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TGRG page

1. RGS-IBG Annual Conference

In late August the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) held its Annual Conference in London and, as noted in the TGRG Page in issue 5 of Volume 15, the Transport Geography Research Group (TGRG) was sponsoring four main sessions on *Transport and Sustainability* and co-sponsoring one session with the Geographies of Children, Youth and Families Working Group on *Youth, Mobility and Transport*. All 20 papers scheduled for the *Transport and Sustainability* sessions were presented – pleasing given the number of no-shows elsewhere in the conference programme – and proceedings will be outlined in a full Conference Report in the next TGRG Page. Attention now turns to future conferences, and alongside other transport-related sessions at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers at Boston in April 2008, the TGRG and its German counterpart, AK Verkehr, is planning a panel discussion bringing together scholars associated with transport geography and those identified as part of the 'new mobilities' turn. The aim is to search for common ground between these 'traditional' and more recent approaches to travel and transport, especially with regard to theoretical frameworks, empirical foundations and disciplinary connections.

2. New developments in the TGRG

The TGRG's Annual General Meeting was also held in London during the RGS-IBG conference, and a number of important developments took place. First to report is the initiation of an achievement award for significant or outstanding contributions to Transport Geography. Transport geographers from throughout Europe will be eligible for this award and, in recognition of one of Europe's most distinguished transport geographers, the TGRG Committee unanimously agreed it should be named the Alan Hay Award in Transport Geography, after Professor Alan Hay. Professor Hay has generously consented to his name being associated with what will certainly turn out to be a prestigious accolade, and the first award will be made at the RGS-IBG conference in 2008.

Secondly, building on the success of both recent lectures and growing interest in mobility and accessibility issues, we intend to make the Hoyle Lecture in Transport Geography a stand-alone event in the RGS-IBG conference schedule and sponsorship is currently being sought. We also intend to introduce this development from 2008. Finally, an annual Postgraduate Award for the best submitted paper to a TGRG-sponsored session at a RGS-IBG conference will be initiated – again, from 2008 – with a cash prize of £100 for the winner to be paid from TGRG funds. Postgraduates from across Europe will be eligible for the prize and we hope this will help sustain interest from the postgraduate community in transport and travel related research issues.

On housekeeping business, all three of TGRG's officers (Iain Docherty – Chair; Jon Shaw – Secretary; Brian Graham – Treasurer) were re-elected and we welcome Dr Janet Dickinson, from the School of Service Management at the University of Bournemouth, who was elected as an ordinary member of the Committee.

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