

Business Geography Specialty Group

Annual Report 2017

1) Mission Statement

The purpose of the BGSJ 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 business community.

2) Dues Information

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

3) Officers

Chair (2016-2018):

Lawrence Joseph, lawrencej@westmarine.com

Vice-chair (2016-2018; Chair 2018-2020):

Brett Lucas, brett.lucas@yahoo.com

Secretary-treasurer (2016-2018; Vice-chair 2018-2020):

Hao Huang, hhuang48@iit.edu

Past chair (2016-2018):

Murray Rice, rice@unt.edu

Student competition coordinator (2016-2018):

Yingru Li, yingru.li@ucf.edu

4) Accomplishments

- a) At Boston (2017), the BGSJ *Student Paper Award* was awarded to Joshua Bova (North Texas University). The second place of the BGSJ *Student Paper Competition* was Joe Tokosh (Kent State University). The BGSJ extends our congratulations to all student presenters of business geography for their interest and contribution to the field.
- b) Also at the Boston meeting, the BGSJ held a series of research and panel sessions. The BGSJ is especially appreciative of the role played by Murray Rice,

Tony Hernandez and Brett Lucas in again organizing a feature set of research paper and panel 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 2018 meetings in New Orleans.

- c) The BGSB also sponsored 4 panel sessions on "Foreign Direct Investment Trends and Challenges: Technological Innovation, Employment, and Development," "Locational Intelligence: The Future of GIS Technology in Business," "The Geography of Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems," "Retail Planning: Perspectives from North America and Europe," in the context of location intelligence. The topics range from international businesses to small local businesses, discussing the current trends, challenges, and future development of different types of businesses at multiple spatial scales.
- d) The BGSB also sponsored our 3rd retail field trip "Walking Tour of the Retail Mix in the Historic Back Bay and Fenway-Kenmore Neighborhoods of Boston." The guided walking tour and discussion of the retail trends and history in the Back Bay and Fenway-Kenmore neighborhoods focused on the healthy mix between chain retailers and unique shops and why retail rents are at their highest ever.
- e) The BGSB is continuing to grow its web presence through the BGSB website (www.businessgeography.info), blog (businessgeog.wordpress.com) and Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/businessgeog>). Collectively, these 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 is up with 157 (up from 143 members in the previous year) as of March 7, 2017. This is an 8% increase over the previous year membership. We continue to look at new opportunities to continue to improve membership.

6) Financial Report

The BGSB account balance as of October 2, 2017 is \$2,138.23. The accounts, which are managed by the AAG, are summarized in a financial report at Appendix A.

Hao Huang (BGSB Secretary-Treasurer)
October, 2017

Appendix A

Financial Statement for 2016-17

<i>8/31/16</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Disbursements</i>	<i>\$ 1,769.23</i>
9/30/16	Dues collected for Sept 2016	27.00		1,796.23
10/31/16	Dues collected for Oct 2016	88.00		1,884.23
11/30/16	Dues collected for Nov 2016	28.00		1,912.23
12/31/16	Dues collected for Dec 2016	35.00		1,947.23
1/31/17	Dues collected for Jan 2017	43.00		1,990.23
2/28/17	Dues collected for Feb 2017	19.00		2,009.23
3/31/17	Dues collected for March 2017	23.00		2,032.23
4/14/17	Caliper Corp sponsorship	500.00		2,532.23
4/17/17	Tokosh - 2nd Place Paper Award		(200.00)	2,332.23
4/17/17	Bova - 1st Place Paper Award		(300.00)	2,032.23
4/30/17	Dues collected for April 2017	22.00		2,054.23
5/31/17	Dues collected for May 2017	31.00		2,085.23
6/30/17	Dues collected for June 2017	25.00		2,110.23
7/31/17	Dues collected for July 2017	15.00		2,125.23
8/31/17	Dues Collected for Aug 2017	13.00		2,138.23
8/31/17	Balance			2,138.23

Financial Information provided by Michelle Ledoux, AAG Central Office.