Abstract. This excursion into the historical geography of settlement-system development explores the competitive quest by places to gain accessibility advantages during a period of rapid frontier expansion in early nineteenth-century Maine. Archival resources and quantitative evidence document the impact of technological transitions in transportation and information technologies and their uses in the competitive struggle among places for growth and dominance over the settlement system. Conceptually, the talk illustrates discontinuities in the space-time connectivity of emergent and volatile transportation networks, the progressive applications of technology and political clout in the gradual emergence of a stable hierarchy of places and routes, and the uncertainties posed by environmental circumstances, economic forces, entrepreneurial endowment, and information reliability.

Donald Janelle is a Researcher and Program Director with the Center for Spatial Studies at UCSB and Emeritus Professor from Western University. His research and publications are based broadly within geography and affiliated social and behavioral sciences. Primary research themes include space-time analyses of individual behavior, the time-geography of cities, the temporal-spatial ordering of social systems, locational conflict analysis, social issues in transportation, and the role of space-adjusting technologies in structuring new patterns of social and economic organization. He is a recipient of the Edward L. Ullman Award for Career Contributions to Transportation Geography and the Ronald F. Abler Honors Award for Distinguished Service from the Association of American Geographers. Janelle has authored more than 120 journal articles and book chapters, and has co-edited five books. The three most recent include: Information, Place, and Cyberspace: Issues in Accessibility; WorldMinds: Geographical Perspectives on 100 Problems; and Spatially Integrated Social Science. For more information, see http://csiss.org/janelle.

The objectives of the ThinkSpatial brown-bag presentations are to exchange ideas about spatial perspectives in research and teaching, to broaden communication and cooperation across disciplines among faculty and graduate students, and to encourage the sharing of tools and concepts.