

## **Animal Geography Specialty Group (AnGSG) 2013-14 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 in AY 13-14 was composed as follows:

- Chair: Julie Urbanik
- Secretary/Treasurer: Monica Ogra
- Communications Officer: Sharon W. Adams
- General Board Members: Harvey Neo, Mona Seymour, and Stella Cappoccia
- Graduate Student Officers: Anita Ferguson and Matthew Rosenblum (elected to the board at the 2014 AAG annual meeting in Tampa, FL)

### **4) Accomplishments:**

- We published the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of newsletter *Animal Geography News*, just prior to 2014 AAG meeting. The newsletter provides information about member publications and other forms of scholarship, highlights SG-related sessions and field trips of interest associated with the annual meeting, features short editorial pieces by member contributors, and announces information about upcoming board member elections and SG initiatives.
- Our annual AnGSG Graduate Student Paper competition was successful and awarded \$200 to Jenny Isaacs (Rutgers University) for her paper, "Follow that Bird."
- We have continued maintenance of dedicated SG website ([www.animalgeography.org](http://www.animalgeography.org)), as well as the Animal Geography bibliographic database (housed on our website, and accessible through Refworks).

- We have continued development and support of informal faculty/graduate student mentoring program, to connect undergraduate and graduate students working broadly in the area of animal geography with faculty who identify as animal geographers and/or are actively conducting animal geography research. 7 members are currently listed as mentors. (Students can access information about this initiative through the website via a new “Mentoring” tab.)
- To address the transition problems associated with the change of institutions between communication officers, we have moved to googlegroups as the primary communication vehicle for both general SG members and for board members (two groups).
- We effectively moved to an electronic voting system for board member elections, to maximize participation among members who cannot attend the annual business meetings. (The bylaws were amended in 2013 to make this possible.)
- In service to the SG, individual members have updated the Wikipedia entry for “Animal Geography”
- We sponsored eight paper and panel sessions at the AAG meeting in 2014, listed below:
  - ✓ Place as Material-Semiotic Phenomenon Sessions 1 and 2
  - ✓ Lively Commodities Panel
  - ✓ Lively Commodities Sessions 1 and 2
  - ✓ Epistemologies of Violence Sessions 1, 2, and 3

##### **5) Future Plans and Directions:**

- Continue to develop website
- Continue to develop newsletter
- Continue to develop refworks bibliography
- Continue to enlist new members
- Develop ideas for community building events for AAG 2015 (social event, field trip, book launch for member publication).
- Promote and support conference session proposals that resonate with conference themes for the AAG 2015 meeting in Chicago.

**6) Business Meeting at the AAG 2013 Conference in Tampa, FL:** We had 12 attendees at the meeting (including one present by phone). The main decisions taken were as follows:

- Future paper competition announcements will clarify that papers must engage directly with *Animal Geography* literature
- Election of Anita Ferguson and Matthew Rosenblum as Graduate Officers.

**7) Membership and Participation:** We currently have 113 group members listed through AAG records; there are 119 participants in our affiliated google-groups email list.

## 8) Financial Report

As of August 31, 2014, we have \$1,051.43 in our AAG account. This includes dues and additional donations.

8/31/2013	<i>Balance forward</i>			<i>\$ 1,043.43</i>
9/30/13	Dues collected for Sept 2013	22.00		1,065.43
10/31/13	Dues collected for Oct 2013	21.00		1,086.43
11/30/13	Dues collected for Nov 2013	24.00		1,110.43
12/31/13	Dues collected for Dec 2013	33.00		1,143.43
1/31/14	Dues collected for Jan 2014	20.00		1,163.43
2/28/14	Dues collected for Feb 2014	26.00		1,189.43
3/31/14	Dues collected for March 2014	2.00		1,191.43
4/14/14	Isaacs - Graduate Paper Award		(200.00)	991.43
4/30/14	Dues collected for April 2014	17.00		1,008.43
5/31/14	Dues collected for May 2014	10.00		1,018.43
6/30/14	Dues collected for June 2014	11.00		1,029.43
7/31/14	Dues collected for July 2014	10.00		1,039.43
8/31/14	Dues collected for Aug 2014	12.00		1,051.43
<b>8/31/14</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$ 1,051.43</b>