

THE BIOGEOGRAPHER

Newsletter of the Biogeography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers

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BSG Executive Board

Lesley Rigg (President), Northern Illinois University

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President's Column

BSG Chair's Note Fall 2010

I hope everyone has had a great semester. This ended up being a very busy one for me and I am sure it was the same for all of you! Some great news to report is that the Biogeography Specialty Group was successful in acquiring funding for Operation CRETE: fostering Collaborations, expanding Research horizons, and Establishing and Transforming networks for Early career Biogeographers. The National Science Foundation is giving 15 early career Biogeographers travel funding to help them attend the meeting of the International Biogeography Society in January 2010. We received 38 proposals and were impressed with the quality of the applicants. Both the quantity and quality of the applicant pool created a highly competitive evaluation process. We were sorry we could not fund everyone. Thanks to Amy Hessel for organizing the reviewers and running the show. A big thanks also to all the reviewers who volunteered their time – there were a number of you!!!

The funded travelers are:

Early Career Faculty and Post-Docs:

Dr. Thomas Albright, University of Nevada, Reno
Dr. Jennifer Miller, University of Texas at Austin
Dr. Rosemary Sheriff, Humboldt State University
Dr. Evan Economo, Post-Doc, University of Michigan
Dr. Jonathan Belmaker, Post-Doc, Yale University
Dr. Alison Boyer, Post-Doc, Yale University

Early Career Students:

Katherine Behrman, University of Texas at Austin
Jacquelyn Gill, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Jesse Lasky, University of Texas at Austin
Shannon, McCarragher, Northern Illinois University
Cory Merow, University of Connecticut
Jesse Morris, University of Utah
Eimy Rivas Plata, The Field Museum, Chicago
Julio Postigo, University of Texas at Austin
Julie Tuttle, University of North Carolina
Rebecca Swab, University of California Riverside (who while, still going to the meeting, gracefully declined the funding allowing us to add another student – we appreciate your generosity Rebecca!)

I will be attending the meeting and look forward to meeting the award winners, seeing their posters or presentations, and learning more about their work. We will report back in the spring newsletter. Have a wonderful winter break.

Lesley



-- Lesley Rigg, BSG President, 2009-11

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Graduate Student Representative Column

Hello fellow biogeographers, I am your new graduate student representative for the Biogeography Specialty Group for 2010-2011. My thanks go out to Stockton Maxwell for his service as last year's representative. Just as with Stockton and the student representatives before him, if any of you ever have any inquiries, comments, or suggestions please contact me at bhutaaa@vt.edu. If you contact me, please type out "BSG student" in the subject line, so I know it is in nature to the Biogeography Specialty Group.

As for me, I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Geospatial and Environmental Analysis program (Department of Geography) in the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech. My research interests are in the biogeography of southeastern forests of North America. For my dissertation, I am focusing on aspects in dendrochronology and forest community ecology of Piedmont and montane longleaf pine ecosystems. Additionally, as a physical scientist, I am working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on terrestrial and aerial lidar research in these forests and those in the Sierra Nevada of California.

Of interests to both graduate and undergraduate students, I have organized a panel session for the 2011 meeting in Seattle, WA, which by coincidence pairs with the President's Column in the November 2010 AAG newsletter. You can check it out in the copy you received in the mail or at the following link:

http://www.aag.org/galleries/newsletter-files/Nov_NL_2010_REVISED.pdf

The session title is "What can you do with Biogeography? A panel of professionals answers your questions" and the abstract (see below) describes it all. The session will have five or six biogeographers who work in these areas and can offer their perspectives. The session will rely on biogeography graduate student participation, so please have plenty of questions to ask the panel. Please get the word out to both graduate and undergraduate students. Here is the abstract:

"Biogeography? So what are you going to do with that?" Does this question sound familiar? Perhaps it has been posed to you on more than one occasion from a family member, a well-intentioned friend, or a complete stranger after they hear that you are studying biogeography. While we have chosen this field because we find it interesting, at some point you will wonder: "Well, when I am a biogeographer, what AM I going to do for a career?" To help you find some answers, this session will feature a panel of professionals whose careers are intertwined with biogeography. Panelists hail from academia, the public sector, non-profits, and non-governmental organizations. Each panelist provides a different viewpoint and different experience on: 1) how biogeography helped to shape their career, 2) employment opportunities in biogeography, 3) future career trends in biogeography, and 4) identifying possible career paths. Set up as a panel session, attendees will have the opportunity to pose their own questions to panelists, direct discussion to specific topics of interest, and learn about what biogeography has to offer.

Also, I have created a Facebook page for the Biogeography Specialty Group. You can get to it using this address:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=141655989204924&v=info>

If you are on Facebook, but haven't already joined, please do so and spread the word to other folks who could be interested. So far we have 116 members, but I'm sure there are more people out there who don't know about the Facebook page. If you have any Biogeography Specialty Group news, information, discussions, photos, videos, or events you would like to post please feel free to do so.

Regards and Happy Holidays to everyone!



-- Arvind Bhuta, BSG Graduate Student
Representative 2010-11

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Awards and Competitions

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

Please consider nominating deserving colleagues for the 2010 Henry Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication or the James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award. The Cowles Award honors the best paper or book published in biogeography each year. The Parsons Award, named in honor of the 20th century biogeographer and cultural geographer Jim Parsons, is awarded to recognize the careers and contributions of distinguished biogeographers.

To submit a nomination for the Cowles Award, please simply send the name of the person you are nominating, along with the name of their paper or book that **was published in 2010**. A *.pdf file of the nominated work as an attachment would also be appreciated.

To nominate a person for the Parsons Award, send a short letter of nomination stating some of the candidate's most significant achievements.

The nomination deadline for both awards is **February 1, 2011**. Information can be submitted via snail mail, email (strongly preferred!) or fax to:

Dr. Lynn M. Resler
Virginia Tech
Department of Geography (0115)
115 Major Williams Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061, U.S.A.
E-mail: resler@vt.edu, Phone: 540-231-5790, Fax: 540-231-2098

Thank you for taking the time to recognize important contributions to the field of biogeography.



-- Lynn Resler, BSG Board Member and Awards Organizer

2011 BSG Board Elections

Call for Nominations: 2010 BSG Board Elections

This winter we will be electing four positions. We will be electing two new BSG Board members to take the place of several outgoing members executive board members Gabrielle Katz and Amy Hessel. Additionally, Leslie Rigg's term as President of the BSG is set to expire this year as well. The student representative position on the board is also open for nominations (note: Arvind Bhuta is not eligible to serve a second term since he is graduating). Service of the executive board members and the president lasts two years and that of the student representative one year.

Please send nominations for any of these positions (specifying the position of interest) to Kurt Kipfmüller at kurt@umn.edu no later than January 31, 2011. Elections results will be determined during February 2011.



-- Kurt Kipfmüller, BSG Board Member and Elections Organizer

2011 Student Presentation Awards, National AAG Meeting

The Biogeography Specialty Group is sponsoring two student paper competitions (Undergraduate/Master's and Ph.D. levels) at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Seattle. We had a great response to the call for participation, with nine papers entered into the Undergraduate/Master's competition, and seven into the PhD competition. These papers will be organized into four BSG sponsored special paper presentation sessions! Please consider attending these sessions, which will highlight the diversity of research being conducted by student members of BSG.

The next step is to identify volunteers to judge the competitions. We need 3-4 judges per session, and would especially appreciate judges who could commit to attending both sessions at their competition level (Undergraduate/Master's and Ph.D. levels). I will send out a call for judges closer to the meeting date, but feel free to contact me sooner to volunteer if you wish (katzgl@appstate.edu). 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.



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

2011 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.*

Each applicant must be a student member of the AAG, and the proposed project should be part of her/his thesis or dissertation research. Students may join the AAG now and become eligible for the grants competition if not already a student member. 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 must be postmarked or electronically delivered (preferred) by **April 1, 2011** 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 2012, although award winners will be notified as soon as decisions are made, usually before the 2011 summer field season.



For more information please contact:

Dr. Amy Hessl
Associate Professor of Geography
Department of Geology and Geography
West Virginia University, Box 6300
Morgantown, WV 26501
Amy.Hessl@mail.wvu.edu

--**Amy Hessl**, BSG Board Member and Student Research Grant Coordinator

Graduate Student Research Grant Application Instructions:

Name all application files with your last name first. Each applicant should submit a proposal according to the following format:

1. **Cover sheet**—Please complete and submit the application form on the next page. 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. Please name all files beginning with your last name (i.e. Hessl_CV.docx).

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BSG Sponsored Sessions and Workshops, 2011 AAG, Seattle

The Biogeography Specialty Group will sponsor the special sessions at the 2011 national meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Seattle, WA. Thanks to all who organized and will participate in these sessions. Here is a preliminary list:

1) The Cultivation and Conservation of Biological Diversity

Emma Gaalaas Mullaney, Department of Geography, Pennsylvania State University

2) Vegetation Dynamics of the Southwestern US . James Hayes,

james.hayes@csun.edu

3) Restoration Session. Chaired by Dean Monette and Scott Markwith at Florida Atlantic University.

4) Vegetation Dynamics. Organizers: William Flatley and Adam Naito, Texas A&M University.

5) Reconstructions of Paleoenvironments and Past Human- Environment

Interactions Michelle Goman (Cornell University; mg254@cornell.edu) and Catherine Yansa (Michigan State University; yansa@msu.edu) are co-organizing the session.

6) Ecological Analysis using Historical Records. Yi-Chen Wang (geowyc@nus.edu.sg) or Barry Kronenfeld (bkronenf@gmu.edu)

7) Paleoenvironments and climate change in western North America: Lessons from the past, prospects for the future. Jesse Morris (jesse.morris@geog.utah.edu) or David Porinchu (porinchu.1@osu.edu)

8) Dendrochronology Sessions Dendrochronological Applications

Dendroclimatology (co-organizer, Henri Grissino-Mayer), Dendroecology (co-organizer, Saskia van de Gevel) , Dendrogeomorphology, Dendropyrochronology (co-organizer, Stockton Maxwell), Research from the North American Dendroecological Fieldweek (co-organizer, Neil Toth), Stable Isotopes (co-organized by Trevor Porter and Shelly Rayback)

9) ***NSF IGERT, GK-12, REU, and PIRE Grants: Strategies for Successful Proposals and Projects That Can Boost Your Research and Strengthen Your Department.*** Sally Horn and Henri Grissino-Mayer

10) ***Teaching Tree Rings: Ideas for K-12 Outreach and Undergraduate Education.*** Sally Horn and Henri Grissino-Mayer

11) **Modeling species' distribution/range or movement.** Jennifer Miller, jennifer.miller@austin.utex.as.edu

12) **Urban Forests: patterns and drivers.** Adam Berland (University of Minnesota), Tenley Conway (University of Toronto-Mississauga), Andrew Millward (Ryerson Univ.)

13) **feedbacks & synergisms: mechanisms driving novel ecosystems in the context of changes in climate, land-cover, and land-use.** Organizers: Andres Holz (holz@colorado.edu) or Juan Paritsis (paritsis@colorado.edu).

14) **Genetics and Biogeography.** Organizers: Scott Markwith, Florida Atlantic University, Kathleen Parker, University of Georgia.

15) The BSG is sponsoring **two student paper competitions sessions** (Undergraduate/Master's and PhD). Organizer: Gabrielle Katz at katzgl@appstate.edu

16) **Earth, Fire, and Water: Land-Use Change Effects on Biogeochemical Cycling:** Kathleen Farley, San Diego State University and Alexandra Ponette-González, University of Texas at Austin

17) **Monitoring landscape-scale disturbance and recovery with remote sensing.** Kirsten Barrett, US Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center, kbarrett@usgs.gov

18) **Climate change: Drivers, consequences, and effects on ecosystem functioning.** Organizer: Kelley J. O'Neal.

Workshops at 2011 AAG Meeting in Seattle:

Thursday, April 14

Soil Water Content Measurement Methods and Field Applications

Thursday, April 14, 8:00am – 9:40am

Instructors: Colin Campbell, Doug Cobos, Decagon Devices, Washington State University

Organizers: Lauren Bissey, Ashley Fickenwirth, Decagon Devices, Inc.

Workshop Capacity: 30

Cost/person: Free

Room: Capitol Hill

Decagon Devices, in conjunction with the Biogeography Specialty Group, will give an overview of soil water content measurements, including the theory behind the measurement and appropriate methods for different types of field research. Drs. Campbell and Cobos will give an overview of the main measurement techniques, including gravimetric sampling, dielectric methods including TDR, TDT, and FDR/capacitance, neutron probe, and dual needle heat pulse. Participants in the seminar will gain an understanding of the fundamentals behind each of the methods and in what situation each may apply. The practicum section of the workshop includes sensor calibration and interpreting TDR traces.

Measurement Methods for Plants and Canopies

Thursday, April 14, 10:00am – 11:40am

Instructors: Colin Campbell, Doug Cobos, Decagon Devices, Washington State University

Organizers: Lauren Bissey, Ashley Fickenwirth, Decagon Devices, Inc.

Workshop Capacity: 30

Cost/person: Free

Room: Capitol Hill

Decagon Devices, in conjunction with the Biogeography Specialty Group, will give an overview of light interception measurements at leaf, plant, and canopy scales. Radiation capture in plant canopies is closely tied to biomass production as well as energy partitioning. Light interception can also be used to determine leaf area index. Data collected using these measurement methods can be used in determining a variety of canopy cover values. Drs. Campbell and Cobos will discuss leaf area index, radiation balance, and transmission coefficients. The practicum session of this workshop includes measurements of intercepted PAR and leaf area index.

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Recent Publications

Books



Fundamentals of Tree Ring Research

[James H. Speer](#)

368 pp. / 7.0 x 10.0 / 2010

Cloth (978-0-8165-2684-0)

\$59.99

Tree-ring dating (dendrochronology) is a method of scientific dating based on the analysis of tree-ring growth patterns. As author James Speer notes, trees are remarkable bioindicators. Although there are other scientific means of dating climatic and environmental events, dendrochronology provides the most reliable of all paleorecords. Dendrochronology can be applied to very old trees to provide long-term records of past temperature, rainfall, fire, insect outbreaks, landslides, hurricanes, and ice storms—to name only a few events.

This comprehensive text addresses all of the subjects that a reader who is new to the field will need to know and will be a welcome reference for practitioners at all levels. It includes a history of the discipline, biological and ecological background, principles of the field, basic scientific information on the structure and growth of trees, the complete range of dendrochronology methods, and a full description of each of the relevant subdisciplines.

Individual chapters address the composition of wood, methods of field and laboratory study, dendroarchaeology, dendroclimatology, dendroecology, dendrogeomorphology, and dendrochemistry. The book also provides thorough introductions to common computer programs and methods of statistical analysis. In the final chapter, the author describes “frontiers in dendrochronology,” with an eye toward future directions in the field. He concludes with several useful appendixes, including a listing of tree and shrub species that have been used successfully by dendrochronologists. Throughout, photographs and illustrations visually represent the state of knowledge in the field.

Recent Publications

Articles:

- Davidson, J. E.**, D. D. Breshears, W. J. D. Van Leeuwen, G. M. Casady. 2011. Remotely sensed vegetation phenology and productivity along a climatic gradient: on the value of incorporating the dimension of woody plant cover. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 20: 101-113.
- Elliott, G.P.** 2011. Influences of 20th-century warming at the upper tree line contingent on local-scale interactions: Evidence from a latitudinal gradient in the Rocky Mountains, USA. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 20:46-57.
- Giri, C.**, E. Ochieng, L. L. Tieszen, Z. Zhu, A. Singh, T. Loveland, J. Masek, N. Duke. 2011. Status and distribution of mangrove forests of the world using earth observation satellite data. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 20: 154-159.
- Stueve, K.**, D. Cerney, R. Rochefort, and L. Kurth. 2009. Post-fire tree establishment patterns at the alpine treeline ecotone: Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, USA. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 20(1): 107-120.
- Stueve, K.**, R. Isaacs, L. Tyrrell, and R. Densmore. 2010. The spatial variability of biotic and abiotic tree establishment constraints across a treeline ecotone in the Alaska Range. *Ecology* DOI: 10.1890/09-1725.1.
- Kaye1, M.W., **C. A. Woodhouse**, S. T. Jackson. 2010. Persistence and expansion of ponderosa pine woodlands in the west-central Great Plains during the past two centuries *Journal of Biogeography* 37 (9): 1668-1683.
- Ziegler, S. S.** 2010. The past and future of the white pine forest in the Great Lakes region. *Geography Compass* 4 (9): 1179-1202.

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News and Notes

1. John Kupfer has converted back issues of The Biogeographer into pdf format, and poster them on the BSG website (www.biogeographer.org).
2. Please consider adding the **new BSG domain** to your favorite links and promote it on your homepage (www.biogeographer.org)
3. 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.
4. John Kupfer is presently managing the BSG website, www.biogeographer.org. If you have links (or other materials), send up to 2-3 pages to John, including syllabi for biogeography courses. If there is anything for any of these areas, contact John at KUPFER@mailbox.sc.edu
5. 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).
6. **OPERATION CRETE. The International Biogeography Conference will be held in Crete, Greece from January 7-11, 2011.**



It is anticipated that there will be over 400 attendees. The BSG Board obtained NSF funding to partially support 15 graduate students, post-docs and pre-tenured faculty in the BSG at the IBS Conference in Crete. Lesley Rigg thanks board members David Butler, Amy Hessler, Gabrielle Katz, Colin Long, Stockton Maxwell, Taly Drezner, and Joy Nystrom Mast, and BSG members and former BSG Board members Joy Wolf, David Goldblum, Duane Griffin, John Kupfer and Ken Young for their assistance. Lesley also thanks IBS Secretary and BSG Liaison Jack Williams.

7. Conference announcement:

The 42nd Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium (BGS) will be held on the University of South Alabama campus in Mobile, Alabama on October 21 – 23, 2011. The 2011 symposium's topic is "Zoogeomorphology and Ecosystem Engineering". The primary goal of the 2011 BGS is to bring researchers studying animals as ecosystem engineers and as geomorphic agents (i.e. zoogeomorphology) together, to increase awareness between the two disciplines of geomorphology and ecology, and to increase future cooperation among researchers involved in examining the role animals play in sculpting the face of the Earth. A secondary goal of the conference is to disseminate the research of zoogeomorphology and ecosystem engineering to all geomorphologists, biogeographers, and ecologists. Therefore, we would like to encourage all biogeographers to consider attending the symposium.

A call for posters will be sent out in late spring 2011. We encourage presentation of posters related to the Symposium theme; however, all posters related to geomorphology and biogeomorphology are welcome. Students are especially encouraged to present their geomorphology-related research. Details on poster formats and abstract submission instructions will be available on the 2011 BGS website June 1, 2011. The conference organizers would like to reach out to all biogeographers to consider presenting their research that overlaps the biogeography and geomorphology disciplines.

Information regarding the conference, including the invited speakers and a tentative schedule, can be found at:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/geography/sawyer/2011Bing.html>.

The symposium's organizers are David R. Butler (Texas State University-San Marcos) and Carol F. Sawyer (University of South Alabama). If you have questions regarding the conference please feel free to contact Dave at db25@txstate.edu or Carol at sawyer@usouthal.edu

Historic Note: *Original By-laws of the BSG*

Biogeography

Approved May, 1983

The Biogeography Specialty Group has been established to actively promote the interests and development of biogeography and biogeographers within the Association of American Geographers. The BSG acknowledges the “Administrative and Operational Procedures for Specialty Groups” as its principal governing document, but wishes to further specify certain governing procedures, as follows:

Article I Officers

1. The BSG will be administered by a board of five officers, including a chairperson, a secretary-treasurer, and three directors. Each officer will be elected and serve a two-year term. The terms of office will begin and end as follows:

Chairperson.....from June 1 to May 31 of odd years
Secretary-Treasurer.....from June 1 to May 31 of even years
First Director.....from June 1 to May 31 of odd years
Second Director.....from June 1 to May 31 of odd years
Third Director.....from June 1 to May 31 of even years

- 2-a Nominations for office will be made by a nominating committee composed of one or more members of the board of directors, as determined annually by the members of the board.
 - b Nominations must have the prior approval of the nominee.
 - c Multiple nominations, not exceeding three, will be made for each office to be filled. In odd years, when two directors will be elected, one set of nominations, not to exceed six, will be made for the director positions.
 - d Nominations will be completed no later than January 31 of each year.
- 3-a Elections will be conducted by mail ballot.
 - b Ballots will be sent to members of the Specialty Group at least one month before the annual business meeting.
 - c Election will be by a plurality of the vote when three candidates are nominated for an office. When, in odd years, two directors are to be elected from a single pool of nominees, electors may vote for two nominees, without indication of preference, and the nominees receiving the largest and next to largest number of votes will be elected.

Article II Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the BSG will be held at the time and place of the AAG annual meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR THE FORMATION AND FUNCTIONING OF SPECIALTY GROUPS (April 1994)

1. As provided in Article VII of AAG bylaws, the Association of American Geographers will recognize Groups of its members who share a common substantive interest in a systematic/topical specialty or in a major region.
2. The objectives of a Group might include, but are not restricted to, the organization of sessions and/or workshops for national and/or regional meetings; organization of other seminars, symposia, and conferences; development of proposals for funding; publication of a regular newsletter; and other publications.
3. The first step toward the formation of a Specialty Group will be a petition, signed by a least fifty members in good standing of the Association, requesting that a prospective Group be listed on the annual membership renewal form. The petition must be received by the Executive Director on or before 15 June. The Specialty Group is expected to grow from the original 50 members to no fewer than 100 after three years.
4. Each newly recognized Specialty Group will hold an organizational meeting during the next annual meeting of the Association. The organizational meeting will be chaired by a member of the Program Committee until the Specialty Group has elected its own officers.
5. Each Specialty Group will elect officers with defined terms and limits on the number of consecutive terms. Normally, a Specialty Group Board will consist of a Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, and two to five Directors. Normally, officers should serve two-year terms and the Chair should serve no more than two consecutive terms. All officers must be regular AAG members. Student representation on Specialty Group Boards is encouraged.
6. *An annual report from each Specialty Group is due within one month of the conclusion of the AAG annual meeting. If a change of officers occurs at the annual meeting, the outgoing chair is responsible for submitting the report.* It should describe the Specialty Group's activities for the previous year and its goals for the coming year. It must also include financial information as required in Standing Rule 2. Specialty Group reports will be reviewed by the AAG's National Councilors, who will transmit to the AAG Council any recommendations they wish to make on the basis of the Specialty Group reports.
7. Each Specialty Group is expected to meet annually. Annual meeting Program Committees will schedule a business meeting for each Specialty Group during the Association's annual meeting.
8. Each Specialty Group is expected to organize at least one session or workshop at each annual meeting of the Association, subject to scheduling by the meeting Program Committee, which retains final responsibility for the program of the meeting.
9. Annual meeting Program Committees will group papers submitted directly to it into sessions. At its discretion, a Program Committee may request the papers submitted to it be included in Specialty Group sessions.

10. Specialty Group awards should be approved by the AAG Council. Specialty Group awards may be conferred at the Association's annual awards ceremony or at Specialty Group business meetings at the discretion of each group.
11. The AAG Office will list all active and prospective Specialty Groups on the membership renewal form each year. Each AAG member may join as many Specialty Groups as he or she wishes by paying the dues each Specialty Group has established.
12. Specialty Groups with one hundred or more members will be considered active. A Specialty Group with fewer than one hundred members in a given three years from its first year (or from 1993 for those groups originating before that time) to attract at least 100 members, merge with another group, or be declared inactive.
13. When a Specialty Group is declared inactive the AAG Secretary will notify the Specialty Group's chair of the Council's section.
14. The AAG Office will collect Specialty Group dues of at least \$1.00 as part of the annual AAG membership renewal process. Each Specialty Group may set its dues higher than the \$1.00 minimum, if it wishes. Student dues may be \$0.00.
15. The AAG Office will send each Specialty Group chair a disk of the group's members as of 15 February each year. The dues collected to 15 February will be disbursed to the Specialty Group's bank account. If bank information is not available, dues will be held until the next payment date, after which they will revert to the AAG general fund. Supplemental updates and payments for members who join the Association or renew their memberships after 15 February will be made as of 15 May and 31 December.
16. The AAG Office will include a list of all Specialty Groups with annual renewal forms and membership applications.
17. A Specialty Group is entitled to one-third of indirect costs the AAG receives from grants originating from the Specialty Group.
18. Specialty Groups organizing workshops at annual meetings will receive a share of the revenues. The Association will receive 3% of gross income as a handling fee. Net income will be shared 80/20, 80% to the SG and 20% to the Association. Specialty Groups will be responsible for the content of workshops they sponsor. All workshop participants must register for the annual meeting at which the workshops are held. AAG may cancel any workshop for which registration is insufficient to meet expenses.
19. Annual meeting field trips organized by Specialty Groups to bring non-United States and Canadian non-geographers to participate in each annual meeting as its guests; they may do so at member registration rates.
20. The Council encourages Specialty Groups to bring non-United States and Canadian non-geographers to participate in each annual meeting as its guests; they may do so at member registration rates.
21. Non-geographers and foreign geographers residing outside the United States and Canada may join Specialty Groups as Corresponding Members without joining the AAG. Annual dues will be collected by the Specialty Group (normally, by its Treasurer). Geographers

resident in the United States and Canada must be AAG members to join Specialty Groups.

22. Each Specialty Group is entitled to a reasonable number of sets of mailing labels, or a disk of its members' names and addresses annually. Requests should be directed to the AAG membership coordinator.

STANDING RULES FOR SPECIALTY GROUPS

April 1993

(Rules MUST be followed by Specialty Groups. They pertain to matters with financial and legal implications.)

Finances

1. A separate financial account must be established and the name of the account should include the name of group (e.g. Joe Doe, Specialty Group on Geography). Money orders or bank checks should be used for disbursements from accounts without checking privileges. Funds must not be commingled with the personal funds of an officer.
2. The annual report of each Specialty Group must include the name, account number, and bank where group's account is held. Groups whose fund-management procedures do not conform to AAG requirements will be notified and will be required to come into compliance to receive dues.
3. Officers of the Specialty Group must notify the AAG Office immediately if either gross assets or annual income exceed \$10,000.

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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. 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

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 400 pixels wide or tall. Edit your images to enhance contrast, brightness, and color balance



--- Joy Nystrom Mast, Editor, *The Biogeographer*

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