

**Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG)
2008-2009 Annual Report**

1) Mission Statement

The Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG) strives to enhance geographic research and scholarship on matters relating to human-animal studies by: (a) encouraging the exchange of ideas among geographers studying biological, cultural, ecological, economic, political, and technical aspects of the myriad ways humans co-exist with other animal species, (b) promoting research in these areas, (c) facilitating collaboration between existing AAG specialty groups and committees to promote common interests and develop intra-disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects. The overall aim of AnGSG is to support discussion of human-animal issues by geographers as a legitimate and active part of the discipline.

2) Dues Information

As of October 10, 2009, we have \$161.00 in our AAG account. This includes dues and additional donations. Our annual dues are \$5.00 for faculty and \$1.00 for students.

3) Chair/ Board of Directors / Officers Listing / Newsletter Editor / etc.

Our current executive committee is composed as follows:

Monica V. Ogra, Chair and Newsletter Editor: Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Studies & Globalization Studies Program, Gettysburg College (3 year term)

Julie Urbanik, Secretary/Treasurer: Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Geoscience, University of Missouri-Kansas City (3 year term)

Sharon W. Adams, Communications Officer: Graduate Candidate, Department of Geography & the Environment, University of Texas at Austin (1 year term)

Stella Capoccia, Student Officer: Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (1 year term)

Jennifer Blecha, General Board Member: Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Human Environmental Studies, San Francisco State University (3 year term)

William S. Lynn, General Board Member: Senior Ethics Advisor, Practical Ethics & Visiting Professor, Environmental Studies, Williams College (3 year term)

Kristin L. Stewart, Ph.D, General Board Member (3 year term)

4) Accomplishments and Activities in 2008-9

Accomplishments:

- Ratified bylaws and became an official specialty group of the AAGs in April 2009.

Activities Scheduled :

- Multiple events sponsored at the 2010 AAG meeting – see below

Future Plans and Directions:

- Continue to develop website
- Work to publicize the AnGSG via student awards, organized events at the annual meetings, and through listserv communications
- Develop an Animal Geography peer-reviewed journal (medium- to long-term goal)

Business Meeting at the 2009 AAG Conference in Las Vegas:

Our first official business meeting was held in Las Vegas. We had 17 people attend. Our accomplishments at the meeting were: 1) Ratify the bylaws, 2) Elect slate of board members, 3) Prioritize our plans. Achieving these goals, we concluded by formulating three priorities for the coming year:

- First, create an open listserv – we have done this.
- Second, create a website – we have done this (<http://www.animalgeography.org>).
- Third, create vehicles to assist graduate students (in particular to assist those seeking to complete candidacy exams with a topical emphasis in animal geography) – we are currently in discussion about ways to design and fund a competitive student paper award.

Student Paper Awards: As noted above, currently in preparation for the 2010 meeting

Newsletter information: We are gathering material for the newsletter, and anticipate that the first issue will be disseminated in anticipation of the 2010 meeting in Washington, D.C. The AnGSG Chair is currently serving as the managing newsletter editor.

2010 Annual Meeting Plans for Washington, DC. The AnGSG will be sponsoring multiple sessions at the meeting, including so far:

- Animal Geography Teaching Roundtable – a forum for discussion of the challenges and opportunities involved with bringing animal geography to the graduate and undergraduate classroom
- Emerging research and themes in Animal Geography (paper session)
- Animals in the media (paper session)
- Conservation issues for marine mammals (co-sponsored session with Marine and Coastal Ecology Specialty Group)

In addition, several members are currently working together to try to organize a panel about the links between endangered species advocacy work and peace movements; this panel is intended to capture and build on the momentum associated with the special award being given to Dr. Jane Goodall. Other members are in the process of planning field trips in the

D.C. area and organizing a discussion session around recent scholarship in the field of animal geography. AnGSG continues to support these events as the details are being finalized.

5) Membership and Participation

We currently have 45 group members. 25 are students and 20 are non-students.

6) Financial Report

Please note that this does not include funds collected in late-October 2009. We anticipate that our operating budget will grow considerably once all members have registered for the 2010 annual meeting online and have had been presented with the option to renew membership dues or donate to the specialty group fund.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
8/31/2008	<i>Balance forward</i>			\$ - -
12/31/08	Dues collected for December 2008	9.00	--	9.00
01/31/09	Dues collected for January 2009	28.00	--	37.00
02/28/09	Dues collected for February 2009	20.00	--	57.00
03/31/09	Dues collected for March 2009	6.00	--	63.00
04/24/09	Donation to group	5.00	--	68.00
04/24/09	Donation to group	15.00	--	83.00
04/24/09	Donation to group	19.00	--	102.00
04/24/09	Donation to group	15.00	--	117.00
04/30/09	Dues collected for April 2009	25.00	--	142.00
05/31/09	Dues collected for May 2009	0.00	--	142.00
06/30/09	Dues collected for June 2009	6.00	--	148.00
07/31/09	Dues collected for July 2009	11.00	--	159.00
08/31/09	Dues collected for August 2009	2.00	--	161.00
08/31/09	Balance			161.00