# Latin America Specialty Group

## Annual business meeting

## 24.March.2023

1. Call to order at 6:15
2. Welcome and introduction
	1. Overview of meeting
	2. LASG
	3. CLAG
3. Chair’s report
	1. Approve minutes from 2022 Business Meeting
		1. Moved to approve (with excitement)
		2. Seconded
		3. Review of the minutes 2022
			1. Altered the structure of the executive committee to a rolling 3-year appointment
	2. Welcome new and incoming LASG officers
		1. Andrea Marston, outgoing Chair through June 30, 2023
		2. Amy Thompson, Chair (2023-24)
		3. Nick Padilla, Vice-Chair (2023-24)
		4. Priscilla Ferreira, incoming Secretary-Treasurer 2023-24 (Assistant Professor, Departments of Geography and Latino and Caribbean Studies, Rutgers)
	3. Update to bylaws on voting procedure
		1. Article VIII: Nominations and Elections. Nominations for offices being vacated will be made either virtually (through a secure online platform) or from the floor at the annual business meeting. Elections should be held either virtually (through a secure online platform) or at the annual business meeting.
	4. LASG and Friends at the AAG
		1. LASG sponsoring more panels than last years
		2. Interest in LASG awards increased (150%) for every single category of award
			1. Finances are limiting our capacity to provide all the awards we want to offer
			2. Membership fees drive our budget
			3. Party to follow
4. Vice Chair’s Report
	1. Recognition of award committees
		1. Thank you to Jessica Budds, Max Counter, Tom Garrison, and Jennifer Langill for reviewing awards
	2. Graduate student fieldwork awards (We did not have any MA student award applications this year, so we awarded a second PhD award instead)
		1. 1st place PhD level ($800) - Leonardo Calzada (PhD Candidate, Geography, Rutgers University). **“**Trailblazing development: The effects of *Sembrando Vida* (Sowing Life) on forest management and degradation patterns in the Calakmul—Sian Ka’an Biological Corridor, Mexico”.
		2. 2nd place PhD level ($500) - Kate Altemus Cullen (PhD Candidate, Energy and Resources Group, UC Berkeley). **“**Climate impacts and unequal water access in the Andes: A critical approach to climate attribution”.
	3. Graduate student paper award
		1. 1st place ($100) – Ruchi Patel (PhD Candidate, Geography, Pennsylvania State University). **“**Securing development: Uneven geographies of coastal tourism development in El Salvador".
	4. Solidarity award
		1. Alicia Barceinas Cruz, (PhD Candidate in Geography at the University of Wisconsin). Alicia is presenting her paper “Borders for whom? (In)Security and (im)Mobility in the Selva Lacandona Borderland Corridor in Chiapas, Mexico” at the AAG this year
5. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report
	1. Current membership: 256 members, including 90 student members
		1. Membership is decreasing for two principal reasons: 1) fracturing of membership into cognate specialty groups (Latinx and Caribbean Specialty Groups), and 2) declining enrollment in the AAG
	2. Budget
		1. Account balance before 2023 meeting: $2,128
		2. Dr. Bill Doolittle generously donated a significant amount to support a LASG-CLAG party
		3. Expenses:
			1. Field Study Awards: $1,300
			2. Best Paper Award: $100
			3. Solidarity Award: $200
			4. LASG/CLAG social event: $1,200
		4. Account balance after 2023 meeting: $328
		5. Question – what does membership look like compared to previous years?
			1. Nick – I will find out and share that information
6. CLAG News and JLAG News
	1. Conference of Latin American Geography update (David Salisbury)
		1. Long history between CLAG and LASG, and we hope to keep that relationship alive and vibrant
		2. CLAG formed in 1970 as an early ‘specialty group’, but it has been a fruitful
		3. Check out the website ([www.clagscholar.org](http://www.clagscholar.org)) and @ClagScholar on social media
		4. Membership is strong – consider joining
		5. CLAG 2023 in Tucson, Arizona
			1. University of Arizona hosted an amazing meeting after many pandemic cancellations
			2. The conference field trips were exceptional
		6. CLAG 2024 will be in Puerto Rico – more details to follow
		7. Budget
			1. Checking $93,512.43
			2. Savings approximately $73,000
			3. Keep downloading articles through ProjectMuse to maintain these account balances
		8. 2023 CLAG award winners (See CLAG website for specifics)
			1. Gabriela Valdivia –Carl O. Sauer Distinguished Scholarship Award
			2. Robert Huish – Public Engagement Award
			3. Brad Jokisch – CLAG Teaching Award
			4. Case Watkins – Ascendente Award
			5. Armando Portela – CLAG Enlaces Award
			6. Johnny Finn – Outstanding Service to CLAG
			7. Diana Liverman – Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award
		9. Openings for book editors through JLAG’s University of Florida Press
			1. Consider joining
		10. Newsletter submissions
		11. Field awards April 3, 2023
			1. 12-14 awards will be given
				1. $1,500 to PhD students
				2. $1,000 to masters students
		12. Travel grant awards
			1. To attend CLAG meeting
		13. CLAG Board elections will be held in June of 2023
			1. Any CLAG members can be nominated
			2. Recommends a LASG member nomination
7. Other (open)
	1. How to make LASG work better for its members?
		1. Ongoing preoccupation and point of focus going forward
	2. Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers (SWAAG) November 2-3 in Laredo, Texas. See <http://www.sw-aag.org> for details
		1. Dia de los Muertos celebration
	3. Race, Ethnicity, and Place and MAD-AAG Join Conference October11-14 in Washington D.C. See <https://repconference.org> for details
	4. Open to programmatic opportunities
		1. Talks
		2. Educational dialogues
	5. Membership numbers – look at previous annual reports
	6. Chris Brown, 3-year teaching professor position
		1. Physical geography specific
	7. Jorn Seeman
		1. JLAG needs your help – consider submitting your research for peer review
		2. Martha Bell and Jessica Budds – new co-editors
		3. Submit your work to JLAG and review for articles, shorter pieces on ‘current affairs’ with URL citations, translating articles to other languages
			1. Publish in English, Spanish, and Portuguese
	8. Kendra McSweeney
		1. JLAG is independent and all profits are invested in students
	9. Translate articles into other languages?
		1. Yes, can translate into Portuguese
8. Thank you, Andrea for you dedication and guidance!
9. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM