

APCG
Association of Pacific
Coast Geographers



PACIFICA

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
ASSOCIATION
OF
PACIFIC COAST
GEOGRAPHERS
SPRING 2024**



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CONTENTS

PAGE 3

ABOUT THE APCG

History and photos from last year's annual meeting in Ventura, CA

PAGE 10

STUDENT AWARDS

2023 APCG Student Awardees from the annual meeting in Ventura, CA.

PAGE 4

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A call to continue engaging with the APCG to ensure its future.

PAGE 12

FUTURE APCG MEETINGS

Locations for the 2024 and 2025 APCG meetings

PAGE 6

APCG BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Business meeting minutes from the 2023 APCG Annual Conference in Ventura, CA.

PAGE 13

APCG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Contact information



ABOUT THE APCG

Founded in 1935 by a gathering of geographers including graduate students and faculty from universities, normal schools, and junior colleges, and a few individuals 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 newsletter *Pacifica*, first published in Fall 1994. Since 1952 the APCG has also been the Pacific Coast Regional Division of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), serving AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, BC, and YT.

Photographs from the 2023 Annual Meeting in Ventura, CA:



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: SUPPORT THE APCG!

FERNANDO J. BOSCO



The 2023 APCG meeting in Ventura, CA was successful. A total of 156 people registered for the conference, attending either in person or virtually. In terms of registration, this was an improvement over the 2022 APCG annual meeting at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA which was a smaller meeting but also successful and very well organized. The attendance last year was still just a bit below the last pre-pandemic annual meeting in 2019 in Flagstaff, AZ which was attended by 161 APCG members. Prior to that, it was not uncommon for our annual meetings to exceed 250 or 300 attendees. We are hoping for another excellent meeting this year at Cal Poly Humboldt in Arcata, CA October 3rd to 5th and I hope to see you there.

Our membership numbers, however, have been declining for several years. The APCG experienced “peak” membership in the mid 2000s, with about 750 members in 2005, 2006, and 2007. After that, our organization began experiencing a gradual but steady decline. By 2022, the APCG had 329 members, and last year membership was down to 322. There are probably several reasons that explain these trends. The first big drop in members began in 2008 which coincided with the annual meeting in Fairbanks, AL but also with a big economic downturn. We have also experienced declining number of Geography majors in many of our institutions, and more recently declining enrollments at universities and community colleges overall. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly did not help our organization, our institutions, and our discipline.

I am contrasting the relative success of our annual meetings with our declining membership numbers as way to ask all of us to make an effort to support and re-energize the APCG. Successful meetings require people attending but also volunteers on the ground helping whoever is hosting the meeting. The APCG has many committees that need to be staffed on a regular basis so that the organization can do a lot of the work that we all are proud of, including judging papers and posters so we can give awards and prizes to students, putting together panels and special sessions, luncheons, the geography bowl, and so on. We have publications like the Yearbook and Pacifica that need regular submissions from our members to stay relevant and afloat. The APCG has long relied on the hard work of a core group of very committed members (thank you!), but as with any other organization, people rotate through leadership roles, and more people with new ideas, energy, and commitment are always needed. We need to re-energize the APCG in the same way in which we are now re-building our academic units and trying to regain a sense of community and belonging as geographers (or geography supporters in our several related disciplines) after the pandemic.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

(continues from page 5)

What can I do to help, you ask yourself? I am not the first (and surely not last) APCG president who will give you a list of ideas, but here are some:

- **Promote the APCG to colleagues and students:** each year all of us meet new students and on occasion, depending on the hiring cycle, new colleagues. We do not have a recent good track record of attracting new faculty to our association, but we do need them to become involved if we want to sustain the organization long term. This is how I joined the APCG when I moved to CA 22 years ago: Larry Ford encouraged me to get to attend my first APCG meeting and discover what the APCG was all about. New faculty will also attract more students to join and attend meetings. Of course, student membership is variable as students pursue and finish their degrees, and that is why we need faculty to regularly recruit students, promote our meetings and spread the word about the many benefits that we offer to them.
- **Volunteer and become involved:** our committees need to be staffed, and we have vacant positions, and we anticipate more into the future. Some committees have been dormant. Don't be shy and reach out to the APCG executive council, we will welcome your participation now or in the future. We are creating a list of people who have expressed interest in becoming more involved for leadership positions in our association in the future. We would like to be able to add you to that list.
- **Contribute to our publications:** the Yearbook needs regular submissions to stay afloat and relevant. It is a great outlet for work co-created with students and by students. Consider it as you think of your next project and encourage your students to do the same. We are also seeking ideas to re-launch this newsletter, *Pacifica*, to be more in line with newsletters in the digital age. We hope to have a discussion on this topic at our next annual meeting in Arcata, but we welcome any ideas before that as well.
- **Attend our annual meeting:** Our meetings showcase the best of the APCG; they are great academic, networking, and social events that connect students, faculty, professionals, and the greater community.
- **Host our annual meeting:** we are always looking for future hosts and locations for our meeting. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted planning for future meetings, and it has been difficult to find people and institutions willing to host. This is why last year's meeting was organized by the APCG Executive Council and relied very heavily on the hard work of past APCG president Steve Graves (thank you again Steve!). We are now getting back on track, and we have hosts for our upcoming 2024 meeting and for 2025. We would like to secure more hosts going forward so planning can take place several years ahead. Even if you are considering hosting a few years into the future, please reach out to us.

Please reach out to me at fbosco@sdsu.edu if you have more ideas or any questions about how we can work together to make sure the APCG remains strong for years to come. Again, I hope to see many of you all at Cal Poly Humboldt in Arcata, CA next October.

APCG BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023, TIME: 5:30 TO 6:30 PM
LOCATION: CLIPPER WEST ROOM, FOUR POINTS BY
SHERATON, VENTURA, CA

Chair: Kris Bezdecny, who called meeting to order at 5:30. Approximately 25 people present.

Approval of 2022 Business Meeting minutes: Terry Young reporting – He forgot to print them so he will distribute them by email. If any errors are found, please let him know. Distribution occurred and several errors were reported and corrected.

Election Results: Kris Bezdecny presented the results for 2023-24:

- Fernando Bosco – President
- Elena Givental – Vice-President
- Bob Richardson - Treasurer

Continuing:

- Kris Bezdecny – Past President
- Dydia Delyser – AAG Councilor
- Terry Young - Secretary

REPORTS

AAG Regional Councilor's Report (written report received from D. Delyser):

Below are important items and developments at the AAG:

- AAG 2024 meeting in Hawai'i:
 - Lave (President) and Langham (ED) have been working extensively and intensively with local Hawai'ian leaders and community members to ensure we are welcome, and that our meeting is community- and place-engaged. Questions and concerns raised by AAG members around the world have been thoughtfully engaged and acted upon.
 - This form of local engagement is planned to become a model for future meetings.
 - Room rates at the conference hotel will be even cheaper than the ones in Denver! Please consider booking these as the AAG must guarantee a minimum number of rooms.
- A mentoring taskforce has been established by Vice President Ehrkamp. Look for sessions at regional meetings and at the annual meeting.
- AAG finances are challenging (way down) due to canceled annual meetings during the pandemic, pandemic-relief expenses, and the fact that the Denver meeting was much smaller (by 50%!) than pre-pandemic meetings. Additionally, inflation and the commitment to hybrid modalities increased costs. The Hawai'i meeting is likely to be small, so the AAG's budget deficit is likely to grow next year. This is a very serious situation. In response:
 - AAG staff have been reorganized and unfortunately several have had to be let go.
 - Langham and Orgodol (Finance Director) are exploring possibilities to shift the AAG's income structure to one that is less dependent on the annual meeting.
 - This could mean expanding the number of journals. Langham is investigating along with AAG's publisher, Taylor and Francis. Council will review a proposal at a future meeting.
 - This could mean considering hosting Research Coordination Networks after their NSF funding has expired (one proposal to do so has already been submitted) so that they would become "Communities of Practice." Langham is investigating.
 - This will mean exploring more grant funding. AAG staff are pursuing this, as they have in the past.

APCG BUSSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CON'T)

- This will mean that membership dues will increase (they have not in a very long time!). Langham and staff are developing proposals to link dues with inflation, to be presented at the next Council meeting.
- Publications:
 - Guo Chen was appointed the new second editor of the Professional Geographer. She will serve beginning in 2024 for a 5-year term.
 - Look for calls for editors of the AAG Review of Books and for the Annals in Spring.
- Climate Action Taskforce
 - Though the Taskforce will expire in 2024 its work was considered so foundational that the Council voted to create a new standing committee, the Climate Action Committee. Langham to prepare a charge, and Council to vote at an upcoming meeting. Members will be invited to serve!
- JEDI: JEDI Principles and practices are being (and will continue to be) implemented formatively across the AAG Strategic Plan.
- Elevate the Discipline: the fifteen scholars convened for a week of intensive media training in Washington, DC and this was very well received. It has also already made a difference, with several members gaining media interviews, including some in prominent outlets (local, national, and international).
 - Look for upcoming opportunities, both virtual and at the annual meeting, for all members to be able to participate in and benefit from some of this content.
- Supporting scholars in Florida: the AAG adopted a statement in support scholars engaged in critical research and teaching in the state of Florida who have recently come under attack in that state.

APCG Women's Network Report: Denielle Perry reporting – Events went well today. Numbers are going up and increasing. Sold 40+ tickets to the Network luncheon, but more than that were present. Seven travel awards were given this year, plus two Margaret Trussell awards to be handed out at the Awards dinner. Denielle needs someone to take her place for one year while she is on Sabbatical. Please nominate yourself or others. Alana will continue as co-chair. Donations for the network's awards are sought and gratefully accepted.

Additional Committee Reports: None offered.

Treasurer's Report: Elena Givental reporting – Elena distributed a four-page Treasurer's Report. The first page summarized revenues and expenses (i.e., a balance sheet) over the past fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). Elena explained the numbers and why they are not fully balanced. In brief, imbalances are typically caused by bills and checks from previous years arriving during the current year. Page two details the timing and amount of funds transferred from River City Bank to Beneficial State Bank. Once the awards and bills have all been paid for the Ventura meeting, the River City Bank account will be closed and the remaining funds moved to Beneficial State Bank. Page three details APCG special funds, including awarded amounts and contributions. From the budget overview on page one of the report, disbursements exceeded receipts, decreasing the total funds in APCG's regular accounts (not special funds) by approximately \$9,650 during the year.

Elena explained the numbers, including the recently arrived expenses from Volumes 83 & 84 of the YEARBOOK. The Yearbook numbers are always slow so past years sometimes have to be included in the present. Overall, we are in very good shape, she reported. Balances are generally good.

APCG BUSSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CON'T)

Page four listed overall membership numbers since 1994. Membership is lower than it once was, and while the recent trend has been flat, there should be a notable increase in new memberships after this meeting.

Discussion followed concerning finances, future meetings, and related elements. Kris explained the high cost of this meeting, which is, in part, why we want to identify future volunteering sites as soon as possible. It reduces the overall cost of a meeting. The "hosting" of meetings was discussed. It was pointed out that a meeting sited at a campus is a combination of both the individuals who volunteer and institutions that agree to support. The incoming chair of the geography department (?) at College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA) expressed an interest in hosting a future meeting. Denielle Perry offered that an established organizing committee is a big step in the right direction and should help to open doors at more institutions.

Budget Committee Report: Monika Calef reporting – Monika said the Treasurer's paperwork is OK. Bob Richardson announced some small corrections.

President's Report (originally delivered before and after the Treasurer's Report, but combined into one here): Kris Bezdecny reporting –

1. The 2024 APCG conference will be hosted by Cal Poly Humboldt in Arcata, CA.
2. Kris proposed an APCG annual meeting/local arrangements committee to both identify upcoming sites and interface with local hosting institutions. A motion was made and seconded to allow the Ex. Committee to form such a committee. Discussion followed with focus on concerning how to develop meeting program. The motion was approved by attendees.
3. The various APCG committees, especially the award committees, need volunteers. If you are interested or know someone who is (or might be), please spread the word and let the APCG leadership know.
4. The Executive Council proposes to offer an annual honorarium/stipend of \$2500.00 to the YEARBOOK editor and another, lesser one to the journal's graphics designer. A motion was made and seconded to pay them. Discussion ensued. The motion was passed by attendees.
5. Please volunteer yourself or someone else to run for APCG Secretary. We are looking for Vice President nominees too. Two nominations are wanted.
6. Kris brought up the possibility of APCG collaboration in 2024 with AAG, other regional divisions, and California Geographical Society. She had discussed it with Gary Langham, who said it is possible. More to follow.
7. Kris proposed transitioning from Wild Apricot (WA), which is expensive, to the AAG membership platform or some other alternative as long as we have control of our database. AAG has been subsidizing our WA subscription, but Kris doesn't think that will continue for much longer. We could move to the AAG platform, but it would be expensive - \$15,000. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to start/investigate the transition.

APCG BUSSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CON'T)

Yearbook Editor's Report: Craig Revels reporting – APCG YEARBOOK, Volume 85 is being published and will be online and mailed shortly. Watch for it. Craig R. will continue as editor for one additional year. Need to recruit for following years. Other individuals have expressed an interest in taking on the editor position after he departs. Rick Cooper, the copy editor, is about to retire. Craig will work with the press and new editor to identify and train a new copy editor. Beginning with Volume 86, the YEARBOOK will change to an opt-in for paper copies. Craig thanked the audience for letting him be the editor. Discussion concerning the mechanics of a paper vs no paper of YEARBOOK and PACIFICA. This selection of opting in will be made on APCG's Wild Apricot page when joining or renewing membership. A round of applause was made for Craig to thank him for the great job he has done as editor.

Pacifica Editor's Report: No report.

Executive Council Meeting: The Executive Council met in the Ballroom of the Four Points by Sheraton, Ventura, CA on Friday, October 20, 2023, from 7:00 to 8:00 AM.

Business Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM

Respectfully submitted by Terence Young, APCG Secretary



2023 VENTURA APCG ANNUAL MEETING

COMPETITIONS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The APCG was thrilled to offer more than **\$19,000** in support at the Ventura meeting. Congratulations to the awardees and a special Thank you to our membership and the donors who make these annual awards possible.

With your support, APCG encourages budding scholars to excel. Memberships, general contributions/donations, and profits from the APCG Yearbook and annual meetings contributed \$9,000.00 of the awards total, while \$10,350.00 came from donations to the Special Funds listed below, plus individual donations to support students at the meeting.

Student Paper & Poster Competition Winners

Doctoral Level

President's Paper Award for Outstanding Paper

- Caitlyn Linehan, UC-Santa Barbara

Tom McKnight & Joan Clemens Paper Award

- Mitchell Snyder, UC-Davis

Geosystems Applied Geography Paper Award

- Germán Silva, UC-Santa Barbara



Master's Level

President's Paper Award for Outstanding Paper

- Kate Prell, CSU-Long Beach

Tom McKnight & Joan Clemens Paper Award

- Leah Shamlan, University Center of Westfjords, Iceland

Harry & Shirley Bailey Physical Geography Paper Award

- Danielle Juarez, NAU



Poster Award (Graduate Level, PhD)

- Sophia Arabadjis, UC-Santa Barbara

Undergraduate Level

President's Paper Award

- Dani Savinon, Cal Poly Pomona

Geosystems Applied Geography Paper Award

- Chris Guo, UC-Irvine

Poster Award (Undergraduate Level)

- Caitlin Berry, Pasadena City College
- Lindsey Most, CSU-San Bernardino



Grant & Scholarship Awardees

African Descent Student Travel Grant

- Chevon Holmes UC-Davis

APCG Jan Monk Early Career Faculty Research Award

- Jasmine Arpagian CSU-Sacramento

Ford-Arreola Fieldwork-Archival Research Scholarship (FAFARS)

- Hanson Mike Grad NAU
- Aila Bandagi Kandlakunta UN-Reno



Hoerauf Grant for Studies in Cartography and GIS

- Jessica Raty, NAU
- Danielle Juarez NAU
- Carl de Joya CSU-Sacramento
- Caitlyn Linehan UC-Santa Barbara
- Mengya Xu University of Southern California



Indigenous Student Travel Grant

- Hanson Mike NAU
- Monica Pech Cardenas NAU

Latino/a/ex Travel Scholarship (LATS)

- Melinda Collins CSU-Northridge
- Germán Silva UC-Santa Barbara
- Danielle Juarez NAU
- Monica Pech Cardenas NAU



Margaret Trussell Award

- Melinda Collins CSU-Northridge
- Aila Bandagi Kandlakunta UN-Reno

Women's Network Award

Mengya Xu University of Southern California

- Danielle Juarez NAU
- Jessica Raty NAU
- Monica Pech Cardenas NAU
- Caitlin Berry Pasadena City College
- Chevon Holmes UC-Davis
- Gwenyth Greco CSU-Northridge



FUTURE APCG MEETINGS

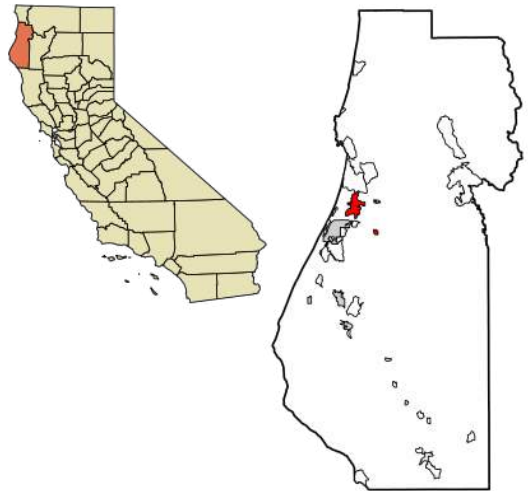
APCG 2024

Cal Poly Humboldt, Arcata, CA

October 3-5, 2024

Contact information: Rosemary Sherriff / sherriff@humboldt.edu

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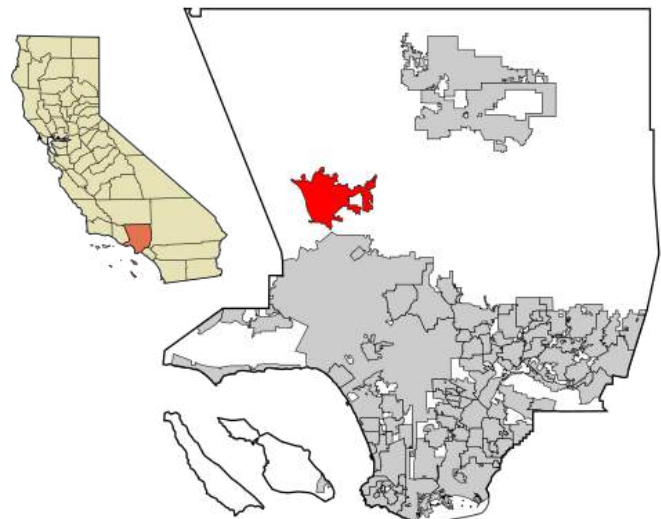


APCG 2025

College of the Canyons

Santa Clarita, CA

October (dates TBA)



APCG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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