

THE BIOGEOGRAPHER

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

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www.biogeographer.org

BSG EXECUTIVE BOARD

Daehyun Kim (Chair), Seoul National University (newly elected)

Christy Briles, University of Colorado-Denver

Nina Hewitt, University of British Columbia-Vancouver

Grant Harley, University of Idaho (outgoing)

Will Flatley, Central Arkansas University (newly elected)

Stockton Maxwell, Radford University (newly elected)

Rosemary Downing (Co-Student Rep.), University of Colorado, Denver (newly elected)

Nicole Zampieri (Co-Student Rep.), Florida State University (newly elected)

Clay Tucker (Student Representative), Louisiana State University (outgoing)

Taly Drezner (Secretary/Treasurer), York University

Chris Underwood (Editor, *The Biogeographer*), University of Wisconsin-Platteville

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Notes from the Chair



Daehyun Kim, BSG Chair, 2019–21

I am pleased to write this first column as chair of BSG.

I was nobody. Well, no one treated me as such; it was simply what I felt about myself around the mid-2000s. As a new international graduate student, I lacked good English skills, was unfamiliar with western culture, still not sure what to do for doctoral research, etc. Life was full of uncertainties. I remained generally quiet—therefore, maybe sometimes looked even reserved—in both classrooms and occasional parties. However, deep in my heart, I was still enjoying my new life in the U.S. I had a great advisor who was very patient in particular, graduate

cohorts were always willing to help me in various ways, and there were many excellent courses available across the campus. I simply needed time and encouragement, which I received in a big way during the 2007 AAG in San Francisco. In the middle of BSG business meeting, I was announced as one of the two recipients (along with Grant Elliott) of the Student Research Grant. I was surprised and happy, of course, and I was thrilled as well because, at the time, there were a great number of people in the room, applauding and cheering.

Over time, AAG has diversified to include an ever-increasing number of specialty groups, and I anticipate that the trend will continue. The size of our community has clearly reduced accordingly, but I still believe that this should not necessarily lead to a low attendance rate at our business meeting. Each of us has many things to do during the short period of AAG—presenting research, attending or organizing sessions, greeting old friends, networking with new faces, sightseeing, etc. I fully understand that and nobody should ever feel obligated to appear in a business meeting. However, here are a few positive things we might get from having a large crowd in the room.

First, we can continue to enhance the health and integrity of our group. There may be several things we can do to promote the BSG, but I think that attending business meetings is an easy way. It is always desirable for us to physically get together, exchange ideas, introduce new students and faculty, and immerse ourselves in the membership of BSG at least once a year. The larger the meeting, the better.

Second, students can learn from us. We know that they are watching us every moment when we greet or chat each other, discuss various items, make decisions, announce news, award prizes, etc. I would like to help students feel that they are part of a large community, in which their research is valued, their voice is heard, and their presence is welcomed by many senior biogeographers. The larger the group, the better.

Lastly, but related to the previous point, we can better let students shine, especially when they receive presentation or research awards in a big crowd. As I mentioned earlier, I still remember the thrilling moment when I got the research award in a past BSG meeting. I cannot tell you enough how much that moment gave me encouragement and made me decide to dedicate much of my time and energy to the BSG during my career. I miss the old days when we had a lot more attendees in our business meeting than we do today. I hope to see many of you (and, of course, your students!) in Denver next year.

I thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as chair of BSG. I am honored to succeed past chairs, all of whom were my role models in various ways when I was a student.

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Graduate Student Representative Column



Clay Tucker, BSG Graduate Student Representative
2018–19

Becoming a Biogeographer

I would like to again thank all those who participated and attended my special session of *Doing Fieldwork in Biogeography* at this past AAG annual meeting. Our five presenters were accompanied by nearly 30 audience members in attendance, garnering numerous questions and discussion topics. In the last 6 months post-AAG 2019, I have completed numerous steps to finishing my own PhD Dissertation at Louisiana State University: finishing analyses, writing furiously, and looking for future career paths. For this issue of *The Biogeographer*, I have decided to delve into my history of becoming a biogeographer in hopes that it may inspire future graduate students heading down a similar path.

In the Department of Geography and Anthropology at LSU (LSU G&A), we have something of a dearth of researchers in the sub-field of biogeography. In fact, during my undergraduate tenure at LSU G&A, I had hopes of studying coastal geomorphology, and when that did not pan out, I joined a lab with a climatologist here. Though my background in geography was wide, the underpinnings of my love for the subject matter was ecological. I often state that I am a “wannabe” ecologist. This is not unusual. I think the wide-reaching discipline of geography frequently places each of us to collaborate with scientists in other fields. Geomorphologists work with geologists; climatologists work with health scientists; cultural geographers work with historians. I eventually found my own niche of geography in what I call “dendrotempestology”, the study of the effects of hurricanes on trees.

My history of mixing geographical sub-disciplines played perfectly in what would become my Masters and PhD research. However, though LSU G&A offered numerous courses that served my research and interests, the department could not meet all my needs, as is true for many academic departments across the country. Luckily, LSU has a plethora of ecologists at hand, especially the coastal ecologists that dendrotempestology demands. Through the departments of geology, oceanography, coastal sciences, and renewable natural resources at LSU, I slowly began picking up concepts of river delta formation, saltwater inundation, and nitrogen cycling. I even had the “Father of Paleotempestology” (Dr. Kam-biu Liu) in a neighboring building! I was also fortunate enough to bolster these concepts during annual academic conferences, professional development workshops, travel to other universities, and discipline-specific workshops, such as the North American Dendroecological Fieldweek (a workshop I have attended three times now, and would recommend to any biogeographer!).

Geography is a wonderful discipline to serve, in large part due to its interdisciplinary nature. I frequently work with ecologists, coastal scientists, and isotope geochemists, and their disciplines have shaped the research that goes into my writings.

So, to my fellow and future graduate students: do not remain in your academic silo! Attend AAG. Visit other universities. Stay in contact with scientists whose research interests you. I have spent my entire collegiate career at a single university, but that never kept me from seeking the wisdom of others. My dissertation research will include collaborations from mentors and peers from nearly a dozen different disciplines, and I hope that this message inspires you to do the same.

Now, back to writing!

Geaux Tigers!
Clay Tucker
ctucke8@lsu.edu

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BSG Board Elections



Nina Hewitt, BSG Board Member 2018–20 and Elections Organizer

This year we welcomed in a new, and unanimously, elected chair, Daehyun Kim. We also have two newly elected board members with two-year terms: Will Flatley (University of Central Arkansas) and Stockton Maxwell (Radford University). We also elected two graduate student representatives, Nicole Zampieri (PhD candidate, Florida State University) and Rosemary Downing (MSc candidate, University Denver Colorado). Thanks to those who ran and those who voted!

This elections cycle was a little unusual in that we elected two graduate student representatives, rather than just one. The decision to do so was prompted by the strong voter support for both candidates. As expressed generally at the BSG meeting, these budding biogeographers have a great potential to

contribute to and enliven our organization, and so creating a slightly expanded role for them benefits us all. On that note, keep an eye out at the 2021 AAG meeting for a BSG sponsored field trip to the mountain ecosystems around Denver, that Rosemary is organizing.

It is already time to consider nominations for board members for the 2020–22 cycle. During our next election, we will select two new **board members** (Elections Organizer and Student Presentation Awards Coordinator). Additionally, the **graduate student representative** position is open for nominations. Service as board member is for two years, and the student representative serves for one year. Watch for the call for nominations later this fall.

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Awards and Competitions



James J. Parsons Award for Distinguished Career in Biogeography & Henry Cowles Award for Excellence in Publication in Biogeography

Grant Harley, BSG Board Member 2017–19 and Awards Organizer

There were no applications or nominations for the Parsons and Cowles Awards this year. Please consider nominating worthy recipients for the 2020 cycle. For a list of previous award winners, please see the BSG Website

<http://www.biogeographer.org/>.



Student Presentation Awards

Christy Briles, BSG Board Member 2018–20 and Student Presentation Awards Coordinator

For the 2019 BSG student presentation competition we had ten graduate students participating; seven doctoral and three masters students. Our masters presentation winner was Connor Stephens from Clark University and our doctoral winner was Sisimac Duchicela from University of Texas-Austin. Congratulations to both presenters! Also, thanks to all the students that participated in D.C. this year and for all the fantastic research you are doing. There will be a student presentation competition at the Denver meeting in April 2020, so students start planning those presentations and plan to apply for the competition.



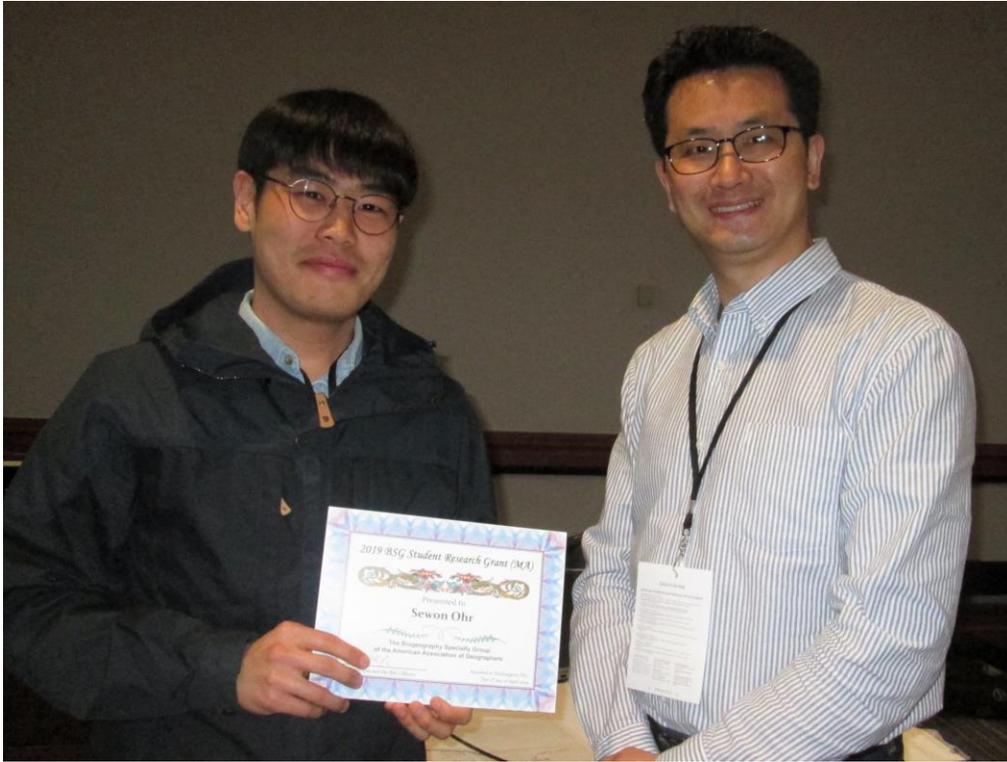
Student Research Grant Competition

Daehyun Kim, BSG Board Member 2017–19 and Student Research Grant Coordinator

After rounds of intensive discussion among judges, Anaïs Zimmer from the University of Texas at Austin was selected as this year’s recipient of the award at the Ph.D. level. Her proposal was titled “Future of periglacial landscape: alpine ecosystems and deglaciation in the Tropical Andes and French Alps.” Her advisor is Dr. Timothy Beach. At the master’s level, Sewon Ohr from Seoul National University was selected. His proposal was titled “Estimating the carbon sequestration capacity of a salt marsh of the Yellow sea using remote sensing and spatial interpolation.” His advisor is Dr. Daehyun Kim. Congratulations to the students and their advisors! Also, we thank all the other students for their participation. Last, but not least, we appreciate the valuable comments from the judges of the submissions. We look forward to receiving many high-quality submissions again next year.



Anaïs Zimmer (left) receiving the 2019 Ph.D. Student Research Grant Award from Daehyun Kim (photo credit, Sally Horn).



Sewon Ohr (left) accepting the 2019 Master's Student Research Grant Award from Daehyun Kim (photo credit, Sally Horn).

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Recent Publications

Articles:

1. Bonney, M.B., R. K. Danby, and P. Treitz. 2018. Landscape variability of vegetation change across the forest-tundra transition of central Canada. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 217:18–29.
2. Brehaut, L.D., and R. K. Danby. 2018. Inconsistent relationships between annual tree ring-widths and satellite-measured NDVI in a mountainous subarctic environment, Canada. *Ecological Indicators* 91:698–711.
3. Dearborn, K. D., and R. K. Danby. 2018. Climatic drivers of tree growth at tree line in southwest Yukon change over time and vary between landscapes. *Climatic Change* 150 (3–4): 211–225.
4. Dearborn, K. D., and R. K. Danby. 2018. Topographic influences on ring widths of trees and shrubs across alpine treelines in southwest Yukon. *Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research* 50 (1): e1495445.
5. Gaspard, G., D. Kim, and Y. Chun. 2019. Residual spatial autocorrelation in macroecological and biogeographical modeling: A review. *Journal of Ecology and Environment* 43:19. doi.org/10.1186/s41610-019-0118-3.
6. Kambo, D., and R. K. Danby. 2018. Factors influencing the establishment and growth of tree seedlings at subarctic alpine treelines. *Ecosphere* 9 (4): e02176.
7. Kambo, D., and R. K. Danby. 2018. Influences of fine-scale disturbance on germinant success in a treeline ecotone. *Physical Geography*, 39 (5): 471–485.
8. Kim, D., J. -Y. Lee, J. Seo, and I. Song. 2019. Recolonization of native and invasive plants after large-scale clearance of a temperate coastal dunefield. *Applied Geography* 109:102030. doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2019.05.007.
9. Kim, D. 2019. Selection of scale can reverse the importance of stochastic controls on community assembly. *Physical Geography* 40:111–26.

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News

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

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

Submitted by Taly Drezner, Secretary-Treasurer

1. Welcome Remarks

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

2. Chair's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Financial Report

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

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

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

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

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

4. Cowles and Parsons Awards

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

5. Student Presentation Awards

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

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

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

6. Student Research Grant Proposal Competition

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

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

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

7. Elections

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

Nina announced the results from the elections for board members.

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

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

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

8. Other Announcements

Tony asked if there were any announcements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Adjournment

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

2020 Annual Meeting of the AAG, Denver, Colorado

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

Notes

Miscellaneous:

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

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

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Submission Guidelines

Chris Underwood, Editor, *The Biogeographer*

Apologies for the very late submission of this edition of the *Biogeographer*. There will be a quick turnaround between this volume and the Fall 2020 edition, which will include much more information about the upcoming 2020 Annual Meeting in Denver.

Submissions to *The Biogeographer* should be sent directly to the editor (underwoodc@uwplatt.edu) as email attachments in Word format. 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

Notes are intended to convey topical information of interest to the BSG community. *Notes* topics may include: (1) **Research Notes** – new projects and progress reports or general research-related ideas and issues; (2) **Field Notes** – recent field work or field trips or retellings of classic tales from the field; (3) **Course Notes** – news, announcements, or articles related to teaching biogeography or pedagogical issues affecting the discipline; (4) **Book Notes** – book reviews or announcements; and/or (5) **Miscellaneous Notes** – anything that doesn't fit in any of the other categories.

News items can be personal, departmental, institutional, or any other biogeography-related happenings that have occurred since the last edition of *The Biogeographer*. These can be self-authored items or press releases.

Recent Publications

Only publications that have actually appeared in print or online will be listed; please do not submit in-press items until you have page numbers or a permanent URL.

Kind regards,

Chris

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