

# **Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG) Academic Year 2015-2016 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**

Our annual dues are \$5.00 for faculty and \$1.00 for students.

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

Our 8-member executive committee up through the 2016 AAG meeting:

Chair: Mona Seymour

Secretary/Treasurer: Jody Emel

Communications Officer: Sharon W. Adams

General Board Members: Harvey Neo, Monica Ogra, and Suzi Wiseman

Graduate Student Officers: Anita Hagy Ferguson and Angie Parker

Our 8-member executive committee following the 2016 AAG meeting:

Chair: Mona Seymour

Secretary/Treasurer: Jonathan Hall

Communications Officer: Sharon W. Adams

General Board Members: Suzi Wiseman, Jeff Martin, and Anita Hagy Ferguson

Graduate Student Officers: Kalli Doubleday and Angie Parker

## **4) Accomplishments**

1. Activities scheduled: At the 2016 AAG we hosted a plenary featuring a film created by one of our members, Julie Urbanik's *Zoopolis: A Multispecies Urban History*, followed by a panel discussion. In addition to this plenary, the group sponsored nine sessions on topics including marine conservation, political ecology of human-animal relations,

veganism, and animal farming. AnGSG held its annual social following Friday conference activities.

2. Future plans and directions: We plan to make better use of social media, including our group's Facebook page and new Twitter account ([@AAG\\_AnGSG](#)). We plan to expand our work in mentoring new animal geographers, including through adding a mentoring component to the group's annual social at the AAG. We plan to continue providing support for and communication about animal geography-related activity at the upcoming AAG conference.
3. Business meeting at the AAG annual meeting: Nine people attended the meeting. Major decisions made included to temporarily halt the undergraduate paper competition due to lack of submissions in recent years and to discuss whether and how to reinstate it over the following year. It was also decided that in order to expand our mentorship program, the group would combine a mentoring event with its annual social beginning in Boston in 2017. Election results and current board composition are shown above.
4. Student paper awards: Kalli Doubleday of the University of Texas at Austin won our annual Graduate Student Paper Competition (\$200) with her paper "Feeding the wild: preserving India's most famous tigress."
5. Newsletter information: Just before the 2016 meeting, we published the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of our annual newsletter *Animal Geography News*. Anita Hagy-Ferguson and Angie Parker, the Graduate Student Officers, prepared an outstanding newsletter. The newsletter advises members of new publications of interest, notes accomplishments of group members, and provides a list of AnGSG-sponsored and -related events at the upcoming AAG meeting. It also contains communications from the Chair about specialty group matters.
6. 2017 annual meeting plans for Boston: Our major plans for Boston include hosting our annual social for AnGSG members but adding a mentoring component to the evening; and devoting much of our business meeting to discussing the format and future of our undergraduate and graduate student paper competitions.

## **5) Membership and Participation**

We currently have 189 specialty group members, approximately 30 more than late 2015, as listed on the community portion of the AAG website.

Members and nonmembers frequently participate in the group using our GoogleGroups email listserv; approximately 120 people are on this list.

## 6) Financial Report

As of November 30, 2016 AnGSG has \$970.42 in its account. Since late 2015, dues were credited to the account; website hosting fees, cost of the AnGSG social, and the graduate paper award were debited.

8/31/2015	<i>Balance forward</i>			\$ 995.47
9/30/15	Dues Collected for Sept 2015	18.00		1,013.47
10/31/15	Dues Collected for Oct 2015	83.00		1,096.47
11/30/15	Dues collected for Nov. 2015	23.00		1,119.47
12/31/15	Dues collected for Dec. 2015	23.00		1,142.47
1/31/16	Dues collected for Jan. 2016	18.00		1,160.47
2/29/16	Dues collected for Feb. 2016	24.00		1,184.47
3/21/16	Doubleday - Graduate Paper Award		(200.00)	984.47
3/31/16	Dues collected for March	19.00		1,003.47
4/11/16	Seymour - Reimbursement for AM16 Social		(104.09)	899.38
4/30/16	Dues collected for April	21.00		920.38
5/31/16	Dues collected for May	4.00		924.38
6/30/16	Dues collected for June	2.00		926.38
7/31/16	Dues collected for July	7.00		933.38
8/31/16	Dues collected for Aug	5.00		938.38
<b>8/31/16</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$ 938.38</b>
8/31/2016	<i>Balance forward</i>			\$ 938.38
9/30/16	Dues Collected for Sept 2016	22.00		960.38
10/31/16	Dues Collected for Oct 2016	109.00		1,069.38
11/1/16	Wilcox -Website annual fee		(145.96)	923.42
11/30/16	Dues collected for Nov. 2016	47.00		970.42
<b>11/30/16</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$ 970.42</b>