

UBIQUE – NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY VOLUME XXV – NUMBER 3 – DECEMBER 2005

AGS Tackles Landmines

Jerome E. Dobson
President, AGS
Professor of Geography, University of Kansas

I once gave a lecture entitled, “Surviving Past Glory.” My point was that the more glorious an organization’s past, the more susceptible it is to the question, “What have you done lately?” No learned society in America can claim a more storied past than AGS, and I love to regale anyone who’ll listen with its legacy of exploration, scientific advancement, and public service. But danger lurks, I know, when I head down that path. To some, the legacy itself is justification enough for loyal, generous support. To others, however, past glory automatically translates into a faded present. So, today I ask the question myself and answer purely in terms of what’s new and exciting at AGS.

“What has AGS done lately?” With tremendous pride, I say, “A lot!” I’ll skip the long list of ongoing, significant things that AGS has never stopped doing and go straight to the latest initiatives. In the previous *Ubique*, I mentioned two new projects: (1) Cartographic Symbolization of Landmines, Minefields, and Mine Actions and (2) Fieldwork to Improve America’s Understanding of Foreign Lands and Peoples. Today, I’ll explain the landmine project; next issue, the foreign fieldwork project.

We are promulgating a new cartographic standard for representing landmines, minefields, and mine actions (mine education, technical surveys, clearance, etc.) on maps. Not only is there no current world standard, but there is great disparity even among neighboring countries in regions where landmines are common. This, despite the horrendous penalty for misreading landmine symbols by anyone navigating a region with the help of a map. Many minefields are not fenced or marked on the ground, and thus present a real danger to anyone who doesn’t know the territory in intimate detail. For the demining community, maps also serve as powerful tools for managing each step in the clearance process. Ultimately, detection and clearance take place in side-by-side lanes only one meter wide, and fine scale maps or geographic information systems (GIS) are essential.



For all the hope and hype about landmine detection and clearance, the simple truth is that demining hasn’t changed much since World War II. A deminer gets down on his knees, lays down a meter-stick that’s 2.5 centimeters wide, probes every 2.5 centimeters along the edge of the stick, then turns it over and repeats the process again and again all day long. A notable improvement is that the probe itself now is made of fiber glass rather than metal and thus less prone to trigger magnetic detonators. One deminer clears about 4 to 5 square meters per day for which he earns about \$230 per month, an enviable job in less developed countries.

How do local citizens know a minefield’s there in the first place? Sometimes because they saw soldiers linger in some suspicious way. All too often, however, it’s because someone lost an

animal that, in many cases, was essential to family welfare or, worse yet, lost a loved one, often a child.

Now, consider the scope of the problem. Worldwide, there are about 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 landmines in the ground today. They located in about 80 countries. About 60 of those countries are parties to the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty which commits them to clear all mines by 2009. That's a tall order, not likely to be met by all, but it's an important direction and goal. Our sponsor, the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) assists them with training, software, standards, and handbooks. GICHD is an independent foundation funded by the governments of 17 donor nations including the U.S. It is an arm of the Swiss Government with ambassadorial status.

I first met GICHD Program Manager Alan Arnold while attending a meeting of the Southeast European Mine Action Committee in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He was actively searching for someone to design a new set of cartographic symbols that could form the basis of a new global standard to be used by the 60 signatory countries plus anyone else who might be enticed to adopt them. Alan contracted with the University of Kansas to design a comprehensive symbol set for representing land mines, minefields and mine actions. I, in turn, asked KU graduate student John Kostelnick to lead the effort, and he did so with great professionalism. The results were presented first to the demining community itself at an international conclave in Geneva. John revised a bit in response to their comments and later presented his results at annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Cartography and Geographic Information Science (CaGIS), and International Cartographic Conference (ICC).



The standard certainly will be employed by operational demining programs throughout the world, but GICHD would like to see it adopted as well by major mapping agencies, GIS vendors, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). That's where AGS comes in. We've now held two workshops, one in New York attended by key representatives from the United Nations and another in Reston, VA attended by similar officials from the U. S. government. Both meetings also had a good presence of private firms, such as ESRI, Inc., and NGOs, such as the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA). The U. S. Geological Survey hosted the workshop in Reston, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency participated prominently. The enthusiasm shown by key representatives from all of the organizations bodes well for a future global standard.

This project amply demonstrates how past glory can aid present success. The Society's venerable reputation opened doors, and its vibrant current organization made the case. Executive Director Mary Lynne Bird organized the workshops, and Councilors John Kelmelis (USGS), Greg Smith (NGA), Juha Uitto (UN), and Bill Derrenbacher (ESRI) ensured major support within their respective organizations. I hope you will agree that projects such as this are worthy of AGS and justification for your loyal, generous support. And if anyone asks, "What has AGS done lately?" just tell them, "AGS tackles landmines."

DISASTERS AS OPPORTUNITY, NEW ORLEANS STYLE

By Craig E. Colten, Louisiana State University and member of AGS Writer's Circle

New Orleans, like many other cities, has had to rebound from disasters in the past. Fires ravaged the Vieux Carre in the eighteenth century. Yellow fever caused seasonal evacuations with

some regularity in the nineteenth century. River or hurricane driven floods could inundate the city for months. Frequently, extreme events provided inducements for major re-configurations of cities. Katrina is the latest in a long line of such turning points for New Orleans.

Great conflagrations in the eighteenth century scorched much of the city as it existed during the late Spanish colonial era. There was never any question about rebuilding after each of these major fires. Consequently, much of what visitors see in the French Quarter today has no Gallic influence. Few French structures remain, and the landscape tourists find so alluring reflects Spanish, African, and American traditions. Creole-French buildings, with main floors raised well above the street level became somewhat rare during the post-fire rebuilding.

Following huge yellow fever epidemics in 1853 and 1878, the city instituted numerous practices to reduce the return of the deadly disease. Efforts to drain the topographically uncooperative site met with decades of frustration, and citizens groups instituted street flushing campaigns to remove the foul waters that collected in the gutters. Not until the discovery that mosquitoes were the vectors of the disease and a mosquito-eradication program was started was the city able to largely remove that threat. Such efforts required formation and maintenance of public works and public health programs that contributed to the enlargement of the city. In particular, drainage projects lowered the water table under vast tracts of land and reduced the mosquito habitat, but unwittingly created much of the real estate covered by Katrina's floods.

Particularly devastating river floods washed over the city in 1816 and 1849. Both left huge sections of the city under water for months and caused suffering among the recent immigrants and the city's poor who occupied the low ground off the natural levee. There was no hesitation to rebuild and with each resurrection, public officials raised the levees to provide greater protection.

During the 1927 flood, the Corps of Engineers blew a hole in the levee to accelerate the passage of the flood crest and protect New Orleans. In doing so, it sacrificed the rich fur-trapping wetlands of St. Bernard Parish. While the marshes and muskrats gradually approached pre-flood conditions, the parish economy is no longer dependent on fur trapping. In addition, the flood control policy underwent a fundamental change. Rather than rely strictly on levees, army engineers incorporated artificial outlets into their planning, mimicking nature by creating sluiceways that would divert a portion of stream flow to the gulf much like distributary bayous had done before the completion of the federal levee system.

Calamities, whether storm or disease driven, have provided key turning points in New Orleans. Each has produced substantial changes in the city's physical, social, and economic geography. Yet, the city has persisted. Undoubtedly there will be massive change following Hurricane Katrina, but this is to be expected. What we cannot yet anticipate with any certainty is how the city will look in twenty-five years.

Likely, population will continue to leave New Orleans as it has for the last forty-five years and reduce demand for expansive suburban land uses. Hopefully, this will allow the lowest areas will be restored as wetland and to function as flood retention basins. Likely, demand for real estate on the highest ground will increase. Hopefully, development of this band of natural levee will see an increase in density without the sacrifice of the rich architectural elements that are so important to New Orleans' identity. Hopefully, price will not restrict the poor to the low ground.

New Orleans has paid its way in American history and should not be sacrificed to bulldozer blades. As the mud is washed away and the downed live oaks shredded into mulch, let us strive to allow all who contribute to the rich cultural landscape of New Orleans to benefit from its rebuilding.

AGS SESSION AT AAAS

By Deborah Popper, AGS Councilor

Anyone planning to attend the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science this year should make sure to plan to attend the AGS-organized session on human tracking systems, "Orwell's Wolf Is Back: Tracking Kids, Dogs, Old People, and Everybody In Between." The AAAS meeting is being held in St. Louis, February 16-20, 2006, at the America's Center and the Renaissance Grand Hotel. This exciting session is to be held Monday, February 20th, 9:45-12:45.

Orwell's Wolf Is Back: Tracking Kids, Dogs, Old People, and Everybody In Between

Bracelets, pendants, or implants track people in motion, continuously reporting their whereabouts to service providers. Today anyone can track and perhaps control someone for about the same price as a cell phone. Thus, a grand societal experiment has begun with little forethought or public debate. Surveillance technologies once universally feared are now employed without restriction throughout the United States and many other nations. George Orwell cried wolf! in 1984 more than half a century ago, and society cringed. The cry has been echoed so many times that few listen today even when legitimate concerns arise. This session focuses on human tracking, a category of Location-Based Services (LBS) that employs geographic information systems (GIS) continuously fed with earth coordinates from the Global Positioning System (GPS) and broadcast via radio frequency identification (RFID) communications technologies. Certain benefits are undeniable. Caregivers, for example, can monitor elderly patients with Alzheimer's Disease more easily, and trucking companies can track the locations of drivers. But, who decides when the elderly are ready to be tracked and controlled, and how much personal freedom are workers willing to surrender? This symposium will examine the benefits, risks, and ethical dilemmas of LBS and human tracking applications. Technical, legal, and institutional safeguards will be presented, and the audience will be encouraged to join in the discussion.

Kai Elgethun, Texas A&M University, "Tracking Children for Health Risk Assessment: Benefits and Ethical Dilemmas"

Jerome Dobson, University of Kansas and American Geographical Society, "Human Tracking: Framing the International Debate"

Nancy Obermeyer, Indiana State University, Department of Geography, "Tracking and Public Transit"

Jeremy Crampton, Georgia State University, "Surveillance, Security, and Personal Dangerousness"

Daniel Sui, Texas A&M University, "The Location of Identity: Reclaim the Stolen Geography"

William Herbert, CSEA, Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, "Legal Principles, Issues, and Potential Solutions Regarding Human Tracking"

EARTHWORKS

By Peter Lewis

“What had happened...to the idea of remoteness, the sense of magisterial nature embodied in the word ‘Thule’?” asks Joanna Kavenna in *THE ICE MUSEUM* (Viking). And so she went to see, returning with a lambent chronicle of wandering north into an old idea brought forcefully into a new age, a metaphor for a receding world.

Pytheas said he had been there, Pliny the Elder felt free to describe it, Strabo had nothing but scorn to heap upon the notion, the Venerable Bede figured it was Iceland. Ultima Thule: a glazed landscape pure and haunting, a northerly myth, frozen in silence, strange and disconcerting, far and gone.

Thule was the pea under Kavenna’s mattress, but a purpose rather than a complaint, to seek “the consolations of a perfect view, the tranquility of slowness.” But where was Thule? Kavenna follows the many wayward suggestions: to Norway and Shetland and Iceland, Estonia, Greenland, and Spitsbergen.

She is a chromatic, poised writer with an eye for evocative images: In Oslo she will hear “atonal bells striking eight outside,” in the Shetlands she “found a gate singing in the wind, and an oval-shaped ruin a few feet high.” There is Iceland, where the Victorians encountered “the devil holes, the sulphur pots, the lairs of Beelzebub,” and Spitsbergen’s two-tone frieze of rock and ice.

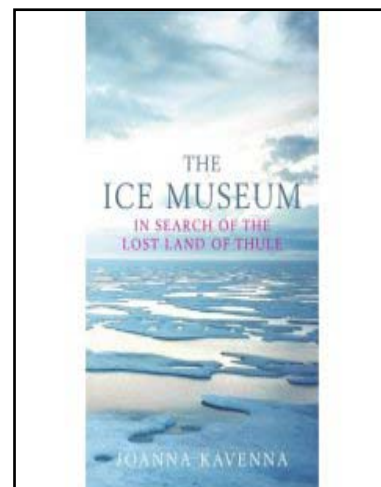
Kavenna inhales explorers, writers, and politicians---Fridtjof Nansen and Halldor Laxness and Vidkun Quisling, for starters---as she takes the measure of the Thule Society (a group also concerned with purity, of the racial sort) and the bleached unknowingness of the Thule Air Base, a Cold War relic in a long line of pretenders stealing a name of vibrancy for the purpose of politics. Thule for her will always be an ancient fragment, a desire and an unease, a play of colors on the ice, beautiful and silent.

“I crossed the purple hills of the island of Yell,” saw the pink mountains of Iceland, shivered before watery orange sun, felt the burn of cold, the buzz of absolute quiet: Thule upon Thule.

In as stark and maddening a portrait of coal country as Harry Caudill’s *Night Comes to the Cumberland*, Erik Reece spent a year closely observing the sickly, mined reaches of a mountain in Kentucky’s Appalachia and stands witness to its devouring in *LOST MOUNTAIN* (Riverhead).

No longer do the indelicate carvings of contour mining---where excavations are carried out along ridgelines---prevail in the coal-bearing landscape of Kentucky. Now the name of the mining game is mountaintop removal: blast the high ground to smithereens, scavenge the detritus, and plow the waste into the valley below, like so much toxic dust under the rug.

Reece chronicles these colossal scalpings in bite-sized, anxious chapters, written with an eye for abiding, catastrophic imagery, both the human and the ecological kind. He is not wont of material. Here was a superb mesophytic forest habitat with near rain forest diversity of species, a crumpled and intimate landscape of weathered peaks rich in flora and fauna, which now resemble the buttes of the American West; pretty as they are in Arizona, they are deeply alien---and a sign of trouble---in the East.



This new design comes complete with creeks that run orange with sulfuric acid and heavy metals, polluted wells, cracked foundations to local homes, and illnesses that are a crime to overlook. Union protection for workers and citizens is a laugh, and any protection by government oversight is a travesty: the current administration has a former coal lobbyist, Steven Griles, as Deputy Secretary of the Interior. It is a place where Orwell and Kafka would have felt at home in their bleakest moments, where corruption and smack-mouth class warfare is thick on the ground.

Reece is not a dullard, he appreciates the last-ditch need for some common ground, but is there no way a local economy can sustain itself without mourning the cerulean warbler and the very skyline? An unforgettable subcurrent runs through it: after all the greed and degradation and health problems and poverty and governmental malfeasance---which side are you on?

CONSIDER THE LOBSTER (Little, Brown)---another savory, hard-thinking, wildly imaginative collection of essays and observations from the artful David Foster Wallace.

Included here is the wonderful “Up, Simba,” (in the original, director’s cut) an item that tucked into a week in the John McCain’s presidential bid and how it might reveal “how millennial politics and all its packaging and marketing...and general sepsis actually makes us US voters feel.” It is an essay that showcases Wallace’s ability to capture the queer gamut of our citizenry, from “Talmudically bearded guys asking about Chechnya” to “the obligatory walleied fundamentalist trying to pin [McCain] down on whether Christ really called homosexuality an abomination.”

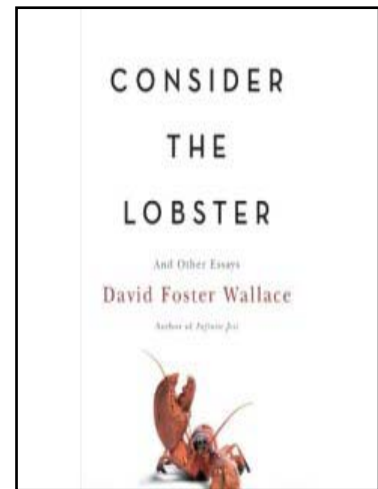
He suggests why Dostoevsky is important to today’s American: his degrees of passion, conviction and engagement with deep moral issues, as well as his great plots and splendid, alive characterizations. Wallace exercises the same living characterizations when his readers inhabit the late-night, conservative talk show studio in “Host,” allowing them to see how and why it is what it is. Acute and mischievous, his long piece on a porn industry trade show grimly forecasts that for the trade to preserve its sense of unacceptability it is heading straight to snuff films, though he also manages to have fun living the moment, where the “men’s room’s urinal area is an angst festival” when a star enters to unzip.

Wallace gets in a mighty dig at John Updike for his uncritical celebration of self-absorption, though he may have been premature in Philip Roth’s “senescence.” A lobster festival becomes a theater of comparative neurobiology and the subjectivity of pain and suffering (lobsters are not likely dancing a happy fandango under the clattering lid of the boiling pot). He addresses the exformative associations in Kafka, the ethics of American English usage, and gets windy tearing apart Tracy Austin’s dismal autobiography, but let the wind blow, for it is ever refreshing.

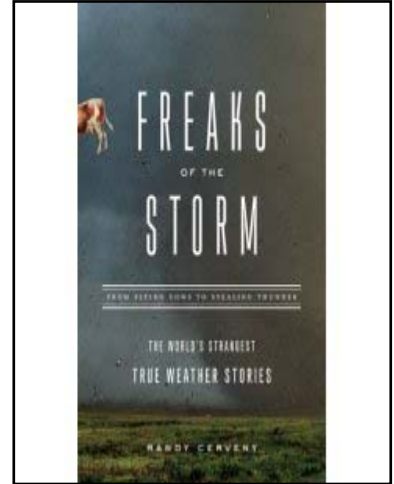
Should Wallace suggest an article on the behavior of a sack of hammers, the smart editor will give him a fat advance and all expenses paid.

With FREAKS OF THE STORM (Thunder’s Mouth) come bogging stories of crazy weather, accompanied by explanations into the whys and wherefores, from Randy Cerveny.

“Nature is power. On occasion, it can also be incredibly weird,” writes Cerveny in typical convivial fashion. Nature expresses itself particularly weirdly in strange and capricious weather, and here can be found account after account of eye-popping, jaw-dropping weather events.



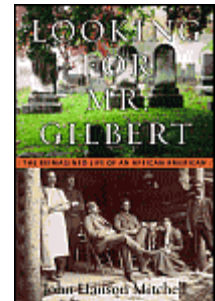
The ferocious force of great storms is one thing, as anyone who has experienced a major hurricane or a tornado will attest, but it is the oddities, the real freaks of weather, that Cerveny uses to capture his readers. These are the stories of people swept up in the winds of tornadoes and settled gently back down on earth, of flying cows and train cars, of a single stroke of lightning that killed 835 sheep and of human hail (these were airplane pilots who bailed out and got caught in the frigid up-and-down drafts that form regular hail).



There are rains of fish and toads and snakes, cloudless rain, heat bursts that are said to have reached 158 degrees, ice fogs, black blizzards, whirlwinds of fire. Once an intense downpour of rain scoured a hillside in Colorado to reveal deposits of gold; another time a tornado pushed and rolled an eighteen-ton liquid-fertilizer tank for over half a mile.

Mayhem and misery are part and parcel of these storms, but for sheer madness it is hard to top the hordes of snapping turtles and alligators a hurricane visited upon the city of Mobile, Alabama: “sources suggest that fully half the two hundred casualties were the result of alligator and turtle bites.” (314) Cerveny deciphers the events to the best of his knowledge and, the consummate professional, steers clear of demonizing nature, a force he appreciates that cures and kills, creates and destroys.

John Hanson Mitchell chronicles in *LOOKING FOR MR. GILBERT* (Shoemaker & Hoard) an obscure and unique part of his Massachusetts purlieu, an African-American assistant to ornithologist and conservationist William Brewster, who caught Mitchell’s fancy with his photographic work in the early 1900s.



In a dexterous piece of creative nonfiction, Mitchell begets the life of Robert Alexander Gilbert, a multi-talented man who worked with Brewster for many years. While researching a book on the New England landscape, Mitchell had uncovered a trove of glass negatives in the attic of an old farmhouse. At first he thought them to be the work of Brewster, but came to understand that many of them had been taken by Gilbert.

In the nice, smooth cadence of the book, much like the Concord River that was the hub of Gilbert and Brewster’s work, Mitchell takes readers on his odyssey to learn more about Gilbert, a man of sure bearing, a player of the piano, who found resonances in the work of Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois, but perhaps more closely followed the Emersonian ideal of the individual, a lonely courage that saw him through all the adversities black people experienced at the turn of the 20th century.

The polymathic Gilbert is just the kind of character suited to Mitchell’s temperament, one that allows him to ramble afield, digress into ruminations on photography---“to use existing light to halt the linear flow of time and pluck a discontinuity from an otherwise continuous flow of events”---trace the origins of American ornithological concerns (where both Gilbert and Brewster figured, Gilbert a shadow player), look into the history of Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology (where Gilbert worked), and travel to Paris where Gilbert landed after a failed bid at marketing his shoe polish invention. In other words, to keep Mitchell’s restless curiosity well exercised.

Another handsome component in Mitchell's tapestry of his homeplace, by now as closely observed as Gilbert White's Selborne.

David Willis McCullough's *THE UNENDING MYSTERY* (Pantheon) provides a thoroughly good humored look at the history and layout of labyrinths and mazes.

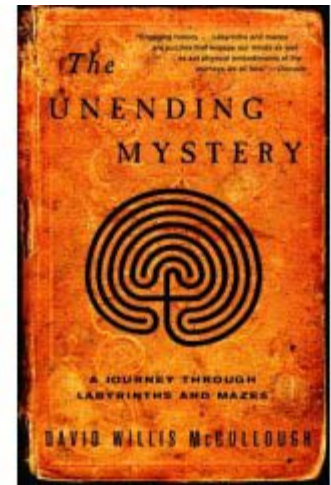
First, let's get a couple of things straight, writes McCullough: a labyrinth is not a maze. A labyrinth is a single circuitous path to a center, nonjudgmental and often enough solemn. A maze is a puzzle path that demands choices, raffish and tricky and often enough designed with one end in mind: fun.

Labyrinths go back, way back, pre-Stone Age back, with a typical design---seven- or eleven-fold circuits---whereas mazes are a rather newer invention. In the cheerful voice of one smitten by both subjects, McCullough takes readers on a tour of some fascinating labyrinths and mazes---Etruscan, designs on standing stones, Cretan, Roman, Chartres, Native American, great English country houses, corn mazes, mazes made of glass and mirrors.

With each site he visits or examines, he tenders speculations on the role of labyrinths---here he is mostly taken with their contemplative role, to reflect and inspire and find peace, to serve as a surrogate pilgrim's way---while mazes have an equally fascinating, if less hoary, background: McCullough notes the suggestions that mazes evolved out of Gaelic knots, or the designs of Persian rugs, and that by the 16th century they had become both "social events and elaborate garden ornaments," and perhaps a chance for vice.

McCullough tries to keep his head square on his shoulders, but he also entertains theories involving divine doodles and quantum physics, displaying his dry humor when it comes to the purported string theory parallel: "the chapter on string theories in Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* being the point where most of his readers realized that they hadn't the slightest idea what Hawking was writing about." More captivating is the material on sacred geometry and symbolic numbers, the rare appearance, as related to McCullough, of angels and stardust on a labyrinthine walk.

McCullough's sound advice: get lost. Better yet, take a walk.



AGS LIBRARY FELLOWSHIPS

By Christopher Baruth, Curator, American Geographical Society Library

The AGS Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, is pleased to now have two ongoing short-term fellowship programs. The first, inaugurated in 2000, was the result of a gift from Mrs. Helen Best in memory of her late husband, John S. Best, a prominent Milwaukee attorney. This fund has enabled the Library to bring two or more scholars to Milwaukee every year to further their research efforts. Awards may be for periods of one to four weeks.

The Best fellows for 2006 will be:

- 1) Prof. Richard W. Dixon, Texas State University, who will be researching content analysis of early climatology textbooks
- 2) Innes M. Keighren, doctoral candidate, University of Edinburgh, who will be studying the influences of Semple's "Influences of Geographic Environment" (1911) in the United States.

In addition, Dr. Robert McColl of Lawrence, Kansas, has provided funding for a new fellowship: the McColl Research Program. This differs from the Best fellowship in that the duration of the award is limited to four weeks, and the recipient must promote geographical literacy to the broadest possible community, especially those who can apply the data and analyses. This second provision is insured through a two-part stipend, the first provided at the time of the residency, and the second when the fellow's contribution is accepted by a mutually agreed-upon publisher.

The 2006 McColl fellows will be:

- 1) Dr. Irakli Iakobashvili, Head, Division of Informatics & Communications, Parliament of Georgia. Project to research the W.O. Field Archive materials.
- 2) Dr. Alexei Postnikov, Russian Academy of Sciences, will be researching American and British exploration of Siberia and its importance in studies of nature, natives, and Russians of these frontier regions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

For the years 2004-2006, the AGS Library has had additional fellowship funding from UWM's Center for International Education. In 2006, a special CIE funded fellowship has been awarded to Dr. Zokirjon A. Saidboboev of Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for his study of "European historical-cartographic information concerning Central Asia."

The staff of the AGSL greatly looks forward to working with these scholars as they advance their interesting and diverse projects in 2006.

The American Geographical Society Travel Program

AGS scholars are excellent lecturers and traveling companions for educational travel, having spent **a lifetime exploring and lecturing on the physical, biological, and cultural character of particular regions**. An AGS scholar provides you with an expansive and comprehensive understanding of a region. What are we looking at; why is it here; and why is it important? Our AGS lecturers - all outstanding professors of geography - have been carefully **selected for their ability to lecture** and present fascinating insights into each region's *specific* natural and cultural development. They are especially **eloquent and dynamic speakers** who also enjoy exchanging ideas and impressions with fellow travelers. In short, AGS lecturers make congenial travel companions for our small groups of AGS travelers.

Most AGS trips are conducted aboard **small, luxurious ships** that follow age-old maritime routes along beautiful coastlines and rivers. The intimate size of these luxury vessels provides an exclusive shipboard experience, plus **opportunities to dock and anchor at historic ports and towns that larger ships simply cannot**. Relax in luxurious accommodations, savor fine

food (including regional specialties), and enjoy the pampering of first-class service. **Unpack once** in your comfortable stateroom while your ship provides an ever-changing panorama of beautiful landscapes.

Enjoy splendid (included) excursions to World Heritage and lesser-known sites. Explore dramatic natural landscapes, important archaeological sites, magnificent architectural wonders, old town centers, and museums...plus enjoy special meetings, behind-the-scenes visits, and enchanting performances.

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2006 Travel Program Schedule

Voyage to Antarctica

January 21–February 3 (14 days)

Lecturer: Robert Dodson, geographer and Antarctic explorer/historian.

Natural Wonders Around the World: An Exploration of the World's Mysteries by Private Jet

January 22–February 13 (23 days)

Lecturer: George Lovell, Professor of Geography at Queen’s University, Ontario.

Historical Landmarks and Natural Treasures of Brazil

February 28–March 13 (14 days)

Lecturer: Brian Godfrey, Professor of Geography at Vassar College.

The Ancient Lost Cities of Libya and Tunisia

April 10–21 (12 days)

Lecturer: Christine Drake, University Professor of Geography at Old Dominion University.

Seven Seas Odyssey

April 19–May 10 (22 days)

Lecturer: David Keeling, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University.

Waterways of Holland and Belgium

April 19–May 1 (13 days)

Lecturer: onboard guest lecturers.

Incredible Iberia: Portugal & Spain in Spring

April 20–May 1 (12 days)

Lecturer: Robert Kent, Chair and Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Akron.

Historic Cities of the Sea

May 3–14 (12 days)

Lecturer: William Koelsch, Professor Emeritus in the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University.

Waterways of Russia

July 26–August 6 (12 days)

Lecturer: Ralph Clem, Professor of International Relations at Florida International University.

In Harriman's Wake

Part I: Voyage to the Bering Sea

August 4–17 (14 days)

Lecturer: Frederick Nelson, Professor of Geography at the University of Delaware.

Part II: Alaska Coastal Odyssey

August 17–28 (12 days)

Lecturer: Susan Hardwick, Professor of Geography at the University of Oregon.

The Black Sea: Crossroads of Culture from the Ancient Past to the Present

August 28–September 8 (12 days)

Lecturer: David Hooson, Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley.

Danube River

August 30–September 12 (14 days)

Lecturer: Larry Ford, Professor of Geography at San Diego State University.

In Search of Alexander the Great

September 25–October 10, 2006

Lecturer: James Wiley, Associate Professor of Geography at Hofstra University.

Currents of Culture: Great Rivers of Africa, Asia, and Europe

October 26–November 17 (23 days)

Lecturer: Alec Murphy, Professor of Geography and Rippey Chair in Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon, Eugene.

Lost Cities of Libya, Tunisia & Algeria

November 9–21 (13 days)

Lecturer: Jared Diamond, geographer and best-selling author.

Atlantic Voyage: From the Straits of Gibraltar to Patagonia

November 20–December 22 (33 days)

Lecturer: Christine Drake, University Professor of Geography at Old Dominion University.

Beyond Timbuktu: North Africa & the Great Sahara by Private Jet

November 24–December 15 (22 days)

Lecturer: David Keeling, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography and Geology at Western Kentucky University.

For more information, please contact

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Focus on Human Geography: Readings for Students from FOCUS Magazine

Featured are 14 exceptionally readable, student-oriented, full-color articles from the American Geographical Society's *FOCUS on Geography* magazine (used with permission). Designed as a student reader, the articles are prefaced with commentary essays.

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Edited by Catherine M. Lockwood

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***GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW AND FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHY SPECIAL ISSUES
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Special issues of *Geographical Review* and *Focus on Geography* have been flying off the shelves in our storeroom, propelled by forces they do not understand. Fortunately, we do. Once off the shelf, the issues find their way into envelopes and cartons, destined to college classrooms across the land, where wise educators are using them to teach their charges. *Geographical Review* recently produced special issues on invasive species and on gardens. There have also been issues concentrating on environmental history, cyberspace, and the work of J. B. Jackson. And the now-classic fieldwork issue never stops marching briskly out the door, despite weighing more than a brick. Single-country issues of *Focus on Geography*---Greece, Mongolia, Scotland, Brazil, and China---continue to prove

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The Humboldt Club is a group of devoted friends of The American Geographical Society who give to or obtain for the Society a donation of at least \$5,000 per year. They enjoy all the privileges given to the Galileo Circle and, in addition, meet privately with the AGS Council and staff once a year to discuss policy, priorities, and progress.

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