

**Rural Geography Specialty Group
2007 Annual Report
Date
Submitted by Marla R. Emery, Chair**

I. Mission Statement

The Rural Geography Special Group (RGSG) promotes research and education related to agriculture, rural development, and rural land use. To fulfill this mission, we: plan sessions for professional meetings, facilitate teaching and research of rural geography issues worldwide, publicize information about the role of geographers engaged in rural research, and promote interaction with organizations with similar interests, such as the IGU Rural Development Commission.

II. 2007 Membership and Finances

The current balance of the RGSG account is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
8/31/06	<i>Balance forward</i>			\$4,358.48
9/30/06	Dues collected for September 2006	75.00		4,433.48
10/31/06	Dues collected for October 2006	155.00		4,588.48
11/30/06	Dues collected for November 2006	121.00		4,709.48
12/31/06	Dues collected for December 2006	44.00		4,753.48
1/31/07				
2/28/07				
3/31/07				
4/21/07	Emery, Marla – Awards luncheon ticket		()	

At our 17 April 2007 business meeting, the RGSG Directors discussed ways to use the sizable balance to advance Rural Geography. We agreed that in the coming year, RGSG will:

- Support student attendance at the Sixth Quadrennial British – Canadian – US Conference of Rural Geographers, distributing \$1,000 amongst student attendees who are RGSG members.
- Pursue strategies to boost our awards program, including the major awards (e.g., John Fraser Hart Award). The Chair will work actively with the Awards Director to solicit nominations for the major awards and publicize our student paper award and the RGSG - Redd Center Rural American West Paper Competition through the RGSG and AAG newsletters, the listserv, and one or more messages directed to RGSG faculty members.

- Allocate a fixed percentage (to be determined by the Directors) of our balance each year to awards, support for meeting attendance, and bringing speakers to the annual meeting.

As of *Date X*, we have *Y* members (*N* non-students and *M* students). This reflects a light *increase/decrease* over 2006.

III. Officers

Chair

Marla Emery (through 2008)
US Forest Service, Northern Research Station
memery@fs.fed.us

Awards Director

Holly Barcus (through 2009)
Macalester College
barcus@macalester.edu

Directors

Valentine Cadieux (through 2010)
Yale University
Valentine.cadieux@yale.edu

Hannah Gosnell (through 2009)
Oregon State University
gosnellh@geo.oregonstate.edu

Carl Wilmsen (through 2008)
Community Forestry Research Fellowship Program
cwilmsen@nature.berkeley.edu

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Verdie Craig (through 2008)
Moorehead State University

Secretary/Treasurer

Patrick Hurley (through 2009)
College of Charleston
hurleyp@cofc.edu

Student Director

Kelly Watson (through 2008)
Florida State University
Kcw03c@fsu.edu

IV. Accomplishments, Activities Scheduled, Future Plans and Directions

Business Meeting: The 2007 annual business meeting was held between 7:30 and 9:00 on April 20 in San Francisco, California. Approximately 15 people attended. Major topics of business included electing new Directors, discussing strategies for using our sizable account balance to advance Rural Geography, and promoting our awards program in advance of the 2008 Annual Meeting in Boston. We agreed to request that our business meeting not be scheduled simultaneously with the Tourism, Cultural and Political Ecology, and Population Specialty Groups at future annual meetings because many of our members are active in those groups, as well.

2007 Annual Meeting: The RGSG sponsored or co-sponsored 20 sessions at the San Francisco annual meeting on topics ranging from organic food production in periurban locations to emergent conservation landscapes in the American West.

Specialty Group Awards: No papers were submitted for the student paper competition. Just one paper was submitted for the Red Center - RGSG Rural American West Paper Competition. This paper was not deemed to be of award quality. The Chair and Awards Director will work together to enhance the awards program next year, including actively seeking nominees for the more senior awards (e.g., the John Fraser Hart Award).