

**Biogeography Specialty Group Business Meeting Minutes**  
**April 5, 2019, Washington, D.C.**

Submitted by Taly Drezner, Secretary-Treasurer

**1. Welcome Remarks**

Tony Stallins, Biogeography Specialty Group (BSG) Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:55am.

**2. Chair's Report**

Tony Stallins reported that the data suggest that this year there are about 8500 attendees at the AAG. The large number of concurrent sessions is of concern to the AAG Executive Board so they plan on changing the format. Next year each session will only be 75 minutes and presentations will be limited to 15 minutes in order to offer more sessions in a day, reducing overlap. Tony observes that this is a time for space substitution. In addition, the AAG will be promoting other formats, such as organized poster sessions, and generally encouraging posters over talks to further assist constraints associated with concurrent talks.

Tony Stallins reported that the BSG sponsored 20 sessions this year, and that membership is down again this year.

Tony advertised two non-elected positions that are available for interested biogeographers. The Secretary-Treasurer position has been held by Taly Drezner for many years. Jacob Bendix thanked Taly and expressed gratitude for her service. The newsletter Editor position is also available to interested parties. Chris Underwood, the current editor noted that it involves production of 2 newsletters per year. The editor collects themes by emails and creates the newsletter.

Tony drew the crowd's attention to the fact that the BSG's bylaws have not been updated since 1983. While we have made some changes in practice, we still follow those guidelines rather closely.

Stockton Maxwell asked if changes to the bylaws require a vote. George Malanson agreed and pointed out that the bylaws themselves may specify the answer. Jacob Bendix suggested consulting with the AAG on this matter. Tony Stallins said he would distribute a copy of the bylaws to members for comments.

Tony updated the group about the current situation with Henri Grissino-Mayer and the possibility of rescinding the Parsons award he received. The AAG is currently assessing the

situation as a whole legally, and does not want to interfere with ongoing investigations. Any BSG resolution or position statement is currently on hold until the AAG proceeds.

### **3. Financial Report**

Taly Drezner provided the financial report. Taly congratulated all of this year's winners and reminded them to contact her to receive the financial portion of their awards. For other reimbursements (e.g. plaques), please email Taly a scan of the receipt(s), with your name as and the mailing address.

Taly noted that last year (March 1, 2018-February 28, 2019), the BSG awarded \$1000 for the PhD grant, \$500 for the Masters grant and \$500 to support the student representative, and there was an additional \$179.03 spent on other expenses. These expenses include plaques given to our awardees, and our annual Go Daddy fee for our website. In total, we spent \$2179.03 over this last year. Our income for this same period was \$1760.00 in membership, down from last year's \$1885. We generously received \$360 in donations from members, including \$200 from Scott Mensing, \$100 from Daehyun Kim and donations from Tony Stallins, Nina Hewitt and Joy Mast, bringing our total intake to within \$60 of our expenditures. Taly offered thanks to those who generously donated to the BSG! Our current balance (as of March 1) is \$2269.45. In the coming few weeks, we will pay out \$2000 for our awards plus typically a couple hundred dollars for other miscellaneous expenses.

Taly told the membership that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the BSG, but it is good for someone new to take over. Taly noted that she has offered the position for any willing biogeographers, but has not yet confirmed anyone with firm interest. Taly noted that this position is not overly demanding, and that the annual duties of the Secretary-Treasurer include responsibility for the minutes at the business meeting, taking care of all payments and reimbursements, keeping a record of expenses and income to quality control for any mistakes, and preparing the financial statement and presenting it at the business meeting.

Tony Stallins encouraged members to use Paypal to donate to the BSG, even a few dollars or doubling the BSG fees would make a huge difference to our budget.

Sally Horn encouraged young faculty to consider the Secretary-Treasurer position as it is an excellent way to show service to the discipline and disciplinary involvement on your CV for when you apply for tenure.

### **4. Cowles and Parsons Awards**

Grant Harley reported that neither award is being given this year. The Parson's Award is normally given irregularly, but Grant encouraged the membership to submit papers for the Cowles award, which the BSG tries to award every year.

### **5. Student Presentation Awards**

Christy Briles reported that we have 10 graduate students participating in the BSG presentation competition this year (7 Ph.D., 3 Masters). Christy reminds students to sign up! This year's competition is ongoing, but Christy announced last year's (2018) winners:

Joseph Andreoli, University of Florida: “Predicting the Potential Geographic Distributions of Non-Native Fishes in Florida with Climate Change”

Robert Andrus, University of Colorado-Boulder: “Moisture availability limits subalpine tree establishment”

## **6. Student Research Grant Proposal Competition**

Daehyun Kim announced this year’s winners. There were five Ph.D. submissions and one Masters level submission. Daehyun encouraged students to apply and faculty to encourage their students to submit proposals. Daehyun sent the proposal to several reviewers and all said it was a good and fundable proposal.

The Masters winner was Sewon Ohn (Seoul National University) for his proposal, “Estimating the carbon sequestration capacity of a salt marsh of the Yellow sea using remote sensing and spatial interpolation.”

The Ph.D. competition was difficult as the applications were very strong. The winner for the Ph.D. submission was Anaïs Zimmer, University of Texas, Austin, for her proposal, “Future of periglacial landscape: alpine ecosystems and deglaciation in the Tropical Andes and French Alps.” Both winners were present and came up to shake Daehyun’s hand and offer their thanks.

## **7. Elections**

Nina Hewitt first thanked outgoing board members. Tony Stallins (Chair), Grant Harley (Cowles and Parson’s Awards), and Daehyun Kim (Research proposals) for their service to the BSG.

Nina announced the results from the elections for board members.

The next BSG chair will be Daehyun Kim (Seoul National University). Daehyun told the membership about spending 8 years as a professor at the University of Kentucky. He expressed how honored he was to be elected and how difficult it was to express how much he appreciated the BSG (promising a full column in the Spring newsletter), but noting that in the 2007 San Francisco meetings, he received a grant from the BSG which gave him great confidence and encouragement and wanted to give back to the BSG for changing his trajectory in his studies.

Will Flatley (University of Central Arkansas) and Stockton Maxwell (Radford University) will be the new incoming board members. Both thanked the BSG. Will expressed how past awards helped him with his research, and encouraged members to donate funds so the BSG can continue to support students, and encouraged students to apply. Stockton also encouraged donations to the BSG.

Rosemary Downing (University of Colorado, Denver) and Nicole Zampieri (Florida State University) got a near tie in votes, and because the student representative has historically contributed substantially to the meetings and the BSG, both will fill the role of student representative for next year. They were both present and thanked the BSG.

## 8. Other Announcements

Tony asked if there were any announcements.

Jake Bendix (Syracuse University) announced that he and Mike Urban (University of Missouri) submitted materials to the AAG to increase ethnic diversity, particularly in physical geography. He observed that human geographers are more effective at outreach that increases diversity, and they are asking the AAG to be more aggressive in their outreach to students on the physical side. They proposed many things to make physical geography more representative.

George Malanson made an announcement for David Butler, an *Annals of the AAG* editor. David passes the message of thanks to all those that submitted articles and participated in the process.

George Malanson also pointed out that he is the Managing Editor for *Progress in Physical Geography*. He encouraged submissions and encouraged people to speak to him even before submission about possible manuscripts. He mentioned he'd be happy to communicate by email or even in person (such as during the AAG meeting).

Jake Bendix announced that he and Suzy Ziegler are both on the editorial board of *The Geographical Review*, and encouraged submissions.

Charles Lafon is on the board of *Physical Geography* and encourages submission to that journal. He noted that the journal is good for papers that integrate biogeography with climate or geomorphology.

Clay Tucker (student representative) could not make the business meeting but asked Tony to announce that there was good turnout at yesterday's session which he hosted, discussing issues of fieldwork in biogeography. There were over 30 attendees. He hopes that future student representatives can continue this one-year tradition to include such topics as lab work, statistical methods, and peer editing that may be useful for graduate students.

Christy Briles reminded the group that next year's meeting is in Denver, and she was considering a field trip to Rocky Mountain National Park. She took a casual survey of the audience for interest in a full day trip and quite a few people expressed interest.

Sally Horn commented that the day of the trip (early/late date during the meeting) will affect turnout, and noted that she did such a field trip during her first AAG conference in 1983 and that it was fantastic.

## 9. Adjournment

Tony Stallins thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm.

## 2020 Annual Meeting of the AAG, Denver, Colorado

The Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers is one of the largest geographic conferences in the world. Our next meeting, 6–10 April 2020, will be held in Denver, Colorado, at the Hyatt Regency. More information will be available soon on the AAG Annual Meeting Webpage: <http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>

## Notes

### Miscellaneous:

1. Back issues of *The Biogeographer* are posted on the BSG website ([www.biogeographer.org](http://www.biogeographer.org)).
2. Please consider adding the **BSG domain** to your favorite links and promote it on your homepage, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. ([www.biogeographer.org](http://www.biogeographer.org)).
3. The BSG Facebook page is managed by Arvind Bhuta and is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/141655989204924/>
4. Tony Stallins is presently managing the original BSG website ([www.biogeographer.org](http://www.biogeographer.org)). A motion was passed during the 2018 BSG Business Meeting to nominate Arvind Bhuta as the new BSG Webmaster. During the transition, the BSG has a second Website (<https://sites.google.com/view/biogeographer/home>). If you have links (or other materials), send up to 2–3 pages to Arvind, including syllabi for biogeography courses. You can contact him at ([biogeographer.aag@gmail.com](mailto:biogeographer.aag@gmail.com)).
5. Communications among BSG members is usually by email through the AAG's discussion forum. For instructions to access and post messages on the BSG forum, login to the AAG website ([www.aag.org](http://www.aag.org)), then:

Select "Memberships"  
Select "Specialty Groups"  
Scroll down to Biogeography and select "learn more"

---

[Back to the Top](#)