

Brian Pompeii, Candidate for President

Lecturer, Social Sciences Department, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
PhD, Geography, 2014, Arizona State University
MA, Geography, 2010, Arizona State University
BS, Geography, 2007, The Pennsylvania State University

(Reprint of VP Statement) I am honored to be considered for the position of Vice President of the APCG. I received my PhD from Arizona State University in 2014 and have been an active member of the APCG since 2007. I am currently a lecturer at Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo. I am a human-environmental geographer with research interests in water access, social vulnerability, hazards, and sustainability. My current research agenda focuses on social vulnerability and drought in the San Joaquin Valley of California, advancing sustainability curriculum in higher education, and improving water access in rural southern Malawi. In Tulare County, CA my primary research project investigates how the Great California Drought was disproportionately burdened by the most disadvantaged communities. As a member of the sustainability committee of the Academic Senate and a facilitator of the Advancing Sustainability Curriculum Learning Community at Cal Poly I am leading an interdisciplinary group of faculty to collect qualitative data from students and faculty to identify and address barriers in sustainability education across the curriculum. As faculty advisor for Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Cal Poly, I am currently using mental maps collected from the field and GIS data in collaboration with a group of student engineers on the placement of new boreholes in rural southern Malawi to increase local water security. Due in part to these research and service activities, I was elected co-director of the Hazards, Risks, and Disasters Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers at the 2017 meeting in Boston. I would be honored to extend my service in the field of geography to the APCG.

As an early-career geographer I have dedicated two years of service to the APCG: one year as a judge in the student awards competition, and last year in Portland I served as the awards committee chair. My plan as Vice President is to continue building on the agendas of prior leadership platforms, including revamping the structure of the student awards committee, creating targeted recruitment strategies for universities in our region who do not regularly participate in the conference, and developing strategies to increase the diversity of APCG membership. I, however, view each of these agenda items as issues that can be addressed in concert. In discussions with past APCG Presidents I am aware that targeted email campaigns have been conducted in the past, but that such an endeavor is overdue. Using the *Pacifica's* Fall 2016 President's column as a roadmap, I would work to target departments in our region that are underrepresented. Personalized emails would highlight our available student travel funding awards, women's network grants, and our already available scholarships for Latinx, Indigenous, and African descent students. A possible cascading impact of this campaign is that an increase in membership could help support more aforementioned awards and student travel funding. This membership encouragement campaign would also focus on early-career faculty members who may be new to the region and who also may be working to encourage research projects of their new student mentees. As an early-career geographer myself, I think I would be an excellent fit to conduct such a campaign from Arizona to Hawaii to Alaska and everywhere in-between. As a happy resident of San Luis Obispo, CA I would also be willing to serve as organizer for another meeting to be held on the beautiful campus of Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo. As a ten year participant and advocate for the APCG I believe I would be an energetic addition to the leadership community.

Michael Pretes, Candidate for Vice President

Professor of Geography, University of North Alabama
PhD, Geographical Sciences, 2006, Australian National University
MA, Political Science, 1986, Northwestern University
BA, Political Science, 1984, University of California--Berkeley

I am honored to be nominated for the position of APCG Vice President by one of my geographic heroes, Professor Jan Monk of the University of Arizona! You may be wondering why someone living outside the APCG region is a candidate for APCG Vice President. Well, I consider the APCG to be my true home AAG region: I first joined the APCG in 2003, and have regularly attended APCG meetings since 2012, also serving on the Student Awards Committee at the Chico meeting last year.

My current research focuses on tourism and national park issues in California, Oregon, and Washington, including a study of the role of California in creating the National Park Service, and the decline (or not) of youth visitors to national parks in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, I'm writing a short biography of an explorer and artist from John Wesley Powell's second Colorado River expedition in Arizona. I have also done and continue to do work on economic development policies and practices in Alaska and Yukon. I teach courses on geopolitics, public lands, historical geography, mountain and desert environments, beer and wine, North America, Latin America, Australia and Pacific Islands, Russia, and more.

I graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, later taught geography for one year at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and was a visiting scholar at Stanford University for several years. My dissertation research, completed at the Australian National University on the other side of the Pacific, and under the supervision of Professor Katherine Gibson (J.K. Gibson-Graham), explored geography of finance practices in diverse economies of Oceania, Alaska, and Western Canada. I am a fourth-generation Californian (and a fourth-generation San Franciscan) with a family history in California and Hawai'i, my paternal great-grandparents having immigrated to those places from Spain at the turn of the twentieth century to pick sugarcane and fruit. So all of this means that even though my *house* is in Alabama, my real *home* is in the westernmost quarter of our continent, in its coastal chaparral and oak woodlands, in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains, and in the Sonoran, Great Basin, and Colorado deserts! I especially enjoy taking my Alabama students out to the Pacific coast, by bringing them along to APCG meetings and by leading study abroad and study away trips to various Pacific shores, including to Oregon, California, China, and Peru, as well as inland to Arizona and Idaho (it was partly for these experiential learning courses that I received AAG Distinguished Honors in Teaching in 2017).

As APCG VP, I would serve the association by working towards enhancing the visibility of geography throughout the APCG region, especially focusing on outreach to elementary and secondary schools and to organizations for working and retired people outside academia, as well as to college students. I would also work to achieve greater interaction between APCG and other AAG regional divisions, and greater involvement from our members in Alaska, Hawai'i, and Western Canada. Then we can explore potential annual meeting locations in Hilo and Whitehorse!

Terry Simmons, Candidate for Vice President

JD, University of California, Berkeley School of Law
PhD, Geography, University of Minnesota
MA, Geography, Simon Fraser University
AB, Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz

Terry Simmons will be pleased to serve as your next APCG Vice-President. The APCG has an important responsibility to maintain a genuine community of scholars. From Alaska to Arizona, the organization provides an important role promoting geography as a scholarly discipline, as fascinating subject matter, and as an academic and applied profession. The APCG can be much more than an annual flower that blooms in the autumn for only four days for the purpose of reading fifteen minute papers to be recorded on one's c.v. With respect and modesty, Terry would appreciate your support and vote for Vice-President.

Terry has extensive experience as a geographer, as an attorney practicing law in California and Nevada, as a college and university teacher of cultural geography and law courses on seven campuses, as a project planning engineer, and as a natural resources policy consultant. He is President of the Center for Global Policy Studies.

Terry has published in the Yearbook and Pacifica. His research include cultural and historical geography, political geography, law and geography, Canadian studies, natural resource policy, law and management, transboundary water resources, hydroelectric dams, high voltage transmission lines, forestry, and international environmental law.

Current academic activities include service on the Canadian Studies Advisory Board, University of California, Berkeley, and on the Board of Directors of the Forest History Association of B.C. and of the Canadian Academy of Independent Scholars.

Relevant governmental service required regulatory review of the highs and lows of EPA environmental regulations as a member both of the Washoe County health department's Air Pollution Control Hearing Board, and its Sewage, Wastewater, Sanitation Hearing Board. Terry also advised the Province of British Columbia on the B.C. Forest Research Council, the Forest Land Use Liaison Committee of B.C. and the B.C. Mosquito Advisory Committee.

Carl Sauer addressed the first professional geography meeting Terry attended. (The speech was published decades later.) He read his first APCG paper in 1970, and has participated in more than thirty APCG annual meetings since then.

Terry attends meetings primarily to listen, learn, and meet old and new friends. Terry enjoys civil, serious and productive conversations after papers, when we can evaluate scholarly research, exchange ideas, or recommend readings. And, sometimes, serious, friendly discussions may be necessary to correct errors or to explain mutual misconceptions. (You know who you are.)

Terry served on the APCG Nominations Committee in 1986 at the request of the legendary Margaret Trussell. He served on the Program Committee in 1999 (Reno) and 2008 (Fairbanks), on the Awards Committee twice, and on the Applied and Independent Geographers Committee with John and Bev Passerello for many years. Also, Terry was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers for five years.

APCG annual meetings are friendly, productive opportunities for our small community of scholars to meet. However, the region is huge; our numbers are small. It is no secret some Departments of Geography in the region are conspicuous by their absence. In addition, many professional geographers continue to have appropriate academic or professional interests. Nevertheless, they do not feel welcome because they are not employed in universities. Our challenge is to increase membership and improve the quantity and quality of attendance.

Most papers read by faculty and students are interesting and worthwhile. Nonetheless, the annual meeting format and schedule can be boring. During the 2015 Canadian Association of Geographers annual meeting, Terry and Alf Siemens from the University of British Columbia organized and hosted a special cultural geography seminar, held in honor of the late Philip L. Wagner, APCG President, 1973-1974. We distributed in advance a cultural geography bibliography including his 1974 Presidential Address. The entire seminar was devoted to discussion of cultural geography. No papers or panelists were scheduled; all persons in the room were welcome to speak. The seminar was a success. APCG should experiment with content and format.

Terry Simmons would appreciate your support and vote for Vice-President. Thank you.

Elena Givental, Candidate for Treasurer

Lecturer, CSU East Bay and Berkeley City College

PhD (Geography), UC Davis 2009

MBA, St. Mary's College of CA 2003

BS (Geography), Moscow Pedagogical University, Russia (long ago)

I started my career as a field geologist in Russia (when it was still the Soviet Union), moved to California in 1996, worked as a business manager and, later, as a director of finance at a K-8 school in El Cerrito, CA, did my MBA and then PhD in Geography, and finally arrived to where I am today. I've been teaching a variety of Geography classes at Berkeley City College and CSU East Bay for the last ten years. My first encounter with APCG happened at the 2007 annual meeting in Eugene (OR), and I've been faithful to this fine organization ever since, participating in almost all annual meetings, serving at the Student Paper/Poster Competition and the Budget Committees. I am well aware of the amount of time and effort necessary for the smooth and efficient functioning of the APCG finances but I hope I can rise to the task.

Robert T. (Bob) Richardson, Candidate for Treasurer

Professor Emeritus, CSU Sacramento

PhD (Geography), 1973, University of Oregon

MA (Geography), 1966, Louisiana State University

BS (Geography), 1964, University of Wisconsin

Twenty-one years ago this summer I received a box of files and floppy disks from then-Secretary/Treasurer Alan Lew, who was heading to Singapore, and took over his position on an interim basis. I never imagined that my life would become virtually defined by this duty for the next two decades. But I really do need to let go and I am thrilled to have a second name on the ballot for Treasurer this time around, Elena Givental, who has been on the Budget Committee for multiple years now and knows my fiscal year spreadsheets in detail. Regardless of the outcome, I will begin the transition to Elena taking over as Treasurer this year. I cannot expect Elena (nor anyone else) to continue to use my old member database, FoxPro 2.6a, which won't run on anything past Windows XP. I have kept it current the past two years that we've been using WildApricot, but it will soon be frozen in time, along with me! My main goal is to see the APCG continue to thrive and to function smoothly for at least another seventeen years, when we'll celebrate a century of keeping geography vibrant in the Pacifica Coast region. One last thing: as Treasurer, I know where you all live, and I find it fitting that Elena lives about a block away from where two legendary geographers and 1935 Charter Members of the APCG did, Carl Sauer and John Leighly, whose homes I knew well as a child. These things matter!