

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERCEPTION & BEHAVIORAL GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP**  
**Spring/2008-Spring/2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Mission Statement**

Our mission is to advance the theoretical and applied interests of environmental perception and behavioral geography within the discipline of geography, developing links to related disciplines through communication and organization. Environmental perception and behavior geography (EPBG) is a broad subarea within human geography that takes a disaggregate approach to the study of human activity, culture, and society. It is concerned with a diverse set of issues about human behavior, perception, attitudes, beliefs, memory, language, intentions, reasoning and problem-solving involving space and place. EPBG research is motivated by two premises, that understanding these issues will help improve traditional models in human geography, and that these issues constitute geographic problems in their own right. Furthermore, to an EPBG researcher, people are not interchangeable parts for study but may differ as a function of their culture, socioeconomic status, age, gender, education, travel experiences, differing abilities, and more. EPBG researchers employ a wide array of research methodologies, both qualitative and quantitative, and have interdisciplinary contact with psychology, anthropology, history, phenomenology, micro-economics, computer science, literature, and other disciplines.

**2009-2010 Dues**

Dues will remain the same as they have been in the past: Students \$1; Others \$5.

\* Note that at 2008 business meeting the SG agreed to waive dues for members from developing nations. Therefore, the SG will not object to the AAG doing this automatically for specialty groups.

**Board of Directors for Spring/2009-Spring/2010**

*Immediate Past-President:* Dave Lemberg, Western Michigan University  
*President:* Kathy Sherman-Morris, Mississippi State University  
*Secretary-Treasurer:* Jon Malinowski, United States Military Academy  
*Academic Director:* Dan Montello, University of California Santa Barbara  
*Academic Director:* Chris Badurek, Appalachian State University  
*Newsletter Editor:* Jon Malinowski, United States Military Academy  
*Student Director:* Rui Li, Pennsylvania State University

**Accomplishments**

*Future Plans and Directions*

The Saarinen Student Paper Award will remain the same (\$200), with the same stipulations as previously applied (students must submit a paper and present this research at the meeting). Travel awards will increase according to student registration, as determined by AAG. There will be greater communication with applicants in next year's

travel award contest regarding attending the business meeting as a requirement to claim awards.

### *Business Meeting at the Las Vegas AAG Conference*

#### **I. Routine Business**

- Kathy Sherman-Morris (“President”) opened the meeting at 11:55am and welcomed the attendees.
- The President gave a summary of the chairs’ meeting she attended, announcing that the AAG would be offering an orientation session for new specialty group chairs, that the AAG would be redoing parts of their official website, and that participants at future AAG national meetings would be limited to participation in two sessions.
- Jon Malinowski gave the Treasurer’s Report. The Specialty Group had \$1354.39 at the time of the meeting. Dues for the year totaled \$535.00.
- Dan Montello announced that Travel Grants had been awarded to Scott Brown, Ryan Burns, Lucy Cartlidge, Stephanie Deitrick, and Dorothy Ives, but only Lucy Cartlidge was present to accept. The Travel Grant guidelines state that awardees must be present at the business meeting to collect.
- Stephanie Deitrick was named the winner of the Saarinen Student Paper Award. The title of the paper was *Maps, Climate Change, and mediated Knowledge: Mass Media and (Un) Certain Science*.
- Chris Badurek was elected to one of two Academic Director positions for a two-year term ending at the 2011 AAG Annual Meeting. Dan Montello’s term will end at the 2010 Annual Meeting.
- Jon Malinowski was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer.
- Rui Li of Penn State was elected as the Student Representative for a two-year term.

#### **II. Open Discussion**

- Martin Swobodzinski asked if the Student Representative would continue to be compensated for his/her registration, as was past practice. The members agreed that the Student Representative should continue to be reimbursed the amount of a student registration at the conference.
- Kathy Sherman-Morris presented the findings of a survey of EPBG members. She found that most members desired more interaction among members and more information about the activities and publications of members. After discussion, the members voted to reinstate an electronic newsletter and to start a Facebook group. Jon Malinowski agreed to work on both projects.
- There was some discussion of 2010 session topics. No definitive topics were agreed upon.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm

### **Membership and Participation**

We currently have 306 members in our specialty group. Of the total, 166 are student members and 100 are non-student members.

**Financial Report**

Balance (March 2006)	\$ 1354.39
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