

**Applied Geography Commission**

*International Geographical Union*

*2007 Annual Report*

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## Overview

The 2007 year was another productive one which saw the Applied Geography Commission convene meetings in North America (Canada) and Europe (France and Switzerland). In addition, we moved toward completion of our new book on applied geography and we finalized plans for our 2008 Commission activities which will be held in conjunction with the August IGU Congress in Tunis. Finally, commission members completed a variety of individual initiatives.

**Book Project.** At the 2004 IGU Congress in Glasgow we presented a book published by Kluwer: Antoine Bailly and Lay James Gibson, ed., *APPLIED GEOGRAPHY, A WORLD PERSPECTIVE*, Kluwer, 2004, 320 pages. We are now in the final stages of editing a new book that will be published by Brookings and presented at the 2008 IGU Congress in Tunis. Section I of this report offers a comprehensive description of the forthcoming book including a list of the authors. The book's title is *APPLIED GEOGRAPHY FOR THE ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY*.

**Paper Session.** The commission's first meeting of the 2007 year was held in conjunction with the 2007 the Pacific Regional Science Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. It featured four stimulating papers authored by Terry L. Clower and Andrew Beer, Kingsley Haynes and Robert Stimson, Robert Stimson, Martin Bell, Jonathan Corcoran, Prem Chhetri, David Pullar, and Jim Cooper, and Antoine Bailly and Roger Stough. Lay Gibson Chaired the session. Additionally, the AGC's Annual Business meeting was held in Vancouver. Professor Bob Stimson was elected President of the AGC; he will assume his duties at the close of the 2008 Tunis Congress. Section II describes this session in detail.

**Scientific Excursion.** Following the August meeting of the European Regional Science Association in Paris the Applied Geography commission organized a scientific excursion which focused on the often overlapping themes of agricultural geography, new population growth in rural regions, agricultural tourism, and gastronomic tourism. Section III provides a detailed description of the event. (Section III)

**Individual Initiatives.** Commission members promote applied geography in a variety of ways not explicitly tied to the IGU's Commission. A few examples are offered to show how we promote applied geography perspectives in the larger geography community. (Section IV)

**Contact Information.** Three contact lists are offered in sections V, VI, and VIII.

- Section V. Members of the AGC;
- Section VI. Members of the AGC's International Advisory Committee;
- Section VII. Friends of the AGC.

**Mission Statement.** The AGC's mission statement is found in Section VIII.

**Welcome to New Members of the Commission.**

We wish to welcome Federic Arenas, El hassane Boubekraoui, Juliet Fall, and Lucinda Fonesca to the AGC. Professor Arenas is our first member from South America and Professor Boubekraoui our first African member. Dr. Fall represents the UK and Dr. Fonesca, Portugal.

**Announcement of the 2008 Meeting of the Commission in Tunis.**  
(Section X)

## Section I.

### **APPLIED GEOGRAPHY FOR THE ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY**

Edited by:

**Antoine Bailly** is a Professor of Geography at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He serves as Chair of the International Geographic Union's Commission on Applied Geography.

**Lay James Gibson** is a University Distinguished Outreach Professor, Geography and Regional Development at the University of Arizona, USA. He directs the university's Economic Development Research Program.

**Kingsley E. Haynes** is a Professor and Dean of the School of Public Policy at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA. He holds the Ruth D. and John T. Hazel MD Endowed Chair.

Declines in public support for universities throughout the world have prompted university administrators and those who articulate and implement educational policy to seek alternative modes for funding. One favorite model is the 'entrepreneurial university' – a university that is managed using modern business practices including the willingness to participate in the commercialization of the intellectual property that it produces. A related notion is that of the 'entrepreneurial professor' – a person who is willing to explore new commercial markets for his/her intellectual outputs. Both raise issues of propriety and conflict of interest but both also raise exciting opportunities for disciplinary engagement with the "real" world.

The emerging trend, particularly for research universities in industrialized nations, is to be more entrepreneurial – to seek financial partnerships to commercialize the work of faculty. Although this concept for commercialization and partnerships with the worlds of business and government are not always appreciated or embraced, they are more common in the natural sciences, engineering and medicine. These practices are less well accepted by social sciences and humanities faculties.

*Applied Geography for the Entrepreneurial University* focuses on the core field of geography and its potential to increase its profile in the entrepreneurial university and the accommodations needed to encourage the acceptance of entrepreneurial faculty who

move the work of academic geography into the world of commercial applications in industry, government and non-governmental sectors. Eleven papers authored by a distinguished panel of international scholars are organized around two themes – (1) Applied Geography as an explicit and implicit element in the geography curriculum and (2) the Practice of Applied Geography.

The first section explores the task of preparing geography departments and the next generation of geographers to be competitive by assuring that the curriculum content and the ‘corporate culture’ of geography reflect the new academic marketplace. If academic geography does not respond to the best practices of the new marketplace, students will not be well served and the discipline will suffer as a result of declining market share and acceptance in the worlds of practice and policy and in the university.

The second section complements the discussion of curriculum. It provides a window on the practice of applied geography or ‘geographers at work’ by identifying substantive issues and problems related to implementing entrepreneurial activity in the traditional discipline of geography. Some of these issues are not always assumed to be within the realm of geography itself, and relate closely to an entrepreneurial approach for any disciplinary based program in a modern university.

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## Section II

### 2007 MEETING OF THE APPLIED GEOGRAPHY COMMISSION

The Commission's 2007 meeting was held in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Science Conference in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, May 6-9, 2007.

Lay Gibson organized and chaired a session with four excellent papers on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Topics in Applied Regional Science Salon F**

**Chair:** Lay Gibson, University of Arizona

- *The Impact of Industrial Specialization on Regional Growth in Australia: A Reassessment*, Terry L. Clower and Andrew Beer, University of North Texas  
Discussant: Robert Stimson, University of Queensland
- *Making Geographic Findings Matter: Implications for Applied Research and Teaching*, Kingsley E. Haynes, George Mason University and Robert J. Stimson, University of Queensland  
Discussant: Roger Stough, George Mason University
- *Developing a Large Scale Model to Simulate Growth for the Brisbane-South East Queensland Region*, Robert Stimson, Martin Bell, Jonathan Corcoran, Prem Chhetri, David Pullar and Jim Cooper, University of Queensland  
Discussant: Kingsley Haynes, George Mason University
- *The Constructionist Perspective in Applied Geography: Evolutionary Analysis with Examples*, Antonie Bailly, University of Geneva and Roger Stough, George Mason University  
Discussant: Terry L. Clower, University of North Texas

### Section III

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

Scientific Excursion  
Applied Geography Commission  
International Geographical Union  
September 2-4, 2007

The Applied Geography Commission of the International Geographical Union is pleased to announce its Fall 2007 Scientific Excursion. This year's offering will deal with the often overlapping themes of agricultural geography, new population growth in rural regions, agricultural tourism, and gastronomic tourism.

The All-inclusive fee for the excursion will cover rail transportation from Paris to Macon, charter-bus transport from Macon to Geneva, two nights of hotel, meals, taxes and service charges. Not included are items of a personal nature, breakfast on day one and lunch on day three.

The two lunches and two dinners included in the trip fee have been designed to illustrate themes appropriate to the field trip. The first three are built on the agricultural and gastronomic tourism and agricultural geography themes and reflect the French AOC system for managing agricultural regions. The mid-day dinner on 2 September is built around the "Poulet de Bresse" AOC; the less formal meal later that day will feature mountain cheeses, especially those of savories. The lunch on September 3 will showcase Alpine vineyards. Dinner on the 3<sup>rd</sup> will deal with local development issues, especially the rebirth of rural areas by largely urban-to-rural development to meeting emerging demands by tourists, retirees, and second home owners, and the new challenges of "green tourism."

Excursion organizer Professor Antoine Bailly will offer lectures and he will moderate presentations by local experts including planners, elected officials, and industry representatives.

**Delegates participating in the IGU, Applied Geography Commission field study were:**

Antoine Bailly, Switzerland  
 Lay James Gibson, United States  
 Hirotada Kohno, Japan  
 Kingsley Haynes, United States  
 Yoshiro Higano, Japan  
 Roger Stough, United States  
 Bernard Weinstein, United States  
 Robert Stimson, Australia

Nick Taylor, Hong Kong  
John Rees, United States

### Registration

Before May 1<sup>st</sup> 2007

### AGC/IGU Scientific Excursion

September 2, 3, and 4, 2007

Name

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Full Address

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Email

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Registration fee of Euros (per Person) includes:

Banking fees	Euros	20	
TGV Paris-Lyon*	Euros	80	(2/9/07)
Charter Bus**	Euros	100	(2/9 – 4/9/07)
Special Luncheon	Euros	80	(2/9/07)
Hotel (modified American plan)	Euros	530	(2/9 – 4/9/07)
Special Luncheon	Euros	50	(3/9/07)
<b>Total</b>	<b>Euros</b>	<b>860</b>	

\*Depart from Paris Gare de Lyon at 10:30am (meeting place in Gare de Lyon main hall at 10am)

\*\*The bus will meet the TGV t 12.03am on 2/9/07 and will drop participants at Geneva Airport at 10:30am on 4/9/07.

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## Section IV

### SELECTED INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVES

- **Le Festival de Geographie.** The annual geography festival was held in Saint Die des Vosges in October, 2007. Consistent with the IGU-FIG agreement, the IGU/AGC President, Antoine Bailly, represented the IGU at the festival.
- **Festa de Geografia.** IGU/AGC president Antoine Bailly represented the Commission at this applied geography conference in Mirandela, Portugal. The conference was held in July, 2007.
- **Geography in the Americas.** This important meeting was convened during the May period 21-26, 2007 in La Serena, Chile. It was sponsored by eight organizations including the Gilbert T.M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, the Chilean Society of Geographical Sciences, and the Association of American Geographers. Several Commission members participated in two applied geography roundtable session on “the Education of an Applied Geographer.” Commission members participating include: Richard Boehm, Texas State University, USA; Jorge Gaspar, University of Lisbon, Portugal; Lay Gibson, University of Arizona, USA; Kingsley Haynes, George Mason University, USA; and Audrey Mohan, Texas State University, USA. Kingsley Haynes also gave the conference keynote address. The roundtable sessions were organized by Richard Boehm as part of an on-going effort to demonstrate the link between careers and K-12 and university education in geography.
- **The Education of an Applied Geographer.** The journal Research in Geographic Education (Joseph P. Stoltman, Editor) devoted Volume 9, Number 1, 2007 to a special issue titled “The Education of an Applied Geographer.” The editor for the special issue was Richard Boehm. Commission members (in addition to Dr. Boehm) who published essays in the special issue are: Antoine Bailly, University of Geneva, Switzerland; John Frazier, Binghamton University, USA; Jorge Gaspar, University of Lisbon, Portugal; Lay Gibson, University of Arizona, USA; Reginald Golledge, University of California, USA; Kingsley Haynes, George Mason University, USA; Burrell Montz, Binghamton University, USA; Robert Stimson, University of Queensland, Australia, and Roger Strough, George Mason University, USA.

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## Section VIII

### **MISSION OF THE APPLIED GEOGRAPHY COMMISSION**

The International Geographical Union's Applied Geography Commission focuses on improving understandings of the basic research-applied research interface and the needs of geographers based in universities, government, business, and non-governmental organizations for the services provided by professional organizations. It also considers the ways that the IGU and other existing geography organizations might better serve the enormous population of geographers in business, government, and NGOs.

#### **Need:**

Geography's contributions to applied science are enormous but they are not always recognized. This is due at least in part to the fact that geography's professional institutions (e.g., the IGU) are much more effective at meeting the needs of university-based geographers than the needs of geographers operating out of other settings. Perhaps the biggest disconnect is between our institutions and geographers in the private sector although some will argue that geographers in governmental organizations and NGOs are equally isolated. Reasons for these gaps are not fully understood but two possible explanations are proposed. First, our professional organizations may present themselves in ways that are more welcoming to university based professionals than to those based in private sector, governmental or non-government organization. Second, our organizations

may make the “value added” by our conferences and organizational services more obvious to university administrators than to elected officials and public and private sector managers. These potential explanations and others deserve to be investigated.

**Objectives:**

- Develop a network of professional geographers and a system of information on applied geography in coordination with the Roma IGU Center and with the IGU Commissions and Study Groups.
- Develop information on NGOs. International organizations, private firms, and public agencies using geography, working in partnership with other IGU Commissions and study groups interested in applied geography. Information gathered includes addresses and emails for key persons and descriptions of the geographics skills and perspectives demanded.
- Organize meetings with the goal of producing publications on what geography can offer to public and private enterprises and on geographers views on sustainable development.

**Long-Term Goals and Potential Benefits:**

- The potential benefits of better bridging the “town-gown gap” include:
- Enhanced opportunities for geographers in academic settings to contribute to the solution of professional practice problems faced by geographers working in non-academic settings.
- Greater interest in academic geography and its membership organizations by geographers in business, NGOs, and government.

- Improved access to employment in business and government and in NGOs for graduates of university geography programs. 4/4/05

## **Section IX**

### **WELCOME TO NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS AND OUR THANKS TO A DEPARTING MEMBER**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to four new members of the Commission;

- Federic Arenas is based in The Department of Geography at the Catholic University in Santiago, Chile.
- El hassane Boubekraoui is in the Faculte des Lettres et de Sciences Humaines, Universite Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Morocco.
- Juliet Fall is on the faculty of the Open University, Milton Keynes, England.
- Lucinda Fonseca of the University of Lisbon will replace Jorge Gaspar as our representative from Portugal.

Finally, we want to express our thanks to founding member Jorge Gaspar who is leaving the Commission. Fortunately, Jorge has agreed to stay involved with the Commission as a member of the International Advisory Committee.

## **Section X**

### **NEXT MEETING OF THE AGC**

The 2008 Meeting of the AGC will be held in conjunction with the 2008 IGU Tunis Congress.

At the Tunis Congress, Bob Stimson will become President of the AGC and current President Antoine Bailly will move to the International Advisory Committee. Secretary Lay Gibson will also step down at the Tunis Congress and move to the International Advisory Committee. A search for his replacement has been initiated.