

# PACIFICA



The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers

Fall 2007

## RESEARCH SUMMARY BY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Editor's note: The Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship, and the Margaret Trussell Scholarship, are annual competitive awards for graduate students in Geography. Both these scholarships require the awardees to submit a summary of the research work for publication in *Pacifica*. Shoshana Mayden was awarded the Trussell Scholarship in 2006, and Anne Bonds received the Cultural Geography Scholarship in 2006.

### Doing Good Deeds While Getting a Tan?

A Postcolonial Examination of Volunteer Tourism and Sea Turtle Conservation in Costa Rica  
Shoshana Mayden  
Geography & Regional Development  
University of Arizona

In many parts of the developing world, the interests of conservation and development are increasingly merging together. This can be seen in the rising number of conservation projects embracing ecotourism as a strategy to generate funding and provide community benefits. Yet studies of ecotourism have demonstrated mixed results, with questionable benefits for conservation goals and local communities. This research looks at a more recent trend in conservation-related development: the rise of volunteer tourism. In this form of alternative travel, volunteers pay fees to participate in conservation—potentially providing both labor and capital to projects in developing countries that might otherwise lack funding.

Volunteer tourism may also promise closer interactions between foreign participants—frequently North American and other Western travelers—and the local community members where projects are housed. Indeed, many volunteer tourism projects incorporate community members in ways that mirror the recent shift in ecology away from an expert-based approach toward participatory conservation, often with an emphasis on incorporating local expertise. However—like ecotourism—these community-based conservation efforts often fall short of expectations and some scholars have called for a critical examination of the use of local knowledge, particularly when coupled with development interests.

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### The Politics of Poverty, Prisons, and Neoliberal Restructuring in the American Northwest

Anne Bonds  
Department of Geography  
University of Washington

The staggering number of prisoners and correctional facilities in the United States is transforming the geographies of both urban and rural landscapes. Indeed, as over two million people—predominantly drawn from communities of color—are currently incarcerated, depressed rural spaces are increasingly associated with prison development as a means of employment creation and industrial investment. All the while, state spending on corrections is rapidly increasing, diverting already inadequate resources away from social services, education, and drug treatment programs.

My dissertation project, entitled *The Politics of Poverty, Prisons, and Neoliberal Restructuring in the American Northwest*, investigates these trends across the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho as prison growth has been framed as a strategy for economic development in persistently poor rural communities with limited resources, restricted employment opportunities, and transitioning industrial bases. I ask how prisons have become the economic solution to depressed rural economies and what sorts of political economic shifts and racialized and classed community politics underwrite this phenomenon. The following summary provides a brief review of the research I conducted with support from an APCG Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship in 2006.

I utilized my Cultural Geography Scholarship

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**Research summaries** Starting on page 1, summaries of research by two winners of scholarships through APCG.

**President Darrick Danta** calls for greater participation from, and outreach to, beyond academia.

**Business Meeting** Bob Richardson's meticulous minutes of the 2007 Business Meeting on page 4.

**Distinguished Awards** Read about the recipients, William A. Bowen and Nancy L. Wilkinson, on page 5.

### APCG ANNUAL MEETING IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Hosted by the University of Alaska Geography Program, the annual meeting will be held from October 8th through the 11th.

# APCG DIRECTORY

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President:

Darrick Danta

Department of Geography  
CSU, Northridge  
Northridge CA 91330-8249  
818-677-3522  
ddanta@csun.edu

Vice President:

Stuart Aitken, Dept. of Geography  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182-4493  
619-594-6498  
saitken@mail.sdsu.edu

Secretary/Treasurer:

Robert Richardson  
Department of Geography  
CSU, Sacramento  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6003  
916-278-6410  
richardsonrt@csus.edu

Past-President (ex-officio):

Kate Berry  
Department of Geography  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557-0048  
775-784-6344  
kberry@unr.edu

AAG Councillor (ex-officio):

Nancy L. Wilkinson  
Department of Geography  
San Francisco State University  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
415-338-1439  
nancyw@sfsu.edu

## PUBLICATIONS

Yearbook

Editor: Jim Craine  
Department of Geography  
CSU, Northridge  
Northridge CA 91330-8249  
818-677-3520  
james.w.craine@csun.edu

Pacifica

Editor: Sriram Khé  
Western Oregon University  
Monmouth, OR 97361  
503-838-8852  
khes@wou.edu

Archivist: Andrew Bach  
Western Washington University  
Bellingham, WA 98225-9085  
360-650-4774 (office)  
andybach@cc.wwu.edu

APCG Website:

Chris Lukinbeal,  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85287  
480-727-8198

Christopher.Lukinbeal@asu.edu

2008 Annual Meeting  
Local Arrangements  
Mike Sfraga  
University of Alaska  
michael.sfraga@alaska.edu

## COMMITTEES

Awards Committee:

James Keese, Chair  
Social Sciences Department  
CalPoly, San Luis Obispo  
San Luis Obispo, CA  
805-756-1170  
jkeese@calpoly.edu

Women's Network:

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

Applied Geographers Specialty  
Group (including BIGG):

Terry Simmons, Coordinator  
Geographer, Arbitrator, Lawyer  
311 East Liberty Street  
Reno, Nevada 89501  
775-329-3399

Terry@environment-lawyer.com

Membership Committee:

Martha Works, Chair  
Department of Geography  
Portland State University  
Portland, OR 97207  
503-725-3165  
mworks@pdx.edu

Margaret Trussell Scholarship:

Martha Henderson, Chair  
Evergreen State College  
Olympia, WA 98505  
360-867-6841  
mhenders@evergreen.edu

Nominations Committee:

Alec Murphy, Chair  
Department of Geography  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403  
541-346-4571  
abmurphy@uoregon.edu

Mexican American Undergraduate  
Travel Scholarship Committee:

Daniel Arreola, Chair  
Department of Geography  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85287-0104  
480-965-4794  
daniel.arreola@asu.edu

Cultural Geography Fieldwork  
Scholarship Committee:

Paul Starrs, Chair  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557-0048  
775-784-6930  
starrs@unr.nevada.edu

Budget Committee:

David Plane, Chair  
Department of Geography  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
520-621-1738  
plane@email.arizona.edu

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A Meeting of the Minds

Darrick Danta, CSU-Northridge

I have now attended annual meetings of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers for one year shy of 30; as a first year M.A. student, Ph.D. candidate, each level of Professorship, and now as Chair; as spectator, presenter, contributor; Yearbook Editor, Board member, Vice-President; and just about everything in-between. I've been to meetings at universities, hotels, convention centers, even a monastery; heard papers delivered in auditoriums, classrooms, meeting rooms, and on the shores of Lake Tahoe; I've been on several field trips and run one as well; I'm on round two for many of the meeting venues. I thus have a pretty good idea of what it means to participate in the APCG meetings, know the amount of effort that goes into organizing and running one—I'm still quaking from the Northridge endeavor!—and very much appreciate the efforts of all those who contribute to making the meetings successful.

But for all that is different and variable about the meetings, one thing for me has remained constant: I've enjoyed them all. Why?

My first response, perhaps not unsurprising for a geographer, is the setting. I like the places APCG meetings are held, and appreciate the excuse to travel there. Whether it's enjoying a Palouse l'trek around Spokane, an anything but hum bolt to Arcata, or Reno rendezvous, the settings are always delightful and educational in their own right. I'm sorry I missed Hilo in 1977 and Fairbanks in 1989! I also thoroughly enjoy the people. Discovering overlooked facets of some town with Larry Ford, swapping stories with Paul Starrs, concocting Resolutions with Bill Crowley and Nancy Wilkinson, catching up with Jenny Zorn, or hearing about a host of friends' latest adventures are richly anticipated annual events.

And, of course, there are the papers. Each year I hear some wonderful presentations on a whole host of topics. APCG is a place to try out new ideas, to hear from seasoned pros and fledglings, learn about important developments in the field, and rediscover the joy and excitement that was the initial attraction to the discipline. Of course the APCG meetings are a particularly good forum for students, especially given the several awards and scholarships on offer, and early career professionals.

Having said all this, though, I think we can still do better. Clearly the APCG meeting should feature paper sessions as a way of disseminating important research findings drawn from the full fabric of our discipline. But it should also feature panels, special sessions, and other events aimed at topics perhaps not covered to any great extent at other meetings; after all, the AAG and other more specialized meetings do a good job of presenting the mainstream by and for those who actively cultivate the fields of academia. Room exists, though, for including presentation of issues

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MEETING OF THE MINDS

relevant to the host region (which currently is done in the opening session and on field trips, but more can be added); getting reports, updates, and viewpoints from those outside universities; exploring issues not often heard at other meetings; and taking steps to expand our membership. Planning thus far for next year's Alaska meeting holds considerable promise along these and other lines, but more on this in the Spring issue.

For now, let me close with a final observation and plea. It seems to me that at APCG, especially as showcased at our meetings and in our publications, we are mainly a group of academics speaking to other academics about academic topics. This is what's expected and of course a good thing. But, surely, others are worth hearing from as well: those who do excellent geography but do not hold academic titles; those who seek to practice as well as preach the discipline; those who are in a position not only to understand geography, but to create it. The challenge, though, is how to attract these folks, how to best learn from them, and how to then speak to the majority of our students who do not plan to pursue careers in academia.

### MINUTES OF THE APCG MEETING

Bob Richardson, CSU Sacramento  
Saturday, October 20, 2007

President Kate Berry called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. with twenty-nine people attending. A few more joined later.

1. Last year's Business Meeting minutes, as published in the Fall '06 issue of *Pacifica*, were approved unanimously.
2. Vincent del Casino reported attendance at about 390 people including over 300 members and nearly 100 students from CSULB. Vincent arranged the wonderful Filipino wedding and will seek compensation from Hilton for the disruption. A hearty round of applause acknowledged the successful efforts of Vincent and his CSULB crew in hosting the 2007 Annual Meeting, despite the absence of Snoop Dog.
3. Mike Sfraga promised an Eskimo wedding and members of the Herbalife group in Fairbanks next year. Mike noted the many critical issues affecting Alaska, such as missile defense and global warming, and promised expert speakers on these topics. Anticipating four questions he said yes (they live in igloos), yes (cars must be plugged in at night--if expected to start), no (Alaska is not part of the US), and temperatures in October can be 10° or 25° or 30° or negatives of those.
4. Elections (Bob Richardson): Darrick Danta (unopposed) is our President elect, Stuart Aitken is our Vice-President elect, Nancy Wilkinson is our AAG Regional Councillor (since July 1), and I (unopposed) will be Sec/Treas for another two year term. Terms other than Councillor begin after tonight's banquet. A record 228 ballots were cast--thanks to all who participated and to the Nominations Committee.
5. Paul Starrs announced two recipients of the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship (the anonymous donor having approved giving two this year) and thanked his committee

## APCG TREASURER'S REPORT

Robert T. Richardson, CSU Sacramento  
Transactions for August 28, 2006--October 5, 2007  
October 20, 2007

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Forward at close of books, 8/28/06</b> | <b>\$58,937.16</b> |
| MAUSGF monies:                            | (\$2,097.29)       |
| Balance in Regular Accounts:              | <b>\$56,839.87</b> |

### RECEIPTS

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Dues  | \$12,084.00        |
| Misc. (\$200 Dingemans gift, \$40 adv. profit '07 mtng) | \$240.00           |
| Profit, 2006 Annual Meeting (inc. \$1300 memberships)   | \$3,080.95         |
| AAG Regional Allocation                                 | \$864.00           |
| YEARBOOK v.65 (inc. \$75 from older vols)               | \$1,360.08         |
| YEARBOOK v.67   | \$1,874.63         |
| Interest on Regular Account (two annual CD rollovers)   | \$3,539.87         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                     | <b>\$23,043.53</b> |

### DISBURSEMENTS

|  |                    |            |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| APCG '06 Annual Meeting Grants & Awards      | \$4,100.88         |            |
| Student Travel Awards (inc. GeoBow1)         | \$3,400.00         |            |
| President's Awards                           | \$500.88           |            |
| <i>PACIFICA</i> Printing                     | Postage            |            |
| F'06 (735x12 pp) \$615.32                    | \$459.61           | \$1,074.93 |
| S'07 (755x16 pp) \$698.31                    | \$461.68           | \$1,159.99 |
| Corporate Filing Fee (Olympia, WA)           | \$10.00            |            |
| Membership (mostly mailings)                 | \$1,299.08         |            |
| YEARBOOK v.68 (mostly UHP bill)              | \$6,119.44         |            |
| YEARBOOK v.69 (copy edit, editor, UHP)       | \$9,454.30         |            |
| YEARBOOK v.70 (copy edit, first installment) | \$800.00           |            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                    | <b>\$24,018.62</b> |            |

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Balance on books, 10/5/07</b> | <b>\$55,864.78</b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|

### SPECIAL FUNDS

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Bailey Schl. Fund</b> (forward 8/28/06)            | <b>\$3,064.70</b>  |
| (2-yrs int. \$202.44 less \$150 anticipated award)    | \$52.44            |
| Balance 10/5/07                                       | <b>\$3,117.14</b>  |
| <b>McKnight/Clemons Schl. Fund</b> (forward 8/28/06)  | <b>\$14,087.13</b> |
| (2-yrs int. \$1,022.00 less two \$250 awards)         | \$522.00           |
| Balance 10/5/07                                       | <b>\$14,609.13</b> |
| <b>Margaret Trussell Mem. Fund</b> (forward 8/28/06)  | <b>\$60,821.14</b> |
| (2 Trussell awards, 8 WN grants, contribs., interest) | \$2924.57          |
| Balance 10/5/07                                       | <b>\$63,745.71</b> |
| (\$57,085.35 of which is Trussell Scholarship fund)   |                    |
| <b>Cult. Geog. Fieldwork Schl. Fund</b> (fwd 8/28/06) | <b>\$13,951.01</b> |
| (\$750 in new contributions plus interest)            | \$1,183.68         |
| Balance 10/5/07                                       | <b>\$15,134.67</b> |
| <b>Mexican Amer. Undergrad SGF</b> (forward 8/28/06)  | <b>\$2,097.29</b>  |
| (2 grants, new contributions, interest--net)          | \$1,113.66         |
| Balance 10/5/07                                       | <b>\$3,210.95</b>  |

|                      |     |                  |     |
|----------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Membership 9/10/03:  | 625 | ultimate in '03: | 716 |
| Membership 9/1/04:   | 666 | ultimate in '04: | 691 |
| Membership 10/14/05: | 638 | ultimate in '05: | 749 |
| Membership 8/28/06:  | 642 | ultimate in '06: | 721 |
| Membership 10/5/07:  | 596 |                  |     |

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## MINUTES OF THE APCG BUSINESS MEETING

members (Nick Entrikin, Larry Ford, and Susan Hardwick). Checks will be presented to the recipients at the banquet tonight, although normally their goal is to make the awards early in the summer fieldwork season.

6. Dan Arreola and his committee (John and Bev Passerello, Jim Allen) have decided to change the name of the award to Mexican American Travel Scholarship (MATS, formerly MAUSGF) and to offer it to graduate students as well as undergrads; graduate students would have to present a paper or poster to be eligible. They will offer two awards at \$300 each for the Fairbanks meeting next year in consideration of the cost of travelling there. They are considering extending the award in the future to other ethnic groups within the region.

7. Nancy Wilkinson offered thanks for being elected Councilor. The first Council meeting is not until next month but she has already sent a questionnaire to department chairs, modeled after ones Stuart Aitken created, and urged us to bring questions or concerns about the AAG to her.

8. *Pacifica* Report (Sriram Khé): having not heard otherwise, Sriram thinks things are going well. He would like to put details of scholarships and travel grants on the web site, pointing students to them with a single short paragraph in *Pacifica*, thus freeing a page or two for more substantive content. Bob noted that Sriram has been appointed to another three-year term, leading to enthusiastic applause.

9. *Yearbook* Report (Jim Craine): Jim thanked us for supporting him as the new *Yearbook* editor and also thanked past editor Darrick Danta, copy editor Rick Cooper, and graphics editor David Deis for their help. He urged senior faculty such as those in the room to submit pieces to him reflective of their experience working as geographers in the region.

10. Treasurer's Report (Bob Richardson): while the report (see page 3) was being distributed, along with a page showing membership numbers back to 1994, the Budget Committee (Tina Kennedy, David Plane) was asked to verify the report--they having seen it, with details, in advance. They said they were rubber stamping the report and expressed disappointment in the relatively low number of new footnotes. For the first time in quite a few years, income trailed expenditures, by almost \$1000. But when income and expenses for only one *Yearbook* volume are counted, and interest from only one CD rollover, and meeting profits are excluded, we are \$3 in the black. Travel grants were doubled last year (because of the large profit from the Phoenix meeting), adding \$1500 in expenses. Compared to last year, dues receipts are down because membership is down (although another 100 plus new members will be added from the Long Beach meeting this year). All of the special funds are in good shape, having taken in more new money than paid out. The Bailey award may be switched to best paper in Physical Geography this year (at discretion of Awards Committee). The McKnight/Clemons fund can easily cover a second award, if only we can think of an appropriate one. The Trussell Scholarships are covered by interest this year and the Women's Network took in about \$4450 this year (including \$2000 from David Miller's estate) and is well able to award travel grants for several years. The Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship fund earned almost enough interest to cover the \$500 award, plus received \$750 in new contributions. MAUSGF (now MATS) took in just over \$1400 in new money and as of 10/13/07 is in its own

CD. Good news from Hawaii Press: our royalties from v.68 will be about \$2400, up sharply from previous UHP figures. Most of this comes from MUSE rather than print copies. Costs for v.69 are up because of length and the \$1000 approved by the Executive Council to help with graphics editing and student assistants.

11. Women's Network (Vicki Drake): the WN Luncheon was very successful (52 attended). Nine travel grants were given. Fund-raising was very successful this year with the promise of the travel grant program becoming self-sustaining.

12. New and Other Business (Kate): the 2009 Annual Meeting will be in San Diego, hosted by SDSU--Stuart will be both conference coordinator and APCG President! If you have ideas about future sites please see Darrick.

The Executive Council is considering three changes to the Bylaws: updating the committees, increasing dues by \$5, and splitting Sec/Treas into two separate positions. Dan expressed concern that the Sec/Treas roles naturally come together by what they do. Kate envisions the Sec. doing minutes, mailing ballots, keeping up membership, while the Treas. would handle fiscal and financial operations. Vincent suggested in future the Treasurer could collect registration fees for the conference, saving the 6% overhead he had to pay his institution.

Bob expressed his hope that we can handle renewals on line in the future. Vincent said they decided not to have credit card payment for registration because another 2.5% would have been taken out.

Bob asked if a ballot with changes to the bylaws would be better as a package or with each change separately; separately was the consensus. Tina suggested for Regular dues having several options on the ballot (\$5, \$10, etc.). Bob expressed concern for the impact of a large dues increase on what Contributing members pay (averages about \$40 this year), noting that most members present at the meeting are Contributing members.

Dolly Freidel expressed the hope that registration fees for students (AAG and APCG) might be reduced (she brought a number of undergrads from Sonoma State who paid \$50 for registration, including \$10 for membership), adding that the high fees encourage flaunting of the registration process. Kate noted that APCG conference registration fees are set by the local host; Nancy added that AAG fees are set by AAG central. Vincent said they provided \$10 day passes for CSULB students. Jim Allen urged Nancy to bring this up at the next AAG Council meeting. Stuart said that AAG registration fees are seen as modest by the increasing number of professional (vs. academic) members, and added that AAG is offering more student scholarships to help defray the cost of attendance. Nancy observed that having undergraduate students attend meetings is very effective in recruiting new majors.

Kate announced that we are looking for a new web master--if you know of a good candidate please contact Darrick.

13. Awards Committee Report: twenty very good submissions were received, but only two by undergraduates (both posters)--we need to encourage undergrads to present at our meetings. Results on Page 9.

14. Kate adjourned the meeting at 6:05.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### William A. Bowen

The APCG takes great pleasure in honoring William A. Bowen, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, CSU Northridge, with this year's Distinguished Service Award. Bill is a careful and thoughtful scholar, a dedicated teacher, and an influential ambassador for geography in both the private and public sectors.

William Bowen was born in Idaho but grew up in the San Francisco Bay Areas. All his degrees are in Geography from UC Berkeley. Bill began his career at Northridge in 1971 and was department chair and oversaw the rebuilding of facilities after the devastating Northridge earthquake. Despite his formal retirement from the Northridge department in 2004, Bill continues to be active in the department, the APCG, the California Geographical Society, and the California Geographical Survey.

It is through the aforementioned Survey that Bill has made his innovative Digital Atlas of the United States available to support geographic education in public schools and universities throughout the country. Here one finds a full array of electronic maps that bring to life the landscapes of not just the APCG's home territory but of the larger world as well. With these electronic resources, the Survey's motto, "Exploring the world, one map at a time" rings true.

During the 1970s, Bill was Cartography Team Director for The California Water Atlas (1979) that was published by the governor's Office of Planning and Research. This atlas with its innovative cartographic representations stands still today as a model geography product that combines sophisticated content with broad visual appeal. Few publications have done as much as this atlas to convince scientists, engineers, elected officials, policy makers, and the general public of geography's central role in addressing issues of growth, development, and environmental quality.

For his role in communicating the value of geography to a diverse and wide audience and for his on-going service to the APCG, we award the Distinguished Service Medal for 2007 to William A. Bowen.

### Nancy L. Wilkinson

The APCG takes great pleasure in honoring Nancy Lee Wilkinson, from the Department of Geography and Human Environmental Studies at San Francisco State University, with this year's Distinguished Service Award. Nancy has been an active member of the APCG for more than thirty years, in which time she has served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President and – in 2002 – as President. She has also served as editor of *Pacifica* and she has been on the Nominations and Resolutions Committees. In 2007 she was elected AAG Regional Councillor.

Nancy was among the first participants of the Women's Network, and she continues to foster and promote diversity in geography. In the 2006 Eugene meeting, Nancy was part of the President's Plenary Session on Geography in a Diverse World, offering advice on how to create and sustain diversity in geography departments.

Her supportive mentorship of other departments has made Nancy a collegial "go-to" person for chairs and faculty from across the region. As a result, Nancy has regularly served as external reviewer for geography programs.

Nancy's visibility and advocacy for geography on her own SFSU campus are exemplary. She has served as chair of the department for ten years, and has been at the center of strategic shifts in geography's role in an interdisciplinary and global curriculum. Nancy has strengthened graduate studies in geography as chair of her department, encouraging many excellent students to pursue academic and professional careers.

Nancy's research and teaching reflect her commitment to a geographic vision of environmental and social change in the West. Her most recent work is on the intersection of water policy and popular sentiment about dam-building and water resource development in California. Nancy's interest in water extends to her local watershed group, of which she is a founding member.

For her support of geography programs, faculty and students, and for her long-standing service to the APCG, we are extremely pleased to give Nancy Lee Wilkinson the Distinguished Service Award for 2007.

This study asks: What happens when the trends of community-based conservation and volunteer tourism merge—bringing biologists, foreign volunteers, local people, and wildlife together? I adopt a case study of marine turtle conservation in Costa Rica to analyze the ways in which project participants position local knowledge and to examine the power their discourses have for disciplining local expertise and conservation practice. For my analysis, I draw from several historical accounts of conservation efforts that illustrate how conservation science and Western views of nature are rooted in colonialism (Braun 2002, Davis 2005, Jacoby 2001, Neumann 1998). Despite decolonization, Braun (2002) argues these colonial logics are continually re-inscribed and still organize the present. From these readings, I draw-out several common colonial discourses to examine how these logics may persist in modern-day conservation and the views of volunteer tourists.

Marine turtles can provide a rich case study for examining the politics of conservation. Sea turtles' status as an endangered species coupled with their continent-spanning migrations have put them in the international spotlight, making them one of the most popular animals related to volunteer tourism. At the same time, conservation efforts in the developing world have brought local rights' issues to the fore. Sea turtle eggs—thought to be a sexual stimulant in some places—are often harvested for human consumption and commercial sale. In Costa Rica—the site for this study—four species nest along the Pacific and Caribbean beaches. While turtles and their nests are officially protected under Costa Rican law, enforcement can be challenging outside of national parks. However, a number of conservation projects exist in beach community areas and most of these have begun recruiting volunteer tourists who pay anywhere from \$100 to \$1500 a week to help patrol nesting beaches.

For my case study, I chose to focus on a beach-nesting program that hires local community members to work alongside volunteers in their conservation work. The Costa Rican NGO Programa Restauración de Tortugas Marinas (PRETOMA) currently manages five conservation sites along the Pacific coast and began recruiting paying participants as volunteers in 2003. My study mainly focused on the project in San Miguel, a small community of about 100 inhabitants on Costa Rica's southern Nicoya coast. Olive ridley turtles nest on the beach adjacent to the town from July and December. I conducted six weeks of fieldwork during the 2006 nesting season, including both participant observation—participating in all volunteer activities and informal activities with the community—and interviews with volunteers and project personnel (including two on-site research coordinators, the project co-directors, and one local employee).

Studies of volunteer tourism have only recently been appearing in the literature and many of these have focused on the characteristics, motivations, and values of these types of volunteers. The 48 volunteers who participated in the San Miguel project during 2006

showed some commonalities with these studies. For example, they were predominantly female (65%) and from North America (75%). However, the San Miguel participants tended to be younger with 65 percent under the age of 25. Roughly 20 percent of the total volunteers were interviewed and, similar to other case studies, these participants identified multiple reasons for participating in the project. Interestingly, this younger group of participants was less driven by motives relating specifically to sea turtles or desires to gain professional skills, as found in one another case study (Campbell and Smith 2005). Rather, the participants expressed more general altruistic motivations and desires related to travel and recreation—summed up in the words of one participant “I wanted to do good deeds while working on my tan.”

Both of the interview data and fieldnotes generated from participant observation were analyzed and thematically coded to examine how the project participants positioned local expertise; four main narratives were found in the study data that echo many of the colonial logics found running through the historical case studies of conservation. Volunteers and research coordinators had little experience with turtles and relied heavily on assistance from a local employee and other, unpaid, members of the community, particularly when it came to finding nests buried on the beach. This was a recurrent theme in conversations and interviews with often romanticized views of nature and local practice similar the pristine myth that Neumann saw evoked in the creation of Africa's parks and the associated noble savage who is seen as “closer to nature than civilization” (1998:18). Several of the volunteers acknowledged the importance of local expertise with claims that local people had an intimate knowledge of the environment that they themselves could never possess.

Despite these romantic views, there was also a tendency to criminalize local knowledge. Several participants equated local expertise in finding eggs to knowledge gained from current or former poaching. When asked how their work aided the project, many participants emphasized that their presence keeps poachers off the beach. Indeed, there was often a palpable air of suspicion at the project where anyone on the beach after sunset was a suspected poacher. Interestingly, suspicion often focused on community members who helped the project the most either by helping to find nests or bringing clutches of eggs to the stationhouse. The physical data on the beach did not support these suspicions given the low number of poached nests encountered, particularly at the beginning of the season, and the fact that nests left unprotected for hours were not harvested.

On the flipside of the pristine myth is a degradation narrative that blames local populations for what is viewed as environmental damage (Davis 2005). This discourse was frequently echoed in by participants in views that local people were either unaware of their impacts on the environment or turtles or that they did not

*Continues on page 8*

funding during the Fall of 2006. The fieldwork scholarship funded my travel to a community in Oregon<sup>1</sup> to conduct interviews and qualitative fieldwork on prison-led development. In-depth community research is essential to my comparative community research design, which interrogates the spatial variability of state and local resources, economic bases, political and social landscapes and other important contextual factors that shape institutions and policy outcomes. The financial support provided by the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship was therefore crucial for my comparative examination because it provided me with opportunity to develop an in-depth community profile of my field site in Oregon. This field visit enabled me to refine my preliminary regional/state level analysis of poverty trends and economic change to establish a micro-scale analysis of local poverty dimensions and economic structure in a specific community case study. During this field visit, I was able to conduct interviews with public officials, economic development representatives, social services providers, and members of the community regarding poverty dynamics and prison development in their town. These interviews are essential to my dissertation project because they provide important local level perspectives into the outcomes of and responses to poverty, rural restructuring, and prison siting in each of my community case studies.

This APCG supported research trip also gave me the opportunity to visit city and county agencies offering important data on local development initiatives, policy change, and community business trends not available in other locations. I was able to visit social service agencies, which helped me to understand the types of local programs available to the public and the specific dynamics of poverty within these research sites. I gathered community social welfare indicators from these agencies to help identify changing levels of need and hardship. This local level data is crucial for tracking the spatial differentiation of services across the region, particularly as policy devolution and welfare reform have designated individual states and communities responsible for social welfare provision. Thus, this information is particularly significant to my dissertation project because it provides me with valuable insight on specific local policies aimed at assisting those in need and on the characteristics of underserved groups. In addition, it allows me to connect changes in local service provision to transformations in economic structure as well as state and national policy.

The analysis shows that the neoliberal restructuring of rural places leads communities to adopt economic development strategies, including prison recruitment, that puts them in competition with each other for industrial investments and that these efforts ultimately reinforce the very processes precipitating their economic decline. This process is reworking rural landscapes as the erosion of federal social and economic supports is further underscored by declining industrial bases and employment opportunities in spatially isolated communities. Within global networks of capital accumulation, rural communities

in the Northwest are tremendously vulnerable to the pressures of restructuring, particularly as their local economies are more dependent on market sectors that have faced increasing global competition and consolidation and whose production processes can be easily outsourced (e.g. agriculture and manufacturing). These shifts are amplified by regional processes such as the rural gentrification, the exhaustion of finite resources, the mechanization of agricultural activities, changing environmental attitudes, and shifts in land use policy. Taken together, these complex dynamics have lowered the demand for labor in industries that have been the foundation of rural economies in the Northwest for decades. As the resource-based anchor of many rural economies deteriorates, traditional sources of income disappear. The poverty effects of these shifts are significant and as new patterns of inequality emerge in this transforming economic and social context.

The community case study in Oregon reflects these trends. Situated in the most ethnically diverse county in the state, agriculture and extractive activities have long been mainstay of the local economy. The community is located in central Oregon, not far from the recreational hub of Bend, where tourism and amenities-based growth has fueled rapid increases in land price and real estate speculation (Personal Interview, 2006). Although this particular town has experienced little economic growth in the wake of this boom, the community is encountering rising housing costs even as it remains one of the few viable places in the area for low-income people to live.

Compounding the pressure of increasing housing and land costs, a boat manufacturing company closed its local plant and laid off 170 employees in early 2007, just after a local lumber company announced the lay-off of 140 workers. Local leaders are looking to the prison, which recently opened in September, to absorb these unemployed workers. Though it is early to assess the impact of the prison opening on the local economy, recent developments cast a shadow on the optimism about the prison expressed by community leaders. In fact, a local newspaper recently reported that fewer than half of the jobs created by the recent prison opening have been filled by local residents. Furthermore, the community has seen a significant drop in home sales in the past year, in spite of the construction boom that occurred in anticipation of the new correctional facility.

Faced with increasing competition for scarce economic investments, rural communities in the Northwest are competing with one another utilizing an array of incentives (tax breaks, land, infrastructure) and marketing strategies to secure industrial resources, or in this case, a prison siting. This results in a race to the bottom wherein leaders pursue competitive, pro-growth economic development policies at any cost, resulting in dramatic economic shifts, undesirable employment opportunities and fewer living wage jobs, and the re-entrenchment of social and spatial inequalities.

These efforts are particularly marked in my Oregon

*Continues on page 8*

case study, where local officials worked for literally years to secure the prison siting in the context of a state budget crisis and a series of delays, even after the community invested in infrastructural updates to accommodate the facility. In spite of budget insecurity, the state of Oregon is involved in the most significant prison-building project in my region of study. Between 1990 and 2003, the State of Oregon expanded its prison population more than twofold (51%)<sup>ii</sup>. Oregon is spending 115 dollars per citizen to fund its annual operating costs for prisons; this is the highest rate of expenditure per citizen across the region. In 2001, the state spent an astonishing 404 million dollars on prison expenditures<sup>iii</sup>; the state's spending on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits paled in comparison totaling just 169 million<sup>iv</sup>. Thus, the state spent 42% on prison operating and capital expenditures than they did on cash assistance for the poor.

Contemporary shifts in economic and poverty governance are reflected in national, state, and local policies that increasingly accentuate market freedoms, competitive industrial recruitment, and individual choice as the solution to deepening poverty and inequality. I examine rural prison expansion in conjunction with the prioritization of competitive economic development strategies, shifting access to resources, and the deepening of social exclusion for certain groups. My research demonstrates how prison recruitment strategies are produced in the context of the restructuring of economies and governance and the ways in which these processes reinscribe poverty and inequality in rural places. Community leaders represent prisons as an economic

solution in ways that reiterate and significantly legitimate neoliberal rhetoric that designates individual choice and the logics of the market the solution to deepening poverty. I argue that these narratives reinforce rural prison expansion as communities increasingly adopt economic strategies that reproduce racialized and classed inequality and the marginalization of already disadvantaged communities.

I have now completed my dissertation field research, interview transcriptions and coding, and am now fully involved in the dissertation writing process. Support from an APCG Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship has enabled me to pursue my comparative research design by affording me the necessary funding to conduct in-depth research in one of my community case studies. In addition, I have gained immensely from the annual APCG conferences and the community of scholars it supports. I am honored to be a recipient of the scholarship would like to extend my deep appreciation and gratitude for the financial support, professional development, and community gained through the APCG.

Notes:

- i. For issues of confidentiality, I do not name the specific community where I conducted fieldwork in this research summary.
- ii. US Bureau of Justice Statistics. Table 337. Prisoners Under Jurisdiction of State and Federal Correctional Authorities Summary by State: 1990-2003.
- iii. US Bureau of Justice Statistics, State Prison Expenditures, 2001.
- iv. US Administration for Children and Families. Table 557. TANF Expenditures By State, 2001.

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**DOING GOOD DEEDS WHILE CONTINUING TO TAN ....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

care about these issues. Many volunteers expressed that their work with the project was valuable since it helped educate the community and that their examples could teach local people to care about their own resources. As Bowd and Clayton (2005) show in a study of French colonialism in Vietnam, the degradation narrative has been used to exalt science above local expertise. In a similar vein, some project participants made distinctions between scientific and local knowledge. In particular, the project directors and research coordinators discussed the value of local knowledge in terms of how it fits within the rubric of science.

Although my case study was small in scope—focusing on only one project during one season—the analysis points to some possible problems when combining this form of development with conservation. I contend that that volunteer tourists not only provide an extra pair of hands for conservation work, but that they reinforce a set of colonial narratives that both romanticizes and marginalizes local expertise. While conservation staff demonstrated some of these same narratives, the visions of the volunteer tourists seemed to create an even narrower view of local expertise and practices—in some cases leading to conflicts within the community. Volunteer tourists can potentially provide a lot of capital to nesting-beach programs in Costa

Rica, thus their views may hold particular sway for how local expertise can be conceived of and incorporated in conservation. While this study purposely focused on the views of foreign participants, the absence of local voices outside of these colonial logics within the project was palpable. I would argue this is precisely the danger of these lingering narratives—the kind of epistemological violence that Braun (2002) warns can erase local voices and knowledges. More study is needed about how these colonial logics may be enacted in different projects or varying tourist demographics, but from this small case it appears that the marriage between conservation and volunteer tourism is not without peril. The views of the volunteer tourist both harken to a colonial past while moving participatory conservation into uncharted territory and very possibly undermining its noble goals.

Acknowledgements: This research was supported by APCG's Margaret Trussell Research Award. Additional travel funding was also received from the Luray Caverns Graduate Research Grant and the University of Arizona's Tinker Summer Field Research Grant.

Editor's note: Due to space constraints, cited literature is listed in the online version.



## FOR, AND ABOUT, STUDENTS

### 2007 APCG Student Paper Awards

Tom McKnight and Joan Clemens Award for Outstanding Student Paper, \$250

Name: Vanessa Massaro

Affiliation: University of Arizona (MA student)

Title of Paper: An Alternative Approach to Poverty Alleviation: Race, Class, and Fire Service Distribution in the City of Philadelphia

Advisor: John Paul Jones

President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a PhD Student, \$150

Name: Ann Fletchall

Affiliation: Arizona State University (PhD student)

Title of Paper: The Spectacle of the Festival

Advisor: Kevin McHugh

Harry and Shirley Bailey Award for Outstanding Paper in Physical Geography, \$150

Name: Erika Wise

Affiliation: University of Arizona (PhD student)

Title of Paper: Winter Precipitation Signal from Tree Rings: Incorporating Climatological Techniques to Improve Site Selection

Advisor Andrew Comrie

Committee Award for Regional Geography, \$200

Name: Shoshana Mayden

Affiliation: University of Arizona (MA student)

Title of Paper: Doing Good Deeds While Getting a Tan? A Postcolonial Look at Volunteer Tourism and Sea Turtle Conservation in Costa Rica

Advisor: Paul Robbins

President's Award for Outstanding Paper by a Master's Student, \$150

--No award given

President's Award for Outstanding Paper by an Undergraduate Student, \$150 (a Poster)

Name: Gretchen Hill

Affiliation: University of Nevada, Reno (BA)

Title of Paper: Major Expression of Basque Identities in the Great Basin Region

Advisor: Paul Starrs

President's Award for Outstanding Poster Presentation, \$150

Name: Irene Seelye

Affiliation: University of Nevada, Reno (MS student)

Title of Poster: The Sport of Fencing in the United States

Advisor: Paul Starrs

Contact Jim Keese, Chair of the Awards Committee, for additional information.

### APCG Women's Network

At this year's annual meeting in Long Beach, California, the Women's Network awarded 8 Travel Grants, in the amount of \$150.00 each, to the following women: Shoshana Mayden, Graduate Student, University of Arizona; Arianna Fernandez, Graduate Student, Arizona State University; Melissa Talley, Undergraduate Student, University of Arizona; Justyna Goworowska, Graduate Student, University of Oregon; Jenny Wrye, Undergraduate Student, Humboldt State; Celika Saito, Undergraduate Student, Los Angeles Valley College; Yolonda Youngs, Doctoral Candidate, Arizona State University; and Melanie Meyers, University of Arizona. During the luncheon, the recipients of the Travel Grants were introduced, and they spoke about their future goals in Geography.

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 Fairbanks, Alaska. Owing to the extra expense of traveling to Alaska, the 2008 Travel Grant awards will be increased to \$300.00 per award, towards registration fees and travel costs associated with the meeting, plus a one year membership. The Margaret Trussell Scholarship Committee also invites masters and doctoral candidates in the APCG service area to apply for the Trussell Scholarship. Details are online at the Pacifica web site.

This program is entirely funded through contributions to the Women's Network of the APCG. The Women's Network was able to award eight Travel Grants this year because of the 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.

Last year, to assure a more secure funding for the Travel Grants, we introduced a successful fund-raising campaign to honor someone (living or passed on) who are (or have been) mentors in Geography. This year, we again gave members the opportunity to send a donation to the Women's Network Travel Grant, along with the name of the 'honoree'. Three of the people honored this year are Sallie Marston, Robin Dattel, and James Allen, who were honored and recognized for their role in influencing, mentoring and supporting the donors. A few others were honored with donations for a second time. We send a big "Thank You" to all who donated this year.

We, of course, 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.

Contact Vicki Drake, Chair of the Women's Network, for additional information.

**Mexican American Undergraduate Travel Scholarship**

The Mexican American Undergraduate Travel Scholarship Committee (John and Bev Passerello, James Allen, and Dan Arreola) made two awards for 2007 to Claire Guzman and Anthony Silvas from Sonoma State University. Claire and Anthony received their awards at the annual banquet in Long Beach and each spoke briefly about their experiences and how they became geographers.

For 2008, the committee has made two changes to the award. First, it has a new name—Mexican American Travel Scholarship (MATS). Second, graduate students of Mexican American ancestry as well as undergraduates can be nominated for the travel awards. Graduate students must present a paper or poster at the annual meeting to which they apply for travel funds, and attend the annual banquet to receive the award. Undergraduates need not present, only attend the meeting and the banquet to receive an award. Details are online at the Pacifica web site.

Finally, thanks to the generosity of APCG members who have donated to this fund and especially to John and Bev Passerello who inspired the award, the committee will make two awards of \$300 each for the 2008 annual meeting in Fairbanks. Contact Daniel Arreola, the Committee's chair, for additional information.

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**Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship**

The Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship was awarded this year to two notable geographers whose work was well-received by the committee.

Arianna Fernandez, of Arizona State University, came to the APCG as a first-year masters student, and with sterling recommendations for working in the field in Phoenix, and Ontario, California, while looking at a "transcultural urban landscape" that is embodied in the title of her proposal: "The Pro's Ranch Market Landscape: Latin Community Identity through Commercial Space in Metropolitan Phoenix."

Matt Fockler, a masters degree candidate at the University of Nevada, Reno, sought funds to support purchase of historical photographs and time flying in a single-engine plane and using that for digital aerial photography, to be used in the development of his thesis work. That earned him an award for "Plumbing a Community: Irrigation, Water, and the Creation of Community in Truckee Meadows, Nevada."

These proposals took in distinctive different, but also an obviously interesting and effective fieldwork terrain. Thanks to special generosity of APCG members and the agreement of the anonymous sponsor of this award, two awards were given out this year, and they were put to good use. Congratulations are due to Matt and Arianna -- well done!

For details about the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship, visit the Pacifica website, or contact the Committee's chair, Paul Starrs.

**Margaret Trussell Scholarship**

The Margaret Trussell Scholarship committee awarded two outstanding women graduate students \$1000 each to continue their research projects. The awards were given to **Michele Tobias** from University of California Davis to support her doctoral research entitled "Beachscapes: The Effects of Foot-Traffic Concentration on Beach and Dune Vegetation." The second award was made to **Genevieve Munsey** from San Francisco State University for her master's degree research entitled "San Pedro Creek Watershed: Hydrology, Annual Discharge Model, and Flow Source Analysis."

The Margaret Trussell Scholarship is made annually to support women students in doctoral or master's geography programs. The competitive awards are made based on research design, written proposals and requests for funding, and letters of recommendation. Details are online at the Pacifica web site. Contact Martha Henderson, the Committee's chair, for additional information.

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**YEARBOOK: A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Now that the 2007 APCG meeting is over, please note that we are now accepting submissions for APCG *Yearbook* Volume 70, which is to be published in August of 2008.

We are primarily looking for articles by our membership on topics related to our region. These may be empirical studies, conceptual/theoretical thought pieces, essays, GIS-related studies – basically any work with our region as the subject of the article. Image-heavy articles – maps, photos, tables, charts, etc - are most welcome. So, now that your presentation at this year's wonderful meeting in Long Beach is over, please consider the *Yearbook* as a potential final destination for your work. The submission deadline is February 1, 2008 and early submissions will be given preference. All submissions are peer-reviewed by APCG members.

For our new submission guidelines or to electronically submit an article or review please contact the editor, Jim Craine.

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**CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**

The annual meeting of the CGS will be held from May 2-4, 2008, in Chico. In conjunction with this meeting, a workshop on "Teaching geography in K-12 classrooms" will be offered by Phil Gersmehl, on May 3rd. This workshop is jointly sponsored by the CGS, AAG, and the California Geographic Alliance.

For additional information, visit the CGS website at <http://www.csun.edu/~calgeosoc/conference.html>, or contact the president of CGS, Jennifer Helzer, at [jhelzer@csustan.edu](mailto:jhelzer@csustan.edu)

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following 149 new members who have joined since the last list in the Spring 2007 issue of Pacifica. One hundred nine of these new members joined with their registration for the Annual Meeting in Long Beach! (Asterisk denotes former members who have rejoined.)

Joy Adams  
Spencer Adkisson  
Dawn Albrecht  
Cheri Anchonds  
Jack Anliker\*  
Samantha Antcliffe  
Cameran Ashraf  
Emily Atkinson  
Thomas Baerwald  
Dr. Bipasha Baruah  
Nicholas Bauch  
Michael Beland  
Eric Birnbaum  
Lindsay Bond  
Michelle Boston  
Leah Bremer  
Jeff Brown  
Mary Brown  
Elizabeth Brown  
Rebecca Burnett  
Mark Troy Burnett  
Ryan Burns  
Sarah E. Cady  
Chris Carter\*  
So-Min Cheong  
Myra Cleary  
Teresa Cohn  
Steve Connett  
Ruth Costley  
Jeff Crawford  
Liam Crist-Dwyer  
Georgio Curti\*  
Courtney Dahl  
Suzanne Dallman\*  
Dr. Shawna Dark\*  
Lisa Davis  
Alexis Delp  
Lindsay Dillon  
Les Doak\*  
Robert Ian Duncan  
Scott Eckardt  
Vanessa Engstrom  
Dominique Evans  
Jean Evers  
Derek W. Eysenbach\*  
Catherine Fabiano  
Kathleen Farley  
Monica Farmer  
Arianna Fernandez  
Pablo Fuentesnebro  
Jeff Garmany

Steph Gaspers  
Aaron Golub  
Justyna Goworowska  
Aline Gregorio  
Abbey Grimmer  
Claire Guzman  
Chris Hagerman  
Cassie Hansen  
Todd Heibel  
Jason Henderson\*  
Michael Henderson\*  
Gretchen Hill  
Colleen Hiner  
Julia Hooten  
Joseph Hoover  
Lisa Hopkins  
Nicolas Howe  
Bradley Jacobsen  
Cathy Jain  
Josi Jenneskens  
Gareth John  
Nabil Kamel  
Jahan Kariyeva  
Keir Keightley  
Amanda Ketsdever  
Dewitt King  
Aaron Kingsbury  
Michelle Rene Kinzel  
Matthew Kirby  
Michael Koepnick  
Louis Kulack  
David W. La Conte  
Steve Ladochy  
Spencer Langdon  
Unna Inger Lassiter\*  
Christopher Lee\*  
Josh Legere  
Max Lu  
Jamie Ludwig  
David Lulka\*  
Paul Lusnia  
Laszlo Mariahazy\* (2008)  
Vanessa Massaro  
Jason Crane McClintock  
Jen McCormack  
Jeff McGovern\*  
Christine Metz  
Melanie Meyers  
James Miller  
Rachel Mohr  
Andy Morin  
Genevieve Munsey  
Darrell E. Napton  
Ingrid Nelson  
Walter Nicholls  
Bronwyn Owen\*  
Bryan Paris  
Mary Paulet  
Dale Pauly

Paul Perret  
Tiffany Perrotta  
Michael W. Pesses  
Kim Pham  
Leandro Romero II  
Stevie Ruiz  
Celika Saito  
Noriyuki Sato  
Charlie Schneider  
Irene Seelye  
Jeanette Shribbs  
Dmitrii Sidorov  
Anthony Silvas  
Steven Silvern  
Tony Sparks\*  
Jason Speck  
Sarah Starkweather  
Monica Stephens  
Julie Stoughton  
Tristan Sturm  
Bob Sullivan  
Christopher Suri  
Zoe Tararache  
Benjamin Timms  
Michele M. Tobias  
Elmer Tosta  
Judith Tyner  
Nicholas Vaughn  
Tamara Wagner  
Suzanne Wechsler\*  
Justin Wilford  
Scott Williams  
Simon Wright  
William Wyckoff  
Elvin Wyly  
Lei Xu  
Akiko Yamane  
Hengchun Ye\*  
Christine Zuhlsdorf

### SPECIAL THANKS

Contributions to our several special Funds have continued coming in: the Women's Network Travel Grant (\$850), the Cultural Geography Fieldwork Scholarship (\$155), and the Mexican American Undergraduate Student Grant Fund (\$740).

Thanks to the following who have contributed to one or more of these funds: Carol Atkinson-Palombo, Jaime Avila, Ronaldo Caluza, David Carlson, Mark Carper, Heather Colson, Vicki Drake, Barbara Fredrich, Dorothy Freidel, Jack Guyer, Jennifer Helzer, Christine Jocoy, Max Kirkeberg, William Koelsch, Jan Monk, Gundars Rudzitis, Susan Riches Sargent, Gina Thornburg, Dean Toji, Carlos Tovares.

## 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 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 bi-annual 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.

*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 March 15, and for the Fall issue is a fortnight after the conclusion of the annual meeting.

For further information about *Pacifica* contact Sriram Khé at: [khes@wou.edu](mailto:khes@wou.edu) or at 503-838-8852.

## MEMBERSHIP

Questions about membership should be directed to Bob Richardson at the address below, or phone (916) 278-6410, fax (916) 278-7584, or e-mail [apcg@csus.edu](mailto:apcg@csus.edu). Visit the APCG web site at [www.csus.edu/apcg/](http://www.csus.edu/apcg/) for information about the organization and for a new member application form.

APCG member dues, although raised for 2001, remain modest: Regular \$20; Joint (2 people at same address) \$23; Student and Retired \$10; Contributing \$25 or more (any contribution over \$20 is tax deductible). Joint members receive only one copy of *Pacifica* and one 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.

## CORRECT ADDRESS?

Most mailings to members are done using the APCG's Non-Profit authorization. Non-Profit mail is not forwarded, so to be sure you receive your copies of *Pacifica* and the Yearbook it is critical that you provide new address information to the Association.

### **The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Inc.**

Department of Geography  
CSU, Sacramento  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6003

**Expanded Reference List**

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