

Political Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers

NEWSLETTER

January 2008

Fiona Davidson
President

Jason Dittmer
Secretary/Treasurer

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Political Geography colleagues,

I've been thinking a lot about citizenship recently, largely as a result of going through the process of applying for passports for my five month old. Yes, passports, she had her US passport by the time she was two months old, just got her British passport and will get an Italian one in the near future. I hadn't actually thought much about the implications of multiple citizenship, beyond the legal ones, until I had a conversation with my Humanities Honors tutorial group last semester in which more than a few of them were appalled that anyone would consider "belonging" to more than one country (I will say also that quite a few were very jealous of the opportunities that come with multiple passports). I realized then that citizenship means different things to different people.

The OED defines citizenship as "the position and status of being a citizen, with its rights and privileges". I would add responsibilities into that definition, at least if you want to be a good citizen you should be voting, paying your taxes, and avoiding egregious criminal activity. But I would never have considered that citizenship in one country precludes citizenship in another, perhaps because it would also never occur to me that identity and citizenship were synonymous.

In the case of multiple citizenships the fact that the western democracies have been involved in a strategic and military alliance for the last sixty years means that I don't think that there is an inherent contradiction in being a citizen of the US and Britain, or the US and Australia, or even the US and France. There may be disagreements

between these governments, but in the climate of permissible dissent that exists in modern democracies you can disagree without compromising your citizenship (or even the concept of “loyalty” although that idea has been challenged by some recently in the US). And this is recognized by the governments of the US and all those other countries that permit (even if they don’t encourage) dual citizenship (this also of course, precludes any of those countries returning to the idea of compulsory military service which usually voids any alternate citizenship).

In terms of equating identity with citizenship I realize that my perspective is slightly skewed by two factors. The first is being from one of the peripheral nations of Britain, so for me identity has never been equated with citizenship – I carry a British passport but rarely identify myself as such. When I was younger I was Scots, and British was a tag-along secondary label, later as the EU gained currency I became Scots, European and then British. This is not an unusual situation; a majority of Scots now identify themselves as Scots first and British at best second, often third, although everyone carries a British passport. Such duality is common in the peripheral parts of Spain, France, Italy, and a host of other European countries. A recent opinion poll in Catalonia indicated that 11% of Catalans don’t consider “Spanish” any part of their identity, again while carrying a Spanish passport.

Second, for those of us who grew up in Britain, and Europe in general in the 1960s and 1970s and were taught our history by that cadre of left-educated teachers who came out of teacher training colleges after WWII, our citizenship in these post-colonial, post-war countries wasn’t something to be proud of. By taking on British (or German, or Italian or French) citizenship as a part of your identity you accepted the burden of all the terrible things your country had done in the previous centuries. One of my standard quips when people ask me why I’m not an American citizen despite being here for 22 years is that I already have one country to be ashamed of, I don’t need two.

But increasingly citizenship is becoming something like a union card, a legal status that confers rights and demands responsibilities, but factors little into identity. Large numbers of young Europeans now eschew their national identities, or at least subsume them, into a greater European identity. Even in the US, as Director of European Studies I’ve watched increasing numbers of my students go abroad for a semester or a year, and then decide to stay away – two are currently taking out French citizenship, another pursuing German, others acquiring Irish passports, and two young friends are about to use their Australian citizenship to move to the other side of the world, one to take up a job at a bank, his sister to take advantage of the cheap tuition at ANU (relative to the US) that is available to her as an Australian citizen. None of these kids are any less American for their decision to expand their lives by taking advantage of this alternate legal status. And as the world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is these kids that will be in the best position to take advantage of opportunities wherever they may arise.

As a postscript, while writing this I have of course realized that if citizenship is indeed a union card and not necessarily attached to identity then there is no reason for me not to print out that N-400 form that’s been sitting on my hard drive for the last year and perhaps think about expanding my own legal status.

Fiona Davidson
Fayetteville, Arkansas

LETTER FROM THE STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

Graduate Students and the Departmental Community

Happy New Year, fellow Geographers! This is Erinn Nicley, your 2007-2008 PGSG Graduate Student Representative. In the last issue of the PGSG newsletter, I highlighted multiple avenues by which Political Geography graduate students could do our part to carry Geography beyond the academic gates and to engage the community more directly. In doing so, I encouraged everyone to consider ways that we may contribute as graduate students to the larger, ongoing project to enhance public awareness of Geography and to get our critical voices heard in our communities, our services offered for the disenfranchised, and our perspectives voiced at the policy table.

As that effort continues, I wanted to turn for this issue of the newsletter to something closer to home – the role of graduate students within our own academic departments. I am quite fortunate to have entered graduate programs with already robust bonds of collegiality among faculty and graduate students. This sense of community is key for transforming graduate school from solely an academic exercise into a memorable, meaningful *vocation* as we progress into our post-graduate careers. I suspect that most graduate students have experienced a similar *zeitgeist* in their own departments.

My goal here is not to encourage graduate students to demand *more* from departmental faculty. Quite opposite, in the following paragraphs I want to put forth several modest ideas about how graduate students can take the initiative to serve their departments and to foster and maintain the sense of community that is so vital for the success not only of our programs, but our discipline within the broader university structure. I have condensed these ideas not only from my own experiences, but those of many of you that I have met in recent years who are pursuing similar community-building efforts. These suggestions may be grouped into three categories: academic development; undergraduate recruitment, retention and mentoring; and community development.

Academic development: Time constraints among both faculty and graduate students limit the ability of both to develop extra-curricular academic development activities, such as political geography reading groups. However, graduate students should not wait for faculty to present such social-academic activities as *faits accomplis*. Rather, graduate students likely would be encouraged to take the initiative in forming our own reading groups to discuss interesting literature, from political geography, the broader human geography, geography 'classics', contemporary social theory, or even cross-disciplinary readings in political science, sociology, anthropology, or other politically minded disciplines. Similarly, I have heard several recent stories of graduate students taking the lead to form weekly coffee hours to bring faculty and graduate students together, and weekly brownbag lunches to informally discuss research ideas over food without the time pressures of evening meetings or formal, scheduled professional development seminars. Finally, we also could take initiative to celebrate key dates and personalities in Geography history, much as Biologists celebrate "Darwin Day" on the

birthday of Charles Darwin. Such observances highlight our discipline and provide a unique forum for undergraduate-graduate-faculty interaction in a fun, informative environment.

Undergraduate recruitment, retention, and mentoring: Graduate students also are well positioned to support departmental undergraduate recruitment, retention, and mentoring efforts. In many ways, we are the bridge between undergraduates and faculty – whether it is through our roles as Teaching Assistants or simply through our parallel organizations like GTU and geography graduate student associations. We represent the unofficial voice of the Geography department that can speak to students frankly about post-graduate Geography and career opportunities. We should actively seek to support our departmental faculty in bolstering undergraduate recruitment through our contribution at departmental “open houses” and promotional activities on the campus. For example, the graduate students at Illinois have spearheaded a Geography Awareness Week poster marketing campaign that will spotlight the diversity of Geography and its relevance to ‘real-world’ political, economic, and social issues. The faculty and graduate students are working together to produce high-quality media that will appeal to undergraduates and spread the word about our discipline. Further, we are actively working with the University of Illinois chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the geography honor society, to develop a stronger sense of community at all levels in our department and to support retention of undergraduate Geography majors through these connections.

Beyond recruitment and retention, graduate students perhaps should also consider an informal mentoring program with undergraduate geography majors. Unlike graduate students in some disciplines, most of us do not receive any formal supervisory experience while in graduate school. Yet, we enter our programs with a diverse breadth of knowledge and experiences that we could utilize to support undergraduate research projects and to foster greater undergraduate awareness of academic and career opportunities using a Geography education. While we should never try to replicate formal mentoring roles of advisors and career development professionals, we still have a powerful *informal* mentoring role that we could play for the mutual benefit of graduate students, undergraduates and our departments.

Social/Community Development: Finally, we should not forget the importance of social and community development as integral to the graduate school experience. Here, as many of us already are doing, I suggest that we redouble our efforts to establish periodic faculty-graduate student social gatherings. Such events are as modest as brief happy hours and coffee breaks, to more developed activities like bowling, canoe trips or geography field trips to discuss political landscapes, urban geographies, or other interests. For example, graduate students and faculty at a prior department of mine annually organized a beach trip and 2-3 canoe trips down a scenic, alligator-infested river (caution: do not do this if your advisor is angry with you). While these events do require a modest time commitment, the strengthening of community that results is invaluable for transforming our graduate experience into a more meaningful epoch in our careers and our lives.

As we progress towards academic careers in Geography and elsewhere, it is valuable for us to remember that faculty, graduate students and undergraduates each have an important role to play in making our departments strong and respected throughout the university. However we choose to engage with our departments, graduate students have a powerful responsibility to contribute to this sense of community and to make our graduate experience what we want it to be.

So, now it is time to hear from you – send me your ideas and experiences for public outreach and departmental community-building, and I will include them in the next issue of the PGSG newsletter. Contact me at enicley2@uiuc.edu.

Call for Papers:

Political Geography Specialty Group Preconference

Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts
Sunday, April 13 & Monday, April 14, 2008

The AAG's Political Geography Specialty Group announces a preconference at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts for Sunday April 13-Monday April 14, 2007. The AAG meetings are April 15-19, in nearby Boston.

To provide an intimate and more intellectually rewarding alternative to the AAG we are committed to not scheduling concurrent sessions. We hope everyone in attendance will hear everyone else's paper, fostering a place wherein political geographers at all levels of professional achievement – from undergraduates to full professors – engage in intellectually stimulating dialogue.

The downside of this, of course, is that there may not be enough slots for all who wish to present papers. Rather than adjudicating papers based on quality, **we will simply take them on a first come – first served basis.** The deadline for submitting abstracts is **February 15, 2008**, but we encourage you to submit your abstract early to ensure that you will be able to fully participate in the conference.

Tentative Schedule

[This is just a sketch at this point; times may change. The final schedule will be produced in February.]

Sunday, April 13

7:00 PM -8:30 PM Keynote address by Cynthia Enloe – Jefferson 218

Monday, April 14 – All paper sessions will be held in the Grace Room in the Higgins University Center. All coffee breaks will be in the foyer outside the Grace Room.

9:00 AM - 10:40 AM Paper session #1 (5 papers @ 20 minutes)

10:40 AM – 11:00 AM Coffee break (refreshments provided)

11:00 AM – 12:20 PM Paper session #2 (4 papers @ 20 minutes)
12:20 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch (on your own at on-campus or adjacent off-campus eateries)
1:30 PM – 3:10 PM Paper Session #3 (5 papers @ 20 minutes)
3:10 PM – 3:30 PM Coffee break (refreshments provided)
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Paper Session #4 (3 papers @ 20 minutes)
4:30 PM – 4:40 PM Quick Break
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM Paper Session #5 (3 papers @ 20 minutes)
5:45 PM – 8:00 PM Cocktail reception held jointly with Developing Areas Specialty Group, which will also be holding a preconference at Clark (hors d'oeuvres provided; cash bar): Winton Faculty Dining Room

Registration

Registration is \$35 and \$10 for students.

To register:

- 1: Fill out the form at the bottom of this announcement and e-mail it to Michael Brown at michaelb@u.washington.edu. Please submit your registration *electronically* so that abstracts can easily be compiled into a program.
2. Send a check (made out to Political Geography Specialty Group) to Michael Brown at Dept. of Geography, Box 353550, U. of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3550, USA. You will not be placed on the program unless you have paid your registration fee by February 15. Exceptions will be made for international attendees, who will be permitted to pay their registration fees in U.S. dollars at the conference. If you fit into this category, please note this when you e-mail your form to Michael so as to reserve your spot on the program.

Hotel

The PGSG and DASG have negotiated a rate of \$87 (+ tax) per night for Sunday and Monday nights at the Hilton Garden Inn (<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=BEDWOGI>), at 35 Major Taylor Blvd. (still called Worcester Center Boulevard on some maps) in downtown Worcester. The Hilton has guaranteed this rate either until 50 rooms have been reserved or March 15, whichever comes first. So, as with submitting your abstract, it's in your interest to make your reservation early to ensure that you get the group rate. To make a reservation, contact the Hilton at +1 508 753 5700 and tell them that you are with the "AAG Political Geography and Developing Areas Room Block." If you run into problems getting a room at the group rate, please contact Phil Steinberg at psteinbe@fsu.edu. Parking is an additional \$8.95 per night (or \$12.95 per night for valet parking).

Travel within Worcester

The Hilton is located in downtown Worcester, about 1.8 miles from Clark University.

There are a number of ways to get between the Hilton and Clark:

- We (together with the DASG) will have access to a Clark University van during the duration of the conference, and the Hilton also has a van that they will make

available to us on Monday morning. Between these two vans, we should be able to provide pretty good access from the Hilton to Clark Sunday before the keynote and on Monday morning. Of course, it would be helpful if some conference attendees choose other means of getting to Clark, to reduce the number of van trips that we'll need to be making.

- The walk from the Hilton to Clark is very simple. The Hilton's at the corner of Central Street and Major Taylor Blvd. Walk two blocks up Central to Main Street (if you cross railroad tracks, you've walked the wrong way on Central) and turn left at Main. Then walk about 1.6 miles down Main Street and Clark will be on your right. Beware that some of the area between downtown and Clark is a bit rough and you might not want to walk it alone at night. Certainly, at night you should stay on Main Street, which is well lit and trafficked, and avoid venturing onto side streets. The entire walk from the Hilton to Clark is about 1.8 miles (i.e. around 40-45 minutes).
- A third option involves taking a city bus from downtown to Clark. Walk up Central Street to Main Street and turn left on Main as if you're walking to Clark. After a few blocks, you'll see City Hall on your left. Across Main Street from City Hall, you can catch the 19, 27, or 33 bus, all of which proceed down Main Street to Clark. The walk from the hotel to the bus stop is about .4 miles. There's a bus on one of the three routes about every 15-20 minutes during weekdays and the bus trip itself only takes about 5 minutes. So, if you time it right, you can cut the commute (which would be about 45 minutes if you walked the whole thing) to just 15 minutes by taking the bus part of the way. Busses become less frequent in the evening and stop all together after around 6:30 on Sunday and 9:00 on Monday. Busses cost \$1.25 (transfers are an additional \$.25 in case you need them). See www.therta.com for more route information.
- The fourth option is to drive to campus. As on all campuses, however, parking is limited. We're working on obtaining day passes for conference goers for Clark parking lots; we'll have an update on this later. On-street parking in the vicinity of Clark is metered, so it's not ideal for conference goers. If you do end up driving to campus, try to take other conference-goers with you.
- Finally, there's the option of taking a cab. Local cab companies include Red Cab and (508-792-9999) and Yellow Cab (508-754-3211). The fare from the Hilton to Clark should be about \$7.

Getting Between Boston and Worcester

Busses between Boston's Logan Airport and Worcester's Union Station (a combined bus/train station) are \$18 one-way and take about two hours. There's approximately one bus every two hours (with the last bus leaving the airport on Sunday at 7:30). See www.peterpanbus.com for bus schedules.

Busses between Boston's South Station (a combined bus/train/subway station) and Worcester's Union Station are \$8 one-way and take just over one hour. There's about one bus an hour. See www.peterpanbus.com for bus schedules. Commuter train service between Boston's South Station and Worcester's Union Station is comparably priced (\$7.25 one-way) and takes about the same time as the bus, but trains run less

frequently than busses. See www.mbta.com (and click on the Framingham/Worcester rail line) for train schedules.

Once you're in Worcester, the Hilton is about a half-mile from Union Station. To get to the Hilton, you can walk, take a cab, or phone the Hilton for their courtesy van (+1 508 753 5700).

Another transport option is Worcester Airport Limo, a van service which has a special rate for transporting university-related guests between the airport and Worcester-area hotels or universities. They serve all of the area airports (Providence's T.F. Green and Springfield/Hartford's Bradley Airports as well as Boston's Logan). The Clark University rate for traveling one way from Logan to Worcester (whether you're going to the Hilton or directly to Clark) is \$42. For more information, go to <http://wlimo.hudsonltd.net>. To make a reservation using the Clark University discount code, go to: <https://wlimo.hudsonltd.net/res?USERIDENTRY=CLARKU&LOGON=GO>.

Travel within Boston (before or after the preconference) is easy. The city's subway system ("The T") connects the airport, South Station, and the convention hotel (and other venues). Individual fares are \$2. For a route map of "The T," see www.mbta.com and click on "subway."

Keynote Speaker: Cynthia Enloe

Cynthia Enloe, Research Professor in the Departments of International Development, Community, & Environment and Women's Studies at Clark University, is one of the world's leading scholars in feminist international relations theory. Her teaching and research has focused on the interplay of women's politics in the national and international arenas, with special attention to how women's labor is made cheap in globalized factories and how women's emotional and physical labor has been used to support governments' war-waging policies—and how many women have tried to resist both of those efforts. Racial, class, ethnic, and national identities and pressures shaping ideas about femininities and masculinities have been common threads throughout her studies.

In addition to authoring nine books, she serves on the editorial board of *Signs* and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. Among her best known books are: *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War* (1993), *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics* (2000), *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives* (2000), and *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire* (2004). Her newest book, just published, is *Globalization and Militarism; Feminists Make the Link* (2007).

In 2007, she received the International Studies Association's Susan Strange Award, established "to recognize a person whose singular intellect, assertiveness, and insight most challenge conventional wisdom and intellectual and organizational complacency in the international studies community during the previous year."

For More Information...

This preconference is being organized by Michael Brown (U. of Washington – michaelb@u.washington.edu), Deb Martin (Clark U. – demartin@clarku.edu), and Phil Steinberg (Florida State U. – psteinbe@fsu.edu). Collectively, we have over 30 years experience living in Worcester (and over 12 years experience studying or working at Clark). Please contact Michael with questions concerning registration and the program of paper presentations, Deb with questions concerning on-campus arrangements, and Phil with general questions about hotel, transportation, or overall logistics.

2008 PGSG Preconference Registration Form

(return to: Michael Brown at michaelb@u.washington.edu)

[Registration is \$35, \$10 for students. Registration checks should be made to Political Geography Specialty Group. Mail checks to: Michael Brown, Dept. of Geography, Box 353550, U. of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-3550.]

Name:

Institution:

I will / will not be presenting a paper at the preconference (if yes, include paper title and abstract below)

Check one:

- I am a student (registration is \$10)
- I am not a student (registration is \$35)

Check one:

- I will not be staying at the conference hotel
- I have made reservations to stay at the conference hotel
- I probably will stay at the conference hotel but have not yet made reservations

Title of paper:

Abstract (under 200 words):

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY NON-STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Political Geography Specialty Group is seeking nominations for three outstanding achievement awards for non-student political geographers. Awards will be announced at the 2008 Business Meeting in Boston.

Send nominations to Fiona Davidson at fdavidso@uark.edu by March 1st (VERY IMPORTANT please avoid replying to the entire list).

Awards are as follows:

- Julian Minghi Outstanding Research Award. This award will be given to the author(s) of a journal article, book chapter, or book published during the previous calendar year that makes an innovative, original contribution to the conceptual and/or methodological embrace of political geography.
- Stanley D. Brunn Young Scholar Award. This award will be given to an individual who has received her/his Ph.D. within the past ten years, in honor of contributions that have generated new interest in the subfield and/or opened up new areas of inquiry for political geographic research.
- Richard Morrill Public Outreach Award. This award will be given to an individual who has used her or his political geographic expertise to affect change (in public thought or public policy) beyond the academy.

General Information:

1. All awards will be based on nominations made to the President of the PGSG, with award decisions to be made by the PGSG Board.
2. For all awards, the field of political geography will be defined according to the breadth of topics covered in the Political Geography chapter of the "Geography in America at the Dawn of the 21st Century" volume.
3. For each award category, a maximum of one award will be conferred each year, with the announcement to be made at the PGSG Business Meeting taking place the next Spring (e.g., the announcement for the Outstanding Research Award for 2007 will be made at the Spring 2008 Business Meeting). For each award category, if there are no nominees whom the Board views as deserving of merit, no award will be made.
4. Each award recipient will receive a \$50 check to honor her or his achievement.
5. Decisions regarding who receives awards will be made by the PGSG Board. The PGSG Board reserves the right to determine whether a nominee (or a nominated publication) falls within the scope of political geography.
6. Nominations by Board members are permitted.
7. Awardees need not be PGSG or AAG members, although awardees will be strongly encouraged to join both groups if they are not already members.

2008 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS

The graduate student paper competitions are open to all graduate students who have written and presented a research paper on a topic in political geography.

Guidelines are as follows:

1. The competition is open to all graduate students, however a student may not receive a Master's or PhD Student Paper Competition award more than once during her/his tenure as a student at that particular level. See also 8a below.
2. The entries must be research papers and not complete theses or dissertations. Papers must not be longer than 15 double-spaced pages plus bibliography. Margins must be 1" on all sides.
3. Entries must be on a topic in political geography.
4. Paper entries must have been presented at a professional meeting during the twelve-month period concluding with the last day of the Boston meetings.
5. Hard copies of papers must be received by all three members of the PGSG's Student Paper Award Committee by 17th March 2008.
6. Submissions will normally be divided into Master's and PhD student divisions.
7. Submissions will be judged on their written clarity, methodological and theoretical soundness, and their contributions to research in political geography.
8. All monetary prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Student Paper Award Committee. Awards will normally include:
 - A. A regional student-paper award: for a paper presented at a Regional AAG meeting; award will be \$100 for the top paper (MA or PhD level, only one award); a student may not win both regional and national student paper awards in the same year;
 - B. Doctoral Student Award (\$100 + reimbursement of AAG Annual Meeting student registration fee);
 - C. Master's Student Award (\$100 + reimbursement of AAG Annual Meeting student registration fee);

D. Up to three Honorable Mention awards (reimbursement of AAG Annual Meeting student registration fee).

9. The results of the Student Paper Award competitions will be announced to the winner just prior to the annual AAG meeting and the awardees (including any Honorable Mention awardees) will be invited to attend the annual AAG Awards Luncheon at the expense of the PGSG. The awards will be formally announced at the PGSG business meeting and the cash awards and registration reimbursement will be distributed to the awardees at that time. The awardees' names and paper titles will be forwarded to the AAG for publication in the AAG Newsletter. Following the AAG meeting, awardees will be given an opportunity to submit electronic versions of their papers to the PGSG webmaster for posting on the www.politicalgeography.org website.

10. Any questions pertaining to eligibility will be resolved by the Student Paper Award Committee.

Student Paper Award Committee:

Dr. Colin Flint, Department of Geography, 220 Davenport, MC-150, 607 S. Mathews, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801 USA; flint@uiuc.edu

Dr. Helga Leitner, Department of Geography, The University of Minnesota, 414 Social Sciences Building 267 - 19th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA; helga.leitner-1@umn.edu

Dr Jason Dittmer, Department of Geography, University College London Pearson Building, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom; j.dittmer@ucl.ac.uk

2008 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The NEW undergraduate student paper award will go to the best paper on a political geography topic written by an undergraduate student, regardless of membership in the AAG or participation at the Annual Meetings. Papers submitted for awards to other AAG-affiliated organizations are not eligible. This competition is open to all undergraduate students who have written a research paper or senior thesis on a topic in political geography.

Guidelines are as follows:

1. The competition is open to all undergraduate students, or those who have completed an undergraduate degree since the last award has been made.

2. The entries must be research papers or theses, and not reviews. Papers must be longer than 10 double-spaced pages plus bibliography, but less than 15 pages plus bibliography. Margins must be 1" on all sides and 12 point font must be used.
3. Entries must be on a topic in political geography.
4. Each university may only submit one undergraduate paper or thesis for consideration.
5. Hard copies of papers must be received by all three members of the PGSG's Undergraduate Student Paper Award Committee by 15 June 2008. They must each be endorsed with the signature of the applicant's department chair. This signature will indicate that the submission is the department's chosen applicant (see #4 above).
6. Submissions will be judged on their written clarity, methodological and theoretical soundness, and their contributions to research in political geography.
7. All monetary prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Undergraduate Student Paper Award Committee.
 - A. Up to three Honorable Mention awards (award of \$50 each).
 - B. The winner of the Award will receive \$100 cash and registration to the next year's AAG conference (the registration fee component is contingent on continued study of geography).
 - C. If no acceptable entries are made the committee can decide to not give the award in any given year.
8. The results of the Student Paper Award competitions will be announced in the fall PGSG newsletter. The awards will be formally announced at the PGSG business meeting and the cash awards and registration reimbursement will be distributed to the awardees at that time. The awardees' names and paper titles will be forwarded to the AAG for publication in the AAG Newsletter. Following the AAG meeting, awardees will be given an opportunity to submit electronic versions of their papers to the PGSG webmaster for posting on the www.politicalgeography.org website.
10. Any questions pertaining to eligibility will be resolved by the Undergraduate Student Paper Award Committee.

Undergraduate Student Paper Award Committee:

Dr. Mat Coleman, Department of Geography, The Ohio State University, 1156 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210 USA; coleman.373@osu.edu

Dr. Katherine Hankins, Department of Geosciences, Georgia State University, 340 Kell Hall, Atlanta, GA 30303 USA; khankins@gsu.edu

2008 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP DISSERTATION ENHANCEMENT AWARD

The PGSG Dissertation Enhancement Award of \$800.00 is to be granted annually to a PGSG student member. Interested students should prepare a mini-dissertation proposal for submission to the Dissertation Awards Committee. Guidelines for the DEA are as follows:

1. The competition is open to all Ph.D. students who are members of the PGSG.
2. The DEA proposal should be 8-10 pages in length total (single or double spaced) and include sections covering the research question(s), theoretical issues, conceptual framework, methodology, relevance to political geography, and a budget describing how the \$800.00 would be used.
3. If a student has already incurred expenses listed in the budget by the time of the award announcement, the student may use the DEA to cover those expenses.
4. The DEA proposal should be crafted from the student's dissertation proposal which has been or will be submitted to the Ph.D. committee within the 2007-2008 academic year.
5. To enable full consideration of all submissions, entrants should send copies of their DEA proposals to each member of the Dissertation Enhancement Awards Committee listed below. Electronic submissions are welcome. Final acceptance date for submissions is **Friday, February 29, 2008**.
6. The results of the DEA competition will be announced to the winner **March 15, 2008** prior to the annual AAG meeting in Boston and the winner will be invited to attend the annual AAG Awards Luncheon at the expense of the PGSG. The award will be formally announced at the PGSG business meeting in Boston, and the \$800.00 award will be distributed to the winner at that time. The winner's name and dissertation title will be forwarded to the AAG for publication in the AAG Newsletter.
7. Questions concerning the competition may be directed to the members of the Dissertation Enhancement Awards Committee.

Dissertation Enhancement Award Committee:

Dr. Robert H. Watrel, Department of Geography, South Dakota State University, 246 Scobey Hall, Box 504, Brookings, SD 57007; robert.watrel@sdstate.edu

Dr. Robert M. Kerr, Department of History and Geography, University of Central Oklahoma, 100 N. University Dr., Edmond, OK 73034; rkerr@ucok.edu

Dr. Gabriel Popescu, Department of Political Science, Indiana University South Bend, P.O. Box 7111, South Bend, IN 466634; gpopescu@iusb.edu

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY SESSIONS AT AAG

<p>Tuesday, 4/15/08, 12:00PM-1:40PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Geopolitics: Globalization, Sovereignty, and Territoriality in Contemporary and Historical Contexts" • Geographies of Collective Action: Theoretical Questions, Empirical Inquiries I • The Colonial Present I: Reclaiming Sovereignty and Identity
<p>Tuesday, 4/15/08, 2:10PM-3:50PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architectures of Security: Border/Space in a Mobile World • Author Meets Critics Tania Murray Li. The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics • Geographies of Collective Action: Theoretical Questions, Empirical Inquiries II • Geographies of Solidarity • The Colonial Present II: Geographical Imaginations
<p>Tuesday, 4/15/08, 4:20PM-6:00PM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author Meets Critics Nancy Postero. "Now we are Citizens": Indigenous Politics in Post-Multicultural Bolivia • New Perspectives on Critical Place-Name Studies • Spatial Polity and Practice in the Anglican Communion • The Colonial Present III: Changes in the Land
<p>Wednesday, 4/16/08, 8:00AM-9:40AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors Meet Critics: 'Flagging Patriotism' by Ella Shohat and Robert Stam • European Identities I: Visuality, Place, and European landscapes • Geographies of Collective Action: Theoretical Questions, Empirical Inquiries III • Geographies of Detention and Confinement I: Masculinity, Femininity, Race, and Rurality • Governing the environment I: Production of democratic landscapes • The Colonial Present IV: Cultural and Material Property
<p>Wednesday, 4/16/08, 10:10AM-11:50AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European identities II: Analyzing representations of difference and identity • Geographies of Detention and Confinement II: Law, Sovereignty, and Executive Power

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing the environment II: Constructing democratic authority • The Colonial Present V: Post-Coloniality and Indigenous Geography
Wednesday, 4/16/08, 1:00PM-2:40PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographies of Detention and Confinement III: Citizenship, Im/migration, and Mobility • Governing the environment III: Civil society and democratic governance • Russia and the Circumpolar World: Transforming Nations, Contested Frontiers-II (Economy, Politics and Space) • Transnational Feminism, Violence and the Law
Wednesday, 4/16/08, 3:10PM-4:50PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographies of Detention and Confinement Panel: Challenges of Fieldwork • Geographies of Media IV: Geopolitics in Print and Cinema • Governing the environment IV: Democracy beyond representation • Subprime lending, foreclosure and the future of US housing policy
Thursday, 4/17/08, 8:00AM-9:40AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border Lines: The History and Politics of Odd International Boundaries • Critical Geographies of Education I: Citizenship, Pedagogy, Technologies of Government • Democratization and Ethnography: Political Change Through Thick and Thin I • Governing the environment V: Democratic inclusions and exclusions • Private Science, Environmental Governance & the Management of Knowledge
Thursday, 4/17/08, 10:10AM-11:50AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Geographies of Education II: The Politics of Race, Identity and 'Integration' • Democratization and Ethnography: Political Change Through Thick and Thin II • Governing the environment VI: State, markets, and community agency • The (il)liberal subject
Thursday, 4/17/08, 1:00PM-2:40PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Geographies of Education III: Spaces of Exclusion, Power and Negotiation • Democratization and Ethnography: Political Change Through Thick and Thin III • Governing the environment VII: The role of democracy in nature-society interactions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside Journal Publishing II: Policies and Practices
Thursday, 4/17/08, 3:10PM-4:50PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Geographies of Participatory Development in Transitional Post'-Conflict Environments • Democratization and Ethnography: Political Change Through Thick and Thin IV • New Political Geographies of Disaster • On the Political and Territoriality I
Thursday, 4/17/08, 5:20PM-7:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Recapturing Democracy" by Mark Purcell: Author Meets Interlocutors • Iraq: problems and prospects • On the Political and Territoriality II • Plenary lecture of Political Geography Specialty Group and Elsevier Science, publishers of POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
Friday, 4/18/08, 8:00AM-9:40AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing 'Imperial Nature': Thinking through Goldman's 'Constructing an Environmental State in Laos' • Immigrants, returnees and globalization • Resources and Empire 1 • Territory, the state and urban politics I • The Geography of Graffiti and Inscription
Friday, 4/18/08, 10:10AM-11:50AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrants, returnees and the state • Resources and Empire 2 • Territory, the state and urban politics II
Friday, 4/18/08, 12:20PM-2:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary Change: Spatial Implications and Theoretical Challenges • Geographies of the secular public I • Politics of Affect: affective capitalism
Friday, 4/18/08, 2:30PM-4:10PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographies of the secular public II • New Spaces and New Governance? Challenges for Central and Eastern Europe • Politics of Affect: affective matter • Spatial Analysis of Conflict I
Friday, 4/18/08, 4:40PM-6:20PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and Conflict Resolution • New Spaces and New Governance? Challenges for Central and Eastern Europe • Political Geography Specialty Group Current Topics Roundtable: International Security and Climate Change

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Analysis of Conflict II
Saturday, 4/19/08, 8:00AM-9:40AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arendt and Geography • Asian State Spaces: Seeing Asian Developmental States Spatially I • Governing Technologies I: Representation, Participation, and Governance in the 'Digital Age' I • Historical geographies of imperial liberalism: the British experience in the nineteenth century
Saturday, 4/19/08, 10:10AM-11:50AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian State Spaces: Seeing Asian Developmental States Spatially II • Governing Technologies I: Representation, Participation, and Governance in the 'Digital Age' II • The politics of social reproduction: revolutionary or not?
Saturday, 4/19/08, 2:20PM-4:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author Meets Critics: 'Military Workfare' by Deborah Cowen • Author meets critics: Dick Peet's Geography of Power • Electoral Geography
Saturday, 4/19/08, 4:30PM-6:10PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2008 Elections

“Truth gains more even by the errors of one who, with due study and preparation, thinks for himself, than by the true opinions of those who only hold them because they do not suffer themselves to think.”

John Stuart Mill *On Liberty*
