



NARSC NEWS



Welcome from the Executive Director



Hello everyone, and welcome to the June NARSC Newsletter.

We here at NARSC wanted to increase and expand communications with you. The newsletter now appears quarterly. This means more opportunities for you to read about fellow members, events, the Council, and partner news.

We are working closer with our regional science subregionals (WRSAs, MCRSAs, SRSAs, NERSAs, and CRSAs) to make sure the entire NARSC Community knows what is happening across North America.

This could not be possible without our newsletter editors...Liz Dobis (Economic Research Service) and Bonnie Bounds (Auburn University). A big thanks for their continued work for the regional science community. If you have any ideas for an upcoming newsletter, be sure to send them an email at newsletter@narsc.org.

The Call for Papers for the November Conference has been sent. Please submit your paper, or perhaps put together a special session or two. And be sure to tell a friend!

The 71st Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from November 13-16, 2024. The host hotel is the New Orleans Marriott, right on Canal Street and steps from the French Quarter.

As a reminder, we have two Student Paper Competitions – the Graduate-Student Author Paper Competition and the Graduate-Student-Led Paper Competition. If you are a graduate student, please consider submitting a paper to one of these two competitions. More details will be posted on the website shortly.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in the fun city of New Orleans!

John Sporing, NARSC Executive Director

JUNE 2024

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Welcome from the NARSC President



Dear Colleagues,

It is with immense pleasure and gratitude that I extend a heartfelt invitation to each and every one of you to the upcoming NARSC Conference 2024. As President of the North American Regional Science Association, I am honored to witness the convergence of brilliant minds, innovative ideas, and boundless enthusiasm in the pursuit of regional science excellence.

Our annual conference serves as a vibrant platform for scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to come together, exchange insights, and forge collaborations that transcend disciplinary boundaries. This year's gathering promises to be an enriching experience, characterized by stimulating discussions, thought-provoking presentations, and invaluable networking opportunities.

As we navigate the complexities of regional development, urban dynamics, and spatial analysis, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to scholarly rigor, intellectual curiosity, and the pursuit of knowledge for the betterment of society. Together, we have the power to shape the future of regional science and make meaningful contributions to the communities we serve.

I encourage you to actively engage in the diverse array of sessions, panels, and workshops and to seize this opportunity to learn, share, and inspire one another. Let us embrace the spirit of collaboration, foster an inclusive environment, and champion excellence in research and scholarship.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our Executive Director, John Spring, and our committee volunteers for their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in making this conference a reality.

I look forward to the transformative conversations and collaborations that lie ahead at the [2024 NARSC](#) meeting in New Orleans, November 13–16.

Sandy Dall'erba, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2024 NARSC President

Words from the Editor



I am excited to present the June 2024 issue of the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) Newsletter. With this issue, we will be transitioning to quarterly newsletters. Adding two more newsletters each year is an excellent opportunity for us to feature the subregional regional science associations more prominently in our newsletter. Be on the lookout for features on each of the subregional associations and more information on their journals. I have also taken this opportunity to add a section for news from government agencies, including new data and reports.

This issue of the newsletter starts with news from NARSC: a summary from the NARSC sessions at the 2024 Allied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA) Meeting, a note from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, and a recap of the presidential address from the 2023 NARSC Meeting in San Diego. This is followed by member spotlights and an in memoriam for Gordon Mulligan.

Next is our subregional association section featuring the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA). In their section, SRSA provides us with a recap of this year's conference, award winners, and member accomplishments. Additionally, *The Review of Regional Studies*, SRSA's journal, is searching for individuals with an established record of scholarship to serve as either sole or co-editors of the journal. Find more on the position and publishing in the new NARSC outreach journal, *Reaching Regions*, in the section on publishing in regional science. Government news and information on upcoming conferences round out the content.

I am also pleased to introduce my new co-editor, Bonnie Bounds, an economic geographer at Auburn University. She is featured in one of the Member Spotlights this issue, so check it out to learn more about her. If you have ideas or suggestions regarding content or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact Bonnie and me at the new newsletter email: newsletter@narsc.org.

[Liz Dobis](#)

Newsletter Co-Editor

NARSC News

NARSC @ ASSA

In January, NARSC sponsored a session at the Allied Social Science Associations/American Economic Association (ASSA/AEA) Meetings in San Antonio, Texas. The session was called, "Regional Science Contributions to Measuring Climate Change Impact." Three papers were presented with topics varying from how climate change will impact the geography of the U.S. economy, the impact of climate change on National Park attendance in Arizona, and how agriculture land use will be impacted by climate change. The session was attended by current NARSC members, as well as some new participants who we hope to see at future regional meetings.



This was the third year that NARSC has been invited to sponsor a session. This year, Sandy Dall'erba, NARSC President, put together the session. He will also be the contact person for the 2025 NARSC session, January 3-5, 2025, in San Francisco, CA. If you are interested participating in the session, please contact Sandy at: dallerba@illinois.edu.

If you do not wish to present at the session but will attend the meetings, be sure and stop into our session. We will announce the session and time once all papers have been submitted.

DEI Committee Update

Hello Everyone!

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee of the North American Regional Science Association is working hard to serve you. We recently had our first meeting of 2024. Some highlights of our meeting include:

- NARSC President, Sandy Dall'erba, recently appointed Cristina Miller as DEI Committee Chair.
- We are looking to sponsor and co-host a few sessions at the NARSC meeting in New Orleans.
- The DEI Committee is seeking a few new members. We meet for an hour every 6-8 weeks. If interested, please email Cristina at: cristinamiller.phd@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Your DEI Committee,
Cristina Miller, Yuri Monsury, Carlianne Patrick, Daoqin Tong, Amanda Weinstein, Yilan Xu

NARSC 2023 Presidential Address:

“Reflections on Freight and Metropolitan Spatial Structure”



This presentation is motivated by the growing impacts of goods movement in metropolitan areas. Increasingly complex supply chains, growth of e-commerce, and the fragmentation of urban distribution has led to rapid growth in urban goods movement. With that growth comes increased congestion, more freight-passenger conflicts, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. In contrast to urban passenger transport, goods movement research remains quite limited. This work is aimed at developing a better understanding of urban goods movement dynamics.

My starting point is the standard urban model, the workhorse of urban economics. The standard model explains commuting and the spatial distribution of housing and employment as a function of transport and land costs. The simple model yields a declining population density gradient that has been observed in cities around the world. The important aspect of this model for goods movement is that it explains many features of urban environments, for example the scarcity of road space in city cores, smaller average size of dwelling units, and differences in industry mix with respect to location. My general hypothesis is that commercial, retail, and residential activities respond to high rents in ways that fragment goods movement and increase delivery frequency and truck miles traveled.

I present two case studies. The first creates a development density measure, a combination of population and employment density. In addition to overall density varying across the urban landscape, the mix of density also varies: some zones may be mostly residential or industrial, others may be a mix of both. My co-authors and I estimate models that explain truck traffic density with development density and show that as expected, zones with high density have more intensive freight activity.

The second case study addresses e-shopping. We expect that frequency of e-shopping is related to density for two reasons: small dwelling units generate greater shopping frequency demand due to lack of storage space, and in-store shopping is less convenient when traveling by foot or public transport. We find that, controlling for socio-demographics, in-store shopping frequency decreases and e-shopping frequency increases with residential density, with the trend most pronounced at highest density. Greater e-shopping frequency implies more and more frequent deliveries.

My work suggests that the standard model provides a helpful framework for understanding the behavioral mechanisms that have resulted in the increase in urban goods movement. Better understanding will support more effective policy strategies to mitigate urban freight impacts.

Genevieve Giuliano, University of Southern California
2023 NARSC President

Ashleigh Price wins 24th Stevens Fellowship



Ashleigh Price, a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at the University of Alabama, has been selected as the winner of the 24th Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will provide a 2024–2025 Academic Year stipend of \$36,000 to support Ms. Price’s dissertation research on “The Influence of Environmental Disruption on Offender–Target Interactions and Criminal Activity in Emergency Scenarios.”

Ms. Price’s research aims to blend geographic, criminological, and operations research principles within a regional science context to effectively analyze the effects of extreme events on the emergence of crime. Operating within the framework of human-environment interaction, it leverages and integrates agent-based and spatial optimization models to understand and address the complex dynamics of criminal behavior amidst emergencies. This innovative approach allows for a nuanced exploration of the spatial relationships between offender conduct, crime victimization, and the distribution of protective resources, particularly within communities and individuals facing socio-economic challenges and disadvantages.

Ms. Price’s doctoral research is supervised by Kevin Curtin, Professor of Geography and Director of the Laboratory for Location Science at the University of Alabama. In his letter of support provided as part of the required application materials, Professor Curtin noted, “Ashleigh’s work containing theoretical, methodological, and practical applications embodies the hope that Professor Stevens expressed in 1995 when he outlined the opportunities and responsibilities of researchers when seeking ‘Mutually Beneficial Interactions between Regional Science and Regional Practice’ (*International Regional Science Review* 18(2): 211–217).”

In addition to selecting the Fellowship recipient, the Selection Committee identified two applicants as meriting special recognition as finalists in the 24th Annual Competition: Jiwon Baik, Doctoral Student in Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, advised by Professor Alan Murray; and

Sarah Stochak, Doctoral Student in the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University, advised by Professor Ingrid Gould Ellen.

The 24th competition winner and finalists will be recognized at the awards luncheon of the 71st North American Meetings of the RSAI in New Orleans, November 13–16, 2024. The Committee thanks the 30 students who entered the competition, as well as their dissertation supervisors.

About the Stevens Fellowship

The Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science was established in 1998 in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens (1929–1997), an intellectual leader whose selfless devotion to graduate students as teacher, advisor, mentor, and friend continues to have a profound impact on the field of Regional Science. Graduate students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in North America are eligible to compete for the Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in support of their dissertation research in Regional Science.

Faculty at all North American Ph.D. programs are asked to encourage their best students to apply for **the 25th Stevens Graduate Fellowship**, which will support the winning student's dissertation research in the field of Regional Science with a fellowship stipend of \$36,000 for the 2025–26 academic year. The **application deadline is February 15, 2025**. Full submission guidelines may be found at www.narsc.org/newsite/awards-prizes/applications/

The 2024 Stevens Fellowship competition was overseen by a Selection Committee composed of: Shaoming Cheng, Florida International University (Chair); Steven Deller, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Heather Stephens, West Virginia University; Zhenhau Chen, The Ohio State University; and Joshua Drucker, University of Illinois Chicago.

The Stevens Fellowship Committee administrates the Stevens Fellowship Fund on behalf of the North American Regional Science Council; in 2023–24 its members were: Tony Smith, University of Pennsylvania, Chair; David Plane, University of Arizona, Secretary; Michael Lahr, Rutgers University, Treasurer; Janet Kohlase, University of Houston; and John Spring, Executive Director of NARSC.

Fundraising to support the Stevens Fellowship Fund, begun in 1998, is ongoing. Donations may be made either via credit card by accessing the User Area of the NARSC website or by sending a check to:

The Stevens Fellowship Fund
First Financial Bank, Attn: Danville Trust Department
One Towne Center
Danville, IL 61832 USA

Member Spotlights and Accomplishments

Call for Member Spotlight Recommendations

In each issue of the NARSC Newsletter, we “spotlight” the research and contributions of NARSC members to the field of regional science. These spotlights are short features that consist of questions regarding the member’s relationship to NARSC, their research and how it contributes to regional science, and important future research directions by regional scientists in their subfield.

We aim to spotlight a broad representation of NARSC members. This includes members in all career stages, any research specialty, and a variety of different backgrounds. To ensure an inclusive process, we invite you to nominate yourself or someone you know, especially those belonging to an underrepresented group, to be featured in the next issue of the NARSC Newsletter.

To nominate yourself or someone you know, please send the individual’s *name, affiliation, and email address* to the new NARSC Newsletter email (newsletter@narsc.org) by **August 20, 2024**. Nominees need to be members of NARSC or one of its regional associations.

Liz Dobis and Bonnie Bounds
NARSC Newsletter Editors

Member Spotlight: Evan Cunningham



Please tell us about yourself!

I am an economist and Ph.D. candidate in the Economics Department at the University of Minnesota, focusing on labor economics, urban economics, and public policy. I also work part-time in the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.* Prior to my Ph.D., I worked at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Current Population Survey (CPS) Office on the team responsible for the monthly jobs report.

*Views expressed here are my own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

How did you find NARSC and to what degree are you currently involved?

I found NARSC when I was looking for graduate-student friendly conferences to present my research. I was drawn to the interdisciplinary nature of the organization. I have found engaging with researchers in related fields like geography, urban planning, or public health to be incredibly helpful in terms of finding new ways to approach fundamental questions in economics. The NARSC conference was no exception. Plus, when you live in the frozen tundra of Minnesota, a trip to San

Diego in November was not a hard sell. I met so many fascinating people, and I'm looking forward to being a regular at the National and regional NARSC conferences in the coming years.

Please tell us about your research and how it contributes to the field of Regional Science.

My current research focuses on the local labor market effects of the dramatic expansion of Amazon's fulfillment center (FC) or warehouse network, and the welfare implications for workers. I find that when Amazon expands into a new city economic activity increases, but these gains are partially offset by higher costs of living. As a result, the welfare gains primarily accrue to homeowners through rising home values. I hope that my research can provide a better understanding of how "superstar" firms such as Amazon affect local communities. I also hope these results encourage other researchers to consider how to measure and incorporate the wide range of factors that make a city a better or worse place to live in their own work.

How do you see the field of Regional Science evolving going forward?

It is worth noting that economists have a terrible track record of predicting the future, so I may not be the best person to ask. But, speaking from my experience, there are two things I have noticed over the past five years. One, in economics at least, there has been an increasing consensus that location matters both in the short and long-term. Where were you born? What was your neighborhood like? Where did you go to school? Did you move for work? In the coming years, I think regional science will expand as researchers get the opportunity to explore the far-reaching implications of these questions. Second, improvements in computing power and the increasing availability of incredible amounts of geographic data will make it possible to answer previously impossible questions. These exciting opportunities are what drew me to urban economics and regional science!

If you want to learn about Evan's research, please check his [webpage](#):

Member Spotlight: Bonnie Bounds



Please tell us about yourself!

I'm currently in my third year as a lecturer of human geography in the Department of Geosciences at Auburn University. I earned my Ph.D. in Geography in 2019 from the Ohio State University, and my research focuses on U.S. rural economic development. At Auburn, I teach introductory and advanced undergraduate courses in human geography, and I love finding ways to highlight regional science in my classes.

How did you find NARSC and to what degree are you currently involved?

I discovered NARSC after my Ph.D. advisor recommended I present at SRSA in 2017. I'd heard of regional science before but had no idea what it actually entailed, and it was so refreshing to find out that there were so many other folks interested in the same topics and methodologies! As of this issue, I am co-editor of the NARSC newsletter along with Liz Dobis, and after taking a brief break during the COVID years, I am excited to resume attending annual meetings.

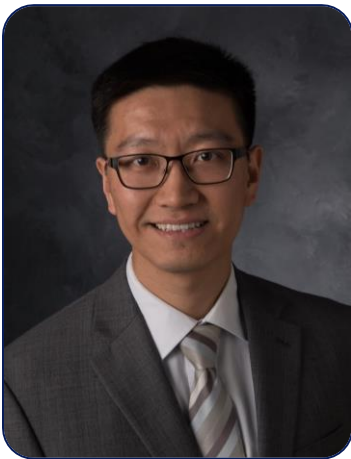
Please tell us about your research and how it contributes to the field of Regional Science.

My dissertation research centered on economic development along the U.S. rural-urban continuum, specifically as it relates to human capital and anchor institutions. Since then, I have branched out a bit into connections between the U.S. beef industry and rural economies too. As someone in a teaching-oriented position, I'm also especially interested in looking for new ways to introduce undergraduates to regional science and increase awareness of regional science as a field of study.

How do you see the field of Regional Science evolving going forward?

I think regional science shares one of the big challenges we have in geography, which is that lots of folks – ranging from the general public to other academics and researchers, even – aren't really aware of what we do or the contributions that our highly interdisciplinary research makes to scholarship, public policy, and more. So, I'm really excited about the debut of *Reaching Regions*, and I hope that this will be a big step towards increasing the visibility of regional science. To continue to grow, I think one of the biggest things we can do going forward is to keep working on expanding our audience and to not be shy about sharing all of the really cool work that we do as regional scientists!

Member Spotlight: Haifeng Qian



Please tell us about yourself!

My name is Haifeng Qian, Associate Professor and Director of the School of Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Iowa. I am also a senior research fellow at the University of Iowa Public Policy Center. I hold a Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University. I am an editor of *Regional Studies* and *Small Business Economics* and an associate editor of *Economic Development Quarterly*.

How did you find NARSC and to what degree are you currently involved?

One of my Ph.D. advisors at George Mason University, Dr. Roger Stough (who now has passed away), rented a van and brought a group of his students to the 2007 NARSC meeting in Savannah, Georgia. I was one of them. Since then, NARSC has become my home professional organization. Over the years, I have attended all NARSC meetings, organized special sessions, co-chaired the student paper competition committee, served as the conference program chair, was elected to the NARSC Council, and eventually served as the Council Chair. I am currently the NARSC representative at the Regional Science Association International.

Please tell us about your research and how it contributes to the field of Regional Science.

My primary research interests lie at the intersection of entrepreneurship and regional economic development. I have extensively studied why some cities are more entrepreneurial than others. Regional factors that I have found to contribute positively to entrepreneurship include different kinds of knowledge stock and human capital, cultural diversity, infrastructure, and government funding. In addition, I have long advocated for adopting a systems approach to regional entrepreneurship (the main theme of my dissertation). Today, entrepreneurial systems/ecosystems have become a popular

approach among both entrepreneurship scholars and practitioners. My research makes some contribution to regional science from the perspective of entrepreneurship.

How do you see the field of Regional Science evolving going forward?

At the core of regional science is quantitative study of cities and regions that can inform policymakers. I think regional science should keep this tradition but, meanwhile, embrace latest methodological improvements (e.g., in causal analysis and machine learning) that can produce more reliable results and/or allow for studying new topics in regional studies. To have broad impacts on social science, regional scientists should always seek next big ideas that change cities and regions.

If you want to learn about Haifeng's research, please check out his [website](#) or some of his publications:

Fu, Wenyang, and Haifeng Qian. "Building innovative capacity in regional entrepreneurship and innovation (eco) systems: Startups versus incumbent firms." *Growth and Change* 54(3): 771–93. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.12673>.

Liu, Shiqin, Haifeng Qian, and Kingsley E. Haynes. (2021). "Entrepreneurship in small cities: evidence from US micropolitan areas." *Economic Development Quarterly* 35(1): 3–21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0891242420941927>.

Qian, Haifeng. (2017). "Skills and knowledge-based entrepreneurship: evidence from US cities." *Regional Studies* 51(10): 1469–82. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2016.1213383>.

Qian, Haifeng, Zoltan J. Acs, and Roger R. Stough. (2013). "Regional systems of entrepreneurship: the nexus of human capital, knowledge and new firm formation." *Journal of Economic Geography* 13(4): 559–87. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lbs009>.

Qian, Haifeng. (2010). "Talent, creativity and regional economic performance: the case of China." *The Annals of Regional Science* 45: 133–56. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00168-008-0282-3>.

In Memoriam: Gordon Frederick Mulligan, 1947–2023

The Western Regional Science Association is deeply saddened by the loss of Professor Gordon F. Mulligan, who passed away at home in British Columbia (BC) on November 12, 2023, after a short period of hospice care. Gordon lived a week and day past his 76th birthday, having been born on November 4, 1947.

Growing up in the company-owned mill town of Woodfibre, BC, accessible to the outside world only by boat, Gordon's wide-ranging polymath attributes and mathematical acumen became apparent at an early age. He attended Howe Sound Secondary in the nearby central place of Squamish, BC, where he excelled in both academics and sports.



Gordon Mulligan lunching in Squamish, B.C., in 2010 with WRSA's 52nd President, Warren Gill

As an undergraduate at the University of British Columbia (UBC) beginning in the mid-1960s, Gordon discovered the focus of his scholarly interests, economic geography and mathematical models, as well as a passion for academia. He loved UBC so much that he spent a full decade there. He produced a 1972 M.A. thesis, *City Size Distributions: Foundations of Analysis*, and a 1976 Ph.D. dissertation, *Structure and Processes in the Christallerian System*, that set the stage for a distinguished and prolific career in regional science. Following a pair of visiting positions at the University of Washington and Queens University, Gordon joined the faculty of the Department of Geography and Regional Development at the University of Arizona, Tucson, in 1978, where he taught until he retired in 2006.

Throughout his time in Arizona, Gordon remained personally connected to small-town British Columbia, returning each summer to visit his parents. The Woodfibre pulp mill, where his father had worked until shortly before his death and Gordon had held summer jobs, was closed by its owner, Western Forest Products, in 2006. The mill and townsite were razed and put up for sale. Today it is the location of Woodfibre Liquid Natural Gas, a large hydroelectric-powered facility. Its parent company plans to open it in 2027 to supply growing markets in Asia, touting the environmental benefits of displacing coal and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Post-retirement, Gordon moved back up to Squamish, where he kept up an active agenda as an independent scholar and continued on as Book Review editor of the WRSA's official journal, *The Annals of Regional Science*. An avid movie buff, he was also extremely well-read in fiction and literature. He segued from his long-time University of Arizona faculty-staff bowling career into throwing the rock on a senior curling team, and, as part of providing care for his aging mother, he no doubt raised the level of play of her bridge group.

Gordon's theoretical and empirical research contributions to regional science directly reflected the locational circumstances of his upbringing. He listed his disciplines on ResearchGate as Transport Economics, Real Estate Economics, and Economic Geography, and among his skills and expertise, Regional Development, Regional Science, Regional and Urban Economics, Cities, and Place. The faculty group he joined in 1978 at Arizona was the last geography department at a major U.S. university to be housed within a business college. Gordon's research interests in the economic base of communities, settlement-size distributions, central place theory, transportation, regional development (in particular, the "chicken-and-egg" connections between economic and population growth), and the structure of small-town and micropolitan area economies, which were kindled in his childhood and in grad school, would be further enflamed and greatly expanded thanks to his career-long academic home base.

As part of both its unique and highly popular business school undergraduate major in regional development (originally area development) and its geography master's degree, the University of Arizona's department offered a six-week summer traveling field camp course. Co-directed by Professors Richard Reeves (Gordon's closest Tucson personal friend) and Lay Gibson, the camp's unique curriculum featured and integrated projects in both physical and economic geography. Student teams each year carried out studies in Arizona's diverse ecosystems and in small, often remote, small-town communities. There student teams would census and then interview and assemble micro transaction and trade figures from all local businesses. Gordon was fascinated by the potential of these nearly comprehensive data to expose the workings of functionally specialized economies and to benchmark models. Together with student and colleague collaborators, he

deployed this unique Arizona community data base in a series of papers evaluating the accuracy and proposing extensions to traditional economic base multiplier methods.

In 1980–81, the Arizona department would add its third active regional scientist, David Plane from the regional science department at Penn, and in the subsequent year, under the tenure of Lay Gibson as Department Head, the geography department would leave the College of Business and Public Administration to join a fledging College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Gibson at this time was also assuming the leadership position (replacing Robert Monahan of Western Washington University) of the Western Regional Science Association, with Mulligan and Plane beginning what would become lifetime involvements with the Association.

In 1985, the departmental headship passed to Gordon. During his five-year term he would lay substantial groundwork for, and touch off the upcoming rise in prominence of, Arizona as one of the U.S.'s top-20 geography doctoral programs and as a world-renowned center of regional science. (Gordon would later come back to serve one-year stint as Acting Head). Gordon increased the visibility of geography and regional development on campus and externally by extending courtesy joint and adjunct faculty appointments to geographers and faculty with geographic expertise who had been hired in other units across the university.

During the 1990s, the core group of internationally active regional scientist scholars at Arizona was expanded with the hirings of University of Illinois Ph.D.'s, Adrian Esparza and Brigitte Waldorf in Geography and Regional Development, and University of Washington Ph.D., John Carruthers in the M.S. program in Planning, a group whose faculty also included Penn Regional Science Ph.D., Arthur Silvers.

The department's regional development undergraduate major numbers rose dramatically during Gordon's administration after the degree program was moved from Business and Public Administration to Social and Behavioral Sciences, and then during Plane's subsequent headships when it peaked at more than 300. Gibson, Mulligan, and Plane served as student faculty advisors and taught the majority the core curriculum. Gordon's staple, highly enrolled undergraduate courses were titled, Economic Geography, Urban Geography, Locational Analysis, and Regional Analysis. The 1980s and 1990s would also see Gordon mentoring and carrying out collaborative research with increasing numbers of graduate students.

After stepping down as Head in 1990, Gordon's extramural professional service commitments increased in 1994 when Plane was asked by longtime *Journal of Regional Science (JRS)* Managing Editor, Ronald Miller, to move the journal's office from Philadelphia to Tucson. Plane agreed, on the condition that Mulligan join him as Co-editor. Their efficient working arrangement and happy tenure guiding the *JRS* would extend through 2002, when the editorial team reins were passed to Marlon Boarnet and Andy Haughwout. Marlon recalls that, during the transition, Gordon told him that he and Dave had worked hard to maintain the *JRS* as a "classy" operation.

Though Gordon formally retired in 2006, he did not stop his work in regional science or his devotion to it: he remained a prolific author and a stalwart mentor to junior members of the field. In February, 2010, a celebratory dinner and a series of special sessions were held in his honor at the WRSA's annual meeting in Sedona, Arizona, yielding a [special \(2012\) issue of *The Annals of Regional Science*](#).

The year 2010 also saw Gordon's election as a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International. Although this honor is usually conveyed at a major international conference, he chose

to receive his plaque, presented by David Boyce, while hiking in Glacier National Park. The "[Meet the Fellows](#)" [autobiographical article](#) that Gordon wrote in 2015 for the *RSAI Newsletter* is a lively and interesting read, with the piece beginning: *Imagine, if you can, an Allan Stilltoe novel set on a Norwegian fjord and you might have some idea about my childhood years!*

In recognition of Gordon's corpus of intellectual accomplishments and his four decades of contributions to WRSA, he was named a WRSA Fellow at the 2014 Annual Meeting in San Diego. Up through last summer, Gordon continued to travel the globe and to present and participate at regional science conferences, in particular those of the WRSA and the British and Irish Section (BIS). At the July 2023 BIS meeting in Newcastle, he gave a talk on the legacy and central place research contributions of John Parr in the Regional Science Academy's *Great Minds* session.

At the February 11–14, 2024 WRSA Annual Meeting in Monterey, California, Professor Neil Reid, University of Toledo, presented a Regional Science Academy, *Great Minds in Regional Science* talk on Gordon Mulligan's scholarship.

While Gordon gave talks and tended to various duties at academic meetings, he played another, very special role: he was a hub of activity, both socially and professionally. Whether it was the (late) morning, afternoon, evening, or wee hours of the night, he was with friends and colleagues, launching new projects and revisiting past explorations. His generosity with ideas was infectious, fun, and inspiring, particularly to junior colleagues. A man of tall stature, Gordon was informed and passionate about big concepts in all realms, not just those of geographic location and economic theory about which he was especially expert.

Like so many members of our field, Gordon loved models – especially gravity models and models of spatial equilibrium. It seems fitting, then, to end this description of his life and career with an analogy to a model. In the mid-1500s, the great mathematician Copernicus advanced a model of heliocentrism, placing, for the first time, the Earth and other celestial objects in orbit around the sun. A Copernican model of WRSA might well place Gordon at a central (albeit far from stationary!) location, with those of us lucky enough to be in his orbit drawn close by his gravity and warmed by the bright light of his intellect, humor, and enduring smile.

John Carruthers (Cornell University) and David Plane (Emeritus, University of Arizona)

Call for Member Accomplishments

We would like to feature member accomplishments in future issues of the NARSC Newsletter. In past issues we have featured **funded work** and **books published**, but we are open to other types of accomplishments as well.

Please submit any accomplishments you would like to share to the new NARSC Newsletter email account: newsletter@narsc.org. We will be accepting contributions for the September issue of the newsletter until **August 20, 2024**.

- If you received a grant of \$200,000 or more in 2023 or 2024 and would like to share the information, please send the following information: *funding agency, amount, names of project participants, and a brief (200 words) description of the project.*

- If you published a book in 2023 or 2024, please send the following information: *title, authors/editors, publisher, and a brief (200 words) description of the book*. If you have a picture of the book cover, we would be happy to include that as well.

Liz Dobis and Bonnie Bounds
NARSC Newsletter Editors

Regional Spotlight: Southern Regional Science Association

Section contributed by: Alena Poulin, Caleb Stair, and Christa Court



SRSA Hosts 63rd Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

From April 4–6, 2024 regional scientists gathered in Washington, D.C. for the 63rd annual Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA) meeting. With close to 150 attendees from around the United States as well as Asia, Europe, and South America, this marked the most well-attended meeting for SRSA since returning to in-person meetings after the COVID-19 pandemic.



The SRSA has a strong tradition of welcoming first-time attendees and supporting the next generation of regional scientists, including students and early-career scholars. It was especially heartening to see the strong involvement of both undergraduate and graduate students as poster and paper presenters and as engaged session attendees.

“We were thrilled to connect with new attendees and re-connect with many of our regular attendees. These meetings provide the opportunity to discuss new research ideas, receive feedback from a

group of engaged, interdisciplinary colleagues, and nurture professional relationships.” said Christa Court, co-executive director and treasurer of the SRSA.

At the annual meeting in 2024, Amit Batabyal (Rochester Institute of Technology) was elected as the President-Elect and 2025 Program Chair, Anil Rupasingha (USDA Economic Research Service) and Jia Wang (University of Dayton) were elected to the Executive Council, Heather Stephens was elected as the SRSA representative to the North American Regional Science Council and one new SRSA Fellow was named, Richard Cebula (University of Tennessee).

In 2025, the SRSA will meet in Louisville, Kentucky, from April 3-5, at the historic [Brown Hotel](#), which is located just six blocks from the revitalized Whiskey Row district of downtown.

“Louisville is a fabulous, family-friendly city with a lot of history, culture, and southern charm. Whether you are a fan of boxing ([Muhammad Ali Center](#)), baseball ([Louisville Slugger Museum](#)), bridles ([Kentucky Derby Museum](#)), or bourbon ([Kentucky Bourbon Trail](#)), you will find something interesting nearby!” said Caleb Stair, co-executive director and secretary of SRSA. “Plan now to join us in Louisville! We look forward to welcoming everyone to The Brown and to an intellectually stimulating 2025 conference!”

For those interested in attending the 2025 SRSA Meeting, be on the lookout for the following information on the [SRSA Conference website](#). Look for the reservation link for Group Rate at The Brown Hotel in October 2024 and the official Call for Papers and meeting registration in late 2024.

If you haven’t already subscribed, [sign up for the SRSA News](#) to stay up to date on all things SRSA!

Federico Corredor wins the 2024 Moriarty Student Paper Competition



Pictured left to right: Federico Corredor and Carlianne Patrick

As part of SRSA’s efforts to support the professional development of burgeoning new regional scientists, the **Barry M. Moriarty Graduate Student Paper Competition** is given to the best paper authored and presented by a graduate student at the SRSA meeting.

This year, the honor was bestowed upon **Federico Corredor** from Georgia State University for his presentation of *Do Tax Incentives Work? Evidence from Georgia’s Film Tax Credit*. In this study, Corredor investigated the return on investment to the State of Georgia from its generous film tax incentive, which encourages film production in the state.

Corredor is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Economics at Georgia State University advised by former president of the SRSA, Carlianne Patrick.

Andrew J. Van Leuven awarded Miernyk Medal for Research Excellence

Named after William H. Miernyk, founder and first Director of the Regional Research Institute (RRI) at West Virginia University, the **Miernyk Medal** is a unique award presented by the RRI recognizing a truly outstanding research paper primarily authored by a scholar within six years of receiving their Ph.D. and presented at the SRSA meeting.

Andrew J. Van Leuven, who earned his Ph.D. in Public Policy & Management from the Ohio State University in 2021, received the award for 2024, in recognition of his paper "Do 'Banking Deserts' Even Exist? Examining Access to Brick-and-Mortar Financial Institutions in the Continental US". The [award-winning paper](#) is now published in *Applied Geography* and available online.



Van Leuven is currently an assistant professor of agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University with research and teaching programs focused on community entrepreneurship, regional economic development, downtown revitalization, and a variety of other topics related to strengthening local economies.

Marisa Peacock receives Schaffer Award



Pictured left to right: Marisa Peacock and John Sporing

At the 2024 SRSA Meeting, **Marisa Peacock** received the **William A. Schaffer Award for Distinguished Service to Regional Science**. This award honors Professor William A. Schaffer, a prominent figure in regional science who promoted the SRSA for years and was instrumental in its long-term success. The award acknowledges the service contributions that members have made to the SRSA and to regional science.

Peacock, who is a lecturer of Media Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, is the founder and chief strategist of the social media consultancy business The Strategic Peacock. For over a decade, she has tirelessly supported SRSA "behind the scenes" in her role as the organization's web developer, revitalizing our web presence and ensuring better communication amongst members. For this, as well as her more recent efforts as the web developer for NARSC, SRSA was thrilled to honor Peacock.

Dan S. Rickman Best Paper Award

The Review of Regional Studies, a journal provided as a service to the scholarly community by the SRSA, publishes papers of interest to a wide array of social science disciplines in which the spatial dimension plays a fundamental role. This includes papers that seek to theoretically or empirically examine the spatial dimension directly and papers for which the spatial context is crucial for

interpretation and inference. Robust, rigorous policy analysis at all geographic scales, including analysis of regional policies and very local programs, as well as papers in which multiple disciplines overlap and contribute to our understanding of the spatial dimension are also of interest.

At the 2024 meeting of the SRSA, the editorial team of *The Review of Regional Studies* announced that the winners of the Dan S. Rickman Best Paper Award were Yong Chen, Lan Xue, Jaeho Jung, and Myungjin Kim for their paper titled, "[Administrative Cost of U.S. Counties and Local Context Dependence](#)." The authors used a novel method to investigate spatial variations in the operational expenditures of US county governments and found that the costs of providing population- and health-related services are spatially non-stationary and are affected by local characteristics such as governance structure, natural amenities, and rural-urban status.

SRSA encourages regional scientists to consider *The Review of Regional Studies* as an outlet for publication of their high-quality research work. *The Review of Regional Studies* is an open access journal, with no fees for subscription, submission, or publication. Individuals interested in submitting a manuscript for consideration for publication at *The Review of Regional Studies* can find additional details at <https://rrs.scholasticahq.com/for-authors>.



SRSA Member Accomplishments

In addition to the honorifics traditionally awarded at the SRSA meeting, SRSA members and regional scientists from the southern region of the United States are being honored and recognized for their work throughout the broader regional science community:

Daniel Centurião and Caroline Welter, SRSA members, fourth-year Ph.D. students in Economics, and graduate research assistants at the RRI at West Virginia University, recently won the M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition for their paper titled, "[Assessing the Cost of Urban Climate Resilience: An Analysis of the NYC Financial District and Seaport Climate Resilience \(FiDi\) Master Plan Implementation](#)."

This competition was a component of the 54th annual meeting of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association that took place in June 2024 in Cleveland, Ohio and the work presented in this paper was inspired by their participation in a summer school hosted by NARSC, in collaboration with the Northeastern Regional Science Association (NERSA) and Cornell Architecture, Art, and Planning NYC, that took place in New York City in summer of 2022.

Ashleigh Price, a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at the University of Alabama, has been selected as the winner of the 24th Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will support Ms. Price's dissertation research on "The Influence of Environmental Disruption on Offender-Target Interactions and Criminal Activity in Emergency Scenarios."

SRSA members with additional accomplishments to highlight are encouraged to send relevant details to SRSA co-executive director and secretary, Caleb Stair, at ExecDirector@srsa.org.

Publishing in Regional Science



Reaching Regions now accepting submissions

Reaching Regions, the new outreach journal of NARSC, began accepting submissions on May 15, 2024. The journal will publish contributions on topics of policy relevance to North American regions including original descriptive analyses, data visualizations, non-technical summaries of published academic research, case studies with broader implications, presidential addresses, research syntheses, and other items approved by the Editors. All submissions should be written in non-technical language that is accessible to non-academics.

Reaching Regions is a peer-reviewed, open-access, and published fully online. NARSC members can submit papers with no submission or publication fees. The journal is led by founding editors [Heather Stephens](#) (West Virginia University) and [John Winters](#) (Iowa State University).

As part of the launch of the journal, we are now accepting submissions for an inaugural collection of papers. The submission deadline is **August 15, 2024**, and we expect to publish this collection later this year. Potential contributions can be submitted via the journal's online submission portal: <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/rreg/submissions/>.

Please feel free reach out to either of the editors if you want to discuss the suitability of your submission or broader regional science outreach efforts. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

Call for Editors: The Review of Regional Studies

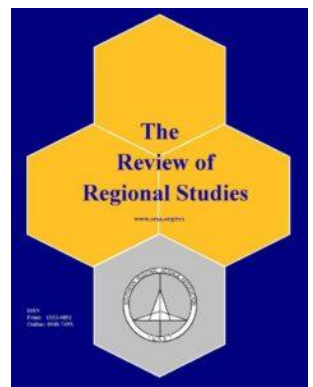
The Review of Regional Studies is currently searching for individuals with an established record of scholarship to serve as either sole or co-editors of the journal. Application packets should be no more than three pages (excluding vitae), and must include a vision statement, a description of the editor's background, and an explanation of any institutional support you are likely to have at your disposal.

Packets should be sent via email by September 1, 2024 to:

Philip Watson Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
University of Idaho

Email: pwatson@uidaho.edu

Questions may also be directed to Phil Watson at (+001) 208-962-131.





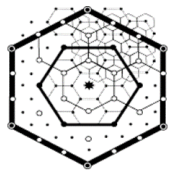
RSAI journals are now open access

Very important news! All issues of *Papers in Regional Science* (PIRS) and *Regional Science Policy & Perspectives* (RSPP) are now freely available in the new Elsevier's webpages of the two journals.

PIRS: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/papers-in-regional-science>

RSPP: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/regional-science-policy-and-practice>

Rosella Nicolini
Editor-in-Chief, PIRS



Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy

Article Feature: Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy

The *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy* (JRAP) is the journal of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA). JRAP publishes high quality regional science/regional economics manuscripts that are theory-based, empirically-sound, and policy-relevant. They encourage submissions from graduate students and junior scholars, in particular.

In this issue of the NARSC Newsletter, I would like to share a JRAP article from the past year that I found interesting. "[Modelling the Effects of the EU Emissions Trading System in Poland: A Comparison Between IO And CGE Results](#)" by Bartłomiej Rokicki, Kênia Barreiro de Souza, and Luiz Carlos de Santana Ribeiro provides both an impact analysis of the EU Emissions Trading System on the Polish economy and a comparison of Input-Output (IO) and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model estimates. I like the combination of methodological comparisons and region-specific policy analysis within the article. I encourage you to take a look at this or other articles from JRAP.

Liz Dobis
NARSC Newsletter Co-Editor

Government News

USDA ERS releases 2023 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes

The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) published an update to its [Rural-Urban Continuum Codes](#) (RUCC) in January 2024. The RUCC classify U.S. metropolitan counties (codes 1-3) by the population size of the metro area and nonmetropolitan counties (codes 4-9) by their degree of urbanization and adjacency to a metro area.

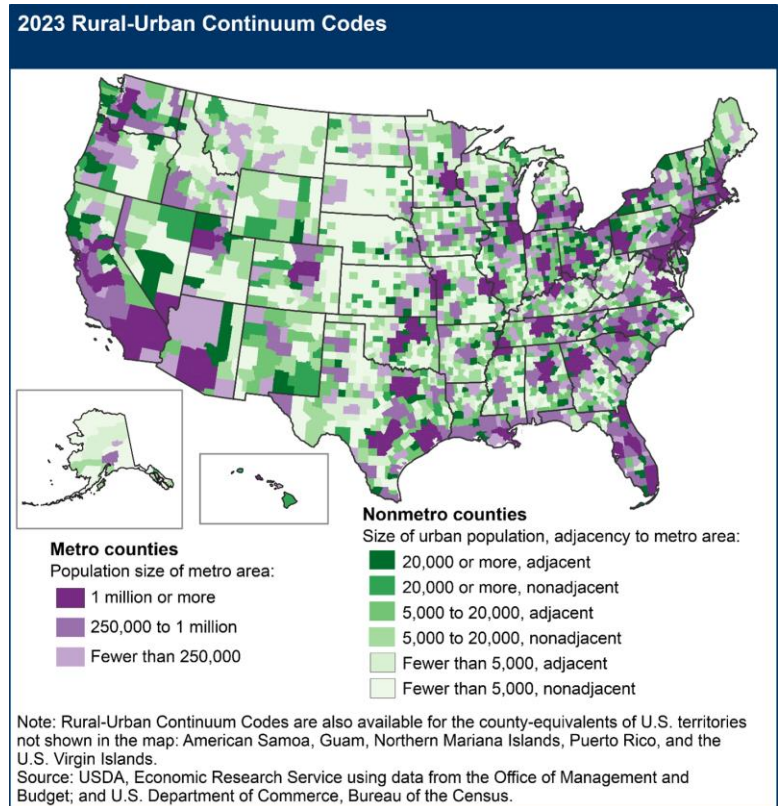
The RUCC allow researchers to examine how the ‘rurality’ of nonmetro counties varies across regions and how ‘rural’ the nonmetro population actually is. The most ‘urban’ nonmetro counties are those that had urban populations of at least 20,000 in 2020 – codes 4 and 5 – and are the most prevalent in regions like the northeast, Great Lakes, and along the coasts. The most ‘rural’ nonmetro counties had urban populations of less than 5,000 – codes 8 and 9 – and are the most prevalent in the Great Plains and Corn Belt. While these highly rural counties accounted for 54 percent of all nonmetro counties, only 23 percent of the nonmetro population resided there. Metro-adjacent counties – codes 4, 6, and 8 – had nearly the same share of all nonmetro counties at 53 percent, but 68 percent of the nonmetro population lived in metro-adjacent counties.

Major changes to the 2023 RUCC included updating to the Office of Management and Budget’s 2023 definition of metropolitan statistical areas, changes to the Census Bureau’s definition of ‘urban,’ and increasing the urban population threshold for the most rural categories from 2,500 to 5,000 to align with the Census Bureau’s updated definition of ‘urban’ more closely.

Incorporating the new metropolitan statistical areas into the RUCC classification resulted in 72 counties reclassifying from the nonmetro to the metro categories and 52 counties reclassifying from the metro to the nonmetro categories. The change in the Census Bureau’s definition of ‘urban’ and increasing the minimum urban population threshold had a much larger effect. The 2023 RUCC placed 411 more counties into the most rural categories (codes 8 and 9) than the 2013 version of the Codes, due in large part to there being far fewer nonmetro counties that had any ‘urban’ population.

Austin Sanders

USDA, Economic Research Service



USDA ERS releases report on widening rural-urban mortality gap



Much of policymakers' and researchers' recent attention on mortality rates has focused on external factors such as suicide and overdoses. This report, on the other hand, focuses on trends in natural-cause mortality (NCM) rates, which provide an indicator of overall population health, as they are disease-related deaths and omit deaths due to external factors such as accidents, assault, or intentional self-harm. The 2019 age-adjusted NCM rate for the prime working-age population (aged 25–54) was 43 percent higher in rural (nonmetropolitan) areas than in urban (metropolitan) areas. This is a shift from 25 years ago when NCM rates in urban and rural areas were similar for this age group. This increasing gap in natural-cause mortality between rural and urban prime working-age adults may have adverse implications for rural families, communities, employment, and the economy.

In early March, the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) released *The Nature of the Rural-Urban Mortality Gap*, a new report examining the trends in prime working-age natural-cause mortality for prime working-age adults in rural and urban areas between 1999–2001 and 2017–2019. Using data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control's Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiology Research (WONDER), we examined prime working age NCM rates for the population as a whole, as well as by sex, race and ethnicity, region, and State.

We found that the rural, prime working-age population was the only group to experience an increase in NCM rates, and the more rural the area, the greater the increase in prime working-age NCM rates (or smaller the decrease) over time. This indicates the overall divergence between rural and urban prime working-age NCM rates is due to a simultaneous increase in rural rates and decrease in urban rates. However, the changes in the rural-urban prime working-age NCM gap also vary by individual characteristics and location. In rural areas, NCM rates for prime working-age females increased more than NCM rates for prime working-age males between the 1999–2001 and 2017–2019 periods. For both males and females, non-Hispanic White people had the greatest growth in prime working-age NCM rates in rural areas when compared with urban counties over time. The urban-rural gap in prime working-age NCM rates grew in all regions between 1999–2001 and 2017–2019, with the Midwest having the smallest increases.

Kelsey Thomas, Elizabeth Dobis, and David McGranahan
USDA, Economic Research Service

Upcoming Meetings

North American Regional Science Council (NARSC 2024)



The 71st Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International will be held **November 14–16, 2024** in New Orleans, Louisiana. We welcome submissions of individual paper abstracts and organized sessions relating to a wide variety of topics that are included within the diverse realm of regional science. To [submit an abstract or a complete session](#), please use our online submission system. The submission deadline is **July 12, 2024**.

Several [special sessions](#) are being organized for the conference. The submission deadline for each session is different, but all are due prior to the general submission deadline. Check each session's call for papers for details. This year's special session topics include:

- Regional Economic Effects of Disasters
- Location and Spatial Analysis
- Regional Science, Climate Change, Environmental Footprint
- Regional/Rural Development
- Outreach in Regional Science
- Environmental and Urban Development Impact Assessment of Green Energy Consumption Promotion Strategy in Carbon Neutral Era
- Building Sustainable Cities
- Smart Specialization for Sustainability
- Tiebout Centenary

The conference will be held at the New Orleans Marriott on Canal Street, just steps away from the historic French Quarter. A special conference room rate of \$219 (plus taxes) has been negotiated with the hotel. You can book your room at the conference hotel [here](#).

Once again, the [Graduate-Student-Author and Graduate-Student-Led Paper Competitions](#) will be held in conjunction with the conference. These contests are an excellent opportunity for young regional science scholars, providing a forum for paper presentation and discussion by senior scholars in the field of regional science. To participate in the paper competitions, students must: (1) submit an abstract of the paper to the conference, and (2) submit a digital copy of the full paper and a cover letter from the student's advisor to the appropriate competition chair by **August 31, 2024**.

Please join us for a fun-filled opportunity to exchange our traditional scientific content and enjoy the famous New Orleans cuisine and nightlife!

Western Regional Science Association (WRSa 2025)



The 64th Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association will be held **February 12-15, 2025** at the Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort and Spa in Henderson, Nevada. See you all there!

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA 2025)



Thank you to everyone who made the 2024 SRSA Meeting a great success! We look forward to seeing everyone for the 64th Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association in 2025. The next SRSA meeting will be held **April 3-5, 2025** at [The Brown Hotel](#) in Louisville, Kentucky.