

# PACIFICA

## SUMMER 2022

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Student enrollment and post-COVID modalities present new challenges for geography departments. p.4

### MEAT CONSUMPTION & CLIMATE CHANGE

CSUN's Jad Aljersh and Mario Giraldo report on carbon emissions research. p.6

### INJECTING GEOGRAPHY INTO THEATER

Mike Pesses brings space and place to theater for middle and high school students. p.12

## *Fall 2022 Meeting*

The APCG is gearing up for our Bellingham, Washington meeting this October. Abstract deadline is September 16!

Details abound on p.9 and 10.





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04



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06





## SUMMER MUSINGS

I have been doing everything possible to stay in the moment this summer and do the geographic work that I fell in love with so many years ago. Fortunate to be able to turn down summer teaching, the break between the spring and fall semesters has been invaluable in escaping the administrative headaches of the pandemic and engaging with the spaces and places I've neglected during the academic year. For me, this means playing cowboy in the Sierra Pelona Mountains I call home as well as injecting some spatial thought into the theater (see pg. 12). I sincerely hope you have been able to make the most of this summer. Maybe not fully returning to normal (whatever such a term means) but to at least pause for breath before we return to work.

One bright light in the upcoming academic year is our annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held at Western Washington University in Bellingham (hence the Pacific Northwest Theme of the images in this issue). I have put the relevant information in this issue, but make sure to check the [conference website](#) for the latest information. And don't forget that paper abstracts are due September 16th.

Best,  
Mike Pesses  
*Antelope Valley College  
Lancaster, California*

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## *Election Results*

- **President:** Kris Bezdecny, *Cal State LA*
- **Vice President:** Fernando Bosco, *San Diego State University*
- **Secretary:** Terence Young, *Cal Poly Pomona*
- **AAG Regional Councilor:** Dydia DeLyser, *Cal State Fullerton*

## ABOUT THE APCG

Founded in 1935 by a gathering of geographers including graduate students and faculty from universities, normal schools, and junior colleges, and a few individuals from government and industry, the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers has a long and rich history promoting geographical education, research, and knowledge.

Members gather at the annual meetings for social and intellectual interaction. They receive the annual *Yearbook*, first published in 1935, that includes abstracts of papers from the meetings and a number of full length peer-reviewed articles. Members also receive the biannual newsletter *Pacifica*, first published in Fall 1994. Since 1952 the APCG has also been the Pacific Coast Regional Division of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), serving AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, BC, and YT.



# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: A FIREBELL IN THE NIGHT

STEVE GRAVES



The passage of the Missouri Compromise in 1820, prompted Thomas Jefferson to admit that the implications of the legislation filled him with terror, like a fire bell in the night. Jefferson could predict the kind of bloodshed the law would eventually bring to the Union. He was prescient of course.

I think I hear a fire bell ringing myself. It seems to be coming from the enrollment management system at my university – California State Northridge. Enrollment in my large, on-campus, Introduction to Human Geography course remains pitifully low. As of today, just weeks before Fall 2022 semester is scheduled to begin, there are only 36 enrolled. This is roughly what it was last semester as well.

In the before times, the enrollment in that lecture was typically over 120 in both fall and spring semesters. I got double credit for teaching it and students enjoyed the class. Student feedback was positive. The lectures were entertaining, richly illustrated with loads of landscape photography, compelling maps, music, YouTube videos, a half-dozen running jokes, props, and a choice of real-world, problem-solving, GIS based “labs” that replaced writing assignments. I regularly heard from students – my roommate told me about this class! I heartily enjoyed teaching the course and had spent countless hours honing the delivery. I even wrote a textbook to accompany it, so students could save some money and get a book that was interactive. I was proud of the course. I

remain proud of it.

More importantly though was what that course did for the Geography and GIS programs at CSUN. It had become over the years the main “recruiting ground” where majors could be seined from the mighty rivers of the undecided... or from the massive lakes of psychology, business, and sociology majors.

Majors are the coin of the realm at my university. It wouldn't matter to administration if we produced a Nobel prize every other year, if we don't sustain a very healthy population of Geography majors, we cannot realistically expect to get to hire new faculty as current faculty retire. Without an adequate staff, we can't offer the courses we need to offer a robust



major. Our Master's program would be difficult to maintain. Without a robust major, it becomes harder to recruit majors. And so on. It's a downward spiral that leads to extinction or relegation to program status within something like Anthropology or Geology.

Our program is large at CSUN – at least by Geography standards. We often have between 100 and 150 majors. Impressive as that might sound to some, our enrollment pales compared to others in our college. Psychology and Sociology majors number in the thousands. We need at least 100 majors for courses to fill, which permits students to get courses they want and/or need in a timely fashion, so they can complete legitimate degree programs in four years.

All that is being threatened by the seismic shift at universities like CSUN. Campus life here at big-com-muter-U leaves something to be desired. Sports, Greek life, the music-and-night


club scenes are minor components of student life on campuses like ours. Students work. They raise families. They care for parents and siblings. Driving 30-50 minutes two or four times per week to sit in a lecture hall, no matter how entertaining, is not an attractive option for students who have tasted the sweet nectar of the online course. I can't say that I blame them.

The trend is worrisome.

I'm not in the "all online education is bad" camp. Over the past few years, I've come, reluctantly, to realize that some of the technical course I teach, especially GIS, and courses where step-by-step instructions are a major part of classroom tutorials, online is more efficient. Not for all students, of course, but for most students, the ability to endlessly rewind video tutorials is something that cannot be done in the on-campus environment. On-campus, students can always ask instructors to

***“It's a downward spiral that leads to extinction or relegation to program status within something like Anthropology or Geology.”***





# EVALUATING BEHAVIORAL CHANGE OF MEAT CONSUMPTION AMONG YOUNGER ADULTS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Jad Aljersh and Mario Giraldo  
California State University, Northridge

*CSUN student Jad Aljersh and faculty Mario Giraldo explore avenues of carbon emission reductions.*

Anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gasses are generated by a large variety of human activities that involve burning fossil fuels. In recent decades, efforts made towards decreasing greenhouse gas emissions have largely increased, targeting fuel-inefficient machinery and transportation methods. Meanwhile, some greenhouse gas-emitting sectors had been widely overlooked such as the food production sector for instance, agriculture accounted for 60% of nitrous oxide and 50% of methane of global anthropogenic emissions in 2005 (IPCC 2007). The amount of such emissions from agriculture depends on production techniques, natural processes in soils, and animal metabolism.

Livestock, demanding high amounts of land resources, emit the highest greenhouse gas emissions of any food group, and account for 18% of the total anthropogenic greenhouse emissions (Stehfest, et al. 2009). Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions requires the replacement of animal-based proteins in favor of plant-based proteins as an alternative to minimize the environmental impacts of meat consumption. People in high-income countries, such as the United States, eat environmentally unsustainable amounts of meat (Salo et al. 2019) exceeding the standard protein needs for adults (Sans et al. 2015), and causing negative health and environmental impacts. With the current growing human generation being impacted the great-

est by global warming, it is crucial to raise awareness of people's own dietary habits while introducing them to the topic of climate change, and its causes and effects on the planet (Wolstenholme et al., 2020).

Interventions that aim to raise awareness among the public regarding their own animal products consumption have the potential to decrease meat consumption, and accordingly, greenhouse gas emissions emitting from the food sector (Kurz 2018). Providing information regarding negative impacts of daily practice on either about the health or their environmental impacts can be effective in changing human behavior in particular related to meat consumption (Carfora et al. 2019). Also, self-monitoring meat intake has a positive effect on changing one's meat consumption behaviors (Carfora et al. 2017).

The purpose of this study was to evaluate individual carbon emissions from self-reported meat consumption among young college students and to assess personal attitudes towards behavioral changes into a more plant-based diet. In this project, college students self-reported animal protein consumption data categorized based on the number of meat servings, poultry, and fish servings, per participant, per week. Based on the number of servings, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions weekly produced per student was used to estimate carbon dioxide equivalency



in units. Before the research period, participants were presented information about the meat consumption industry's influence on climate change, inviting them to monitor their meat consumption habits and potential future goals to reduce meat consumption. The introductory level physical geography and weather course provides a chance to engage students in a learning opportunity to address the issue of greenhouse gas emissions from the food sector. A total of 221 participants from five different courses from Spring 2019 until Spring 2021 participated in this project. During the duration of the assignment, students were simultaneously receiving lectures regarding the atmospheric greenhouse effect, greenhouse gas concentration, and the impacts of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions on the greenhouse effect.

The assignment had two components, the first part

*“Livestock, demanding high amounts of land resources, emit the highest greenhouse gas emissions of any food group, and account for 18% of the total anthropogenic greenhouse emissions.”*

was a self-reporting of the meat amount consumed in each meal during two consecutive weeks. The second part was a reflective essay where students discussed their personal perception of animal protein consumption and its equivalence in carbon dioxide equivalency in greenhouse gas emissions. The qualitative portion of the study was taken out of the reflective essays the participants had provided for the graded assignment and were analyzed into the following categories: The value of meat in the participants' diet previous to attempting to change their diet habits, their attitude while striving to lower their meat intake during the second week, and their decision on whether or not they will continue with the environmentally healthier diet, despite their craving for meat.

In order to compile the data in a simpler way, each of the categories was sorted out into different levels indicating the participants' attitudes or personal preferences. The category describing the meat value in their diets was classified into four levels for meat-eaters, with an additional 'level 0' for non-meat eaters. Additionally, we extracted the participants' willingness to decrease meat consumption after the assignment is completed. Lastly, we summarized the essays into two classes representing the overall experience of students for the duration of the assignment: Positive or negative. To quantify different meat serving amounts and types into a unified unit of measurement, we converted the amounts of meat consumed into carbon dioxide. Based on University of Oxford researcher Joseph Poore, and Thomas Nemeck of the Agroecology and Environment Research Division in Zurich, Switzerland (Poore et al. 2018), a BBC webpage called: "Climate Change Food Calculator: What's your diet's Carbon Footprint?" designed by Nassos Stylianou, Clara Guibourg and Helen Briggs, a carbon footprint calculator to all kinds of food was developed, from which we extracted a simplified equation that gives us a method to find out the pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> in pounds for each week given the number of servings eaten in three primary meat sectors that are focused on in this research: Beef, chicken, and farmed fish. The results' unit, lbs. CO<sub>2</sub>eq is used to estimate the carbon footprint in pounds of different forms of greenhouse gasses, including methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide.

The results showed 25% participants are likely to lower meat or and 68% definitely going to lower meat consumption. Based on participants' reflections it is determined that during week 2, 73% participants had a positive experience towards decreasing meat consumption and no agitating feelings and emotions as a result of meat decrease. During the second week, on average, the participants produced a decrease of 42.59% of their meat intake from week 1 to week 2. The results supported the hypothesis that supplementing people with

information regarding their individual impacts on climate change can help them to make more judged decisions to impact climate change.

While greenhouse gasses that are emitted as a result of the meat production industry are only one piece of the solution, it was considered among the participants to be one of the easiest modifications possible to our daily routine that will help reduce emissions. As environmental awareness becomes more predominant among college students and those to whom the information will spread out, the planet will soon contain a much larger portion of environmentally friendly diets in the upcoming generations. We invite the academic community to consider implementing experiential activities such as the one presented here as an opportunity for students to learn about their own carbon footprint while making adjustments to their behavior that contribute to the larger effort in reducing greenhouse gasses.

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# APCG 2022: 84TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC COAST GEOGRAPHERS

The next APCG Meeting will be held in beautiful Bellingham, Washington at Western Washington University in October 2022. This year's theme is Geographies of Justice.

Once again, we are holding a hybrid conference, allowing you to attend in person or via Zoom. While the hybrid option began with the pandemic, this and future meetings will continue the different modalities to allow for an eco-, schedule-, and budget-friendly alternative that still allows you to partake in the event.

## Events

- **Wednesday, October 5th** - Informal evening gathering at a local restaurant
- **Thursday, October 6th** - Field trips and Evening Opening Reception
- **Friday, October 7th** - Papers, Grad Student Luncheon, and Evening Keynote Speaker with Reception
- **Saturday, October 8th** - More papers, Women's Network Lunch, Posters, World Geography Bowl, and Evening Awards Banquet

## Call for Papers

Papers sessions will be both online and in person. Presentations will get 15 minutes each and submissions are due September 16th. Posters will also have an in person and virtual format.

## Costs

Registration costs begin at \$20 for students, with a variety of options and add-ons. See the [conference website](#) for full details.

## Travel

Bellingham Airport (BLI) as well as Vancouver (YVR) and Seattle-Tacoma (SEA) airports are all options for out of area attendees. More details and options are available at the [conference website](#).



# GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

THE APCG OFFERS A WHOLE HOST OF FUNDING TO ASSIST WITH CONFERENCE TRAVEL AND FINISHING YOUR GEOGRAPHY DEGREE!

Academia is expensive. To assist our students in both attending the annual meeting in Bellingham, WA, as well as getting the money to complete their research, the APCG offers a variety of monetary awards.

## ***APCG Student Paper and Poster Awards and Travel Grants***

Students, both undergraduate and graduate, presenting either a paper or poster are eligible for a whole host of awards, most \$200 as well as the *Geosystems* award of \$500. To apply, simply check the appropriate box when you register for the conference.

All student presenters may also apply for a travel grant of \$200. Also, thanks to a generous donation from Bill and Kathy Bowen, all students presenting at the conference will have their Awards Banquet Dinner paid for in full!

## ***Margaret Trussell Scholarships for Women Students Pursuing Graduate Studies in Geography***

Normally, two scholarships are made annually, one to a woman-identifying doctoral geography student and one to a woman-identifying master's geography student. All fields of geographical study are welcome. The APCG also offers Women's Network Small Grants of \$200 to assist with meeting attendance.

## ***Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship in Cultural Geography***

This \$500 scholarship is awarded to a graduate student in cultural geography to assist with fieldwork necessary for a masters thesis or doctoral dissertation.

## ***Latina/o American Travel Scholarships***

These scholarships (\$200 for non-presenting students and \$300 for those presenting) created to help make it possible for Latina/Latino ancestry students—both undergraduate and graduate—from Geography programs in the APCG region to attend annual meetings. Awards are to be applied to travel, accommodation, and registration expenses at APCG meetings.

## ***Indigenous Student Travel Scholarships***

The purpose of the Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship is, through student support, to cultivate indigenous geography scholarship in our discipline and bring the Native voice forward. The unique form of geographical knowledge, perspective and expression of Native students enriches the organization and enlivens the conversations geographers have. Native American, American Indian, Native Hawaiian or Alaska Native graduate or undergraduate students are eligible. Awards are to be applied to travel, accommodation, and/or registration expenses at this year's APCG meeting.

## ***African Descent Student Travel Scholarships***

This scholarship (again \$200 for non-presenting students and \$300 for those presenting) was created in 2009 to provide travel grants for Geography students of African descent to assist them with financial support to attend APCG annual meetings.

## ***Eugene Hoerauf Scholarship for Studies in Cartography and/or GIS***

A grant is available to an undergraduate or graduate student focusing their studies in Cartography and/or GIS. The grant helps defray costs of attending the Annual Meeting. The recipient will receive one paid Annual Meeting registration and one annual APCG student membership, along with tickets to one field trip of their choosing, one barbeque, and one Awards Banquet. Also included is a \$200 travel grant (\$50 if local) to help defray the travel costs.

Details on our scholarships can be found on the [APCG website](#). Keep in mind that they all have specific materials and forms necessary to apply. The APCG Directory (pg. 13 of this issue) also lists the people in charge of our various grants and scholarships. Feel free to reach out to them with specific questions not answered on the website.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (CONT. FROM P.5)

stop and repeat some bit of a lesson, but 20 years of doing these tutorials has proven to me over and over – many students would rather get hopelessly lost than raise a hand and admit they missed a step. A few students manage to get hopelessly lost at home no matter how well executed a video tutorial is. If those students were on campus, a quick, “you skipped that step” from the instructor, or a fellow student sitting adjacent to them in the lab would be the only remedy necessary to avoid confusion and frustration.

Some classes don't work as well in the online environment. Unfortunately, that seems to include our few effective “recruiting courses”, like Introduction to Human Geography. We know this because of our years of tracking where and how new majors are won. We have monitored closely the “how did you decide to major in geography” stories of our majors for many years, and we know our pipelines well.

Our data conclusively shows that online courses are rarely compelling enough to win a new major. Not one student in a five-year span of surveys responded positively to our survey prompt, “I decided to major in Geography after taking an online course”. Perhaps our online offerings are somehow worse than what is offered in Sociology or any other department, but I doubt that's it. I think our online courses are well done, and in most instances, better than what's being offered in other departments. Still, they are not enough to convince incoming freshmen and sophomores to adopt Geography as a major.

The on-campus courses seem to have that power. Our surveys indicate that the most common reason for a student to adopt Geography as a major was “excellent course” and “excellent professor” but that's only for on-campus courses. Great instructors, both at CSUN and our partners at the local community colleges are how we get new majors, but somehow the infectious passion for our discipline that new majors find so alluring is lost in the online environment.

We will see how this plays out over the next few years. I doubt campuses like CSUN, as well as many of the Community Colleges will ever return to the on-campus pedagogic model that served us well for so many decades.

I think it is incumbent upon all of us to consider the implications of a mostly online campus environment moving forward. I'm growing convinced that it is the future for campuses serving working-class students who largely commute to classes.

Perhaps organizations like the APCG, AAG, and the CGS can create some sort of clearinghouse for outstanding online pedagogical techniques and content. It's difficult to find the time, energy, resources and creativity to create 15 weeks full of highly compelling curriculum capable of making potential majors think, “Wow! That's so awesome, I think I'll become a geographer!”. Together though, we may be able to cobble together enough, plug-and-play content that we might be able to keep the pipeline of new majors from running dry.

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### **Call for Content!**

*Pacifica* needs your submissions! This is a great showcase for research notes, essays and interventions in geography, and photos of our conferences, you doing geography stuff, or anything else you feel like sharing with the community.

This is also a wonderful venue for students to get early stages of their work out to the discipline.

Send inquiries and material to [Mike Pesses](#).

# INJECTING SPACE AND PLACE INTO THE ARTS

Mike Pesses, Antelope Valley College

Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp is an annual sleep-away summer camp run through the El Dorado County Office of Education that immerses students in fine arts education. The students range from 11-17 years old and can “major” in a range of arts including theater, jazz ensemble, textile arts, and photography. The 2022 summer had a return to the tradition that had been upset by the pandemic, and was held in Sly Park, California once again.

I have a history with the camp, having attended as a camper many years ago, as well as working as a counselor and teaching staff during college. I was fortunately asked to be on the Drama staff this year and responsible for cowriting the performance put on by the theater students at the end of the week. This of course meant that I injected as much spatial theory as I could into our play, entitled *Solve for X*. The play was ultimately a look at middle and high school kids working through identity and what I see as a push for STEM education at the expense of the arts and creative thinking. We want our kids to study science; we teach them how to push buttons and memorize things.

“X” was the name of our protagonist, a kid renamed by a school administrator to make student assessments less personal. X falls into “the gap” of mathematic test scores and encounters a Wonderland-like place called Parallax. Of the many characters encountered, my personal favorites were three separate Descarteses, as well as Henri Bergson, Gilles Deleuze, and Felix Guattari. We balanced the cartesian quest for plotting and assessing data with the freeing nature of duration and smooth spaces.

In part, my work on the play was an effort to work through my own thoughts on preparing young students to thrive in our discipline. Yes, all of us, no matter how “qualitative” we might be, need to have a solid understanding of cartesian data collection and analysis. Yet, the thing I see as setting geography apart from even our most closely related disciplines like sociology or geology is the creativity necessary to pull out the processes and patterns that are so fundamental to our work. Having

*“Of the many characters encountered, my personal favorites were three separate Descarteses, as well as Henri Bergson, Gilles Deleuze, and Felix Guattari.”*

my own children working through California’s public schools, I have seen firsthand how the desire for strong STEM education becomes repetition and rote memory rather than encouraging curiosity and creative problem solving.

It was rewarding to work with students well below college level and to do so where grades and assessments were absent. Further, I got to do geography at its purist level. I wasn’t overtly mapping data or invoking theory, but rather we were moving through space and place and firmly rooted in experience. In addition to putting on a performance, we worked with the campers on spatial awareness as it applies to performing on stage as well as everyday life. We moved through the landscape!

Did I make any future geography majors? Doubtful. But I certainly did my best to get spatial analysis in the forefront of their minds. And next year we’ll see if we can get GIS onto the stage...



The spatially aware Sugarloaf Thespians. Photo by Erin Dealey.

# APCG DIRECTORY

## *Executive Council*

### **President**

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### **Secretary**

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### **Past President**

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## *APCG Committees*

### **Awards**

- Kris Bezdecny, Cal State Los Angeles, kbezdec@calstatela.edu
- Stuart Aitken, San Diego State University, saitken@sdsu.edu
- Lorne Platt, Cal Poly, Pomona, laplatt@cpp.edu
- Ryan Miller, Chico State, rgmiller@csuchico.edu
- Elena Givental, Cal State East Bay, elena.givental@csueasybay.edu

### **Nominations**

- Denielle Perry, Northern Arizona University, denielle.perry@nau.edu
- 2 positions currently vacant

### **Distinguished Service Award**

- Kate Berry (Chair), University of Nevada, Reno, kberry@unr.edu
- Daniel Arreola, Arizona State University, daniel.arreola@asu.edu
- Yolonda Youngs, California State University, San Bernardino, yyoungs@csusb.edu

### **Applied and Independent Geographers Group**

- Vacant

### **APCG Archivist**

- Michael Pretes, University of North Alabama, mjpret@una.edu

### **Membership**

- Paul Starrs, University of Nevada, Reno, starrs@unr.edu
- Sriram Khé, Western Oregon University, khes@wou.edu

### **Budget**

- Terence Young, Cal Poly Pomona, tjyoung@cpp.edu
- Monika Calef, Soka University of America, mcalef@soka.edu

### **Margaret Trussell Scholarship**

- Peggy Hauselt (Chair), CSU, Stanislaus, phauselt@csustan.edu
- Monika Calef, Soka University of America, mcalef@soka.edu
- Jim Keese, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, jkeese@calpoly.edu

### **Women's Network**

- Lily House-Peters (co-chair), CSU Long Beach, lily.housepeters@csulb.edu
- Katherine Sammler (co-chair), Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biology, katherine.sammler@hifmb.de

### **Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship in Cultural Geography**

- Paul Starrs (chair), University of Nevada, Reno, starrs@unr.edu

- Michael Schmandt, Sacramento State, schmandt@saclink.csus.edu
- Dydia DeLyser, Cal State Fullerton, dydia@fullerton.edu

### **Latina/o American Travel Scholarship**

- Dan Arreola (Chair), Arizona State University, deniel.arreola@asu.edu
- Catalina Llanos, Cal Fire and UC Davis, catalinallanos7@gmail.com
- Maria Fadiman, Florida Atlantic University, mfadiman@fau.edu

### **Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship**

- Kate Berry (Chair), University of Nevada, Reno, kberry@unr.edu
- Kenneth Madsen, The Ohio State University, madsen.34@osu.edu
- HoMana Pawiki, Northern Arizona University, hpawiki@earthlink.net

### **African Descent Student Travel Scholarship**

- Carol Sawyer (Chair), University of South Alabama, sawyer@southalabama.edu
- Nancee Hunter, Portland State University, nhunter@pdx.edu
- Lorne Platt, Cal Poly Pomona, laplatt@cpp.edu

### **Webmaster**

- Jim Keese, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, jkeese@calpoly.edu

### **Geography Bowl**

- Tina White, Coach, CSUN, tina.m.white@csun.edu

### **Memory Counselor**

- Bob Richardson, Sacramento State, rtalbot@csus.edu

## *Publications*

### **Yearbook**

- Craig Revels (Editor), Central Washington University, Craig.Revels@cwu.edu

### **Pacifica**

- Mike Pesses (Editor), Antelope Valley College, mpesses@avc.edu

# DONATE TODAY!



Use the above QR Code to easily access our donations page.

While our dues help keep this organization going, your donations to either our general fund or one of specific scholarships or grants help tremendously. To make this a relatively painless process, you can either click on this [link](#) to visit our webpage or point your phone's camera at the above QR code to get to the same place.

And as if helping students wasn't enough of an incentive, the APCG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit so your donation is eligible as a charitable deduction. You can't afford not to donate!

In addition to the general fund, we would greatly appreciate donations to the following scholarships and/or grants:

- Women's Network Travel Grants
- Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship in Cultural Geography
- Latina/o American Student Travel Scholarships
- Indigenous Student Travel Scholarships
- African Descent Student Travel Scholarships
- Margaret Trussell Memorial Fund
- Eugene Hoerauf Scholarship

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## MEMBERSHIP

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers is an independent organization as well as a regional division of the American Association of Geographers.

APCG member dues are: Regular \$25; Student or Retired \$15 Contributing \$30 or more (any contribution over \$25 is tax deductible). A second (Joint) member may be added to any of these categories for another \$3. Second (Joint) members receive a ballot but not another copy of the *Yearbook*. Dues are paid for the calendar year.

Unless indicated otherwise, checks dated before November 1 will be credited to the current year, while those dated after November 1 will be credited to the next year. Only current year members receive the *Yearbook*. Current members will be sent a membership renewal notice near the end of the calendar year. Questions about membership may be directed to Elena Givental, [elena.givental@csueastbay.edu](mailto:elena.givental@csueastbay.edu).

# MINUTES FROM SAN DIEGO

## APCG Business Meeting, Fall 2021

**Michael Pretes** opened the meeting in Montezuma Hall at San Diego State University at 5:15 PM on Friday, October 15, 2021, with 25 people present (20 in person; 5 online).

Minutes from the Fall 2019 APCG Business Meeting in Flagstaff, Arizona, were unanimously approved.

Election Results: **Michael Pretes** presented the results.

**Steve Graves** – President

**Kris Bezdecny** – Vice-President

Continuing:

**Liz Ridder** – Secretary

**Elena Givental** – Treasurer

**Yolonda Youngs** – AAG Councilor

**Michael Pretes** – Past President

## REPORTS

*AAG Councilor Report:* **Yolonda Youngs** presented the Councilor's report, which will be posted on the APCG website and published in *Pacifica*. Yolonda discussed changes at the AAG, starting with a new Executive Director, **Gary Langham**. As a result, AAG is launching several new initiatives and committees and adding International Councilors to the AAG National Council. Several Regional meetings, including this year's APCG meeting, are a component of the AAG's Climate Forward Initiative. This initiative may involve changing the AAG annual meeting model and possibly the regional model by emphasizing regions and regional meetings more. For this year's APCG meeting, AAG's support included funding, legal support, and cancellation insurance. The AAG National Council has changed, as has the Regional Councilor's role. The National Council now meets four times per year; fall, spring, and summer. The fall National Council virtual meeting follows the APCG meeting, and more updates will be coming. Yolonda included links in her report to the National Council agenda, meeting notes, budget, and long-range plan on the AAG website.

AAG National Council subcommittees that intersect with the APCG include the Climate Forward, Health of Departments, and Membership subcommittees. The Climate Forward Subcommittee is new and is evaluating the meeting model, including costs, international community inclusion and travel challenges, student inclusion and career advancement, hybrid options, and emphasis on regional meetings. Yolonda serves on the Subcommittee on Membership. One change is that the subcommittee and the AAG will now send department chairs the Regional Councilor survey. The Regional Councilors updated and shortened the survey, which will be deployed in 2022. Yolonda asked the membership to let their department chairs expect to hear from the AAG, on behalf of the Regional Councilors, regarding updates to departments and programs.

The AAG is in the process of a complete website revision and has been delayed, causing issues with APCG meeting registration and general missing content on the AAG website. Yolonda will take comments regarding the website update and feedback on the hybrid conference experiment to the National Council meeting. An anonymous post-conference survey will also be distributed soon.

Yolonda's three-year term as Regional Councilor ends in July 2022. Yolonda thanked everyone for letting her serve as the APCG's Regional Councilor and offered to chat with anyone interested in serving as the

next Councilor.

*Treasurer's Report:* **Elena Givental's** Treasurer's Report was distributed (four pages total). The first page summarized transactions over the past two fiscal years (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021) since APCG did not meet in 2020. Pages two to three of the document detail APCG special funds, and page four summarizes membership from 1994-2021. From the budget overview on page one of the report, receipts exceeded disbursement, increasing APCG's total funds by approximately \$17,000 over the two years. Elena thanked everyone for their continued donations. Memberships were automatically extended due to Covid, so very little revenue was generated in 2020 from membership renewals. University of Hawaii Press/Project Muse direct clicks for Yearbook downloads generates \$9,000-10,000 per year.

**Bob Richardson** provided the membership data found on the last page of the Treasurer's Report. Membership numbers were not updated in 2019-2020 due to Covid and the automatic extension of memberships. Elena checked Wild Apricot the week before the meeting, and APCG's current membership is at 489, an increase over the past few years. This year's total membership numbers are unknown because memberships were processed with conference registration on the AAG website.

*Yearbook Editor's Report:* **Craig Revels** presented the *Yearbook* report. This year's *Yearbook* is not yet in hand, which members traditionally receive before each annual meeting. The issue will be out soon and is smaller because there was no 2020 annual meeting. Several manuscripts have already been submitted for the 2022 volume. Things are working well with the University of Hawaii Press. APCG generates funds from direct access (clicks generated) through Project Muse, so please directly link and download from the Project Muse site. Craig's five-year term as editor officially ends after the 2022 volume. Please get in touch with Craig if you are interested in serving as editor.

*Pacifica Editor's Report:* **Mike Pesses**, *Pacifica's* new editor, presented the report. *Pacifica* will have a new layout. In addition to documenting APCG Annual Meetings, *Pacifica* will feature articles that foster discussion among the members. *Pacifica* has no space limitations because it is a digital publication, and Mike encouraged people to reach out to discuss submitting work for publication. Student submissions are highly encouraged.

*Committee Reports:* None presented.

*President's Report/New Business:* **Mike Pretes** presented the President's

## In Memorium

**Richard "Dick" Ellefsen**, active faculty at San Jose State's Geography Department for 40 years, passed away at the age of 89 in October 2021.

More details on his remarkable life can be found [here](#).

Report in concert with the discussion of business agenda items.

2022 Conference will convene in Bellingham, Washington, at Western Washington University. **Aquila Flower** is the conference organizer.

Future Meeting Sites have not been identified, including for the 2023 meeting. A guide to hosting a meeting is posted on the APCG website, and potential volunteers can reach out to any of the Executive Committee or past hosts for more information.

Upcoming AAG Conferences will be held in New York in 2022, Denver in 2023, and Honolulu in 2024.

*Collaboration with California Geographical Society (CGS):* Discussion regarding cooperation between the CGS and APCG has occurred over the past few years, including the potential for a joint meeting. APCG traditionally holds its meetings in the fall and CGS in the spring. Due to AAG's spring meeting, it isn't easy to move the APCG meeting. CGS is discussing an Oakland meeting this spring, so any collaborative efforts would not happen this year. CGS attendance varies from 200-450, with many undergraduates from universities and community colleges.

*Scholarship and Grants Committees:* **Michael Pretes** reported several people volunteered to serve, and the various scholarship committees are each fully staffed with three members.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*Early Career Faculty Awards:* The EC has proposed granting two \$500 awards per year to any non-tenured, non-student faculty member presenting work at APCG, either virtually or in person. A committee would be formed to evaluate award applications. Motion for a vote by the membership was called at the Business Meeting and carried unanimously. Adding these two awards results in three Early Career Faculty Awards awarded each year.

*Student Travel Grants:* The EC proposed an increase of \$2,000 for student travel grants, bringing the total allocation to \$6,000 per year. Motion for a vote by the membership was called at the Business Meeting and carried unanimously.

*Social Media Outreach Committee:* The EC proposed the creation of a new committee to develop and maintain outreach on social media and other platforms in addition to the APCG listserv messaging. Membership on the committee will consist of APCG members and must include one faculty member, one student, and one at-large seat. **Mike Pesses** will serve as the faculty member, and the other two seats need to be filled by people who are adept and interested in the effective use of social media to engage current and potential members, including K-12 and community college students.

*Membership:* APCG's Membership Committee, whose function is to enhance membership, is looking for committee members and ideas to encourage participation in APCG. Possible ways to build membership beyond the university included discussion of a junior student membership category, similar to the Royal Geographical Society, and connecting with K-12 and community college educators and students through the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) and the National Council for Geographic Education (NGCE).

*Geography Bowl:* **Tina White** has led the Geo Bowl, and in recognition of the difficulty of doing this work alone, the EC voted to create a three-member Geo Bowl committee. The committee will work to recruit members for the APCG team. Tina asked the members to

speak with their colleagues about encouraging students to participate. Team members receive a stipend depending on the number of participants for travel to the AAG Geography Bowl. The Geo Bowl committee could consider working with CGS to build a team.

*Elections:* Executive Council Elections for Regional Councilor and Secretary positions will take place in 2022. The Regional Councilor will take office on July 1, 2022, and the Secretary will take office after the 2022 APCG meeting in Bellingham. Requirements for both positions are posted on the APCG website. Yolonda and Liz are available to answer questions regarding either position.

*Information Items:* Passed at the Flagstaff meeting in 2019, members of the EC and *Yearbook* and *Pacifica* editors have their meeting registration fees waived as an incentive to serve in these roles. This is the first year the policy was implemented. The EC approved a motion to explore opening a new bank account with a bank that aligns with APCG values and has a more significant presence across the APCG region because the current bank has only one location, which is inconvenient for any in-person banking required of the Treasurer.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Conference Collaboration with AAG:* An extended conversation was held regarding the benefits and drawbacks of the current collaboration with AAG. Benefits included virtual access to streaming and recorded content from other participating regions and the Applied Geography Conference; AAG legal, financial, and staff support for contracts, billing, and meeting platform (virtual/hybrid sessions), relieving conference hosts of some planning obligations; and streamlined/removed barriers for student inclusion in paper/poster competition and travel grants. Drawbacks included glitches with the newly launched AAG website and registration/abstract submission platform and databases, future meetings may not have the same financial backing from AAG as this year's Climate Forward and Regions Connect experiment, and physical rooms need scheduling for streaming/virtual sessions. APCG will remain independent of the AAG and maintain its own identity. The APCG membership can determine the extent of collaboration on future meetings and initiatives. The meeting host(s) will still control the venue, catering options, scheduling, etc. Other suggestions for improvement included brief descriptions of the regional acronyms and how scheduling works across time zones; more explanation of how the hybrid/streaming mode works (e.g., how to access recordings and how long they are posted). Yolonda will take feedback to the National Council. In addition, an anonymous post-conference survey will be sent out in a few weeks for further input on this year's conference experiences.

*From the Floor:* Words of appreciation were extended to the conference organizers, **Liz Ridder**, **Atsushi Nara**, and **Yolonda Youngs**, the conference student volunteers, and the staff at the AAG and SDSU that helped to make the conference work.

*Executive Council Meetings:* The Executive Council meetings were held on the San Diego State University campus on Thursday, October 14, 2021, from 7:30 AM to 8:39 AM in Montezuma Lounge, and on Friday, October 15, 2021, from 8:15 AM to 9:08 AM at Starbucks.

Business Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM

*Respectfully submitted by Liz Ridder, APCG Secretary*





Photo by Mike Pesses

**Yi-Fu Tuan** passed away August 10, 2022. He was a force in geography and rather influential on my own work because he showed that one could write academic books and essays that people actually enjoyed reading. We don't need to be indecipherable to be insightful.

I have found that his writing lurks around my brain, just waiting for me to stumble across the right landscape before it pops up. On a recent trip with students into the heart of Los Angeles, one of his essays did just that. In 1988, Tuan published "The City as a Moral Universe" in which he argued that "inconspicuous artifacts of consideration" revealed that cities have a warmth and compassion usually only attributed to small towns. This essay is one of many of the era to argue for the beauty of cities. Interestingly, 1988 was the same year, John Carpenter's *They Live* was released, an important film showing how ideology masks the horrors of the urban environment. Clearly an era of troubling our urban systems.

For Tuan, a bench is a free space in which one can rest. This is something our society does, not to turn a profit, but to inscribe a morality onto the landscape. And yet, the benches throughout LA have been either retrofitted or designed with armrests in the middle to prevent sleeping. The photo above does just that, though you can see one man in the background adjusting his legs to thwart the armrest to sleep nonetheless. Los Angeles has these artifacts of consideration for a certain group, but it is clear that not all are welcomed into the landscape.

If the city is a depiction of our morality, as Tuan argues, one might argue that Los Angeles in the 21st Century reflects a moral failing in that the most vulnerable are kept invisible so as not to disrupt our daily lives. Often, Tuan was writing towards something. He wasn't merely reflecting what existed in our cities and towns, but rather was showing us what these places could become. I can think of no better tribute to his life than by continuing to work towards achieving the moral universe he saw.

-Mike Pesses

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