

Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG) 2009-2010 Annual Report

1) Mission Statement

The Animal Geography Specialty Group strives to enhance geographic research and scholarship on matters relating to human-animal studies by: (a) encouraging the exchange of ideas among geographers studying biological, cultural, ecological, economic, political, and technical aspects of the myriad ways humans co-exist with other animal species, (b) promoting research in these areas, (c) facilitating collaboration between existing AAG specialty groups and committees to promote common interests and develop intra-disciplinary and interdisciplinary projects. The overall aim of AnGSG is to support discussion of human-animal issues by geographers as a legitimate and active part of the discipline.

2) Dues Information

As of October 10, 2010, we have \$400.75 in our AAG account. This includes dues and additional donations. Our annual dues are \$5.00 for faculty and \$1.00 for students.

3) Chair/ Board of Directors / Officers Listing / Newsletter Editor / etc.

Our current executive committee (8 members) is composed as follows:

1. Monica V. Ogra, Chair and Newsletter Editor: Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Studies & Globalization Studies Program, Gettysburg College (3 year term)
2. Julie Urbanik, Secretary/Treasurer: Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Geoscience, University of Missouri-Kansas City (3 year term)
3. Sharon W. Adams, Communications Officer: Graduate Candidate, Department of Geography & the Environment, University of Texas at Austin (1 year term)
4. Stella Capoccia, Graduate Student Officer: Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (1 year term)
5. Suzi Weisman, Graduate Student Officer: Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Texas (1 year term)
6. Jennifer Blecha, General Board Member: Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Human Environmental Studies, San Francisco State University (3 year term)

7. William S. Lynn, General Board Member: Senior Ethics Advisor, Practical Ethics & Visiting Professor, Environmental Studies, Williams College (3 year term)
8. Kristin L. Stewart, Ph.D, General Board Member (3 year term)

4) Accomplishments:

1. Ratified bylaws and became an official specialty group of the AAGs in April 2009.
2. Published first newsletter in April 2010.
3. Instituting first graduate student paper competition at the 2011 AAG meeting.
4. Co-sponsored AAG 2010 field trip: Visual Culture Tour of the Smithsonian National Zoological Gardens.
5. Sponsored the following paper and panel sessions at the AAG meeting in 2010:
 - Animal Geographies: Wildlife and Wild Animals
 - Animal Geography in the Classroom
 - Animal Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting
 - Animated Spaces: The Convergence of Human and Animal Lives in North America
 - Coastal & Marine Animal Geography
 - Questions of Animal Welfare: On the Farm and in the Lab
 - The Animal in Capitalism
 - Wildlife responses to environmental change

Activities Scheduled: Multiple AnGSG-sponsored paper sessions are planned for the 2011 AAG meeting.

Future Plans and Directions:

1. Continue to develop website
2. Continue to develop newsletter
3. Continue to enlist new members
4. Promote leadership within the group through the creation of key sub-committees
5. Compile a comprehensive animal geography bibliography
6. Support development of an Animal Geography peer-reviewed journal

Business Meeting at the AAG 2010 Conference in Washington DC: We had nine attendees at the meeting. Our main item of business was to amend the bylaws to add an additional graduate student representative. We now have two graduate student representatives serving staggered terms. It was agreed at the meeting that this will help provide continuity and cohesiveness for graduate students interested in animal geography.

Student Paper Awards: Have been finalized for the 2011 meeting. First call was posted to Animal Geography Specialty Group listserv in Oct, 2010, with text as follows:

The Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG) of the AAG invites submissions for its first Graduate Student Paper Award competition. Eligible papers must be presented at the Annual Meeting of the AAG (Seattle, Washington, April 2011) and based on original empirical or theoretical research in the field of Animal Geography; literature reviews will not be considered. Papers submitted to other AAG paper competitions are not eligible. The student must be a member of the AnGSG at the time of submission and the sole author of the paper.

Manuscripts should not exceed 8000 words, and should be accompanied by a cover letter that includes the title of the paper, brief abstract (maximum 250 words), name of the author, academic affiliation, mailing address, email address and phone numbers. Papers will be evaluated by a subcommittee of AnGSG members. One \$250 cash prize will be awarded to the winner, whose name will be announced at the AnGSG business meeting in Seattle. The name of the winner will also be announced in both the AAG and AnGSG newsletters.

Submissions must be received by March 1, 2011. Please send the paper in electronic form (.doc, .docx, or .pdf) to both the AnGSG Chair, Monica Ogra (mogra@gettysburg.edu) and AnGSG Secretary-Treasurer, Julie Urbanik (urbanikj@umkc.edu). Please put "AnGSG paper submission" in the subject line of the email. Questions about the paper award may be directed to either Monica Ogra or Julie Urbanik.

Newsletter information

We published our first newsletter in April of 2010. A PDF file is available for download on our website (www.animalgeography.org).

2011 Annual Meeting Plans for Seattle

The AnGSG will be sponsoring multiple sessions at the meeting and holding the first graduate student paper competition. We will also be holding our annual business meeting, during which we expect to discuss selection criteria and official duties for the next slate of incoming board members.

5) Membership and Participation:

We currently have 110 group members (62 are students and 48 are non-students).

6) Financial Report (see next page)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<i>8/31/2009</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>			\$ <i>161.00</i>
9/30/09	Dues collected for September 2009	29.00		190.00
10/31/09	Dues collected for October 2009	87.00		277.00
11/3/09	Wilcox -Website domain name and set-up		(111.25)	165.75
11/30/09	Dues collected for November 2009	35.00		200.75
12/11/09	Urbanik, J. - donation to group	20.00		220.75
12/31/09	Dues collected for December 2009	16.00		236.75
1/31/10	Dues collected for January 2010	18.00		254.75
2/28/10	Dues collected for February 2010	16.00		270.75
3/26/10	Ogra-Platt check received	20.00		290.75
3/31/10	Dues collected for March 2010	9.00		299.75
4/30/10	Dues collected for April 2010	6.00		305.75
5/21/10	Blecha, J. check rcvd	20.00		325.75
5/21/10	Ogra, M. check rcvd	20.00		345.75
5/21/10	Cappocia, s. check rcvd	10.00		355.75
5/31/10	Dues collected for May 2010	1.00		356.75
6/30/10	Dues collected for June 2010	16.00		372.75
7/31/10	Dues collected for July 2010	11.00		383.75
8/31/10	Dues collected for August 2010	17.00		400.75
8/31/10	Balance			\$ <u>400.75</u>