



Western Regional Science Association

Fall 2007

Newsletter

Submission deadline extended to November 5...

The Big Island Annual Meeting ~ February 17-20, 2008



There's still time to make your plans to participate at our upcoming 47th Annual Meeting to be held at the spectacular Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort, located on the Kona Coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Don't miss out on this chance for a great mid-winter scholarly refresh; come partake of the warm international conviviality of WRSA.

Although we have already received a large number of submissions, the deadline to submit a paper (in draft or final form) has been extended to November 5. We'd like to allow as many as possible to participate!

We'd also love to hear from anyone who won't have a paper ready to go, but would like a spot or two on the Program as a discussant or/ or session chair. Just drop a note to Executive Secretary Dave Plane listing your areas of specialties and we'll be happy to schedule you.

For those who have not yet made a trip to the Big Island, don't bypass this opportunity to visit the biggest, the least crowded, and the newest (geologically speaking!) of Hawaii's 'Neighbor Islands.' Plan to spend at least a few extra days pre- and/or post-conference exploring the active volcanic landscapes of Mount Kilauea and Volcanoes National Park on the southern end of the island, visiting the lush tropical rainforests on the wet side around Hilo, and relaxing or snorkeling along the great unspoiled sandy beaches on the Kona Coast – the dry side of the Big Island where our meeting will be held.

As usual we have negotiated excellent sleeping room rates. Hawai'i has been a popular tourist destination post-9/11, so get on the WRSA website SOON and book your reservation now. We are expecting a very large turnout for this conference.

Our February 17-20 meeting dates fall during Hawai'i's busy winter visitor season. Participants are advised to make air and rental car reservations much earlier than for mainland conferences.

Participants will very likely want to fly into the Kona International Airport at Keahole (KOA). It is 18 miles (29 kilometers) from the Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort. (The other main airport on the Big Island is in Hilo, which is a several hour drive from the resort.) Kona International is served by a number of nonstop flights from the U.S. mainland as well as from Canada and Japan. There are also frequent inter-island flights from Honolulu International (HNL).

2008 Dues Now Being Collected...

It's now time to renew your WRSA membership! Included with this issue of the *WRSA Newsletter* is a copy of the 2008 combined Annual Meeting Preregistration and Dues form.

Renew your membership TODAY. Complete and mail the form to the WRSA office in Tucson.

Continue your subscription to the *Annals of Regional Science* and your lifelong affiliation with the best little regional science organization in the world.

WRSA: The way academic life should be.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: OUR 47th ANNUAL MEETING ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAI'I

Paper submission... Papers on all regional science topics are welcome. Please e-mail your paper before the Extended Deadline date: Monday, November 5. (Draft versions are acceptable at this stage with the final conference version due at the WRSA office by December 31.)

Email the manuscript to Executive Secretary Dave Plane (plane@email.arizona.edu) as a file attachment. Word documents or PDF formats are both acceptable.

Please do not send very large graphic files (high-resolution copies of figures can be transmitted directly to your chair and discussant later).

For multiple-authored papers, clearly indicate which authors plan to attend, and please include email addresses for all intended participants.

Remember WRSA Board policy requires the submittal of *complete papers*. All papers are screened by the Program Committee before formal invitations to present are mailed. Program Committee decisions are never made on the basis of an abstract alone.

Conference Registration... All Program participants at the conference are required to pay registration fees and be dues-paid 2008 members of the WRSA. Everyone who attends the academic sessions of the conference must pay the registration fee. We ask that only one paper be presented per fee-paying registrant. (Coauthors who do not attend the conference are not required to pay registration fees.)

A combined 2008 Dues/Preregistration form is being sent to all 2007 members with this copy of the *Newsletter*. Copies are also being sent with paper acceptance letters, or the form may be printed out from the link on the WRSA website. Please mail the completed form to the WRSA with either a check (preferred) or credit card information. Please DO NOT fax the form as the University of Arizona Foundation, which manages WRSA's accounts, requires original signatures to process credit card payments.

Dates for Special Conference Hotel Rates...

Please be aware that the main events of the 2008 conference will be held on a Sunday through Wednesday format (rather than the Wednesday through Saturday one in effect for the last three conferences).

Rooms have been blocked for our group at the special negotiated conference rates beginning Friday night, February 15 and extending through Saturday night, February 23.

In addition, based on availability, those same rates will be honored three days prior and three days after

the room-block nights. Presuming you reserve before the hotel sells out, you should be able to check into the Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort as early as Tuesday, February 12 and/or checkout as late as the morning of Wednesday, February 27.

Overview of Our 47th Annual Meeting Dates...

- ❖ **Sunday, February 17:** *Note: no paper sessions will be held on this day;* Registration opens in the mid-afternoon; Opening Plenary Session in the late afternoon, followed by the Welcoming Reception (for all participants and accompanying persons)
- ❖ **Monday, February 18:** Registration reopens and continues (throughout the day); Concurrent Paper Sessions (all day); WRSA Board Meeting (late afternoon; by invitation only)
- ❖ **Tuesday, February 19:** Registration continues (all day); Concurrent Paper Sessions (all day); Annual Banquet Luncheon (for all registered meeting participants; tickets and fee required for non-registered accompanying persons); Evening President's Reception (for all participants and accompanying persons)
- ❖ **Wednesday, February 20:** Registration continues (throughout the morning); Concurrent Paper Sessions (all day); Conference ends (ca. 6:00 PM)

Visit Our Website for More Information... The WRSA Website with full conference information is accessible at <http://geog.arizona.edu>

Among the items posted: the preregistration form, hotel reservation information, a link to the Hilton website to book your room, travel information (airlines, rental cars, taxi and shuttle van) and Big Island visitor information. The Preliminary Program will be posted in early January.

Encourage a colleague to participate! Mahalo.

WRSA Newsletter

The *Newsletter* of the Western Regional Science Association is supported through permit mailing authorization by the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA.

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David A. Plane

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Susan Kaleita

Please send items for inclusion in future issues to Plane and Kaleita at: wrsa@email.arizona.edu

In Fond Memory of Larry Sommers, 1919 – 2007



Longtime, stalwart WRSA member Lawrence M. Sommers died August 3, 2007, in Lansing, Michigan, of respiratory complications. He was 88.

Larry was a frequent and regular paper-presenting participant at WRSA conferences. In recent years he was always among the very first to first to step forward and cheerfully volunteer his services as Session Chair and Discussant.

Larry's last WRSA conference was 2006 in Santa Fe. It will be sad and strange not to see Larry in the sessions, around the hotel, and at the social events this next February on the Big Island. Many of us, though, will be telling favorite Larry Sommers stories, and we'll cherish many fond memories of a wonderful colleague and member of the WRSA family.

Those desiring may make contributions to the Marjorie and Lawrence Sommers Graduate Fellowship Endowment, c/o MSU Development Office, 300 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824-9911.

Thanks to Bruce Pigozzi of Michigan State University for sending us the following details about Larry Sommers's outstanding life and career.

Larry received his education first at the University of Wisconsin where he earned Bachelor's (1941) and Master's (1946) degrees, interrupted by service with the U.S. Army in North Africa. Then he received the Ph.D. degree from Northwestern in 1950 focusing on the Scandinavian fishing industry, studying with M. Proudfoot, E. Espenshade, and D. Hudson.

Appointed as an instructor at Michigan State University, in 1949, Larry moved through the ranks to Full Professor in 1955. He became the first Chair of the new MSU Department of Geography and helped bring the program to national prominence, including creation of a Ph.D program, which since has trained numerous professional geographers. After 25 years as Chair he spent several years in the Provost's office, worked on countless University committees; he accepted Emeritus status in 1989 forty years from his first appointment. This gave Larry a chance to refocus on writing, research and travel, passions which he continued to pursue up to within weeks of his passing.

Larry's research evolved from an early focus on the Norwegian fishing industry and related policies along an exciting and meandering path. In his last decade his explorations had led him into innovative investigations of human social and economic marginality, at local through global scales.

Larry's involvement with the discipline at large has been enormous; his mark was left not only on the WRSA, but also at the AAG, AGS, AAAS, NCGE, Sigma XI, the Explorers Club and more. In later years he was particularly active in

applied geography and was a founding member of the Applied Geography Conference. He also served as U.S. representative to the International Geographical Union (IGU).

Larry's sustained research and writing produced hundreds of papers, chapters and books but, his greatest, and longest lasting, impacts within and beyond the discipline are related to outstanding teaching and administration. He had a talent for assembling cadres of highly productive, innovative and diverse faculty; and the impacts of his advisees have been impressive. For example, among the most prominent of his advisees are Robert K. Holz (U Texas - Austin), Charles E. Tatum (Texas Southern), Walter Farrell (UNC -- Chapel Hill), Eldor Quandt (Western Michigan), Ole Gade (Appalachian State), Bradley Cullen (University of New Mexico) and James Johnson Jr. (UNC -- Chapel Hill).

After retirement, Larry became increasingly active in Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, for which he served as national president. At Michigan State, he was the driving force behind the new Faculty Emeriti Association, which provides a meaningful role for retired faculty. Among the many recognitions that Larry received throughout his lifetime, the most recent was the MSU Faculty Emeriti Leadership Award, in April, 2007.

NOTE: Additional details about Larry's life and career may be found at: <http://fod.msu.edu/FacEmeriti/about.asp>

New Membership Directory... **Final 2007 WRSA Membership Spans the Globe at 251 Strong**

The 2007-2008 WRSA Membership Directory is now being provided to all dues-paid 2007 members. The Directory is enclosed in the same mailing as this *Newsletter*.

The Association's final 2007 membership count as of September 1 is 251. Members are based in 20 countries.

As in 2006, 181 members in 2007 listed U.S. addresses. Canadian membership dropped by two to 11. For the first time, Korea assumed the top rank for members residing outside the USA, with 15 active WRSA members. Sweden came next with 8, followed by Japan with 7. The Netherlands, Israel, and Spain each accounted for 3 members, while Norway and Australia each contributed 2. In addition, single members come from China, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Scotland and Turkey.



Western Regional Science Association Board and Officers

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Regional Science Meeting Calendar

54th North American Meetings of the RSAI, Savannah, GA, November 7-10, 2007

The Meetings will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Savannah. See the NARSC website for full details: www.narsc.org

47th Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association, Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort, The Big Island of Hawai'i, February 17-20, 2008

See articles, pp. 1-2, this Newsletter. WRSA website has full conference information: <http://geog.arizona.edu/wrsa/>

World Congress of the RSAI, Sao Paulo, Brazil, March 17-19, 2008

The main topic of the Congress will be: "World Integration, Emerging Countries, Lagging Regions, Sustainability." www.aber.fea.usp.br/rsai2008/new/html/event/event.asp

47th Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association, Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington, VA-Washington, DC, March 26-30, 2008

The conference will be held at the Key Bridge Marriott. Deadline for paper submissions: December 15. For details: <http://www.regionalscience.org/srsa/> or contact the Program Chair, Peter Schaeffer peter.schaeffer@mail.wvu.edu

37th Annual Conference, Mid Continent Regional Science Association, Kansas City, MO, June 7-9, 2008

The conference will be held at the Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel. Organizer: John Leatherman, Kansas State. www.oznet.ksu.edu/mcrsa/annual_conference.htm



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the field of Regional Science



The prize is awarded annually for the best paper presented by a recent post-graduate scholar of no more than 5 years* at the Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association.

Prize US \$300.-

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The paper will be published in **The Annals of Regional Science**, official Journal of the WRSA, and announced on the Springer Website.

* Authors wishing to have their WRSA conference papers considered for the Springer Prize should certify at the time of submission of the paper to the conference organizer that they meet the five-year since doctorate requirement and that they wish to have their papers entered for consideration in the competition.