

BRIAN J. SOMMERS, Ph.D.

Division of Academic Affairs, School of Arts and Sciences

Professor, Department of Geography

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Education:

- Ph.D., Geography, Minor in Urban Planning, University of Arizona (1995). Dissertation: "The Impact of Environmental Amenities on Urban Residential Stability: A Cleveland, Ohio Case Study."
- M.A., Geography, Miami University (1989). Practicum: "City of Orrville Planning Internship."
- B.A., Geography, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio (1987)

Teaching Experience:

- Professor, CCSU, Department of Geography, August 2004 to Present
- Associate Professor, CCSU, Department of Geography, August 1999 to August 2004
- Assistant Professor, CCSU, Department of Geography, August 1994 to August 1999

Administrative Responsibilities/Experience:

- **Assistant to the Provost**, CCSU Division of Academic Affairs, Spring 2009 to Present. Responsibilities include budget tracking and management for the Provost's Office using the Banner INB system.
- **Assistant to the Dean**, CCSU School of Arts and Sciences, 2007 to Present. Primary responsibilities include budget planning and management using the Banner INB system, oversight of Dean's Research Initiative grant program supporting faculty research, oversight of the School of Arts & Sciences faculty conference travel program, and management of under-performing cost centers. Secondary responsibilities include tracking infrastructure needs of School of Arts & Sciences departments, review of course abroad proposals, review of internship and independent study requests, conducting probation and dismissal hearings, data gathering, report writing, and assisting in other Dean's Office activities on an as-needed basis.
- **Co-Chair**, Connecticut State University (CSU) E-Leadership Team (ELT), 2007 to 2008. ELT is responsible for strategic planning and leadership in e-learning within the CSU system. The ELT is composed of the four CSU provosts (one of whom is the other co-chair), as well as administrators, system office information technology staff, and faculty representatives from the four CSU campuses. The E-Leadership Team reports directly to the Senior Vice-Chancellor of the Connecticut State University.
- **Department Chair**, Department of Geography, 2001 to 2007 (Interim Chair Spring 1998 and Summer 1997). Primary responsibilities included department management, course scheduling, program/department assessment, mentoring new faculty, department hiring (full-time and part-time faculty), and faculty evaluation for promotion/tenure. Secondary responsibilities included program development, course development, budget management, student recruitment, advising for undergraduate students in the General/Regional track, advising for undergraduate students in the Planning Specialization, and providing support for the advising of students in the Geography BSED program.

Faculty Governance Experience:

- **Co-Chair**, CCSU University Athletic Board (UAB), Spring 2009 to Present. The UAB is a Faculty Senate committee whose members oversee institutional control of athletics and who are responsible for the academic progress of student-athletes. Member, University Athletic Board (UAB), Fall 2008 to Present.
- **Member**, CCSU Athletic Appeals Committee (AAC), Fall 2008 to Present.
- **Chair**, CCSU Academic Standards Committee, 2000 to 2002. Vice-Chair, 1999 to 2000. Member, 1998 to 2002.
- **Senator and Recording Secretary**, CCSU Faculty Senate, 1998 to 2000
- **Representative and Recording Secretary**, CCSU University Curriculum Committee, Arts & Sciences Subcommittee 1994 to 1998. School of Arts & Sciences Subcommittee Representative, Technology Subcommittee, University Curriculum Committee, 1995 to 1998.

Community Outreach and Professional Service:

- **University Liaison and At-Large Member**, Executive Committee, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, 1995 to 2005
- **Internship Supervisor**-Internships completed or ongoing in the communities of Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Cheshire, Durham, East Hartford, Farmington, Killingly, Madison, Manchester, Middletown, New Britain, Norwich, Preston, Stamford, Torrington, Wallingford, Westport, Wethersfield, and Woodbury as well as with the Capital Region Council of Governments, the Connecticut Mid-State Regional Planning Association, the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments, the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection, and the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.
- **Board Member**, New Britain Neighborhood Housing Services, 1996 to 2003.
- **Chairperson**, Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2000 to 2001. Vice-Chairperson, 1998 to 2000.
- **2002 Distinguished Service Award Winner**, Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, March 2002.
- **Outside Department Reviewer**, Geography Program of the Department of Geography and Geology, California University of Pennsylvania
- **Connecticut Representative**, NESTVAL (Northeast and St. Lawrence Valley), Regional Branch of the Association of American Geographers, 1995 to 1997.
- **ALSO SEE**-Field methods courses in service to Connecticut communities.

International Education Experience:

- **CCSU Faculty Liaison** to the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and the State University of Santa Catarina Brazil, 2007 to Present. Responsibilities include maintaining institutional linkages, overseeing student placements and credit transfers, promoting student and faculty exchange programs, and reporting on activities to the CCSU Center for International Education.
- **Member**, CCSU Slavic/East European Studies Committee, 1994 to 2008
- **Member**, CCSU Center for International Education Director Search Committee, 2005 and 2003
- **ALSO SEE**-Instruction of courses abroad as well as administrative experience of courses abroad as Department Chair and as Assistant to the Dean.

Teaching Experience and Course Development at CCSU:

2008 Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee

- Geography 110 Introduction to Geography
 - Includes a First Year Experience and Online CSU versions of the course
- Geography 220 Human Geography
 - Includes an Online CSU version of the course
- Geography 241 Introduction to Planning
 - Includes a First Year Experience version of the course
- Geography 439 Urban Geography
- Geography 441 Community/Regional Planning
- Geography 442 Field Methods (team taught)
 - Town of Bloomfield, CT, Community Development Project
 - Town of Manchester, CT, Community Development Project
- Geography 445 Environmental Planning*
 - Includes an Online CSU version of the course
- Geography 448 Russia and Neighboring Regions
- Geography 459 Field Studies in Regional Geography (Study Abroad Topics Course):
 - Jamaica in January Field Course*
 - Making of the English Landscape Field Course*
- Geography 483 Topics in Planning:
 - Urban Design and Historic Preservation*
- Geography 500 History of Geographic Thought*
- Geography 516 Graduate Studies in Regional Geography: The Geography of Wine*
 - Includes an Online CSU version of the course
- Geography 518 Graduate Studies in Geographic Techniques: Community Planning Studio*
- Urban Studies 300 Introduction to Urban Studies (team taught)*

*Courses personally developed while at CCSU. The First Year Experience and OnlineCSU course offerings represent significant redevelopment of pre-existing base courses.

Publications and Professional Reports:

- Sommers, Brian J. 2008 The Geography of Wine: How Landscapes, Cultures, Terroir, and the Weather Make a Good Drop. Plume Press/Penguin Prentice-Hall Press
- Sommers, Brian J. 2004 (Assistant Editor to Timothy J. Rickard) Proceedings: New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society (Volume 33).
- Sommers, Brian J. 2003 ‘‘Rules for the Road’ in Establishing Successful Study Abroad Programs’ Chapter in Study Abroad: A Road to Lifetime Learning. CIBER-Center for International Business Education and Research, U.S. Department of Education
- Sommers, Brian J. 1999. ‘Sustainability and Urban Communities.’ Chapter in Preserving the Legacy: Planning for Sustainable Development. Columbus, OH: OSU Press, 141-156.
- Sommers, Brian J. and Timothy, Dallen 1999. ‘Economic Development, Tourism, and Urbanization in the Emerging Markets of Northeast Asia.’ In Trends in Asian Urbanization, Graham Chapman and Ashok Dutt (eds). Brookfield: Ashgate Publishers, 111-131

Publications and Professional Reports (continued):

- Sommers, Brian J. 1998. 'Planning and Governance Outside the Spotlight: Planning for Montego Bay, Jamaica.' Interplan: Journal of the American Planning Association International Division. <http://interplan.org/apaid/ap01003.htm> (*Address has changed-now requires member login*)
- Sommers, Brian J. 1998. 'Connecticut.' Chapter in International Manual of Planning Practice Volume 3. Lisbon: International Society of City and Regional Planners, 195-208.
- Sommers, Brian J. 1998. 'Jamaica.' Chapter in International Manual of Planning Practice Volume 3. Lisbon: International Society of City and Regional Planners, 81-92.
- Sommers, Gail A., Costa, Frank, and Sommers, Brian J. 1998. 'The University Park Neighborhood Association, A University-Community Partnership.' Growing Smart: Neighborhood Collaborative Planning, Planners Advisory Service (PAS) Report, American Planning Association
- Sommers, Brian J. 1997. 'The Freshman Year Experience and Geography: Linking Student Retention and the Introductory Geography Curriculum.' The Journal of Geography 96 (5).
- Sommers, Brian J. 1997. 'SIMCITY 2000 by Maxis.' Software review in the Microcomputer Specialty Group Newsletter, 13(1)
- Sommers, Brian J. 1996. 'Geography Course Incorporates Orientation Activities.' The Freshman Year Experience Newsletter, 9(1).
- Sommers, Brian J., and Lay James Gibson. 1996. 'Contrasts in Regional Development Issues and Opportunities: The Russian Far East and Latin America.' Working Paper. University of Arizona, Economic Development Research Program
- Sommers, Brian J., Ki-Suk, Lee and Lay James Gibson. 1995. 'Development Opportunities and Challenges in Northeast Asia: The Case of the Tumen River Project.' Studies in Regional Science, 25(1).
- Sommers, Brian J., and Lay James Gibson. 1995. 'Regional Development in the Russian Far East: Problems and Prospects.' Working Paper. University of Arizona, Economic Development Research Program
- Plane, David A., Rogerson, Peter A., and Brian J. Sommers. 1994. 'Demographics' Chapter 10 in The Geographical Analysis of Population: with Applied Techniques for Planning and Business. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
- Costa, Frank, Monroe, Charles, and Brian J. Sommers. 1993. The Impact of New Suburban Construction on the Akron Area Housing Market. University of Akron, Center for Urban Studies.
- Sommers, Brian J. 1992. Introduction to Physical Geography: Laboratory Manual. Phoenix: Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company.
- Sommers, Brian J., and Laura McCarthy. 1992. Introduction to Physical Geography: Laboratory Manual. Phoenix: Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company.
- Sommers, Brian J., and Laura McCarthy, 1991. 'Geology and Vegetation of Southeastern Arizona,' Southeastern Arizona Field Trip Guide, Annual Meeting, The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Tucson, Arizona.
- Hanten, Edward, and Brian J. Sommers, 1989. Comprehensive Plan for the City of Orrville, Ohio. 1989. The University of Akron, Center for Urban Studies.
- An Economic Profile of Orrville, Ohio, 1989. The University of Akron, Center for Urban Studies. (Project Coordinator and Cartographer)
- Impact of the Growth of the University of Akron 1987 The University of Akron, Center for Urban Studies. (Cartographer)

Professional Presentations and Workshops:

- Sponsor and Presenter, Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA), American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) test preparation class (New Britain, CT, 2008) (also 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, and 1997).
- Presenter and Panelist, 'Is Regionalism Still a Dirty Word' Regionalism Conference sponsored by the CCSU Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (New Britain, CT, 2006).
- Predatory Lending and Neighborhood Investment. The Association of American Geographers Conference (Philadelphia, PA, 2004).
- Urban Revitalization and Migration Session Chair. The NESTVAL (Northeast, St. Lawrence Valley) Annual Meeting (Hartford, CT, 2003).
- Hartford Walking Tour Guide/Presenter. The NESTVAL (Northeast, St. Lawrence Valley) Annual Meeting (Hartford, CT, 2003).
- Spatial Issues in Predatory Lending. Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference (Cleveland, OH, 2003).
- Predatory Lending in Summit County, Ohio: A Geographic Appraisal. The Association of American Geographers Conference (New Orleans, LA, 2003)
- Program Co-Coordinator, New England Regional APA Conference (New Haven, CT, 2000).
- The Good, Bad, and the Ugly of Town-Gown Planning (Session Moderator) New England Planning Conference (New Haven, Connecticut, 2000).
- Issues in Regional Development and Planning (Session Chair and Organizer) Association of American Geographers Conference (Pittsburgh, PA, 2000).
- Conference Co-Organizer, CCAPA 1999-2000 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 2000).
- Is Historic Preservation Just Another Economic Development Tool? (Presenter, Session Chair, and Organizer) Association of American Geographers Conference (Honolulu, HI, 1999).
- Regional Development and Planning in the 1990's (Panelist) Association of American Geographers Conference (Honolulu, HI, 1999).
- Conference Co-Organizer, CCAPA 1998-1999 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 1999).
- Sustainability and Responses to Central Cities in Crisis: A Case Study of Hartford, Connecticut, Association of American Geographers Conference (Boston, MA, 1998).
- New Trends in Planning Instruction, CCAPA, Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 1998).
- Conference Co-Organizer, CCAPA 1997-1998 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT 1998).
- Professional Experience in Planning Instruction, Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, Annual Conference (Enfield, CT, 1997).
- The First Year Experience Program and Its Application, 3rd Annual Conference of the Connecticut Consortium for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (New Britain, CT, 1997)
- Economic Development, Tourism, and Urbanization in the Emerging Markets of Northeast Asia, The 5th Asian Urbanization Conference (London, UK, 1997).
- Urban Planning in Jamaica: A Case Study of Planning in the Developing World, Association of American Geographers Conference (Ft. Worth, TX, 1997).
- Simcity 2000 and Urban Geography (Panel Session), Association of American Geographers Conference (Ft. Worth, TX, 1997).
- Conference Co-Organizer, CCAPA 1996-1997 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 1997).
- Planning Applications, Instruction, and the Internet, CCAPA 1996-1997 Winter Conference (New Britain, CT, 1997)

Professional Presentations and Workshops (continued):

- Contrasts in Regional Development Issues and Opportunities: The Russian Far East and Latin America, with L.J. Gibson, 4th Pacific RSC Summer Institute (Tsukuba, Japan, 1996).
- Regional Development in the Russian Far East: A Comparative Perspective, The Association of American Geographers Annual Conference (Charlotte, NC, 1996).
- Patterns of Change: A Study of Cleveland, Ohio 1970-1990, The Association of American Geographers Annual Conference (Chicago, IL, 1995).
- Issues in Geographic Education (Session Chair), NESTVAL (Northeast, St. Lawrence Valley) Annual Meeting (Hartford, CT, 1994).
- International Cooperation for Economic Development, with L.J. Gibson, Pan-Japan Sea Forum, Sponsored by the American Embassy (Tokyo, Japan, 1994).

Grants Experience (Also see grants administration experience as Assistant to the Dean):

- CCSU Outreach Grant, 'Manchester Connecticut Field Methods Outreach Course', \$1175 (*Co-authored with Charles Button*)
- U.S. Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, Urban Development Consortium with Bridgewater State College, Universidad do Estado de Santa Catarina and Universidade Federal do Rio Grande de Sul, 2006-2010, \$200,000. (*Co-Principle Investigator with James Hayes-Bohanan from Bridgewater State College*)
- CCSU 2006 Summer Curriculum Development Grant, 'Joint M.S. Program for In-Service Teachers at Sam Sharpe Teachers College', \$2500 (*Lead author*)
- European Union Policies on Accession and their Planning Impacts, CSU-AAUP Research Grant 2005, \$7,904 (*Lead Author*)
- CCSU Department of Geography Course Development Grant Application, CATAL Funding for OnlineCSU 2003, \$20,000 (*Lead Author*)
- Remote Sensing and Digital Image Processing Course Proposal, 2003 CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, \$2943 (*Lead Author*)
- Current Events ID Course, 2003 CCSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, \$2,350 (*With Carol Jones, Paul Petterson, Susan Seider, and Jane Stoneback*)
- The Geography of Predatory Lending in Northeast Ohio, The Ford Foundation, 2002-\$135,000 with \$25,000 for CCSU (*Co-Principle Investigator with a team from Kent State University*)
- Field Research in Tourism, Public History, and Economic Development through Planning-CSU-AAUP Research Grant, 2002-\$5,318 (*Lead Author*)
- Linking Preservation, Development, and Tourism-CSU Faculty Development Grant, 2001-\$900
- Land Use Planning and the Tourism Onslaught in Holmes County, Ohio: Development Controls for Amish Community Preservation-CSU-AAUP Research Grant, 2000-\$3,350
- The Disappearing New England Village-CSU-AAUP Research Grant, 1998-\$2,838
- Economic Development, Tourism, & Urbanization in the Emerging Markets of Northeast Asia-CSU-AAUP Research Grant, 1997-\$7,976 (*Lead Author*)
- The Development of Interdisciplinary Courses and a Concentration in Urban Studies-CSU Summer Curriculum Development Grant, 1996-\$3,455
- Metropolitan Studies Colloquium Proposal-Connecticut Institute for Municipal Studies, 1995-\$2,500 (*Co-Author with Antonia Moran*)

Faculty/Professional Development Activities:

- **Sabbatical Leave**, Professional development and research on industrial heritage planning and tourism in New England and Great Britain, Spring Semester 2002.
- **American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)**, Passed professional certification exam 5/8/1999.
- **Yale University Visiting Faculty Fellowship**, Planning, Urban Design, and Historic Preservation Fellowship with the Yale School of Architecture, 1998 through 1999.
- **Yale Library Fellowships**, Slavic & East European Studies Program, 1996 and 1997.
- **Participant**, Integrative Studies Institute and Workshop, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, summer 1996

Research Supervision (as Primary Supervisor):

- Pierce, Melissa “Cultural Heritage and the Modern Built Environment in Tucson, Arizona’ (Special Project) (*In Progress*)
- O’Brien, Robert ‘Urban Geography Advanced Placement Module’ (Special Project) (*In Progress*)
- Sadlowski, Jin ‘Big Box Impacts on a Small Region’s Businesses’ (Special Project) (*In Progress*)
- Sadlowski, Steven ‘State Highway Corridor Planning’ (Special Project)
- Shaw, Sam ‘Adaptive Reuse of 19th Century Factories in Middlesex County’ (Thesis)
- Desson, Leonard “Residential Differentiation in Metropolitan Hartford.” (Thesis)
- Keeney, Mark ‘Discrimination in Urban Housing Markets and the Development of an Urban Underclass: A Case Study of New Haven, Connecticut,’ (Thesis)
- Poland, Don ‘The Legal Power of Zoning Boards of Appeals,’ (Thesis)
- Renert, Susan ‘Neighborhood Impact in Urban Revitalization Efforts in Hartford, Connecticut: A Case Study,’ (Thesis)
- Lucas, Katherine ‘Where to Locate Low Income Housing: The Site Selection Process of Nonprofit Housing Developers,’ (Thesis)

Professional Work Experience:

- **Research Assistant**, University of Arizona, Office of Arid Lands, Economic Development Research Program, Tucson, Arizona (1994)
- **Economic Development Consultant**, Greater Casa Grande Valley Economic Development Foundation, Casa Grande, Arizona (1993 to 1994).
- **Planning Consultant**, Pascua Yaqui Pueblo Indian Reservation, Tucson, Arizona (1991).
- **Water Resources Planning Assistant**, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Tucson Active Management Area, Tucson, Arizona (1990)
- **Project Coordinator**, University of Akron, Center for Urban Studies, Akron, Ohio (1988)
- **Cartographer**, University of Akron, Department of Geography and the Center for Urban Studies, Akron, Ohio (1985 to 1987).

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST