

2019 AAG Spring Council Meeting
Washington, DC April 1-3

Present:

Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, *President*; David Kaplan, *Vice President*; Derek Alderman, *Past President*; Deborah Thomas, *Treasurer* (Great Plains-Rocky Mountain); Cathleen McAnneny, *Secretary* (National Councilor); Doug Richardson, *Executive Director*; David DiBiase (Chair, National Councilors), Wendy Jepson (National Councilor), Jennifer Collins (National Councilor), Lorraine Dowler (National Councilor), Jamie Winders (National Councilor), Karen Johnson-Webb (East Lakes), Sriram Khe' (Pacific Coast), Rebecca Kelly (Middle Atlantic), Sarah Stinard-Kiel (graduate student rep), John Hayes (NESTVAL and Chair, Regional Councilors), Woonsup Choi (West Lakes), John Kupfer (Southeast), Lindsay Naylor (Middle States).

Delayed in travel, joined April 2-3, 2019: Michaela Buenemann (Southwest).

AAG Staff: Candida Mannozi; with Zan Dodson on April 2, 2019.

Guest April 1-2, 2019: Amy Lobben, AAG Vice President elect.

1.0 Opening

President Luzzadder-Beach welcomed all Councilmembers. She asked for a motion to adopt the Agenda.

Luzzadder-Beach moved to adopt the Agenda, Kupfer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1.4 Council Meeting Minutes:

McAnneny pointed out the need to amend the Fall 2018 Council Meeting Minutes, to include John Hayes' full report on the updates from the AAG Regional Divisions.

Hayes offered a friendly amendment to the Finance section of the Minutes, asking that his proposal for fossil fuel divestment, which he circulated to the Council at the 2018 Fall Council Meeting, be included. Discussion resulted in an offer to post this document online. Richardson and Mannozi volunteered to be Hayes' points of contact for this.

Kaplan moved to accept the Fall 2018 Council Meeting Minutes as amended, Kupfer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1.5.1 – 1.5.4

President, Vice President, Past President, comments

President's Comments

After a year of hard work the Annual Meeting of AAG is the frosting on the cake.

Sheryl recognized all our contributions and gave a special thanks to Lorraine Dowler whose work to improve the atmosphere of the annual meeting working towards making the meeting harassment-free and changing the culture of the Association and the meeting.

The themes that Luzzadder-Beach promoted such as the greening of the AAG Annual Meeting and the right of everyone to benefit from science will continue. Geography will continue to be an important voice in the challenges we face from climate change.

Luzzadder-Beach congratulated David Kaplan on his election to president.

Vice President's Comments

Kaplan proposed three big initiatives:

Expand the community of geography by bringing in underrepresented institutions such as HBCUs by sponsoring teaching, research, and mentoring panels;

Move the work forward from the motion to form a task force to get an understanding of what PhD's who do not join the academy are doing and to make sure they are welcomed into the Association;

Revisiting the regions, there is a great variety of possibilities to address some of the concerns of the regions and how can we revitalize the regional divisions. For example, how can regions help address what has been happening to departments (four we lost last year), majors have been flat and Geography is considered an expendable discipline. Regions may be the best positioned to help recruit majors.

Past President's Comments

Great thanks were expressed to the Council and Doug, Candida and AAG staff.

Derek's proposed Rapid Response Committee" to help the Executive Committee to respond quickly and thoughtfully to issues that arise and require attention is taking shape. In this critical time as a discipline we need to be able to respond to issues as they arise.

The focus of Alderman's Past President's Address will be "Reparative Storytelling".

Regional Division Councilor Chair report:

Hayes provided a summary of the individual reports submitted by the Regional Division Councilors.

Johnson-Webb moved to accept the regional division reports. Kupfer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(NOTE: The full Regional Division reports will be included in Appendix 3 of the Minutes.)

1.5.5 Student Councilor Comments

Stinard-Kiel introduced a Proposed Best Practices to guide departments in their relationships with graduate students, which had first been proposed by former Graduate Student representative Sara Diamond. There was a suggestion to have Stinard-Kiel co-author an article with Luzzadder-Beach in the AAG Newsletter on this topic; perhaps hold session(s) at the next Annual Meeting; bring the proposed document to Department Chairs, Graduate Program Directors/Coordinators, and the Graduate Student Affinity Group attention; connect with Ken Foote and the organizers for the annual department leadership workshops, to see if this document could fit into their materials as well. There were some comments made that some of the points being raised in the Best Practices document are for activities outside the purview of department chairs. Thomas offered to work with Stinard-Kiel to re-submit this proposal for Council review on April 2.

Stinard-Kiel circulated the revised proposed statement (see Appendix 1) to Council on April 2. Kaplan moved to approve the proposal, Alderman seconded the motion. With a few friendly edits, the motion passed unanimously.

Richardson mentioned the Regional Division Chairs Breakfast scheduled for later in the week, where the Fall 2018 Council decision regarding election of Regional Division Councilors will be discussed with the Division Chairs and implementation options of this Council decision will be proposed. Richardson stated that the statement by Stinard-Kiel could be circulated and briefly discussed at the Chairs Breakfast.

1.6 Executive Director Comments

Richardson expressed his pleasure and privilege at having served the AAG over the many years of his tenure as AAG Executive Director. He mentioned that this is his last Annual Meeting as Executive Director.

He pointed out several key action items coming up in the course of this Council meeting, (PG editor election, 2020 budget approval, and other important items). He also mentioned Lorraine Dowler and the Harassment-Free AAG initiative, now being rolled out at the 2019 Annual Meeting; the Geography and the Military committee report; and an update on the Executive Director succession process.

Richardson mentioned the two high-profile speakers coming to speak at the DC meeting: Eric Holder, U.S. attorney general under President Obama, who will be speaking on gerrymandering, and Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress and recipient of the 2019 AAG Atlas Award. Jepson suggested attempting to invite the press to attend Holder's address, given its relevance in the current political climate and context.

Luzzadder-Beach thanked Richardson and the AAG staff for all their hard work and service to the Association.

1.7 Consent Agenda

Khe' asked to remove the UC–Elsevier dispute over Open Access from the Consent Agenda. Richardson reported that the Executive Committee had recommended the review and discussion of the report from the Geography and the Military Committee be tabled to the Fall 2019 Council meeting, due to time constraints at this Council meeting.

Kaplan moved to approve the Consent Agenda with these amendments, Hayes seconded the motion. The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

2.0 Finance Committee report

Thomas gave an overview of the recent AAG Finance Committee meeting held April 1, 2019. The Committee meeting is attended by and includes reports from the AAG Auditors and from the AAG Financial Advisor from Sun Trust Investment Services.

Thomas indicated that the AAG is financially solid. She also stated that ensuring the AAG stays in a good financial state after Richardson's departure is one of the most important messages she is conveying to the Council on behalf of the Finance Committee.

2.6 Audit

Thomas read a few statements from the latest audit of the AAG. She mentioned that the AAG is in the top 5% of all non-profits audited by our auditors Thompson-Greenspon. Policies, procedures and documentation at the AAG are top-notch. She mentioned the open communication between the AAG office and the Auditors, one of whom has been auditing the AAG for the past nine years.

Thomas reported that the Finance Committee unanimously recommended that the Council approve the Audit. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Investment Report

Thomas reported that the Finance Committee also discussed the AAG's investments with the SunTrust investment advisor, Thomas Gletner.

Thomas reported on the discussion with the advisor regarding increasing AAG investments in the two existing socially responsible funds. She reported that the AAG Finance Committee also inquired about adding investments in renewable energy. The advisor was more hesitant about investing in renewable energy, as the largest investors in renewables are the larger energy companies. He offered and was tasked by the Finance Committee to look at groups of funds that include several alternative energy companies, and Richardson indicated the AAG would follow up with Mr. Gletner on this.

Richardson asked for a consensus from the Council allowing him to invest about \$300,000 from the Endowment in clean energy funds or in the existing two socially responsible funds, if the upcoming report from the investment advisor sounds feasible. There was general agreement.

Hayes stated that he did not find any mention of climate change or fossil fuel divestment in the investment report.

Jepson asked about the AAG's existing sustainable, alternative energy, socially responsible funds that are already in the AAG's investment portfolio, and suggested sharing that information with the membership. Hayes concurred with this suggestion and mentioned that such information could be a part of the Summary sheet of "AAG Financial Status" provided in our Council packet.

Thomas emphasized the importance of not squandering the Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future. She mentioned that (through investment earnings and additional donations) the Endowment has grown substantially over the past 10 years. Richardson stated that the Endowment was established and built as a long-term foundation for the AAG. It is his strong counsel for the AAG not to draw from the Endowment principal to fund future activities or new projects.

Thomas mentioned the healthy membership numbers for the AAG. She indicated that the slightly lower numbers projected for the DC Annual Meeting are probably attributable to the US federal government shutdown and its impact on federal employees not being able to register or get travel approved.

2.5 FYE 2020 Budget

Thomas presented the proposed FYE 2020 budget and stated that it is consistent with the 2018 and 2019 budgets.

Thomas reported that the Finance Committee recommended that the AAG Council approve the proposed FYE 2020 Budget. The Council approved the FYE 2020 budget with one abstention (Hayes).

3.0 Membership

Richardson summarized the AAG membership numbers at 12/31/2018. He also explained that due to the later submission deadline for posters for the Annual Meeting, at January 31, 2019 there were a total of 12,656 AAG members.

4.0 Committees and SGs

4.1 McAnneny summarized the Committee on Committees work in recruiting volunteers for AAG committees. ***McAnneny asked Council to approve the AAG Committees slate, pending the addition of Council volunteers to a few committees. McAnneny moved to approve the slate, Khe' seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.***

Hayes recognized and thanked McAnneny for her leadership on the Committee on Committees, to general acclaim.

Luzzadder-Beach asked Councilors to consider volunteering for the positions of National and Regional Councilor Chairs, as well as Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Committee liaison, and Publications Committee Chair.

Thomas volunteered to chair the Committee on Committees.

Winders asked why the AAG Secretary is responsible for taking the Minutes of the Council meetings. There was a suggestion that AAG staff be asked to take the Council Meeting Minutes, with backup from the AAG Secretary on the wording of the Council resolutions. This suggestion met with general consensus.

Khe' described the typical responsibilities of the Publications Committee Chair.

4.2 McAnneny also summarized to the Council the Committee on Committees's proposal for a one-year hiatus for any member of the Committee on Committees from serving on any AAG committees.

McAnneny moved that any member of the Committee on Committees be ineligible to self-nominate or to serve on an AAG Standing Committee for one year after their term on Council ends. Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4.4 Geography Departments status

AAG Councilors expressed concern regarding the department closings occurring (West Lakes, Great Plains Rocky Mountains, etc.). Thomas suggested canvassing the regions each year with a more in depth questionnaire to get a clearer sense of how departments are faring, which ones seem to be more at risk of closing or folding into other programs, etc. Jepson also suggested developing a toolkit to assist departments that appear to be at risk.

Alderman suggested that the Council be notified when the Healthy Departments Committee is responding to a department requesting help, in order to stay in the loop. Richardson suggested

that someone from Council attend the Healthy Depts. Committee meeting and ask them to notify the AAG President when they are responding to a request for help. General consensus.

Thomas suggested sending out reminders to the Dept. Chairs listserv of the existence of the Healthy Depts. Committee and its services. General consensus.

Winders also suggested canvassing the Department Chairs listserv to ask them what trends they are seeing in their organizations, whether they know of any departments at risk, etc.

4.5.1 Retired Geographers Affinity Group Name Change. McAnney presented this request to the Council. ***Richardson moved to approve the name change, Hayes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.***

4.5.2 Climate Change resolutions

Richardson directed the Council's attention to the petition on climate change submitted by the Gilbert White Panel organizers. Hayes praised the wording of this petition. Luzzadder-Beach suggested that the AAG Council, reaffirm its 2006 climate change commitment, and further endorse the current petition. Jepson suggested that the AAG communications team remind members of the AAG's track record on these issues.

There was general consensus to approve this petition and publish it alongside the 2006 climate change resolution. Hayes suggested the following edits: footnote 3: change Centigrade to Celsius; footnote 4: UN Environment "Program" to be spelled in UK English to read "Programme."

Thomas moved to approve the Gilbert White Committee Climate Change Resolution. This resolution supplements the May 2006 AAG Statement on Climate Change. Luzzadder-Beach seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CO2 Footprint petition re AAG Annual Meetings

Richardson then asked Council to review the petition regarding decreasing the AAG's Annual Meeting carbon footprint. The ensuing discussion resulted in a suggestion that the petitioners be asked to do some of the research into and measurements of the CO2 footprint of the AAG Annual Meeting. Richardson suggested perhaps canvassing other organizations to find out whether or how they try to reduce the CO2 footprint of their meetings. There was also some discussion of possible live casting of the major events of the AAG annual meeting, etc. Jepson advocated for looking into this and getting some answers to the questions raised by the petitioners.

DiBiase suggested turning this into a competition, "AAG 2025" and for the AAG to invite faculty and students to present posters on how to lower the CO2 footprint. This suggestion met with general acclaim.

Dowler suggested creating a task force composed of some of the petitioners and a Council liaison, to research these questions and then report back to Council. ***Jepson volunteered to chair, Stinard-Kiel and Hayes volunteered to serve on a task force to develop suggestions for reducing the carbon footprint of AAG Annual Meetings. Jepson offered to draft a response to the petitioners.***

4.6.1 Mental Health Task Force

Thomas provided a summary of the task force's review and suggested that Council formally thank them for their thorough effort. She circulated the task force's report to Council. Thomas

also reported that the task force recommends to Council to approve launching an Affinity Group on Mental Health, allowing the Mental Health task force members to carry out most of the activities and suggestions they propose for the AAG.

These are:

- Increase awareness and de-stigmatization of mental health issues, to bring this issue out of the shadows.
- Establish an Affinity Group within the AAG and populate it (initially) with the current members of the Mental Health Task Force, through which many of the Task Force's recommendations can be implemented. This Affinity Group (its name should be determined by its inaugural members) can maintain a listserv and website, facilitate training and organize sessions at meetings (annual and regional), and lead the way in linking with other groups. By working with AAG staff and Council, and connecting with other AAG initiatives, programming (like career development) can become integrated into leadership workshops, regional meetings, and the annual meeting.
- Mental health should be part of a broader code of professional conduct and ethics. The task force/affinity group should draft language and provide it to the AAG Executive Committee for review.
- The Affinity Group can also work with AAG staff to provide Mental Health First Aid Training seminars at the annual meeting, and offer them at AAG Regional Division meetings.

Luzzadder-Beach asked the Council to approve the creation of an Affinity Group and to have this new Affinity Group and the AAG carry out the proposed actions in the task force's report. Thomas moved to create a new Affinity Group on Mental Health. Collins seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Thomas agreed to report the Council decision to the task force members.

5.0 Meridian Place Operations

Richardson briefed the Council on research he is doing on requirements for the new EU data regulations. He has referred the matter to the AAG legal counsel for review and advice.

5.3.1 Harassment-Free Task Force update

Dowler briefed the Council on the process and results of this effort. She thanked the AAG staff, her colleagues on the task force, the AAG lawyer, and the Council and Executive Committee for their time and dedication in bringing this vision to reality. She thanked Richardson for funding the task force's in-person meeting in Washington, DC.

She offered the task force members' heartfelt thanks to all for the AAG's response. She mentioned the new No Photo/Video policy, as well as the 25 sessions at the 2019 Annual Meeting that are sponsored under this initiative.

Dowler briefed the Council on the survey that will go out to AAG members after the Annual Meeting. She asked for volunteers to test-run the survey. Once the survey results come back, Dowler will summarize the results and make recommendations for years two and three of the Harassment-Free initiative's rollout.

Luzzadder-Beach thanked Dowler for her two excellent Newsletter columns on the topic. Dowler received applause from the Council for her leadership of this initiative.

5.4 Rapid Response Team proposal

Alderman briefed the Council on the process leading up to the proposal. Richardson stated that this ad hoc committee be sensitive to creating responses that are tailored to the audience they are intended for (i.e., federal agencies, NGOs, Congress, state and local governments, etc.).

Alderman moved to approve the AAG Rapid Response Team proposal. Khe' seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Luzzadder-Beach also mentioned that authors publishing in *the Conversation* could be added to the list of authors for the Rapid Response Team.

5.5 Update on ED Succession Plan

On April 3, 2019, the Council met at 8:30 AM in Executive Session to discuss the status of the ED Succession. (Invited to leave the room: Luzzadder-Beach, Richardson and staff member Mannozi.)

The following motions were proposed:

1. John Kupfer and Jamie Winders agreed to serve as spokespersons for the Council on all questions concerning the search for the next Executive Director, Derek Alderman moved to approve having Kupfer and Winders serve in this role. Collins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
2. Derek Alderman agreed to serve as “point of contact” for the Council, working in concert with David Kaplan, until the conclusion of the ED search process. Naylor moved to approve Alderman’s role. The motion was seconded by Hayes, and received 16 votes in favor, none against, and one abstention (Alderman).
3. All further updates from the search committee will be circulated through Derek Alderman to the Council..

The full Council Meeting reconvened at 10:15 AM on April 3, 2019

6.0 Publications

6.1.1 *GeoHumanities*

Richardson presented the request from the *GeoHumanities* editors to add Kevin McHugh to the Editorial Board. Khe' pointed out that often editors do not consult with the Publications Committee on proposed changes. ***Kupfer moved to approve addition of Kevin McHugh to the GeoHumanities editorial board. Hayes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.***

6.2.1 *Annals*: Editors Heynen and McCarthy – proposal to extend terms

Richardson reported that the Executive Committee recommended inviting both editors to serve another term. Jepson suggested implementing the procedure that Alderman had developed and was approved by Council. Kupfer indicated that the remaining time on their current term may not allow this. Alderman circulated to Council his earlier Proposed Policy for Editor Reappointments (see Appendix 2), and reiterated his suggestion that AAG journal editors be asked to report to Council on progress made in the course of their tenure. Khe' suggested extending the current editors' terms, and upon a favorable response from them, ask them to complete an assessment for Council. It was also suggested to engage David Butler along these approved procedural lines prior to his term ending in 2020. Winders concurred.

Kupfer moved to reappoint editors Heynen and McCarthy for another term, contingent on their acceptance of the appointment. Alderman seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention (Kaplan).

Kaplan, Alderman, Khe', Luzzadder-Beach and the new Publications Committee chair agreed to provide continuity in implementing Khe's and Alderman's recommendations. Winders urged them to contact Heynen and McCarthy in the course of the Annual Meeting week to get a general sense of their willingness to serve another term.

6.2.2 Professional Geographer

Khe' gave the Council some background on the selection process for the PG Editor opening. He mentioned that the AAG might consider funding travel change fees for candidates, if their existing travel arrangements make it difficult for them to be interviewed in person at the Spring Council meeting.

Khe' summarized the Publications Committee's review of the six applications and the three shortlisted candidates, slated to be interviewed by the Council.

The interviews were held on the morning of April 2. Council discussed the three finalists after having interviewed them. The general consensus was that Heejun Chang was the best of the three candidates. ***Thomas moved to appoint Heejun Chang as the new Editor of the Professional Geographer. Collins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.***

Khe' agreed to notify all candidates. Khe' also suggested that in future the interviews be held in person, as opposed to hosting them via video/audio connections. There was general agreement.

Hayes asked that, when possible, the AAG thank Barney Warf for his two plus terms of service on the *Professional Geographer*. General consensus.

Jepson also commented that it would be helpful to have the AAG journal editors present at the Fall Council meeting, to report on progress with the journals and engage in a discussion with the Council. General consensus. Another possibility would be to extend the editors' meeting that occurs at the Annual Meeting every spring, to accommodate this exchange with the Council.

There was a suggestion that the Council decide, at its Fall 2019 meeting, whether to reach out to David Butler to ask his willingness to extend his term again, as it ends in December 2020.

6.5 Proposal for a student-driven journal

Khe' summarized progress made on revising this proposal.

Richardson also summarized the recent contract the AAG entered into with *The Conversation*. He mentioned that a session on *The Conversation* will be held at the Annual Meeting, following Past President Alderman's session. **Hayes and Alderman suggested the AAG link to any geographers' articles which are published in *The Conversation*.**

7.0 Communications

Ref. AAG Council packet

8.0 Public Policy and Outreach
Ref. AAG Council packet

9.0 Projects & Programs
Ref. AAG Council packet

10.0 Annual Meetings

10.1.2 Proposal for shorter presentation times at future Annual Meetings

Kaplan introduced this idea and the reasons behind it (i.e., cost cutting, reducing the number of session rooms needed, etc.). Richardson discussed the pros and cons of Kaplan's proposal. One advantage for members would be having longer lunch hours and more time in the evening without sessions, as well as potentially increasing the number of people attending sessions, given fewer concurrent sessions. He also noted that shorter sessions would allow the AAG to look at different hotels for possible future venues, hotels with fewer meeting rooms. He also suggested perhaps offering organizers the option to schedule four or five speakers in their sessions, instead of the current number.

Oscar Larson (Director, AAG Meetings) joined the meeting.

Kaplan mentioned the difficulty of also finding rooms for other ad hoc meetings that attendees try to schedule during the Annual Meeting week, as there typically are few extra rooms available. Discussion.

Kaplan asked to hold the idea of a curated Annual Meeting, and more student presentations at the Regional Meetings for the Fall 2019 Council agenda.

Jepson moved to adopt experimentally, for the 2020 Denver Annual Meeting, a 75-minute session model (with options for scheduling four or more papers in each session) with 20-minute break times. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions.

Kaplan proposed to inform the membership about the shorter presentation times, in one of his Presidential columns in the AAG Newsletter. The AAG will then communicate this change to all the membership.

10.2 Future meetings

Collins suggested expanding childcare for older, teenage children. She suggested this could perhaps also come in the form of daycare support offsite. She described the American Meteorological Society's childcare awards (\$3,000/family). Naylor suggested adding to the Fall Meeting Agenda proposals for hardship/caregiving support.

There was also a request to add to the Fall Council Agenda Michael Urban's email request for more attention to physical geography at AAG meetings. Dowler suggested adding geography subfields to the harassment-related survey.

11.0 Honors & Awards

Richardson, Alderman, and McAnneny gave a brief overview of the 2019 AAG awardees and honorees being recognized in the course of the 2019 AAG Annual Meeting week.

12.0 Council

12.1 Hayes reported that Michaela Buenemann volunteered to serve as Chair of the Regional Councilors next year. General consensus.

DiBiase asked the National Councilors to volunteer for the Chair position. Collins volunteered. General consensus.

Luzzadder-Beach asked for a volunteer to serve as AAG Secretary and McAnneny nominated Johnson-Webb. Alderman seconded the motion, which passed by general consensus.

Luzzadder-Beach asked for volunteers for the Pubs Committee Chair. Naylor volunteered, but asked for a mentor. Discussion. Jepson volunteered to co-chair the Pubs Committee with Naylor. Both will serve for two years. **Kupfer moved to appoint Naylor and Jepson for a 2-year term as Publications Committee Co-Chairs. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions.**

Luzzadder-Beach asked for a volunteer to serve on the Membership Committee for two years. Choi agreed to serve. **Hayes moved to appoint Choi as Council Liaison to the Membership Committee. Alderman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

12.2 West Lakes Bylaws revisions – Richardson stated that the AAG would provide feedback to the Division Chair on the bylaws revisions, to ensure they conform to the AAG Constitution.

Luzzadder-Beach thanked Doug Richardson for his many years of service to the AAG. He received a standing ovation from the Council.

Luzzadder-Beach then read the Resolutions:

Resolutions

Whereas, Derek Alderman, as Vice President, President, and Past President of the American Association of Geographers has ably guided and served the Association to address the challenges facing the discipline of Geography, particularly by promoting wider public engagement with geography, promoting the inclusion and participation of underrepresented groups in the discipline and at AAG meetings; supporting the development of a harassment-free initiative at the AAG; and moving forward with the implementation of an Executive Director succession plan at the AAG; and whereas he has thus contributed considerable and significant efforts to advance the AAG’s mission, goals, and activities;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the American Association of Geographers, assembled in Washington, DC on the occasion of its 115th Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Derek for his leadership of the Association during the past three years, especially for his efforts to promote engagement with the wider public; include underrepresented groups in our discipline and

meetings; develop a harassment-free initiative; and provide stewardship of the Executive Director Succession Plan.

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Whereas, Councilors of The American Association of Geographers expend substantial time and effort advancing the causes of the Association and the discipline; and

Whereas, the Council of The American Association of Geographers has confronted numerous challenges and responded to many opportunities during the last three years;

Therefore Be It Resolved that The American Association of Geographers, assembled in Washington, DC on the occasion of its 115th Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Derek Alderman, Secretary and National Councilor Cathleen McAnney, National Councilor Chair David DiBiase, New England St. Lawrence Valley Division Regional Councilor and Regional Councilor Chair John Hayes, and Pacific Coast Division Councilor Sriram Khé, for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

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Whereas, Members of The American Association of Geographers offer their talents, time, and ideas to support the activities of the Association as Chairs and Members of various association committees appointed by the AAG Council;

Therefore Be It Resolved that The American Association of Geographers, assembled in Washington, DC on the occasion of its 115th Annual Meeting, thanks the outgoing Chairs and Members of the AAG Committees for their service to the Association, the discipline and the profession during their committee terms.

Karen Johnson-Webb moved to adjourn the meeting, which met with unanimous consent. The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:36 AM on Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

Appendix 1: Proposed Best Practices to Guide Departments vis-à-vis Graduate Students

We ask the AAG National Council to adopt a set of Best Practices to guide departments in their relationships with graduate students.

Departments and/or programs in coordination with the graduate school and/or relevant entities should work to provide the following in their graduate programs. Departments should explain the mechanisms for providing each in their graduate student handbooks, and explain how department/program leadership, faculty, and students in partnership are addressing these best practices:

1. A clearly worded, unambiguous, and accessible statement on the program's current policies regarding requirements for graduate degrees and certificates.
2. A clear and consistent process for giving timely and fair formal feedback to graduate students on progress to degree.
3. A policy to ensure that degree requirements (see 1 above) and progress assessments (see 2 above) are accommodated for in the case of adoption, childbirth, chronic illness, or other reasonable change in family or health status.
4. A policy that addresses expectations regarding attribution of authorship and ownership of intellectual property in cases where faculty and graduate students collaborate on writing and/or research.
5. Clear work expectations for teaching, graduate, and research assistants' workloads.
6. A clear and consistent policy on the allocation of graduate student funding, including conference funding, research funding, and summer funding opportunities.
7. A formal process for handling harassment and discrimination complaints that ensure the professional and personal safety of reporting parties.
8. A policy for how graduate students will be involved in new faculty hires, which includes how graduate students will participate in the hiring process and how graduate student feedback will be incorporated by the hiring committee.
9. Compensation for teaching and research assistantships that meets the standard of a local living wage.
10. Access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare including vision, dental, and mental health services.
11. A culture of highly respectful and collegial relations which encourages faculty to treat graduate students as professionals and junior colleagues.
12. An explicit statement and goals for creating a community of diversity and inclusion.

Appendix 2:

Proposed Policy for AAG Editor Re-appointment

The appointment of Editors for AAG Journals is an important responsibility of the AAG Council, and these decisions have a major impact on intellectual debate within the discipline of Geography and maintaining the academic reputation and standing of the geographical community. In general, the Council believes that the AAG is best served by regularly appointing new Editors to lead its journals, allowing the Association's publications to benefit from new ideas and perspectives. The Council also recognizes the tremendous work involved in editing flagship journals and that one term as Editor is a significant investment of time and effort. Yet, in those cases where there is evidence of extraordinary editorial vision and/or when an AAG journal is in need of sustained leadership, the AAG Council may pursue the re-appointment of an Editor. This document outlines a possible policy for carrying out the re-appointment process. The Publications Committee plays a central role in that process by coordinating with the AAG Council and the Editor in question, collecting and evaluating a re-appointment narrative from the Editor, conducting an evaluation of the health of the AAG journal (or journal section) in question, and offering a final recommendation to the AAG Council on the reappointment.

- AAG Journals Managers notify the Executive Committee and the Publications Committee of Editors whose terms will end within 1.5 years. Ideally, this should be sufficient time to allow the Publications Committee Chair to get initial approval from the AAG Council on whether to pursue the reappointment process. Importantly, the Council would not be voting on re-appointment but simply giving permission for an Editor to be considered for re-appointment (or conversely, giving permission to begin a search for a new Editor if the previous one is deemed unsatisfactory). The Council has a policy to guide the search and appointment of new Editors.
- With the permission of the AAG Council, the Chair of the Publications Committee contacts the potentially re-appointed Editor, asking about her/his willingness to serve again and providing information about the re-appointment process. If the Editor agrees to be considered for reappointment, then s/he is asked to provide a brief report on her/his successes, challenges, and future visions for the AAG journal in question. Such a report could also detail support issues or needs related to the Editor's job. This report will be submitted to the Publications Committee and used as part of the evaluation of the Editor and the recommendation for re-appointment. If the Editor does not seek re-appointment, the search for a new Editor will begin immediately with no delay.

- The Publications Committee will review the self-evaluation narrative provided by the Editor along with other measures of effectiveness that are deemed important to journal health, quality and effectiveness. Such measures might include:
 - frequency of submissions to journal;
 - acceptance/rejection rate of manuscripts;
 - average submission to decision turn-around time for manuscripts;
 - attendance and quality of participation at journal-related meetings and organized panels at annual AAG conferences;
 - demonstrated innovations in special publication initiatives (e.g., special issues on current themes and methods, journal promotion and outreach, involvement of under-represented groups/voices);
 - feedback (solicited or unsolicited) from article contributors and editorial board members about general editorial approach and relations (not the re-appointment issue);
 - citation impact factor trends for the journal (note that citations are more of an indicator of general journal health and visibility and not completely under control of the editor).

- The Publications Committee will form a recommendation either in support (or not) of the re-appointment of the Editor in question. The recommendation might be to support the re-appointment but also include a statement that identifies concerns or areas in need of improvement for the journal. This statement may or may not be shared with the Editor depending upon the decision of the AAG Council.

- Chair of the Publications Committee submits the re-appointment recommendation to the Executive Committee for review and dissemination to the AAG Council for discussion and a final vote by the AAG Council. The Executive Committee can provide its own recommendation about the re-appointment in support of (or in contradiction) of the Publication Committee's recommendation. Final decision on whether re-appointment is offered to an Editor is made by the AAG Council. Consequently, it is necessary for the Council to receive recommendations in sufficient time to read, discuss, and vote on the matter at a fall or spring convening of the Council.

- Following the vote of the AAG Council on the re-appointment issue, the Chair of the Publications Committee will contact the potentially re-appointed Editor to inform her/him of the decision of the Council. It is at this point that the Chair can also communicate any additional expectations the Council might have for the journal in light of recommendations from the Publications and Executive

Committees as well as the results of Council discussion (if the Council wishes that these issues be brought to the attention of the Editor). At this point, the Editor issues a formal acceptance of the re-appointment and works with the AAG Office on the logistics of that extension of the editorial term. If the Editor has chosen not to pursue re-appointment, then the search for a new Editor begins. Again, if the re-appointment process is done in a timely way, the unlikely situation of the Editor turning down re-appointment will not keep the AAG from searching for and selecting a new Editor.

Appendix 3:

AAG Regional Division Reports Presented at Spring 2019 AAG Council Meeting

Association of Pacific Coast Geographers Spring 2019 REPORT

The 2018 annual meeting was held in Reno, NV. Much of the meeting took place within the Joe Crowley Student Union—a building named for the late Joe Crowley who was President at UNR for 25 years and, from our APCG perspective, the older brother of APCG stalwart and former president, Bill Crowley. In numbers: 115 papers; 40 posters; approximately \$12,000 awarded to students; and tons of fun ☺ Two students from California State University-Long Beach split the AAG award for graduate students: Katie Wade and Katherine Georges. We are delighted that AAG President—and APCG native— Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach attended the meeting.

The locations for the next three annual meetings have been determined: 2019: Flagstaff, Arizona 2020: San Marcos, California 2021: Bellingham, Washington

The 2019 meeting in Flagstaff will be held October 16th through the 19th. Flagstaff is close to Grand Canyon National Park, and 2019 is the centennial year of the establishment of Grand Canyon as a U.S. National Park. AAG could mark this historic occasion by holding its fall council meeting at Flagstaff. AAG specialty groups could also be encouraged to participate in the APCG meeting and field trips. The MA program at California State University, Long Beach, received “Honorable Mention” in the 2019 MA/MS Program Excellence Award category. Our congratulations to the wonderful team of faculty and students at CSULB. (For additional information, contact Christine Jocoy: Christine.Jocoy@csulb.edu) At a time of worries over geography departments and programs being downsized, Geography at Portland State University has been growing. The Department added two new faculty members, bringing the total number of faculty to 15. (For more updates on this healthy department, contact Heejun Chang, changh@pdx.edu, or read the [newsletter](#).) San Marcos, which will host the 2020 meeting, will formally inaugurate a new Geography major that academic year.

The APCG newsletter, *Pacifica*, which is published twice-a-year (fall and spring) has a lot more details about the activities in the region, and typically also includes at least one featured article. (For additional information, contact Lily House Peters: lily.housepeters@csulb.edu.) The annual journal, *Yearbook*, is timed for the annual meeting; it will be Volume 81 in 2019. (For additional information, contact Craig S. Revels: craig.revels@cwu.edu.)

A Regional Councilor will be elected later this spring. After the elections are completed, APCG’s president or secretary will update AAG with the name and contact information of the newly elected Councilor.

Submitted by Sriram Khé, Regional Councilor

East Lakes Division Regional Councilor Report Spring 2019 AAG Council

Bowling Green State University. Department of Geography. School of the Earth, Environment and Society. Dr. Karen Johnson-Webb, Associate Professor.

We celebrated Geography Awareness Week having a set up in the Student Union that included students and faculty, real time weather maps, geoquizzes and information about the major.

Dr. Arthur N. Samuel, Chair and Dr. Karen D. Johnson-Webb were selected to be trained as faculty allies, by the BGSU ALLIES program. This is a three-year, \$984,484 project funded by the NSF's ADVANCE program, which seeks to develop systemic approaches to increase the participation and advancement of women in academic STEM careers. The goal of the program is to change institutional structures that prevent the advancement of women, rather than "changing" women faculty. To that end, BGSU ALLIES is developing a strong network of inclusive leaders at the ranks of department chairs, directors, deans, and senior administrators, as well as faculty allies who actively support gender equity, diversity, and inclusion. The faculty allies and inclusive leaders will work together to remove institutional barriers and reduce biases that hinder the career advancement of women and faculty of color.

Calvin College. Department of Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies. Dr. Mark Bjelland, Co-Chair.

Calvin College will become Calvin University on 7/10/2019.

GIS continues to be critical to the success of the department. In summer 2018, we requested a replacement position for a retiring faculty member. We were turned down in the initial allocation of faculty positions. However, we succeeded in the second round in getting the replacement faculty line—but only because of growth in the geospatial area and the Provost's excitement about GIS. So, our position description was amended to include sharing in teaching responsibilities for the GIS program

We had two undergraduate students present their research at the 2018 regional AAG meeting (West Lakes). Three students presented at the 2018 national AAG meeting, and three will present at the 2019 national AAG meeting.

Eastern Michigan University. Department of Geography & Geology. Dr. Rick Sambrook, Department Head.

In December 2018, the department moved back into the Strong Building after an 18 month, \$40 million renovation project. As part of the process, we were also able to move the Institute for Geographic Research and Education (IGRE), a highly successful institute on EMU's campus, back to the Strong Building, bringing all of the Geography components of the department back together on one floor. The department also retains several Earth Science upper division laboratory classrooms and several research laboratories in the decade old Mark Jefferson annex all of which now forms a completed Science Complex housed in LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings.

Meteorologist Dr. Tom Kovacs was appointed the inaugural Chair of EMU's Sustainability Commission. The official opening and dedication of the Strong Building was held on Thursday, February 7th and was

followed by a highly successful “Because of You” event for EMU's top donors in the atrium of the renovated building. During the event, faculty and student members staged laboratory experiments and demonstrations to the great delight and enjoyment of our donor guests.

Our replacement faculty position request for a Resiliency Planner was ranked 4th out of ten ranked requests in the College of Arts & Sciences. We are very optimistic we will be searching for either a Resiliency Planner or Sustainability Science faculty member during the coming academic year.

Geography-GIS faculty Dr. Xining Yang is a co-PI (with faculty in the College of Health & Human Services) on a CDC grant with a focus on spatial aspects of chronic health issues among Asian American populations in the U.S.

Michigan State University. Department of Geography, Environment, & Spatial Sciences. Dr. Alan Arbogast, Chair.

David Roy and Geoff Henebry from South Dakota State have joined the department in the past year.

MSU had a successful search for a new coastal geomorphologist this spring. Ethan Theuerkauf from the Illinois State Geological Survey will join the department in August.

Dr. Julie Winkler won the William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award at MSU this spring.

University of Toledo. Department of Geography and Planning. Dr. Patrick Lawrence, Chair.

UT is now offering a non-thesis track to their MA Geography degree and is considering adding a new BS GeoScience degree in the future.

Along with Bowling Green State University and Owens Community College, we received an AAG/GTU Visiting Geographic Scientist Program Grant and hosted Dr. Derek Alderman on February 14-15, 2019. He met with our faculty and students and give a research colloquium presentation.

Western Michigan University. Department of Geography. Benjamin Ofori-Amoah, Chair.

Successes:

Geography received special mention at the March meetings of WMU Faculty Senate and the WMU Board of Trustees for winning the 2019 AAG Academic Program Excellence Award for MA/MS programs.

Dr. Lucius Hallett, Undergraduate Advisor, has won this year's Western Michigan College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Advising Excellence Award.

Mary Lou Brooks, Geography Administrative Assistant, won this year's College of Arts & Sciences Dean Appreciation Award.

We have successfully hired two tenure-track positions over the past two years. Last year's hire was for GIScience/Drone applications, and this year's was a conversion of a 12-year Latin American term position to a tenure-track position.

Two years ago, the Department of Geography voted to change its name to Geography, Environment, and Tourism, to better reflect what we do and offer as a department. However, the Institute of Environment & Sustainability felt that this was intruding upon its turf. Last fall, we started collaborating with the new Director of the Institute and formed a consortium of three environmental program units - Geography, Geological and Environmental Sciences, and Environment & Sustainability, to find ways to work together. Last month we finally got a letter of support from the Institute for our name change. If the paperwork goes through we will be known as the Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism (GET).

Challenges:

Our student enrollment has been unsteady. We need to do a better job recruiting undergraduate majors.

We have a couple of very low enrollment courses that sometimes lead to class cancellations.

Our graduate assistantship allocation has stayed flat to the point that we now support more graduate students from our department endowments than the university, and this is not sustainable.

Two big changes are on the horizon at Western Michigan University - the first is a complete overhaul of the general education courses which will be introduced next academic year (AY2019-2020) and the second is implementation of a responsibility centered management (RCM) budget model to be implemented in AY2020-2021. We have strategically participated well in both. In the general education overhaul, Geography was the first department on campus to submit all of its new course proposals to a college committee, and for that reason we received special mention at the university level, and we have Geography faculty serving on both College and University Committees reviewing the proposals. With respect to the RCM budget model, I took it upon myself to chair the college task force committee to look into how the model will impact Arts & Sciences. There are still uncertainties about how the implementation of these two changes will impact Geography.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen D. Johnson-Webb, East Lakes Division Regional Councilor

Middle Atlantic Division

Report for the Spring 2019 AAG Council Meeting

MAD had a successful annual meeting at Morgan State University on November 2-3, 2018. The theme this year was Bridging Divides: Places, People, and the Environment. We had 20 presenters and 87 registered attendees, and the keynote address was given by my AAG President Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach with the AAG National Council in attendance. MAD's Advancing Geography Meritorious Award (MAGMA) was given to Charollette Masoncup, an undergraduate at Frostburg State University. Molly Pickel of Towson University was given the annual AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper. The title of her paper and presentation was "Navigating Māori Fishing Rights under the Quota Management System."

The next annual meeting will be held on November 15, 2019, at the U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center in Catonsville, Maryland.

With the retirement of Vice-Chair Martha Geores from the University of Maryland – College Park and the end of the term approaching for Michael Ratcliffe of the U.S. Census Bureau as Division Chair, we will be holding an election this year to select their replacements. We thank them for their dedicated service to the Division over the past several years.

Respectfully submitted by

Rebecca Kelly, MAD Regional Councilor

Middle States Division Spring 2019 AAG Council Report

The Middle States Division Report will be brief as responses to requests for updates from units and programs were lacking.

This councilor is pleased to report that the division is maintaining its peer-reviewed journal, which is now in its 50th volume and we have an e-newsletter that reaches our registered members.

Our current President, Pankaj Lal reports: This past fall, we hosted our annual meeting at Montclair State University. More than 194 attendees this year were treated to paper and poster sessions highlighting and disseminating cutting edge research by students and faculty, as well as

outreach sessions for academic growth. With scientific research proving more valuable and urgent than ever, the poster and paper sessions of the attendees were a heartening sneak peek at upcoming research by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students alike. Presenters from the Middle States region as well as from as far as Jamaica, furthered their research and gave insightful presentations on a number of topics.

Papers and posters, while impressive, were certainly not the only events of note during the conference. Because we face many persistent problems as geographers, this conference hosted several panels, meant to bring experts in the field to the forefront to discuss solutions and activities. Though these panels were made up of expert academics in their respective fields, in order to gain broader perspective, MSAAG also invited speakers from outside academia, including the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the NJ Board of Public Utilities amongst others. These panels were open to all attendees, and included discussions on clean energy, the future of food, and integrating public concerns into research. Perhaps most relevant to students and faculty were panel sessions by Antoinette Winklerprins of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Her interactive panels were designed to help attendees improve their proposals for NSF grants, and offer some insight into the processes that can potentially grant huge boons to any researcher. To close out the conference, John Wertman of AAG was in attendance to give the keynote speech, delivering congratulations to those in attendance and his take on the future of the field.

Also, in our region, an MSAAG member from the City of Philadelphia reported that the City of Philadelphia has rolled out 3 new processes that are geographic/GIS-based. The City of Philadelphia's "Asset Intelligence" program is based on applied geography and GIS. They also have a GIS-based asset management application (Called IWAMS – Integrated Workplace Asset Management System), a CAD-to-GIS Building modelling and space management application and a Multivariate-Geostatistically based tool that analyzes capital program decisions for police and fire departments in the city. Additionally, the asset management system has been named one of the critical application to the new "Smart City Philadelphia" roadmap. Our member provided links to the article and roadmap, which can be found below:

Article: <https://technical.ly/philly/2019/02/05/phillys-brand-new-roadmap-to-becoming-a-smart-city-is-a-long-term-one/>

Actual Smart City Roadmap: <https://www.phila.gov/media/20190204121858/SmartCityPHL-Roadmap.pdf>

The University of Delaware is also pleased to announce a new hire in human geography at the Assistant Professor level: Dr. Julie Klinger will join us in the spring of 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Middle States Regional Councilor, Lindsay Naylor.

Regional Councilor Report from the New England-St. Lawrence Valley Division (NESTVAL) for the Spring 2019 Meeting of the AAG Council

Last Annual Meeting: NESTVAL held its annual meeting on October 12-13, 2018 at Keene State College in Keene, NH. The meeting began on Friday afternoon with a World Geography Bowl competition between six teams, coordinated by Prof. Stephen Young of Salem State University for the 12th year in a row; UNH won the competition with Southern Connecticut State University receiving the runner-up trophy. On Saturday AAG President Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach gave the keynote address. Several awards were announced at the annual Business Meeting including the AAG Council Award for outstanding graduate research paper, the David Frost Undergraduate student paper award, the NESTVAL Student Research poster award, and the Faculty Research Grant. The Division's annual peer-reviewed journal, The Northeastern Geographer, had recently put out a Call for Papers for its 11th volume to be published in 2019. The journal is edited by Steven Silvern of Salem State University. **Councilor John Hayes** reported there were several recent name changes among departments in the region:

Westfield State - Geography, Planning and Sustainability

Keene State - Geography, Outdoor Recreation and Planning

Bishops University (in Quebec, Canada) - Environmental Studies and Geography

Southern Conn. State (as a result of a merger) - Environment, Geography, and Marine Sciences

NESTVAL Treasurer, Tim LeDoux, reported a healthy balance of just over \$12,500 in the combined checking and savings account of NESTVAL.

Upcoming Annual Meetings of NESTVAL: The Fall 2019 annual meeting will be held at Framingham State University on October 18-19. The local program chair is George Bentley of FSU. The planning is well underway with more information to be reported at our April 27 meeting of the NESTVAL Executive Board. The 2020 annual meeting will be held in Salem, MA and hosted by the Geography Department of Salem State University.

Call for Nominations to Elect New Regional Councilor: NESTVAL Vice President Darren Bardati has issued a Call for Nominations to the membership via email. Nominations, including self-nominations, are due by midnight (11:59 PM) of April 5. The election will be conducted via email shortly after the CFN deadline has passed. The voting period will be across five business days. Councilor John Hayes' three year term ends on June 30, 2019.

Request for Proposals for the 2019 Faculty Research Grant Competition and the 2019 Master's Thesis Research Grant Competition: NESTVAL provides support for geographic or geo-information science-based research in the form of grants up to \$750 to faculty performing research in any geographic specialty and who are full-time members of a geography or geo-information science program within a four-year college or university in the NESTVAL region. NESTVAL also provides support for master's thesis research in the form of small grants of up to \$500 to Master's candidates of any geographic specialty attending a graduate program of geography or geo-information science in the NESTVAL region. The deadline for completed applications for both of these awards programs is May 15, 2019. Information, including application forms, are available at the NESTVAL website and also from VP Bardati.

World Geography Bowl Team for AAG-DC Meeting: NESTVAL Secretary Patrick May has organized NESTVAL's World Geography Bowl team to compete at this year's 2019 annual AAG meeting. NESTVAL contributes money to each team member to support their travel, in addition to the support from the AAG.

Annual Peer-Reviewed Journal: NESTVAL continues to publish its peer-reviewed journal, *The Northeastern Geographer*. Volume 10 (2018) has gone to the printer and will soon be mailed out to Full Members of NESTVAL. Planning for Volume 11 is ongoing and looking good. A Call for Papers went out last Fall and this winter. The journal is available on EBSCO and the early volumes are available at the NESTVAL website - although Editor Silvern informs me that he has tried to have more volumes put on our website.

Newsletter: NESTVAL has had an annual Newsletter on a sporadic basis over the past 20+ years. Councilor Hayes was editor back in the mid-to late 1990's. The Division is hoping to recruit an e-newsletter editor to continue this important tradition and service to the organization.

Website: NESTVAL's website can be found at: <http://aagnestval.wpengine.com/>

Report from RI State Rep, Mark Motte: Rhode Island College continues to be the home of the only geography program in Rhode Island. Mark is Director of the Geography Program, faculty advisor to RIC's student government, academic advisor to the Social Science Educators' Association, and a member of the College Council (RIC's faculty senate). Mark was recently appointed by the RI governor's office to the Technical and Policy Committee of the State Planning Council. Professor Seth Dixon serves as Chief Reader of the AP Human Geography Program. Seth has ended his leadership of the RI Geographic Alliance which (as in many parts of the NESTVAL region) has been dissolved as a result of the cessation of funding from the National Geographic Society. Seth also maintains and hosts the website: geographyeducation.org.

Respectfully submitted by John Hayes, NESTVAL Regional Councilor

Southeastern Division (SEDAAG) Report for AAG Council: Spring 2019

Held in Johnson City, TN and hosted by East Tennessee State University, the 2018 SEDAAG meeting was a success, with 312 attending, more than half of whom were students. The meeting featured more than 30 paper and panel sessions and nearly 80 posters. Our invited banquet speaker, Dr. Marshall Shepherd (Univ. of Georgia), was a big success, as was a walking tour of Johnson City that focused on flood mitigation strategies and urban redevelopment. The upcoming annual meeting is scheduled for Nov 24-25, 2019, in Wilmington, NC, with local arrangements handled by the Univ. of North Carolina – Wilmington. Future meetings will also include Florence, AL (2020). SEDAAG membership currently stands at roughly 350.

At the annual Business Meeting, Dr. Joann Mossa (SEDAAG President) announced an editorial transition of the *Southeastern Geographer* effective in summer 2019. She particularly acknowledged the efforts made by outgoing editors, Hilda Kurtz and Deepak Mishra, for improving the journal in many ways, including taking steps towards getting an impact factor, increasing its global visibility (with downloads from 82 countries), and financial success (providing financial returns to SEDAAG). The new editors will be Drs. Selima Sultana and Paul Knapp of UNC Greensboro. Dr. Mossa also announced the election results, including these new officers: Bill Graves (Vice-President) and Shrinidhi Ambinakudige (Secretary). In response to concerns raised by AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson, Dr. Mossa and I presented revisions to the SEDAAG by-laws that would bring the process for electing our Regional Councillor into compliance with the methods used by other regions. Specifically, this will involve opening the voting process to all AAG members located within the region, not just those who are members of SEDAAG. We also approved creation of a new award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring to go along with existing awards recognizing excellence in research, teaching, and service.

Southeastern Geographer, the official journal of SEDAAG, has been published since 1962 and has been distributed by the University of North Carolina Press since 2004. Published quarterly in both online and traditional hard copy formats, the journal emphasizes geographic research that engages with conditions and events in “the south”, broadly construed, as they relate to conditions and events that extend over broader geographical reaches. In 2018, it included a Special Forum titled “In the Aftermath of the Hate Rally in Charlottesville”. An internal analysis of citation metrics showed that *Southeastern Geographer* compares favorably to other journals focused on global regions.

Around the region, the health of departments continues to be variable. Among larger graduate programs (e.g., Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia Tech, Mississippi State), state representatives were generally optimistic about the state of their departments. Similarly, a number of undergraduate or undergraduate/masters programs reported stable or even increasing enrollments (e.g., James Madison, Mary Washington, Marshall, Richmond, Radford, Western Carolina). On the other hand, the Department of Geography and Geology at Southern Mississippi was absorbed into a new School of Biological, Environmental, and Ecological Sciences and will no longer be offering a PhD after completion of students currently enrolled in the program (the undergraduate program will continue). The Kentucky representative noted that graduate programs within the state were healthy, but that undergraduate enrollment and majors were declining at many of the smaller programs within the state. Not surprisingly, the state of individual units across the region often reflected the ‘territory’ of the unit on its home campus,

that is, how Geography was positioned vis a vis interdisciplinary programs and technology offerings (e.g., GIS degrees, certificates).

Along with Dr. Mossa, I tried to get additional information on the state of geography at community colleges and other 2-year institutions across the region. This is difficult because geography is rarely offered as a degree program at such institutions. Responses generally indicated our presence in one of two ways: 1) more commonly, through offerings that satisfy general education requirements in human and/or physical geography, and 2) less commonly, as courses or even degrees focused on geospatial technology (e.g., GIS: Central Georgia Technical College and Roane State Community College; Geospatial Science & Technology: Mountwest Community and Technical College). Most programs had only 1 or 2 geography faculty. The issue of geography's "place" at schools that don't explicitly offer geography degrees (including both 2- and 4- year institutions) is one that several representatives have identified as being important for the health and growth of the discipline, a position with which I strongly agree. At least within SEDAAG, a number of schools without explicit Geography degrees reported growth in geography offerings, especially in states such as South Carolina and Virginia.

One issue that was raised in the state reports was a potential disinterest or disconnect between members and member departments with SEDAAG. This was evidenced by a lack of participation in the regional meeting (in favor of AAG or discipline specific meetings) and the poor response rates to annual requests from SEDAAG for information from certain member departments. This issue, of course, is not new and is something that our incoming president has stated he will explore. However, the fact that such concerns exist even in SEDAAG, which hosts one of the largest annual regional meetings and is widely perceived as being one of the most active of all AAG regions, underscores the urgency of the problem.

Respectfully submitted by-
John Kupfer, SEDAAG Councilor

Regional Councilor Report from the Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers (SWAAG), 25 March 2019

Last Annual Meeting. SWAAG's last annual meeting was held 4-6 October 2018 in Baton Rouge and hosted by Louisiana State University. The meeting had about 160 attendees, 22 paper and poster sessions, and a field trip. SWAAG also ran successful student paper and poster competitions at the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as a GeoBowl competition. AAG President Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach gave a keynote address during one luncheon; student awards were given during another luncheon. SWAAG had a healthy budget of > \$15,000 at the time of the annual meeting.

Upcoming Annual Meetings. SWAAG's 2019 annual meeting will be held 10-12 October 2019 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Fort Worth, TX and hosted by Texas Christian University. The planning for the meeting is well underway and going smoothly. SWAAG is currently discussing a joint meeting between SWAAG and the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) in 2020 in Austin, TX. No major logistical issues have been identified and SWAAG is expecting to start co-organizing the meeting in January 2020.

Student Awards. In addition to the best undergraduate and graduate paper and poster awards at the annual meeting, SWAAG awarded three summer research scholarships and three travel scholarships in 2018. These scholarships were established in 2017 and awarded for the first time in 2018. SWAAG received 11 applications for the 2019 SWAAG Summer Field Research Scholarships and is planning to announce the winners in early April.

GeoBowl. SWAAG Chair Matt Fry organized the SWAAG Geobowl team for the 2019 AAG meeting in Washington, DC. SWAAG has six students from four universities who will represent the division. SWAAG, with support from the AAG, will reimburse each student \$300 after the meeting.

GeoBowl Buzzers. In April, SWAAG will purchase its own buzzers for its annual regional GeoBowl competition.

Journal. SWAAG continues to publish its peer-reviewed journal, *The Southwestern Geographer*, which is now available online at <https://bit.ly/2HSRikT>. The journal's editorial team consists of John Tiefenbacher (Texas State University, Senior Editor) and Erik Prout (Texas A&M University; Co-Editor). There is one volume per year; the latest volume, Volume 21, was completed in 2018.

Newsletter. SWAAG also continues to publish its annual newsletter prior to each annual meeting. The last newsletter was published in 2018. All newsletters are available online at <http://www.sw-aag.org/news.html>. Newsletter editing is the duty of SWAAG's Secretary.

Website. SWAAG's website at <http://www.sw-aag.org> provides information on the annual meeting, journal, bylaws, minutes, newsletters, scholarships, past and current officers, regional departments, and more.

Social Media. SWAAG is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/southwestaag/>.

Respectfully submitted by Michaela Buenemann, SWAAG Regional Councilor, with contributions from Matt Fry, SWAAG Chair

West Lakes Division Report for the Spring 2019 AAG Council Meeting

Division news

- John Kelly (2017-18 Chair) has submitted the revised version of WLDAAG bylaw to AAG Council for approval. It is included in the Spring 2019 Council meeting agenda
- Bingqing Liang (University of Northern Iowa) is the current Chair to help host the 2019 WLDAAG at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA on Oct 24-26. The conference website will be live soon
- Stacey Borwn-Amilian (Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville) is the current Vice-chair
- The 2020 division meeting will be hosted by Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. The dates are TBD.

Program changes

- DePaul University Department of Geography rolled out the graduate GIS certificate, building upon its existing geotechnology major concentration for undergrads and an undergraduate certificate (self-reported)
- Indiana State University has a new undergraduate program in Geography and Sustainability, a new Accelerated 4+1 Masters program in Geography and Sustainability, and a revised traditional two-year Masters in Geography and Sustainability (self-reported)
- Western Illinois University's Geography and GIS undergraduate program has been included in the list of programs for elimination recommended by the Provost to the Board of Trustees. Multiple layoff notices have been sent to the faculty in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and GIS (WIUM Tristates Public Radio)
- In November 2018, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point proposed a restructuring plan named 'Point Forward' to the University's Common Council that included the elimination of all emphases within the Geography (BS) major. The Consultative Committee of the Common Council convened to respond to the proposal released a report in March 2019 countering the findings and recommendation to Point Forward. (relevant documents)

Individual accomplishments

- DePaul University's Alex Papadopoulos has been awarded the 2019 AAG Harm de Blij Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and an undergraduate student Chris Silber will be participating in the World geography Bowl at the AAG in DC this year. Associate Professor Winifred Curran became the first female chair in the department's 70-year history (self-reported)
- The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Mark Schwartz has been included in the 2019 class of AAG Fellows (AAG Newsletter)

Respectfully submitted by Woonsup Choi, Regional Councilor for West Lakes Division

Spring 2019 Great Plains Rocky Mountains Division report – Deborah Thomas, Regional Councilor

- Fall 2018 meeting will be hosted by Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS on Oct 5-6.
- Fall 2017 meeting in Grand Forks was a relatively small meeting, though with high quality papers
 - Normally Canadian geographers would join this meeting because of the proximity, but declined to travel due to current U.S. immigration policies
 - Student attendance as a proportion was strong, particularly from smaller regional schools who might not attend a meeting further away
 - The physical expanse of the region with this location being on the fringe also likely reduced attendance.
- Regionally, geospatial courses/programs, as well as environmental courses, are enrolling well and are sustaining, and sometimes expanding, programs.
- State budget cuts to higher education impact programs in several states. Higher education is experiencing significant cuts in Kansas; in Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Lincoln's geography program was identified for potential closure (this has a PhD program, and they are currently seeking a new director).
- Several programs have had a number of retirements, affecting demographics in positive and challenging ways. For example, many programs are uncertain if they will be able to retain faculty lines in light of state budget cuts and/or enrollment challenges. Other programs will experience a substantial demographic shift, with few remaining senior faculty available for mentoring.
- There is needed attention to creating strategic initiatives for increasing faculty and student (undergraduate and graduate) diversity across most geography programs.
- The creation of interdisciplinary programs related to geography can bolster or diminish enrollments, depending how geography is positioned. In particular, several programs noted that when an interdisciplinary major related to geography and emphasizing human-environment interaction is established, the numbers of geography majors decreases.