Little Known Tampa: Culturally Diverse and Exciting!

By Elizabeth Strom

When you come to Tampa, you’ll find examples of good planning, fabulous natural areas, and appealing urban spaces. Here are some things to keep in mind:
Florida and the Tampa Bay area are—or at least were—national leaders in growth management

Beginning in the late 1970s and culminating in the Growth Management Act of 1985, the state of Florida had one of the nation’s most fully articulated statewide planning regimes. Perhaps because Floridians had experienced firsthand the problems of rapid growth without much planning, the state legislature created measures to ensure that each county and municipality engaged in long term planning, that large regional projects were reviewed by regional planning agencies, and that state officials would be charged with upholding plans. Transportation, water resources, and coastal concerns were all taken into account when new developments were proposed. Growth management hardly stopped development – Florida’s population grew from 9.7 million in 1980 to just over 19 million in 2012, with new single family housing accommodating much of that growth. But under the state’s growth management laws, some of the sins of the 1960s and 1970s – houses constructed without attendant municipal services in place, unrestrained draining of wetlands, and inattention to water resource limits – were contained. Unfortunately, important parts of these Growth Management laws were overturned in 2011. The full impact of this retreat has not yet been felt; thanks to the recession, demand for new construction has been limited. But once demand picks up, the flight from comprehensive planning is likely to be felt, especially in the less urban parts of the state.

### Tampa Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White or Caucasian (including White Hispanic)</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Non-Hispanic White or Caucasian)</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African-American</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American or Native Alaskan</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races (Multiracial)</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Source: US Census Bureau*

### Tampa has an industrial history

Incorporated in 1849, Tampa, unlike many Sunbelt cities, emerged as an industrial center. Between 1865 and World War II, Tampa was a key center of the cigar industry. The cities (and now neighborhoods within Tampa) of Ybor City and West Tampa both developed around cigar manufacturing, drawing streams of immigrants to work in the factories. Tampa has a tradition of union activism having experienced several general strikes in the early decades of the last century. Its racially and ethnically diverse population has a tradition of immigrant social clubs and mutual benefit societies that provided cultural and material resources to working class residents. The built legacy of these traditions can be found throughout these communities. The Cuban Club, the German-American Club and the Italian Club are a few of the early 20th century establishments whose buildings have been preserved. And the former cigar factories remain distinctive features of the central Tampa built environment. While some of these sit vacant, others have been repurposed for other industrial uses or converted to condos and offices. Those interested in exploring Tampa history can do so in Ybor City, either
by taking advantage of the programs of the Ybor City Museum (www.ybormuseum.org), or by strolling through the neighborhood.

Tampa has rediscovered its downtown waterfront

Among the most striking characteristics of our area are its water features. Parts of Tampa and all of Pinellas County (location of St. Petersburg) are defined by their rivers, bays and oceans. But until recently, Tampa was largely cut off from its waterfront. In an earlier era, river and bayfront areas were dominated by industrial, port and transportation infrastructure, but as those uses have receded (the Port of Tampa remains quite active, but other waterfront industries are gone), Tampa was slow to recognize the value of its waterfront for recreation and the development of other amenities. One of the major commercial developments in the downtown area, the Channelside shopping/entertainment center, is located directly on the water, next to the Tampa port facilities, and it has been ingeniously designed so that those visiting the development have no contact with the water at all – no access, no vistas. Perhaps that helps explain why the development has gone bankrupt.

But more recent downtown planning has embraced the waterfront location. A “Riverwalk” has been under development now across two mayoral administrations; a recent federal grant will accelerate its completion (www.thetampariverwalk.com). Those of you visiting downtown Tampa will have the opportunity to enjoy the water at some new locations. The Tampa Bay History Center opens onto a waterfront plaza (http://www.tampabayhistorycenter.org/). The newly renovated Curtis Hixon Park, at the other end of the downtown peninsula, is a well-designed, inviting urban space flanked by the newly built Tampa Museum of Art (http://tampamuseum.org/). With food kiosks, fountains and children’s play areas, it’s the sort of urban gathering point that this city has lacked for too long. These new spaces signal the
success of fledgling coalitions of elected officials, civic activists and business leaders who share an appreciation for appealing design and pedestrian-friendly urban environments.

**Ride the TECO trolley**

Like too many Sunbelt cities, Tampa once had a dense network of light rail lines, most of which were bought up by bus companies and dismantled by the late 1940s. But a trolley line was resurrected recently; it runs a loop connecting the downtown/Channelside area with Ybor City (http://www.tecolinestreetcar.org/). The embattled trolley line has struggled to maintain ridership; critics claim its empty cars are proof that this region will never embrace mass transit while defenders note that its limited route makes it useful mostly to visitors or the rare resident whose home and work happen to be near one of its stops. But those of you staying at one of the conference hotels are well positioned to use the trolley for your explorations.

There’s much in this area that transcends the generic – the newly opened bike and pedestrian bridge that traverses Tampa Bay along the Courtney Campbell Causeway; one of baseball’s best teams (the Tampa Bay Rays) playing in one of baseball’s worst stadiums (Tropicana Field); the annual invasion of the city by sea led by business and civic leaders dressed as pirates (the Gasparilla Festival) and the annual crowning of a “Strawberry Queen” in nearby Plant City. If you want to learn more about what the region offers, you can read all about it the highly regarded Tampa Bay Times (www.tampabay.com), one of the last independently owned metro area newspapers. We urge you to explore the area and learn that it has a diverse array of historic places, quirky areas, and scenic spots.

— Elizabeth Strom, University of South Florida; Photos courtesy of Barbara Lamphere
Climate Variability and Change: 
Embracing Complexity and Uncertainty

By Julie Winkler

Last spring, at a listening session I attended on climate variability and change in northwestern Michigan, a local fruit grower summarized his concerns with the analogy that his industry is the “canary in the coal mine” for the potential impacts of climate variability and change on agriculture. This statement was motivated by the sensitivity of fruit production to climate extremes, particularly changes in the frequency of devastating spring freezes, and the limited short-term adaptation options given the relatively long-term investment of orchard blocks.

Geographers have increasingly become involved in assessments of the vulnerability to, and potential impacts of, climate variability and change. These challenging interdisciplinary endeavors are providing many geographers with exciting opportunities to work collectively with scientists from a range of disciplines, interact directly with stakeholder groups, and engage in research that is not only stimulating but also has considerable applied significance. I am concerned, however, with what I see as a continuing tendency in assessment studies to downplay the complexity and uncertainty of the potential impacts of climate variability and change.

Several years ago, in an editorial in Environmental Science & Technology, Baruch Fischhoff, a well-known decision scientist, argued that scientists, although traditionally trained to consider uncertainty, multiple approaches and a range of data sources, often turn to an advocacy-based communication when they are highly concerned about the potential consequences of either action or inaction and/or when they believe that the “science will not receive a fair hearing.” In advocacy-based communication, a case is made for a specific viewpoint and uncertainty is introduced only through arguments with contrasting viewpoints. Although advocacy-based communication has its place, a potential consequence is the loss of confidence in, and appreciation for, science by the general public. As an alternative, Fischhoff argued for what he refers to as nonpersuasive communication, an approach that explicitly considers uncertainty and “allows science to speak for itself.” From Fischhoff’s perspective, communication of climate variability and change involves climate scientists, or more generally domain scientists, who develop the information to eventually be communicated and confirm that it is scientifically sound, decision scientists who help identify the information relevant to a particular decision, and social scientists who work to overcome communication barriers.

Personally, I have long been uncomfortable with communication regarding climate variability change that fails to convey the associated complexity and uncertainty, particularly the many limitations of climate observations and projections, with which I am all too familiar as a geographer/climate scientist. Thus, Fischhoff’s argument for nonpersuasive communication of climate variability and change resonates strongly with me, although I would expand Fischhoff’s model to include a broader range of experts as domain scientists and would blur the distinctions between the domain, decision, and social science experts, emphasizing instead the communication among experts and between experts and stakeholders.
Climate scientists are not the exclusive domain experts in the communication of the potential impacts of climate variability and change. In fact, few stakeholders can directly incorporate future projections of climate variables in their decision-making. Rather, stakeholders require information on changes in climate-influenced parameters of relevance to their activity or industry. Expertise from a range of disciplines is needed, including social science (e.g., human geography, economics, demography) whose involvement extends well beyond overcoming communication barriers to the development and evaluation of information required for decision-making. For example, while growers of commodity crops (e.g., maize, soybeans, and wheat) are cognizant that changes in temperature and precipitation during the growing season will affect their operations, projected changes in yield and farm income are much more relevant parameters for their decision-making.

Furthermore, inferring potential yield or income from simplified climate scenarios (e.g., change in growing-season mean temperature and precipitation) is suspect given the complex relationships between weather/climate and yield, and between yield and income. Consequently, climate scientists, agronomists, economists and others need to collaboratively explore, in a scientifically sound manner, the ways that a perturbed climate may influence yield and, subsequently, profitability and livelihood.

The concept of the “usability” of assessment outcomes also needs to be broadened. Although a number of previous authors have implored climate scientists to consider the “usability” of their observations and projections, even chiding them for the too often opaqueness of the metadata (when provided) of climate information, the usability of the outcomes of the different impact models employed in an assessment, such as yield models, is less often considered. In addition, one can argue that stakeholders should be part of, rather than separate from, the assessment team, working with decision scientists to identify the information relevant to the decisions that they will be making, and with domain scientists to facilitate the co-creation of that information.

As someone involved in the development and use of climate projections for local/regional assessments, I am often asked by scientists from other fields for advice on the availability and suitability of climate information for a particular assessment. Lately, I have been somewhat disheartened by the number of requests I receive for “simple” climate scenarios (often little more than a projected change in mean temperature and precipitation). To be sure, simple scenarios, even “what if” scenarios, are extremely useful, particularly for vulnerability assessments, and they complement more detailed projections which, in conjunction with suitable impact models, can illuminate potential “surprises” that fall outside stakeholder experience. I am more concerned that a reliance on simplistic projections, especially when paired with relatively unsophisticated impact models, will fail to fully illuminate the complexity and uncertainty associated with climate variability and change, and fail to provide the information needed for robust decision-making, in contrast to when a plurality of approaches — both simple and complex — are employed. I have also been rather dismayed by the disconnect between the very fine spatial resolution at which climate information frequently is requested versus the information content of the scenarios which often varies much more broadly in space.

Another concern is the lack of consideration of the assumptions of the impact models that will be employed in an assessment in the context of the nature and limitations of
climate information, or of the contribution of the impact models themselves to the uncertainty of the assessment outcomes. That said, several recent publications represent initial steps in addressing these concerns. In particular, a recent analysis conducted at the University of California-Berkeley illustrated that the high degree of spatial autocorrelation in gridded climate observations can violate the independent assumption of empirical economic models that are often used in assessment studies and recommended that station observations may be the more appropriate choice of climate information for the development and application of these models. Also, members of the AgMIP (Agricultural Modeling Intercomparison and Improvement Project) team recently demonstrated that uncertainty introduced in future projections of wheat yield by the choice of yield model was as large or larger than the uncertainty introduced by an ensemble of climate projections. Both these studies point to the need for careful attention to the assumptions of impact models and to the necessity of evaluating the uncertainty surrounding all components of an assessment, rather than just the uncertainty of the climate information.

Geographers are in a unique position to develop enhanced approaches for climate assessments that improve the usability of assessment outcomes and to advocate for nonpersuasive communication in decision-making that embraces complexity and uncertainty. Geography is an “interdisciplinary discipline.” We regularly and effectively work across the many subfields of Geography and across disciplinary boundaries. We are also sensitive to disciplinary differences in research culture, methods and approaches, and, therefore, can help facilitate a more seamless integration across assessment components. Geographers are already actively involved in assessment efforts, but there is much more that we can do to advance new assessment approaches. The fruit grower in northwest Michigan, and the many others facing complex choices in an uncertain future, could use our help. Let’s step up to the task.

—Julie Winkler


Columns by AAG Presidents

All recent columns by AAG Presidents can be found on the AAG website at http://www.aag.org/news/president.

If you would like to respond to recent columns by AAG Presidents Julie Winkler or Eric Sheppard, you may do so on the blog that follows each of their columns on the website. Your thoughts matter, so please join in the discussion at the end of each column.
Important 2014 Election Information

The AAG election will be conducted online again, and will take place Jan. 31-Feb. 28, 2014. Each member who has an email address on record with the AAG will receive a special email with a code that will allow them to sign in to our AAG SimplyVoting website and vote.

It’s important to update your email address to make sure you will be able to vote. If you know your email address is up to date, there’s no need to do anything further.

But, if you want to verify or change your AAG member email address and any other information, you may do so by signing in to your AAG member account.

The 2014 election slate will be published soon, but for more general information, visit the main election page.

If you prefer voting by paper ballot, please contact Membership Director Michelle Ledoux at mledoux@aag.org or at 202-234-1450, x133.

‘The AAG Review of Books’ Issue 3 is Now Available

The AAG is pleased to announce Issue 3 of The AAG Review of Books, featuring scholarly book reviews as formerly published in the Annals of the AAG and The Professional Geographer, along with reviews of significant current books related more broadly to geography, public policy and international affairs.

This journal is available exclusively online.

To access the full AAG Review of Books, log in using your AAG member ID. Select The AAG Review of Books in the center of the page. Once you’re on the Taylor & Francis site, select “Volume 1 2013" in the List of Issues box and you’ll see Issues 1, 2 and 3.

Two example articles are below:

AAG Members have full access to all content, and the following reviews from Issue 3 of The AAG Review of Books are being featured free of charge to non-members also:

- **The Lost Art of Finding Our Way** by John Edward Huth. Reviewed by Harm de Blij.
- **Deadly Season** by Kevin M. Simmons and Daniel Sutter. Reviewed by Thomas W. Schmidlin.

You may also view the table of contents online for the full list of reviews.

If you would like to receive alerts as new issues become available, sign up at Taylor and Francis Online.
AAG Releases November List of New Books Received

The AAG Review of Books office has released the list of the books received during the month of November. Following are the references, along with links to more detailed information:

• *Food and War in Mid-Twentieth-Century East Asia* by Cwiertka, Katarzyna J., ed (Ashgate 2013, [http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409446750](http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409446750)).


• *Geographic Health Data* by Francis P. Boscoe (CABI 2013, [http://bookshop.cabi.org/?page=2633&pid=2621&site=191](http://bookshop.cabi.org/?page=2633&pid=2621&site=191)).

• *Geopolitics of Foreign Aid* Volumes 1 & 2 by Milner, Helen V. and Dustin Tingley (Edward Elgar 2013, [http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry_main.lasso?id=15064](http://www.e-elgar.com/bookentry_main.lasso?id=15064)).


• *Meeting Place: The Human Encounter and the Challenge of Coexistence* by Carter, Paul (University of Minnesota Press 2013, [http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/meeting-place](http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/meeting-place)).


• *Reading Magnum: A Visual Archive of the Modern World* by Hoelscher, Steven, ed (University of Texas Press 2013, [http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/hoerea](http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/hoerea)).


• *Subterranean Struggles: New Dynamics of Mining, Oil, and Gas in Latin America* by Bebbington, Anthony, and Jeffrey Bury, eds (University of Texas Press 2013, [http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/beesub](http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/beesub)).


‘The Annals’ Calls for Abstracts for Special Issue on Geographies of Mobility

The *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* and Editor Mei-Po Kwan invite abstracts of papers to be considered for a special issue on the Geographies of Mobility, which will be published in 2016. This will be the eighth of a series of annual special issues that highlight geographical research around a significant global theme.

Significant theoretical and methodological contributions are sought from a broad spectrum of scholars who address social, cultural, political, environmental, economic, theoretical, and methodological issues related to human mobility. These include geographic research in areas such as: (im)mobility and social differentiation and inequality; (im)mobility of the oppressed, subjugated and persecuted; (im)mobility and social exclusion; experience of (im)mobility; politics of (im)mobility; commuting; leisure travel; tourism; mobility by different transport modes; sustainable mobility; mobility and resilience; disasters, natural hazards, and mobility; mobility, wellbeing and health; mobility, energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; space-time modeling and GIS-based analysis of mobility; mobility research methods; and other relevant areas.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by March 1, 2014, to Journals Managing Editor Miranda Lecea at mlecea@aag.org. Final papers will be due on September 1, 2015, for publication in 2016. Papers will have a target maximum length of 5,000 words, with a smaller limit if a large number of tables and/or figures are included. All submitted papers will be subject to full peer review.

High School Students Eligible for Youth TechCamps on Geotechnologies for Climate Change and Environment

The Global Connections and Exchange Youth TechCamps: My Community, Our Earth Program (GCE MyCOE) is looking for current high school students in the United States, Bolivia, Panama and South Africa. High school students from each of these countries will be selected to form teams and will collaborate online and in person at one of three rounds of training events to be held in Bolivia, Panama and South Africa. The overarching theme for this program will be Geotechnologies for Climate Change and Environment. Students that are selected will be given academic preparation, orientation, mentoring, training in use of geotechnologies such as online mapping, community GIS, mobile GPS, and crowd-mapping and will participate in cultural exchange activities. Youth work will be featured in an online project fair and showcased at national venues. Travel and lodging is also provided by the program.
All applicants must be both citizens of and residing and studying in the country from where they are applying. For example, U.S. applicants must be United States citizens who both live and are currently studying in the United States. Bolivian applicants must be Bolivian citizens who both live and are currently studying in Bolivia, etc.

Applicants must be over the age of 15 by June 1, 2014, and no older than 18 years old by September 1, 2014. You should be attending at least one semester of high school after the exchange program.

**Deadlines:**
- U.S. students: **January 10, 2014**
- International students: **February 1, 2014**

The official language of this program is English.

To read more about this program, including more detailed information about eligibility or about the countries we are working with, and more, visit [www.aag.org/techcamps](http://www.aag.org/techcamps). You can also find a link to the application form there. Please direct any questions to mycoe@aag.org.

This program is managed by the Association of American Geographers, which serves as Secretariat for the My Community, Our Earth Partnership and receives funding and support from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Youth Programs Division through the Global Connections and Exchange Program.

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**AAG Names Warren Washington its 2014 Honorary Geographer**

The Association of American Geographers has chosen Warren M. Washington to receive the 2014 AAG Honorary Geographer Award for his contributions as a pioneer in the development of coupled climate models and recognizes him as a leading scientist in the area of climate variability and change.

Coupled climate models are now a foundation of climate science, and geographers have been among the many scientists who have extensively employed these models to better understand the complex climate system. The AAG also acknowledges Washington’s leadership role as an advocate for science in general, particularly his service as chair of the National Science Board. Furthermore, this award acknowledges his many contributions as a role model and mentor for young scientists, including members of the geographic community, and his commitment to advancing diversity.

Washington is a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), where he also serves as Chief Scientist of the DOE/UCAR Cooperative Agreement in the Climate Change Research Section in the center’s Climate and Global Dynamics Division. Born in Portland, Ore., Washington developed an interest in science at an early age. His interest led him to pursue a bachelor’s degree in physics and a master’s in meteorology from Oregon State University. He then went on to earn a
doctorate in meteorology from Pennsylvania State University. According to his NCAR biography, Washington joined the center in 1963 as a research scientist.

Inaugurated in 1997, the AAG bestows its Honorary Geographer Award each year on an individual to recognize excellence in the arts, research, teaching, and writing on geographic topics by non-geographers. Previous awardees have included economist Jeffrey Sachs, biologist Stephen J. Gould, science historian Charles Mann, author Barbara Kingsolver, Nobel Laureate in economics Paul Krugman, authors Calvin Trillin and Barry Lopez, sociologist Saskia Sassen, and architect Maya Lin.

The 2014 AAG Honorary Geographer Award will be presented to Warren M. Washington at the upcoming AAG Annual Meeting in Tampa, Fla., during a special awards luncheon on Saturday, April 12, 2014.

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**AAG Field Trips 2014**

Explore the rich physical and cultural geography of Tampa, Florida, through informative field trips led by geographers or other experts. It’s also an excellent way to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues and friends. Log in at aag.org to add a field trip to your registration.

**MONDAY, APRIL 7**

0-2. Explore Popular Sarasota: The Ringling, Saint Armands Circle, and Lido Key Beach

*Monday, April 7, 8:30am – 6:00pm; Organizer/Leader: Georgia De Stoppelaire, Florida Atlantic University; Trip Capacity: 50; Cost/person: $35 (includes transportation)*

Start the morning with a trip over the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge to Sarasota for an extraordinary tour of The Ringling. This State Art Museum of Florida features an art museum, historic mansion, circus museum, historic theater, conservation laboratory, and research library, situated on sixty-six acres of spectacular bay front property in Sarasota.

Enjoy lunch at the historic and beautiful Saint Armands Circle Restaurants and Shops, followed by a unique visit of Florida natural beaches. Lunch not included. Be sure to wear walking shoes, and bring a hat, sunscreen and bottled water.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8**

1-1. Canoeing Tampa's Hillsborough River

*Tuesday, April 8, 8:30am – 2:00pm; Organizer/Leader: Christopher F. Meindl, University of South Florida and Terry Tomalin, Tampa Bay Times; Trip Capacity: 14; Cost/person: $100 (includes bus transportation, canoe rental and lunch)*
Despite its diminutive stature of barely 54 river miles, Tampa’s Hillsborough River is essentially three separate streams rolled into one: the wild and scenic mostly spring-fed headwaters portion; the suburban stretch that strains to provide Tampa drinking water; and the mostly privatized, neglected, and concrete banked urban reach. After walking about one half mile along the river to Curtis Hixon Park and commenting on Tampa’s plans for (re)developing its riverfront, we will bus to Seargent Park (discussing the river’s role as Tampa’s primary drinking water source), board canoes at Canoe Escape, and paddle a scenic reach to Morris Bridge Park where we will cookout.

1-2. A Visit with the Hurricane Hunters and a Tour of the NOAA WP-3D Plane
Tuesday, April 8, 10:00am - 1:00pm; Organizer: Jennifer Collins, University South Florida; Leader: Randall Hergert, University South Florida; Trip Capacity: 50; Cost/person: $27 (includes bus transportation); Sponsor: AAG REGISTRATION FOR THIS TRIP CLOSES ON MARCH 1, 2014

On this half-day field trip, participants will have a tour of the Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) at MacDill Airforce Base. The tour will include a presentation by a hurricane hunter and then guests will learn about the equipment on board the NOAA WP-3D plane as they will be able to board the plane and view the equipment and learn about how the meteorologists use it. This plane which goes through the eye of a hurricane constitute a unique resource for airborne hurricane research, and for atmospheric research in general as it is sometimes used for other missions. Afraid of heights? Don't worry we won't be leaving the hanger.

1-3. Florida Aquarium and Wild Dolphin Cruise
Tuesday, April 8, 12:30pm - 5:00pm; Organizer/Leader: Hannah Torres, University of South Florida, School of Geosciences Leader: Kamal Alsharif, University of South Florida, School of Geosciences; Trip Capacity: 50; Cost/person: $26 (includes admission)

From the Tampa Convention Center, participants will walk 15-20 minutes through Tampa's Channelside District to the not-for-profit Florida Aquarium. After exploring fascinating exhibits, participants will board a 72-foot catamaran to get a first-hand look at Tampa Bay, home to more than 500 bottlenose dolphins, endangered manatees and numerous bird species - all in one of the busiest deep-water ports in the Southern US! The 75-minute tour boards at 2:00 and departs promptly at 2:30. Dress comfortably; flat shoes with tread preferred, binoculars optional. Water is allowed, but no outside food.
Lunch is not included; however food can be purchased at the aquarium's restaurant. Affordable lunch options are available ($5-$10).

1-4. Weedon Island Preserve: An Urban Treasure

Tuesday, April 8, 3:30pm - 8:00pm
Organizer/Leader: Christopher F. Meindl, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg; Trip Capacity: 14; Cost/person: $72 (includes bus transportation and canoe rental)

Archaeological evidence suggests that Native Americans inhabited what is now Weedon Island Preserve more than two thousand years ago, and the Preserve continues to host occasional archaeological research. Weedon Island also bears the scars of more recent attempts to increase water flow through this low-lying region in order to reduce the number of breeding mosquitoes. Mangrove swamps used to dominate the low energy coast from Tampa Bay down to the Florida Keys. On this trip you will learn about the region’s Native American past and mangrove swamps with a 30-minute boardwalk hike and 2.5 hour canoe trip. Please note: we will be stopping for dinner, it is recommended to bring $20-25.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

2-1. Cockroach Bay Ecosystem Restoration Field Trip

Wednesday, April 9, 8:00am - 1:00pm; Organizers: Nicole Hutton and Shawn Landry, University of South Florida; Leaders: Brandt Henningsen, Ph.D.; SWIM Program, Southwest Florida Water Management District and Richard Sullivan; Hillsborough County; Trip; Capacity: 25; Cost/person: $36 (includes bus transportation and snack); (Hosted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Hillsborough County)

Enjoy a narrated tour of the 500 acre Cockroach Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project, one of the premier coastal restoration efforts ever performed for Tampa Bay. The tour will highlight the restoration of uplands, freshwater wetlands, various estuarine habitats, and stormwater treatment. Participants will tour the project by “hay wagon” and also canoe several estuarine wetland restoration phases, inclusive of paddling through an adjacent relic mangrove forest and into Little Cockroach Bay. Attendees will see how a restoration site matures over time, as the multi-phased project was performed serially.
from 1996 to 2012, encompassing 282 acres of various estuarine/freshwater habitats and 218 acres of coastal uplands.

2-2 Lettuce Lake Park Hardwood Swamp Forest
Wednesday, April 9, 9:30am - 1:30pm; Organizer/Leader: Kamal Alsharif, University of South Florida, School of Geosciences; Trip Capacity: 50; Cost/person: $42 (includes bus transportation and box lunch)
In this field trip you will be exploring the beautiful hardwood swamp forest next to the Hillsborough River outside the City of Tampa. Lettuce Lake is a place to study nature. Watch alligators and different types of Florida avian species. The park has a beautiful boardwalk that visitors can enjoy and explore nature. It is a place for geographers to learn more about Florida landscape and environment.

2-3. Where Are We Drinking? The Political Ecology of Tampa Craft Brewing
Wednesday, April 9, 2:00pm - 6:00pm; Organizers/Leaders: Colleen Hiner, Texas State University; Toby Applegate, Rutgers University; Jessica Breen, University of Kentucky Trip; Capacity: 33; Cost/person: $50 (includes admission fee for Tampa Bay Brew Bus); Sponsor: AAG, Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group, Rural Geography Specialty Group, Wine Specialty Group
Great beer is impossible without great amounts of water. Tampa's geography affords geographers the opportunity to sample the intersection of its famous Floridian aquifer and its burgeoning craft beer scene. On this field trip, geographers will be able to experience this beer ecology first-hand. Tampa's own Brew Bus will guide us through four separate breweries and tap rooms for tastings and tours. Included will be safe transportation, a knowledgeable local guide, and complimentary pints of the Brew Bus' own brews between stops.

2-5. Frank Lloyd Wright and the architecture of Florida Southern College
Wednesday, April 9, 12:00pm – 4:00pm; Organizer/Leader: Christopher F. Meindl; Trip Capacity: 34; Cost/person: $44; REGISTRATION FOR THIS TRIP CLOSES ON MARCH 26, 2014
Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) is widely regarded as one of the most significant architects in American history. During his long career, Wright designed more than a thousand structures (more than 500 completed). The largest concentration of his work forms the basis of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, where Wright designed nearly a dozen buildings that are still used. We will bus to Florida Southern and take a campus-led tour of Wight’s work at the college.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
3-1. Bird Walk at Lettuce Lake County Park
Thursday, April 10, 7:30am - 10:30am; Organizer: Cathy Cooper, Independent Scholar Leader: Ann Paul, Audubon Florida; Trip Capacity: 24; Cost/person: $35
Come join an expert birder as we look for birds in Lettuce Lake County Park in Tampa on a boardwalk along cypress-lined shorelines of the Hillsborough River. Potential sightings include White Ibis, Wood Storks, Limpkins, Roseate Spoonbills, Prothonotary and Parula warblers, Barred Owls, herons, ducks, and many other birds. An Audubon Florida staff representative will guide us. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. We’ll bus from the conference about 20-30 minutes to the park. Easy walk is about a mile. Bring binoculars, hat, water, insect repellent, sunscreen.

3-2. Celebrating Smart Growth, New Urbanism and Main Street: Disney, Profit and Suburban Spawl

*Thursday, April 10, 8:30am – 3:30pm; Organizer/Leader: Christopher F. Meindl, University of South Florida; Trip Capacity: 24; Cost/person: $43 (includes bus transportation)*

New Urbanism is heralded by some as an appropriate path for future urban growth. In theory, such development promotes walkability by densely packing a variety of land uses such as businesses, schools, open space, and several housing types of widely variable prices. Several Florida communities have attempted to incorporate smart growth principles, including Celebration—Disney Corporation’s attempt to profit from land development adjacent to its famous central Florida theme parks. After a bus ride to Celebration, participants will tour the community on foot and discuss the promise and perhaps illusion of new urbanism. Please note: we will be stopping for lunch, it is recommended to bring $15-20.

3-3. Trees in the City of Tampa: Tour of Urban Forest Management, Monitoring and Policy

*Thursday, April 10, 9:00am - 12:00pm; Organizer: Shawn Landry, University of South Florida; Leader: Robert Northrop, University of Florida/Hillsborough County Extension; Kathy Beck and Robert Irving, City of Tampa; Andrew Koeser and Michael Andreu, University of Florida; Trip Capacity: 25; Cost/person: $32 (includes bus transportation, handouts)*

The City of Tampa adopted a tree protection ordinance in 1974. Since that time, trees and the urban forest has been the subject of research, the target of political conflict, the pride of a community, and the object of substantial investment. This tour will highlight important issues threatening urban forest sustainability in Tampa and how these
challenges have been addressed in the recently adopted City of Tampa Urban Forest Management Plan.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11**

**4-1 Growth and Development In Late 19th and 20th Century Tampa**

*Friday, April 11, 9:00am – 12:00pm; Organizer: Shawn Landry, University of South Florida; Leader: Robert Kerstein, University of Tampa; Trip Capacity: 27; Cost/person: $26 (includes bus transportation)*

Join Dr. Robert J. Kerstein, professor of government and world affairs at the University of Tampa, on a tour that focuses on growth and development in late 19th and 20th century Tampa. The tour will leave from the convention center, area of the former Fort Brooke, and include stops at several sites designated by historic markers that describe the important of these places in the city's history. It will also include stops at Plant Hall at The University of Tampa and in Ybor City.

**4-2. Florida's Springs Coast: Water, Floods, Manatees, and Sea Level Rise at Homosassa Springs**

*Friday April 11, 9:00am – 5:00pm; Organizer/Leader: Christopher F. Meindl, University of South Florida; Trip Capacity: 14; Cost/person: $90 (includes bus transportation and admission fee)*

Homosassa Springs is an excellent location to examine the relative health of (and threats to) Florida’s many magnificent springs. In addition, participants can observe manatees and learn about the struggle to protect one of Florida’s iconic animals. Finally, because Homosassa Springs is low lying and very near the Gulf of Mexico, it provides an opportunity to discuss the potential impacts of sea level rise and recent changes to the National Flood Insurance Program. Please note: we will be stopping for lunch, it is recommended to bring $15-20.

**4-3 Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant**

*Friday, April 11, 10:00am - 2:00pm; Organizer/Leader: Kamal Alsharif, University of South Florida, School of Geosciences; Trip Capacity: 28; Cost/person: $40 (includes bus transportation and boxed lunch); Sponsor: AAG Water Resources Specialty Group*

Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant is one of the largest desalination plants in the country. Seawater coming into the plant goes through a rigorous pretreatment process then freshwater is separated from the seawater using reverse osmosis. The end product is high-quality drinking water that supplies up to 10 percent of the region’s needs. It provides up to 25 million gallons per day of drinking water to the region. Guests will learn how the seawater into fresh drinking water. They will also learn about regional water supply and how the desalination plant fits into the supply mix.
AAG's Annual Meeting Childcare Subsidy Program

The AAG provides limited reimbursement to registered conference attendees to subsidize part of the necessary childcare expenses incurred during the meeting at a licensed child care agency/provider. Be sure to also visit the AAG's Annual Meeting Parents Exchange, an online discussion forum available to parents planning to travel with children to its Annual Meeting in Tampa. The forum enables parents to share information about kid-friendly activities, events, childcare options, and more. To learn more, visit http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting/childcare.

Apply to Become a Volunteer at the AAG Annual Meeting

Get involved by volunteering some of your time during the AAG Annual Meeting April 8-12, 2014, in Tampa, Fla.

Student members and unemployed or underemployed geographers who are AAG members are encouraged to apply for this unique opportunity to help offset their meeting registration costs. All applicants must be registered and must have paid for the meeting to be chosen as a conference volunteer. Conference volunteers will receive $14.50 per hour in return for their time.

To begin the process, go to the AAG Conference Volunteer Application online, or for more information, visit the conference volunteers page.

Deadline for applications is January 20, 2014.

Visiting Geographical Scientist Program Accepting Applications for 2013-14

The Visiting Geographical Scientist program (VGSP) is accepting applications for the 2013-14 academic year. VGSP sponsors visits by prominent geographers to small departments or institutions that do not have the resources to bring in well-known speakers. The purpose of this program is to stimulate interest in geography, targeted for students, faculty members and administrative officers. Participating institutions select and make arrangements with the visiting geographer. For more information, visit www.aag.org/vgsp.

A list of pre-approved speakers is also available on the website. Please include a cover letter that describes the objective(s) of the visit, a schedule of events or activities being planned with the application form.

VGSP is funded by Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international honors society for geographers. Questions and complete applications may be directed to Niem Huynh.

Visiting Geographical Scientist Program Seeks Speaker Nominations

Gamma Theta Upsilon is looking for nominations to the Visiting Geographical Scientist Program (VGSP) list of speakers. The Visiting Geographical
Scientist Program is funded through GTU (the geography honor society) and managed by the Association of American Geographers. VGSP speakers have the opportunity to bring new knowledge and interesting perspectives to geography departments across the country. Speakers usually visit at least two schools on a trip in order to meet with geography students and faculty, give presentations, share research, and talk with administrators about the importance of geography in higher education. Small colleges/universities in underserved regions are especially encouraged to apply for our grants to bring in VGSP speakers. If you are willing to participate and would like to be featured on our approved list of VGSP speakers, please contact current GTU President Dr. Tom Wikle at twikle@okstate.edu or (405) 744-5666.

Luzzadder-Beach Announced as Geography Department Chair at U. of Texas, Austin
Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach will become the chair of the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Texas-Austin in January, 2014. She received her bachelor’s degree from California State University-Chico and her master’s and Ph.D. from University of Minnesota-Minneapolis.

Smithsonian Fellowship Program Seeks 2014 Applicants
The Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Internships (OFI) is currently accepting applications for the 2014 James Smithson Fellowship Program (http://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/james-smithson-fellowship-program/).
Named after the Smithsonian founder and funded through the generosity of past Smithsonian National Board Chair Paul Neely, this fellowship offers post-doctoral scholars in the fields of science, the humanities and the arts an opportunity to study the intersection between research and public policy in our nation’s capital.
This program combines the best of the Smithsonian’s vast scholarship and collections with its unparalleled access to leading thought leaders and policy-makers.
Fellowships last one year and include a stipend of $50,000. Application deadline for the 2014 cycle is January 15, 2014.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 27-29, 2014 - Institute of Geoinformatics’ 2014 Symposium, Ostrava, Czech Republic
The Geoinformatics for Intelligent Transportation conference will highlight new methods, issues and challenges of improving transportation.

April 8-12, 2014 - AAG Annual Meeting: TAMPA 2014
Join the Association of American Geographers at the AAG Annual Meeting in Tampa, April 8 to April 12, 2014, for the latest in research and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience.

**October 22-26, 2014 – Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference VII, Ft. Worth, Tex.**

Established in 2002, the REP Conference fosters dialogue on a range of issues related to the racial and ethnic transformation of places. It encourages interdisciplinary perspectives, philosophical and methodological diversity, and professional and student perspectives on such issues. The Conference is committed to providing high-quality programs and to remaining open to broad participation by theoreticians, practitioners, and students.

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**Careers at AAG: Research Scientist**

The Association of American Geographers has an opening for the position of **Research Scientist**, to be located at the AAG’s office in Washington, DC.

We seek an individual with excellent research and writing skills who can contribute to the AAG’s strong portfolio of federally-funded research, education and outreach projects. The Research Scientist will participate in the development of research projects and protocols; contribute to new project development; interact constructively with academic and non-academic organizations; assist in preparing manuscripts for publication; and support project management. The Research Scientist will also work closely with AAG staff to support broader AAG initiatives, meetings, and proposals.

A highly qualified candidate will have a PhD in geography, possess strong skills in quantitative methods and research, including knowledge of GIS and/or spatial analysis; possess outstanding written and verbal communication skills; be highly organized and able to meet deadlines on multiple projects, and have strong interpersonal; skills.

This is an excellent opportunity for a junior scholar, but we will also consider applications from senior level researchers. Salary is commensurate with experience. The AAG is an equal opportunity employer and offers a highly competitive benefits package and an excellent collegial working environment. The AAG is located in the heart of Washington, D.C., near Dupont Circle.

To apply, please send a letter of application, CV, sample publications, and contact information for three references via email to: Astrid Ng at ang@aag.org

Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.

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