

# Pacifica

ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC COAST GEOGRAPHERS

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## About APCG

Founded in 1935 by a gathering of geographers including graduate students and faculty from universities, normal schools and junior colleges, and a few from government and industry, the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers has a long and rich history promoting geographical education, research, and knowledge. Members gather at the annual meetings for social and intellectual interaction. They receive the annual *Yearbook*, first published in 1935, that includes abstracts of papers from the meetings and a number of full length peer-reviewed articles. Members also receive the biannual newsletter *Pacifica*, first published in Fall 1994. Since 1952 the APCG has also been the Pacific Coast Regional Division of the Association of American Geographers, serving AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, BC, and YT.

Banner Photos : Zia Salim

## From the Surf to the Desert: Place Identity in California Indigenous Rock

Jonathan Taylor  
California State University, Fullerton

How important is place in popular music and the development of unique musical styles? How do musicians and composers express their subjective experiences of place? In this paper I discuss two bands as exemplars of two locales in the development of specifically Californian genres of rock music: surf music and desert rock. The Mermen, from San Francisco and later Santa Cruz, present a Northern Californian neo-psychedelic reimagining of surf music which itself has influenced the expansion of the genre even as it transcends it. From La Quinta, near Palm Springs, Yawning Man are the progenitors of desert rock, and while influenced by both Southern and Northern Californian surf, punk, and rock music have created a new hybrid style in which they seek to represent their experiences of the wide-open spaces and vistas of the Mojave Desert. In both cases, a nature-based mysticism influences the musical styles and sonic textures of the music. This is not surprising since the development of what has been called California consciousness is heavily associated with nature-based spirituality (Davis and Taylor, 2014).

Surf music was a musical movement most closely

associated with Southern California in the early 1960s. The genre is largely instrumental and is typified by clean, non-distorted electric guitars played through "wet" reverb springs and heavily amplified to create a percussive, twangy, sound while the tremolo bar is used to bend chords or notes, changing their pitch. Though quintessentially Californian, the genre actually owes a debt to earlier instrumental rock pioneers such as UK instrumental group The Shadows, the Tacoma-based instrumental group The Ventures, and earlier rockabilly artists such as Link Wray and Duane Eddy. In terms of a defined and named style, though, surf music became associated with Orange County in particular because of the success of innovative guitarist Dick Dale – the so-called "King of the Surf Guitar" and with LA's South Bay which hosted local groups with regional or national hits such as the Bel-Airs. Before long Southern California boasted dozens of surf bands such as the Challengers, the Chantays, and the Lively Ones.

The surf music scene quickly spread, with instrumental surf bands forming around the country, and before long, the world, but was quickly eclipsed by the rise of other genres of rock music and the eventual huge successes of bands from the British Invasion. Surf music was essen-

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## President's Column

Sriram Khe  
Western Oregon University

The APCG's president is required to author a column in *Pacifica*, one each in the fall and spring issues. I proposed to the Executive Council a format that would be vastly different from writing once in six months --a lot more frequent and regular blog posts, which would be emailed to the membership the same way that *Pacifica*, in its electronic PDF avatar, is distributed. The Council agreed.

Welcome to the president's "column," which can be accessed at: <http://apcgpres.blogspot.com/>



## APCG Directory

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### President:

Sriram Khe  
Division of Social Science  
Western Oregon University  
Monmouth, OR 97361  
khes@wou.edu

#### Vice President:

Chris Lukinbeal  
School of Geography and  
Development  
University of Arizona  
Harvill 437B  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
chris.lukinbeal@arizona.edu

#### Treasurer:

Robert Richardson  
Department of Geography  
Sacramento State Univ.  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
916-278-6410  
richardsonrt@csus.edu

#### Secretary:

Vicki Drake, Chair  
Coordinator, Geography  
Santa Monica College  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
310-434-8652  
drake\_vicki@smc.edu

#### Past-President:

Michael Schmandt  
Department of Geography  
Sacramento State Univ.  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
schmandt@saclink.csus.edu

#### AAG Councillor (ex-officio):

Scott Mensing  
Department of Geography  
University of Nevada, Reno  
MacKay Science Hall  
Mail Stop 0154  
Reno, NV 89557  
smensing@unr.edu

### APCG COMMITTEES

#### Awards Committee:

Gregory Bohr, Chair  
Social Sciences Department  
CalPoly, San Luis Obispo  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
gbohr@calpoly.edu

#### Nominations Committee:

Dan Arreola, Chair, Arizona  
State University  
Daniel.Arreola@asu.edu  
Kate Berry, University of Nevada,  
Reno  
kberry@unr.edu  
Michael Schmandt, Sacramento  
State University  
schmandt@saclink.csus.edu

#### Distinguished Service:

Awards Committee:  
James Allen, Chair  
CSU, Northridge  
Northridge, CA 92407  
james.allen@csun.edu

# Report on the Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting Lake Tahoe, California September 25th to 28th, 2013

Michael Schmandt  
Sacramento State University

The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers held their 76<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the Village at Squaw Valley in Olympic Valley, Lake Tahoe, California, from September 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The conference drew 280 attendees from across the United States, Canada, China, and Finland. In addition to Sacramento State University, many other institutions were particularly well represented, including California State University, Stanislaus (with 26 students!), Arizona State University, California State University, Fullerton, California State University, Northridge, Humboldt State University, Portland State University, San Francisco State University, Sonoma State University, the University of Arizona, the University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Oregon.

Amidst a dusting of snow, the conference opened on Wednesday evening with the Opening Night Plenary presentation by Joanne Marchetta, the Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), entitled "Land Use Planning at Lake Tahoe: the Intersection of Policy and Politics." The presentation included a background of TRPA and its role in managing land use and regulating development in the Tahoe Basin. She discussed Tahoe's land use history, political realities, and how her agency reaches consensus. She had something for everyone; she talked about fire management, skiing, tourism, gaming, migrant workers living outside of the basin, and the possibility of national park status. A reception followed the plenary session with food, drink, and the opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new friends.

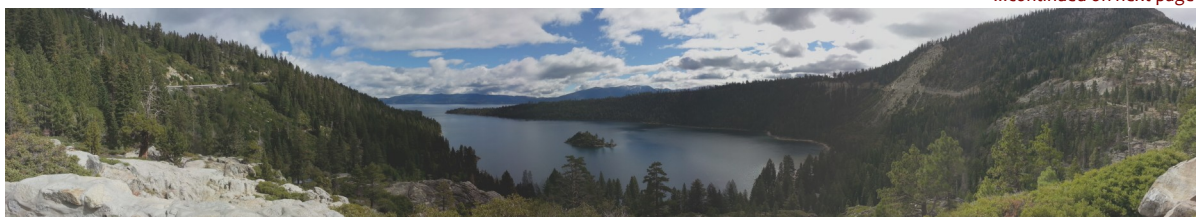
On Thursday, conference attendees had the choice of seven field trips: exploring the clarity of Lake Tahoe aboard the *John Le Conte* followed by a tour of the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, a bus tour around the lake exploring the human and physical geography of the basin, an exploration of Basque arborglyphs, an Emerald Bay lunch cruise aboard the *Tahoe Gal*, a look at fire and forest ecology, a hike on the Granite Chief trail, and a look at

water issues along the Truckee River from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. About eighty attendees signed up for field trips, while others explored the lake and its watershed on their own. That evening, we had a barbecue dinner at the Squaw Valley Conference Center, which was the main dining hall used by the athletes of the 1960 Winter Olympics. Immediately after the barbecue, Michael Schmandt (Sacramento State University) delivered his Presidential Address entitled "The Geographer's Eyes and Feet," which explored the two greatest tools geographers have.

Paper sessions began at 8 am Friday and explored a wide range of session topics including education, space, physical geography, ethnicity, historical geography, urban geography, and a panel discussion of Masters of Science degrees in GIS. David and Janet Carle, two former California State Park rangers, were the speakers for the President's Plenary session on Friday evening. Their presentation entitled, "Tales and Images from Traveling the 38th Parallel," followed their travels and looked at questions regarding water and development. Their presentation was followed by a reception that featured the thirteen posters submitted this year. A special Women's Network session featured current AAG Vice President Mona Domosh. Her paper entitled, "Singer's Sisterhood of Sewing, and Other Episodes in the Gendered Historical Geography of American Empire" was followed by the Women's Network luncheon. In total, the program, over two days, offered 22 paper and panel sessions.

After the Geography Bowl and the APCG Business Meeting, attendees ascended 2,000 feet from the valley floor to High Camp by private tram to attend the Annual Awards Banquet, while enjoying a 360-degree view that included Lake Tahoe, Sierra mountains and valleys, a beautiful sunset, and a surprise appearance by Mark Twain. The banquet (and the barbeque on Thursday night) was expertly emceed by APCG Vice President Sriram Khe (Western Oregon University). Thanks to a generous donation from William and Marilyn Bowen, thirty-one students who presented papers and posters were able to participate.

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# Report on the Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting

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AAG President Julie Winkler addressed the room and provided an update of AAG activities. Greg Bohr (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) presented awards for outstanding student papers and posters. Dan Arreola (Arizona State University), Bob Richardson (Sacramento State University), Vicki Drake (Santa Monica City College), and Michael Schmandt (Sacramento State University), respectively, announced travel awards for Latina/Latino American students, an African-American travel grant, the Women's Network student travel awards, and the Larry Ford Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship. James Allen (CSU Northridge) presented the APCG Distinguished Service Award to Martha Henderson (The Evergreen State College). Jennifer Helzer (California State University, Stanislaus) read the annual "Resolutions," roasting the Tahoe meeting and its conference organizer.

Even after the conference, attendees continued to relive the meeting. Hundreds of photographs, messages, and video clips peppered the [APCG's Facebook page](#). Jim Keese made 281 photographs available to non-Facebook users by mirroring them on [Shutterfly](#).

On a personal note, I thank everyone involved in the planning and the execution of this conference. In particular, however, I would like to highlight the contributions made by Sacramento State geography students, led by Jennifer Campbell, who assisted the conference; Jim Craine and his crew from California State University, Northridge, who assembled and designed the conference program; Bob Richardson, the indispensable executive committee board member, who helped me with finances; and my wife, Debra Sharkey, who was not only the Field Trip Organizer but had the burden of being my sounding board on so many conference matters. I hope that everyone enjoyed the academic presentations, the plenary speakers, the posters, the field trips, the meals, the tram trip to High Camp, and all the opportunities to converse and bond with old friends and meet new ones. Thanks for your continued service and participation in this great organization. Finally, I look forward to next year's meeting in Tucson, Arizona, one of my favorite places. See you there!

*With Respect,*  
*Michael Schmandt, Conference Organizer*  
*Sacramento State University*

## From the Surf to the Desert: Place Identity in California Indigenous Rock

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tially dead as a creative musical genre by the mid-1960s. But it didn't stay dead. The punk movement and DIY ethic of the late 1970s and early 1980s spawned the first of many "surf revivals" less regional in basis, though Southern California was again a central place for surf revivalist purists Jon and the Nightriders and a subsequent wave of punk-influenced surf bands such as Agent Orange. By the next major revival in the 1990s, some of the most notable surf bands were from such far-flung and difficult-to-surf locations as Finland (Laika and the Cosmonauts), Tennessee (Los Straightjackets), and Alabama (Man or Astro-man).

But if not all surf bands came from somewhere around the California coast, something uniquely Californian was represented in the music which, after all, was created largely around the presence of surfers themselves in areas such as Balboa in Orange County. As with all music, surf music is a hybrid. The main creative inno-

vator of the "Orange County sound", Dick Dale, was heavily influenced by the Lebanese musical traditions of his family and key elements of the surf style such as the fast muted picking and use of Middle Eastern scales in songs such as *Miserlou* exemplify this. Hawaiian music also has a strong influence. Nonetheless, the imagery and the "feel" of surf music is Californian. While no music evolves in a vacuum, it is not a stretch to call surf music an indigenous rock music of California.

Indigenous rock music scenes are quite rare. The majority of rock music styles have no specific place allegiance. Heavy metal music, for instance, though disproportionately played by scowling Scandinavians is obviously global with no one physical place of origin and notable bands coming from as far-flung locales as Brazil, Southern California, and Japan. Punk rock, so called "alternative rock", alt-country, etc. are other genres with no real place specific-

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## APCG Directory

**COMMITTEES CONT.**  
**Applied and Independent**  
**Geographers Group: (vacant)**

### **Budget Committee:**

Dennis Dingemans, Co-Chair  
UC Davis  
ddingemans@ucdavis.edu  
Elena Givental, Co-Chair  
Berkeley City College  
egivental@peralta.edu

### **Margaret Russell Scholarship Committee:**

Vicky Lawson, Chair  
University of Washington  
lawson@u.washington.edu  
Martha Henderson  
Evergreen State University  
mhenders@evergreen.edu  
Stephen Cunha, Humboldt State  
stephen.cunha@humboldt.edu

### **Women's Network Committee:**

Deborah Thien, Co-Chair  
CSU Long Beach  
deborah.thien@csulb.edu  
Katie Meehan, Co-Chair  
University of Oregon  
meehan@uoregon.edu

### **Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship Cultural Geography Committee:**

Paul Starrs, Chair  
University of Nevada, Reno  
starrs@unr.edu  
Susan Hardwick  
University of Oregon  
susanh@uoregon.edu  
Michael Schmandt  
Sacramento State University  
schmandt@saclink.csus.edu

### **Latina/o American Travel Scholarship Committee:**

Dan Arreola  
Arizona State University  
daniel.arreola@asu.edu  
Fernando Bosco  
San Diego State University  
fbosco@mail.sdsu.edu  
Jennifer Helzer  
CSU Stanislaus  
jhelzer@csustan.edu

### **Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship Committee:**

Kate Berry, Chair  
University of Nevada, Reno  
kberry@unr.edu  
Renee Louis, Pacific Data Digitizing  
mapdr@earthlink.net  
Kenneth Madsen  
The Ohio State University  
madsen.34@osu.edu  
Homana Pawiki  
Northern Arizona University  
hpawiki@earthlink.net  
John & Bev Passerello  
Passerello Thoroughbreds  
johnbev81@yahoo.com

### **African Descent Student Travel Scholarship Committee:**

James W. Harrington, Chair  
University of Washington  
jwh@u.washington.edu  
Aribiloa S. Omolayo  
CSU Fresno  
samuelo@csufresno.edu  
John and Bev Passerello  
Passerello Thoroughbreds  
johnbev81@yahoo.com



# From the Surf to the Desert: Place Identity in California Indigenous Rock

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ity. Grunge was heavily linked to burgeoning scenes in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest but certainly was not unique to that area. Manchester, England is famous for dozens of influential bands, but their music doesn't have a specific "Manchester sound" and is hard to pin to the influences of that city's built or natural environments. Most rock music is essentially placeless – any place of origin, however important originally, becomes lost over time.

In contrast, California has at least two strong indigenous rock music traditions: surf music, and desert rock. Through email I talked to the guitar players of the two bands who most clearly represent these traditions at present - Jim Thomas of the Mermen and Gary Arce of Yawning Man - about the role of place in their music.

## The Mermen

The Mermen formed as a prototypical surf band, releasing their first album *Krill Slippin'* in 1989, but something happened along the way and by the early 2000s they were regarded as innovators of a sound all their own; one based in part on surf music but transcendent of it; and a musical style representative of a nature-based mystical interpretation of the California coast and the Pacific Ocean. Guitarist, songwriter and band leader Jim Thomas comments, "The MERMEN are considered a quintessential San Francisco band - the sound is steeped heavily in San Francisco sounds of the late sixties."

But unlike that late 60s San Francisco sound, which had little or nothing to do with the ocean or with surfing, the influence of the ocean and surfing is paramount for the Mermen. As Thomas remarks:

"Living at the beach in different locales for most of my life, I spend a lot of time, (most of my time), surfing (almost every

day), watching waves, hanging at beaches, being in spectacular oceanic places around the world. So. This ever-present environment I am in surely informs the music that comes out of me. Not really in a conscious way where I plan or program the music. The music is influenced in the way that, for me, it grows out of my particular environment - makes sense."

While surf music tends to pound and propel the listener along and Thomas and the Mermen can rock out at blistering speed when they feel like it, they also have become the masters and probably best global representatives of another style of surf music: slow, contemplative, reverb-dripped ballads such as their song [Madagascar](#) from their 2<sup>nd</sup> release, 1994' *Food For Other Fish*. Many of their best songs are steeped in this quietly twangy tradition: [A Heart with Paper Walls](#), [Heart Beatitude](#), [Brain Wash](#), and the evocative [By the Sea I Will Stay Forever](#), perhaps the utmost paean to the Pacific Ocean ever penned. Starting with the sound of the surf rolling in and adding in a gentle solo guitar playing heavily reverbed chords and leads, this song evokes the California coast and its surfers like no other. Thomas' work in this vein soon became virtuoso as exemplified by his reverb-laden adaptation of Brahms 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement of his 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphony (a classical surf hybrid which works surprisingly well), and much of the peaceful melancholic music on his captivating first solo recording, *Blues of Elsewhere*.

Other songs are more traditional surf music with fast propulsive beats and staccato muted guitar. And Thomas has expended his repertoire by experimenting with distortion, feedback and other guitar effects ala two of his obvious influences, Jimi Hendrix and Neil Young, in the process becoming widely recognized outside of surf music circles as an innovative guitarist, featured in publications such as *Guitar Player* magazine. Despite the Mermen never having had a major label contract or making even vaguely commercial sounding records, their fan-base expanded largely through word of mouth, favorable reviews, and through their repeated performances at countercultural events such as [Burning Man](#). Nonetheless they are these days a predominantly local band, playing the majority of their shows in coastal Northern California.

As the Mermen sound matured Thomas, who had lived in San Francisco for 20 years and paid homage to its beaches ("[Ocean Beach](#)") moved down the coast to Santa Cruz where he can surf with ease. In 2000 the Mermen released their masterwork, *The Amazing California Health and Happiness Road Show*, their most psychedelic record and most varied musically. The first track on this record is [Unto the Resplendent](#), and it contains Thomas' creed of the West, as he explains:

"The MERMEN song UNTO THE RESPLENDENT reflects geographical/historic themes: The music contains hints of Jack Nietzsche's LONELY SURFER, the pedal steel is characterized by

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# From the Surf to the Desert: Place Identity in California Indigenous Rock

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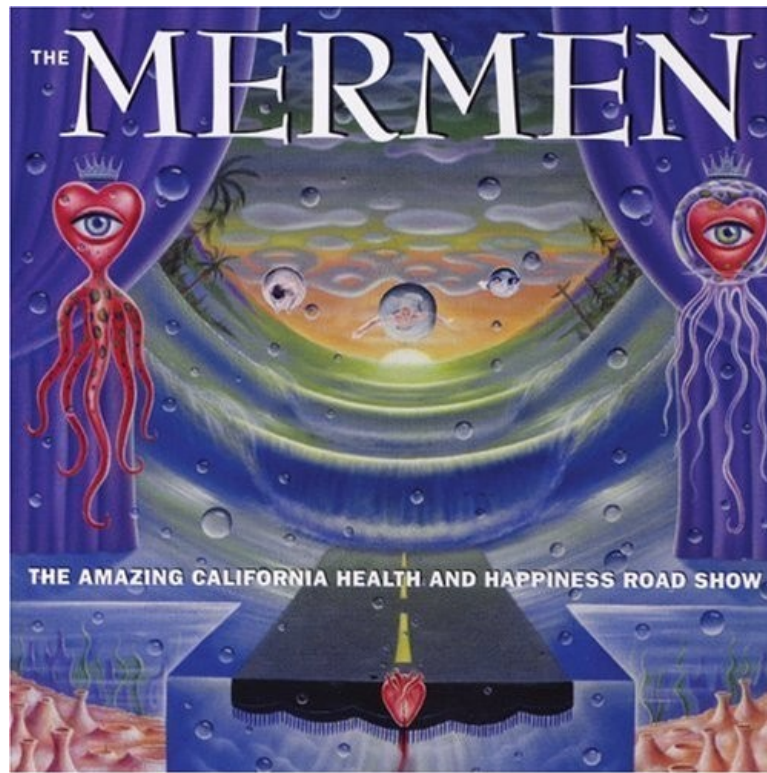
JERRY GARCIA's style on that instrument. You can hear American Indian chants. It is a song that marches WESTWARD like a parade with religious themes (and the poetry of THE GRAPES OF WRATH).....when I wrote the song I was thinking of surfers, the beat poets coming west, the Grateful Dead, the Donner party, My own escapist migration from the east coast in search of a bigger life ..The Mormons...I put it all in there. The song has an expansiveness that's the journey out west. Being from New Jersey and migrating from New Jersey - East to West. Like CORTEZ THE KILLER to quote Neil Young." looking for a new world and a palace in the sun" This Northwest of the US separates itself from the East in that it is bigger, has more open road, more untamed...raw nature, not the same rhythms of the civilized east.... has all the qualities that drew the hippies here in the sixties... I really grasp this journey and the cultural, geographical difference."

The Mermen thus make an indigenous music of California and the dream of Westward expansion, specifically the Northern California Coast, but essentially the entire coast. It is not a coincidence that their music was used to score films about big wave surfers, but they have long transcended the genre of surf music and have created a unique, nature-based music around the California coast that has become influential to other Californian bands, such as the Los Angeles-based Insect Surfers and the Mojave desert rock band Yawning Man.

## From the surf to the desert..... Yawning Man

Yawning Man were barely out of high school in 1986 when they first started jamming, teaching themselves to play their instruments and gigging not in bars or concerts but in obscure solitary parts of the low desert at "generator parties" where they would play largely instrumental music for hours into the night.

Influenced by a wide swath of counterculture, these desert punks liked the Do-It-Yourself ethos of the punk label SST, post-punk bands from the UK like Bauhaus and Lords of the New Church, surf icons like Dick Dale, the far-out spaghetti Western sounds of Ennio Morricone's film scores, Neil Young, the Gun Club, Chrome, avant-new age guitarist Michael Hedges and a huge variety of other musicians. The music they come up with sounds like none of these artists though. Instead, what they ended up with is in almost indescribable creation – a twangy, grooving, spacey music of the California desert that set the template for what would later be called desert rock and which would also influence the development of the genre called stoner rock. The Palm Desert music scene as it is often-



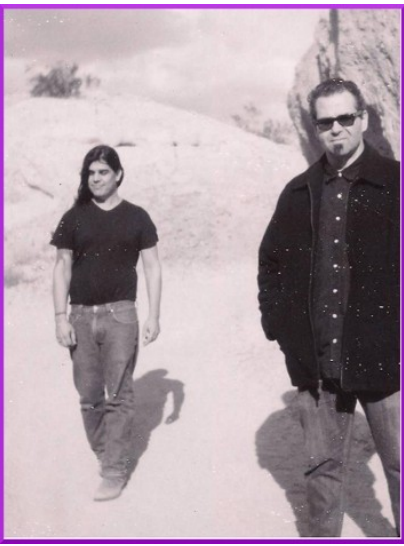
called later grew vastly, based on the commercial success achieved by "heavier" rock bands such as Kyuss and Queens of the Stone Age; by former Kyuss drummer turned solo artist Brant Bjork; by Fatso Jetso featuring Yawning Man bassist Mario Lalli, and many others. Yawning Man, the godfathers of this scene, didn't even release their first recorded music until the mid-2000s. Nonetheless Bjork and many others regard them as the pivotal influence upon the entire resultant scene.

Yawning Man are a trio: bass, drums, and the only constant member, Gary Arce on guitar. Like the Mermen, they play instrumental music steeped in various traditions, including the twang of surf music, and also like the Mermen, much of their sound is based on the individual brilliance of the guitarist, in this case Arce, who, not surprisingly also cites the Mermen and Jim Thomas as major influences, saying "When I first heard the Mermen I was floored. I listened to them obsessively. I heard a correlation between Yawning Man and them. I connected with their sound. It was almost like where have you been all my life kinda thing."

But despite the surf, punk, and post-punk influences, Yawning Man's songs and sound are unique - a jagged, desolate-sounding experimental post-rock, with instrumentals based around Arce's melodic, tremolo-laden guitar sound, and a deliberate evocation of the open spaces and vistas of the desert they call home. Arce explains how the band's setting set the

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# From the Surf to the Desert: Place Identity in California Indigenous Rock

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tone:

“Just the solitude and loneliness of the desert... It’s beautiful... It’s ambient. It’s away from people, roads, buildings... Big Scenic Nowhere.”

Song titles and artwork reflect the desert experience. From

their debut album *Rock Formations*, songs refer to specific places “[Airport Boulevard](#)” in Palm Springs, “[Sonny Bono Memorial Highway](#)” or to a generalized desert experience itself in songs like “[Rock Formations](#)” and “[Stoney Lonesome](#).” The desert evocation continues in their later recording *Nomadic Places* with songs such as “[Sand Whip](#).”

Arce felt the influence of the desert from his earliest memories of childhood through adolescence:

“When I was a kid there was nothing but wide open deserts. Smoke trees...mesquite trees. Building forts in the middle of nowhere. Desert trails alongside the mountains...It becomes a part of your fabric. I think the way I write has to do with my environment and upbringing.”

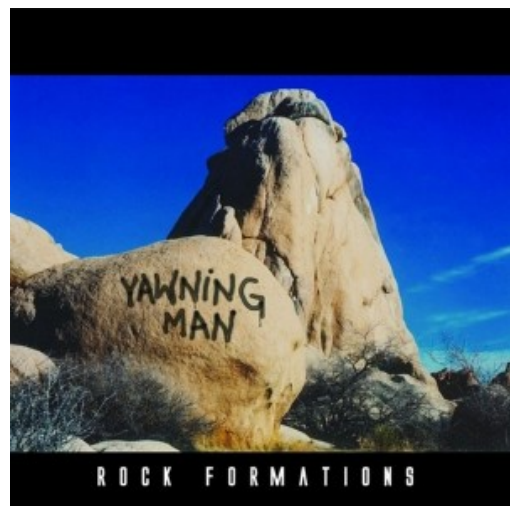
When Yawning Man started playing, the remoteness had another effect beyond the sound of the music. “Where we lived was secluded. Not influenced from the trends of Los Angeles.” With few other local bands in the desert, Yawning Man was forced to create a scene and style of its own. They were not shy about trying to fit their music to the desert spaces they loved. Special places with deep, even spiritual significance to them included “Box Canyon. Painted desert. Out near Mecca. About 20 min from my house. It’s like the moon in the desert. Very Alien like. Quiet. Lonely. Unique. Yawning Man used to have the generator parties out there.”

The vibes of the desert, the enormous vistas and solitude, the places and people, all play a role in the development of Yawning Man’s unique style and sound. They have never been well-known in the US and rarely play live shows here (“we’re lazy” Arce admits), but despite not being famous, they are often described as “legendary.”

## Conclusion

The relationship between place and music is generally not that clear. In an age of mass communication, musical styles spread quickly and the majority of popular music is essentially placeless. Local scenes can and do develop, but they are generally de-linked to any specific characteristics of the places they are based. With the exception of folk-music traditions or genres rooted in specific cultural tradition, “scenes” in these days are just accidental groupings of similarly-minded people in particular places at a particular time.

In contrast, the two genres of music discussed here represented actual place-based, indigenous rock music – related to places not just by the association of musicians in that place, but by their actual relationships to the landscapes they inhabit. The Mermen without the ocean would not be the Mermen; Yawning Man would not be Yawning Man without the desert. Thomas and Arce, both exceptional musicians, would likely have created some musical forms in completely different locales, but their sound is unmistakably formed by their life experiences and their life experiences are heavily linked to the places they inhabit and love. As Thomas concludes “All that rocking on the water must inform my music. It’s not something I would try to do consciously. There is experience and then there is music. It happens like a reality that is woven together through experience and dreaming.....”



Davis, Erik and Jonathan Taylor. 2014 (forthcoming). Golden states of mind: a geography of California consciousness, from The Changing World Religion Map: Sacred Places, Identities, Practices and Politics (Stanley Brunn, ed), Springer, NYC, NY.

Photos from [http:// Mermen.net](http://Mermen.net) and <http://yawningman.com/>

# Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by Michael Schmandt at 5:10pm with 21 people present.

Minutes from the Fall 2012 APCG Business Meeting in Olympia, Washington were approved.

## VOTE RESULTS:

Sriram Khe – President  
Chris Lukinbeal – Vice President  
Vicki Drake – Secretary  
Scott Mensing – AAG Councillor

**FISCAL COMMITTEE REPORT:** The Budget Committee reviewed Bob Richardson's books and book-keeping and found the APCG's Treasurer's Report to be an excellent work and they have complete confidence in Bob as Treasurer.

**2013 CONFERENCE REPORT:** 265 registered for this conference, with \$33,000 in receipts. A possible profit of \$3000 is anticipated. For this conference, 80 new members, with a strong faculty-student ratio were added.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** See separate document from Bob Richardson. Bob Richardson's Treasurer's Report was distributed. The first page is a narrative of the budget, the special funds, APCG Yearbook, and membership numbers.

We are in very good shape, with income approximately \$7,614 greater than expenditures. However, Bob forgot to reimburse himself for supplies (stamps, etc.) at a cost of around \$1000. So the final income will be closer to \$6614. The 2012 Olympia conference provided a profit of ~\$2600.

**YEARBOOK REPORT:** We are making money on the Yearbook – it's a 'negative cost' at this point. Volume 73 is making approximately \$0.73/member. All old volumes will soon be on Project Muse. Additionally, JSTOR will also have the Yearbooks, but with a three year lag time behind Project Muse.

**SPECIAL FUNDS** are in a single account, earning very little interest at this point. New funds came in for the Trussell fund, but it, the Bailey and McKnight/Clemons funds continue to draw down on principal. Women's Network took in less than was spent, but still have a comfortable reserve with approximately \$1,713 in contributions this FY. Larry Ford fund grew by \$838 after making two awards. LATS shrank by \$238, after making three \$300 awards in Olympia. ISTS made no awards and grew by \$229. ADSTS made no awards in 2012 and grew by \$163. Christopherson Geosystems Award made two awards of \$500

each and Robert and Bobbe have generously funded this years with another contribution of \$1000. All the special funds are in need of continued support and, all told, approximately \$5,597 in contributions were made this FY.

**2014 CONFERENCE REPORT:** The 2014 APCG conference will be September 24-27, 2014 in Tucson, AZ. The conference will be at one location: Tucson Marriott at University Park with the light rail next door. This will integrate the conference with the university. The cost of rooms before October at Tucson Marriott is \$95/day with free parking.

The University of Arizona will provide audio-visual equipment for the conference rooms at the Marriott. Wednesday will be the BBQ reception, Thursday reception or buffet might be at "Old Town, with the Friday poster session at the Arizona Historical Society. The Saturday night banquet will be in the Student Union on campus.

**YEARBOOK:** Jim Craine has agreed to continue on as Editor again through 2014.

**PACIFICA:** Vienne Vu will continue on as the editor for the online *Pacifica*. Need to have all input for Fall *Pacifica* for publication by Thanksgiving.

**AWARDS:** Greg Bohr will be giving out 9 awards at the Saturday night banquet.

**BYLAWS VOTE:** See changes as submitted by Bob Richardson.

Jim Allen proposed two changes to the current bylaws (section 3):

Section 3a: include wording to add Distinguished Service Award Committee to the standing committees. The DSA committee will be composed of three members, of whom the chair and at least one other member shall be past recipients of the Award.

Section 3f: Changes "Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship" to "Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship"; changes "Mexican-American Travel Scholarship" to "Latina/o American Travel Scholarship"; adds "African Descent Student Travel Scholarship" and "Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship" committees.

**SPECIAL REPORT:** AAG Indigenous People Specialty Group Proposal by Chris Castagna, Treasurer of IBSG. Starting

...continued on next page

## APCG Directory

### WEBMASTER

Jim Keese  
Social Sciences Department  
Cal Poly State University  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
jkeese@calpoly.edu

### GEOGRAPHY BOWL

Tina White, Coach  
CSU Northridge  
tina.m.white@csun.edu

### PUBLICATIONS

*Yearbook*  
Editor: Jim Craine  
Department of Geography  
CSU, Northridge  
Northridge CA 91330  
818-677-3520  
james.w.craine@csun.edu

*Pacifica*  
Editor: Vienne Vu  
Department of Geography  
San Diego Mesa College  
San Diego, CA 92111  
vvu@sdccd.edu

*Pacifica* is a publication of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, a regional division of the Association of American Geographers. The newsletter appears two times a year in fall and spring. The deadline for submission of announcements and reports for the Spring issue is April 1, and for the Fall issue is a fortnight after the conclusion of the annual meeting.

For further information about *Pacifica* contact Vienne Vu at vvu@sdccd.edu.



# Business Meeting Minutes

...continued from previous page

with the 2014 APCG Tucson meeting, have this specialty group meet as part of the regional group. They will set up a pre-conference gathering (approximately one day in advance) with paper session and a field trip. There will be no board meeting and the IPSG will have travel grants available for members to attend this regional meeting. This is potentially an ongoing option for future AAG and APCG meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS:** APCG 2015 – CSUN, California; APCG 2016 – University of Washington? Sonoma?

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Drake

---

## Women's Network

Katie Meehan  
University of Oregon

At this year's annual meeting in Squaw Valley, Lake Tahoe, the Women's Network awarded **8** Travel Grants, in the amount of \$200.00 each, to the following women:

Rebecca Batzel, Humboldt State  
Crystal English, San Diego State  
Lauren Herwehe, University of Arizona  
Kristine Hunt, Idaho State  
Lindsay Naylor, University of Oregon  
Carly Nichols, University of Arizona  
Patricia Rodriguez, CSU Northridge  
Laurie Trautman, University of Oregon

The recipients of the Travel Grants were introduced and spoke about their future goals in Geography during the Saturday Women's Network luncheon.

The Network invites all faculty members of the APCG to nominate an outstanding female undergraduate or graduate student for a Women's Network Travel Grant to attend next year's meeting in Tucson, Arizona. The 2014 Travel Grant awards will be **\$200.00** per award. The Margaret Trussell Scholarship Committee also invites masters and doctoral candidates in the APCG service area to apply for the Trussell Scholarship. Look for the official announcements in the spring edition of *Pacifica*.

Nominations for the Women's Network Travel Grant must be emailed to both Deb Thien (Deborah.Thien@csulb.edu) and Katie Meehan (meehan@uoregon.edu) by **JULY 8, 2014** and should consist of a few paragraphs outlining the student's interests and abilities in geography. Please ask your student nominees to provide the Women's Network with a one-page statement detailing why they want to attend the meeting and their current interests and goals in the field of Geography. Students need to include a phone number, mailing address,

and current email address along with their one-page statement. Recipients will be notified in **August** via email.

This program is entirely funded through contributions to the Women's Network of the APCG. The Women's Network was able to award **8** Travel Grants this year because of generous contributions made by APCG members and interested parties. The fund had received considerable contributions after the passing of Joan Clemons, as well as a \$2,000.00 bequest in 2007 from the estate of Dave Miller. To assure more secure funding for the Travel Grants, a successful fund-raising campaign was introduced to honor someone (living or passed on) who are (or have been) mentors in Geography. This year, we again give members the opportunity to send a donation to the Women's Network Travel Grant, along with the name of the 'honoree'.

We send a big "Thank You" to all who made donations this year, and continue to encourage financial contributions from the APCG membership for the Travel Grant Fund. Please send donations in honor of your mentor to Bob Richardson. The Travel Grant provides an opportunity for female students to attend a regional conference by awarding each recipient **\$200.00** towards registration fees and travel costs associated with the meeting, plus a one year membership to the APCG. Luncheon costs for the recipients will also be covered by the Women's Network Travel Grant Fund. It is not necessary that the student present a paper; rather, the monetary award provides an opportunity for a student to gain experience from attending a major regional meeting. The Women's Network will be having a no-host luncheon at the Fall 2014 conference Tucson, Arizona, at which time the award recipients will be asked to speak about their interests and goals and how the Network might assist them in reaching those goals.

Finally, we offer our deepest gratitude for the dedicated service of outgoing Women's Network members: Vicki Drake, Lise Nelson, and Sallie Marston.

Please send nominations and student statements for the Women's Network Travel Grant (and any questions) to:

**Deb Thien (Deborah.Thien@csulb.edu)** or **Katie Meehan (meehan@uoregon.edu)** "Membership and Donation" form available on the APCG website.





# 2013 Student Awards

## 2013 APCG Student Paper Awards

Nine awards were given for outstanding student presentations at the Lake Tahoe meeting:

### **Tom McKnight and Joan Clemens Award for the Outstanding Student Paper**, \$500

Name: Ling Zhang

Affiliation: University of Utah

Title of Paper: Foreign Retailers in China: the Case of Hypermarket Retailing

Advisor: Yehua Dennis Wei

### **Christopherson Geosystems Award for Excellence in Applied Geography/Earth Systems (Graduate)**, \$500

Name: Cassandra Hansen

Affiliation: University of Nevada, Reno

Title of Paper: "The Storm of a Lifetime": Diagnosing the Role of Atmospheric Rivers in Snowfall Events on Mt. Shasta, California

Advisors: Scott Mensing and Michael Kaplan

### **Christopherson Geosystems Award for Excellence in Applied Geography/Earth Systems (Undergraduate)**, \$500

Name: Kelly J. Acridge

Affiliation: California State University, Sacramento

Title of Paper: The Effect of Campus Impaction on New Student Distribution, Spring 2008 to Spring 2013

Advisor: Thomas Krabacher

### **Harry and Shirley Bailey Award for the Outstanding Paper in Physical Geography**, \$200

Name: Giancarlo Sadoti

Affiliation: University of Nevada, Reno

Title of Paper: Beyond the Patch Paradigm: Utilizing Variograms to Elucidate Animal-Habitat Relationships

Advisor: Thomas P. Albright

### **Committee Award for Excellence in Area Studies**, \$200

Name: Zia Salim

Affiliation: San Diego State University/UC Santa Barbara

Title of Paper: "We Are Homeless in the States": Gated Communities in Bahrain as Spaces for Transnationals

Advisors: Fernando Bosco, with Keith Clarke, Helen Couclelis, and Pascale Joassart-Marcelli

### **President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a PhD Student**, \$200

Name: Anna Moore

Affiliation: University of Oregon

Title of Paper: "We're Looking for Mass. Ave.": Site Selection for U.S. Diplomatic Infrastructure in the Design Excellence Era

Advisor: Alec Murphy

### **President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an M.A. or M.S. Student**, \$200

Name: Stephen Przybylinski

Affiliation: Portland State University

Title of Paper: Right to Dream: A Portland, OR Case Study of a Homeless Rest Space

Advisor: Thomas Harvey

### **President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an Undergraduate Student**, \$200

Name: Julianna Aguilar

Affiliation: California State University, Stanislaus

Title of Paper: Investigating Hydrological Anomalies in the Ka'a'awa Valley

Advisors: Suzanne Wechsler and Matt Becker, with Christopher Lee and Carl Lipo

### **President's Award for Outstanding Poster Presentation**, \$200

Name: Sheri Bethoney

Affiliation: California State University, Sacramento

Title of Poster: Should Your Food Have a Passport? A Look at Food Miles for Five Sacramento Grocery Retailers

Advisor: James Wanket

### *2013 Student Paper Awards Committee*

Jeff Baldwin, Sonoma State University

Greg Bohr, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

Kate Davis, San Jose State University

Roxane Fridirici, California State University, Sacramento

Elena Givental, California State University, East Bay

Jim Keese, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

Eugenie Rovai, California State University, Chico

Ray Summer, Long Beach City College

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Alejandra Soria, recipient of the Latina American and African Descent Travel Scholarships (Photo: Debra Sharkey)

# 2013 Student Awards



...continued from previous page

## **Margaret Trussell Scholarships**

Leticia Garcia, San Diego State University  
Anna Klimaszewski-Patterson, University of Nevada, Reno

## **Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarships in Cultural Geography**

Ashley Fent, University of California, Los Angeles  
Sara Hughes, University of California, Los Angeles  
Denielle Perry, University of Oregon

## **Latina/o American Student Travel Scholarships**

David Prigge, San Francisco State University  
Alejandra Soria, Sacramento State University

## **African Descent Student Travel Scholarships**

Crystal English, San Diego State University  
Alejandra Soria, Sacramento State University

## **2013 Travel Grants**

The student membership of the APCG was well-represented at Lake Tahoe, with numerous excellent presentations. The APCG was able to support many of these participants, awarding a total of 23 travel grants (summing to \$4,100) for student presenters.

Kelly Acridge, Sacramento State University  
Julianna Aguilar, CSU Stanislaus  
Joshua Andreas, CSU Northridge  
Monte Asche, Idaho State University  
Rebecca Batzel, Humboldt State University  
Christine Carolan, University of Oregon  
Crystal English, San Diego State University  
Fiona Gladstone, Portland State University  
Lauren Herwehe, University of Arizona  
Innisfree McKinnon, University of Oregon  
Anna Moore, University of Oregon  
Lindsey Naylor, University of Oregon  
Carly Nichols, University of Arizona  
Denielle Perry, University of Oregon  
Stephen Przbylinski, Portland State University  
David Ripperda, Sacramento State University  
Zia Salim, San Diego State University/UC Santa Barbara  
Linnea Sando, Montana State University  
Alejandra Soria, Sacramento State University  
Stacie Townsend, UC Davis  
Laurie Trautman, University of Oregon  
Hongyan Yang, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee



2013 Travel Grant Recipients (Photo: Bob Richardson)



# Treasurer's Report

September 28, 2013, The Village at Squaw Valley  
Robert T. Richardson, Sacramento State University  
Transactions for July 1, 2012--June 30, 2013

**Forward at close of books, 7/1/12** **\$93,283.16**

## RECEIPTS

Dues	\$11,576.00
AAG Regional Allocation	\$1,500.00
YEARBOOK (UHP yr ending 6/30/12)	\$7,481.73
Interest on Regular Accounts	\$264.70
Profit from 2012 Ann Meeting (gross; net was \$2,576.23)	\$4,362.23
Gift from Bowens for student banquet dinners	\$850.00
General contributions (from Durham, O'Brien, Pallachulla, Knigge, Fielding)	\$146.00
AAG GeoBowl contributions (pass-thru from AAG)	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$26,680.66</b>

## DISBURSEMENTS

APCG '12 Annual Meeting Grants & Awards	\$6,242.41
Student Travel Awards (inc. GeoBowl)	\$5,400.00
President's Awards (inc. DSA plaque)	\$842.41
Advances to Sound Experience & Village at Squaw Valley	\$2,883.00
Buffalo Net (web design)	\$2,000.00
PACIFICA (now online, no expenses)	\$0.00
Corporate Filing Fee (Olympia, WA)	\$10.00
Bank fees ((bad check, error)	\$7.99
PayPal charges	\$47.18
Membership (should be larger but I forgot to reimburse myself by 6/30)	\$189.57
YEARBOOK v.74	\$3,918.83
YEARBOOK v.75	\$3,768.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$19,066.98</b>

**Balance on books, 6/30/13** **\$100,896.84**

## SPECIAL FUNDS

Bailey Scholarship Fund (forward 7/1/12)	\$2,586.17
(\$200 award and \$3.95 interest)	-\$196.05
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$2,390.12</b>
McKnight/Clemons Scholarship Fund (forward 7/1/12)	\$13,641.65
(\$500 + \$200 in awards and \$21.21 interest)	-\$678.79
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$12,962.86</b>
Margaret Trussell Memorial Fund (forward 7/1/12)	\$53,695.93
(2 Trussell awards, \$84.25 interest, and \$48 in contributions)	-\$1,867.75
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$51,828.18</b>
Women's Network Travel Grant Fund (forward 7/1/12)	\$6,524.98
(9 grants, \$1,713 contributions, and \$9.30 interest)	-\$392.70
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$6,132.28</b>
Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship Fund (fwd 7/1/12)	\$23,274.55
(2 grants, \$1,801 contributions, and \$37.02 interest)	\$838.02
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$24,112.57</b>
Latin American Travel Scholarship Fund (forward 7/1/12)	\$7,729.08
(\$900 in grants, \$650 contributions, and \$11.97 interest)	-\$238.21
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$7,490.87</b>
Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship Fund (fwd 7/1/12)	\$2,407.62
(\$225 in contributions and \$4.00 interest)	\$229.00
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$2,636.62</b>
African Descent Student Travel Scholarship Fund (fwd 7/1/12)	\$1,759.02
(\$160 in contributions and \$2.92 interest)	\$162.92
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$1,921.94</b>
Christopherson Geosystems Award Fund (forward 7/1/12)	\$1,000.00
(\$1,000 in awards, \$1,000 in contributions, and \$1.11 interest)	\$1.11
<b>Balance 6/30/13</b>	<b>\$1,001.11</b>

# Members

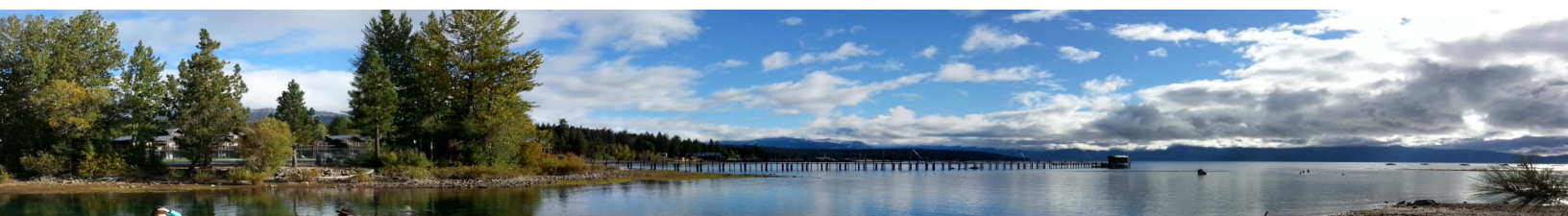
## New Members

Welcome to these 147 new members who have joined since the list in the Spring 2013 issue. (\*Asterisk denotes a former member who has rejoined.)

Kelly Acridge  
Julianna Aguilar  
Mirna Gutierrez Alcala  
Joshua Andreas  
Monte Asche  
Laurel Ballanti  
Natchee Barnd  
Rebecca Batzel  
M. Dolores Bayle\*  
Sherilyn Bethoney  
Elizabeth Maria Bettencourt Machado  
Anthony Bianchi  
Sean P Boyd  
Jason Burgdorfer  
Kacey Cadwell  
Jennifer Campbell  
Chelsea Canon  
Christine Carolan\*  
Pedro Chacon  
Brian C Chaffin  
John M. Chase\*  
Richard Adam Chasey  
Molan Choi  
Benjamin Christian\*  
Jeremy Michael Crain  
Danielle Crisp  
Rodolfo Curiel  
Holly Dasher  
Jerry D. Davis\*  
Will Davis  
Rebekah Davis  
Ellen Ruth Doudna  
Dariya Draganova  
Jacquelyn Elizarraraz  
Anthony Stephen Fagundes  
Ashley Fent  
Purba Fernandez\*  
Gail Ferrell  
G. J. (Pete) Fielding  
Stephanie Freund  
Leticia Garcia  
Kelley Marie Gardner  
Sheila Golden  
Carla Grandy\*  
Christopher Scott Gross

Corrina Halvorsen  
Lauren Herwehe  
Sara Hughes  
Kristine E. Hunt  
Nancee Hunter\*  
Kristal Ip  
Sean Edward Isley  
William Parker Jackson  
Jerilynn Jackson  
Kris Jones\*  
Casey Kahn-Thornbrugh  
Rajrani Kalra\*  
Logan Kaper  
Dan Kaveney\*  
Katherine Kiduff  
Anna Klimaszewski-Patterson  
LaDona Knigge  
Stephen Lai  
Haily Lang  
Heather Theresa Lewis  
Patricia Josephina Lopez  
Stephanie Lopez  
David Lopez-Carr  
Kristal Lucatero  
Marcus Albert MacDonald  
Michael Bettencourt Machado  
Michelle Bettencourt Machado  
Jillian MacLean  
Bradley Macpherson  
Suzanne Maher  
Natasha Majewski  
Amber Manfree  
Jessica Marter-Kenyon  
David Mattern  
Kyle Timothy Maxwell  
Adam McClure  
Janet McFaul  
Dr. Stuart McFeeters\*  
Crystal McIlroy  
Ivana Mckonic  
Shane McLaren  
Armando V. Mendoza  
Joanna Merson  
Nancy Milholland  
James Miller  
Katrina Munoz  
Jordan K. Murray, MPH  
Rachel Noelle Naranjo  
Warren Navarro  
Carly E. Nichols  
Christina Olson  
Roland Pacheco

Nicholas Perdue  
Corbin Peterson  
Juliann Phonthachack  
Oleta Joy Piecuch-Kiliveros  
Alexander Pugliese  
Dr. Pauliina Raento\*  
Donald Rajewich  
Kent Michael Rasmussen  
Meghan Rathermel  
Heather Lene Ream  
Amanda Roberts  
Christine M. Rodrigue\*  
Patricia Rodriguez  
Mr. Aubrey B. Rose, MA  
Jonathan Rossiter\*  
Monica Ann Rucker-Singh  
Parker Davis Inglis Russell  
Leslie Ryan  
Giancarlo Sadoti  
Erin Saffell\*  
Maegan Antoinette Salinas  
Jeffery Philip-Jessup Sandoval  
Michelle Saunders  
Bettina Schiffman  
Mathew Schmittlein\*  
Nadine Schuurman\*  
Irene Seelye\*  
Hélène Seelye\*  
Donna Senese\*  
Dyuti Sengupta, PhD  
Wei Shi  
Melinda Shimizu  
Megan Koester Smallidge  
Laura Smith  
Alejandra Soria  
Sarah Stadtlander  
Steve Stewart\*  
Maggie Sturm  
Jonathan Taylor\*  
Sudhir K. Thakur\*  
Stacie Townsend\*  
Bobby Voeks  
James A. Wanket\*  
Russell Weaver  
Suzanne Wechsler\*  
Catherine Garoupa White  
Julie Winkler  
Suzanne Withers\*  
Gregory Ziolkowski  
Hannah Zucherman





# Members

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## Special Fund Contributions

Since the Spring 2013 listing more contributions have come to our Special Funds, as follows: \$683 to the Women's Network Travel Grant Fund, \$245 to the Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship in Cultural Geography, \$5 to the Latina/o American Travel Scholarship, \$240 to the Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship, \$35 to the African Descent Student Travel Scholarship, \$40 in general contributions, \$23 to the Margaret Trussell Scholarship Fund, \$3 for the student awards fund, and \$35 for the student travel fund (these last four categories appear on the new online membership application form). Thanks to the following who contributed to one or more of these funds.

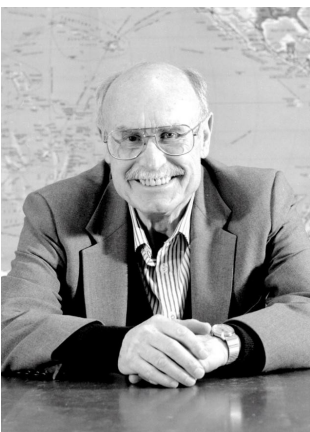
Gina Bloodworth  
Fernando Bosco  
Jim Craine  
Vicki Drake  
G. J. (Pete) Fielding  
Sheila Golden  
Jennifer J. Helzer, PhD  
Kristal Ip  
Rajrani Kalra  
LaDona Knigge  
Jennifer Elizabeth Kusler

Sallie Marston  
Heather McAfee  
Segun Ogunjemiyo  
HoMana Pawiki  
Denielle Perry  
Nadine Schuurman  
Dyuti Sengupta, PhD  
Emma Slager  
Paul F. Starrs  
Joanne Scott Wuerker

SPECIAL THANKS to Bill and Marilyn Bowen for their contribution of \$775 to pay for banquet dinners for students who presented papers or posters. Special thanks also to John and Bev Passerello who continue to provide support to minority faculty with their gifts of membership and this year's financial support to help attend our annual meeting. Finally, very special thanks to my Sac State colleague Michael Schmandt, for his heroic efforts to make our annual meeting happen, and to be a huge success. He thanked everyone possible at the BBQ dinner and Banquet dinner, including most of all his wife, Debra Sharkey, but the work he did was incredible, including running down a blind alley in an effort to hold the meeting at Asilomar.

--Bob Richardson (Treasurer)

## In Memoriam



Gordon R. Lewthwaite (pictured)  
Northridge, California  
August 1925 - September 2013

Thomas W. Harvey  
Portland, Oregon  
September 1951 - December 2013

Please click on each individual's name for a link to their obituary.

## Membership

Questions about membership should be directed to Bob Richardson at:

Department of Geography  
Sacramento State Univ.  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6003  
phone (916) 278-6410  
fax (916) 278-7584  
e-mail [apcg@csus.edu](mailto:apcg@csus.edu).

Visit the APCG web site at <http://apcgweb.org/> for information about the organization and for a new member application form.

APCG member dues, raised starting 2009, are:

Regular \$25,

Student or Retired \$15,

Contributing \$30 or more (any contribution over \$25 is tax deductible).

A second (Joint) member may be added to any of these categories for another \$3.

Second (Joint) members receive a ballot but not another copy of the Yearbook.

Dues are paid for the calendar year. Unless indicated otherwise, checks dated before November 1 will be credited to the current year, while those dated after November 1 will be credited to the next year.

Only current year members receive the Yearbook.

Current members will be sent a membership renewal notice near the end of the calendar year.

Join us in Tucson for the 77th Annual Meeting of the [Association of Pacific Coast Geographers](#) hosted by the [School of Geography and Development](#), the [College of Social and Behavioral Sciences](#), the [Institute of the Environment](#), and the [Southern Arizona Geographers Association](#) at the University of Arizona.

The conference will be held at the [Tucson Marriott University Park](#) (880 East Second Street, Tucson, AZ 85719) in the heart of Main Gate Square on the west-side of the University and along the [future streetcar line leading to downtown Tucson](#). We have negotiated a rate of \$95 a room per night but you must mention the APCG 2014 conference when booking. However, there is a \$9.00 per day parking fee so we are encouraging folks to take public transportation or an airport shuttle. From the Tucson airport you can take the [Arizona Stagecoach Shuttle](#) for a small fee. The conference rate also includes free WIFI internet. We have already booked a “night at the museum” at the [Arizona Historical Society](#) (949 E 2nd St, Tucson, AZ 85719) and the banquet will be held on campus at the [Student Union Memorial Center’s Grand Ballroom North](#).

We are currently working on a wide variety of field trips that will highlight Southern Arizona’s uniqueness including a trip to [Biosphere 2](#) and Mount Lemmon. Biosphere 2 is a research facility owned by the University of Arizona whose mission is to serve as a center for research, outreach, teaching and lifelong learning about Earth, its living systems, and its place in the universe. At 9,157 feet, Mount Lemmon is the highest point in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Situated within the Coronado National Forest, Mount Lemmon hosts the southernmost ski resort in the contiguous United States and many different ecosystems, including spruce forests, mixed conifer forests, pine forests, pinyon Juniper woods, and subtropical (Sonoran) desert.

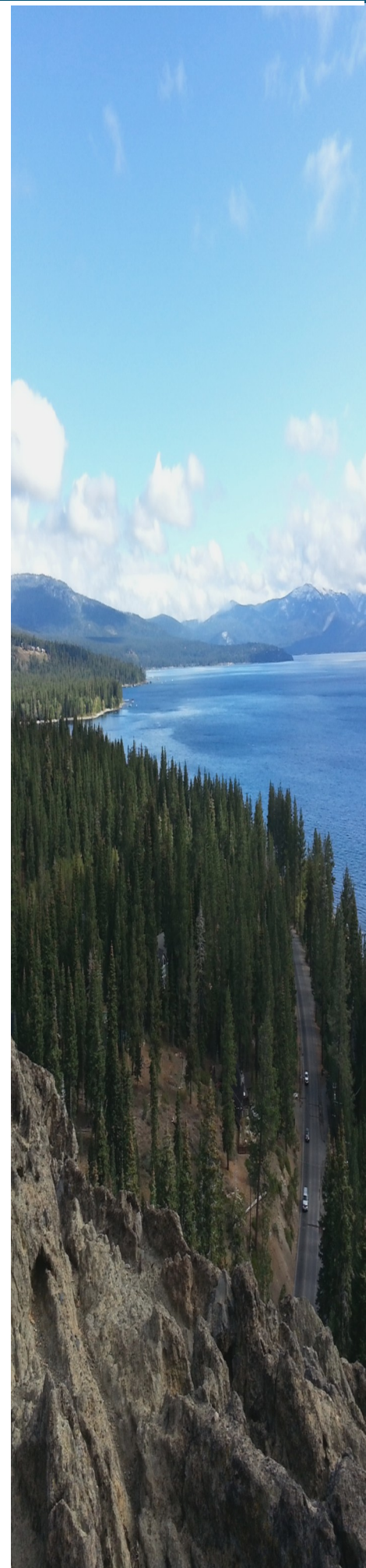
Other field trips in the works include: an historic walking tour of downtown Tucson, partially following [the Presidio Trail](#); an examination of the military landscapes of the [Pima Air and Space Museum](#) and the [Titan Missile Museum](#); one or two oriented field trips to the US/Mexico border region; and a Native American field trip that is being organized by the Association of American Geographers’ [Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group](#). Other possible field trips include a water-based field trip and a tour of the [Mission San Xavier del Bac](#).

Future information will be posted to the conference website: <http://apcg.geography.arizona.edu>.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

The 2014 APCG Planning Team,

Chris Lukinbeal  
Tina Kennedy  
Greg Barron-Gafford  
David Plane





The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Inc.

Department of Geography

Sacramento State University

Sacramento, CA 95819-6003

# APCG 2014 Tucson, Arizona

## September 24th – 27th



Click on the links below to visit the APCG!

