

SOUTHERN GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES



LOS ANGELES GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.LAGeographic.org

Volume 54, Number 2

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UPCOMING EVENT: ANNUAL BANQUET

Please join the Los Angeles Geographical Society on December 7th, 2007 for the Annual Banquet at:

**Taix Restaurant, 1911 Sunset Boulevard,
Los Angeles, CA 90026**

**Schedule: 6:30 PM Social Hour, 7 PM Dinner,
8 PM Lecture by Dr. Stephen Mulherin on New Orleans' Post-Katrina Recovery.**

Reservation form and more information inside!

Free public lectures on geographical topics are offered once a month from September through May (except for January). Invited guest speakers, featuring students & faculty, present research topics, travelogues, & other interesting geographical topics from the U.S. & around the World. Lectures are usually held on the first Friday of each month at 8:00 PM in Franklin Hall, Room 101, at Los Angeles City College, 855 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

LAGS has exciting changes ahead in 2008. Gary Booher is running for President, Zia Salim is running for Vice President, Vienne Vu is running for Secretary and Doug Goode is running to continue his great work as Treasurer. Zia will remain as the newsletter editor and Edwin Cabinal will keep up his fantastic work as Webmaster. I am happy to see that LAGS will be run by such a great group of people. I want to thank everyone who has kept LAGS running for the past few years. You have all worked hard and we have been a team that has worked well together.

This next year we will be moving the newsletter to an online format to make it possible to send out more newsletters and reminders of meetings. There will still be two printed newsletters in the spring and fall sent to all dues paying members to announce the program of lectures and banquet and ballot information. Make sure we have your email address. Information about LAGS can also be found on the website at www.lageographic.org.

The annual banquet will be December 7 at Taix and will feature a lecture on "New Orleans: Post Katrina Recovery" by Stephen Mulherin at Cal State University, Los Angeles. We will also have a raffle to raise funds for the scholarship fund. Please donate any items you can for prizes and buy lots of tickets for a good cause. The banquet will be in a smaller room and we will be limited to 55 people so get your reservation in soon before it sells out.

We will be having an exciting program of lectures in the spring culminating with the student presentations on May 9, 2008.

Thank you for giving me the honor of serving as President of LAGS for the past few years. I have really enjoyed working with you and I am looking forward to an exciting future for LAGS. -- Kris Jones

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Los Angeles Geographical Society

CA Corporation # D-0301820 LA0GS

Dr. Richard F. Logan Scholarships
McKnight-Clemons Scholarships
Free Monthly Public Lectures
Local Field Trips

<http://www.LAGeographic.org>
LAGeographicalSociety@yahoo.com

Los Angeles Geographical Society
Los Angeles City College
855 North Vermont Avenue, Box # 1259
Los Angeles, CA 90029

President	Kris Jones
Vice President	Julienne Gard
Acting Secretary	Vienne Vu
Treasurer	Douglas Goode
Webmaster	Edwin Cabnal
Newsletter Editor	Zia Salim
Councilors	Marla Conti Matt Ebner Greg Lee Mary Prichard Richard Raskoff

Student Representative Cesar Espinosa

Please send Newsletter submissions and Address changes through the Mail Box or via E-mail: LAGeographicalSociety@yahoo.com.

Southland Geographic Notes is published several times per year.

October Lecture: Walking the Camino de Santiago by Jean Christensen

The Camino de Santiago is a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela located in Galicia in Northwestern Spain. The remains of St. James the Greater is reportedly buried in the Cathedral which is why pilgrims have been trekking the Camino de Santiago for over a thousand years. There are starting points throughout Europe that lead to Santiago de Compostela. The most popular starting points are those along the French/Spanish border.

This month's guest speaker, Jean Christensen, began her journey along the Camino de Santiago in June 2002. She began her journey in Pamplona and found herself in Leon two weeks later. Because of time constraints, Jean had to put her pilgrimage on hold. She returned to Spain a year later, June 2003, and spent two weeks walking from Leon to Santiago de Compostela, thus completing her 400 mile journey.

During her lecture, she told us of her experiences related observations she made along her trek across Northern Spain. Drawings that depicted the diversity of the pilgrims and pilgrim writings can be seen on walls along the Camino de Santiago. Other sights include crucifixes, sculptures, shrines, and trail markers. One of the most common sights is the scallop shell. Scallop shells were seen throughout the trail not only as part of signage along the route, but on pilgrims as well.

The scallop is the universal symbol of the pilgrim. There are many theories as to why the symbol of the scallop shell is used. One theory is that scallop shells are common on the Galician coast, which is in close proximity to the Santiago. Some say that the scallop shell is used because of its shape. The grooves in the shell all converge in one place much like the many routes that lead to Santiago de Compostela. No one is entirely clear as to the real reason why the scallop shell is used as a symbol.

Throughout her presentation, Jean gave some great advice for those who plan on walking the Camino de Santiago. What to bring, where to stay, and even where you can get medical attention were among the tips she provided for potential pilgrims. The lecture was a fascinating look at a journey that has been made by hundreds of thousands of people for over a thousand years.

E-NEWSLETTERS FOR THE 21st CENTURY

As we approach 2008, the Los Angeles Geographical Society is changing to better match current lifestyles and modes of communication commensurate with the technology that is now commonly available. In order to better and more frequently communicate with our membership, the Newsletter will immediately undergo fundamental changes in format and distribution. As a small all-volunteer organization it has become apparent that the prior slow delivery of infrequent Newsletters via postal mail is no longer the way to provide adequate, informative and timely communication about activities of the Geographical Society and related interests.

As a result, beginning with the next issue, the Geographical Society will convert to primarily an E-Newsletter format sent only via E-mail. At a minimum, members will now receive a brief reminder prior to each and every monthly lecture and a little information about the presenter and topic. Other timely and essential information will accompany the monthly announcement as the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster continue to develop the E-Newsletter format to be comparable with what is commonly sent from many other similar all-volunteer organizations.

In addition to the monthly reminders, a print copy of a regular-style Newsletter will be sent via postal mail to all dues-paying members at least twice a year. A print copy of a Spring Newsletter will feature the announcement of the next year's Lecture series plus other information, such as Student Presentations Night or whatever may be timely or interesting. A print copy of a Fall Newsletter will feature information about the upcoming Annual Banquet and speaker, plus provide an Election Ballot for current dues-paying members and a form for banquet reservation and membership renewal. The Fall Newsletter will also be accompanied by other timely or interesting information.

Although the Newsletter may no longer look the same, there will now be more frequent communication with our membership in a more timely manner to notify them about current Society events and other events of geographical interest. Further, the new format and mode of communication will now provide better use and links with the excellent Website that the Webmaster has diligently and meticulously prepared for our viewing and intellectual enjoyment. To encourage more frequent use of the website, a printed hand-out with the website link will now regularly be available at every monthly lecture, so that persons visiting a monthly lecture may now know exactly where to immediately find more information about the Society and geography in the Los Angeles region.

As a result of this improved and more frequent mode of E-mail communication, members should now receive regular communication every month except during the summer when we all go on academic vacation. This will be an immense improvement over the previously infrequent and sometimes out-of-date Newsletter that is sent via postal mail and which is extremely labor intensive for the few volunteers that are available for Newsletter production and distribution.

However, this technological improvement will now require that all dues-paying members provide an E-mail address in order to continue to receive all communications. Although the Newsletter conversion may require a few persons to adapt to this change in delivery, it is felt that most people now have access to E-mail and will find a way to continue to receive more frequent and timely communications from the Geographical Society. The Council has struggled with some of the trade-off issues for several years, but it now appears that it is essential to move forward with the conversion to E-mail communication delivery.

The Los Angeles Geographical Society has promoted Geographical knowledge for over 50 years and will diligently continue such dissemination of geographic information for the 21st Century. We look forward to having our members returning for 2008 and learning more about the interesting planet we inhabit.

ANNUAL BANQUET

The Los Angeles Geographical Society returns to Taix French Restaurant for its Annual Banquet to be held Friday, December 7th. The Featured presentation will be by Dr. Stephen Mulherin and is entitled "New Orleans Post Katrina Recovery". Also, there will be socializing and introduction of the officers of the society.

Dinner is available only by advance reservation and payment. The dinner menu choices are:

**Salmon Filet (Grilled)
Coq au Vin**

Reservations and payment must be received by November 28, 2007. We invite you to join us for a night of meeting old and new friends in the pursuit of geographical knowledge.





**Los Angeles Geographical
Society
55th Annual Program
Fall 2007-Spring 2008**

Free Public Lecture Series

*Los Angeles City College, 855 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA
First Friday of the month (unless otherwise indicated), 8-9 pm,
Franklin Hall, Room 101*

Check: www.lageographic.org for directions and other information

FALL 2006

SPRING 2007

September 7

***Boldly Going Where No
Geographer Has Gone
Before: The Martian
Classroom***

***Dr. Chrys Rodrigue
Cal State Long Beach***

February 1

***Bosnia, Slovenia, Croatia
Matt Ebner
El Camino College***

October 5

***Walking the Camino De
Santiago: Northern Spain
Jean Christensen***

March 7

***Peru: From the Amazon
to the Andes
Cristy Brenner
Saddleback College***

November 2

***California Climate Change:
Past, Present & Future
Jeff Brown***

April 4

***Wall Murals of Belfast
Northern Ireland
Irene Naesse
Orange Coast College***

December 7

***Annual Banquet
at Taix Restaurant
New Orleans: Post Katrina
Recovery
Dr. Stephen Mulherin
Cal State Los Angeles***

May 9

***Student Presentations and
Posters from California
Colleges and Universities***



Los Angeles Geographical Society

Los Angeles City College
855 North Vermont Avenue, Box # 1259
Los Angeles, CA 90029

Ballot – Election of Officers

OFFICERS			COUNCILORS	
Vote for each Office by marking an “X” in the “Vote Column next to the name of the candidate. Write-in Votes should be in the blank line below.			Vote for 3 Councilors PLUS 1 Student Representative by marking an “X” in the “Vote” column next to the name of the candidate.	
Office	Candidate	Vote	Council Candidates	Vote
President	Gary Booher		Edwin Cabnal	
			Matt Ebiner	
Vice President	Zia Salim		Cesar Espinosa	
			Julienne Gard	
Secretary	Vienne Vu		Kris Jones	
			Richard Raskoff	
Treasurer	Douglas Goode			
			Student Representative	

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & BANQUET RESERVATION

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Renewal
 New Application
 Address Change

Type of Member	Dues	\$	Annual Banquet – Menu Selection	
Student	\$ 5		Coq au Vin	___ Members
Senior	\$ 10			___ Non-Members
Regular	\$ 15		Grilled Salmon Fillet	___ Members
Family / Household	\$ 20			___ Non-Members
Life	\$150			
Scholarship Fund – Richard F. Logan				
Scholarship Fund – McKnight-Clemons				
Annual Banquet Dinners			\$30 Members	\$35 Non-Members
TOTAL AMOUNT			Checks are payable to “LAGS”	

***DINNER RESERVATIONS & BALLOTS
MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 28, 2007***