Association of American Geographers

Latin America Specialty Group

Annual Business Meeting 6:15pm PST

Friday, April 9, 2021

Virtual AAG

LASG Officers in Attendance:

Andrea Marston, Chair

Audrey Joslin, Vice-Chair

Jennifer Langill, Secretary-Treasurer

1. Andrea Marston opened meeting. No meeting minutes to approve from last year due to COVID-19 pandemic
2. Chair’s Report (Marston)
	* Introduction of new LASG Officers
		+ 2020 officer election was virtual due to the 2020 AAG going virtual
		+ No elections this year, next elections will be at 2022 AAG
	* Updates from AAG
		+ 2021 AAG: 963 sessions, 2933 abstracts, 5019 attendees
		+ LASG sponsored 11 sessions this year
		+ JLAG Lecture: GeoBrujas – A Mexico-Based Community of Women Geographers, Saturday, April 10th at 3:05pm PST
		+ 2022 AAG in New York City
	* Upcoming changes to specialty/affinity group policies
		+ New system to asses health of affinity groups; details yet to be announced by the AAG
	* No CLAG/LASG party this year due to the virtual conference (and virtual event burnout), but plan to organize for next in-person AAG
	* No LASG lecture this year, but hoping to plan one next year to keep up the health and interest of the LASG
3. Margaret Wilder (walk-on)
	* Upcoming CLAG conference January 3-7, 2022 in Tucson, Arizona
		+ Opening event January 3rd, sessions January 4th and 5th, banquet January 5th, and fieldtrips January 6th and 7th
	* In-person event, projected to go ahead given educational sphere being prioritized in vaccination campaigns
		+ Virtual options will be offered given the likelihood that not everyone will be able to travel to Tucson (whether COVID-19 related or otherwise)
	* Call for sessions will be around mid-May, and call for papers around early fall
	* See CLAG website for further details
		+ <https://clagscholar.org/conferences/tucson-arizona-2022/>
		+ <https://geography.arizona.edu/CLAG2022>
4. Vice-Chair’s Report (Joslin)
	* Thank you to those who served on the award committees:
		+ Fieldwork award committee: Beth Bee, Emily Billo, Ben Gerlofs, Audrey Joslin, Jennifer Langill, and Julio Postigo
		+ Paper award committee: Johnny Finn, Andrea Marston, and Joseph Scarpaci
	* Fieldwork award winners:
		+ PhD, 1st Place: Ruchi Patel (Penn State): “Nature-based tourism, development, and change on El Salvador’s Bálsamo Coast”
		+ PhD, 2nd Place: Mirella Pretel Gomero (Syracuse): “Environmental justice and Indigenous women’s struggles in the northern Peruvian Amazon”
		+ MA: Mehrnush Golriz (UCLA): “Managing difference: inequalities in Boa Vista’s migrant shelters”
	* Best student paper award winner: Megan Dwyer Baumann (Penn State):
	“No es rentable”: Land rentals as a form of slow exclusion and dispossession in Columbia’s irrigation megaprojects
	* Congratulations to all award winners!
5. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report (Langill)
	* Current membership: 302 members (138 student members)
	* Update on LASG finances
		+ Account balance before AAG: $3063.29 (student award winner’s checks have not been cut yet)

Meeting adjourned. Members encouraged to attend the LiveCLAG series.