

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Biogeography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, April 13, 2018, New Orleans, LA

Submitted by Tony Stallins, Chair and amended by Taly Drezner, Secretary-Treasurer

1. Welcome Remarks

Tony Stallins, Biogeography Specialty Group (BSG) Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:55 am, welcomed the audience, and introduced the BSG board members present.

2. Board Reports

A. CHAIR'S REPORT

(Powerpoint presentation is attached)

From the AAG Specialty Group Chair meeting: Doug Richardson has announced his retirement. This means changes in leadership and organization of the AAG in the next few years.

AAG Fellows: This is a new program to recognize geographers who have made significant contributions to advancing geography. Nominations are due June 30th annually.

AAG Committees: Biogeographers and physical geographers are encouraged to nominate each other to serve on the AAG Honors Committee and the AAG Nominations Committee. Glen MacDonald recommended that we pursue nomination of a biogeographer for consideration as an AAG Fellow.

BSG Web pages: A motion was passed to nominate Arvind Bhuta as webmaster.

The chair recognized the newest BSG members (since Jan 1 2018) who were in attendance: Nicole Zampieri (Florida State University) and Kristen Birdshire (University of Colorado-Denver). They were each asked to introduce themselves and give an overview of their academic interests.

There remains the need for new BSG members. Reaching out to specialty groups with overlapping interests was discussed, as well as offering BSG sponsorship to the authors of abstracts posted in the preliminary meeting program. The point was also raised that declining membership is in part a larger issue of increasing specialization within the AAG, and that recruiting new members may not necessarily be productive

8500 people are participating in this year's AAG meeting, 6400 abstracts, and 40% of these are students. Upcoming AAG meetings will be held in Washington D.C. in 2019, Denver in 2020, and Honolulu in 2021.

B. BSG FINANCES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Tony Stallins, BSG Chair discussed the specialty group's finances and the need for a larger revenue stream.

Dave Cairns proposed that established members can make contributions to build up the BSG bank balance. There was general support for this fund raising strategy. However, the current method of donating to BSG is circuitous. It was recommended that contact be made with AAG administration (D. Alderman and D. Richardson) about making this mode of fund raising easier, including the possibility of a PayPal link specifically for BSG members.

The point was also raised that it might be possible to bundle specialty group membership so that signing up for BSG would automatically enroll AAG members in the Climate Specialty Group, the Geomorphology Specialty Group, and the PEC, although such a strategy might be difficult to implement from a digital cash flow point of view.

Last year, we awarded \$1500 plus \$500 support to the student rep, and anticipate the same this year:

\$1000 for the Ph.D. grant

\$500 for the Masters grant

\$500 for student representative support with conference expenses

We have an additional \$429 in other expenses this last year (since Mar 1, 2017). These expenses include our annual Go Daddy fee for our website (\$30), the plaques for our awards (\$199), and last year's \$200 sponsorship of the Andrea Wulf lecture. In total, we spent \$1929.06 last year (March 1, 2017 to Feb 28, 2018, last 12 months of record) noting that this number would have been \$2429.06 had we had a Masters grant award. For this same period (March 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018) our intake was \$1885 from membership, down from last year's \$2012.50. We continue to overspend our budget, bringing down our reserves. How our budget works: In past years, our membership was higher and we had much greater intake from dues. The extra money that wasn't spent simply remained in our account as a carryover (just like a bank account), waiting until we spend it. We have been carrying surplus from our past high membership days which has helped continue our awards during these leaner years. Our current balance (as of mid-March) is \$2298.33 (but had we given a Masters grant it would be \$1798.33). In the coming few weeks, we will pay out \$2000 for our awards plus typically a couple hundred dollars for other miscellaneous expenses. Thus, it appears that we have used up our outstanding surplus. We will have to reconsider our current awards this year or next (\$1000 PhD, \$500 Masters, \$500 student rep) or other revenue generating options.

Do please email or contact Taly if you have any questions that she may be able to answer about finances, awards, receipts or anything else! drezner@yorku.ca

C. BSG ELECTIONS

Tony Stallins announced election winners. Congratulations go to Nina Hewitt (The University of British Columbia-Vancouver) and Christy Briles (University of Colorado-Denver), the new board members who will serve over the 2018-2020 meeting cycle. Nina will oversee elections, replacing Brenden McNeil. Christy will oversee the student presentation competition, replacing Maria Cafferty. Outgoing officers were thanked for their contributions. Clay Tucker is the new BSG student representative.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Nathan Gill reported the success of the panel discussion on Thursday, "Preparing Competitive Research Grants in Biogeography" and thanked the panel that contributed.

E. STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

Maria Caffrey announced the awards from last year's competition: Tyler Prince (Masters) and Danielle Haskett (PhD). We were in the midst of this year's competition for best student presentations during the business meeting so no formal announcement of winners was made. However, at the conclusion of the 2018 AAG meeting, winners were chosen and have been notified. These students will be formally recognized at next year's meeting:

PhD Student Category:

Robert Andrus (University of Colorado Boulder), for his paper titled "Moisture availability limits subalpine tree establishment."

Undergraduate/Masters Category:

Joseph Andreoli (University of Florida), for his paper titled "Predicting the Potential Geographic Distributions of Non-Native Fishes in Florida with Climate Change."

Adam Donaldson (University of Wisconsin-Platteville) was recognized with an Honorable Mention. He was the only undergraduate to participate in the competition.

F. STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

Daehyun Kim announced the awards for this year. The winning proposal at the PhD level (\$1000) was awarded to Jonathan Kleinman (University of Alabama), for his proposal entitled "Catastrophic wind and logging effects on plants and prescribed fire in pine woodlands.

The winner of the Masters-level competition (\$500) was Kristen Birdshire (University of Colorado-Denver) and her proposal was entitled "Influences on Wild Bee Diversity and Abundance Along an Urban-Rural Gradient"

G. JOURNAL REPORTS

Sally Horn reminded the group that David Butler, the editor for the physical and environmental science section of the *Annals of the AAG*, wants more submissions from physical geographers and biogeographers.

Sally Horn also encouraged members to review the work of younger physical geographers with more nuance and not “eat their own”, when compared to the practice of human geographers

BSG members were encouraged to submit to the *Geographical Review* by Jake Bendix.

Jim Speer announced the 2018 North American Dendroecological Field Week and made note of the scholarships available and the opportunities to extend research initiated at NADEF, which will be held in Yellowstone this year.

H. COWLES AND PARSONS AWARDS

Grant Harley presented the awards. Of three papers nominated for consideration, The Henry C. Cowles Awards for best biogeographical publication of the year went to:

Johnson, J.S., Gaddis, K.D., Cairns, D.M., and Krutovsky, K.V. (2017) Seed dispersal at alpine treeline: an assessment of seed movement and immigration within the alpine treeline ecotone. *Ecosphere* 8:e01649.

The James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award went to Henri Grissino-Mayer (University of Tennessee-Knoxville). Henri was nominated by and supported with letters from Jim Speer, Ed Cook, and Peter Brown. Henri was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute, however, Jim Speer spoke of the long list of accomplishments that Henri has made as a pioneer in several areas of dendrochronology. Several of Henri’s current students were present and accepted the award on his behalf. Henri wanted it known that he considers his graduate students the most rewarding of his many accomplishments

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3. Adjournment

Tony Stallins thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Bigeography Specialty Group Business Meeting AAG 2018 New Orleans

BSG EXECUTIVE BOARD

Tony Stallins (Chair), University of Kentucky
 Maria Caffrey, University of Colorado
 Brenden McNeil, West Virginia University
 Grant Harley, University of Idaho
 Daehyun Kim, Seoul National University
 Nathan Gill (Student Representative), Clark University
 Taly Drezner (Secretary/Treasurer), York University
 Chris Underwood (Editor, *The Biogeographer*), University of Wisconsin-Platteville

• Chair's report

- From AAG Specialty Group Chairs meeting
 - Doug Richardson is retiring
 - 8500 participating at AAG, 6400 abstracts, and 40% are students
 - DC in 2019
 - [AAG Fellows](#) – submit nominations, June 30th annually.
 - The AAG Fellows is a new program to recognize geographers who have made significant contributions to advancing geography.

• Chair's report

- A new BSG web page was made this summer (but we still need a newer one):
<http://www.biogeographer.org/>
- [BSG sessions – 26 total](#)
 - Wide range of topics
- BSG Panel session for students on grant writing
 - Panel discussion was informative, new funding initiatives at NSF were described by Michael Binford



• Chair's report

- BSG Membership
 - 295 members
 - AAG Knowledge Communities:
<http://community.aag.org/home>
 - Use this portal if you haven't in order to post emails to members and to review the member list.
 - To increase membership in BSG
 - BSG members should join Physical Geography-affiliated specialty groups (Climate, Paleoenvironmental Change, Geomorphology) when you renew AAG this year. Encourage others to do the same – **and to join BSG**
 - Recruit new people and new ideas
 - Newest members (posted on next page)

Name	University	Added To Community
Sara Gagne	UNC Charlotte	1/1/2018
Irene Feretti		1/1/2018
Israel Oromoloye	University of Fort Hare, Alice South Africa	1/1/2018
Jeff Lewis		1/1/2018
Nicole Zampieri		1/1/2018
Luciana Caporaletti	New Mexico State University	1/1/2018
Aldan McLendon		1/1/2018
Caitlin Niederhofer		1/1/2018
Lucas Silva	University of Oregon	1/1/2018
David Sallee	Tarrant County Community College	2/1/2018
Michael Shouse	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	2/1/2018
Liam Martin		2/1/2018
Sisimac Duchicela	University of Texas - Austin	2/1/2018
Abel Ayon	University of North Carolina - Charlotte	2/1/2018
Caitlin Joseph		2/1/2018
Kristen Birdshire	University of Colorado Denver	2/1/2018
Tia Federman	University of Wisconsin-Platteville	2/1/2018
Dan Brumm	University of Wisconsin - Platteville	2/1/2018
Shayla Otake		2/1/2018
Kaleena Salazar		2/1/2018
Mohammad Maruf Billah	University of Tuscia	3/1/2018
Jennifer Grant	East Tennessee State University	3/1/2018

• Treasurer's report: Taly Drezner

- Bottom line – there is a need to have more money in the bank to maintain current level of award funding

10/31/16	Dues collected for October	525.00	\$1,547.55
11/30/16	Dues collected for November	280.00	\$1,827.55
12/31/16	Dues collected for December	170.00	\$1,997.55
1/31/17	Dues collected for January	245.00	\$2,242.55
2/28/17	Joy Mast for BSG domain name		30.16
2/28/17	Dues collected for February	130.00	\$2,342.39
3/10/17	Contrib to Andrea Wulff Lecture at AAG	200.00	\$2,142.39
3/31/17	Dues collected for March		\$2,257.39
4/17/17	Matt Bekker for plaque	198.90	\$2,058.49
4/18/17	Maegen Rochner, PhD grant competition	1,000.00	\$1,058.49
4/18/17	Thomas Patterson - grad student representative	500.00	\$558.49
4/30/17	Dues collected for April	95.00	\$653.49
5/31/17	Dues collected for May	95.00	\$748.49
6/30/17	Dues collected for June	15.00	\$763.49
7/31/17	Dues collected for July	40.00	\$803.49
8/31/17	Dues collected for August	90.00	\$893.49
9/30/17	Dues collected for September	150.00	\$1,043.49
10/31/17	Dues collected for October	410.00	\$1,453.49
11/30/17	Dues collected for November	330.00	\$1,783.49
12/31/17	Dues collected for December	135.00	\$1,918.49
1/31/18	Dues collected for January	215.00	\$2,133.49
2/28/18	Dues collected for February	195.00	\$2,328.49
2/28/18	Joy Mast domain name renewal		30.16
			\$2,288.33

- Student Presentation Awards

- 2017 AAG winners

- Tyler Prince, Brock University - Postglacial reconstruction of fire history from a small lake in southwest Yukon Territory using sedimentary charcoal and pollen.
- Danielle Haskett, University of Georgia - Climate and environmental change in the Colorado Rocky Mountains during the late Quaternary: An analogue for a warm future.



- 2018 AAG

- Jonathan Kleinman
- Robert Andrus
- Clay Tucker
- Adam Donaldson
- Liam Martin
- (Plus one speaker presenting today)

- Research Grant Proposal Competition

- 3 Masters submissions

- **Kristen Birdshire, University of Colorado Denver**
- Barrie Chileen, Kansas State University
- Nicole Zampieri, Florida State University

- 5 PhD submissions

- Savannah Collins-Key, Univ of TN-Knoxville
- Brendan Hoover, Univ of Texas-Austin
- **Jonathan Kleinman, Univ of Alabama**
- Zachary Merrill, Univ of TN-Knoxville
- Clay Tucker, Louisiana State Univ

- Cowles Award

- Lafon, C.W., Naito, A.T., Grissino-Mayer, H.D., Horn, S.P., Waldrop, T.A. 2017. Fire history of the Appalachian region: a review and synthesis. Gen. Tech. Rep. SR5-219. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 97 pp.
- **Johnson, J.S., Gaddis, K.D., Cairns, D.M., and Krutzovsk, K.V. (2017) Seed dispersal at alpine treeline: an assessment of seed movement and immigration within the alpine treeline ecotone. *Ecosphere* 8:e01649.**
- Maxwell, R.S., Harley, G.L., Maxwell, J.T., Rayback, S.A., Pederson, N., Cook, E.R., Barclay, D.J., and Li, W. 2017. An interbasin comparison of tree-ring reconstructed streamflow in the eastern United States. *Hydrological Processes* 31: 2381-2394.

- Parsons Award

- **Henri Grissino-Mayer**
- Nomination by Jim Speer, Ed Cook, Peter Brown

- Election results: incoming board members

- Nina Hewitt (Elections Organizer, two year term)
- Christy Briles (Student Paper Competition, two year term)
- Clay Tucker (student member, one year term)

- Departing board members:

- Maria Caffrey
- Brenden McNeil
- Nathan Gill

- Chief Information Officer board member?

- New web page, one with more competitive aesthetics
- Pay Pal link to solicit donations directly into the AAG account

- Other announcements:

- Journals
- Events of note