are submitted just before the abstract submission deadline. We need to find a better solution for this.

9) Proposed RTS Sessions for 2009 AAG Annual Meeting

Amenity Migration/Retirement or Second Homes – David Truly
Collaborative Research in Tourism – Daniel Olsen
Gaming/Casino Tourism
Indigenous Tourism – Lorri Krebs and Sanjay Nepal
Mountain Tourism – Sanjay Nepal
Tourism and the Environment
Tourism Landscapes
Heritage Tourism
Graduate Student Papers
Graduate Illustrated Poster Sessions
Routledge Tourism Plenary Session
Others

If you plan to organize a session, or are looking for sponsors or co-sponsors for your sessions, kindly contact sknepal@tamu.edu

End of Annual Report

This RTS Annual Report was prepared and submitted by Sanjay K. Nepal, RTS Chair 2007-2009.