

## **Candidate for President**

### **Stephen F. Cunha**

Professor, Department of Geography

Humboldt State University

PhD, Geography, 1994, UC Davis

My research and teaching interests include environmental and mountain geography, parks and protected areas, biodiversity analysis and geography education. Regional specialties include Central Asia, Alaska, and the Sierra Nevada. One of my favorite tasks is introducing GE students to what APCG Past-President Robin Datel calls “the lure of geography.” Get to them early and often, especially the growing cohort of under-represented students, so they can progress up the ladder of undergraduate achievement that culminates with a professional presentation at an APCG, CGS, NACIS, or AAG meeting. As the current APCG VP, I am working on the following:

- Staging a first class and fiscally solvent Palm Springs meeting
- Streamlining our student awards, to promote accurate judging and fiscal solvency
- Locating a site and team to host the 2016 APCG meeting (now at Portland State!)

I know the territory well after serving as President of the California Geographical Society, and as Director of the California Geographic Alliance. I have coordinated three annual meetings for the CGS, one apiece for the APCG and NCGE, along with the 5<sup>th</sup> International High Mountain Cartography Symposium.

To date I count 70 publications including book chapters, journals, children’s books, atlases, K-12 textbooks, NPS Technical Reports, encyclopedias, and proceedings. I’ve authored 2.9 million dollars in successful grants from the National Park Service, Broad Foundation, Packard Foundation, Goldman Fund, Bechtel Foundation, National Geographic Society, UNEP, UC Office of the President, and the CA and US Departments of Education.

I am motivated to serve as president by the list of past officers, and what they mean to our organization, to geography, and often to me personally. It would be a high honor and a pleasure to continue their tradition of service.

**Honors:** Humboldt State University Scholar of the Year (2009); California State University System Outstanding Professor (Wang Award; 2007); California Council for Social Studies Hilda Taba Award for Outstanding & Enduring Contributions to Social Science Education (2002); NCGE Distinguished Teaching Award (2001); California Geographical Society Educator of the Year (1993); Cosumnes River College Outstanding Faculty Award (1991).

## **Candidate for Vice President**

**Dennis Dingemans**, Emeritus Professor, Geography, University of California, Davis

I retired in 2005 after 33 years as a full-time UCD faculty member in Geography. My post-teaching decade finds me tanned, rested, and ready to be APCG's Vice-President. Involvement since 1970 in APCG meetings and leadership means that I think I know what I am getting into. However, I also will carefully re-read the bylaws and do everything required of the office so I can leave the APCG, that has been so good to me for 45 years, in better shape than when I was elected.

I've attended a score of meetings, served appointed functions, presented a dozen papers, and lead field trips. I co-edited with my wife, Robin Datel, five volumes of the Yearbook from 1988 to 1992. I co-chaired with Stephen Jett the 1987 Davis meetings. I've chaired sessions, chaired awards committees, chaired budget/audit committees, written for *Pacifica*, and been a regular at business meetings. I've written resolutions and at Berkeley in 1996 used my Bill Crowley imitation in reading them. Nominated for vice president in 1994, I lost by one vote.

At UC-SC, my first APCG meeting, I caught the soon-to-be-legendary Larry Ford doing his "Full Monte" with 140 slides of skyscrapers in 17 minutes illustrating the Midwest's urban edifice complex. Many entertaining and inspirational paper presentations have followed by the APCG's stable of public-speaking talents. Most recently Steven Cunha at Lake Tahoe blew us out of the water explaining how the Sierra Nevada epitomized what Jim Parsons called "the uniqueness of California." I'm most proud of my own talk on Iberia and California compared in 2001 and my discussion of changing landscapes of Romania in 2013. My talks on enterprises lining a dozen main streets in the Mother Lode, on billboard messages observed along 7,000 Interstate Highway miles, and on the enterprises comprising seven Chinatowns and Little Saigons were among my most successful reports on systematic and comparative data from exploratory fieldwork.

My pathway to geography began in rural Minnesota where Mrs. Peterson exposed the one-room school's 6 grades to environmental and spatial explanations in geography, to concepts of chemistry and nuclear physics, to her softball pitching, and to her piano playing. In 8th grade Mr. Denzene did his year of world regional geography lectures with a cold warrior's zeal. I tried to be equally lively right up to my last world regional course -- taught to a class of 400. At the University of Chicago I majored in European history and learned too late about the geography courses I could have taken. For graduate degrees in geography at UC Berkeley in 1971 and 1975 I fell into the webs of the charismatic Jay Vance and Jim Parsons. My dissertation with Vance on the densification of suburban housing is summarized in my best publication, a 1975 *Landscape* article, "The Urbanization of Suburbia: A Renaissance for the Row House."

At Davis I did a lot more committee work than I should have, rising to the level of grand pooh bah of the Academic Senate when elected chair of the Committee on Committees. I chaired six completed Geography PhDs. After the Geography Department was dissolved in 1997, despite our vigorous acts of antisestablishmentarianism, my teaching shifted to service courses for International Relations.

In retirement I've returned to my historical geography interests. I direct my city's museum and write articles and do field trips for the Yolo County Historical Society. I've co-authored two Arcadia Publications books on local places. Post-retirement research produced a chapter with Robin Dattel on the rise of Sacramento's "Little Saigon" for a Brookings Institution book on immigration gateways edited by my first PhD student, Susan Hardwick.

If elected I would work with the APCG's committee to strengthen membership, visiting some low-participation departments. I would seek ways to perpetuate the Association's tradition of landscape studies and fieldwork reporting in our meeting trips, presentations, and publications. To reduce the effort required to stage our meetings we should re-visit possible joint meetings with AAG regions or specialty groups. Odd-year APCG meetings might keep our traditions alive with half the workload and I will facilitate discussion of that nuclear option.

### **Candidate for Secretary**

**Dydia DeLyser**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, CSU Fullerton.

As a new member of the APCG I welcome the opportunity to run for Secretary. I earned my PhD from Syracuse University in 1998, and subsequently spent sixteen years (as an Instructor, Assistant Professor, and Associate Professor) at Louisiana State University. But I am a native Angeleno—I earned my BA from UCLA in 1992 and, despite my work-related travels, have always kept a home, a partner, a dog, and some antique cars and motorcycles in southern California. In 2014 I was pleased to be able to join the faculty in the geography department at Cal State Fullerton as an assistant professor. In moving home I'm thrilled for the chance to bring together my research, teaching, community service, and personal life around the complex issues of our region.

I am a cultural-historical geographer with research interests in qualitative approaches and issues of landscape, social memory, mobilities, materialities, and craft. My research, situated in Los Angeles, California, and the American West, strives to be methodologically articulate, theoretically engaged, and empirically grounded. That work includes one monograph: *Ramona Memories: Tourism and the Shaping of Southern California* (2005) and two co-edited volumes, *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Geography* (2010) and *Envisioning Landscapes, Making Worlds: Geography and the Humanities* (2011). I have published nearly fifty papers in edited volumes and journals that include the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *The Professional Geographer*, *Journal of Historical Geography*, *cultural geographies*, and the *Geographical Review*.

My research has explicitly sought to integrate personal and professional: during my research on ghost towns I lived and worked in one; in my work on the Ramona myth in southern California I developed a significant antique-souvenir collection and integrated visits to Ramona locales into my life just like the historic tourists I wrote about; my work on early women pilots was grounded in my own experiences as a woman pilot; my research on materialities and craft has drawn extensively from expertise and experiences shared with my partner, on restoring our 1941 Tatra T87 (a Czech "Batmobile"), and making

and restoring neon signs. This links my research and publications not only with my personal life, but also with my understanding of and participation in service.

I take service seriously: I have served five years in university administration (as LSU's Faculty Athletics Representative, reporting directly to the Chancellor). Significantly, I see service to my community and my discipline as integral to my career and personal life. Currently I serve on five museum boards (all related to my research: the museums range from aviation, to neon, and ghost towns), seven journal editorial boards (including those of the *Annals* and the *AAG Review of Books*), I co-edit *cultural geographies*, and I serve on the AAG's Archives and Association History Committee. Making time to positively contribute to my discipline and my community through different forms of service are a cornerstone of my research and my life.

I support the APCG leadership in encouraging active participation in our association and annual meeting by faculty from all of our colleges and universities, and significantly also by our graduate and undergraduate students. In an era when travel budgets are shrinking, this regional conference becomes an even more significant place of networking, connection, and collegiality. Regional conferences have long served as welcoming venues for student presentations, and I enthusiastically support student participation along with the faculty encouragement and student travel grants that can facilitate it.

I am honored for the chance to be able to make a meaningful contribution to the Association.

### **Candidate for Secretary**

**Yolonda Youngs**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Idaho State University  
Ph.D., Geography, 2009, Arizona State University  
M.S., 2004, Earth Sciences (Geography), Montana State University  
B.A., 1993, Anthropology, Florida State University

My first encounter with the APCG was in 2003 when I attended the annual conference in Portland, Oregon as a graduate student at Montana State University. The trip was well timed. I had recently returned to academia after nearly a decade roaming the mountains and rivers of Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and points in between as a commercial whitewater river guide. Those years gave me an informal education in the American West that formed a basis for my subsequent studies in Geography. At that 2003 APCG meeting, I presented part of my thesis research about Yellowstone National Park, attended my first Women's Network lunch, and met people that have since become dear friends and colleagues. The trip was made possible through a Women's Network travel grant and an APCG student travel grant. I will be forever grateful for that key funding. It opened a door to the collegiality, good humor, and fine scholarship of the APCG community.

I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Idaho State University. I joined the department in 2012 after three years as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University. Although there is no Geography department at ISU, I teach a range classes and advise students in ways

that support the growth of the discipline. I'm happy to be back in APCG territory! My research interests include environmental historical geography, cultural landscapes, tourism, outdoor recreation, national parks and protected areas, and GIS. I earned an M.S. in Earth Sciences at Montana State University in 2004 under the steady encouragement and patient direction of William Wyckoff. My thesis focused on Yellowstone Lake's cultural landscape evolution from the 1850s to 1966. I moved onto warmer climates in the southwest where I earned a Ph.D. in Geography from Arizona State University in 2009 through the thoughtful guidance of Daniel Arreola. My current book project, *Framing Nature*, is based on my dissertation research that traces one hundred years of popular iconography, cultural landscape change, and environmental history at Grand Canyon National Park. I have published in the *Geographical Review*, *Environmental History*, and *Society and Natural Resources*. I recently published a book chapter on tourism in *North American Odyssey: Historical Geographies for the Twenty-First Century* and am anticipating a forthcoming book chapter in *Designs Upon Nature: The Cultural Landscape of Yellowstone National*.

My research has been funded through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, Idaho Humanities Council, and the Association of American Geographers Historical Geography Specialty Group. In 2012, I presented the keynote lecture at Missouri State University's Geography Awareness Week. My teaching includes a range of courses such as World Regional Geography, Cultural Geography, Historical Geography of National Parks, Conservation of Natural Resources, Geography of Outdoor Recreation, Summer Field Seminar in National Parks, History in the Digital Age, GIS, and U.S. Environmental History. I have received awards from the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship in Cultural Geography), the International Geographical Union, the U.S. National Committee to the International Cartographic Association, and the NSF IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Teaching) program. I have organized sessions and presented numerous papers and posters at APCG, AAG, and other national and international conferences. I am a manuscripts reviewer for the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, *Historical Geography*, Oxford University Press, and Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

The APCG holds a special place in my heart and professional life. It has been a vital part of my growth as a scholar over the years. I look forward to giving back to the organization and helping it grow. I have been a member of APCG since 2003 (minus a few years while in Oklahoma). I have regularly presented papers and posters and organized paper sessions at the annual conference. In 2005, I organized and led an APCG fieldtrip on the Salt River in Phoenix. I appreciate the opportunity to run for APCG Secretary. If elected, I look forward to increasing membership of students and other early career faculty, contributing to the Women's Network, and fostering more digital and social media outlets for APCG.