

## **Dennis Dingemans, Candidate for President**

Emeritus Professor, Geography  
University of California, Davis

I retired in 2005 after 33 years as a full-time UCD faculty member in Geography. My post-teaching decade finds me tanned, rested, and ready to be APCG's Vice-President. Involvement since 1970 in APCG meetings and leadership means that I think I know what I am getting into. However, I also will carefully re-read the bylaws and do everything required of the office so I can leave the APCG, that has been so good to me for 45 years, in better shape than when I was elected.

I've attended a score of meetings, served appointed functions, presented a dozen papers, and lead field trips. I co-edited with my wife, Robin Datel, five volumes of the Yearbook from 1988 to 1992. I co-chaired with Stephen Jett the 1987 Davis meetings. I've chaired sessions, chaired awards committees, chaired budget/audit committees, written for *Pacifica*, and been a regular at business meetings. I've written resolutions and at Berkeley in 1996 used my Bill Crowley imitation in reading them. Nominated for vice president in 1994, I lost by one vote.

At UC-SC, my first APCG meeting, I caught the soon-to-be-legendary Larry Ford doing his "Full Monte" with 140 slides of skyscrapers in 17 minutes illustrating the Midwest's urban edifice complex. Many entertaining and inspirational paper presentations have followed by the APCG's stable of public-speaking talents. Most recently Steven Cunha at Lake Tahoe blew us out of the water explaining how the Sierra Nevada epitomized what Jim Parsons called "the uniqueness of California." I'm most proud of my own talk on Iberia and California compared in 2001 and my discussion of changing landscapes of Romania in 2013. My talks on enterprises lining a dozen main streets in the Mother Lode, on billboard messages observed along 7,000 Interstate Highway miles, and on the enterprises comprising seven Chinatowns and Little Saigons were among my most successful reports on systematic and comparative data from exploratory fieldwork.

My pathway to geography began in rural Minnesota where Mrs. Peterson exposed the one-room school's 6 grades to environmental and spatial explanations in geography, to concepts of chemistry and nuclear physics, to her softball pitching, and to her piano playing. In 8th grade Mr. Denzene did his year of world regional geography lectures with a cold warrior's zeal. I tried to be equally lively right up to my last world regional course -- taught to a class of 400. At the University of Chicago I majored in European history and learned too late about the geography courses I could have taken. For graduate degrees in geography at UC Berkeley in 1971 and 1975 I fell into the webs of the charismatic Jay Vance and Jim Parsons. My dissertation with Vance on the densification of suburban housing is summarized in my best publication, a 1975 *Landscape* article, "The Urbanization of Suburbia: A Renaissance for the Row House."

At Davis I did a lot more committee work than I should have, rising to the level of grand pooh bah of the Academic Senate when elected chair of the Committee on Committees. I chaired six completed Geography PhDs. After the Geography Department was dissolved in 1997, despite our vigorous acts of antidisestablishmentarianism, my teaching shifted to service courses for International Relations.

In retirement I've returned to my historical geography interests. I direct my city's museum and write articles and do field trips for the Yolo County Historical Society. I've co-authored two Arcadia Publications books on local places. Post-retirement research produced a chapter with Robin Datel on the rise of Sacramento's "Little Saigon" for a Brookings Institution book on immigration gateways edited by my first PhD student, Susan Hardwick.

If elected I would work with the APCG's committee to strengthen membership, visiting some low-participation departments. I would seek ways to perpetuate the Association's tradition of landscape studies and fieldwork reporting in our meeting trips, presentations, and publications. To reduce the effort required to stage our meetings we should re-visit possible joint meetings with AAG regions or specialty groups. Odd-year APCG meetings might keep our traditions alive with half the workload and I will facilitate discussion of that nuclear option.

**Paul F. Starrs, Candidate for Vice-President**

Professor of Geography

University of Nevada, Reno

Thanks to those of you who suggested I consider running for the role of APCG Vice-President: if it happens, I'll be glad, if no it's still a great privilege. While I'll confess to running hot and cold on going to AAG meetings, where 9,000 people disperse among multiple venues and dozens of simultaneous sessions, APCG gatherings invariably feel like home and the talks are usually way more gripping, as prospective scholars rehearse their skills and old-timers (me, now) reprise evolving projects, showing how work-in-progress becomes professional papers and journal manuscripts and ably illustrated articles — a sequence I've tried to teach at every level throughout my career, from student to reviewer to mentor of junior colleagues to journal editor to academic veteran.

Those of us who are teachers might agree that our job is less passing along "facts" than the revelation of insider skills, though from my students I invariably learn a lot of "how to" and technological wizardry in matters of presentation quality. With dozens of APCG talks completed by graduate students I've worked with across the years, it's a delight to see how fellowship, peer-mentoring, technical advice, and suggestions in apps-used and theories-brought-to-bear come together in our meetings. Yet the APCG is far more than regular gatherings and funding for deserving students, it provides program reviewers, regional expertise, newsletters and journals, travel companions and fieldwork support, and a sounding board for triumphs and occasional torments. Most of all, we are about ideas and inspiration. While none of that comes from me alone, I've taken on all of these roles, and recognition of that would be welcome.

And I will admit, too, nostalgia matters. My earliest official organizational membership was in the APCG, and at the 1985 Los Angeles meeting I gave my first professional talk. I remember Susan Hardwick offering congratulations with the warm words so characteristic of her, and close by loomed Kit Salter — then at UCLA — in full swing. With a minimum of shame, a pod of us grad students escaped from quite the peculiar banquet scene into a UCLA sculpture garden, toting a bottle of wine conveniently rescued from one of the non-consuming tables. For those

who rely on numbers, I've given talks at fourteen of our meetings since then, and attended a number more: being there is always a pleasure, as regional meetings should be.

But professional organizations are about way more than annual meetings. For me, the APCG is the venue where students can be invited to join and watch and learn and step out on their own, and get advice for refinement and improvement — or showcase a virtuoso set of skills. Young colleagues can present preliminary data or hard-won conclusions; that happens and is great. The prospect of a meeting, with the run-up and rehearsals and the participation (and the availability of the Yearbook and *Pacifica* as publication venues) moves everyone onto a serious footing: from undergrads (even high-school students) to golden oldies, there's much to be said and shown and shared.

In the larger world of academia, running for office typically fits into the category of “service,” but the service involved goes well beyond the usual committees and meetings and obligations. In a recent on-line survey I filled out as a lark, I was rated as preternaturally high on “friendliness,” but ironically if maybe predictably, weak in dutifulness, since I'd recently stepped down from an intense three-year term as department chair. There are stories that make this contrast totally believable, but if elected, I promise to attend to all duties with earnest fortitude and graceful humor.

For the APCG and AAG, for our profession, and for cultural-historical-regional geography, which I regard as my main interest, I've tried to be present and useful. I've done multiple stints as an outside program reviewer (you know where and who you are); edited the *Geographical Review* for six years (the first editor ever outside of Manhattan); I am a founding, and still a consulting, editor for the AAG Review of Books, with responsibility for identifying volumes by nongeographers, finding inspiring and review-worthy books in foreign languages, and assembling review-essays of multiple books in one review — a particular pleasure. Let me know what you'd like to review. I've helped edit into shape doctoral dissertations by five of my own advisees, and done the same for theses by twenty-five masters students (with thesis topics ranging from artisanal organic ice cream to gravel pits to Moab outdoor recreation to Mexican *arrastras*). To date, I've evaluated fifty-one book manuscripts for university presses (and another handful for trade books), most of which went from manuscript into print. Of my own writing, there are five books, more in the works, and over a hundred chapters, articles, and reviews on substantially varied themes (you can look them up). Some of you have written nice reviews of the books, including *A Field Guide to California Agriculture*, which earned the J.B. Jackson Prize of the AAG as the best book by a geographer in 2009. I am on multiple nonprofit Boards, including the Black Rock Institute, a 501(c)(3) that I co-created which publishes books, sponsors lectures, and currently holds all the rights to *Landscape*, the justly-famed magazine published by J.B. Jackson and, later, Blair Boyd, which we hope to fully-digitize into PDF form, with a best-of anthology in the works. A proud possession, needing only some extra time and funding to become a reality.

For the APCG, I've been part of a small cadre of members pressing for greater diversity, creating opportunity, and bringing in potential new members who might not before have known about geography as a field. I owe so much in that regard to Dan Arreola, Kate Berry, Larry Ford, Dennis Dingemans, Susan Hardwick, and others, including many of my teachers in Berkeley

and, earlier, LaJolla (well, UCSD). I came to academic geography lamentably late; in my high school, which was a good one, the only geography course was taught by the basketball coach (Coach Glenn) because, so convention had it, that was the sole course he was capable of teaching — by which I mean to say nothing bad about coaches, or basketball, or high school, but that does suggest where high school geography in the 1970s stood in terms of prestiges.

Geography has come a long way and thank goodness for all that, and as a field of study, it can improve and broaden its reach still more.

So, enough “I.” Few of us were around when Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young released “Teach Your Children,” and in the APCG now hardly any of us qualify as “children.” But teaching well is important, and unlike the AAG and many other organizations that are about providing a front-and-center venue for professional grandstanding, the APCG really is, to my mind, about teaching and providing opportunities and inviting new faces into a limited yet devoted crowd. Making sure that we are as varied as possible is crucial: as Patricia Limerick notes in the *Legacy of Conquest*, the West beyond the Rocky Mountains is hugely varied. Geographers should be better prepared than almost any group to showcase that. I’ve given talks far and wide, and tried to leave behind an enduring interest and enthusiasm for what geographers do: our emphasis is on the applied and practical and field-oriented.

Working, as I write this, in a garret office just outside the ancient blond-stone walls of a Roman-Moorish town in western Spain, whence came many of the conquistadors, and speaking Spanish for 6–8 hours a day, I live and salute diversity. I cannot promise huge changes to the APCG, and I’m not sure I’d want them. If you move me along as a VP, I won’t bore you, and I will try to make us more welcoming and better-still. Beyond the APCG being the most active of AAG regional groups, our newsletters and ideas and meetings and interactions are invariably interesting and frequently fun. Thanks for thinking of me, and let me know what I can do for you.

### **Deborah Thien, Candidate for Vice-President**

Professor of Geography  
California State University, Long Beach

Dear Colleagues, My research interests include geographies of gender, emotion, health and well-being; feminist theories and practices; feminist and psychoanalytic theorizations of emotion; and qualitative methodologies.

Originally from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, I did MA research while residing in the South Island of New Zealand (“Across the Street: An Intimate Feminist Geography in Aotearoa/New Zealand”) and I completed my PhD dissertation in another island locale, the Shetland Isles, (“Intimate Distances: Geography and Gender in Shetland”, 2005) while at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Since my arrival at CSULB in 2006, I have continued to be fascinated by the deeply felt relationships between people and their environments, and especially by the intersections of

gender, place and emotion. These interests have manifested in studies of Post-traumatic stress disorder, indigenous sacred space, civic engagement, and diversity matters in higher education landscapes. I am newly involved in a research consortium developing a program of Catalina Island-related research.

I am an editor for *Emotion, Space & Society* and recently stepped down after 6 years of editing the ‘cultural geographies of practice’ section of *cultural geographies*. I currently serve as the interim director of CSULB’s Honors Program.

I have been a member of APCG since my arrival in the region in 2006 – in fact, as a very new Assistant Professor, I served as co-chair of the APCG annual conference in Long Beach in 2007. I have served as the APCG Women’s Network Co-Chair for the past 5 years. I would love to maintain my APCG involvement via this new role.

**Fernando J. Bosco, Candidate for AAG Regional Councillor**

Professor of Geography  
San Diego State University

I have been a member of the APCG since taking my position at San Diego State University in 2002. I earned my Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from The Ohio State University, and my B.A. degree from Wittenberg University—also in Ohio. After spending my geography formative years in the mid-west, moving to California was not really difficult. In the west coast, I found sunnier skies but, more importantly, I met wonderful colleagues and students up and down the coast (which I soon learned also included Arizona and Nevada!). Much of this was the result of joining the APCG and attending the annual meetings. This is why I welcome the opportunity to run for the position of Regional Councillor and continue serving our Association.

I am a professor of geography at San Diego State University, where I work in the areas of urban, political and social geography, with an overarching interest in issues of social change and social justice in the United States and Latin America. My research interests include analyses of the geographic dimensions of social movements and collective action, the social and political geographies of children, families and their communities, and geographies of food in urban contexts. I also have a strong interest in the history of geographic thought and on qualitative methods in geography. I have published articles and book chapters on human rights movements in Argentina, on the struggles of immigrant women and their children in Southern California, on alternative food movements and practices in San Diego, and on young people’s activism—to name a few. I regularly teach undergraduate and graduate courses and seminars on these topics and I emphasize the importance of community-based geographic research and of critically engaged scholarship.

Besides my research and teaching, I have always valued service to our discipline. I am a fervent advocate for geography because I believe the future of our discipline depends on our actions today. Much of this means being involved and active, educating the next generations of geographers and serving the organizations that are the public face of our discipline. My first service for the APCG included being a member of the Student Awards Committee for a couple

of years soon after I joined. After that, I became a member of the Editorial Board of the APCG Yearbook in 2007 and a member of the LATS (Latino/a American Travel Scholarship) Committee in 2010, positions that I still occupy today. In addition, I co-organized and co-chaired the APCG annual meeting in San Diego in 2009, a highly rewarding (if exhausting!) experience. Finally, I ran for vice-president of our association in 2011. At the national level, I have been involved with the AAG in different ways, including as board member and chair of the Qualitative Research Specialty Group from 2004 to 2007, organizer of the graduate student research grant competition for the Qualitative Research Specialty Group in 2004 and 2005, and board member of the Economic Geography Specialty Group from 2005 to 2007. More recently, I have been involved in service to our discipline outside our formal geography associations. From 2011 to 2014, I served as senior panelist for the Geography and Spatial Sciences Program of the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC. Since last year, I have been a member of the Development Committee for the Human Geography AP (Advanced Placement) Program that is administered by The College Board.

If elected Regional Councillor, I plan on continuing serving the APCG and the departments in our region with the same level of commitment and energy. Thanks to the work of everyone involved with the APCG over so many years and up to today, our association is one of the strongest in the country and our national geography association is well aware of that. My goal is to continue to advocate, at the national level, for the issues that our important to us in the Pacific coast. To that end, I plan on soliciting and listening to questions and concerns from our members and make sure we are well represented at council meetings, with the goal of supporting and promote our regional division in front of our national representatives. On the other hand, I commit to communicate to all of you any developments at the AAG that may impact the APCG and the departments in our region, in either positive or negative ways, and to work cooperatively with many of you to remedy any issues. Again, thank you for the opportunity to run for the position of Regional Councillor for the APCG.

### **Sriram Khé, Candidate for AAG Regional Councillor**

Associate Professor of Geography  
Western Oregon University

I am delighted with this opportunity in which, if elected, I will be able to simultaneously serve the APCG and the AAG.

Over the years, I have served the APCG in a number of capacities. In 2013-2014, I was the APCG's president, after having been elected the vice-president for the year prior to that. I was the APCG's editor for *Pacifica* for a little more than five years, from mid-2005 till the end of 2010. This year, I am serving on the APCG's Membership Committee; I volunteered to do this because, like many APCG members, I enjoy the professional and intellectual camaraderie the APCG makes possible and would like to see an increase in sustained membership. In all, for more than eleven years, I have been actively involved with the organization at various levels and have enjoyed every moment of this commitment.

I have been active with the AAG as well. I am currently wrapping up my three-year term on the AAG's Publications Committee, in which I have been able to contribute my proverbial two-cents on various items of value to members—from the hiring of editors to the launch of the latest journal, *GeoHumanities*. Between 2007 and 2013, I served two three-year terms on the AAG's Committee on College Geography and Careers. When I chaired that Committee, we co-sponsored a panel discussion at the annual meeting in Seattle (2011) on "Geography and Liberal Education: Intersecting Points on a Map?"—a topic that continues to deeply interest me.

All through these active involvements with the APCG and the AAG, I have had close interactions with our Regional Councillors as well, especially with Scott Mensing—the current Councillor whose term ends in June 2016. I am very familiar with the APCG region, across its multiple levels of higher education, and I am confident that I will serve our collective interests well. As your AAG Regional Councillor, I will seek your input on how to continue to improve the interactions with members and non-members alike, in order to promote both the APCG and the AAG.

If you think I can provide you with additional information regarding my candidacy, please contact me at [khes@wou.edu](mailto:khes@wou.edu), which is my email address at Western Oregon University (WOU), where I have been a tenured member of the Geography Department since 2004. Prior to joining WOU, and after earning my PhD from the University of Southern California, I taught at California State University-Bakersfield for two years and worked as a transportation planner for six years with the Kern Council of Governments.

Finally, my thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for including my name as a candidate for the AAG Regional Councillor position.

**Robert T. (Bob) Richardson, Candidate for Treasurer**

Professor Emeritus  
CSU Sacramento

I began teaching in 1969 at San Fernando Valley State College (soon renamed CSU Northridge), then came to CSU Sacramento in 1977. I was Secretary/Treasurer from 1997 to 2009, when the position was split in two; since then I've been Treasurer. I feel strongly connected to the APCG (my dad was a Charter Member in 1935), but was sweet-talked into serving as interim Secretary/Treasurer in 1997 by Betsy Burns, who had been President two years earlier. I never would have volunteered for the job—I shrink from responsibility, as a rule. I figured to end my run after 2003-04, but Gary Hausladen lubricated me at a watering hole one evening at the San Luis Obispo meeting (2004) to the point that I expansively agreed to carry on, much to Jim Allen's relief (he was incoming President). So here I am twelve years later still unable to shake free. Despite Microsoft's dropping Windows XP two years ago today (April 8) I have continued to function properly as Treasurer. The member database is in FoxPro 2.6a, if you can believe it, and it won't run in OS's more recent than XP. At the Business Meeting in Palm Springs Dennis Dingemans urged me to go for 20 years as Treasurer, so what the hey, I'll do it!