

# Pacifica

ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC COAST GEOGRAPHERS

Havasupai Canyon, Arizona

## In This Issue

<a href="#">President's Column</a>	1
<a href="#">Feature Article 1</a>	1
<a href="#">Announcements</a>	2
<a href="#">APCG Directory</a>	3
<a href="#">Meeting Recap</a>	7
<a href="#">Business Meeting Minutes</a>	8
<a href="#">Feature Article 2</a>	12
<a href="#">Student Awards</a>	15
<a href="#">Feature Article 3</a>	19
<a href="#">Treasurer's Report</a>	21

## 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 American Association of Geographers (AAG), serving AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, BC, and YT.

Banner photos & Flagstaff APCG Meeting Poster: Lily House-Peters, CSU Long Beach

## President's Column

### Brian's Presidential Message...

Another successful APCG meeting is in the books. Thank you to the Department of Geography at the University of Nevada, Reno – and especially to our local coordinator Dr. Scott Bassett. The meeting included 212 registrants. The APCG, with the gracious support of our donors, awarded 22 students a total of \$12,620. Our awards are funded through the generosity of our members. Please remember to renew your membership and/or donate here: <http://apcgweb.org/join-renew-donate>. I believe the student awards are one of the most important features of the APCG meetings. I asked recently appointed Memory Counselor Bob Richardson how our award numbers compare with other regional groups, to which he responded, "More, I think." I trust in Bob. These awards are crucial for creating an atmosphere where students and early-career faculty become invested in the APCG and passionate about moving the APCG forward. This is evidenced by a quick survey of those early-career faculty that are actively involved in service positions. Yolonda Youngs, APCG Secretary and Associate Professor at Idaho State University, won the Larry Ford Fieldwork Award in Cultural Geography in 2006. Denielle Perry, the co-chair of the 2019 meeting coordinating committee and Assistant Professor at Northern Arizona University, won the Larry Ford Fieldwork award in 2013 and the Christopherson Geosystems Award for Excellence in Applied Geography in 2016 for her paper titled, "A Political Ecology of Federal River Conservation: 50 years of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act." Katherine Sammler, the co-chair of the Women's Network, a member of the Nominating Committee, and Assistant Professor at California State University Maritime Academy, won the Tom McKnight and Joan Clemens Award Outstanding Student Paper in 2015 for her paper titled, "Ocean Abyss to Vacuum of Space: Privatization in the Vertical Commons."

...continued on page 3

## Feature Article

### Beyond the Ranchers-versus-City Narrative of Owens Valley Water Conflict

*Sophia Layser Borgias*  
 Doctoral Candidate  
 University of Arizona, School of Geography & Social Development  
 Recipient of the 2017 APCG Margaret Trussell Scholarship



The Los Angeles Aqueduct flowing south through Owens Valley

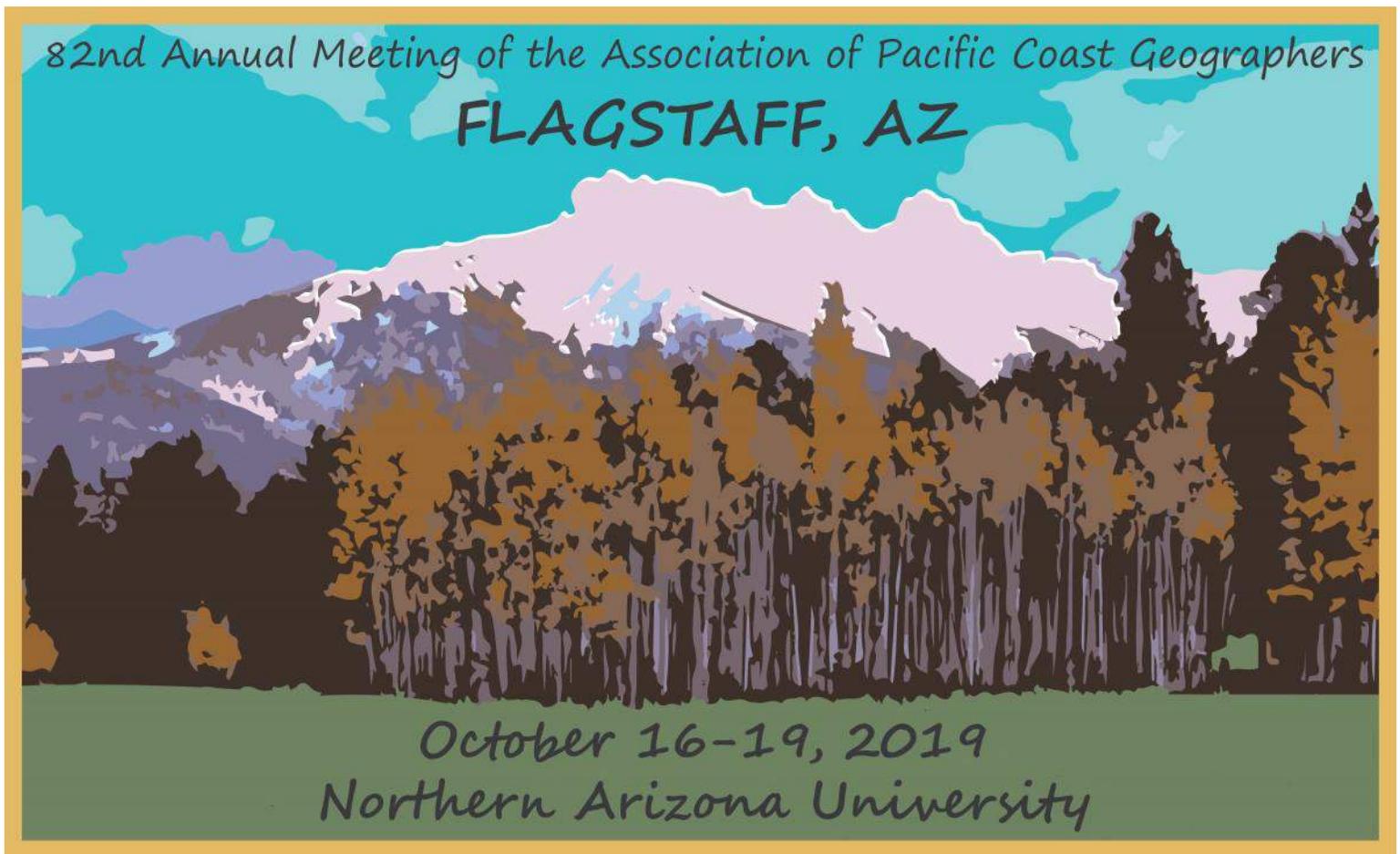
The conflict over the City of Los Angeles' extraction and export of water from California's Owens Valley has long captivated the public and policymakers alike. However, narratives about the Owens Valley water conflict, chronicled in Mark Reisner's *Cadillac Desert* and sensationalized in the movie *Chinatown*, have often fixated on the demise of the agricultural economy at the hands of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though often described as an act of theft and lawlessness, Los Angeles' acquisition of 95% of the valley's land and water was in fact authorized under the law and facilitated by the federal government in the name of "the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." But, over the 105 years since the Los Angeles Aqueduct was completed, notions of what constitutes the greatest good –and the long run, for that matter– have shifted, opening plenty of space for contention and debate in what once seemed a simple calculus.

...continued on page 5

# Announcements

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the 2019 APCG Meeting

The next meeting of the APCG will be held in Flagstaff, Arizona, hosted by the Department of Geography, Recreation, and Planning at Northern Arizona University. Meeting dates are October 16-19, 2019. Friday night BBQ will be hosted at the [Museum of Northern Arizona](#).



## CALL FOR PAPERS: Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers

The **Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers** is currently accepting submissions for Volume 81, to be published in August 2019. The journal focuses on the publication of research relating to any aspect of the geography of the Pacific Coast region, broadly defined. However, it also maintains an international perspective, and research that lies outside of the region is also encouraged for potential publication.

The Yearbook especially welcomes submissions from junior faculty and graduate students as well as retired geographers seeking to provide continuing perspectives on the region.

All submissions to the journal are peer reviewed. Submission guidelines are available at the APCG website: [Publications | The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers](#)

Priority consideration will be given to manuscripts submitted before **February 1, 2019**. Submissions or questions should be directed to:

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# APCG Directory

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Ray Sumner, Long Beach City College  
Elena Givental, CSU East Bay  
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*Pacifica* is a publication of the Associa-  
tion 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

Questions about membership may be  
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Elena Givental ([egivental@peralta.edu](mailto:egivental@peralta.edu))

Visit <http://www.apcgweb.org> to read  
about the organization, a new member  
application form, and a link to our on-  
line membership and donation site.

APCG member dues (raised starting  
2009) are:

Regular \$25,  
Student or Retired \$15

Contributing \$30 or more (any contribu-  
tion 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 credit-  
ed 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 mem-  
bership renewal notice near the end of  
the calendar year.

# President's Column

...continued from page 1

Lily House-Peters, co-chair of the Women's Network, chair of the Nominations Committee, and the new editor of *Pacifica*, and Assistant Professor at California State University, Long Beach won several Women's Network travel grants. I myself won the 2008 award for outstanding paper by a master's student for my paper titled, "Mapping future water security in Phoenix, Arizona." These awards are an investment in the future leadership and shared governance of the APCG.

The future of the APCG was the topic of conversation at a somewhat impromptu town hall style meeting held during the second day of presentations in Reno. This meeting was originally scheduled to discuss the need for a 2019 meeting host. However, days prior to the meeting our APCG colleagues at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ rose to the occasion by volunteering to host our next meeting. The purpose of the meeting then became a more general open discussion about the future of the APCG. Items discussed included:

- How do we increase the transparency between Executive Committee (EC) discussions and the APCG membership?
- How do we encourage more students of historically underrepresented groups in geography to apply for student awards?
- How do we increase the participation of students and faculty from the larger research-one universities in our region?
- How do we encourage more mid-career faculty to volunteer for leadership positions?

I will address these concerns while attempting to capture the viewpoints that other members shared in our town-hall meeting. To increase transparency between the executive committee (EC) and members, especially regarding the nominations process, I suggest formalizing an annually scheduled town hall meeting. The EC and business meetings regularly have detailed agendas that are rushed through with little time for discussion. The town hall meeting in Reno was a valuable open discussion amongst the EC and members. In the name of increasing group transparency I suggest scheduling this open discussion during all future meetings. A goal of the EC has always been to have at least the next two meeting locations formally, or informally, scheduled. Our next meeting will be in Flagstaff, AZ (thank you Denielle Perry). Cal State San Marcos has informally agreed to host in 2020 to coincide with the inaugural year of a new geography major in the Cal State system (thank you Liz Ridder).

The number of students annually applying for our awards designed to encourage the participation of historically under-represented groups in geography is low, and sometimes zero. It is paramount that APCG faculty members encourage their students to apply for these awards. Prior to the abstract deadline for the Reno meeting I created a spreadsheet that sought to include every geography department in our region along with a contact person for each university. I scanned many websites identifying department chairs or faculty who have historically participated in the APCG. The completed list includes 113 departments in 8 states and 10 Native American Reservation Colleges. Each of these identified "friends of the APCG" were emailed details regarding how students can apply for our awards and travel funding, and kindly asked to share the message with their colleagues. I plan to continue expanding the database to include all geography faculty in the west. More senior members of the Executive Committee recounted hazy memories of such a database in the past, but it is due for an update. I believe that the route to increasing student participation in APCG awards is for faculty – especially from our larger departments – to strongly encourage their students to apply.

Attendees of the town hall meeting cited a lack of APCG involvement from mid-career faculty. Our conversation about the future of the APCG appeared to be between members preparing for retirement and members who just recently started their career. Perhaps our small number of student award applicants is a result of the majority of our participating members being in the beginning stages of advising students, or finished advising students. The question remains, how do we encourage mid-career faculty to participate in APCG service positions? I have developed a schema that highlights the perfect APCG officer or committee member. The perfect APCG officer or committee member is in one of three stages of their career. They are an early career faculty looking to fulfill service requirements, gain leadership experience, and build collaboration networks. They are mid-career faculty looking to fulfill service requirements and advance the scholarship of their students. They are late-career faculty who may have more time to devote to a wonderful organization like the APCG. Broadly, they are geographers in the west who believe in fostering a strong and diverse community of scholars. Three key leadership positions need to be filled next year: APCG Secretary, APCG Vice President, and AAG Councilor for the APCG region. In addition, APCG committees are actively seeking to expand their membership, providing opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty at all career levels to get involved (List of Committees are available here: <http://apcgweb.org/contacts>). If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming involved in the governance and leadership of the APCG, nominations for elected offices and interest to serve on committees can be forwarded to APCG President Brian Pompeii and APCG Nominations chair Lily House-Peters.

Please email me ([brian.pompeii@cnu.edu](mailto:brian.pompeii@cnu.edu)) if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the future of the APCG. I look forward to serving as the APCG President.

Brian Pompeii, PhD,  
Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology  
Christopher Newport University

# Feature Article

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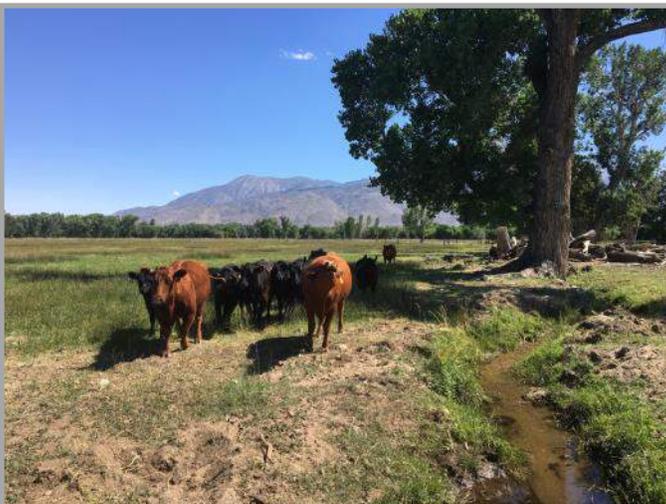
I came to the Owens Valley to get beyond the famous ranchers-versus-city narrative, aiming to understand how conflicting interests within and outside the Owens Valley have been negotiated and reconciled over time in the context of shifting laws, policies, and environmental conditions. Coincidentally, I arrived in Owens Valley just as fresh conflict was flaring up among the ranching community in response to the LADWP cutting irrigation to ranch leases. As expected, there has been a flurry of media coverage eager to capture this ranchers-versus-city rerun. But, in the background, the debate is much more complex, with many more actors and issues at play.



*Fall colors along Bishop Creek Canal*

The plight of the Owens Valley ranchers in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is so well known that some may be surprised to hear there are any ranchers remaining in the valley today. In 1927, the Sacramento Union newspaper published an article with the dramatic message “We, the farming communities of Owens Valley, being about to die, salute you!” However, nearly as soon as LADWP finished buying up private property, it began to lease ranch lands back, though without the water rights. Ranchers describe being told, in “handshake agreements,” that they would be able to manage the land as if it were their own and would be supplied with irrigation water.

Over the ensuing decades, the relationship between LADWP and the ranchers was a good one – it was understood that LADWP had the ranchers’ back and they in turn had LADWP’s. However, that began to change around 2015, when LADWP began limiting irrigation deliveries and changing the terms of the lease agreements. Then, in the spring of 2018, LADWP announced that it would no longer be delivering irrigation water to about 6,000 acres of land in Mono County that they have leased to ranchers for more than 70 years.



*Cattle on a small ranch lease in the Bishop area*

Confronted by climate change impacts and court mandates that commit more water to environmental mitigation projects, LADWP is zeroing in on any “inefficiencies” in the system. Flood irrigation on ranch leases has become an easy target. LADWP ratepayers have argued that providing water to the ranchers is taking a public asset, giving it to a private interest, and then passing the bill to Los Angeles ratepayers. Because LADWP is a municipal utility and, thus, a public entity, it must manage its land and water in the public interest. But, fortunately for the ranchers, today there are many members of the public arguing that the ranch leases *are* serving the public interest.

For generations, flood irrigation has sustained lush meadows and wetlands that few are willing to see dry up. In fact, if you were to have walked blindly into the recent public scoping meeting hosted by LADWP and listened to the public comments, you may well have missed the fact that the issue involved ranchers at all. Climate change, ecological mitigation, habitat protection, recreational and aesthetic values, tribal sovereignty, and environmental justice: the range of concerns demonstrate that what is at stake is much more than a simple weighing of urban and agricultural water needs.

Environmental groups have raised the alarm about the need to protect certain meadow areas that provide critical habitat for the bi-state sage grouse. Residents of neighboring towns are concerned that a drier landscape will increase risk of wildfire. Tourism and recreation groups are worried about impacts to the scenic beauty of the area for travelers along Highway 395. Mono County representatives cite the potential impacts to the local economy, which is almost entirely based in agriculture and tourism.

Many locals also raise concerns about the loss of the cultural heritage of the area, standing behind the multi-generational ranch families as the “traditional stewards of the land.” Representatives from the local Paiute (Nüümü) tribes are quick to point out that the cultural heritage of the area stretches far beyond ranching. For millennia, the Nüümü have stewarded this land they call Payahüünadü, ‘the land of flowing water,’ a vast territory stretching roughly from Mono Lake to Owens Lake. Though the tribes are now confined to small reservations, they demand formal government-to-government consultation with the City of Los Angeles about decisions impacting their ancestral territory. As one Nüümü woman put it, “the plants, the animals, we are their relatives and we need to speak for them.”

# Feature Article

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LADWP officials argue that, by cutting irrigation, they would be returning the area to its “natural state.” However, stakeholders have been quick to point out the ambiguity and irony of that statement, given LADWP’s decades of surface water diversions and groundwater pumping that have severely impacted natural meadows. Some see the irrigated meadows as a form of mitigation for the native meadows that were inundated under Crowley Lake reservoir. Indigenous activists object to notions of a “natural state” that fail to acknowledge their presence on the land since time immemorial.



*View across the flood-irrigated meadows of one of the ranch leases now affected by the irrigation cut-off*

Long before ranchers began irrigating the valley, the Nüümü were spreading water across the land. But these traditional irrigation practices were displaced, first by settlers and then by LADWP as it bought up allotments with water rights and negotiated a land exchange with the federal government. That story of indigenous dispossession has often been left out of narratives about the water conflict, relegating the Nüümü to a pre-settlement past when in fact they play an active role in contemporary water politics. In addition to fighting for their own unresolved water rights and consulting on numerous environmental issues, many Nüümü oppose cutting irrigation to the ranch leases so that water may continue to be spread in Payahüünadü.



*Ranchers and tribal representatives discuss the potential impacts to leased lands*

Mono County and several environmental groups recently sued LADWP for “dewatering” the ranch leases without first conducting an environmental impact assessment, alleging a violation of the California Environmental Quality Act. With that action, nearly every bit of LADWP land in the Eastern Sierra is now subject to some sort of litigation or settlement agreement conditioning the terms of its management. To the north, in the Mono basin, LADWP’s diversions of water were curtailed by a 1983 court decision maintaining the water levels needed to protect Mono Lake ecosystems. To the south, in Inyo County, the terms of the 1991 Inyo-L.A. Long Term Water Agreement require monitoring and mitigation of the impacts of groundwater pumping as well as maintaining irrigation water for ranch leases. At the terminus of the Owens River basin at Owens Lake, dry since the 1920s, LADWP was forced by court order to mitigate dust emissions, costing billions.

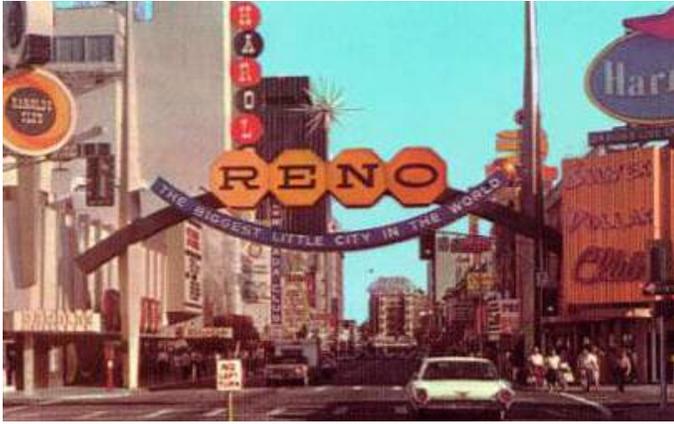
Similar forms of litigation, mitigation, and monitoring are likely in store for the irrigated meadows in Mono County. The burning question for the ranch lessees is whether provisions ensuring water for environmental purposes will be sufficient to also protect their livelihoods and whether their new allies in environmental, indigenous, and tourism groups will stand behind the ranching operations themselves, not just the habitat and greenery they produce. The results of the court case, tribal consultation, and environmental impact assessment remain to be seen, leaving open the question of how much water will be spread across the meadows come springtime.

Ultimately, these ongoing water conflicts in recent decades demonstrate that the “greatest good” is no longer as simple as “the greatest number.” LADWP now reckons with decades of environmental regulations and with environmental and indigenous movements advocating for the public interest in environmental protection. With climate change pressures, there is increasing emphasis put on the last, and often forgotten, part of the philosophy of “the greatest good of the greatest number *in the long term.*” As indigenous leaders so often point out, “the long term” can no longer be seen as the next decade or the next 50 years but rather the next seven generations and beyond.

This is the new story of Owens Valley, Payahüünadü, and, in many ways, the West. Far more complex than a ranchers-versus-city battle, it is a story of persistent struggle to reconcile diverse and conflicting interests in water amidst social, political, and environmental change. It is about the delicate balancing act required to meet the needs of the communities at either end of the aqueduct, as well as the needs of the environment, so that all may continue to thrive for many generations to come.

*Sophia Layser Borgias is a PhD Candidate in the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona. She is currently conducting dissertation research in Owens Valley, California with support from the Margaret Trussell Scholarship.*

# Report on the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting



The latter part of October 2018 brought a slew of APCG members — veteran meeting-goers and fresh faces alike — to Reno, Nevada, for the group’s annual meeting. As might be expected, it was an event both lively and well attended — with 256 in attendance, according to organizers. Much of the meeting took place within the Joe Crowley Student Union, at the rapidly expanding Reno campus of the University of Nevada. Meeting rooms were on the spacious uppermost level of a building named for the late Joe Crowley who was President at UNR for 25 years and — for far longer than a quarter century — the older brother of longstanding APCG stalwart Bill Crowley. Organized by UNR Prof. Scott Bassett, with Prof. Victoria Randlett at the lead on program organization, the meeting took advantage of available space, created by a lucky eccentricity in the time-space continuum. As it happened, the date Nevada entered the Union in 1864 was October 31st, and that

continues as the official “Nevada Day.” But statehood is actually celebrated on the last Friday of October, which this year turned out to be the 26th of October, and with students taking advantage of a potential long weekend, geographers had the run of the place, except for a posse of fans who converged late Saturday on the nearby football field to watch Nevada beat San Diego State. It wasn’t “Spring Break Gone Wild,” but there were things enough for attendees to see and do: Basque dinners; the Tesla Gigafactory; cannabis dispensaries; an epic field trip to Pyramid Lake; the creation of a “Midtown District” that is promised for Reno just south of the Truckee River, mainly in evidence through epic roadwork that turned Virginia Street into something like a downslope slalom course.

All the trappings of a typical APCG meeting over the last twenty years were in evidence: 115 papers submitted, 40 posters proposed (and 39 actually posted for examination and discussion). A Wednesday evening opening talk by geologist Jack Hursh showcased the variety of Nevada landscapes: ranges and basins, streams and twisting roads, lurid place-name and their advocates. Professor of Photography & Videography Peter Goin closed out Thursday (the traditional field trip day) with a talk titled “Nevada: The Leave-it State,” which took in Nevada eccentricities and singularities, spinning outward after initiation with a delightful clip from the film classic, *The Misfits* (1961).

Papers and posters were presented in four concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday, with abstracts sent in from Alabama, Florida, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, and internationally from Japan, Canada, and Mexico. The APCG region was well-represented, too, of course. Papers and posters proceeding through the two-day cycle, with a steady stream of presenters and listeners and discussions in the halls outside the meeting rooms. And in smaller venues, the Executive Council met in the 420 Room, and the Business Meeting occurred; details of those are available in separate write-ups found in this newsletter. Social events included modest receptions after the Wednesday and Thursday greeting sessions, a barbecue on Friday at Craft Wine & Beer that brought the mild chaos afoot in re-shaping Virginia Street south of the Truckee River into a city-endorsed Midtown District, and, of course, the APCG Banquet on Saturday evening, where outgoing APCG President Paul Starrs offered an address titled “*Plus ça Change: Six Vignettes of Landscape Change.*” With that, it was a “wrap,” and meeting-goers offered thanks to the organizers, and went their separate ways, though restored by the companionship of geographers visiting for a few days and sharing views of their research, the profession, and the students who brought their ideas to the dais or the poster sessions venue, and embraced a dawning sense of how scholarship and professional associations work.

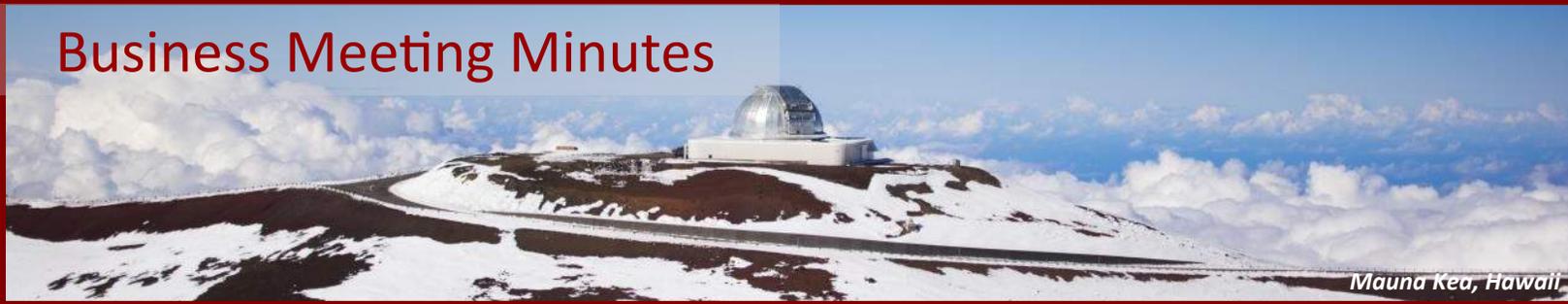
The Reno meeting was vigorous, managed by UNR professor Scott Bassett, who seemed to be almost everywhere. The venue worked well, and among the decisions made were agreement that next year’s meeting (October 16-19, 2019) would convene in Flagstaff, Arizona, under the auspices of NAU (Northern Arizona University), and in 2020, in San Marcos, California, where CSU San Marcos is establishing Geography as an added department on the campus. Progress toward the upcoming meetings is orderly, and current President Brian Pompeii and Vice President Michael Pretes are well into the mental gymnastics of keeping up with the prospective meetings. May there be many more such gatherings.

--- Paul Starrs & Scott Bassett



Dr. Kate Berry (UNR) Receives the 2018 APCG Distinguished Service Award

# Business Meeting Minutes



Paul Starrs opened the meeting in the Joe Crowley Student Union Building Room 402 at University of Nevada, Reno's campus at 4:30pm on Friday, October 26, 2018 with 24 people present.

Minutes from Fall 2017 APCG Business Meeting in Chico, California were approved.

**Election Results:** 116 ballots were returned. Bob Richardson presented the results.

Brian Pompeii – President

Michael Pretes – Vice President

Elena Givental – Treasurer

*Continuing:*

Secretary: Yolonda Youngs (re-elected)

Sriram Khé – AAG Councillor

Past-President: Paul Starrs

**Bylaw Changes:** Bob Richardson proposed a move to change sections 1.b and 2.b of the APCG Bylaws. The proposed changes in both sections would allow for online voting (mailed ballots had been required.) The bylaws were distributed in print to the members present at the meeting and by email before the conference to all current APCG members. All members present at the meeting were asked to vote by voice. All present were in favor of approving the changes to the wording of both sections (no opposed and no abstentions). The wording changes are as follows:

Section 1.b. "Annual renewal notices shall be distributed to members early in December for the coming year, payment due by February 15. At least two successive overdue notices shall be distributed to unpaid members, in early March and mid-April. Memberships not renewed by May 15 shall be marked inactive, although they may still renew by paying current dues."

Section 2.b. "Officers and the Regional Councillor shall be elected by ballots distributed to all paid members at least forty-five (45) days before the chosen deadline for voting, which shall be not earlier than May 15 nor later than June 15. In the event of a tie vote for an elected office, the voting members of the Executive Council shall vote to break the tie."

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Richardson's Treasurer Report was distributed (eight pages total). The first page includes a brief overview narrative of the budget numbers, the twenty-six year snapshot, the special funds, APCG Yearbook, and membership numbers. Pages two to eight of the document are detailed numerical report for each section including the APCG annual membership data from 1994 to 2018, the treasurer's report as of October 27, 2018; the twenty-seven year snapshot of APCG finances (with

footnotes); the special funds report as of October 27, 2018; and the Yearbook financial summaries in the Hawaii Press Era. See page 21 for Bob's budget numbers.

From Bob's budget overview on page one of his report, the Budget looks good, with receipts exceeding disbursements by about \$14,648. The 2017 meeting in Chico turned a profit of \$6,671. The University of Hawaii press contributed a net gain of \$504, after invoices and royalties from multiple volumes. Bob reminded members that every time you visit Project Muse for the journal, APCG receives a profit and that increases the journal's impact factor. There was no GeoBowl expense this year since we did not have a team (despite Tina White's call to action). Wild Apricot expense is for one year after a 23% annual increase this year. Last year our expenses covered more than one year and it may be the same for next year. PayPal costs continue to rise and more of our memberships are paid using it. Membership costs are down again this year as fewer renewal notices are mailed.

**Twenty-Six Year Snapshot:** The big increase in our regular account balance results from our lower expenses, an excellent Chico profit, and our spending less on Administration and Gifts, Grants, and Awards.

**Special Funds:** The Trussell, Bailey, and McKnight/Clemons funds continue to draw down on principal. Women's Network gained a little due to Mark Stemen's decision to absorb the Chico Women's Network luncheon loss in the general conference accounting. Bob included a comparison of this year with most membership renewals emailed through Wild Apricot and last when he mailed renewals to those who donated to one or more funds. With the new Hoerauf money removed and Geosystems and "general" contributions added in, we took in less than last year. The Geosystems fund did not include new money last year, but did have two years' worth this year. With Wild Apricot, donations are fairly separate from membership. Bob suggests that we remind members a few times that they can donate online. Bob also reminds us that the \$117,896.92 total shown in his report for all funds is \$0.01 more than if you add the components up. This rounding issue is the result of prorating monthly interest (all funds are in one account) to each fund.

**APCG Yearbook:** We received two big royalty checks from UHP this year and two big bills. Volume 78 provided a profit of \$405 but Volume 79 will probably show a loss. Volumes 78 and 79 were very long and expensive. Volume 79 included color in the digital version. Craig Revels, APCG Yearbook editor, completed his first solo volume this year of the journal. Congratulations Craig!

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# Business Meeting Minutes

Valle de los Cirios, Baja California Norte, Mexico

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He is looking forward to the next four years of editing the publication. Craig presented several topics about the format of the journal. Last year we experimented with color images in the journal. If you are interested in color maps or images, that will be available online but not in the paper version. It is too expensive. He will be incorporating book reviews into the *Yearbook* next year. At the meeting he also presented the members with the possibility of opting out of mailed copies of the journal with no reduction in membership dues. The *Yearbook* is on Project Muse. Members still receive a paper copy of the *Yearbook*. Some members, however, do not have institutional access to Project Muse. Maybe it is time we reevaluate access to the journal. We can provide a link through Wild Apricot so that members have access to the *Yearbook*. Another issue: hard copies vs. digital edition. Do members want a digital opt in or out option similar to the one provided with AAG membership and journal access? If so, members would receive a digital edition but not a print edition. Again, this would not influence membership fees. We could retain the text stock and paper for those who want that version. Craig will be sending an email to APCG members to gauge interest in this potential change to digital access.

**Membership Numbers** decreased from last year. As of 10/05/2018 we have 454 members. This is the lowest total membership in the twenty-five years shown on Bob's budget report. We need to work on increasing membership!

**BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:** Terence Young presented the budget committee report. The Budget Committee reviewed Bob Richardson's books and bookkeeping and found the APCG Treasurer's Report to be in good order and well done. The committee thanks Bob for his many years of superior service as Treasurer (1997 as Interim Secretary/Treasurer to 2018 as Treasurer). Elena Givental is stepping into the Treasurer position next and Bob is looking forward to helping with this transition.

**AAG COUNCILLOR REPORT:** Sriram Khé continues to serve as the AAG Councillor. He reminded the membership that the spring 2019 elections will be important. The AAG Regional Councillor position is a three-year term and his term is coming to an end. Sriram reminds us to forward names to the APCG Nominations Committee for the AAG Councillor position election. There are a few other items to report. 1) Sriram set up an email distribution list via his university to reach out to our regional membership. He has been using this route to send the APCG network emails and updates about the AAG that apply to our regional division. We can now send out emails to our group more easily.

This listserv will continue after Sriram's term ends so that his successor can also use it. 2) There are plenty of AAG awards that our regional members qualify for, yet we do not have many of our members in these roles. In the western United States, we are off the radar. Please nominate your department colleagues for AAG awards! This year we have one department, CSU Long Beach, running for an award (AAG Program Excellence Award). Next year will be the community college award. This might be a good opportunity for APCG to shine as we have many community colleges in our group. These awards can make Deans and Provosts very happy! 3) The AAG Executive Director will change next year as Doug Richardson steps down. Watch for updates about this position from the AAG and the APCG listserv. 4) Jan Monk mentioned the AAG Fellows program. We should nominate our members to this program. 5) Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, current AAG President, was in attendance at the APCG Reno meeting and Business Meeting and thanked Sriram for his excellent work and following through with AAG news and updates to APCG members. 6) The next annual meeting will be in Washington, D.C. April 3rd to 7th in 2019. Please send Sriram feedback about the listserv, things that you'd like AAG to be doing or aware of, or other activities for the AAG Councillor. You can find his contact information (and that of all the Executive Council members) on the APCG website under the "Contacts" tab at the top of the page). Thank you, Sriram, for your excellent work! We appreciate all your help and the ways you have improved this position.

**WOMEN'S NETWORK REPORT:** Lily House-Peters and Katherine Sammler presented the awards to eight students this year. The Women's Network Lunch was another success with numbers up (48 tickets sold this year). The funds are drawing down on these award accounts, so please consider making a donation to keep the fund healthy. Lily and Katherine encouraged APCG members to make donations in honor of a mentor and remember that as you renew your membership, you can contribute to special funds.

There is a new APCG Women's Network website at: <http://apcgweb.org/womens-network>. It includes information on the Margaret Trussell Scholarships, the Women's Network Mentoring Program, a short history of the Women's Network, list of APCG Women Presidents and Women's Network Coordinators, and an updated list of the 2018 travel grant award winners. There is also a [APCG Women's Network Facebook group](#) for those who use Facebook.

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# Business Meeting Minutes

Mount Hood, Oregon

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**PACIFICA REPORT:** Vienne Vu has stepped down as the editor for the online *Pacifica*. Thank you, Vienne, for the excellent work! Lily House-Peters has volunteered to become the new editor. The Fall 2018 newsletter will be her first edition. A reminder to student (and their faculty mentors) who received grants at the 2018 conference: some grants require essays to be published in the *Pacifica*. Check your grant award information and send your essays to Lily.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Paul Starrs presented the President's Report with updates on the 2019 conference in Flagstaff, future conference sites, and committee updates.

2019 Conference will convene in Flagstaff, Arizona from October 16 to 19, 2019 at Northern Arizona University. Denielle Perry helped to lead the initiative to host the meeting at NAU with Alan Lew. Alan presented a proposal to host the meeting. Additional details will be included in the Fall 2018 edition of *Pacifica*.

Future Meeting Sites: It is optimal if we can confirm five years of APCG conference sites ahead of time. We need membership feedback on future sites for meetings. In terms of future locations, the list includes Sonoma State for 2020, CSU San Marcos, University of Utah (as a joint meeting with the Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Regional Division), and potentially southern Idaho if the University of Idaho and Idaho State University can jointly host the conference. To address the need for future conference sites and consider options, there was a "town hall" meeting at the 2018 Reno conference open to all conference attendees. The meeting resulted in several site suggestions and a discussion of broader concerns with the future of APCG in terms of committee membership, leadership, and other issues (discussion continued in the President's report of the newsletter). If your department is interested in hosting a future meeting, please contact incoming President Brian Pompeii and the Executive Council. Meetings do not need to be on university campuses and the Executive Council can provide help. A map of previous APCG conference locations will be posted to the APCG website (thanks Michael Pretes and his student for creating these maps!). Discussions of the Executive Council also included new strategies to devote APCG funds to help students and junior faculty attend meetings.

Executive Council: The Executive Council appointed Bob Richardson as the APCG Memory Counselor (new title!). Bob has been incredibly helpful to the Executive Committee as a reminder of APCG history, conference sites, Bylaws, procedures, and much more. As he steps down from Treasurer this year, this new title will provide a bridge as APCG transitions to new leadership and an outlet for Bob's keen memory of all things APCG!

## Other Items Discussed:

Pacifica Editor: Lily House-Peters volunteered to serve as the new *Pacifica* editor. Thank you, Lily! At the Business Meeting, Brian Pompeii, President elect, suggested that *Pacifica* could continue as a PDF or maybe move to a new blog format. There are two options: 1) keep the same format with 2 columns as a PDF or 2) publish *Pacifica* as a series of blog posts. In this format, members could submit materials for the newsletter and then those items could be posted directly and quickly to the digital format of the blog post online. Access to *Pacifica* is for members only. Send your thoughts and ideas about this potential change in format to the Executive Committee via APCG President Brian Pompeii at [brian.pompeii@cnu.edu](mailto:brian.pompeii@cnu.edu) and *Pacifica* editor Lily House-Peters at [lily.housepeters@csulb.edu](mailto:lily.housepeters@csulb.edu).

## APCG Committee Membership:

Paul Starrs is willing to serve on the membership committee and to help increase membership levels as he steps into the Past President role. The Executive Council reminds members that there are multiple committees in APCG that need your help. Some committees, such as the Budget and Membership committees, need additional members and many of the committees offer short-term service (1 year or less). These short-term committees are great for early career faculty looking to provide service and become more involved in APCG. Leading fieldtrips at the annual APCG conferences is another way to serve. We want to increase membership numbers and participation in meetings.

# Business Meeting Minutes

Zabriskie Point, Death Valley, California

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After a call last year for more activity, many of the APCG committees have new and expanded membership. To see the list of all APCG committee and the names of members, visit the APCG website, click on the "Contacts" tab at the top of the page, then scroll down to the "Committees" section. <http://apcgweb.org/contacts>

The Executive Committee continues to work with the Secretary to collect procedures and documents and place them in prominent places on the APCG website and/or distribute to members in an effort to better clarify the types of committees in APCG, who serves on these committees, and where members can best offer their service time. To view new or updated documents, visit the APCG website and click on the "History and Governance" tab. New additions this year include a list of Duties of the APCG Secretary (just in time for elections next year!), Banquet Duties (for APCG conference organizers and hosts), maps of previous APCG conference locations, updated Bylaws, and a "How to Organize an APCG Meeting" document (for future conference organizers). <http://apcgweb.org/history-governance>

Investment of APCG Endowment Monies: The Executive Council also discussed investment in secure vessels for APCG monies. CDs may be the best route. We have funds in a market rate account now at River City Bank. The Executive Council, in consultation with the Treasurer, is exploring ways that we can improve our investing strategies.

Nomination Committee: Lily House-Peters is the new Chair of the Nominating Committee. Other members of the committee include Katherine Sammler, CSU Maritime, and Denielle Perry, Northern Arizona University. The committee is actively seeking nominations for Executive Committee positions up for election in 2019 including Vice-President, Secretary and AAG Regional Councillor. Nominations can be forwarded to Lily at [Lily.HousePeters@csulb.edu](mailto:Lily.HousePeters@csulb.edu).

Wild Apricot Database and Annual Meeting Registration: The old mailed renewal form allowed for adding donations to five Special Funds and many people donated this way. With Wild Apricot, donations are separated from renewal but show eight options. We must urge members to donate through Wild Apricot. Wild Apricot now has a polling function that we will use for elections in 2019. Only members can vote and they can only vote once.

**Student Awards:** Michael Pretes read the names of this year's award winners and lead the judging of the papers and posters at this year's meeting. The Business Meeting was held on a Friday this year, so the judging was still under way. However, the awards were announced and presented at the Banquet held on Saturday. Information and forms for the students awards are posted on the APCG website in the "Grants and Scholarship" tab <http://apcgweb.org/Student Paper Awards>. Students are strongly encouraged to enter the paper and poster competitions next year!

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

**From the Floor:** No additional comments.

**Executive Council Meeting:** The Executive Council meeting was held on Friday, October 26 from 10:15 am to 11:10 in the John Crowley Student Union Building on the University of Nevada, Reno's campus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Yolonda Youngs, APCG Secretary

## Feature Article 2

### *“But How Do you Guard Against Unintended Consequences?”: Climate Resilience Planning & Green Infrastructure Community-Engagement in Long Beach, California*

Genie Bey

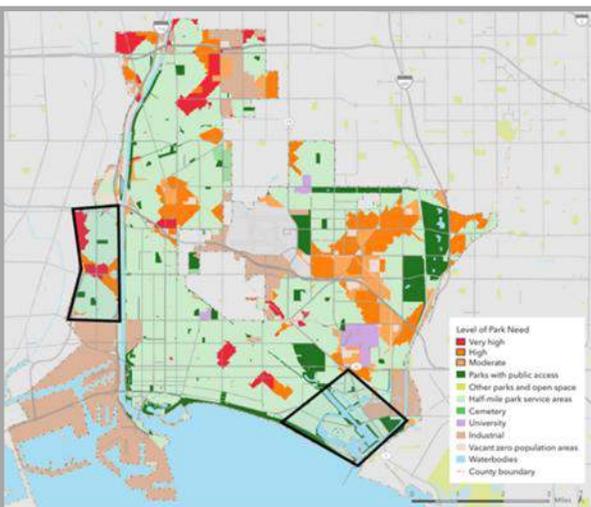
M.A. 2018, Geography, California State University, Long Beach  
Recipient of the 2017 APCG Margaret Trussell Scholarship

The catastrophic hurricane seasons of the past two years, paired with the long-term threat of sea level rise, bring to light the urgent need to address the vulnerability of our coastal cities. In 2015, the City of Long Beach, California began developing its first Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), with the goal of creating a framework outlining policies and practices to reduce the city’s carbon footprint and create a more climate resilient community. This process is ongoing, involving multiple scales of engagement from various sectors, with significant scientific assistance from Long Beach’s Aquarium of the Pacific. My Master’s thesis research sought to contribute to the local adaptation planning process in a meaningful, community-driven and solutions-oriented way that could inform local decision making, while simultaneously making linkages to broader challenges and successes in the national climate adaptation discourse. Specifically, my research analyzed the opportunities and limitations of green infrastructure (GI) to address the unique biophysical and social vulnerabilities facing Long Beach, and gathered data on citizen preferences and cultural acceptability of these proposed solutions. For the purpose of this research, GI can be defined as a combination of natural features (greenspace, trees, and wetlands), and built systems (green roofs, green walls, green facades, bioswales, permeable pavement and rain gardens) that work together to provide and enhance ecosystem services for resilient social-ecological systems.



*Green wall in Paris, France designed by Patrick Blanc.  
Example of a built form of green infrastructure.*

The geographic variability and uneven distribution of climate-related impacts in urban environments pose serious challenges to achieving social-ecological resilience and environmental justice. There are no generalizable solutions for the anticipated climate challenges facing urban environments, which vary from increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events to flooding, heat waves, droughts, and worsening air quality. In response, ecosystem-based adaptation plans have gained traction in the scientific literature and policy circles as viable, multi-beneficial strategies to build urban resilience to withstand anticipated climate threats. GI as an ecosystem-based adaptation approach offers flexible, place-based solutions and as such, has surged in popularity as an urban planning strategy, reflecting the focus of planners and policy-makers to design and implement location-specific interventions to climate related challenges.



*Uneven distribution of greenspace and level of park need in Long Beach, CA.*

There are compelling and urgent reasons to conduct research regarding the potential for GI to address the present environmental justice challenges and projected climate impacts facing Long Beach. Long Beach is a densely-populated coastal city with intricate and overlapping vulnerabilities related to its local geography, its economic activity, and its vast socioeconomic diversity. By examining the spatial distribution of these vulnerabilities, and identifying potential GI solutions, my research aimed to enhance urban resilience, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation at the local level, and to inform climate adaptation planning efforts in similar coastal cities. Broader impacts of this study include increasing awareness and advancing the current state of knowledge such that the academic community, Long Beach city officials, community organizations, and local citizens may gain a deeper understanding of culturally and ecologically appropriate strategies for hazard risk management in the face of a changing climate.

Furthermore, my study aimed to contribute to the ongoing development of scholarship regarding climate justice at the scale of the city. Within climate mitigation and adaptation policy, justice is often considered in the context of a distribution of rights and responsibilities—who has the right to emit green-

house gases (GHG), and who is responsible for reducing emissions (Bulkeley et al. 2014).

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## Feature Article 2

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Until recently, the distribution of rights and responsibilities was mainly examined at an international scale, but has since been extrapolated further to consider many scales of actors, including cities, communities, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. Through a case study analysis of two neighborhoods within Long Beach, it becomes clear that the vast socioeconomic diversity and environmental justice challenges facing portions of the city raise concerns for how climate mitigation and adaptation decisions are made, who are the winners and losers of these decisions, and emphasizes the need to frame decision-making through a climate justice lens.

Utilizing a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative and quantitative social science methods with geospatial analysis, this research aims to better understand how uneven social power relations, cultural understandings of climate and space, and ecological function impact perceptions of, and produce uneven desires for particular GI solutions in Long Beach. Integrating geospatial data, surveys, and key informant interviews, this study explores citizen perception of climate risk, and desirability and feasibility of GI solutions to increase adaptive capacity across two high risk communities with unevenly distributed biophysical and social vulnerabilities.

A geospatial analysis was conducted to determine two locations of highest exposure to projected and existing biophysical and social vulnerability indicators within Long Beach. This analysis utilized a mapping tool created by the non-profit organization the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for the Climate Smart Cities Los Angeles initiative (TPL 2016). The web-accessible TPL mapping tool integrates data



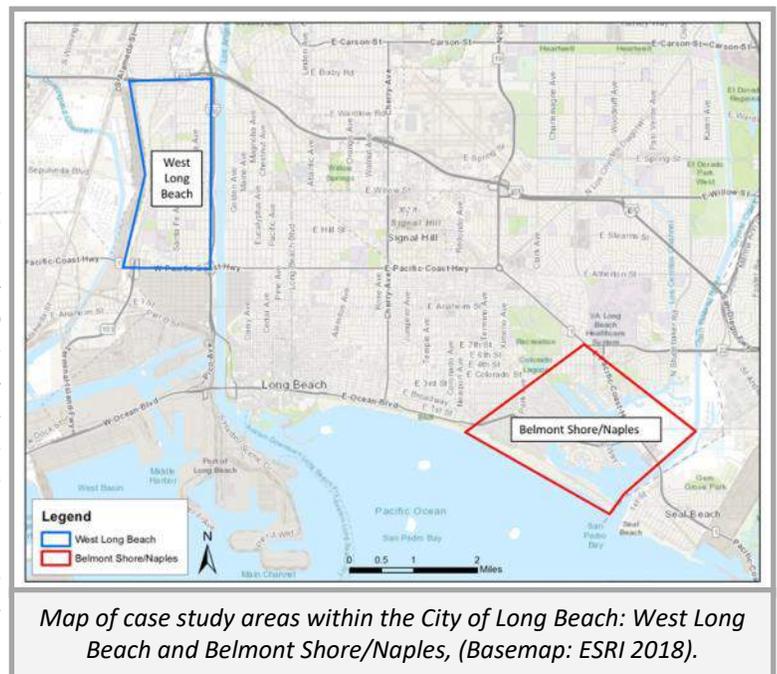
*Flooding along the I-710 freeway in Long Beach, California (Kevork Djansezian 2017)*

relating to the range of specific climate threats facing the Los Angeles County bioregion, and offers options for generating planning scenarios to identify areas with the highest potential to benefit from GI implementation. Variables measured in this geospatial analysis include sea level rise, flooding, extreme heat, and worsening air pollution. This information was then overlaid with socioeconomic variables to highlight the spatial distribution of intersectional vulnerabilities and existing environmental justice challenges.

Two areas facing significant risk to projected climate impacts in Long Beach are the neighborhoods of West Long Beach and Belmont Shore/Naples. West Long Beach is a frontline community directly adjacent to the Port of Long Beach, the I-710 and I-405 Freeways, and other heavy industry, and is characterized by working class communities of color. Frontline communities are groups facing a legacy of often racialized systemic oppression and inequity that influences their quality of life, where they live, and their economic opportunities (Climate Justice Working Group 2017). The geospatial analysis revealed that West Long Beach faces significant potential biophysical threats including flooding, extreme heat, and worsening air pollution, in conjunction with existing high socioeconomic vulnerability. Belmont Shore/Naples is a more affluent, low-lying, business and residential district, and primarily faces high levels of biophysical risks—in particular the threats of flooding, sea level rise, and coastal erosion.

An online survey and semi-structured interviews were conducted during the Fall of 2017 through the Spring of 2018 to gather a wide range of opinions from local residents regarding perceptions of local environmental and climate risks, and citizen desirability of potential GI solutions. Semi-structured interviews gathered input from local professionals, activists, community organizers, and residents.

Results from the geospatial analysis revealed that while the two case study neighborhoods are both vulnerable to projected climate impacts, the present environmental hazards and social vulnerabilities facing the West Long Beach neighborhood add dimensions of complexity in planning for climate adaptation. In this, we see that more work needs to be done to emphasize the importance of social equity and environmental justice considerations in local, regional, and federal climate adaptation policies and programs.



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## Feature Article 2

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Results from the survey brought to light neighborhood-scale differences in community preferences to proposed GI solutions. Community members in West Long Beach noted a significant lack of existing greenspace and trees, while citizens of Belmont Shore/Naples expressed greater interest in the more technical, maintenance heavy types of GI like green roofs, walls, and facades, and explained these choices as being the most appropriate use of space in the very housing-dense and built out neighborhood.

When asked which variables posed the largest impediment to implementation of GI, residents in West Long Beach found it significant that many people rent and are unable to build and/or maintain projects on private property.

Both neighborhoods found financing, maintenance, and lack of awareness of the benefits of green infrastructure to be major barriers as well. Both communities expressed significant interest in increasing public education of GI designs as the first step to creating solutions to many of the barriers to implementation.

Issues related to the planning process were a common thread that emerged in the interviews. From city planners, I heard the struggles of their limitations of power, and how they are subject to chasing funding for projects which results in a fragmented approach to planning. From community residents, concerns regarding a lack of diverse representation and resulting language barriers between community members and city staff posed a major challenge. Through the process of coding these interviews, it became clear that the city officials feel as if they are sufficiently inclusive in their planning processes, while community residents feel as if their needs and desires are being overlooked. Environmental justice advocates emphasized the importance of strong community-engagement and local community leadership in the GI planning processes. In one interview, an environmental justice leader stated “[w]e want to ensure that the planning process for selecting projects and locating them [GI projects] is comprehensive, and that the residents who are living in these areas have the opportunity to engage and have their input included from the beginning.” Furthermore, “community-engagement needs to be baked into these planning processes. Without it, they sound like a great idea, but how do you guard against unintended consequences?” Urban greening projects have notoriously had paradoxical consequences resulting in the displacement or exclusion of low-income populations and communities of color (Dooling 2009). While all of the local professionals interviewed were unaware of this occurring in Long Beach, stringent efforts must be made to prevent ecological gentrification resulting from future GI projects. This is particularly critical in West Long Beach, which has a significantly higher percentage of renters and low-income residents than the Belmont Shore/Naples neighborhood.

The results of this research emphasize the need to actively create opportunities for co-production of knowledge and solutions between citizens, city representatives, and scholar-activists. Communities wish to be included in the question-formulation and decision-making process of planning early and often, with sustained attention to the social and cultural appropriateness of adaptation solutions. Moreover, the distribution of climate mitigation funding should be prioritized through the lens of social equity and climate justice, giving priority to frontline communities. Lastly, increased citizen education and community engagement can help raise awareness of environmental exposure to climate-related hazards, and contribute to co-ownership of place-based green infrastructure solutions. My engagement with coastal management, climate mitigation and adaptation planning, and the political implications of considering environmental justice and equity in these arenas, helped to lead me to become a recipient of a 2019 Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington D.C. Beginning in February 2019, I will be serving as the Science Education Fellow for NOAA’s Office of Education, helping to coordinate nationwide educational alliances with institutions and organizations, and developing climate resilience educational programming through environmental literacy grants. I am very grateful for the support of the Margaret Trussell Scholarship and the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers of my thesis research, and look forward to continuing this important work in my future position with NOAA.

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# 2018 Student Awards



Botanical Gardens, Tucson, Arizona

## **Tom McKnight and Joan Clemens Award for an Outstanding Paper, Doctoral Level**

Name: Kate Shields  
Affiliation: University of Oregon  
Title of Paper: The “Imaginary Line” Crossed Me: Changing Understandings of Science in Trump’s First Year

## **Tom McKnight and Joan Clemens Award for an Outstanding Paper, Master’s Level**

Name: Katie Wade  
Affiliation: CSU Long Beach  
Title of Paper: The Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Indigenous Women in Yosemite Valley

## **Christopherson Geosystems Award for Best Applied Geography/Earth Systems Paper (PhD)**

Name: Barbara Quimby  
Affiliation: San Diego State University  
Title of Paper: A Geographic History of Samoan Coastal Resource Management

## **Harry and Shirley Bailey Award for the Outstanding Physical Geography Paper**

Name: Marcella Rose  
Affiliation: CSU Northridge  
Title of Paper: Fine-scale Delineation of Coppice Dune Fields & Potential for Topographic Change on the Black Rock Playa, NV

## **President’s Award for Outstanding Paper, Master’s Level**

Name: Katherine Georges  
Affiliation: CSU Long Beach  
Title of Paper: Just a Little Rain: The Effects of Lifting Water Restrictions on Local Water Purveyors’ Conservation Policies

## **President’s Award for an Outstanding Student Poster**

Name: Christopher Bargman  
Affiliation: University of Nevada, Reno  
Title of Poster: The Long Tail of the English Language: Emergence of Newly Coined Words Through Time and Space

**Margaret Trussell Scholarship**, \$1000 each  
Kate Shields (Univ. of Oregon, PhD)  
Katherine Georges (CSU Long Beach, MA)

**Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship in Cultural Geography**, \$500  
Leanne Silvia (Univ. of Nevada, Reno)

**NEW AWARD: Eugene Hoerauf Scholarship for Studies in Cartography and/or GIS** (\$200 plus a year’s membership and conference registration, including field trip, BBQ, and Banquet)  
Kati Perry (Univ. of Oregon)  
Zhe Wang (Univ. of Idaho)

**Latina/o American Travel Scholarship** (\$200 each, or \$300 with presentation):  
Jesus Alfaro Contreras (CSU Los Angeles), \$300  
Fiona De Los Rios (Univ. of Oregon), \$300  
Lourdes Ginart (Univ. of Oregon), \$300  
Tatiana Lopez (CSU Los Angeles), \$200

**African Descent Student Travel Scholarship** (\$300, with presentation):  
Jason Ward (UC Los Angeles)

**Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship** (\$300, with presentation):  
Ethan White Temple (Univ. of Idaho)

**Women’s Network Travel Grant Recipients**, \$200 each, plus a year’s membership and luncheon ticket) (Bios on page XX):  
Araceli Alvares (CSU Los Angeles)  
Aliona Galkina (San Diego State Univ.)  
Lourdes Ginart (Univ. of Oregon)  
Tatiana Lopez (CSU Los Angeles)  
Barbara Quimby (San Diego State Univ.)  
Kate Shields (Univ. of Oregon)  
Maria Antonia Scopu (UC Berkeley)  
Thyda Uy (CSU Long Beach)

**AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at a Regional Meeting**, \$1,000 in funding for use towards registration and travel costs to the AAG Annual Meeting. Award was split between:  
Katie Wade (CSU Long Beach)  
Katie Georges (CSU Long Beach)

# 2018 Student Awards

Canyon de Chelly, Arizona

## 2018 Travel Grants (\$200 each).

We had committed to giving 20 grants, but added two to accommodate everyone.

Clare Beer (UC Los Angeles)  
Jonathan Bratt (Arizona State University)  
John Crowell (University of North Alabama)  
Fiona De Los Rios (University of Oregon)  
Shiloh Dietz (University of Oregon)  
Luis Devera (CSU Northridge)  
Katherine Georges (CSU Long Beach)  
Lourdes Ginart (University of Oregon)  
Katie Guetz (Northern Arizona University)  
Li Huang (University of Idaho)  
James Major (Northern Arizona University)

Benjamin Marcovitz (CSU Northridge)  
Samuel Nowak (UC Los Angeles)  
Sean Pries (UC Davis)  
Barbara Quimby (San Diego State University)  
Marcella Rose (CSU Northridge)  
Jamie Seguerra (CSU Northridge)  
Katie Shields (University of Oregon)  
Thyda Uy (CSU Long Beach)  
Katie Wade (CSU Long Beach)  
Zhe Wang (University of Idaho)  
Hayden Wilkes (University of North Alabama)

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## Special Thanks!

For the tenth year in a row, starting with the San Diego meeting, **Bill Bowen** has covered the cost of the Award Banquet dinner at the Reno meeting for all student first-presenters who applied: thirty-one in all, for a total of \$620. Bill and Kathy attended the conference, including the banquet, receiving a warm round of applause for their generosity.

Thanks once again to **Robert** and **Bobbé Christopherson** for funding their two GeoSystems awards (\$500 each), first presented at the Olympia meeting in 2012. They were unable to attend the Reno meeting, but sent their best wishes.

Not until a few weeks after the Reno meeting did we have a new *Pacifica* editor to pick up where Vienne Vu left off, but **Lily House-Peters** has stepped forward and added this to her growing list of APCG service. Last year she became co-chair of the Women's Network, and also chaired the Nominations Committee. A number of CSU Long Beach students attended the Reno meeting, I presume with Lily's encouragement.

My personal thanks to **Elena Givental** for bravely (or maybe foolishly?) agreeing to take over for me as Treasurer, after all these years. We're working closely together to make it a smooth transition. Members can help her by renewing promptly!

Thanks to **Janet Collins** at Western Washington, and her friends and colleagues, who have contributed \$10,700 to the Eugene Hoerauf Fund. Its first awards were made this year at the Reno meeting. Their goal of raising \$25,000 may take awhile, but the point was to encourage students interested in cartography and/or GIS to experience a professional meeting. Their colleague Gene Hoerauf helped them for years in those two subjects, so the important goal is already being met.

Finally, thanks to **Scott Bassett** at UNR, who did a heroic job of making our annual meeting a success. He had lots of help from colleagues, but without his tireless effort, ability, and aplomb, it might not have happened. Final numbers are not yet in, but they should be comfortably in the black when the last bills have been paid.

—Bob Richardson

# 2018 APCG Women's Network Travel Grant Winners

**APCG Women's Network Coordinators:** Lily House-Peters (CSU Long Beach) & Katherine Sammler (CSU Maritime)

**Maria Antonia** (undergraduate student, U.C. Berkeley)

**Bio:** Maria Antonia is a geography and film major, global poverty and sustainability minor, undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. She holds two Associate degrees in humanities and natural sciences from Pasadena City College, including Outstanding Achievement in Geography during the 2017-2018 academic year, awarded by the Natural Sciences department. Her main interests are the demographic and geographic impacts of gentrification on communities of color throughout the Los Angeles area, and the film industry's significant role in these changes. She has lived in over eleven different neighborhoods during her nine years in Los Angeles, working in the entertainment industry and observing many of these transformations first-hand. Her focus includes television's "pilot season" and the turnover rate of people moving to Los Angeles from all over the country and the world during this time. She fully intends on pursuing graduate school in hopes of becoming a professor at one of California's Community Colleges, as well as producing films that are written and directed by women.



**Aliona Galkina** (undergraduate student, San Diego State University)

**Bio:** As an undergraduate student in Human Geography and Global Studies program in at SDSU, Aliona has watched her interest in the field of Geography grow and evolve into a life-time passion. Aliona's primary areas of study are concentrated around the issues of environmental (in)justice, migration, marginal communities within the US and around the globe, and the effects of the climate change on the developing countries. In Spring 2017, Aliona took part in undergraduate community research project in Mt Hope (Southeastern San Diego), an area identified as a "food desert" by USDA. With predominantly Hispanic/Latino, Afro-American, and Asian population, 30% living below the poverty line, Mt Hope has a strong sense of identity and a vision for creating a healthier and stronger community through the Good Food District initiative and a community garden. The group did research on food options currently available to the residents, given consideration to low mobility rates and income insecurity. Having immigrated to the U.S. on her own at the age of 17 in search of education and equality, Aliona is hoping to be able to incorporate personal experience into her work, promoting natural environment and healthy living conditions in a society that thrives on diversity.



**Lourdes Ginart** (M.S. student, University of Oregon)

**Bio:** Originally from Miami, Florida, Lourdes Ginart is currently pursuing a M.S. in Geography at the University of Oregon. With a focus on human geography, Lourdes' research aims to investigate the role of science diplomacy in the science-policy interface, specifically in regards to global change research and policy in Latin America. Her research works to develop the AAAS-driven concept of science diplomacy as a logic and a practice that allows for a renegotiation of power and power dynamics between scientists, academia, policy and decision-makers, and other institutions. Through a case study of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), Lourdes' research explores how the renegotiation of power, the practice of science diplomacy, is crucial in (1) facilitating collaborative, international, and transdisciplinary work, and (2) minimizing geopolitical tensions and scientific colonialism.



**Tatiana Lopez** (M.A. student, CSU LA)

**Bio:** I will be graduating from Cal State LA in 2019 with a Master of Arts Degree in Geography. I'm a full-time NASA-Direct STEM researcher as well. I'm passionate about researching climate change and the causes such as: anthropogenic and environmental. My thesis research project is "Validating NASA's GPM (Global Precipitation Measurement) satellite data with ground-based stations in Arctic regions". The core of my research project is to confirm GPM is running accurate in that region and to then further develop other future research in that region. Although my research topic leans towards physical geography, I'd like to be able to investigate more anthropogenic factors that correlate to climate change such as policies and urbanization. Lastly, I'm also aspiring to become a community college professor in Geography.



...continued on next page

# 2018 APCG Women's Network Travel Grant Winners

...continued from previous page

**Barbara Quimby** (PhD student, San Diego State University & UC Santa Barbara)

**Bio:** Barbara Quimby is a PhD Candidate in Geography in the Joint Doctoral Program at San Diego State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara, and will complete her dissertation in May of 2019. Her dissertation employs a mixed-methods approach to examine issues of social equity and community participation in small-scale fisheries and coastal resource management in Samoa. Her research interests include human-environment dynamics, gender and power in natural resource governance institutions, sense of place in marine contexts, and environmental conservation and sustainability. Barbara recently led research on urban subsistence fishing in Santa Barbara County, and studied small-scale fishing practices in Indonesia for her Master's thesis. She has taught courses in Sustainable Places and Practices, the Geography of the U.S., and Cultural and Physical Anthropology. Barbara grew up in Long Beach, California, and prior to graduate school, worked for The Nature Conservancy.



**Kate Shields** (PhD student, University of Oregon)

**Bio:** Kate Shields is a PhD student at the University of Oregon. She has previously worked in a biochemistry lab, been the technical director of a small theater in Istanbul, Turkey, and conducted applied development research at the Water Institute at UNC on water, sanitation and hygiene. She holds master's degrees from the University of Michigan in International Health & Epidemiology and Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Kate's current interests in geography revolve around human-environment interactions and the political ecology of health. Her dissertation research will interrogate the imaginary of catastrophe of the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan and re-tell the story to consider how residents understand and remember loss – of their sea, their communities, their livelihoods, and sometimes even the lives of their children and parents from toxic exposure.



**Thyda Uy** (B.A., CSU Long Beach)

**Bio:** I am a student at California State University, Long Beach studying physical geography with an emphasis on urban environments using geospatial methods (GIS). Currently, I am interested in sustainable urban planning and the merge between natural environments/resources and urban landscapes. My research analyzes disparities in access to green space which functions as an ecosystem service providing recreation, climate change mitigation and improved psychological health. Access to green space is widely known as an indicator for improved public health in metropolitan areas which are increasingly becoming more densely populated, polluted, and congested. Studies have proven that these spaces are not equally dispersed among socio-demographic groups. Using geospatial techniques, I will visualize where the disparities lie and which factors are the greatest influencers. I hope that my research can someday contribute to the introduction of natural features back into urban landscapes in order to reduce environmental degradation for a more sustainable and equitable future.



**Araceli Alvares** (Undergraduate student, CSU-Los Angeles)

**Bio:** I am studying Environmental Geography at California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA). I chose to focus on the Environment because it is a subject that I am very passionate about. Pollution on this planet has gotten increasingly worse and has begun to affect all living things and the environment negatively. I believe that through the power of education this issue can be managed and eventually brought under control.



# Feature Article 3

## Farming and Drought: Decision Making by Tulare Basin Farmers

Katherine Georges

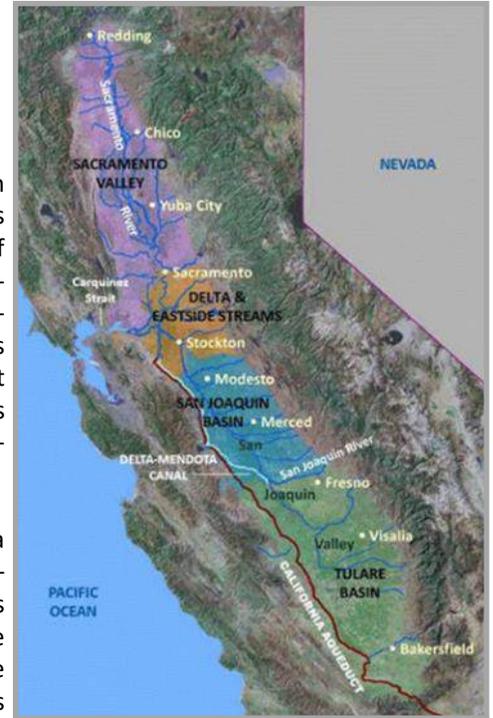
M.A. Student, Geography, California State University, Long Beach

Recipient of the 2018 APCG Margaret Trussell Scholarship

Agricultural practices, watering methods, and crop choices will always be a hot topic in California's Central Valley, as it is a major part of California's economy. This area grows the fruit, vegetables, and produces the milk, not only for the state but a large portion of the United States and exports overseas as well. The vast amount of agricultural production and high water demand strains California's water resources and water security, resulting in a delicate balance year after year. Recent drought years worsen this strain as most of California's water demand is in the south while its precipitation and snowmelt supply is in the north (ACWA, 2017). Farmer's crop choices and irrigation methods throughout California have a great effect on not only our economy but our land and water resources.

These farmers do their best to work with the land to produce the crops we rely on as a nation, however this use of the land does not come without some critique by non-agricultural users. Cities often try to promote reducing our water usage while farmers call for increased infrastructure in our water supply. How we use our water, and how we promote or support agriculture in California is an ever controversial topic as the debate over recent prop 12 and prop 3 show. Prop 12 was on restricting the sale of chicken eggs without proper cage sizes that many animals' rights groups supported, and farmers disliked as unnecessary oversight that would result in higher egg prices (Chronicle Editorial Board, 2018). Prop 3 was another water bond investment that farmers in Tulare County supported (Merkley, 2018), while city users in LA disliked the bond (Times Editorial Board, 2018).

A great example of these differing perspectives on agriculture is the heated Tulare City Council meetings over the summer discussing the removal of the former Mayor Carlton Jones. Carlton Jones, a firefighter and mayor of a major agricultural area, criticized agricultural practices as hurting the land and water resources, and harming public health in a heated debate on social media. This sparked public outcry from the Tulare citizens, farming groups, and other nearby counties, as not only Tulare County, but Tulare Basin as a whole is a major agricultural producer. Calls for the mayor's removal and protest at the next city council meeting were sent out (Romero & Woomer, 2018). I attended the two city council meetings in Tulare on June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> to hear what the agricultural community had to say to their city council. These groups, like My Job Depends on Ag, claim they use the land but do not degrade the very land their jobs depend on.



Map of California's Central Valley



Hundreds of locals flood Tulare's city council meetings in June, both times filling council chambers and this overflow room (Photo & Caption: Klein, 2018)

There is a need to understand the farming perspective and decision making process of these farmers in this area of Tulare Basin. There is a difference in understanding, perspectives, or communication between the farming community and the general public that is removed from agricultural production. I will attempt to bridge this gap in perspectives by investigating the decision making processes and influences on farmers in the Tulare Basin area. I am attempting to answer: How does drought change farming practices? What economic, community, or risk perception factors influence their decisions? I hypothesize that economic, community and risk perceptions will greatly affect farming decisions and lead to proactive responses during a drought and reactive responses between droughts.

My research pulls from the frameworks of political ecology and risk culture, and builds off of previous research done on farmer's influences and decision making processes. The field of political ecology focuses on following the decision maker by tracing their direct influences and widening out to larger social and environmental contexts.

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## Feature Article 3

...continued from page 19

Additionally Robbin's (2004) hybridity thesis calls for research focused on first world producers, through their social networks and contextual hierarchies. Douglas and Wildavsky's (1984) risk culture is also relevant, as an area's history and cultural influences affect community perceptions of risks that in turn influence individual's reactions to risks such as droughts. Previous studies done on San Joaquin Valley farmers have shown that farmer's practices are influenced by their education levels and previous experiences with drought (Dijil Grogan, Borisova 2015). Economic models like Zilberman (2002) have also shown farmers are greatly influenced by economic incentives. These frameworks and influences are seen in research on third world Jamaican yam farmers identifying political economic and risk perception influences, while studies on northern California wine producers reveal expanding social networks affecting farming decisions. Third world farmers focus on risk mitigation with limited resources while northern Californian farmers had resources to experiment for profit maximization (Beckford 2002; Nicholas & Durham 2012). Tulare Basin farmers may have more economic resources than Jamaican farmers but they work with reduced water supply compared to northern Californian farmers.



*Agricultural company Gar Tootelian handed out signs and hats reading "My job depends on ag" from a lot across the street from a crowded Tulare city council meeting on June 19, 2018 (Photo & Caption: Klein, 2018)*

I am still in the data gathering phase of my project as I focus on farmers in Tulare County and Kern County within Tulare Basin, the southernmost basin of the Central Valley. Previous studies focusing on farming practices used a mix of questionnaires, interviews, and group discussion (Mertz et al. 2008; Beckford 2002; Dijil, Grogan, and Borisova 2015). Following previous studies I will use the qualitative methods of surveys and in-depth semi-structured interviews to analyze my subjects. I will distribute flyers with an online survey link, to gather general trends. Then field work will be done in the area through participant observation and in-person interviews with local farmers and the water districts that serve them. These interviews will give the chance to highlight administrative perceptions on farming practices and allow in depth discussion of the influences behind farming decisions not picked up in the survey. The money from the Margaret Trussell Scholarship will go to offsetting travel costs for this research.

These farmers choices matter, and understanding why they choose the crops and practices they do, and how they respond to different social, economic, and environmental pressures is vital to ensuring proper agricultural and water management in the future as droughts become more frequent and intense in California.

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**Photos & Photo Captions:** All photos and photo captions are from Klein, K. 2018. "A Dairy Town, A Facebook Argument, And the Unseating of a Mayor ." *Valley Public Radio*, June 26, 2018. Retrieved from: <http://www.kvpr.org/post/dairy-town-facebook-argument-and-unseating-mayor>

# Treasurer's Report

October 27, 2018, The Joe, University of Nevada, Reno  
Robert T. Richardson, Sacramento State Univ.  
Transactions for July 1, 2017--June 30, 2018

<b>Forward at close of books, 7/1/17</b>		<b>\$137,270.62</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Dues		\$11,048.00
AAG Regional Allocation		\$1,500.00
YEARBOOK (UHP yr ending 6/30/15)		\$7,598.88
YEARBOOK (UHP yr ending 6/30/16)		\$11,363.73
Interest on Regular Accounts		\$225.65
Net profit from Chico meeting		\$6,671.17
General contributions (Plane, Vermeer, Ferguson, Freidel, McNally, Comeaux, Rodrigue)		\$555.00
AAG contribution for GeoBowl (no team showed up in NO)		\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$38,962.43</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
APCG 2017 Conference Grants & Awards		\$3,600.00
Student Travel Awards (no GeoBowl)	\$2,800.00	
President's Awards (inc. Area Studies)	\$800.00	
Corporate Filing Fee (Olympia, WA)		\$10.00
PayPal charges		\$340.49
WildApricot annual fees		\$1,728.00
Membership: renewals, ballots, etc.		\$177.09
YEARBOOK v.77		\$2,981.91
YEARBOOK v.78		\$5,802.18
YEARBOOK v.79		\$7,974.86
YEARBOOK v.80		\$1,700.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$24,314.53</b>
<b>Balance on books, 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$151,918.52</b>
<b>SPECIAL FUNDS</b>		
Bailey Scholarship Fund (forward 7/1/17)		\$1,601.90
(\$200 award and \$3.00 interest)		-\$197.00
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$1,404.90</b>
McKnight/Clemons Scholarship Fund (forward 7/1/17)		\$10,632.50
(\$200 award and \$21.68 interest)		-\$178.32
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$10,454.18</b>
Margaret Trussell Memorial Fund (forward 7/1/17)		\$44,571.31
(\$2,000 grants, \$89.25 interest, and \$140.00 contributions)		-\$1,770.75
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$42,800.56</b>
Women's Network Travel Grant Fund (forward 7/1/17)		\$4,929.55
(\$675 grants, \$930 contributions, \$0.00 luncheon net, and \$10.09 interest)		\$265.09
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$5,194.64</b>
Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship Fund (fwd 7/1/17)		\$28,550.95
(\$500 grant, \$1,519.00 contributions, and \$59.98 interest)		\$1,078.98
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$29,629.93</b>
Latin American Travel Scholarship Fund (forward 7/1/17)		\$9,239.87
(\$0 in grants, \$790 contributions, and \$19.70 interest)		\$809.70
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$10,049.57</b>
Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship Fund (fwd 7/1/17)		\$3,379.18
(\$0 in grants, \$140 in contributions and \$7.11 interest)		\$147.11
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$3,526.29</b>
African Descent Student Travel Scholarship Fund (fwd 7/1/17)		\$2,944.51
(\$0 in grants, \$95 in contributions and \$6.19 interest)		\$101.19
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$3,045.70</b>
Christopherson Geosystems Award Fund (forward 7/1/17)		\$4.25
(\$1,000 in awards, \$2,100 in contributions, and \$.31 interest)		1,100.31
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$1,104.56</b>
Eugene Hoerauf Scholarship (forwarded 7/1/17)		\$0.00
(\$0 in awards, \$10,671.86 in contributions, and \$14.74 interest)		\$10,686.60
<b>Balance 6/30/18</b>		<b>\$10,686.60</b>

# Membership

## New Members

Welcome to these 114 new members who have joined since the list in the Spring 2018 issue (\*asterisk denotes a former member who has rejoined). Most joined in order to attend the Annual Meeting in Reno.

Skyla Alcon	Derek Emmons	Kevin Krzyston	Kebrina Rosino
Jesus Alfaro Contreras	Shane Fields	Jennifer Lange	David Russell
Araceli Alvares	Matthew Fockler	Jennifer Lipton*	Chantel Saban
Jeff Auer	Monica Ford	Scott Lopez	Vincent Salazar
Engrid Barnett*	Aliona Galkina	Tatiana Lopez	Carol F. Sawyer
Daniel Basubas	Catherine Garoupa White	Yanjie Luo	Cortney Schmidt
Kyle Baumann	Katherine Georges	James Major	Maria Antonia Scopus
Michael Beland*	Bruce Goff	Spenser Mangold	Mony Sea
Heather Benson*	Eileen Goff	Benjamin Marcovitz	Wyatt Sebourn
Elijah Boswell	Laurel Golden	Scott Markwith	Jamie Segueria
Douglas Boyle*	Ilan Gonzalez-Hirshfeld	Ryan Miller	Ashlee Sellung
Cedar Briem	Russell Graves	Sanan Moradi	Kate Shields
Liesel Cardoza	Hector Guardado	Eric Nielsen	Sarah Smith
Rosangela Carreon	Katie Guetz	Christopher Notto	Lauren Stachowiak
Darrell Carvalho	Segnide Guidimadjege	Amalie Orme*	Jesse Tenenbaum*
Richard Catlin III	Grant Harley	Zachary Ormsby	Ronnie Thibault
Teresa Cohn*	John Harner	Erika Ornouski	Benjamin Timms*
Neil Conner	John Harrington Jr*	Neysha Pacheco-Colon	Carlos Tovares*
Arica Crootof*	James Hayes*	Anjana Parandhaman	Dustin Tsai
Adam Csank	Taren Hayward	Eileen Pena	Christina Uh
Danielle D'Alfonso	Sierra Higheagle	Lauren Phillips	Thyda Uy
Fiona De Los Rios	Scott Hinton	Veronica Poston	Katie Wade
Christina DeCorse	Alison Hotten*	Nicholas Priddy	Megan Walsh
Dan Deegan	Steven Hromada	Rosaleya Quinto	Zhe Wang
Shiloh Deitz	Li Huang	Nyssa Rayne	Penny Watson
Luis Devera	Anna Johnson	Samantha Redman	Ethan White Temple
Anudeep Dewan	Christine Johnson*	Sophia Reyes	Hayden Wilkes
Erika Duarte	Eiko Kitao	Kathrine Richardson	Don Woods
	Leilani Konyshev	Kerry Rohrmeier	

## Special Funds Contributions

Since the Spring 2018 listing \$2,445 in new contributions have come to our Special Funds, as follows: \$465 to the Women's Network Travel Grant fund, \$260 to the Larry Ford Fieldwork Scholarship in Cultural Geography fund, \$165 to the Latina/o American Travel Scholarship fund, \$40 to the Indigenous Student Travel Scholarship fund, and \$15 to the African Descent Student Travel Scholarship fund, \$100 for the Margaret Trussell Scholarship fund, \$1,100 for the Eugene Hoerauf Scholarship fund, and \$300 in General contributions. All donations made in the last two years, whether by check or PayPal, are now logged into our [apcg.wildapricot.org](http://apcg.wildapricot.org) site, in case you want to check your contributions. Thanks to the following for their support:

Mary Elizabeth Braun	Jeffrey P. Schaffer
Robert W. Christopherson	Norman R. Stewart
Jessie H. Clark	Joanne Scott Wuerker
Mari & Christy Cook	
Vicki Drake	
Richard A. Eigenheer	
Maria Fadiman	
Barbara Fredrich	
Gail Kucera	
L. HoMana Pawiki	
Christine Rodrigue	
Gundars Rudzitis	
Rose M. Sauder	

## The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Inc.

Department of Geography  
Sacramento State University  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6003

Click on the links below to visit the APCG!

