

SRSA Newsletter

Southern Regional Science Association

January 2001

The Association will meet in Austin, Texas April 5-7, 2001. This meeting will celebrate four decades of service to regional science in the south. The Association will commemorate its 40th Anniversary with a reception honoring past presidents. The reception will be Friday evening and all past presidents will receive a personal invitation to attend this years meeting.

As usual the program chair, Frank Hefner of the College of Charleston, promises a varying and interesting program. Frank will be contacting you about organizing or chairing a session or discussing papers. Remember, it's OK to contact him first (see addresses at a glance). Additionally, Judy Stallmann will organize a panel session of past presidents to discuss the Association's contributions to regional science over the past four decades. Any past presidents willing to share their experiences should call Judy (see addresses at a glance.)

The meeting site, The Driskill Hotel, is an historic building in downtown Austin and has recently undergone a complete renovation. Austin is the site of many fine restaurants, historical areas, museums, and music-including the Austin City Limits TV show.

Be sure to join your colleagues in Austin this spring, come and see the famous Texas bluebells in full bloom. Copies of the conference and hotel registration forms will be available on the Association's web site <www.srsa.org> in February.

The 2001 SRSA Graduate Student Paper Competition--The 2001 Barry Moriarty Graduate Paper Competition deadline is February 1, 2001 (a somewhat flexible deadline.) The SRSA urges its members to encourage qualified graduate students to participate in the competition. The winning student will receive recognition at the awards luncheon and a prize of \$500 to defray the cost of attending the annual meeting in Austin, Texas. Details of the competition are provided in an attachment to this newsletter along with other information pertaining to the 2001 SRSA meeting.

Questions regarding the competition should be addressed to Dr. David Barkley, 255 Barre Hall, Regional Economic Development Research Laboratory, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0355. Dr. Barkley may be reached by phone at 864-656-5797, or by e-mail at dbrkly@clemson.edu.

Greetings from the President--As I write winter officially begins today and it promises to be a real one this time, even in the Sunbelt South. Rumors are of 73 inches of snow in Buffalo already, and that was during the Fall! So, it's an ideal time to think about future plans and warming up both socially and intellectually at our annual meeting in Austin, TX, April 5-7, 2001. (see details in this newsletter). Frank Hefner will put together an excellent program and we have special as well as spatial things to celebrate: the 40th anniversary of our Association. Be sure to join us in Austin in 2001 for a real space odyssey.

It's always a good idea to make your travel and lodging arrangements as early as possible. Also, anyone who is planning to attend the meetings and is willing to serve as a session chair or a discussant, even if not planning to give a paper, should contact Frank. He'll appreciate all the help that makes SRSA an exciting intellectual experience.

Before moving to other items, let me mention some developments at the North American meetings in Chicago that should make y'all proud. Our faithful friend, Mark Henry, received the Boyce Award for Distinguished Service to Regional Science, while our rising star, Maureen Kilkenny, received the Hewings Research Award for younger scholars. Hugh Knox was elected President and John Kort was elected Chair of the 2001 North American Regional Science Council. Our congratulations to all!

The 2001 North American meetings will be hosted by SRSA in the enchanting city of Charleston, South Carolina. Note the dates: November 15-17, 2001. The Program and Local Arrangements will be run by Frank Hefner (hefnerf@cofc.edu) and his colleagues at the College of Charleston. Contact Frank regarding any ideas you have for a paper or session. Deadlines and hotel information will be available soon on the RSAI (visit the new NARSC web site for information at <www.narsc.org>.) SRSA members always make a special effort for these meetings, and many of our international colleagues are already looking forward to visiting the Southern Side of Heaven. Johnny (RW) Apple of the *New York Times* has already given me some good advice on worthwhile culinary pursuits in the Charleston area. Another Southern and global adventure to look forward to in 2001!

I cannot proceed any further without mentioning the "R" word! Recession. Or should we take Paul Krugman's advice and call it Bananas (again). We may be well into a growth recession by November, 2001, but don't worry, be happy: college enrollment will be up (where would you go?), SAT scores will be down and your department budget may be on the way up. Some of you may already be busy selling recession multipliers... even in the New Economy, what goes up must come down... And don't forget what Oscar Wilde said: Life imitates Shakespeare.

So let me turn to a more serious topic... But what's more serious than American households losing over \$4 trillion of net worth in the year 2000 alone, thanks to the falling equity markets... Don't worry, be happy: my financial guru, Bud Weinstein and others, tell me that the NASDAQ is having a 70 percent off sale! Enough already... I do have a serious issue to bring to your attention.

Over the past decade and more, membership in our global/parent organization: Regional Science

Association International (RSAI), has been down considerably. If RSAI is a group you thought you were a member of but forgot to send in your 2001 check (if so, contact rsai@uiuc.edu immediately). I ask for your help... Can Regional Science survive without numbers? We seem to have a particular problem in attracting younger scholars and female colleagues. Is Regional Science experiencing an erosion in its social capital base, a sort of academic Bowling Alone?

Let's do something about it: for the future of SRSA and RSAI. A simple first step... consider sponsoring a new member of both RSAI and SRSA. Pay the membership fee of a young colleague or student for 2001. But don't do it unconditionally. Reach an understanding with your new member that he or she has an obligation to continue the membership for at least one year and to participate in our meetings. What better places to start this membership drive than with the Austin meeting of SRSA in April and the Charleston meeting of RSAI in November. Help SRSA and RSAI increase and sustain its membership and create new energy in Regional Science for the New Millennium!

And send me your ideas about increasing membership: johnrees@uncg.edu.

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you in Austin in April and in Charleston in November.

John Rees

President

SRSA Web--We think the site contains much useful information about the Association. As well as links to several sites of interest to regional scientists, including federal data sources and several universities as well as institutions and other associations--such as RSAI and the other regional science associations.

Again, if you have any comments, suggestions for additional links, or thoughts about the site please send an e-mail to Ted Trott. If you wish to advertise a position on the SRSA jobs page, please send the information to Ted; either in hard copy or e-mail.

The site can be reached through the The Institute of Public Policy home page at George Mason University or directly at the following new URL: www.srsa.org.

The Review of Regional Studies a peer refereed journal is published three times a year for the Southern Regional Science Association by the College of Business and Economics at the University of Delaware.

Papers are currently being accepted for Volume 31, Numbers 2 and 3. Number 1 is expected out in summer 2001.

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If you don't know the answer to this question, please check. If your library presently does not subscribe, please request that they do so. The cost of the Review for libraries in the US (\$50) is very low when compared to most journals. Expanding the number of library subscriptions will make the published work of regional scientists more widely available, will enhance the stature of the Review, and will reduce the cost of individual subscriptions.

The North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International--The 2001 North American meetings of the Regional Science Association International are being hosted by the SRSA and will be held in Charleston, SC; for further information check the NARSC web site at <www.narsc.org>. The meetings are November 15-17.

Please remember our Association is the host of this Fall's meetings and Frank Hefner and his colleagues at the College of Charleston are handling both the local arrangements and program and they will be looking for session organizers, paper presenters and discussants, and session chairs. Don't hesitate to give Frank a call (see addresses at a glance.)

If any of you are not familiar with Charleston, plan to come and enjoy some fine southern hospitality in a truly charming city. To accompany the usual excellent program being planned the city offers many attractions as-well-as excellent restaurants serving the cuisine of the old south.

More information will appear in the spring newsletter and on the above cited web site.

Western Regional Science Association will hold its 40th Anniversary Meeting at the Palm Springs Riviera Resort and Racquet Club February 25-28, 2001.

The Western Regional Science Association was formed in 1961. To mark the anniversary a number of special features are being planned for our 40th Annual Meeting. The conference will be held in the lovely conference center of the Palm Springs Riviera Resort and Racquet Club. It will begin with registration and an opening plenary session on Sunday afternoon, February 25. Paper sessions will be held all day Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, February 26-28.

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