Field Notes
Newsletter of the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group

Highlights:
- Queen Quet, Chairwoman of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, presents a “historical” plenary lecture, organized by the Indigenous Peoples SG and co-sponsored, among others, by the GFASG. Wednesday, at 12:40 p.m. See page 4 for more details.
- Page 4 is your GFASG guide to the 2014 AAG Annual Meeting.
- All are welcome to attend the business meeting on Thursday at 11:50 a.m. Elections for the 2014-2016 board will take place. See page 4 for more details.
- All-day field trip, 9 a.m., on Thursday, “Organizing in the Field: a Visit with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.” See page 4.

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Message from the Outgoing Chair
Daniel Block
Department of Geography, Chicago State University

It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve as the inaugural chair of the Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group. Over the past three years, we have developed from just an idea to a working and integrated part of the AAG with over 200 members.

GFASG highlights this year are sponsorship of representatives from the Florida-based anti-modern day slavery activist organization the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) for a discussion on Wednesday, April 9, and back-to-back author-meets-critics sessions on Friday, April 11, with anthropologist Seth Holmes and geographer Ryan Galt. Nine other sponsored sessions include a plenary lecture by Queen Quet of the Gullah/Geechee peoples. The GFASG is also sponsoring a field trip to the CIW headquarters in Immokalee on Thursday.

This year saw declines in the numbers of GFASG-sponsored sessions and students participating in our student paper contest. Let’s not make this decline a trend. As we work towards next year’s meeting in Chicago, we urge members to get involved by planning sessions, serving on the board, and organizing field trips and student gatherings. We also encourage students to submit papers for next year’s student paper contest. Likewise we encourage all session organizers to look for sessions organized by cognate specialty groups in order to offer our co-sponsorship of those sessions and events.

We are working to create a vibrant home for the practice of the geographies of food and agriculture within the AAG. Come join us in this exciting and developing endeavor. A great place to begin would be to attend the business meeting of the GFASG on Thursday, April 10, from 11:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 13, Marriott, Third Floor. Elections for the next term of the board of directors will take place. We look forward to seeing you there.

Message from the Vice-Chair/Incoming Chair
Nathan McClintock
Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning, Portland State University

Greetings all! As the incoming chair of the GFASG, I would like to welcome you to the annual meeting of the AAG in Tampa.

We are sponsoring several excellent sessions this year. A couple of these focus on praxis—in activist scholarship and food and community geography—while other sessions focus on indigenous knowledge, agrifood governance through a science and technology studies lens, studies of diverse food retail structures, and beer. We are excited to sponsor two author-meets-critics sessions: Ryan Galt’s political ecology of pesticide use in Costa Rica and Seth Holmes’ book on farmworker labor and health. These sessions, as well as compelling new work by many of our SG’s members, signal an important and ever-growing emphasis on justice and equity within geographic scholarship on food and agriculture. Moreover, they signal what I see as a growing momentum among critical geographers to move beyond critique and to engage more actively with community struggles over access to healthy food and over the means of its production. While this is a truly exciting movement, the organizers of “Activist Scholarship and Scholarly Activism in Food Justice” urge us to find “ways to create safe spaces for activists and scholars to engage with each other on an equitable basis” to avoid perpetuating the extractive research practices that have tainted academia’s reputation in many communities. This is an important message and one that I think resonates with many agrifood scholars. This year the GFASG hopes to contribute to opening up such spaces. We are honored to welcome representatives from CIW to discuss their efforts to combat labor abuses and human trafficking. Their stories will inspire and challenge us to think about how and what we might contribute as scholars to such struggles for more just and sustainable food systems.

I’m looking forward to seeing you this week. Please stop to introduce yourself if we cross paths!
The GFASG Website Is Up and Running

GFASG website coordinator Colleen Hammelman, Temple University, launched the group’s website last fall. The address is http://gfasg.wordpress.com. The website will grow along with the group and the interests of its members. If you have ideas for content or features on the site, please feel free to contact the website coordinator or another board member. Thanks are due to Colleen for a job well done!

Cognate Conferences and Meetings in 2014

The University of Vermont Food Systems Summit, an annual event drawing scholars, practitioners, and food systems leaders to engage in dialogue around the pressing food systems issues facing our world, will be held June 17–18 at the UVM campus in Burlington, VT. The Summit will immediately precede the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) joint annual meeting June 18–22 at the UVM campus. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Collaboration and Innovation Across the Food System.” For more information, visit http://www.uvm.edu/foodsystems/?Page=summit.html&SM=summit_menu.html

The annual forum of Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Funders (SAFSF), an international network of grant-makers that works to foster communication, shared learning, and information exchange about issues connected to sustainable agriculture and food systems, will take place June 17–19 in Denver, Colorado. For more information, visit http://www.safsf.org/2014forum/

The Summer Academy in Global Food Law & Policy, a one-week summer program that brings together practitioners, policymakers, industry representatives and leading academics working in the field of food law and policy, will take place July 21–25 in Bilbao, Spain. For more information, visit http://www.albertoalemanno.eu/academy

The Community Development Society holds its annual conference this year July 20–23 at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, Iowa. For more information, visit www.comm-dev.org.

The Rural Sociological Society Meeting, “Equity, Democracy, and the Commons: Counter-narratives for Rural Transformation,” takes place July 30 to August 3 at the Roosevelt Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New Orleans. For more information, visit www.ruralsociology.us.

Chicago will host the 35th anniversary conference of the American Community Gardening Association on August 7–10 at the Field Museum. The theme this year is “Gateway to Community in the City of Neighborhoods.” For more information, visit www.communitygarden.org.

EcoFest 2014, Tampa’s Earth Day Event, Is on Saturday, April 12

Organized by Learning Gate Community School, the City of Tampa, and the USF Patel College of Global Sustainability, the 5th Annual EcoFest will take place at the Lowry Park Bandshell, Riverfront, 7525 N. Boulevard, Tampa 33604, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.
2013–2014 GFASG Report from the Secretary

Membership

Since its launch in 2011, the GFASG has grown continuously. Between the 2013 and 2014 AAG meetings, membership has climbed from 167 to 215 members. The annual renewal of your AAG membership is a good time to join the GFASG, if you have not already done so. AAG members may belong to six specialty groups at a time.

To help build the group’s sense of community and collegiality, I encourage members to use the Knowledge Communities platform on the AAG website to share news and announcements and initiate discussions about topics in the geographies of food and agriculture.

Student Paper Award

In Los Angeles last year, the board of the GFASG was pleased to present the group’s first Graduate Student Paper Award of $250 to Catarina Passidomo, a PhD candidate at the University of Georgia, Department of Geography, for her paper “Whose right to (farm) the city?: Race and food justice activism in post-Katrina New Orleans.”

Funding of L.A. Panel

The GFASG supplied $300 of the registration costs of several esteemed nongeographer panel participants in last year’s “Community Food Security and Anti-hunger Approaches in Los Angeles: Voices from the Front Lines” discussion. The GFASG was grateful to the AAG for awarding Enrichment Funds to cover the remainder of the cost of these panel participants.

L.A. Field Trip

Last year’s GFASG-sponsored field trip, “Ag in the City: Farmland and Ranches in the West San Fernando Valley,” co-sponsored by the Rural Geography Specialty Group and organized by board member Gina Thornburg, packed the 22-person van full of participants from 10 countries. The all-day excursion visited farms and ranchland in the San Fernando Valley and featured a variety of speakers on topics pertaining to present-day food and agriculture trends, activities, and issues.

—Nurcan Atalan-Helicke
Assistant Professor
Environmental Studies
Skidmore College

Recent Publications of GFASG Members*


*GFASG members’ names are set in boldface type.

(Continued on page 5)
GFASG-Sponsored & Co-Sponsored Sessions & Events at the 2014 AAG, Tampa

TUESDAY, APRIL 8
1. Paper 1466: Culture, Agriculture and Tradition I: Species, Diversity and Local Knowledge, 12:40 p.m. – 2:20 p.m., Florida Salon V, Marriott, Second Floor.

2. Paper 1566: Culture, Agriculture and Tradition II: Traditional Knowledge and Contemporary Settings, 2:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m., Florida Salon V, Marriott, Second Floor.

3. Paper 1666: Culture, Agriculture and Tradition III: Food Sovereignty and Sustainability, 4:40 p.m. – 6:20 p.m., Florida Salon V, Marriott, Second Floor.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
5. Panel Session 2540: Organizing Against Oppression in the Modern Food System: the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, 2:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m., Room 30B, TCC, Fourth Floor.

6. Field trip: Organizing in the field: a Visit with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Cost: about $80. Limit: 14 people. Organized by Gail Hollander and Alayne Unterberger, this trip goes to the town of Immokalee to visit with CIW representatives. CIW leads the national Campaign for Fair Food, which fights for human rights in agriculture, raises awareness about labor exploitation, and creates alliances among farmworkers and consumers. Lunch is included. For more information, inquire at the AAG On-Site Registration Desk on Floor 2 of the TCC.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
7. Paper 3282: STS from Farm to Plate: Technologies, Knowledge and Agro-Food Governance, 10:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m., Meeting Room 13, Marriott, Third Floor.

BUSINESS MEETING 3382: Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group, 11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Meeting Room 13, Marriott, Third Floor.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
8. Paper 4117: Food and Community Geography, 8:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m., Room 17, TCC, First Floor.

9. Paper 4217: Activist Scholarship and Scholarly Activism in Food Justice, 10:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m., Room 17, TCC, First Floor.

10. Paper 4417: Geography of Beer: Regions, Environment and Societies, 12:40 p.m. – 2:20 p.m., Room 17, TCC, First Floor.

11. Paper 4517: Economic and Social Benefits of Farmers Markets, CSAs, and Food Hubs, 2:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m., Room 17, TCC, First Floor.

12. Author Meets Critics 4554: Seth Holmes’ Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies. Migrant Farmworkers in the United States, 2:40 p.m. – 4:20 p.m., Grand Salon C, Marriott, Second Floor.

13. Author Meets Critics 4617: Ryan Galt’s Food Systems in an Unequal World: Pesticides, Vegetables, and Agrarian Capitalism in Costa Rica, 4:40 p.m. – 6:20 p.m., Room 17, TCC, First Floor.

Download the AAG’s mobile app to help plan your time at the conference. It’s available via www.aag.org or the Google Play Store.
Recent Publications of GFASG Members

(Continued from page 3)


Naylor, L. (2014). ‘Some are more fair than others’: Fair trade certification, development, and North–South subjects. Agriculture and Human Values, 31(2), 273–84.


AAG members may belong to up to six specialty groups. The members of the GFASG engage in synergistic activities with the Rural Geography, Development Geographies, Cultural and Political Ecology, and Indigenous Peoples SGs, among others. Cosponsorships of conference activities are encouraged.

At a coffee ranch in Monteverde, Costa Rica, coffee beans are spread out to dry.