

## **Business Geography Specialty Group Annual Report 2014**

### **1) Mission Statement**

The purpose of the BGSB is to bring together individuals who have mutual professional interests in business geography. Business geography is the application of geographic knowledge and information and geospatial techniques that assists businesses in making specific real-time decisions. Our goal is to share research, provide direction for future leaders, and provide a forum for networking and interaction with the broader business community.

### **2) Dues Information**

Dues are \$5 (regular members) and \$1 (students).

### **3) Officers**

Chair (2014-2016):  
Murray Rice, rice@unt.edu

Vice-chair (2014-2016; Chair 2016-2018):  
Lawrence Joseph, lawrencej@westmarine.com

Secretary-treasurer (2014-2016; Vice-chair 2016-2018):  
Brett Lucas, brett.lucas@yahoo.com

Past chair and student competition coordinator (2014-2016):  
Linda Peters, lpeters@esri.com

### **4) Accomplishments**

- a) At Tampa (2013), the BGSB *Student Paper Award* was awarded to Ling Zhang (Utah). The second-place award in the competition went to Hao Huang (also from Utah). The BGSB extends our congratulations to all student presenters of business geography for their interest and contribution to the field.
- b) Also at the Tampa meeting, the BGSB held a vibrant series of research and panel sessions. The BGSB is especially appreciative of the role played by Tony Hernandez in again organizing a feature set of research paper sessions. Thanks to all organizers and participants in all of our BGSB-sponsored sessions for a very stimulating program. We're already looking forward to the 2015 meetings in Chicago.

- c) The BGSB would also like to specially acknowledge a substantial group of new European participants in our group's session track at Tampa, led by Herman Kok and new BGSB board member Simona Epasto. Special thanks to Herman for organizing a multi-session set of papers covering a variety of European business geography research.
- d) The Tampa business meeting discussed, amongst other issues, the designation of a new student competitions coordinator (outgoing BGSB chair Linda Peters graciously accepted nomination and election to this post). This new post fills a real area of need for the BGSB and ensures that a key source of new energy and membership remains open.
- e) One last development worthy of attention from Tampa was a new career development emphasis. One of the BGSB panel sessions provided an opportunity for a mostly-student audience to hear career insights from an experienced panel of academics and practitioners. The session addressed an obvious need, so we anticipate holding a similar session again in Chicago in 2015.
- f) In terms of specialty group progress since the Tampa meetings, the officers are pleased to announce the launch of a new BGSB website ([www.businessgeography.info](http://www.businessgeography.info)), blog ([businessgeog.wordpress.com](http://businessgeog.wordpress.com)) and Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/businessgeog>). Collectively, these new web presences provide the BGSB with new capabilities of linking with current and potential members and distributing news and information relevant to our membership.

## **5) Membership and Participation**

The Specialty Group membership numbers are down once again, with 86 members. We need to improve on this number. We are optimistic that our new European engagement and other outreach initiatives will broaden the appeal of the BGSB to more faculty, students, and practitioners, such as those working in Business Schools and venues outside of academic geography.

## **6) Financial Report**

The BGSB account balance as of August 31, 2014 is \$1838. Our account, which is managed by the AAG, is summarized in the financial report at Appendix A.

Brett Lucas (BGSB Secretary-Treasurer)  
September 2014

**Appendix A**  
**Financial Statement for 2014**

<i>8/31/13</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>		<i>\$1,782.96</i>
9/30/13	Dues collected for Sept 2013	23.00	1,805.96
10/31/13	Dues collected for Oct 2013	39.00	1,844.96
11/30/13	Dues collected for Nov 2013	46.00	1,890.96
12/31/13	Dues collected for Dec 2013	33.00	1,923.96
1/31/14	Dues collected for Jan 2014	49.00	1,972.96
2/28/14	Dues collected for Feb 2014	15.00	1,987.96
3/31/14	Dues collected for March 2014	35.00	2,022.96
4/30/14	Dues collected for April 2014	14.00	2,036.96
5/9/14	Peters, Linda - Donation	200.00	2,236.96
5/5/14	Zhang - 1st Place Paper Award		(300.00) 1,936.96
5/12/14	Huang - 2nd Place Paper Award		(150.00) 1,786.96
5/31/14	Dues collected for May 2014	21.00	1,807.96
6/30/14	Dues collected for June 2014	10.00	1,817.96
7/31/14	Dues collected for July 2014	6.00	1,823.96
8/31/14	Dues collected for Aug 2014	15.00	1,838.96
<b>8/31/14</b>	<b>Balance</b>		<b><u>1,838.96</u></b>

Financial Information provided by Michelle Ledoux, AAG Central Office.