AAG Senior Associates
Program Update

The AAG Senior Associates Program, which was launched one year ago (see D. Richardson, “AAG Initiates Program for Senior Geographers,” AAG Newsletter, September 2004), is designed to make greater use of the talent and resources of our membership, in particular of the large cohort of academic and professional geographers who are now approaching retirement age. The program offers volunteers meaningful engagement in AAG projects and programs as either AAG Senior Associates or AAG Senior Fellows. AAG Senior Associates contribute time and effort directed toward specific, focused, short-term tasks that benefit from the support of their particular expertise and AAG Senior Fellows volunteer their experience and skills toward longer-term or sustained activities, many that may be related to externally-funded projects or major on-going initiatives of the association.

For seven senior geographers, life after retirement has presented new opportunities to contribute to the discipline. Through the innovative Senior Associates Program established last year by the AAG, these geographers have been engaged in stimulating work that recognizes their talents and experience and that directly supports the work of the association and the discipline.

AAG Senior Fellows

As a Senior Fellow, former AAG President Janice Monk helps coordinate the AAG Senior Associates Program. In conjunction with AAG staff liaison Patricia Solís and Doug Richardson, she provides core leadership and networking to recruit Senior Associates, identify appropriate projects and tasks, and seek sources of funding to support activities, honoraria, and travel expenses. She maintains close contact with the volunteers and guides the development and expansion of the initiative. She is also collaborating in the AAGs NSF-funded Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education (EDGE) project which aims to strengthen graduate programs in geography.

David Hill, Emeritus Professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, is working closely with AAG on the Teacher’s Guide to Modern Geography project, part of a three year grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Through this project, he is a contributing author to chapters in the CD units and the Teacher’s Guide, serves as a reviewer of materials, and helps to connect the project to broader efforts promoting geography education at the district, state, and national levels.

Norm Stewart is undertaking a special project to review and curate archival records and materials of the association held in the AGS/AAG Collection at the Golda Meir Library at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is also connecting...
Lincoln Avenue between Bryn Mawr and Peterson, while large concentration of Koreans and Japanese are now centered on Chicago’s northwest suburbs.

Also in the North Side, roughly between Western and California Avenues, stretches the most prominent symbol of South Asian immigration in North America: Devon Avenue’s bustling Indian-Pakistani marketplace. Home to dozens of restaurants and scores of stores, Devon caters to North America’s Indo-Pak diaspora. Just a mile to the south is a Middle-Eastern enclave centered on Lawrence and Kedzie Avenues. This is matched by another, larger enclave in the southwest part of the city that spills over into the suburbs.

Chicago’s Geographies also contains an article on Latino communities that describes how the immigration of hundreds of thousands of Latinos, primarily Mexicans and Puerto Ricans, nearly overshadows the settlement of all other ethnic groups in Chicago. Today, Chicago boasts the third largest Latino population of American cities with 753,644, as more than forty percent of the city’s census tracts gained significant numbers of Latino immigrants. The suburbs, some of which have now become immigrant entrepôts, have seen an even more dramatic change, as over thirty-nine percent of the metropolitan area’s Latinos now live there in tight clusters. Of the over 650,000 suburban Latinos, more than half live in just seventeen of Chicago’s 264 suburbs! AAG field trips are being organized to Puerto Rican Humboldt Park and Mexican Pilsen/Little Village.

Finally, as you prepare for your trip to Chicago for AAG’s 2006 Annual Meeting, get an excellent overview of the city by securing a copy of the book Chicago’s Geographies: A 21st Century Metropolis from the AAG (www.neiu.edu/~cgproj) edited by Richard Greene, Mark Bouman, and myself. We look forward to seeing you in March.

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The Senior Associates Program was developed with the advice of an AAG advisory committee consisting of Richard Morrill, former AAG President and current President of the Retired Geographers Affinity Group, former AAG President John Adams of the University of Minnesota, James McConnell, University at Buffalo, SUNY; Lydia Pulsipher, University of Tennessee; Sandra Shaw, formerly of the U.S. Department of State; Jan Monk of the Southwest Institute for Research on Women at the University of Arizona; and AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson.

Volunteers are welcome to serve as Senior Associates. Many opportunities exist for new projects that might include such activities as interacting with local congressional representatives to increase support for educational and other policy issues related to geography; developing “talent banks” for media and other outreach; building capacity for international collaborative work; mentoring for early and mid-career geographers; assisting in the development of proposals to foundations and federal agencies; helping with special fundraising activities; and building bridges to geographers working in small or interdisciplinary programs or at community colleges.

If you would like more information on the program, have suggestions to share, or have an interest in participating in the program, please contact Jan Monk, Patricia Solís, or Doug Richardson.

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