

SOUTHLAND GEOGRAPHIC NOTES



NEWSLETTER of the
LOS ANGELES GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
 www.lageographic.org



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53rd ANNUAL PROGRAM Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Free Public Lecture Series

Los Angeles City College, 855 N. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA
 First Friday of the month (unless otherwise indicated), 8-9 pm, Franklin Hall, Room 101
 Complimentary refreshments after the lecture.

FALL 2005	SPRING 2006
<p>September 9 <i>Tasmania: A Wilderness Experience</i> Ray Sumner Geography Professor, Long Beach City College</p>	<p>February 3 <i>Nepal: Katmandu, Trek Around Annapurna Massif & the Sanctuary.</i> Yonni Schwartz PhD Candidate, Lecturer, President of Peaceful Edge Adventures, National Forest Service</p>
<p>October 7 <i>Tonga: The Last Polynesian Kingdom</i> Paul Fiesler Returned Peace Corps Volunteer</p>	<p>March 3 <i>Islamabad to Kashgar on the Karakoram Highway</i> Matt Ebner Geography Professor, El Camino College</p>
<p>November 4 <i>Storm Chasing On the Great Plains</i> Bill Reid Climatologist, California Weather and Earth Sciences, Inc. and Tour Director, Tempest Tours Storm Chasing Expeditions</p>	<p>April 7 <i>Thai Project 2005: Rural Education & Sustainable Agricultural Training</i> Greg Lee Geography Professor, Pasadena City College, CEO of Earth Systems Science, Inc.</p>
<p>December 2 <i>Annual Banquet California: 21st Century Landscape Evolution</i> Bill Selby Geography Professor, Santa Monica College</p>	<p>May 5 <i>Student Presentations and Posters from California Colleges and Universities</i></p>



L A Geographical Society

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Dr. Richard F. Logan Scholarships
McKnight-Clemons Scholarships
Free Monthly Public Lectures
Local Field Trips/International Trips
<http://www.lageographic.org>

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Next Newsletter Submission Deadline:
July, 2005

Send submissions to the Editor.
Send address changes to the Treasurer.

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Report on the Association of American Geographers Conference

The 101st Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers took place in the Mile High City April 5-9. Denver offered something for every sub-speciality in the discipline. Cradled by the snow-capped Rocky Mountains, the city attracted the best mountain geographers. Geographers interested in tourist studies needed only to stroll down 16th Street where Wild West souvenir shops lined the road. Biogeography buffs could seek magnificent flora and fauna specimens in the surrounding national parks. Likewise, the bustling capitol building (replete with an active House of Representatives session) welcomed those more politically-minded.

The academic component was impressive enough to hold any geographer's attention however. President Victoria Lawson wowed listeners with figures stating that nearly 4,800 people were in attendance and that 3,500 papers were being presented in the course of the week. These facts proved themselves during the crowded plenary panel discussions, particularly the riveting keynote address given by renowned natural history author Barry Lopez. The variety and quality of research presented thereafter was quite notable.

Not only did we geographers grace the lower downtown (lovingly referred to as "Lodo" by locals) with touristy revenue but with some warm weather as well; the city endured snow with temperatures in the 40s (F) the week prior to the conference and a terrible, unexpected blizzard the day after AAG's closing ceremonies. It is no wonder the hotel management requested, "Bring back the geologists" when I made a call upon my return!

Submitted by Julienne Gard



JOIN THE LAGS FOR TWO DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES FIELD TRIPS !!

The Los Angeles Geographical Society is sponsoring **two** different beginning/introductory Field Trips to Downtown Los Angeles. The two sequential field trips can be done separately or together as an investigation of the origin and development of Downtown Los Angeles and its districts. Whether you are a beginning Geography student or new to Los Angeles, you will discover through the eyes of a geographer/planner how the Los Angeles central core has been important in the past and how it continues to be important for the region. Both field trips will be led by Gary Booher, a Los Angeles City Zoning Administrator and El Camino College Geography Instructor. Advance reservations are separately required for each Field Trip by contacting gbooher@elcamino.edu (state which field trip, your name, number of persons, and contact information for confirmation). Cost for each field trip is \$10 per person (\$5 for students).

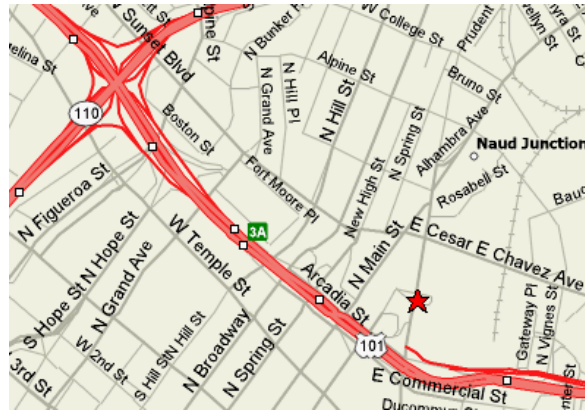
- TRIP 1 : ORIGINS OF LOS ANGELES -

This Field Trip will view the environs of the original Pueblo of Los Angeles and surrounding districts, including the Plaza, Pico House, Olvera Street, Avila Adobe, Union Station, Cornfields, Capital Milling and Chinatown. This field trip will entail approximately 2 miles of moderate walking and last up to 3 hours (you may stay afterwards for lunch with the group at your own cost). Dress comfortably with good walking shoes.

**MEETING TIME: MAY 15, 2005
10:00 AM SUNDAY**

**MEETING PLACE: UNION STATION
MEET IN FRONT OF EN-
TRANCE/EXIT OF
METRO RAIL STATION
WITHIN UNION STATION**

**UNION STATION IS ON ALAMEDA STREET,
NORTH OF THE HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY (101).
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO MEETING PLACE:
Take MetroRail Red Line to Union Station.**



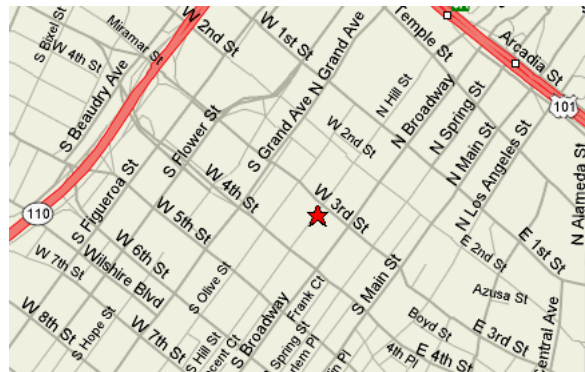
- TRIP 2: DEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN -

This Field Trip will view the modern Downtown area and its historical development and districts, including Angels Flight, Grand Central Market, Broadway (retail and theatres), Spring Street (old bank district), Pershing Square, Central Library, Bunker Hill and Flower Street. This field trip will entail approximately 2 miles of moderate to strenuous walking and stairs and last up to 3 hours (you may stay afterwards for lunch with the group at your own cost). Dress comfortably with good walking shoes.

**MEETING TIME: MAY 22, 2005
10:00 AM SUNDAY**

**MEETING PLACE: GRAND CENTRAL MARKET
MEET IN PLAZA AT ENTRANCE
(324 S. HILL STREET)**

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO MEETING PLACE:
Take the MetroRail Red Line to Pershing Square. Grand Central Market is ½ block north of the station's north exit.





**California State University
Los Angeles'
Geography Career Day and
Open House!**

Come see where the jobs are in Geosciences, meet reps from NASA, JPL, So Coast Air Quality Management District, LAUSD, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, LA County Planning, Pasadena City Transportation, LA City Planning GIS Division, and many others.

**Thursday, May 26, 2005 at
4:00-6:30 p.m.
King Hall, D-4044**

Directions: Take the 10 (Santa Monica/San Bernardino) Freeway east out of LA, exit Eastern Ave. Head north across the freeway. Stop at the info kiosk for directions on where to park. Parking: 50 cents/hour. Directions/maps: www.calstatela.edu. King Hall is on the NE side of CSULA.



**Teaching GIS and Geogra-
phy to K-12 Students and Be-
yond**

Teaching GIS to school-aged youth is now becoming a reality. A greater number of educators and GIS professionals are looking to establish programs aimed at bringing GIS and geographic thought to the next generation. GIS in the K-12 learning environment is a growing field and people like Lisa Pitts, a GIS Specialist working with ESRI, are adding their expertise to the movement.

During her April presentation, Ms. Pitts recounted how she developed and executed a GIS course at West Covina High School. Student projects included real-world work for the City of West Covina. Students developed improved routing proposals for the city's ride-share program, digitized hard-copy sewer network plans, analyzed crime data, and published results on-line. As a grand finale, students submitted their GIS-based maps to Cal Poly Pomona's GIS Expo for consideration in

the Expo's mapping contest. The West Covina High School students placed 2nd and 3rd Place in Cartography.

Despite the fact that implementing GIS infrastructure, developing coursework, and convincing school staff requires a considerable amount of time and effort, the payoffs can be great! In fact, the costs associated with implementing GIS can be significantly reducing using ESRI software. With an initial investment of \$500, a classroom can use Arc View software. Through the Community Atlas Program, a class can create a website and receive free software. If you want to learn GIS, ESRI sponsors Virtual Campus courses and some community colleges offer courses.

Merging teaching of geographic knowledge and community activism, is another way to train youth. LAGS' Greg Lee, has been developing multiple community-based programs that bring geography to communities. He has worked with foundations and obtained grants to create programs aimed at developing Habitat Steward Training, Outdoor Awareness, "Teachback" strategies (youth teaching other youth), and environmental preservation strategies.

One of the most ambitious projects he and others are working on includes a partnership with a northern province rural Thai village. Environmental stewardship and sustainable development are the foci of their efforts.

K-1 students are involved in a "trashback" program, where they bring trash to school and receive money for the trash. The money is then invested in a student fund, which the students decide how to use the funds. Second through forth graders are involved in a Wildlife Habitat program and 4-6 graders are connected to the wider world via an on-line Student Cloud Observation Study.

Mr. Lee is looking for volunteers to accompany he and his wife to Thailand to work on further developing these programs, and others. Additionally, the Lees have asked for donations of children's books written in English. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, please contact Greg Lee at gklee@pasadena.edu.



L. A. Geographical Society Membership Application Form

Please make checks payable to LAGS.

Mail to: LAGS, Box # 1259

855 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029

Membership Application/ Renewal Form

New Application
 Renewal
 Address Change

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ / _____ / _____
Street City State Zip Code

E-mail: _____ Yes, send newsletter by e-mail

Type	Qty	Dues	Subtotal	
Student		\$5		*Scholarship donations are tax-deductible. **Other types: Life, \$150; Patron, \$1000, Benefactor, \$5000.
Senior		\$10		
Regular		\$15		
Family		\$20		
Other**				
Scholar\$hip Donation*				Please make checks payable to LAGS . Mail to: LAGS, Box # 1259 855 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, 90029
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____				
Total				

Name of recruiting LAGS member
(if any): _____

Please contact me, I want to volunteer to be an LAGS: Officer
 Councilor Other _____
 Please contact me, I have things to donate to LAGS for door/raffle prizes

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Address correction and forwarding requested.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

“The world in which we live is geographically one. The great challenge now is to make it one in terms of brotherhood.” MLK, Jr.