I. Mission Statement:

Support the mission of the AAG by increasing participation of graduate students in the life of the profession and by better preparing graduate students for careers in Geography.

II. 2009 Dues:

The dues are currently $2.00

III. Board of Directors:

Chair: Nicholas Jon Crane, The Ohio State University
Vice Chair: Phil Birnie, The Ohio State University
Secretary/Treasurer: Christopher Riley, The Ohio State University
Director: Dawn Drake, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Director: Tim Hawthorne, The Ohio State University
Director: Nicole Laliberte, Penn State University
Director: Amy Potter, Louisiana State University
Director: Tristan Sturm, University of California-Los Angeles

IV. Accomplishments, Activities Scheduled, Future Plans and Directions

The GSAG has accomplished a great deal over the last year:

1) Awards and competitions:

We plan to offer more than one award again in the coming year. Announcements will be distributed in late October and early November 2009.

a) 2009 GSAG Graduate Student Paper Competition Winners

Dawn M. Drake (University of Tennessee) received $200 support for "Rural Agriculture as a Historical Cultural Indicator: The Case of Barus in Monroe County, Pennsylvania"

Xingjian Liu (Texas State University, San Marcos) received $200 support for
"Arc-Mat: A Matlab-based Spatial Data Analysis Toolbox"

b) 2009 GSAG Research Award Winners

Joomi Lee (University of Texas) received $500 support for "Construing a New Medieval City in Morocco: Politics of Medina Revitalization and the Geographies of Discrimination"

Lucy Kammer (Syracuse) received $500 support for "Spectral differentiation of the new invasive shrub Tamarisk (Tamarix spp.) from native vegetation using imaging spectroscopy: A case study in southeast Utah"

James Looney (University of Kentucky) received $250 support for "Senses of Landscape and Visions of Place: encountering Ocracoke Island, North Carolina"

2) Business Meeting at the 2009 AAG Conference in Las Vegas

Our business meeting was held in conjunction with the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Las Vegas. One of the more significant discussion points in our meeting was the possibility of greater collaboration among graduate from different programs between meetings. Attendees recognized that graduate students in other departments tend to face similar issues to those they are familiar with at their home institution. Through our Google group and website, we have found that the GSAG can facilitate some of the necessary discussions. Also notable: the business meeting provided a venue for the announcement of paper competition and research award results, a review of old business, and the announcement of new officers.

3) Communication with members

a) Website

The GSAG website has been transitioned to http://www.gsagaag.org. The site continues to evolve and better support the membership. Our new webmaster, also vice-chair, Phil Birnie has taken over the website.

b) Newsletter

The GSAG Newsletter is made available, approximately three times each year, through the GSAG website and through the GSAG Google group.

c) Google group

During 2008-09, we established and maintained a Google group as part of an effort to streamline communication within the GSAG. The group now provides our primary means of communication.
4) 2010 Annual Meeting Plans for Washington, DC

The GSAG is sponsoring more than ten sessions at this year’s annual meeting. Our visibility has greatly increased in this regard. At our business meeting, we will announce new officers, congratulate our competition award winners, review the year’s accomplishments, and provide our members an opportunity to meet and or reunite.

V. Membership and Participation

The GSAG has quickly grown in membership over the last five years from twelve participants at the first meeting in Los Angeles to the 1301 members we have now.

VI. Financial Report

Balance, 8-31-09: $1627.19

VII. Special Requests or Questions for Council

None at this time.

Submitted by
Nicholas Jon Crane, Chair