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# SWG News

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## WORK IN PROGRESS

### From Child Labor to Wetlands: SWG Fellows' Research Spans the Globe

Every year SWG awards grants to help women complete their graduate research. Last fall, Gita Laidler wrote about her work on the Inuits and sea ice. Here, we summarize reports from four other recent fellows.

The working title of **KARI BOLSTAD JENSEN'S** project is: *Child domestic workers in Dhaka: A geographical study of discourses, work, and education.* She spent three months in Dhaka, Bangladesh, last summer, collecting data and interviewing children and their employers and teachers.

The focus of her research is children between the ages of 10 and 17 (and as young as 5) who work as domestic servants—cleaning, washing

dishes, preparing food, doing laundry by hand, and babysitting. Their wages – if they are paid at all – go to their parents, who usually live in a village some distance away. Although no certain statistics exist on the number of child domestic workers in Bangladesh, a 1999 study estimated there are

300,000 in Dhaka alone, most of them girls.

Kari interviewed about 50 children, finding them through her Bangladeshi husband's family and through a progressive network of referrals. Not surprisingly, she found the children

(See **WORK IN PROGRESS**, p. 5)



*Kari Jensen interviewing a child worker in Bangladesh. The child was given "permission" by her employer to sit on the couch instead of the floor, which she preferred.*

### Membership Information

A new page on our website ([www.iswg.org](http://www.iswg.org)) describes application procedures and provides all the forms and instructions you'll need to bring new members into our Society.

Materials also available from headquarters:

- a colorful brochure
- application forms and instructions
- simplified instructions for proposers (you!)

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# How We Work – Part One

By Kimberly A. Crews



**M**ost Society of Woman Geographer members partake of at least one or two of the opportunities that the Society

offers. You read the newsletter, attend a group meeting, and contribute to the *Bulletin*. But I am sure that many of our members do not realize that SWG has only one paid staff member, the very competent Office Administrator, Janet McGinn. Janet handles our accounting, manages our mailings, handles most of the organization correspondence, manages our Headquarters building (including serving as landlord to our tenants), and coordinates the logistics of our meetings and conferences, as well as a multitude of other tasks.

But the organization's core activities are coordinated by our unpaid staff—our members. These activities include:

- Writing and editing the newsletter
- Coordinating submissions to and editing the *Bulletin*
- Maintaining the library
- Coordinating group meetings
- Overseeing the remodeling of our building
- Selecting recipients for awards
- Creating, reviewing, and enacting policies and procedures
- Planning and coordinating the Triennial (and mid-term) meeting
- Managing the Oral History Project
- Maintaining our exhibit
- Coordinating fellowships
- Overseeing investments
- Recruiting members

I will highlight the many activities of our unpaid staff in future newsletters.

But there are still opportunities to help. I need a volunteer to help coordinate up-dates to our website and to consider other technologies that can

help us maintain our SWG connections. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer for this activity or are interested in other activities.

## Join SWG for a Special Weekend in Washington, DC

All SWGers are invited to join us for a special National Council gathering in Washington on November 17-19, 2006. The weekend will begin Friday evening with the opening at our Capitol Hill Headquarters of a new exhibit—Underwater Photography—

featuring the work of SWG members.

On Saturday the group will head to the National Museum of the American Indian for a VIP tour, followed by lunch at the Museum. All members are invited to attend the Council Meeting that afternoon to see how the Society is governed. A dinner will be planned for the evening.

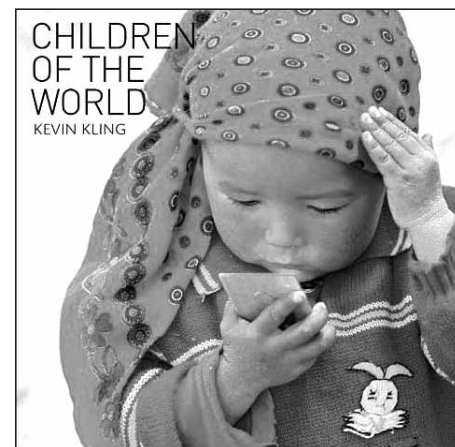
The Washington, DC group will organize Sunday activities for members and guests.

(See **PRESIDENT**, p. 4)

## PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITS

# Kling's Photos Recognized Internationally

**K**evin Kling's photos of children are being exhibited at the National Museum of Oriental Antiquities (the Ostasiatiska Museet) in Stockholm, Sweden through October 1. She has also made a 30-minute documentary, "Children of Asia," and 2 *photo-diaporamas* on the theme of "Children of the World" for the Museum. Twelve of her photos are on display at SWG until September. Another exhibit of her pictures is scheduled for September 14 to January 9 at the Paris Senate, and her book, *Children of the World*, has been published by Harry N. Abrams.... *James Tiptree Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*, by Julie Philips, has been published by St. Martin's Press. The book is about Alice Bradley Sheldon (1915-1987), who became a writer under the name James Tiptree Jr. As a child she traveled widely in Central Africa and Southeast Asia with her mother, the explorer, travel writer, and longtime SWG member **Mary Hastings Bradley**. Julie did some research in the SWG archives for her book.... The



April issue of *Smithsonian Magazine* featured an article about **Carolyn Mytinger's** trip to the South Pacific, "Gibson Girl in New Guinea," with photographs by **Michele Westmorland** and **Karen Hunt**, the two SWGers who are retracing her 1926-29 journey. There is a link to the story on our website [www.iswg.org](http://www.iswg.org). Two of **Monica Barnes's** ink jet prints, "Going for Baroque" and "Besh-Ba-Gowah," were part of a juried group show at Lincoln Center's Cork Gallery from May 6 to May 16, 2006.

## New Members Include Experts on Migration and Public Health

**Z EYNEP GOCMEN** (Dr.) (Student) was born in Ankara, Turkey, and holds degrees from Middle East Technical University, the University of Cincinnati, and a Ph.D. in Urban Technological, & Environmental Planning granted from the University of Michigan in Dec. 2005. She is an assistant professor of Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin.

**CANDACE GOSSEN** (Student) holds degrees from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Arizona State University and Portland State University, and is a Ph.D. candidate at Portland State University in Environmental Science. Her research focus is in an interdisciplinary area that is trying to define the role of climate and climate change on the society of Easter Island.

**ELLEN HANSEN** (At-large) is a specialist in issues of women and migration on the U.S.-Mexican border and an associate professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Social Sciences at Emporia State, Kansas. Her interest in Latin America began with an undergraduate summer school trip to Mexico; she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador and has also traveled in Spain, Scotland, France, Finland, China, Alaska and Canada. In 2005-06 she led disaster relief trips to Gulfport, Mississippi. She holds geography degrees from San Diego State University, and the University of Arizona, where she earned both an M.A. and a Ph.D. She has been awarded many grants and awards, including the "You Make a Difference Award," Emporia State University, 2006, and the Janice J. Monk Service Award, 2004, from the Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group of the Association

of American Geographers. She has published widely in her field; a work in progress is entitled *Opportunity, Exploitation, Both or Something Else? Professional Women in Mexico's Maquiladoras in a Time of Transition*.

**JOYCE M. JOHNSON**, (D.C.) is a Rear Admiral (Upper Half) and Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS (ret). She recently retired as the Coast Guard's "surgeon general." A board-certified physician in Preventive Medicine/Public Health, Clinical Pharmacology and Psychiatry, she is also a Certified Addiction Specialist and Certified Food Service Executive. A strong interest in cross-cultural medicine led her to do medical work on all seven continents with projects ranging from research in Antarctica to studying traditional medicine in Japan and Thailand. Recently she has done volunteer clinical work in Peru and Guatemala (Explorers Club Flag Expeditions) and in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. She has a B.A. from Luther College, Decorah, IA, an M.A. from the University of Iowa, a D.O. from Michigan State University, and three honorary doctorate degrees. Her publications include scientific articles, a regular "Ask the Doctor" column for *Military Officer* and several award winning recipes for cooking contests and magazines. She is currently Vice President, Health Sciences, Health and Life Sciences Division, at Battelle Memorial Institute.

**LYDIA MIHELIC PULSIPHER** (At-Large) is a professor in the University of Tennessee's Department of Geography. She has degrees from Macalester College, Tulane University, New Orleans, and a Ph.D. in geography from Southern Illinois

University, Carbondale. Her study of cultural ecology in the Eastern Caribbean over 32 years includes 15 years on enslaved Africans in Montserrat. Her research was featured in the "Seeds of Change" exhibit at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum. Her current research interests are related to cultural geography and national identity in Central European members of the EU, especially Slovenia. She has won many awards including the Mentor Award of the National Council for Geographic Education, 2005, and election to Phi Beta Kappa at Macalaster College. Her many publications include the college textbook, *World Regional Geography, Global Patterns, Local Lives*, co-authored with her son, Alex Pulsipher.

— Joanna Biggar

### IN MEMORIAM

Margery Milne — 2/06  
 Helen Muir — 2/06  
 Cynthia Nelson — 2/06  
 Ann E. Parker — 3/06

- **CHICAGO:** On Saturday, April 29, 2006, SWG Pruitt fellow Brenda Parker, (see her report in this issue,) spoke to members of the Chicago Group about her dissertation research. Her talk, "Sex in the City," focused on her ethnographic work in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Members of the Chicago Group met with At-Large SWG members attending the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers for an informal "no-host" drinks gathering at the Palmer House hotel in March. More than 30 members enjoyed the chance to make and renew acquaintances, and to share experiences with a number of the SWG student fellows, among them students from Berkeley and Penn State. The gathering was organized by **Karen Morin, Jan Monk and Ellen Steinberg**. They hope to repeat it next year when the AAG meets in San Francisco.

- **FLORIDA:** The South Florida Chapter of SWG met in April at the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden. The meeting included a tram tour and the exhibit of glassworks by Dale Chululy, which are stationed among the tropical foliage. The group's original plan to visit last November was derailed by Hurricane Wilma.

- **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:** **Dr Judy Tyner** spoke on "Geography through the Eye of the Needle," a talk about her research into embroidered maps and globes of the 18th and 19th century, which has inspired a modern master craftswoman to re-introduce the art of needlework to make globes. The meeting was held in Long Beach, and included a picnic lunch in the garden-courtyard.

- **WASHINGTON D.C.** New member **Iris Miller**, the director of Landscape Studies in the School of Architecture and Planning at the Catholic University of America, spoke at the March meeting on her work researching historical maps of



*Southern California members at meeting in Long Beach: Camille Holmgren (guest), Dr Judy Tyner, June Smith (guest), Jeanette Hilliger, Margery Hilliger, Ann Gallagher; Seated - left Ada Currier, Nancy King*

the city, the subject of her 2002 book, "Washington in Maps: 1606 – 2000. In April, SWG fellows **Kristen Hychka** and **Kari Bolstad Jensen** spoke about their research. (See their reports elsewhere in this issue). In May, a group went to

Arena Stage for a performance of "On the Verge: The Geography of Yearning," about three Victorian women adventurers. Group chair **Elizabeth Smith Brownstein** organized all these events.

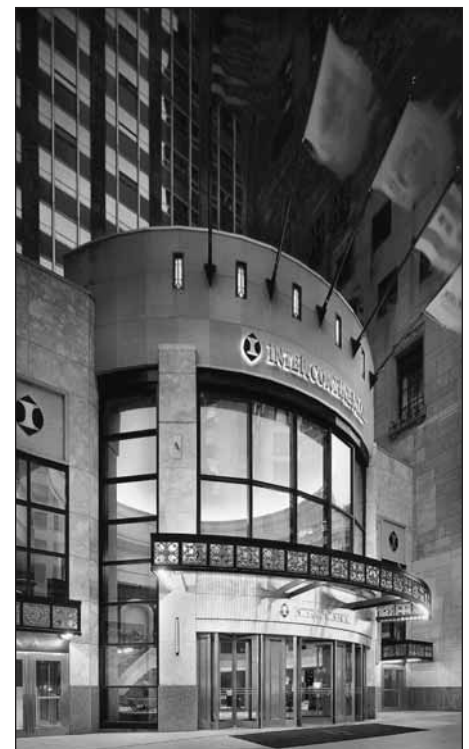
**PRESIDENT**

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You should receive an invitation soon. You can also refer to the SWG website, [www.iswg.org](http://www.iswg.org) for more details.

**Plan Now to Attend the 2008 SWG Triennial in Chicago (May 24-27, 2008)**

We know your calendars are busy, so note now that our 2008 Triennial meeting will be held at the Intercontinental Chicago Hotel on N. Michigan Ave. Built in 1929 as the Medinah Athletic Club, a men's club for members of the Shrine organization, the hotel is located in the heart of Chicago and is a short distance from many Chicago attractions. We will take advantage of Chicago's architecture to plan our program and field trips. Please send your thoughts about the program to me at [kimbajr@comcast.net](mailto:kimbajr@comcast.net).



*Intercontinental Chicago Hotel, site of 2008 Triennial*

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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were often reserved if interviewed in the home where they worked, and she discovered the rooftops where children came to hang laundry and relax were more fruitful territory. Many of these children rarely leave the place where they are employed.

She looks at the implications of work that takes place in private spaces. Away from a potentially protective public gaze, an employer has access to a child worker around the clock. This makes it difficult to regulate the work. Important concepts in her analysis are childhood, child labor, power, domination, and resistance.

The grant from SWG helped pay for her living expenses in Dhaka, books, research reports, and photocopying in Bangladesh, and part of her travel expenses (She got a smaller grant from Save the Children's Research Fund to cover the rest). Kari, a student at Penn State University, presented her work to the Washington D.C. group in April.

**BRENDA PARKER** is completing her dissertation in Human Geography. Over the past two years she has been researching the effects of a shift toward neoliberalism in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She defines this as a form of urban governance that prizes entrepreneurial efficiency, profit, and competition over government funded programs and social and labor protections. Milwaukee has been an experimental site of welfare reform and the privatization of urban services, and city leaders cite the "free market" as the best way to conduct urban development. Through her 40 interviews and three case studies, Brenda finds that these neoliberal policies parallel a decline in resources and opportunities for minorities and women. For example:

- there are currently no women on the 15-member Milwaukee City Council, (there are 6 minority men.)
- low-income African-American households in particular have less access to food, health care, and basic

necessities. Female-headed households and small-scale organizations like food banks are absorbing the monetary and social costs that government has eliminated.

- the poverty rate in the city has doubled, to 26%, and the poverty rate of blacks is nearly double that for whites.
- The educated middle class, especially white men, are most likely to benefit from programs that encourage a "creative class" of entrepreneurs and emphasize upscale development downtown.

The grant from SWG has allowed her to complete her data collection in Milwaukee and begin writing her dissertation, which she plans to defend this Fall. One chapter has been accepted as part of a book, *Gender in an Urban World*. She presented her work to the Chicago group of SWG and to the Geography Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is a Ph.D. student, and at the annual AAG meeting in Chicago.

**KRISTEN HYCHKA'S** dissertation is about the ecology of fluvial systems. To date, her Ph.D. has been funded through a research assistantship on a project supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for developing a habitat conservation plan for the bog turtle in two rapidly-developing suburban counties outside of Philadelphia (Chester County, PA and New Castle County, DE). Bog turtles occur only in the eastern U.S. and are imperiled or highly imperiled throughout their range. They are the smallest turtles in North America, and they spend most of their lives in ground-water-fed wetlands with very mucky soils. Kristen has been helping to build spatial models to predict where these types of wetlands occur in the study area.

Building on some of her experiences with the bog turtle project, she will be looking at how riparian wetland systems resist or recover from disturbance. She plans to use a spatial hydrologic model developed in the Penn State Civil Engineering Department to

understand the hydrologic setting of a wetland, and then look at how this setting influences a wetland's ability to maintain diverse habitats.



*Kristen Hychka in Millbrook Marsh, near State College, PA.*

Currently there is very little overlap between wetlands research and stream research, and Kristen wants to be part of an effort to bring these sister disciplines closer together. Her research will occur in several subwatersheds within the Susquehanna River basin.

The SWG fellowship allowed Kristen to focus on the research for her dissertation this spring at Penn State Univ. She presented her work to the Washington D.C. group in April.

How do nation-states police international migration today? In her dissertation **PATRICIA MACIAS ROJAS** investigates the growing intersection between immigration and criminal procedure. Although this is a hot topic today, Macias Rojas started her research in 2001, and since then has looked at local border policing practices at the Arizona/Sonora and West Texas/Chihuahua sectors of the U.S.-Mexico Border.

The first part of her dissertation examines the transformation of U.S.-Mexico border controls since the 1924 legislation that organized immigration admission by racial criteria under the national origins quota system. It was

(See **WORK IN PROGRESS**, p. 6)

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**Newsletter Deadlines**

Please send us your news—publications, group activities, awards, travel, and your Works in Progress. **Deadline for the next newsletter is: October 31, 2006.** Anything received after that deadline will be held over to the next newsletter.

You can send your news to Headquarters, or by e-mail to rosenfeldm@verizon.net.

**WORK IN PROGRESS**

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not until the 1965 immigration act that race was barred as a criterion for admission to the U.S.

Macias argues that in the post 1960's era "race-neutral" criminal categories such as legal/illegal or criminal/non-criminal have become the major criteria used to regulate migration today. Such criminal classifications have transformed contemporary border controls, resulting in a greater use of criminal procedures within immigration enforcement.

To show how such changes operate locally, Macias compared border control practices at two locations. She found that in Arizona/Sonora, policing practices pervade every aspect of social life and have pushed migrants to the outskirts of urban centers to the less-patrolled border areas.

In Texas/Chihuahua, policing is concentrated along the perimeter of the city; migrants may enter and work in the area, but have difficulty traveling to the interior of the United States.

Scholars studying migration, Macias Rojas argues, have paid little attention to the changing role of states in regulating migration at a

local level. By taking a historical and ethnographic approach, she believes her research reframes border controls as a social institution that builds inequality into the structure of society.

The SWG fellowship allowed Patrisia to focus on writing her dissertation this year at UC Berkeley. In October, she gave a talk at the Center for Latino Policy Research entitled, "Regulating Through Crime: Policing International Migration and 'Post-national Citizenship' at the U.S.-Mexico Border." In 2007, she will begin working as a researcher and professor of sociology at Sarah Lawrence College.

**National Council for  
Geographic Education Annual  
Conference (Oct. 5-8, 2006)**

If you are attending this conference in Lake Tahoe, NV, please sign up for the Women in Geographic Education Luncheon on Friday October 6. SWG will reserve some tables. Please sign up for the luncheon now and let Kim Crews know that you plan to attend.

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