

## **AnGSG BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

### **2013 Animal Geography Business Meeting Annual Meeting of the AAG Los Angeles, CA April 11, 2013, 8:30-9:50 pm**

**Members Present (14 people):** Julie Urbanik, Monica Ogra, Mona Seymour, Connie Johnston, Harvey Neo, Russell Fielding, Rosemary-Claire Collard, Mara Miele, Henry Buller, Katie Gillespie, Claire Rasmussen, David Lulka, Stella Capoccia, Suzi Weismann

#### **1. Chair's report**

- Thanks for attendance and session organizations; good sessions so far!
- First ever SG Happy Hour was right before the meeting. A success -- about 15-20 of us?
- Highlights from the past AY include 4th newsletter, continued development of the Animal Geography refworks bibliography, awarding of prizes for both grad and undergrad student paper competitions, and creation of Animal Geography Wikipedia page
- Reminders/request for members to continue to edit the wiki and bibliography
- Congratulations on various members' accomplishments

#### **2. Budget and Membership Report.**

- As of 3/31 balance is \$1325.65
- Of this, \$277 was contributed this AY. \$152 is from dues and \$125 is from donations
- Budget til now largely supported by board member contributions and earmarked award donations; members are encouraged to contribute even small amounts when paying dues or registering for the conference next year.
- Expenses: Website maintenance (approx \$100), grad award (\$200), UG award (\$50)
- We have approx 130 members in the AnGSG; 130 listserv members.

#### **3. Grad student officer election results.**

- Elizabeth Hennessy and Katie Gillespie will be our next graduate officers.
- Connie and Rosemary are thanked for their service and wonderful work on the newsletter!

#### **4. Announcement of student paper awards.**

- Grad Paper winner: "Buddhist Attitudes Towards Animals" by Cadi Fung, Michigan State University
- UG paper winner: "Securing Orangutan Health: Conservation, Biosecurity, and Microbial Clouds on the North Sumatran Rainforest Borderlands" by Joe R. Klein, Beloit College.
- Winners will be announced in the AAG newsletter.
- Faculty members are requested to help promote submissions by circulating info about the competition within their institutions, both at the beginning and end of the fall term.

#### **5. Discussion of award procedures for student papers --> Decisions:**

- Award eligibility guidelines will be modified to reflect our decision to remove the condition that papers must be presented at the annual meeting. Going forward, papers will not have to be presented at the meeting, but the student author must have presented it somewhere else or have submitted it for evaluation by a course instructor prior to submission to us for review.
- Deadlines for the competition will be adjusted so that award winners can be announced and featured prior to the annual meeting. Winners will be asked to provide a slightly expanded abstract (500 words?) for publication in the newsletter, so that members can have a better sense for the winning paper.
- Reviewers will be asked to provide a few sentences to explain why the papers were selected, and this will be published along with the expanded abstract.
- Newsletter session guide can also feature the paper presentation, if it is scheduled. Similarly, chairs of the session in which an award-winning paper is included can be informed and encouraged to congratulate the winner during the session.

## **6. Communications and publicity.**

- Are we making good use of our Facebook page? 58 members. There is not a lot of activity, possibly due to overlap with Animal Research Network (David Allen's group) group page (90 members).
- Discussion of listserv vs. Facebook. Discussion venue vs. news feed.
- Website should continue to be the main place to put material, as it serves as the official home for our group. However, we need to be careful about creating extra labor for the communications officer should we decide to have regularly scheduled substantive updates. (Shari: Can the listserv be archived on the website?)
- Problem of outdated material on the website.
- Can we embed a blog on the website?
- Suggestion to put short videos on our website by animal geographers; videos can help explain what the field seeks to do and how our members are contributing.
- Suggestion to include links to faculty emails and webpages so that students can seek support and mentoring from individuals willing to offer it.

## **7. Planning for AAG 2014 -- Tampa, FL.**

- Field trip ideas: Russell Fielding offered to help begin logistical research for a possible AnGSG-sponsored kayak trip down the Hillsborough River, but will need help to organize anything.
- Social event: Russell will also look into possible locations for us to do another AAG happy hour event.
- Possible panel/session ideas: Connie and Rosemary hope to do a session related to the upcoming book project on critical animal geographies; possible screening of Julie's film "Zoopolis"; possible panel that brings geographers from various other subfields in conversation with animal geographers on a shared set of issues (ie, for cross-disciplinary dialogue)

## **8. Fundraising.**

- Members are encouraged to make even small donations. Board members are encouraged to continue to contribute. Julie will contact faculty members of the SG with a fundraising help request.

## **9. Student mentoring.**

- Several faculty members have expressed support of the general idea.

- What will mentors do/not do? Ok if we are helping in a general way, such as helping them to navigate questions about publishing in animal geography, having a career in animal geography, or how to explain animal geography to committee members and non-geographers. General discussion led to clarification that faculty mentors should not be expected or asked to do the work of their standing committee members.
- Julie will work with Shari to develop a linked page on the website that explains the mentoring arrangement and lists the volunteers' info.

#### **10. Animal Geography journal.**

- Are we ready for this? Is the time right? (General discussion)
- Suggestion to query listserv members to find out how many AG papers are being submitted vs published, and where.
- Clear consensus that we are not yet ready, esp given the submission rate for the student paper awards.
- A special issue (perhaps in *Geoforum* now that Harvey Neo is on the editorial board, *Ethics, Place, and Culture*, or *Intermountain Journal of Science*) might make more sense meanwhile and could be proposed in conjunction with an organized session that requires papers to be written beforehand and submitted to a discussant.

#### **11. Newsletter**

- The last newsletter was great!
- Newsletter development should continue; there is a need to get more people writing for it and contributing. Should we approach people directly and ask them to compose short submissions?
- Some discussion and brainstorming about topics for new content: book reviews, possibly contributed by undergrads? More on teaching?

#### **12. Misc Items**

- Announcement of recent member publication: Buller, H. (2013) Animal geographies I. *Prog Hum Geogr* published online 21 March 2013 DOI: 10.1177/0309132513479295
- Announcement of related conference in Finland for Nov 2013, "Affective Animals"

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Ogra  
Secretary-Treasurer

[Approved by Exec Board August 2013]