

THE BIOGEOGRAPHER

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President's Column



Lesley Rigg, BSG President, 2009-11

Now that we have all submitted our abstracts and organized sessions for the AAGs in April, we can settle down to the end of semester and maybe we may even be able to squeak out a little time to work on some papers. In the 2009, AAG publication, *Aspiring Academics, A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty*, Stanley Brunn noted, there are many reasons for geographers to publish, including: 1) institutional expectations, 2) the pure joy of it, and 3) tenure and promotion. I would like to suggest a 4th; the need to mentor students and early career faculty in writing, collaboration and publishing. Babbit et al. (2008) reported on the success of geography PhD students five years out from graduation and over 60% of the respondents stated that writing and publishing was an important skill, but less than 30% reported receiving excellent training in their PhD programs. The overall finding of their report suggests that students desire a higher quality of training in collaboration, team work, writing and publishing (Babbit et al. 2008). As the next cohort of authors emerge

from our geography graduate studies programs they need to be capable scientific writers, they need to be mentored, and they need to understand the dynamics of collaboration.

Within physical geography, as all of you know, we happen to be very good collaborators. As part of a larger project on publication productivity I have recently, along with others who will be noted at the end of this column, compiled some statistics exploring the dynamics of productivity and collaboration, which I would like to share with you.

An interesting trend in academia, generally, is a rise in the level of publication collaboration, as evidenced by an increasing number of authors per article (Weltzin *et al.* 2006) and a deepening understanding of the importance of networking within academia and within geography (Hanson 2000). Using the AAGs flagship journals, from 1995 to 2008, there is an overall increase in the average number of authors associated with papers published in either the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* or in the *Professional Geographer*. In 1996, the average number of authors per article was 1.3 and 1.41 in the *Annals* and *PG* respectively, and this value increased to 1.84 and 2.34 by 2008 (Figure 1).

Most prestige in academia typically goes to single authored papers or authorship in the lead position, especially when graduate students are looking for academic positions or as our early career faculty face tenure (see Winkler 2000 for a discussion on tenure and promotion). While the number of authors per paper published did go up in both the *Annals* and *PG* from 1995 to 2008, in both journals a lack of collaboration was the prevailing mode of authorship with single authored male (*Annals*: 39% and *PG*: 36%) and female (*Annals* and *PG*: 16%) articles dominating. Collaborative efforts for the two journals made up less than 50% (*Annals*: 45% and *PG* 48%) of the articles published from 1995 to 2008 (See Figure 2 for the *Annals* only).

When geography is disaggregated into four broad groupings (based upon the sections in the table of contents of the *Annals*), there are distinct differences in terms of collaboration. Within the *Annals*, overall between 1995 and 2008, almost 40 % of the papers are by single male authors, while when only the Environmental Science subsection is analyzed this value drops to 18.8% (Figure 3). The Environmental Sciences is the most collaborative of the four sub-fields, followed closely by the Methods, Models, and GIS field (Figure 2). In most cases the publication dynamics of the four sub-fields in the *Annals* is closely mirrored by publication activity in other sub-disciplinary journals (data not presented in this column). For example, if we examine the journal *Physical Geography* (2005-2008), a journal in which many biogeographers have published (See Stallins 2007), only 31.8 % of the articles analyzed for were single authored (Figure 3). Not only are the articles published in *Physical Geography* highly collaborative, but reflect a less gendered attitude towards authorship (Figure 3), which is extremely encouraging for our emerging graduates and early faculty.

Continued collaboration between advisors and their students (data not examined), between early career faculty and mentors, between genders, and within (and between) laboratory groups, will serve to improve the quality of scientific discourse. Within biogeography (data not delineated), as active members of the broader group of physical geographers, we are leaders in publication trends. Hopefully this trend continues as our current students and early career biogeographers benefit from our established practices of collaboration and mentoring. Happy writing and enjoy the rest of your semester!

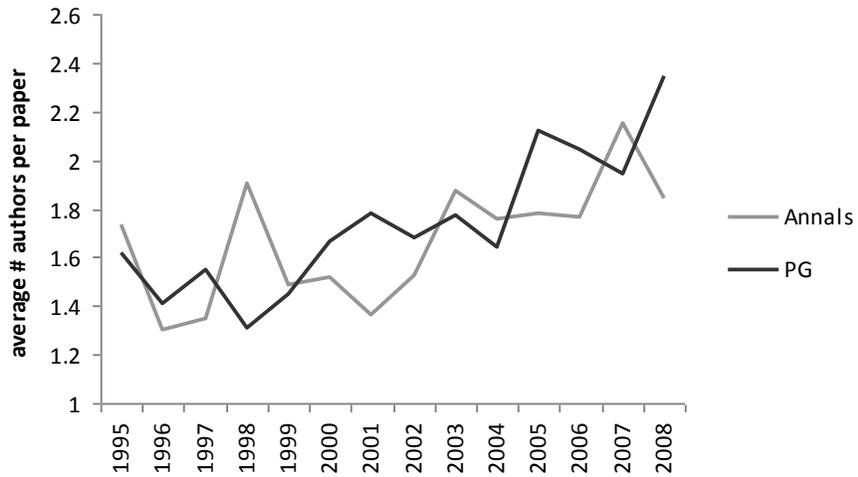


Figure 1: Proportion of authors per published article in the *Annals* (n = 527) and PG (n = 521) from 1995 to 2008, for all research articles published.

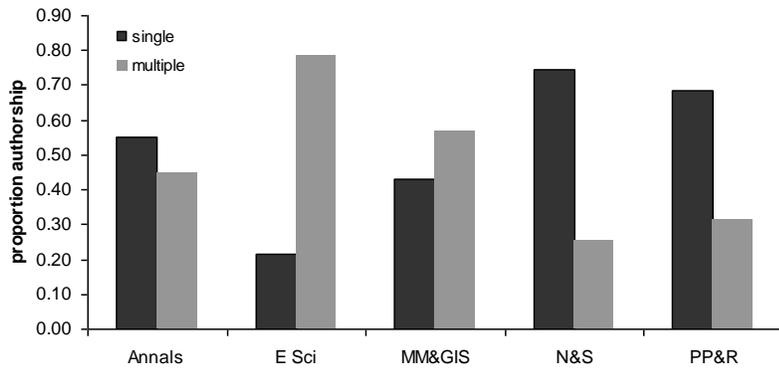


Figure 2: The proportion of single authored and collaborative papers in the *Annals* and its various subsections (see *Annals* table of contents) for all research articles published from 1995 to 2008.

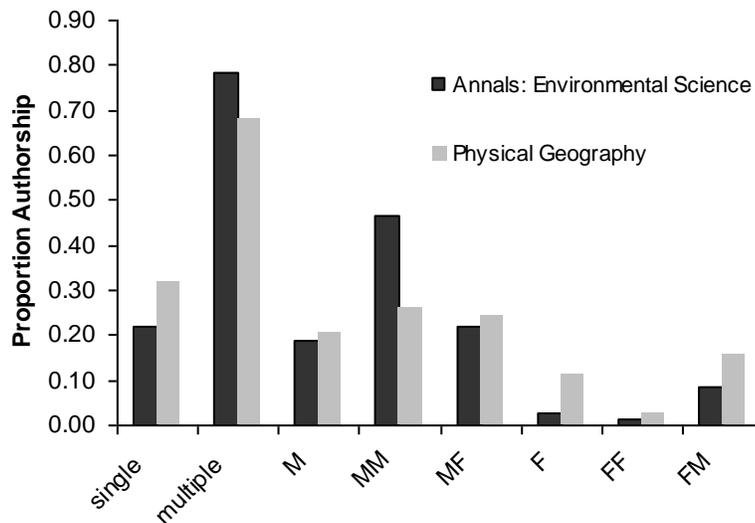


Figure 3: Authorship in the Environmental Science section of the *Annals* (1995-2008) and the journal *Physical Geography* (2005-2008). Single and multiple authors, single authorship by gender (M= male; F= female) and collaborative publications by gender.

Note: Shannon McCarragher and Dr. Andrew Kremenec (Dept. of Geography, Northern Illinois University) have been working with me on a larger project examining productivity trends in selected geography journals, and much of the data presented comes from that collaborative effort.

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Graduate Student Representative Column

Salutations from the Wild and Wonderful state of West Virginia! I'm Stockton Maxwell, the new graduate student representative. I'm a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geology and Geography at West Virginia University with interests in paleoclimatology, forest ecology, and dendrochronology. I want to thank Jacquelyn Gill for her service as the previous student representative. She put together a great session last year discussing *Biogeography in the Field*.

Currently, I am organizing a session for the 2010 meeting in Washington, D.C. titled *Advocacy in Biogeographic Science*. The session will bring together five respected biogeographers with an array of interests in paleoenvironments, forest ecology, land use change, remote sensing, and human-environment relations to discuss the role of the biogeographers in advocating for her science. We will discuss questions such as, "Should biogeographers speak with elected representatives to inform and advocate for positions supported by research?" and "Should researchers and students present in layperson forums as well as scientific journals and conferences?" These are just a couple of the questions that developing biogeographers must consider as their careers begin. The answers are not concrete but we can learn from the experiences established scientists. I hope to see you all there.

In addition to organizing the BSG-sponsored AAG session, I am helping to organize the Physical Geography Reception in D.C. This is the first year that the BSG is hosting the reception so we want to throw a well-attended and memorable party. So, get ready to get down people.

Finally, as your representative to the BSG, you are free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions at rmaxwell@mix.wvu.edu. If you are interested in being on the BSG student listserv, please email the list moderator, Chad Lane (chad.lane@lawrence.edu).



Cheers!

--**Stockton Maxwell**, BSG Graduate Student Representative
2009-10

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Awards and Competitions

2010 James J. Parsons Award for Distinguished Career in Biogeography and the Henry Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication in Biogeography

Please consider submitting nominations for the Henry Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication and the James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award. To submit a nomination for the Cowles Award, please simply send the name of the person and the name of their paper/book. A *.pdf file of the nominated work as an attachment would also be appreciated, if possible. To nominate a person for the Parsons Award, send a short letter of nomination stating some of the candidate's most significant achievements.



Please submit nominations by **February 1, 2010**. Information can be submitted via snail mail, email (strongly preferred!) or fax to:

David R. Butler, Ph.D., Professor of Geography
Department of Geography
Texas State University-San Marcos
San Marcos, TX 78666-4616 U.S.A.

phone 512-245-7977, fax 512-245-8353, e-mail

db25@txstate.edu

-- **Dave Butler**, BSG Board Member and Awards Organizer

2010 Student Presentation Awards, National AAG Meeting, Washington D.C.

The Biogeography Specialty Group sponsors three annual awards to encourage student participation in the annual meeting and to recognize outstanding student research. Competition for the award is open to undergraduate and graduate students (including those receiving their Ph.D. within a year after the dissertation defense). Student paper presentations and posters are organized into special BSG sponsored student competition sessions, and may not be given in other sessions at the annual meeting.

Award Categories:

Undergraduate/Masters student paper

Ph.D. student paper

Best poster

Students are encouraged to submit to the appropriate award category. For example, students in the early stages of their masters or doctoral research should apply for the poster competition. Those students nearing the completion of their respective degrees should consider applying for the oral sessions. The student must be either the sole author or the primary author of the paper, and must be the presenter at the meeting. Illustrated posters are not eligible for either award.



Judging criteria include: the significance and originality of the research question, the creativity and the quality of the methodology, the validity of the conclusions drawn from the results and the clarity of the presentation.

For more information, please contact me at katzgl@appstate.edu

-- **Gabrielle Katz**, BSG Board Member and Student Presentation Awards Coordinator

2010 Student Research Grant Competition

The goal of the Biogeography Specialty Group (BSG) Graduate Student Research Grant competition is to provide partial support for graduate students to conduct quality biogeographic research projects for their master's thesis or doctoral dissertation. The awards are competitive, and proposals are judged individually on the basis of:

- 1) scientific merit of the project, including biogeographic significance of the research question, adequacy and quality of the methods, and originality of the research;
- 2) organization and clarity of the proposal; and,
- 3) qualifications of the student to conduct the proposed work.

Normally, awards are made to one master's student for \$500 and one doctoral student for \$1000 each year, but an additional award may be made if the proposals are exceptional and funds are available. A committee of four to six biogeographers from different institutions will evaluate the proposals. Applications can be downloaded from the BSG website and must be postmarked or electronically delivered (preferred) by **April 1, 2010** to Dr. Amy Hessel at the address below. Formal announcement of the award winners will be made at the BSG Business Meeting at the AAG Annual Meeting in 2011, although award winners will be notified as soon as decisions are made, usually before the 2010 summer field season.

Application Instructions: Each applicant should submit a proposal according to the following format:

1. **Cover sheet**—Please complete and submit the application form (link at <http://www.biogeographer.org>). The form must be signed by the student's advisor (or provide advisor's e-mail address if application is submitted electronically) to certify that the information is correct. You should type the information directly into the cover sheet, and then simply append the following items to the end of this document.
2. **Project description**—This section should contain a clear description of the research objectives, the expected significance, and the research methodology. The text should not exceed two single-spaced pages. Cite only the most relevant publications.

3. **List of cited references.**
4. **Itemized budget**—Note: No salaries or indirect costs are allowed, only direct costs such as travel expenses and essential field supplies. The awards are usually \$1000 for doctoral work and \$500 for master's work.
5. **Budget justification.**
6. **One-page abbreviated curriculum vitae**—Note: In the CV, please *briefly* list past and current funding (both the agency and the dollar amount) that has supported this proposed research. Awards given by the BSG are partially based on demonstration of *need* for BSG funding. Failure to disclose your past and current funding (including funding that may have arrived during this competition) for this research could result in disqualification from this competition.



Proposals must be submitted electronically. Please e-mail the application in any acceptable format (e.g., Microsoft Word (preferred), WordPerfect, PDF, or Rich Text Format) to Amy.Hessl@mail.wvu.edu by April 1, 2010. For more information and to receive the application form, please contact:
 Dr. Amy Hessel
 Associate Professor of Geography
 Department of Geology and Geography
 West Virginia University
 Box 6300
 Morgantown, WV 26501

--Amy Hessel, BSG Board Member and Student Research Grant Coordinator

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News

2010 BSG Board Elections

This winter we will be electing two new BSG Board members, as the two year terms of David Butler and Colin Long will expire, and a new Student Representative to take over for Stockton Maxwell. (Please note that Stockton is eligible for a second one-year term).



Please send nominations for any of these positions (specify which position) to Colin Long at longco@uwosh.edu by **January 31st**.

Elections will take place during February.

-- Colin Long, BSG Board Member and Elections Organizer

2010 AAG Meeting, Washington D.C.

As of November 2009, the Biogeography Specialty Group is sponsoring 26 special sessions at the 2010 national meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Washington D.C. Thanks to all who organized and will participate in these sessions! Please check the BSG website for any updates to the list, and the BSG forum on the AAG website for session chair's contact information.

1. AAG Session Call: Seeing the trees through the buildings, Tenley Conway
2. Advances in Paleoclimatology, Camille A Holmgren
3. BSG Student Competition, Gabrielle L. Katz
4. BSG-CAPE Illustrated Paper Session, Kimberly Medley
5. Dendrochronology Sessions, James H. Speer
6. Eastern Forest Dynamics, David Goldblum
7. Ecological Analysis using Presettlement Land Survey Records, Yi-Chen Wang
8. Ecological and Cultural Perspectives on Biodiversity Conservation, Kimberly Medley
9. Environmental Change in the Western Cordillera, Katrina Moser
10. Environmental Restoration Research, Scott Markwith
11. Environmental Systems of small lakes and ponds, Greg Pope
12. Geospatial methods and applications for biodiversity monitor, Kelley J. O'Neal
13. Graduate Students Reflect on Fieldwork, Danielle Fontaine
14. Illustrated Paper Session: Science and Research Outreach, Sally P. Horn
15. Land Use Change and Watershed Assessment, Xiaojun Yang
16. Landscape Dynamics of Southwestern Savannah and Woodland Communities, James J. Hayes
17. Landscape Today: Contemporary Applications of the Landscape, Michelle Metro-Roland
18. Modeling Species' distribution and movement ISP, Jennifer A. Miller
19. Paleoenvironments of the Circum-Caribbean, Maria Caffrey
20. Poppies, Allison Brown
21. Remote Sensing and GIS Applications in Biogeography, Kirk M Stueve
22. Sedimentary Perspectives on Paleoenvironmental Change, Kevin Spigel
23. Special Session on Repeat Photography, Carol F. Sawyer
24. Thinking beyond climate: Biogeomorphology and biotic drivers of landscape evolution, Paul Eric Reyerson
25. Vegetation Dynamics, Daehyun Kim
26. Wildlife responses to environmental change, Thomas Albright

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Field Note



Master student Serkan Kara from Istanbul University Physical Geography Division, has made a field trip to Uludağ.

Uludağ is located at the NW of Turkey.

Photo 1: Uludağ



His thesis topic is environmental changes in Uludağ (2543 m) during Holocene by using dendrochronology, and is under the supervision of Dr. Meral Avcı, Istanbul University Department of Geography.

In the field trip, landslide, avalanche, and debris in Uludağ are studied.

Increment cores of *Pinus nigra* were taken from south of the massif.

Photo 2: Serkan Kara in Uludağ

For more information, contact: Serkan Kara at email: serkan6734@gmail.com

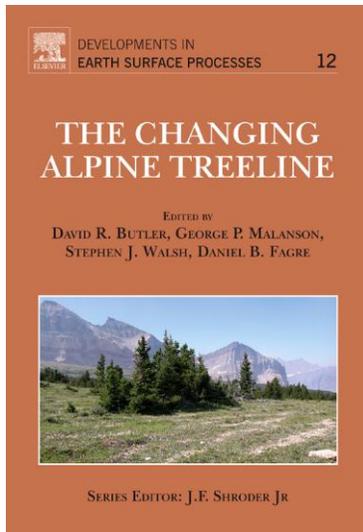
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Recent Publications

Books

Greenwood Guides to Biomes of the World, an 8 volume set, was published in November 2008 by Greenwood Press. **Dr. Susan L. Woodward**, Professor Emerita of Geography at Radford University, served as general editor and authored three of the books: *Introduction to Biomes*, *Grassland Biomes*, and *Marine Biomes*. **Dr. Barbara A. Holzman**, San Francisco State University, wrote the volume *Tropical Forest Biomes*. The other four books in the set, all written by geographers, are *Temperate Forest Biomes*, *Desert Biomes*, *Arctic and Alpine Biomes*, and *Freshwater Aquatic Biomes*. Each book contains descriptions of all major expressions of each biome in its category, world and regional maps, diagrams of vegetation structure, climographs, black and white and color photographs, lists of selected species of plants and animals associated with each expression, and a glossary. Where appropriate, explanatory diagrams of biogeographic, climatic, and ecological processes are provided. The target audience is undergraduate students, but the information is accessible to a wide range of people.





The Changing Alpine Treeline of Glacier National Park, Montana. David R. Butler, George P. Malanson, Stephen J. Walsh, and Daniel B. Fagre, 2009.

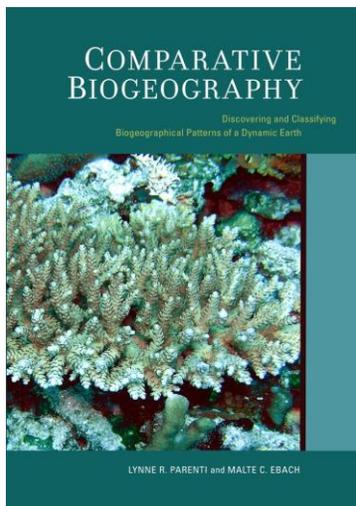
Elsevier, The Netherlands, xxii and 199pp.



Dendrochronology for Geographers
(*Coğrafyacılar İçin Dendrokronoloji*). Meral Avcı, 2007.

Istanbul: Published by Cantay (In Turkish), 16X24, XIX+247 pages, ISBN: 978-975-9060-43-5.

Contents include: fundamentals and history of dendrochronology; taking increment cores; some methods which can be calibrated using dendrochronology; and applications of dendrochronology in physical geography studies.



Comparative Biogeography: Discovering and Classifying Biogeographical Patterns of a Dynamic Earth. Lynne R. Parenti and Malte C. Ebach, 2009. University of California Press, 295 pages, ISBN 978-0-520-25945-4.

Contents broken into three main sections: History and Homology, Methods, and Implementation. Focus is on discovering “patterns in nature and what kinds of information and methods do we use to describe, evaluate, and interpret those patterns and compare them to others, including those of Earth history”.

Articles

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8. Elliott, G. P., and E. R. Larson. 2009. Disturbance and successional dynamics in an old growth white pine-mixed hardwood forest of the Great Lakes Region of Minnesota. *Geographical Bulletin* 50 (1): 17-35.
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Miscellaneous News and Notes

1. **International Symposium on Mediterranean Environments** On behalf of the organizing committee, we are delighted to extend our personal invitation to you to join us in Antalya, Turkey for the GEOMED2010, The 2nd International Geography Symposium- to be held 2-5 June 2010. The meeting is hosted by the Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir- Turkey. The purpose of this symposium is to share your, experiences, knowledge and research results about all aspects of geography, ecology, and environment in general.
Call for abstracts and papers is now open. Abstracts will be accepted until **20 December 2009**. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted to: geomed2010@deu.edu.tr
Be sure to register your details so that we can keep you informed of any developments and announcements as they are released. For further information and updates about the symposium, please visit the Symposium website at: <http://web.deu.edu.tr/geomed2010>. We hope that you will be able to accept our invitation, and join us for what promises to be a most interesting meeting. We look forward to welcoming you in Antalya, Turkey in June 2010.
Best Regards, Prof. Dr. h. c. Ibrahim Atalay, Symposium Chair
2. **Congress for Conservation Biology** The call for individual abstracts is open for the 24th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB), the 2010 meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB). SCB is a international professional organization with more than 10,000 members around the globe (see www.conbio.org for more information). The meeting is being held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (near the beautiful Canadian Rockies) on July 3-7, 2010. The theme of the meeting is "Conservation for a Changing Planet." Because of the focus on environmental change, the meeting will highlight the importance of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to conservation a perfect scenario to highlight the contributions of geographers!
The deadline for abstracts for oral or poster presentations is **January 20, 2010**

Contributions from all fields of conservation research and practice are welcome, including natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. As we head into 2010, SSWG (Social Science Working Group of the SCB) is especially trying to engage conservation scientists (natural and social) in the questions raised by the recent paper "One Hundred Questions of Importance to the Conservation of Global Biological Diversity" (Sutherland et al. 2009, Conservation Biology vol. 23, no. 3, pp. 557-567). This paper is an attempt to identify questions of critical importance to the future of conservation practice and policy, and we are particularly interested in researchers and practitioners who are themselves interested in engaging these questions. Additional information on the meeting, including links to instructions for submitting proposals, is available here: www.conbio.org/2010. If you are interested in participating in the meeting and have additional questions, please contact Rich Wallace, SSWG vice president and program committee chair, at rwallace@ursinus.edu. You may also contact me (Robin Roth) as I am the current geography representative on the SSWG, if you have more questions about the conference. Thank you and I hope to see a good complement of geographers in July 2010!

Dr. Robin Roth, Associate Professor/ Undergraduate Program Director,
Department of Geography, York University
rothr@yorku.ca

3. Please consider adding the **new BSG domain** to your favorite links and promote it on your homepage (www.biogeographer.org)
4. If you're interested in being on the BSG student list-serv, please e-mail the list moderator, Chad Lane, at chad.lane@lawrence.edu.
5. John Kupfer continues to request syllabi online for biogeography courses to be included on the Biogeographer Specialty Group's website, which can be accessed via www.biogeographer.org
6. Geography Compass is a new journal to provide review papers geared toward teaching. Articles are on a commission basis unsolicited papers are also welcomed. Contact George Malanson to learn more or to submit a manuscript. As well, Wiley Blackwell, the publisher, allows all papers downloadable for \$1.99 and the author's university may be eligible for a free one year subscription
7. Professional Geographer is encouraging biogeography submissions, especially from early career faculty and grad students. The journal has increased the number of color images that may be submitted and increased the size format of the journal. Although turnaround time has been very slow, the editors are trying to get articles online sooner. The review time is down to 2.5 months, but the backlog of articles explains the delay between acceptance and publication.

8. Communications among BSG members is usually by email through the AAG's discussion forum. Current instructions to access and post messages on the BSG forum: Login to the AAG website (www.aag.org)
 - Select "My Communities" from the Communities panel (lower right)
 - Select "Global Preferences" to ensure you are actively subscribed to the BSG community and to ensure you are receiving all email messages from the forum (Select "preferences" to receive email messages immediately, daily or weekly)
 - Under "My Communities", select Biogeography Specialty Group
 - Under "Forums", select General Information or Job Announcements to review recently posted messages or to post a new message
 - To post a new message, click on "General Information" and "Create a New Topic" (upper right). From here you can type your message, preview for formatting and then post.

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Submission Guidelines

Submissions to The Biogeographer should be sent directly to the editor as email attachments in one of the following formats: html, MS Word, or RTF (single spaced, 12 pt. Times Roman font). Limit special formatting to bold and italics, ensuring that all links are complete and any subfolders or documents are included. If submitting items for more than one section of the newsletter (news, notes, publications), send each in a separate email with the section identified in the subject line. Bear in mind that your editor generally just cuts and pastes whatever she gets, so please spell-check and proofread your submissions carefully. Submissions should be concise and written in a style consistent with the rest of the newsletter.

Notes and News Items. News items can be personal, departmental, institutional, or simply biogeography-related stories from the press. Notes are intended to convey topical information of interest to the BSG community. Topics for these categories include:

- Research Notes: new projects and progress reports or general research-related ideas and issues.
- Field Notes: recent field work or field trips or retellings of classic tales from the field (embellishments welcome).
- Course Notes: news, announcements, or articles related to teaching biogeography or pedagogical issues affecting the discipline.
- Book Notes: book reviews or announcements.
- Miscellaneous Notes: anything that doesn't fit in any of the other categories.

News items should generally be less than 500 words and notes less than 1500. Please check with the editor before submitting longer items. Images should be sent as separate

files (do not embed them in text documents) following the guidelines below.

Recent Publications

Format bibliographic entries following the Chicago B style used in the Annals. Only publications that have actually appeared in print or online will be listed, so please do not submit in-press items until you have page numbers or a permanent URL.

Images

Photos should be jpeg or png format with a minimum resolution of and no larger than 400 pixels wide or tall. Larger images (up to 800 pixels wide) will be considered if appropriate. Maps and other graphics can be larger if needed for clarity, but in no case should exceed 800 pixels wide. Edit your images to enhance contrast, brightness, and color balance. ([Picasa](#) is a free image organizer that includes basic editing tools that can simplify this task; be sure to use the "Export" command after editing.)

Joy Nystrom Mast, Editor, [The Biogeographer](#)

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