

**Animal Geography Specialty Group Annual Business Meeting
AAG 2012 – New York, NY
February 27, 2012**

Members present: Shari Adams, Rosemary Collard, Gabrielle Collins, Connie Johnston, Harvey Neo, Monica Ogra, Mona Seymour, Michelle Shuey, Suzi Wiseman

The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

Monica updated the group that all items had been completed from the prior year agenda and that the AnGSG sponsored 10 sessions at this year's AAG. There were also a number of animal-related sessions not sponsored by the group. This indicates increasing visibility of the specialty group within AAG. Mona reported that the winner of the undergraduate paper competition was Mary Ann Denzer of the University of Missouri, Kansas City for her paper, "What is an Animal? Mapping Animal Law in the United States". An honorable mention was given to Lorena Cárdenas, Brenda Gonzales and Maria Gracia Aguilar of Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú for their paper, "'Odocoileus pucpiano': An Animal Geography Study on the White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) of the PUCP". Denzer will be awarded \$50. The seed money for the paper award fund was provided by Jody Emel and Jennifer Wolch.

Monica reported that the only upcoming AnGSG expenses are for web site maintenance and the undergraduate paper award. There are currently 121 group members, up from 113 in the prior year. Members present were reminded to pay their dues if they had not already done so. Monica received Gabrielle's \$1 dues at the meeting.

Monica informed the group that there is a new platform through AAG called "Knowledge Communities" that can give AnGSG another listserve-type option, and to which members could receive information via emails -- but which would likely require abandoning the list-serve.

Monica also informed the group that the AAG wants feedback on the idea of using the regional AAG chapter meetings as a venue for "pre-conference" activities and increased participation by those who cannot attend or directly participate in the larger Annual Meeting. The idea is that such an initiative could provide more opportunities for undergraduate and graduate presentations, in particular, by offering smaller venues. It was decided that this option should be revisited at next year's business meeting; Members were asked to watch for a message on the subject via the Listserve in the meantime.

Monica reviewed the proposed amendment (attached) to the Bylaws to make electronic elections the default mode. After brief discussion Monica moved to call a vote. The motion was seconded by Suzi. There was unanimous approval to amend the Bylaws. Current year voting will proceed as stipulated by the un-amended Bylaws.

Four Board positions were open: 2012-15 Chair (nominee-Julie Urbanik), 2012-15 Secretary/Treasurer (nominee-Monica Ogra), and two 2012-13 graduate student representatives (nominee-Rosemary Collard). An in-meeting nomination for a second graduate student representative was made available. Connie Johnston self-nominated. All nominees were voted in (from both the electronic and in-person formats). Suzi, the outgoing graduate student representative present, was thanked for her two years of service and hard work.

Suzi gave an update on the animal geography bibliography, saying that it's now on the web site and that use instructions had been included in the newsletter. She noted that the bibliography uses RefWorks and has approximately 1400 entries. She suggested adding AAG meeting papers to RefWorks and volunteered to send an e-mail request for those.

Shari gave an update on the Zazzle store and logo competition. Zazzle can be used to fundraise by marketing merchandise with logos. There is no upfront cost. Shari will send out an e-mail about the competition (primarily directed to undergraduates) and Monica agreed to sponsor \$25 for a prize for the winning design. The logo options will be put on the AnGSG web site.

The newsletter was discussed. It will continue to be the responsibility of the graduate student representatives. There have been three annual issues so far. It was agreed that it should be done in advance of the AAG meeting in order to update members on AnGSG-relevant papers and activities.

AAG 2013 in Los Angeles was discussed, the first item being a field trip to the Animal History Museum. Mona has been talking with the director, who would like ideas from our group for temporary exhibits. The field trip would be open to all AAG attendees. Suzi suggested investigating field trip options to L.A.-area animal shelters and/or wildlife rehabilitation centers. The group discussed having an animal geography plenary session, with Jody Emel and/or Jennifer Wolch speaking. Connie agreed to contact Jody. A possible "author meets critics" session for Julie Urbanik's animal geography textbook was also discussed, with the suggestion that perhaps this might take the form of a teaching panel and/or book launch event sponsored by the publisher. Monica agreed to contact Julie. The group also discussed the organization of AnGSG sessions in general, specifically about the need to continue to coordinate with other specialty groups and about whether we should continue to hold all animal-oriented sessions during one day. A few members suggested that we should, and noted that attendance at last year's business meeting was much better, in part due to the scheduling of the meeting "between" sessions.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and officially closed the meeting at 8:00 pm.