



SRSA

Newsletter

Southern Regional Science Association

May 2002

Key Bridge
Marriott site of
41st Annual
Meeting of
SRSA

The Association began its fifth decade of service to regional science in the south in the Washington, DC metro area April 11-13, 2002. Robert Gibbs, 2001 president elect, put together an excellent program with sessions exploring a wide diversity of regional topics. For additional information on the papers presented, abstracts, authors, and authors' affiliation check elsewhere on this web site.

At the Awards Luncheon on Friday Tom Johnson, the University of Missouri at Columbia, was named the 2002 Fellow of the Association. In his fellows address, "Where is the Place in Space", he spoke of the definition of place. As he stated his goal was to show that there is much more to the concept of place than is captured by the concept of space and to find a more prominent place for this expanded definition in our theory and empirical work. He concludes regional scientists have made enormous progress in understanding the role of space and spatial distribution, we must however expand our knowledge of how particular places and their unique histories affect human behavior. Tom's paper will appear in an up-coming issue of *The Review of Regional Studies*.

Jun Koo, Department of City and Regional Planning, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was announced as the winner of The 2002 Barry Moriarty Graduate Student Award. His paper entitled "Agglomeration and Spillovers in a Simultaneous Framework" was presented as part of a session focusing on "Clustering."

The Executive Council extends its thanks to the outgoing President, Frank Hefner, and Executive Council members Cynthia Rogers and Steve Smith. At the business meeting Saturday the following people were elected to the Council for the year 2002: President Robert Gibbs, President-Elect Steve Smith, and

at-large Council members David McGranahan from ERS and Jiemin Guo of BEA were elected for three year terms. Also Mark Henry, Clemson University was nominated as the 2003 SRSA Fellow. Mark will be inducted as an SRSA fellow in Louisville next Spring and will give his fellows address then.

Frank Hefner's Presidential Address entitled "The Role of Beliefs and Cultural Attitudes in Economic Development" will be published in an up-coming issue of *The Review of Regional Studies*.



The North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International--

The 2002 meetings will be held November 14-16, 2002 at the Condado Plaza Hotel and Casino in San Juan, Puerto Rico -- (800)-468-8588 or (787)-253-4390. Room rates are \$150 plus tax per night, single or double occupancy. These special room rates are good three days before and after the meeting dates (November 14-16, 2002). The Condado is 7 miles (15 minutes) from the airport and about 2 miles (10 minutes) from historic Old San Juan. It is a AAA-rated four-diamond hotel overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the Condado Lagoon.

For additional information on the meeting check out the NARSC web site <http://www.narsc.org>.

Greetings from the President--

Dear members: It's hard for me to believe the 2002 meetings are over, and time to start a new SRSA year. I hope those of you who were able to attend enjoyed Arlington as much as I did. The weather held together long enough for us to partake of the pleasures of Georgetown across the river—not a foregone conclusion by any means—although for some reason your program organizer neglected to mention the vagaries of Washington weather in the meetings announcements.

This year we enjoyed 90 presentations in 31 sessions, with participants from 29 states as well as from outside the U.S. I was pleased to see many of our Federal friends making their cyclical pilgrimage to the meetings. I also noticed a number of new faces from “outside the beltway” among the 131 in attendance, and I hope to see each one of you again next April in Louisville.

Since organizing the SRSA meetings program is a one-time task, I should probably be a bit more concerned than I am about depreciation of the specific skills I acquired over the last few months. Never mind—what I will continue to value is the opportunity to know many more SRSA friends than before, and a fuller appreciation of the enormous range of our professional pursuits. Many thanks to the presenters, discussants, and chairs for making the 2002 meetings a rewarding experience for us all.

Thanks are also in order to the 2002 program committee, who worked overtime to pull together some great sessions, including Brian Cushing, Matt Fannin, Karen Hamrick, and Tom Harris. David Mulkey and his assistant Carol Fountain at the University of Florida once again kindly produced the printed programs. I’d like to express a special debt of gratitude to Ted Trott, who coordinated the local arrangements and produced a smoothly run conference, as he has in years past. One of SRSA’s strengths is the involvement of its past presidents, whose efforts continue to benefit the Association. This year was no different, but I’d like to thank especially Andy Bernat, Judy Stallmann, and Frank Hefner for their assistance and good counsel. Frank’s enthusiastic service as SRSA president in 2001, and his thought-provoking address (even the part about P. J. O’Rourke) set a challenging standard for those who follow him.

As our new SRSA year begins, let’s welcome the two newest members of our Executive Council: David McGranahan of the Economic Research Service, and Jiemin Guo of the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Thanks are due outgoing member Cynthia Rogers, for her three years of generous service, and congratulations to Steve Smith, our next president-elect. Keep Steve in mind—the deadline for abstracts for the 2003 meetings will be here before you know it.

Each year, the incoming president renews the call to invite a colleague to next year’s meetings and help the

Association expand. I will follow in that tradition. I find that many people who might have an interest in the SRSA simply don’t know about us, but that those who try us out find us a congenial and stimulating group. In the past, the regional science profession has experienced more than its share of angst about the future. Yet last month I was struck by the wide range of ages and the many participants from outside the traditional regional science spheres at the meetings. My hope is that we can find ways to strengthen collegial ties between those of us who identify ourselves primarily as regional scientists and those who view the (inter)discipline as one of several research communities whose interests intersect with their own. Our increasing intellectual diversity should be viewed as an inevitable outcome of success, and one to use as a springboard to widening our membership.

A final reminder: June 15 is the deadline for abstracts for the North American meetings of the Regional Science Association International (a bit earlier than in previous years), which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This is the balmiest RSAI meeting we’re likely to see for some time, so grab your swimsuit and sun screen, and join your colleagues this coming November for the right mix of fun and work. Until then, here’s wishing you a pleasant and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely, **Robert Gibbs**

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 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.

We are currently soliciting manuscripts to be considered for publication in Volume 32 (2002). Volume 32 will have two issues, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter, but will contain approximately the same number of manuscripts as past volumes.

Volume 32 will be the last under our editorship (see the solicitation for new editor(s)) in this newsletter. While the experience of serving the SRSA as editors and publishers of the Review of Regional Studies has been personally and professionally rewarding in many ways, we have informed the SRSA Executive Council that we will not be continuing beyond the end of our present 5-year term. We will be happy to discuss the time, resources and commitment involved with any one interested in serving as editor(s).

Some Pictures from the 2002 Meeting:



Frank Hefner, SRSA President, presents Tom Johnson, the University of Missouri at Columbia, with the 2002 SRSA Fellows Award



Jun Koo, Department of City and Regional Planning, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shows Frank his 2002 Barry Moriarty Graduate Student Award presented earlier by Loraine Moriarty.

The SRSA Newsletter is published three times each year in January, May, and September. Material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to:

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