Association of American Geographers

Latin America Specialty Group

Annual Business Meeting 7:00pm EST

Saturday, February 26, 2022

Virtual AAG

LASG Officers in Attendance:

Andrea Marston, Chair

Audrey Joslin, Vice-Chair

Jennifer Langill, Secretary-Treasurer

1. Andrea Marston opened meeting. Approved meeting minutes from last year.
2. Chair’s Report (Andrea Marston)
   * Changes to LASG officer transition process
     + LASG membership voted virtually in October 2021 to implement a new LASG board of directors transition process to protect continuity and institutional memory for LASG leadership
     + 28 members voted
     + Winning outcome (43% of votes) is for a three year rotating system, whereby all incoming officers serve one year as Secretary-Treasurer, one year as Vice-Chair, and their final year as Chair
     + As a transition year, this year a Vice-Chair will be voted in for a two year term, and a Secretary-Treasurer for the new three year term. As of next year, the new system will be in place
   * Changing bylaws (Article VII) to match voting outcome on officer transition process
     + Bill Doolittle moves to approve
     + David Salisbury seconds
     + Vote passes unanimously
   * Thank you to outgoing officers (2020-2022)
     + Audrey Joslin, Vice-Chair
     + Jennifer Langill, Secretary-Treasurer
   * Election results / welcome incoming officers
     + Amy Thompson incoming Vice-Chair
     + Nicholas Padilla incoming Secretary-Treasurer
     + Due to transitional year of new system, Amy will serve for two years, and Nicholas for three years
     + Terms will start on July 1st, 2022
   * Proposed change to bylaws (Article VIII) to allow for either virtual or in-person officer nomination and election process
     + Laura Sauls raised concerns about the wording of the proposed changing; both clarifying the timing of virtual elections leading up to the AAG and the conditions of choosing between virtual and business meeting elections
     + After discussion, decision to pause the vote. Board of Directors will revise wording and send to membership for an online vote
   * Updates from AAG
     + 2022 AAG: number of sessions, abstracts, etc. up from last year
     + 2023 AAG in Denver, planned in-person and virtual (hybrid)
     + AAG’s JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee; responding to calls for greater justice, inclusion, and transparence; session on Monday 2/28/2022 at 9:40am
     + LASG sponsored 17 sessions this year (up from 11 last year)
     + LASG co-sponsored the JLAG lecture: “Black Women Organizing Against Genocide and Fascism, and the 2022 Presidential Elections in Brazil”
     + No CLAG/LASG party this year – saving up for next year
3. CLAG Update (David Salisbury)
   * Introducing CLAG to business meeting attendees
   * Please visit the CLAG website to learn more about the organization: <https://clagscholar.org>
   * Diana Liverman with an update on the CLAG 2022 conference: in Tucson, Arizona, cancelled due to COVID-19. Planning to host in January 2023 and hopefully even greater participation next year. Invite LASG members to join CLAG 2023!
   * Moved the honor ceremony virtual this year, which can be watched online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_CrzLQ7z1s>
   * Looking for someone to help organize LiveCLAG online to continue again this year, perhaps more informally than last year
   * Encourage everyone to check out JLAG, which has expanded greatly; accepts manuscripts in English, Spanish, and Portuguese; and helps fund student awards for CLAG members
   * CLAG monograph series is a new initiative led by Chris Gaffney, stay tuned for more information on that
   * Also the CLAG newsletter, which is shared with LASG, with most recent newsletter here: <https://clagscholar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CLAG_LASG_Newsletter_138_Winter_2021-22.pdf>
   * Bill Doolittle shares fieldwork guide from Tucson conference, which are being planned for CLAG 2023 as well
4. Vice-Chair’s Report (Audrey Joslin)
   * Thank you to those who served on the award committees:
     + Fieldwork award committee: Ben Gerlofs, Nick Padilla, Amy Thompson, Andrea Marston, Audrey Joslin, Jennifer Langill
     + Paper award committee: Johnny Finn, Audrey Joslin
     + Solidarity award committee: Jennifer Langill, Andrea Marston
   * Fieldwork award winners:
     + PhD: Ingrid Díaz Moreno (UNC): “Feminizing the agrarian frontier: Women workers and oil-palm plantation landscape in the Llanos of Colombia”
     + MA: Andrea Pimentel Ribera (Illinois at Urbana-Champaign): “Cooperative futures and infrastructure justice in passenger ferry travel in Vieques, Puerto Rico”
   * Best student paper award winner: Clare Beer (UCLA): “Bankrolling Biodiversity: The Politics of Philanthropic Conservation Finance in Chile”
   * New Solidarity Award this year to support conference attendance for BIPOC attendees, including but not limited to those at Latin American institutions and those who self-identify as of Latin American descent; two awards were distributed, one to support a grad student’s virtual attendance and another to support simultaneous interpretation from Portuguese and Spanish at Latin-American conference session
   * Congratulations to all award winners!
5. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report (Langill)
   * Current membership: 229 members (89 student members)
   * Update on LASG finances
     + Account balance before AAG: $2318.29 (award winner’s checks have not been cut yet)
       - Field Study Awards: $1300
       - Best Paper Award: $100
       - Solidarity Awards: $400
6. Future of LASG Discussion (Andrea Marston)
   * Problem: Declining membership and financial challenges
   * Vote on officer transition process also included an open question about how LASG could better serve the community. Responses:
     + More opportunities for grad student involvement – bring on student officers?
     + More opportunities for connections with students and professionals in Latin America – build more virtual presence? Virtual talks? Like CLAG? Others?
   * Significant overlap with CLAG and Latinx Geographies
     + Need to increase conversations across groups
   * We have very little web presence and limited capacity to manage social media with only 3 officers
     + New officer to handle website and social media?
     + Maybe student officer could help with this?
   * David Salisbury: Having a LASG officer on the CLAG board would be great for facilitating and ensuring conversations across the two organizations; can’t mandate it given that they are very different types of organizations, but if incoming LASG officers went up for the CLAG board it would ensure more obvious overlap
   * Laura Sauls: Perhaps there could be a more informal liaison position
   * Bill Doolittle: Concerns of the fact that the AAG only hosts in the US. Less concerned about lower membership members as it always fluctuates over time
     + Offers $1000 to a LASG-CLAG party at the next AAG

Meeting adjourned.