

THE BIOGEOGRAPHER

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

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BSG Executive Board

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Grant Elliott, University of Missouri
Curt Holder, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
Evan Larson, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Justin Hart, University of Alabama
Jeremy Johnson, Student Representative, Texas A&M University
Taly Drezner (Secretary-Treasurer), York University

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President's Column

-- Lynn Resler, BSG President, 2013-15



Dear Biogeographers:

Thanks to all of you who attended the 2014 Annual Biogeography Specialty Group business meeting in Tampa, Florida. It was a great year for sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by the BSG. In total, there were 32 sessions, many of which were sponsored by students – the future of our discipline. Our group co-authored sessions with several other AAG specialty groups including the Paleoenvironmental Change SG, Climate Change SG, Mountain Geography SG, and Human Dimensions of Global Change SGs. The great diversity of sessions and topics is testament to the impressive breadth of research conducted by biogeographers. Let's try to beat the number of sessions we

organize next year!

For those who could not attend, I would like to share some of the topics that emerged at this year's Annual meeting. First, I just wanted to remind you all of our primary methods of outreach and communication among BSG members. In addition to this newsletter, which is posted in the Spring

and Fall of every year, we have two primary methods of posting announcements and engaging in conversation over the Internet.

AAG Knowledge Communities: All current (dues up to date) BSG members are able to post and receive messages from the BSG through the AAG Knowledge Communities. I realize how cryptic the AAG website is. So, to access your communities, first log in to the AAG website using your AAG username and password, and then click “My Communities”, and the BSG should be listed. From here, you can post, access recent postings, engage in discussions, and view Annual Reports.



(left: Knowledge community page from AAG website. Right: Facebook site)

The second method of communication is through the social media site, Facebook. For the Baby Boomers and Gen Xers of the group, to join the Facebook site, you must be a member of Facebook. To find the BSG site, search for Association of American Geographers, Biogeography Specialty Group.

Please remember that Discussions may differ between sites, but that we do our best to post announcements for special sessions, award and grant competitions and job advertisements to both outlets.

To access general information about our group, and to read past editions of *The Biogeographer*, the BSG also has a website: <http://www.biogeographer.org/>, which is kindly maintained by John Kupfer at the University of South Carolina.

Another important and re-emerging topic of discussion was membership. As you may know, recent trends in membership, and thus our budget are down. We discussed many possibilities of how to proceed, including raising dues, fundraising, and cutting out monetary awards for student presentations. In general, we agreed on the need to gather more information about our group, before we can make meaningful decisions. Therefore, please be on the lookout later this summer for a BSG survey aimed to capture some of the demographics of our group, and general sentiments about raising dues and student presentations, to be posted both on Facebook and to the Knowledge Communities site. Hopefully, this survey will help us reach out to a larger audience and gather some clear information about how to keep our membership strong and our budget sustainable. As always, feel free to send me your input and ideas via email (resler@vt.edu).

Thanks for your continued support for the BSG. I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer!

Kind regards,
Lynn Resler, BSG President 2014-2015

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Graduate Student Representative Column

-- Jeremy Johnson, BSG Graduate Student Representative 2013-14



Howdy biogeographers!

I know most of us are looking forward to the summer, and a few months filled with field work, writing, and hopefully a little down time. Many of you know that one of the goals of the graduate student representative is to organize and chair a special session geared towards the student members of the Biogeography Specialty Group (BSG). For me, deciding on a topic for this year's conference was an instructive process. First, I had a few conversations with the BSG board and my colleagues at Texas A&M

University to identify what broadly relevant topic should be covered. In the past there have been panels on academic publishing, advocacy in biogeographic science, succeeding as a biogeographer, and successfully conducting field work, to mention a few. These panel topics inspired me to think about my experiences as a biogeographer, and to identify a topic that would largely apply to many young researchers. I began to read some of the old presidential addresses to the AAG and found Thomas Baerwald's 2010 address "Prospects for Geography as an Interdisciplinary Discipline". One point that stuck with me was the idea that geographers have the ability to, and frequently do, conduct research on the periphery of the field, allowing a wide range of interdisciplinary research to occur. My doctoral research is very interdisciplinary and I have run into many challenges along the way. Because of Dr Baerwald's column, and my personal experiences I decided that addressing interdisciplinary research specific to biogeography would be a useful undertaking. So, this year in Tampa, I organized a panel session titled "Conducting Interdisciplinary Research in Biogeography: Practicalities and Pitfalls". I invited five well respected researchers who actively conduct interdisciplinary work in biogeography to discuss their experiences and research. Panelists were Scott Markwith from Florida Atlantic University, Lesley Rigg from Northern Illinois University, Alexandra Ponette- González from the University of North Texas, Sally Horn from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, and John Kupfer from the University of South Carolina. The panel discussed a wide variety of topics, including how to build an interdisciplinary team, communication challenges, authorship concerns, and choosing a publication outlet. This year we were fortunate to receive a good time slot for the panel and we had a great turnout, approximately 30 attendees. Thank you to all of the panelists as well as the attendees who participated and helped to create a lively discussion.

Thank you also for allowing me to serve as the BSG's student representative for the last year. The experience has been very rewarding. Finally, I would like to introduce to you your newly elected graduate student representative Amanda Young. Amanda is a PhD candidate at Penn State University studying treeline ecology in the Japanese Alps. Good Luck, Amanda! If you have any suggestions or ideas concerning future BSG graduate student activities please feel free to contact me through the summer (jsjohnson@tamu.edu) or Amanda (aby113@psu.edu) as she begins her work with the BSG.

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Awards and Competitions

--Justin Hart, BSG board member and awards organizer



On behalf of the BSG board, thank you to everyone that submitted nominations for the Cowles and Parsons awards. Reading nominations for the Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication was an enjoyable experience and I was excited to learn of recent papers outside of my narrow focus in biogeography, including papers that I now plan to assign in my courses. We were also grateful for the opportunity to read the nomination packet for the Parsons Distinguished Career Award. For me it was particularly rewarding as I could echo the high praise for such a wonderful scientist and mentor.

Henry C. Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication in Biogeography



Charles Lafon accepting the Cowles Award

Carissa Wonkka, Charles Lafon, Craig Hutton, and Audrey Joslin. 2013. A CSR classification of tree life history strategies and implications for ice storm damage. *Oikos* 122: 209–222.

Abstract. Differences in life history strategy influence the ecological roles of plant species, including their susceptibility to disturbance events.

According to Grime's CSR model, plants exhibit three primary strategies, which reflect tradeoffs between stress and disturbance. Here we classify

eastern North American tree species into life history strategies on the basis of the CSR model. Then, using data on ice storm damage to trees, we investigate how the level of damage varied among the different CSR categories. We used tree damage data for almost 2000 individual trees representing 30 species collected during two ice storms in the Appalachian Mountains. We augmented the study with ice damage data gleaned from nine published ice-storm studies containing over 30,000 individuals representing 22 species. The trees we identified as stress-tolerators (S) consistently sustained less damage than the other species. This finding matches the stress-tolerant strategy: damage-resistance is imperative for the persistence of trees that exhibit slow growth, low reproductive capacity and long lifespan. Our analyses also suggest that competitors (C) suffer widespread damage, particularly branch breakage, but experience low mortality. This pattern likely reflects features of the competitive strategy, such as wood strength and canopy form, which preclude resistance to damage but facilitate rapid recovery. The ice damage datasets did not contain trees that we classified as ruderals (R). Competitive ruderals (C-R) and stress-tolerant ruderals (S-R), however, sustained heavy damage and high mortality, consistent with low investment in tree defense and a prioritization of reproduction. Our analyses suggest the usefulness of the CSR model for interpreting forest dynamics and understanding the implications of tree life-history strategies for forest disturbance responses.

James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award

Sally P. Horn, University of Tennessee



After the award was presented to Sally, Charles Lafon (Texas A&M) read highlights from her nomination packet that demonstrated her reach and impact on the discipline. Chad Lane (University of North Carolina-Wilmington) then spoke from the heart to illustrate the influence that Sally has had in his life and that of others. He also recounted some funny Sally stories. Sally's accomplishments are far too numerous to list here, but some of the more notable ones are included below. In her 28-year career at the University of

Tennessee, Sally has received \$6.5 million in grant funding for her research and teaching from organizations such as the National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society, and Andrew Mellon Foundation. She has authored or co-authored over 120 publications in peer-reviewed journals and those articles have been cited 1790 times. Among her prior awards, Sally received the Carl. O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award in 2002 and was appointed a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2003.

Congratulations to the award recipients!

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2014 BSG Board Elections



-- **Curt Holder**, BSG Board Member and Elections Organizer

On behalf of the BSG Specialty Group, I am pleased to announce the newly elected members of the BSG Executive Board:

Executive Board Members (Two-year term)

Student Representative (One-year term)



Carissa Brown, Memorial
University of Newfoundland



Joy Fritschle, West Chester
University of Pennsylvania



Amanda Young, Pennsylvania
State University

Please join me in welcoming our newly elected board members. Also, thanks to all who were willing to run for election and volunteer their time to the BSG. There were 44 voters this year, with four candidates running for the executive board and three candidates for student representative. Please join me in thanking the outgoing board members (Jeremy Johnson and Evan Larson) for their service to BSG. It was a pleasure to serve on the BSG Board the past two years, and I wish the BSG continued success.

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Graduate Student Presentation Awards

-- Evan Larson, BSG Board Member and Student Presentation Awards Coordinator



The BSG Student Paper Competition at the 2014 AAG meeting in Tampa included a number of very strong presentations. In particular, the judges across the board commented on the extremely high-quality of the Master's paper competition. At this time I would like to extend my thanks to all of the presenters who took part in the competition as well as the judges who helped evaluate the presentations. It is my pleasure to announce the winners of the 2014 BSG Student Paper Competitions.

Sarah Quann (Carleton University) won the M.S. Student Paper Competition for her paper *A dendroclimatological investigation of the divergence problem using white spruce (*Picea glauca*), Northwest Territories, Canada*. Judges commented on Sarah's poise in presenting her research and in the new insights it provided into one of the most important issues related to tree-ring-based temperature reconstructions.

Daryn Hardwick (The University of Oklahoma) won the Ph.D. Student Paper Competition for his paper *Minnesota trees under future climate change scenarios by the year 2100: a test of two models*. Judges commented that Daryn's research was well presented with clear objectives and compelling results. Congratulations to both Sarah and Daryn!



M.S. Paper Competition Winner: Sarah Quann, M.S. Candidate in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University

Title: A dendroclimatological investigation of the divergence problem using white spruce (*Picea glauca*), Northwest Territories, Canada

Abstract: In the past few decades, it has been observed that some northern tree ring chronologies developed using ring width measurements have exhibited reduced sensitivity and coherence with summer temperature during the 20th century. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as the divergence problem and is concerning because tree-ring based climate reconstructions from northern forests are often included in global climate and carbon cycling models. Chronologies that include tree ring growth records affected by divergence could impact the results of the modeling. While divergence has been widely identified in studies measuring the annual ring-width of northern trees, it is unclear if other tree ring indices such as maximum latewood density are similarly impacted. The objectives of this research are (1) to develop a ~1000 year maximum density chronology, (2) test if this chronology is impacted by the divergence problem, and (3) to create a "divergence free" climate reconstruction using maximum density measurements. A regional maximum density chronology was produced using x-ray densitometry on >200 living and sub-fossil white spruce samples collected from high northern latitude sites. These measurements were combined with density measurements from a pre-existing white spruce chronology to develop a regional density chronology spanning back to ~AD 1000. The results and implications of an analysis of the divergence problem within this chronology will be presented.



Ph.D. Paper Competition Winner: Daryn Hardwick, Ph.D. Student in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Oklahoma

Title: Minnesota trees under future climate change scenarios by the year 2100: a test of two models

Abstract: Tree species are expected to be sensitive to the projected climate change in Minnesota, USA by 2100 under any greenhouse gas emissions scenarios from IPCC as the region is likely to see significant upward trends in temperature, variable trends in amount and seasonality of precipitation, and shifts in other key bioclimatic parameters as estimated from GCMs and ecological requirements of the species involved. Besides the uncertainties in estimating future emission scenarios and their impact on vegetation using traditional bioclimatic envelope approaches, a major uncertainty in predicting how each species will perform depends also on the biotic interactions within and between species. We compared two different regional vegetation model approaches to see how much future change may be explained by the biotic interactions in a dynamic migration vs. a static bioclimatic approach for five common tree species in Minnesota: *Betula papyrifera*, *Quercus macrocarpus*, *Acer saccharum*, *Pinus banksiana* and *Populus tremuloides*. As expected, there was a substantial difference in resulting predicted distributions of each species with the two models. With the standard bioclimatic modeling approach, *Acer* and *Pinus* would be extirpated from the state by 2100 under two different emission scenarios, but they would persist under the dynamic model. The response to warming from the other tree species was likewise more nuanced with the dynamic model than in the static bioclimatic one. We conclude that interspecific interactions and more spatially explicit modeling afforded by the dynamic approach allows for a more realistic prediction of the tree species' responses to the climate change.

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Student Research Grant Competition



--**Grant Elliot**, BSG Board Member & Student Research Grant Coordinator

Thanks to all the students (13 Ph.D. and 3 Master's) and judges (14) who participated in the BSG Student Research Grant Competition this year. Although we could only offer research funds for two students, we received numerous high-quality proposals. In fact, if you would like feedback on your proposal, you can email me (elliottg@missouri.edu) and I will send you anonymous reviews of your work.

I recused myself from judging the Master's-level competition for ethical reasons and the winners and their proposal titles are below:



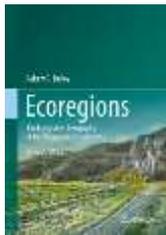
Master's Award (\$500)
 Christopher Petruccelli
 University of Missouri
 Proposal Title: A Multi-Scale Assessment of Climate and Slope Aspect Influences on Upper Treeline Dynamics in the Rocky Mountains, U.S.A.



Ph.D. Award (\$1,000)
Erik Johanson
University of Tennessee
Proposal Title: Reconstructing Late Holocene Paleoenvironments and Human-Environment Interactions from Neotropical Lake Sediments in Southern Pacific Costa Rica

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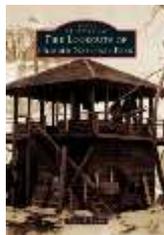
Recent Publications



Ecoregions: The Ecosystem Geography of the Oceans and Continents, 2nd Ed.
Robert G. Bailey, 2014. Springer, New York, 180 pages, 106 illus., 2 map inserts, ISBN 978-1-4939-0523-2.

Global warming and human-driven impacts are changing the World's ecological zones. This book applies the principles described in Bailey's *Ecosystem Geography: From Ecoregions to Sites*, 2nd ed. (Springer 2009, 1st ed. 1996) to describe and characterize the major terrestrial and aquatic ecological zones of the Earth. Bailey's system for classifying these zones has been adopted by major organizations such as the U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy and this book is a significant contribution to a long tradition of classifying and studying the world's ecological regions or ecoregions. It includes two color maps that show the major ecoregions of the continents and oceans. Also included are: - 106 illustrations with 55 in full color - A new chapter on mountains is included. - There are new sections that address concerns about how eco regions are changing under the relentless influence of humans and climate change - Another new feature is the discussion of using eco regional patterns to transfer research results and select sites for detecting climate change effects on ecosystem distribution - Use of ecoregional patterns to design monitoring networks and sustainable landscapes - Fire regimes in different regional ecosystems and their management implications.

This book is available at <http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/ecology/book/978-1-4939-0523-2>



Fire Lookouts of Glacier National Park. David R. Butler. 2014. Arcadia Publishing, 128 pages, ISBN 978-1467131148.

The newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular Images of America series is *Fire Lookouts of Glacier National Park* by David R. Butler. The book boasts more than 200 vintage images and memories of high points atop mountain peaks in the Glacier National Park region.

This volume offers a look at the history and geography of the historic fire lookouts of Glacier National Park and surrounding areas in northwest Montana. Widespread fires in the 1910s and 1920s led to the construction of more permanent lookouts, first as wooden pole structures and subsequently as a variety of one- and two-story cabin designs. Cooperating lookouts in Glacier Park,

the Flathead National Forest, and the Blackfeet Indian Reservation provided coverage of forests throughout Glacier National Park. In Glacier National Park, the onset of aerial observations in 1954 sounded the death knell for many of the park's fire lookouts, and many were subsequently razed or removed. Today, nine fire lookouts remain in Glacier Park, four or five of which are regularly manned during summer fire season.

Dr. Butler has preserved the past of the Glacier National Park region for future generations through this pictorial history of the rise and fall of the extensive fire lookout network that protected Glacier National Park during times of high fire danger. *Fire Lookouts of Glacier National Park* hopes to honor these unique landmarks and as Dr. Butler writes, "I hope that you will feel knowledgeable about the fire lookouts of Glacier Park and want to visit them and help protect those that remain."

Highlights of *Fire Lookouts of Glacier National Park* include:

Many never-before-seen images of Glacier Park fire lookouts.

The book recognizes the role of the Blackfeet Indian Service in fire protection along the eastern border of Glacier National Park.

The book provides the only available history of the fire lookouts network that protected Glacier Park and surrounding areas.

The book also describes how Park fire protection policies have changed and evolved over time.

Available at bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing.

J. Anthony Stallins, Joy Nystrom Mast, and Albert J. Parker, 2013. **Resilience Theory and Thomas Vale's *Plants and People: A Partial Consilience of Ecological and Geographic Concepts of Succession***. *The Professional Geographer*; online at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2013.852041>

Abstract:

Geography has discovered resilience theory, a body of thought about ecological change that initiated with C.S. Holling in the 1970s. We describe the similarities and differences between resilience theory and a geographical treatise, Thomas Vale's (1982) book *Plants and People*. Vale's work draws more from the tradition of field botany and plant succession than from the theoretical and mathematical ecology that prompted Holling's ideas. Yet like resilience theory, Vale's model of ecological change emphasized multiple states, the threshold transitions between them, and their irreversibility. Each described how forests and rangelands can flip between stability domains in response to altered fire regimes, modified grazing pressures, and climate change. *Plants and People* also recognized the dual nature of stability encapsulated in Holling's formalization of engineering and ecological resilience. Although resilience theory predates Vale's work and retains primacy through its citation record, we show how their partial consilience promotes a more critical understanding of resilience theory and the ways in which models, scale, and human values influence our comprehension of ecological change.

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News

BSG Business Meeting: 2014 AAG Conference in Tampa

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Biogeography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, April 10, 2014, Tampa, FL

Submitted by Taly Drezner, Secretary-Treasurer

1. Welcome Remarks

Lynn Resler, Biogeography Specialty Group (BSG) Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and welcomed the audience, and introduced the BSG board. New members will be announced after elections. Lynn also thanked Taly Drezner for her service as Secretary-Treasurer, John Kupfer for handling the BSG website and to John Waldron, who is not here tonight, who is the editor of the BSG newsletter.

Lynn noted that the BSG has two primary methods of communication. The first is the Facebook site that was first set up by Arvind Bhuta a few years ago (and thank you to him for doing that). The second is the discussion forum through the AAG knowledge communities.

Lynn encouraged the audience to send her an email if they have any questions about the discussion board. The BSG used to have a student list serve but now we have a Facebook site which has essentially taken over that role. Thank you to Chad Lane and Henri Grissino-Mayer for keeping the list serve going for as long as they did.

Lynn noted that the BSG sponsored or co-sponsored 32 sessions this year and offered thanks to the organizers, many of which were students that organized sessions. Hopefully there will be even more at next year's meeting. Lynn noted the great diversity of sessions and topics and how well that diversity reflects the diversity of biogeography and the BSG spirit.

Lynn also thanked those individuals with conflicting sessions that agreed to shift their sessions in order to allow people to attend more of the sessions that they wanted to.

Email Lynn if you would like to sponsor a session for next year and would like the BSG to sponsor it.

Lynn put in a request that the BSG not meet at the same time as other specialty groups that may have overlapping members. That was successful to some degree, though for example, the Geomorphology SG has their meeting at the same time concurrently.

2. Board Reports

A. BSG ELECTIONS

Curtis Holder would normally present these results, however he is out of the country at the moment. Lynn Resler reported in his place. The two outgoing board members are Curtis Holder and Evan Larson. There has been good participation in voting this year. The two new BSG board members with 2-year terms are Carissa Brown (Memorial University, NL, Canada) and Joy Fritschle (West Chester University, PA, USA). The new student representative is Amanda Young (Pennsylvania State University). Welcome to the new board members.

B. CHAIRS REPORT

Lynn Resler reported that (Justin Hart attended the Chairs meeting, with thanks) AAG attendance is down to 6100 this year from last year's 7500.

The BSG is also down in membership. Currently, we have 315 members. In 2008, we had 486 members. We have about 126 student members and 185 non-student members and 4 from developing regions. Lynn encouraged people to register and to encourage their students to register, and to tell them about all the BSG has to offer, including grants, awards, networking opportunities, among others.

C. BSG FINANCES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Taly Drezner, BSG Treasurer discussed the specialty group's finances. Taly first offered congratulations to the winners and requested they contact her for awards.

Last year the BSG awarded approximately \$1700 in awards (\$1000 Ph.D. grant; \$500 for the Masters grant, and \$100 for each of the best Ph.D. and Masters paper) plus \$500 support to the student representative.

Taly noted that unfortunately, our membership has been on the decline over the last few years. Our balance as of Feb 28, 2014 is 2814.07. From March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2014 (last 12 months of record), our intake was only \$1945. By comparison March 2012-February 2013 we took in \$2201.50. Do note that in past years we paid out less than membership brought in, and the surplus simply rolls to the next fiscal year, which is why we will still be in the black after our shortfall this year. However our 'buffer' is shrinking.

Lynn Resler opened up the financial situation for input from attendees and noted that the board discussed this at dinner and agree that they want to continue offering awards, but may need to fundraise, raise dues or adjust the awards. Our current Ph.D. grant award is \$1000, but can perhaps drop that to \$800 and the current \$500 for the Masters grant down to \$400. Also, the BSG currently awards \$100 to each of the outstanding student presentation awards and we could opt to not pay a cash award, but rather provide a certificate marking the award and achievement. This was begun several years ago when we had a surplus in membership income.

Lisa Kennedy asked how much it would cost to keep things as they are. Taly Drezner gave a rough guesstimate that perhaps \$1.50 per person (all members). Lisa Kennedy proposed to raise faculty dues to \$15 and keep student dues the same.

Jacob Bendix said he had no objections to raising dues, but if we raise dues by 50%, is concerned we may lose in the long run.

George Malanson suggested an online poll of all membership. He also supported dropping the cash prizes for the best papers, but thought we should keep grant amounts as they are.

Joy Mast suggested we do nothing for now and work down the buffer and in particular, keep the grant amounts the same.

Evan Larson was concerned that we shouldn't delay the seemingly inevitable decision.

Some questions were raised about whether this was a temporary trend associated with Tampa, but Lynn Resler noted that this was a longer term trend.

Nathan Gill suggested lowering the student price as it is higher than for other specialty groups.

James Doerner suggested lowering dues for students.

Lynn Resler expressed support for the online poll and that more information would be useful.

Megan Walsh noted that the shortfall didn't seem like so much and perhaps try fundraising, and also agreed that the student dues seem high.

Lynn Resler noted that fundraising has been tried in the past and it has only been marginally successful and that we need a long-term solution, though fundraising ideas welcome.

Lisa Kennedy asked for fundraiser and to ask professors in room for \$5.

Henri Grissino-Mayer observed that every few years we discuss this and that money and costs are not the reason for our membership decline. He suggested we drop the student cost and raise that for the faculty.

George Malanson started taking collections in the room and generously offered to match donations to \$100. S. Mensing also generously declared he would match funds to \$100 also.

Matthew Bekker inquired as to how many people are likely to respond to the poll.

Joy Mast suggested using PayPal.

Stockton Maxwell noted that in the past some companies supported the physical geography party and that effort was somewhat successful and perhaps we should consider asking Google, ESRI or others to sponsor us.

Lynn Resler said that the online poll will include survey questions about dues and membership and that will provide us with more information.

A motion was made by Joy Fritschle and seconded by Lisa Kennedy to do a survey to assess BSG feelings on raising the cost of membership and to remove the monetary award offered to the student presentations, and then also to put a PayPal up on the website, if we can find out a way to do that logistically. It was voted on and it passed.

Stockton Maxwell suggested perhaps having donation types (e.g. gold, silver, etc.).

Colin Long asked if we should cut student presentation awards.
The idea of eliminating the \$100 for each of the two presentations will go to the online poll also.

George Malanson asked and Evan Larson confirmed that any cuts, such as the student paper presentations, would not go into effect for this year's winners.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jeremy Johnson, student representative, noted that Lynn Resler covered a lot of material including the Facebook site. The BSG-sponsored panel on interdisciplinary research in biogeography including choosing journals will be offered later this conference and will include a variety of speakers including

Scott Markwith, Lesley Rigg, Sally Horn, John Kupfer, and Alexandra Ponette-Gonzalez. Jeremy encouraged everyone to attend and to invite anyone who can benefit.

Lynn Resler made efforts to make sure that the student representative's session is at a better time this year.

E. STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

Evan Larson noted that we are still in the midst of this year's competition for best student papers and winners will be announced at the next meeting. The winners from last year's (2013) competition were Thomas Christiansen (best Masters paper) and Isaac Park for best Ph.D. paper. Evan thanked the judges for their work in helping to select the winners.

F. STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

Grant Elliot announced that according to David Goldblum, proposals are not down this year with 13 Ph.D. proposals and 3 Masters. Grant thanked the 12 reviewers and announced the winners for this year's competition. Chris Petruccelli (A multi-scale assessment of climate and slope aspect influences on upper treeline dynamics in the Rocky Mountains, USA) won the \$500 Masters competition and Erik Johanson (Reconstructing late Holocene paleoenvironments and human-environment interactions from neotropical lake sediments in southern Pacific Costa Rica) won the \$1000 Ph.D. competition. Both winners were present and came up for a picture.

G. PARSONS AND COWLES AWARDS

Justin Hart observed that there were several excellent papers in biogeographical outlets this last year. The Henry C. Cowles Award for best biogeographical publication of the year was by Carissa Wonkka, Charles Lafon, Craig Hutton, and Audrey Joslin, for their 2013 paper titled, "A CSR classification of tree life history strategies and implications for ice storm damage," published in *Oikos*.

Charles Lafon came up to speak about the James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award to recognize outstanding lifetime achievements in the field of biogeography. He noted that it is not given every year. This year's winner is Sally Horn, whose materials and record were put forward by Chad Lane and Charles Lafon.

Chad Lane first spoke about Sally's achievements and accomplishments over her career, and happily noted that she is showing no indications towards retirement. Chad outlined various statistics about her 28-year career, including about \$6.5 million dollars in grants, over 120 peer-reviewed articles, over 1000 citations, membership to the AAAS in 2003 and numerous teaching and research awards, as well as advising many graduate students and having 7 of her doctoral students now placed in academia. Chad described what an outstanding advisor she was, and that he owed his career to her.

Charles Lafon next spoke about Sally Horn. From the letters received during the compilation of Sally's file, three themes emerged about Sally. The first was the significance of her research and the quality of her research, and comparisons were made to Parsons himself. Her peers noted that she is one of the great biogeographers of her time, with broad research and important developments in Quaternary methods and proxy techniques. The second theme was the interdisciplinary nature of her work and its geographic breadth. The third theme was her work with and mentorship of graduate, undergraduate and K-12 students, and her placement of many students in academia. Her mentorship and contributions also extends to her collaborations with other researchers.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Lynn Resler thanked attendees for coming and suggested meeting for socialization immediately following the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Research Notes

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Notes

1. Back issues of *The Biogeographer* in pdf format are posted on the BSG website (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)
3. The BSG Facebook page is managed by Arvind Bhuta and is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/141655989204924/>
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 Memberships
Select Specialty Groups
Scroll down to Biogeography and click on "learn more"

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Call for Editor



--- *John Waldron, Editor, The Biogeographer*

I am stepping down from my service as Editor of *The Biogeographer*. I would like to thank everyone for their help and submissions over the last year.

Christopher Underwood, Assistant Professor and Geography Program Coordinator at Lincoln Memorial University (Christopher.Underwood@lmunet.edu) has agreed to take over the role of Editor. Please join me in welcoming him by jamming up his e-mail box with a simple “Thanks” from everyone.

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