

# CGS BULLETIN



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◆ Supporting Geographic Education since 1946 ◆

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### A Question of Presidential Power

Among the tasks that fall to the President of the California Geographical Society is the development of agendas for our biannual board meetings. There is always a hastily conducted board meeting during our annual conference, but with all the excitement it can often be hard to get much work done. The annual fall board meeting, on the other hand, provides an opportunity for in depth and detailed discussion about issues of concern to our organization and our membership.

Held on the first Saturday of October, the fall board meeting attracts board members from across the state for a one day marathon session. For the past several years the Geography Department at Fresno State has graciously allowed us to use their facilities. It's a tight fit, though it does promote an air

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## THIS SPRING, HEAD NORTH !

Shasta College has the honor of hosting the 60th Annual Meeting of the California Geographical Society. I would like to extend a warm welcome to join us at the April 28-30, 2006 conference. We are putting together an engaging range of field trips and activities that explore this fascinating and beautiful region of California. What follows is a brief outline of some the regions geographic qualities along with planned activities for the upcoming conference.

Redding, California grew up around the terminus of the Southern Pacific railroad, which in 1872, couldn't afford to continue the line north to its ultimate destination of Portland, Oregon. The population center at the time was the mining town of Shasta, located west of Redding in the foothills of the Klamath Mountains. Soon after the arrival of the railroad, Shasta began a steady decline as its neighbor to the east drew residents and businesses that wanted access to the 19th century transportation miracle. At this year's conference, several field trips will explore the history of mining and its enduring legacy in the North State region.



*Sapphire Lake, Trinity Alps Wilderness*

By the mid-1900's, the timber industry had replaced mining as the region's economic backbone. Timber's reign was short lived, though, as the convergence of societal, political, and ecological forces led to the rapid decline of the industry by the early 1990's. Today, forest management priorities have shifted in the direction of recreation and resources conservation, with a particular focus on fire and fuels management. Several catastrophic fires have hit the region in the past decade, bringing attention to this growing concern among resource managers and community leaders. A fire ecology field trip will focus on this growing management priority.

In addition to the legacies left by the mining and timber industries, water has played a central role in shaping the North State's identity. Lake Shasta and the Trinity/Whiskeytown reservoirs are centerpieces of the Central Valley Project, supplying the water needs for much of the

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Bruce Townsend, Furman High School  
Carolyn Whorff, Mt. San Jacinto College  
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**GREETINGS FELLOW STUDENTS !**

As your Northern California student representative, and on behalf of the California Geographical Society (CGS), I wish to warmly invite all new and returning students to join us in Redding, California for the 2006 annual conference. In addition to the fun-filled field trips and academic paper and poster presentations, this year's conference will include something new and exciting for students.

The CGS wishes to help students become more aware of job opportunities for geographers. With this in mind, we are very excited about the prospect of including a special session in which students can learn about various career opportunities in geography as well the role of an internship in exploring new careers. The format of this session will be a panel discussion with opportunities to interact with applied geographers who work in various capacities within the public and private sector job market.

As always, the annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity for students to come together to meet one another, as well as other professionals, and friends of geography. We hope to see you there!

Virginia Humphreys, Northern California Student Representative

[V\\_Humphreys2003@yahoo.com](mailto:V_Humphreys2003@yahoo.com)

# Geography Scholarship Available!

Students, it's not too early to be thinking about applying for the **David Lantis Scholarship** for 2006!

The undergraduate award is \$400 and the graduate award is \$500.

To be eligible you must be a geography major in good standing.

For more information, contact Emily Lieb Townsend at ([emilylieb@comcast.net](mailto:emilylieb@comcast.net)) or visit the CGS website:

<http://www.calgeog.org>

**2006 Conference Welcome** (Continued from page 1)

lower two-thirds of the State. Water resource management activities, from raising the height of Shasta Dam, to restoring salmon habitat, will be discussed on the water resources field trip.

For decades North State leaders have grappled with how to expand and diversify the economic base. Recreation opportunities abound, but to date, outreach efforts have not created a Moab or Bozeman. Public employees, at all levels of government, anchor the employment base, and a fledgling manufacturing sector began to take hold in the late 1990's amid controversy over air pollution and the role of 'smoke stack' industry in the region.

For much of the past century, Redding experienced moderate growth, and slowly evolved into the North State's economic and population center. However, in 2002, this rate of growth suddenly increased as the transfer of real estate equity from California's urban centers to the North State region fueled a construction and real estate boom. Homeowners found their house values doubling overnight, subdivisions sprouted where groves of blue oak and gray pines once stood, and hilltops became dotted with 4000 square foot mansions. Efforts are just beginning to address this growth, and the preservation of open space has become a priority for many in the conservation community. The Shasta Land Trust will host a conservation tour of historic Fenwood Ranch, and discuss conservation challenges and opportunities in the North State region.

The demographic shift brought about by the recent growth has led to some important questions. What will this community look like in 20 years? Are we destined to grapple with the problems of sprawl and congestion that plague so many urbanized areas of the State? How can the legions of low-income, under-educated residents improve their economic and social conditions? How can we preserve and enhance natural resources while maintaining jobs? What cultural amenities will improve community life?

Planners, civic and community leaders, philanthropic and non-profit organizations and others have been addressing these issues in recent years. Recent milestones in this area include the connection of The Turtle Bay Exploration Park (site of this year's barbeque and keynote address) and McConnell Arboretum by the Sundial Bridge—one of the North State's most prized architectural gems; and the re-opening of the art-deco Cascade Theatre that now serves as the backbone of an arts and music renaissance. A tour of downtown Redding will highlight these and other revitalization efforts, and a pre-barbeque bicycle trip will explore the Sacramento River Trail, including the architecturally unique Sundial Bridge.

These and other field trips will highlight the North State's unique physical, cultural, and economic geography; papers, posters, and workshops will provide engaging discussions on a diverse range of topics; and there will be special map exhibit entitled 'Mapping the North State through Time' featuring both historic and contemporary maps of the North State region. Come discover the jewel of northern California, deepen your geographic understanding, and enjoy the camaraderie of a weekend with friends and colleagues. We look forward to seeing you April!

Dan Scollon  
Shasta College 2006 Conference Organizer



*Shasta College Students Exploring the Geography of Rush Creek in the Trinity Alps.*

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Bill Holder, the CGS treasurer, is beginning to wonder if geography has a certain contagious quality to it. Although his undergraduate degree at CSU Long Beach was in American and European history (1966), he took his minor in geography and pursued the subject for an MA at CSU Fullerton, with an emphasis in urban and political geography (1976).

Something must have been in the genes, because Bill's son, David, also majored in geography and obtained his MA at CSU Long Beach. David's focus was on GIS and is currently a project manager at Thomas Brothers/Rand McNally in Irvine.

Recently, David became engaged to a lovely geographer (yes!), Laura Rebai, who got her degree at CSU Sonoma, under the guidance of Dorothy Freidel, our editor of *The California Geographer*. Laura's emphasis was on physical geography. She once worked for Thomas Brothers/Rand McNally, and now works for a firm that works with environmental cleanup issues.

Bill says that a benefit to having so many geographers in the family is that nobody asks for directions when they're lost. They just drive around in circles arguing with each other about where to go.

Now that the Holders have established a geography dynasty, should they think about running for president of the U.S.?

*President's Column (Continued from page 1)*

of closeness that would be lost in more spacious quarters (i.e., it's elbow to elbow, but we deal with it). And it's very reasonably priced (i.e., it's free). Some board members live nearby and have a short drive, while others spend hours in the car. This year there was even one board member who flew into Fresno International (I think that's what the locals call it) and ran the rest of the way to the campus. Can you guess who?

I digress... While crafting the agenda for the board meeting this fall, it occurred to me that, as President, I could place all manner of interesting items on the docket. In a momentary fit of delusional presidential power, I added bullet point #6, "Annex Baja." I thought that maybe I could sneak it through with a quick vote. Fortunately, I came to my senses. The board, I knew, wouldn't go for it. Plus, as a non profit organization, we might run into a few political difficulties. Hmmm, what *would* the board go for?

Then it occurred to me that I might have better luck at the end of the meeting. They might be tired and not listening very carefully. That's when I came up with bullet point #37, "Purchase a Tahoe villa for the CGS President; to be made available in perpetuity to all past presidents with a last name beginning with A." That was sure to fly right through if I could just distract our treasurer Bill Holder for a moment. That guy is such a stickler for details, though, I figured he'd probably notice. It was back to the drawing board.

Seriously, there *are* all manner of small details that must be attended to. There are questions about the upcoming annual meeting, budgets, the website... the list goes on. It is because our board members are willing to spend an entire day ironing out such issues that our organization is so successful and runs so smoothly. Membership is up, finances are in good shape, and there is a real sense of commitment and accomplishment.

I *did* take the liberty of putting one item on the agenda that I thought was worth pursuing. As many of you know, the Association of American Geographers has taken the lead in setting up a hurricane relief fund for geographers and geography departments impacted by Hurricane Katrina. In light of our successes as an organization, I thought it appropriate that we consider donating to this fund. I suggested what I thought was a generous and fair amount – the board countered by doubling it!

As always, I'm proud to be involved with the California Geographical Society. Give me a call (916.484.8637) or drop me an email ([aubertj@arc.losrios.edu](mailto:aubertj@arc.losrios.edu)) if you'd like to know how you can jump on the CGS bandwagon.

Geographically yours,  
John Aubert

## CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHERS IN ACTION

### Making a Difference as an Applied Geographer



Lisa Fischer

"What are you going to do with a degree in Geography?" asked my mom. "Well, I'll work for a company or local government or a big agency! Maybe I'll be an environmental consultant, maybe I'll be a soil scientist, or a meteorologist, or a snow hydrologist, or maybe I'll map vegetation from satellite imagery," I cried with excitement!

The list could go on, from real estate agent to geopolitical analyst to photographer for National Geographic, a Geographer is a jack of all trades and the world is wide open! I managed to convince my parents, relatives and friends that once I earned a Bachelor and Master of Arts degree in Geography, I could indeed be marketable. This is a great segue to introduce myself, my name is Lisa Fischer. Professionally, I am a Supervisory Geographer for the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection Staff. I am responsible for managing the Forest Health Monitoring Programs in the Pacific Southwest Region which includes California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. I am also a new Board member to CGS. I am not a lecturer, professor, teacher or anything of the like in academia, just a plain 'ole program manager who has degrees in Geography and gets excited about applying the science and principles of geography to the landscape!!!

I am one of 20 individuals in the Forest Service that is actually classified as a "Geographer". Out of the 20, 10 are women. It is a pretty small number considering there are hundreds if not thousands of Forest Service employees classified as "Biologist" or "Forester!" However, I have met many people with their degree in geography that represent many specialty areas in the Forest Service including forestry, range, wildlife, and geographic information systems. Life after school as a geographer and even more specifically as an applied geographer is possible.

What I like most about the work I do is being able to connect technology and tools, such as geographic information systems, to inform decision makers about complex ecosystems and provide them alternatives to the issues surrounding them. I enjoy providing products that portray spatial patterns on a landscape, which aid resource managers in answering questions such as identifying where wildlife habitats are located or identifying where a new trail system should be placed. I see this as taking the science of geography and applying it to real world issues!

Map products, geo-statistical analysis, identifying spatial patterns, evaluating patches across a landscape, human interactions with nature, perceptions of ecosystem health ...all of these are topics that touch on areas of geography. Integrating these many topics together form the basis for using geography in an applied way – to answer questions about the characteristics of the earth!

Lisa Fischer

## MADERA STUDENTS USE GEOGRAPHY TO LEAD HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT

Madera, California is proud of Sierra Vista's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Green Track Students. They were studying hurricanes under the supervision of their teacher, Nancy Mattrocce, and were monitoring Hurricane Katrina as it headed for the Gulf Coast. Through the use of various geography-related Internet websites, including the National Hurricane Center's Atlantic Basin Hurricane Tracking Chart, they were able to make predictions about the path of Hurricane Katrina.

The students also used a graphic organizer pamphlet and gathered information about potential damage due to a category 4 or 5 hurricane hitting the Gulf Coast, with a storm surge of 18 feet and with possible rainfall of 10 inches. Of course, they were shocked when their predictions came true, but they were prepared to leap into action and decided to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims.



*Lucia Hernandez (left), President of the Red Cross Bandits and Rebecca Leanos, Project Coordinator, speaking about Hurricane Katrina.*

This class learned that if they are prepared, they could help. With help from the Red Cross, they organized themselves into a charity group called the "Red Cross Bandits." They made posters, and used their geographic skills to provide hurricane information to fellow students, teachers, administrators, and local community members. They collected money in socks donated by the Red Cross, raising over \$1800 in a two-week period.

The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina not only brought these students together for a worthy cause, but also helped them to develop important spatial skills for understanding our complex and dynamic world. These students displayed true leadership in organizing the first Hurricane Relief Fund for their school and should be very proud of their efforts to help others in need.

## STUDENT RECRUITING OPPORTUNITIES

Each year students from around the state attend and participate in the CGS conference. These students include community college students preparing to transfer, seniors interested in pursuing master's programs and graduate students considering doctorate degrees. For the first time, CGS is sponsoring a booth for colleges and universities to display their program information. This is a great opportunity to reach out to potential geography students at all levels of study.

Here's what you need to do in order to participate.

1. RSVP to Irene Naesse via email at [inaesse@occ.cccd.edu](mailto:inaesse@occ.cccd.edu)  
Space may be limited depending on response
2. Bring your program brochures and materials to the conference

OR

Send them to:

Irene Naesse  
Social & Behavioral Sciences  
Orange Coast College  
2701 Fairview Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

Must be received by  
April 15, 2006

Optional:

3. Schedule a time for a campus representative to meet with prospective students at the booth or during one of the social events. If you wish to be included on a master schedule on display at the booth, please send the following information to Irene Naesse by April 15.
  - Representative:
  - Meeting Location:
  - Time:

Thank you for supporting geographic education. We look forward to seeing you in Redding.

## MINUTES: CGS BOARD MEETING

CSU Fresno, October 1, 2005.

Prepared by Robin Lyons, Secretary

Minimally edited by John Aubert, President

**Present:** John Aubert (President), Jennifer Helzer (Vice-President), Robin Lyons (Secretary), Bill Holder (Treasurer), Debra Sharkey (Past President), Julie Cidell, Matt Ebner, Richard Eigenheer, Lisa Fisher, Steven Graves, Virginia Humphries (Student Representative), Mike Murphy, Emily Lieb Townsend, Bruce Townsend, Lin Wu, and Dan Scollon (Guest).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:00am PDT, (17:00 UTC), by President John Aubert. Minutes from the April 23, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

**CGS Organization Status:** President John Aubert announced that the Amended Articles of Incorporation had been filed in Sacramento. He also noted that the assigned duties for CGS board members had been reviewed and confirmed. However, there was a vacancy for the mapping competition chair. Jennifer Helzer volunteered to take this assignment in lieu of duties as coordinator of publicity for the annual meeting.

The annual calendar was reviewed and discussed by the board. It was agreed that the board's annual meeting would continue to be the first Saturday in October, and unless special circumstances suggested otherwise, the Annual Meeting would be held on the last full weekend of April.

President John Aubert requested board input on a possible CGS related activity: an invitation for our organization to contribute to a revision and publication of an updated Historical Atlas of California, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Discussion included possible mutual benefits for both parties, such as the CGS offering free advertising in publications or allotting free vendor space to the U. of O. Press in return for the atlas featuring information about the CGS, its logo, or CGS member discounts in purchasing the atlas.

**2006 Conference Site:** Dan Scollon, 2006 annual meeting coordinator, presented an outline of possible field trips, costs, and other activities related to the April 28-30, 2006 Annual Meeting to be hosted by Shasta College in Redding California.

A map exhibit focusing on Redding and Northern California would be on display as part of the annual meeting. The site for the map exhibit would be the Shasta College Museum near the Physical Science Building where papers and posters would be presented on Saturday.

**Friday's Field Trip Possibilities:** Planning in the City of Redding, Fire and Fuel Management, (with an eye to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area), Water and Watersheds Management, (including Shasta Dam), and Biking the Sacramento River Trail. On Sunday, field trips could include: Land Conservation in Shasta County, Natural History of Lassen National Park and the Hat Creek Rim, and a Cultural History of Shasta County. Logistics for the field trips were presented and discussed by the board. Shasta College has vans and minibuses available at reasonable costs. Richard Eigenheer moved that CGS disallow use of 15 passenger vans unless drivers hold current B class drivers licenses. Bruce Townsend seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Board members suggested that at least one field trip on Friday be a full-day field trip and other half day field trips be repeated on Sunday. Other field trip possibilities were discussed, and it was suggested to Dan Scollon that he find field trip leaders to take his place since he will be needed to supervise other ongoing meeting activities. Additional family and children's activities were encouraged by several board members. The necessity of having a written family guideline in the meeting announcement was emphasized. The board and coordinator discussed facility arrangements for the Friday barbeque, the Saturday meeting presentations and the Saturday banquet. It was agreed that the barbeque be held at Paul Bunyan Camp in Turtle Bay Exposition Park with arrangements secured in case of rain. Dr. Bill Hirt, of the College of the Siskiyous was suggested as the speaker for the opening address. It was also agreed that the banquet be held at Shasta College. Preliminary cost estimates were also presented to the board. Board officers and members were invited to meet at Shasta College in January at a date and time to be announced to monitor ongoing arrangements and preparations.

**Treasurer's Report:** CGS Treasurer, Bill Holder, presented the treasurer's report, confirming that the CGS remains in a favorable financial state. Current certificate of deposits will need to be renewed in a few months. The treasurer's suggestion that we deposit the funds in a larger, state-wide bank was approved by the board. The executive budget committee had previously proposed an annual budget which was presented to the board. After discussion, clarifications were made about the vendor portion of the budget. A few minor items in the line item section were reviewed and transferred to other categories. Emily Lieb Townsend moved to delete these line items. The motion was seconded by Dick Eigenheer, and then passed unanimously. Emily also moved to amend the last motion, pending approval from Irene Naesse, the vendor coordinator, to set aside a small amount to handle vendors' costs. (Note: Subsequent approval from Irene has been forthcoming.)

**Membership Report:** Debra Sharkey reported that membership numbers have varied from year to year, but currently there are 385 members, reflecting an increase in student members. Annual memberships are paid through 4/5/06 and will expire prior to the next annual meeting in Redding.

**Vendor Report:** John Aubert, on behalf of Irene Naesse, reported that the vendor fee for the Yosemite meeting had been raised to \$150.00. Lisa Fisher moved that the vendor fee remain at \$150.00. The motion was seconded by Mike Murphy and approved. Mike Murphy also moved that at the vendor coordinator's discretion, CGS limit the non-profit 50% discount to a space available basis. This motion was seconded by Dick Eigenheer and approved unanimously.

**CG Editor's Report:** John Aubert reported for Dolly Friedel, the CG editor, that a change in the printer the CGS contracts for the CG is under consideration, depending upon further investigation of cost and printing quality. Regarding storage of past CG publications, Steven Graves reported that CSU Northridge has an excellent storage facility that could be used by CGS.

**Bulletin Editor's Report:** Mike Wangler, the bulletin editor submitted a report to President John Aubert about bulletin related issues. He requested that submissions of reports, photographs, class room experiences, etc. should be sent to him for possible inclusion in the bulletin. Debra Sharkey reported that arrangements have been approved for the bulletin to be printed at CSU Stanislaus. It was also suggested that a list of rules for the student competition papers and posters at the annual meetings be included in the next bulletin. Virginia Humphries suggested that job opportunities or other career related information be included in the bulletin as an aid to students and faculty members. Bill Holder suggested a future bulletin article relating family participation or activities to the CGS, geographic education and annual meeting participation.

**Website Report:** Steven Graves was introduced as the new CGS webmaster. Maintenance and upgrading of the website will be transferred from CSU San Bernardino to CSU Northridge. The website is currently being redesigned, reorganized and abridged so the display is more compact and concentrated. New information to be included in the web site should be sent to Steven at CSU Northridge and a copy also forwarded to President John Aubert. President Aubert discussed the need for archiving older materials as well as photos of CGS activities and annual meeting field trips. Debra Sharkey suggested that the older material, including meeting minutes, be put on CD to save it electronically. It was noted that \$600.00 has already been allocated for website related costs. The board supported the principle of archiving older material and President John Aubert volunteered to take an inventory of the existing material and estimate the amount of labor needed for this project.

**Nominations for Open Seats:** Dick Eigenheer reminded board members to send him via email nominations for open seats on the board. Positions for board secretary and treasurer expire in April, 2006. Board members terms are for three years; executive board positions are for two years, with the secretary and treasurer positions renewable. There is an immediate opening for a student representative from southern California. (More recent email discussion of open seats has clarified the board's decision to open four positions in each of the next three years because of Mark Kumler's recent resignation from the board. This was approved via email vote in late October).

**Future Meetings:** There is a tentative offer from Michael Wangler to host a meeting at Borrego Springs in 2007 or later. In connection with this particular site, the board discussed considering an earlier date for the annual meeting to better fit the southern desert weather and temperatures. Conflicts with the annual meetings of the AAG in San Francisco in 2007 were considered as well as conflicts with spring break dates at various colleges. The board agreed that there should be some flexibility in the final decision for annual meeting dates. (Note: Barring unforeseen conflicts, the board has tentatively approved – via email - March 16-18, 2007 as the meeting date.)

**Other Discussion Items:** Vice President Jennifer Helzer suggested selling customized T-shirts at the annual meetings with specific dates and locations noted on the shirts. President John Aubert suggested the CGS send a donation to relieve hurricane damage affecting Geography Departments in the southern states. Dick Eigenheer moved that the CGS donate \$400.00 to the AAG hurricane relief fund. This motion was seconded by Julie Cidell and unanimously approved by the board. These funds would come from \$100.00 allocated for hat production and \$300.00 from a tax preparation fund, both of which are presently unnecessary. President John Aubert introduced for discussion the possibility of having a Thursday evening board meeting instead of the usual Saturday board meeting as part of the CGS annual meeting. The board considered other possibilities without reaching an acceptable conclusion. The next October board meeting might not be held at CSU Fresno, as usual, but a future announcement would be made concerning the exact location. Finally, there was discussion about gifts or payments for services and whether such expenditures should come from the President's discretionary spending funds. Matt Ebner moved, seconded by Emily Lieb Townsend, that \$300.00 be allocated for a discretionary spending fund. The board voted unanimously to accept this motion. (Note: It was later determined that a line item for "Other expenses" already exists. Via email it was moved and approved that, instead of creating an additional line item, "Other expenses" would be increased from \$100 to \$300 to cover such minor expenses.)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm PDT (22:00 UTC).



**You are cordially invited to the**  
**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**CONFERENCE OF THE CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**  
**at Shasta College in Redding, California**  
**April 28-30, 2006**



CGS returns to far Northern California for its 2006 Annual Conference. Mt. Shasta will serve as a picturesque backdrop for 3 days of field trips, presentations, workshops, and geographic camaraderie.

**Field Trip Highlights Include:**

- A pre-barbeque bicycle trip across the architecturally unique Sundial Bridge, and along the Sacramento River
- A tour of downtown Redding, highlighting the city's revitalization efforts
- A conservation tour of historic Fernwood Ranch, hosted by the Shasta Land Trust
- A Gold Rush and historical mining field trip focusing on the rich mining legacy of the Klamath Mountains

In addition, there will be field trips on water, timber, and other natural resources; fire history and fuels management; and the geology and natural hazards of the southern Cascade Mountains.

For more information and/or to offer your assistance, please contact meeting coordinator:

*Dan Scollon*  
*Geography / GIS / Natural Resources*  
*Shasta College*  
*(530) 225-3917*  
**dscollon@ShastaCollege.edu**