

SOUTHLAND GEOGRAPHIC NOTES



LOS ANGELES GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.LAGeographic.org

Volume 52, Issue 4

October 2005

Annual Banquet:

California: 21st Century Landscape Evolution

Bill Selby – **Santa Monica College**

Author of “Rediscovering the Golden State: California Geography”

December 2, Friday – 6:00 p.m.

Taix French Restaurant,

1911 West Sunset Boulevard

(between Alvarado & Glendale)

Echo Park, Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Geographical Society will return to Taix French Restaurant for its Annual Banquet, to be held on Friday, December 2, 2005. The Featured Presentation will be by Bill Selby, Geography Professor at Santa Monica College and author of *Rediscovering the Golden State: California Geography*. The Presentation will be “California: 21st Century Landscape Evolution”. Also, there will be socializing and introduction of the Officers of the Los Angeles Geographical Society. The schedule will be:

6:00 p.m. – Social Hour

7:00 p.m. – Dinner (\$25 for Members)

8:00 p.m. – Lecture Presentation

Dinner is available only by advance reservation and payment. Membership renewals for calendar year 2006 are also now due (attached is the Ballot and form for Membership Renewal and Banquet Reservation). The dinner menu choices will be:

Chicken Diabole

Salmon Fillet (Grilled)

Pasta Monegasque (Vegetarian)

Reservations and payment must be received by November 21. Persons attending only the Lecture Presentation should arrive at 8:00 p.m. Please join us for a night of meeting old and new friends in the pursuit of geographical knowledge about California, our “Golden State”. ❖

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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

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Los Angeles City College
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Los Angeles, CA 90029

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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.

Recent Lectures

Tonga: The Last Polynesian Kingdom
Paul Fiesler – October 7

*by Karine Tarkhanyan, Geography Student
Los Angeles City College*

On October 7, I had the pleasure of attending a lecture on the Islands of Tonga. The lecture included photographs and a very humorous presenter, Paul Fiesler, who made the experience very entertaining, informative, and enjoyable. The presenter described the culture of the Tongan people, food, economy, government, and other geographical data.

The Tonga Islands are situated east of the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific. Tonga (also called the Friendly Islands) consists of some 150 islands, of which 36 are inhabited. Most of the islands contain active volcanic craters; others are coral atolls. Tonga has a rough population of about 100,000 people and 50,000 reside in its main city. It has a high birth rate and an extremely high migration rate. Most young adults migrate to Australia to receive education.

The Tonga Islands are breathtakingly beautiful. Its people were described by the presenter to be hospitable and kind. The presenter, Paul Fiesler, was part of the Peace Corps and that is how he received this unique experience. He was taught the language and culture of the Tonga people which tremendously impacted his relations with the natives of Tonga. He had the opportunity to live with a Tongan family in a three bedroom house and recalls a time when he complained of a tree blocking his view and the family cut the mango tree so that he could enjoy it. This showed the incredible kindness of the people and the degree of their hospitality.

The Tongan people also love to have feasts and create opportunities often to celebrate with lavish meals. Their diet was said to be very healthy and includes vegetables, pork, chicken, and fish. The Tongans are a happy people who love to sing and dance. The women have no hip movement and illustrate stories through moving their hands and knees. The men's dance is very energetic with the use of spears and stomping of feet. Western attire is popular in Tonga and formal wear is necessary

when attending church. The lower part of the men's formal wear is similar to a kilt and is worn for special occasions and is kept in place by hair that is used for the same function as a belt.

The Islands of Tonga have relatively healthy people with no major epidemics of disease. Their common use of transportation are horses, carriages, walking, and on occasion by bikes, if wealthy. Papau are rigger canoes that the folk use for fishing and move from one island to another. The Tongan culture is open to three sexes: Male, Female, and the Fakalates. The Fakalates are boys who were disciplined as girls when a woman had boys being born into the family and no girl to help with the house work. So it is widely accepted in Tonga to be a transsexual. They are not discriminated by the church which is mainly Christian and Catholic.

The people of Tonga would be considered poor for the standards of the Westerners since they have just recently been able to have electricity in their homes. Families with cars are very rare and probably would have to be nobles in order to own a car. The country is set up into three different class groups such as the King and about 343 nobles. The nobles have the right to own businesses and homes. The commoners must rent from the nobles. Just recently protests took place on the lawn of the King's home for change towards a more democratic government for the people of Tonga. The state of the County by the presenter was described to be "perfect" and had "no famine".

Paul Fiesler showed the beauty of the island through pictures. The islands look like a tropical paradise with the clearest, bluest water and the tallest greenest grass. He spoke of his experiences kayaking, boating, and fishing. This lecture made a huge contribution to my knowledge of the people, culture, and geographical information about Tonga. ❖

Tasmania: A Wilderness Experience

Ray Sumner – September 9

*by Gary Booher, Geography Instructor
Los Angeles City College*

Ray Sumner of Long Beach City College gave an exciting illustrated slide presentation about her wilderness experience in Tasmania, Australia,

highlighting the general geography, the Tasmanian Wilderness, "The Overland Track", and indigenous wildlife.

The area was first explored by Abel Tasman in 1642, and the island was named after him. A penal colony was established in 18925 and a full British colony was later established in 1855. Tasmania is the smallest state of the country of Australia, and its population is currently one-half million, of which one-half is in Hobart and the other half is either in smaller cities (Launceston is second with 100,000 people) or is rural.

Tasmania was originally connected to Australia as one land mass, when the sea level was lower and the intervening Bass Strait was above sea. However, a later rise in sea level resulted in isolated lifeforms developing on Tasmania. The western area of the island is most rugged, with the highest mountain being Mount Ossa. Prevailing westerly winds provide lots of rainfall and it is especially wet on the west side of the island. Crops on the island include apples, potatoes, beans, high quality produce and cheese, and legal poppy crops. Tourism is also important to the local economy.

The Tasmanian Wilderness is a World Heritage Site, listed in 1982 and renewed in 1989, because of its environmental and cultural features (aboriginals and pioneers), and covers 20 percent of the island's land area. Other National Parks are also located on the island. "The Overland Track" is in the northern part of the Wilderness area, and is 72 kilometers long and took 6 days to walk between the "Huts". Slides were shown of the Walls of Jerusalem, Cradle Mountains (and nearby glacial lake), Barn Bluff (a volcanic peak) and the vegetation of a boggy soil. The area has a temperate rainforest that is wet and mossy, and features the unique "cushion plant" that is a very fragile colony of small organisms.

Indigenous wildlife includes wombats and wallabies, king snakes (poisonous), and unique birds. The Tasmanian Tiger is a carnivorous marsupial that became extinct in 1936, but is still shown on signs and coat of arms, just like the extinct California Bear. The Tasmanian Tiger is not related to the Dingo that is common to Australia. Another unique animal is the Tasmanian Devil, which is still alive and well but does not live in the mountains. The Tasmanian Devil is the last remaining carnivorous marsupial, and it emits an awful and aggressive sound. ❖

Website - Satellite Imagery & Maps

If you haven't recently seen the Los Angeles Geographical Society Website, it is looking absolutely fantastic, thanks to our diligent Webmaster, Edwin Cabnal. Search the Website at www.LAGeographic.org. Newest features are the invaluable new links to Google Earth, Terra Server, GlobeXplorer and Digital Globe for maps and satellite imagery. The following information was provided by Greg Lee, Geography Professor, Pasadena City College and past President of the LA Geographical Society.

Google Earth

Google Earth combines satellite imagery, maps and the power of Google Search to put the world's geographic information at your fingertips. The free download allows users to zoom into any part of the Earth. It brings across the point that approaching from space one first sees the oceans, then land and then coral reefs. Many of the World's large reef systems are clearly visible in the low-resolution imagery from as close as about a virtual mile up, while some areas are available in higher resolution. To view it visit:

<http://earth.google.com>

Terra Server

Another source of online images. For the World:

<http://terraserver.com>

For the USA go to:

<http://terraserver.microsoft.com>

GlobeXplorer

Has the World's largest online library of aerial and satellite imagery and maps:

<http://www.globexplorer.com>

Digital Globe

Has high resolution satellite images:

<http://www.digitalglobe.com> ❖

Student Presentations Night

- May 6, 2005

Thanks to the talents of local geography students and the organizing skills of Vice President Julienne Gard, the Third Annual Student Presentations Night went smoothly on May 6, 2005 on the campus of Los Angeles City College. Since the event is past and space here does not permit a reprinting of the full program, only highlights are listed while the full program may be seen at the LA Geographical Society Website.

Linda Quiquivix (CSUN) –
Guatemalan Transnationalism in Los Angeles

Zia Salim (CSUF) –
Painting a Place: The Murals of Los Angeles

Wanjiru Njuguna (CSULB) –
Water Perception and Consumption Patterns Among Latinos and Whites in Whittier, CA

Emese Schloegl (USC) –
Cost Effective Water Treatment Through Riparian Revegetation in Queensland, Australia

Elizabeth Hurst (USC) –
Changing Island Time: An Assessment of Development Strategies for South Caicos

Alma Vargas (CSULB) –
Implementing Modern Geographic Technology in the Trucking Industry: A Case Study

Jeff Brown (CSULA) –
The Effect of Topography on Southern California Severe Weather

Miguel Ordenana (USC) –
Changing spatial Relationships in the Human / Wildlife Interface in Kimana Group Ranch Kenya

Plus a variety of Posters and Maps on Terrestrial and Celestial geographical topics. ❖

"The World in which we live is geographically one. The great challenge now is to make it one in terms of brotherhood." – Martin Luther King Jr.





Los Angeles Geographical Society

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

Free Public Lecture Series

Los Angeles City College
8:00 p.m., Franklin Hall, Room 101
855 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA
First Friday of the month (unless otherwise indicated)
Complimentary refreshments after the Lecture.

FALL 2005

September 9
Tasmania: A Wilderness Experience

Ray Sumner
Geography Professor, Long Beach City College

October 7

**Tonga:
The Last Polynesian Kingdom**

Paul Fiesler
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer

November 4

**Storm Chasing
On the Great Plains**

Bill Reid
Climatologist,
California Weather and Earth Sciences, Inc.
and Tour Director,
Tempest Tours Storm Chasing Expeditions

December 2

Annual Banquet

**California: 21st Century
Landscape Evolution**

Bill Selby
Geography Professor, Santa Monica College

SPRING 2006

February 3

**Nepal: Katmandu, Trek Around
Annapurna Massif & the Sanctuary**

Yonni Schwartz
PhD Candidate, Lecturer,
President of Peaceful Edge Adventures,
National Forest Service

March 3

**Islamabad to Kashgar
on the Karakoram Highway**

Matt Ebiner
Geography Professor, El Camino College

April 7

**Thai Project 2005: Rural Education
& Sustainable Agricultural Training**

Greg Lee
Geography Professor, Pasadena City College,
CEO of Earth Systems Science, Inc.

May 5

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



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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	Kris Jones		Edwin Cabnal	
Vice President	Julienne Gard		Marla Conti	
Secretary	Gary Booher		Matt Ebner	
Treasurer	Douglas Goode		Greg Lee	
			Jeff Marotta	
			Richard Raskoff	
			Student Representative	
			Cesar Espinosa	

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & BANQUET RESERVATION

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

[] Yes, send newsletter via E-mail

Renewal

New Application

Address Change

Type of Member	Dues	\$	Annual Banquet – Menu Selection	
Student	\$ 5		Chicken Diable	___ Members
Senior	\$ 10			___ Non-Members
Regular	\$ 15		Grilled Salmon Fillet	___ Members
Family / Household	\$ 20			___ Non-Members
Life	\$150		Pasta Monégasque	___ Members
Scholarship Fund – Richard F. Logan				___ Non-Members
Scholarship Fund – McKnight-Clemons				
Annual Banquet Dinners			\$25 Members	\$30 Non-Members
TOTAL AMOUNT			Checks are payable to “LAGS”	

***DINNER RESERVATIONS & BALLOTS
MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 21, 2005***