

# GSAG Newsletter

Spring 2019

Graduate Student Affinity Group  
[www.gsagaag.org](http://www.gsagaag.org)  
[gsag.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gsag.chair@gmail.com)

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**GSAG Travel Award  
Deadline: Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Application: [Here](#)

## GSAG Officers

Chair: **Doug Allen**, Florida State University

Vice-Chair: **Rachael Cofield**, Florida State University

Secretary: **Aubry Kyle**, Louisiana State University

Treasurer: **Sorrel Stetson**

Community Builders:

**Aperr Naadzenga**, Antioch University

**Shadi Maleki**, Texas State University

## Message from the Chair

*Doug Allen, PhD Candidate, Florida State University*

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you well in your life, well in your studies, and well in your preparations for AAG in DC! I wanted to begin with informing you about the hard work your officers have been doing on your behalf over the summer and through the fall semester. As a transitional group that, thankfully, graduates our members and officers out of being in the Graduate Student Affinity Group, maintaining steady and reliable access to the multiple forms of communicating with our members is an important and difficult part of the transition each year. Your officers have worked diligently to gain access to our social media accounts (namely Twitter and Facebook) and original website URL (which I shall now shamelessly plug: [www.gsagaag.org](http://www.gsagaag.org)).

They have worked to create policies and content ideas to ensure successful transitions of media accounts and to provide informative content going forward. As part of this, we have an operational website that will continue to be updated with information (some of which will be driven by you). I am particularly excited about our current and future content that will provide tips for those unfamiliar with annual meeting cities and a list of awards, honors, and grants available to graduate students (a list that we hope you will help us grow). This newsletter has been saved as a template, and we plan not only to start issuing it 3 times a year but also hosting them on our website soon.

Finally, I'd like to thank my GSAG Chair elders (Brian Williams, Ana Ivelisse Sanchez-Rivera, and Mia Renault), for the foundation they left and the inspiration to continue improving. I would also like to thank the officers listed to the left of this column for their hard work and interest in serving this important group at the AAG.

## Get Ready for AAG 2019 in Washington, DC

The 2019 AAG Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 3rd-7th of 2019 in Washington, D.C. Luckily for us grad students, D.C. is a particularly budget-friendly city to navigate, whether you choose to focus on the meetings, explore our lovely capitol, or extend your stay and make time for both. Here are some tips and tricks for enjoying yourself without breaking the bank.

### Get to Know D.C Transit

- The Washington Metro is clean, inexpensive, and easy to navigate, making car rentals an unnecessary cost and hassle. A transit trip planner can be found on the Washington Metro homepage: <https://www.wmata.com/>.
- The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park and the Omni Shoreham in the Woodley Park neighborhood of Washington, DC, located on Metro's Red Line near the Woodley Park

### Take Advantage of the MANY Free Attractions

Washington D.C. is home to a wealth of national treasures. Many monuments, memorials and museums are free. National Gallery of Art? The White House? National Cherry Blossom Festival? National Museum of African American History? Yep. ALL of these and more are free of charge! Put together a list of which you'd like to see, because some of the most popular attractions, while free, do require advance reservations.

- Zoo-Adams Morgan Station. Here is a link to a Metro Map: <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/maps/>
- All three local airports connect to D.C. transit, so feel free to price shop for the best deal. Additionally, the AAG has partnered with United to offer meeting attendees a travel discount, as well as with Lyft to offer attendees a ride discount. Find out more about these offers here: <http://annualmeeting.aag.org/travel>
- Download a D.C. Metro transit App before you arrive to reduce travel stress! The DC Metro and Bus App works on both Android and Apple devices: <http://www.dcmetroapp.com/>

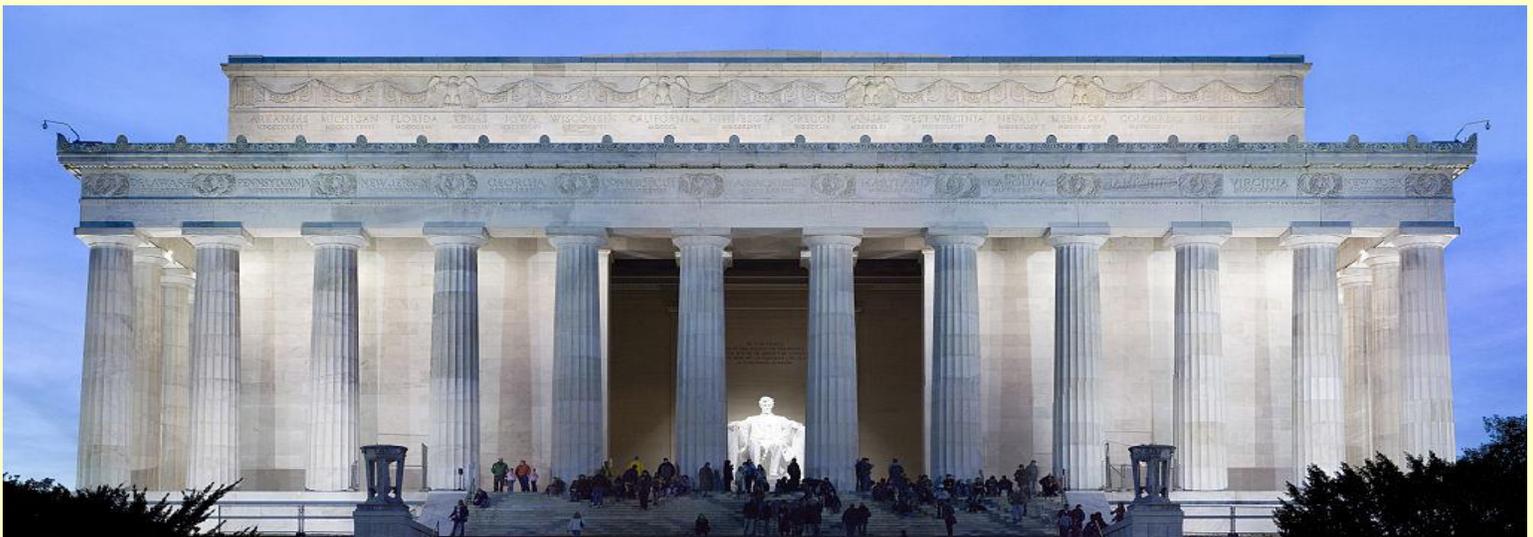


**JOIN US IN WASHINGTON DC**  
AAG ANNUAL MEETING • APRIL 3-7, 2019

Join 6,000+ attendees giving 7,000+ presentations spanning the breadth of geography. Participate in career training and networking, attend special events including prominent speakers, learn new skills at workshops, and explore surroundings through offered field trips. The exhibit hall includes publishers showcasing the latest books and textbooks in geography, geospatial technology, and the geosciences as well as organizations demonstrating available datasets, software, and technologies for use in education and research. The 2018 AAG Annual Meeting included 30 sessions sponsored by the Geography Education Specialty Group and 160+ presentations about Geography Education.

- World Class Museums
- Cherry Blossom Festival
- Historic Monuments
- International Embassies and Federal Agencies
- Unique Geography
- Dynamic Food Scene
- Diverse Art and Architecture

**AAG** AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS [www.annualmeeting.aag.org/meeting@aag.org](http://www.annualmeeting.aag.org/meeting@aag.org) @theAAG



## Apply for an Award!

### *GSAG Travel Award*

The Graduate Student Affinity Group offers travel grants for graduate students in need of financial assistance to attend AAG. This competitive grant is available for graduate students who are attending AAG 2019 in Washington, D.C. The application for travel awards is open and will be circulated via the GSAG listserv. Applicants will have until January 25th, 2019 to complete their submissions. Award Recipients will be notified in March.

### *Specialty Group Awards for Graduate Students*

Have you joined a specialty group for your area of research interest? There are 72 specialty groups within the AAG, so you're certain to feel at home somewhere. That's right, 72! Many specialty groups are sponsoring awards to honor the achievements of graduate students within their specific fields of study and help with the costs of conference attendance. Check directly with your specialty group to find out the full scope of what awards might be available to help defray costs. To see all of the available speciality groups, visit here:

<http://community.aag.org/specialtygroups/allspecialtygroups>



*Doug Allen, John Fraser Hart Award Winner at SEDAAG Regional Meeting.*



*Apper Naadzenga, New Sustainability Coordinator at Antioch University, New England.*

## Award Winning GSAG Members 2018!

### Doug Allen - Florida State University

Doug Allen's paper "Asserting a Black Sense of Place: Florida A&M University's Homecoming as a Temporary Claim of Place" won the John Fraser Hart Award at Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG) Regional Meeting.

### Aubry Kyle - Louisiana State University

Aubry Kyle was the second place Graduate Student Paper Award winner at Southwestern Division of American Association of Geographers (SWAAG) Regional Meeting.

### Aperr Naadzenga - Antioch University, New England

Aperr became the first international student to become the New Sustainability Coordinator at Antioch University, New England and was selected to serve as a graduate student volunteer for the City of Keene, New Hampshire's Energy and Climate Protection Committee!

**Tell us what awards, grants, or honors you've earned!**

**Send a description and photo of yourself to [gsag.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gsag.chair@gmail.com) to be featured here in a future newsletter and a shout out on the Facebook page!**

## 2019 AAG Early Career Workshop

The early career workshop is open to graduate students and faculty who are just beginning their careers in higher education -- instructors, lecturers, assistant professors, and other untenured faculty. The one-week program is open to faculty from all types of teaching and research institutions inside and outside the US. The workshop, sponsored by the American Association of Geographers, focuses on topics which are frequently the greatest sources of stress in the first years of a faculty appointment, including:

- Developing significant learning experiences for your students
- Career planning
- Time management
- Getting the most out of academic conferences
- Ethics in research, teaching, and advising
- Nuts-and-bolts issues about writing and publishing
- Preparing a CV, job search and interviewing
- Promoting collegiality
- Preparing for the tenure process
- Balancing personal and professional life

The workshop touches on issues of teaching and learning, particularly those revolving around designing effective courses, issues of diversity and inclusion, and active pedagogy. The goal of the workshop is to help participants balance the many responsibilities of academic life and to understand how their teaching, research, service, outreach, and personal lives intersect and interconnect. Most participants have built lasting networks among themselves and with workshop leaders.

You do not need to be a member of the American Association of Geographers to register for the workshop or to enter the website. Follow the instructions to "Sign Up" for a temporary password if you are not an AAG member. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis.

### 2019 AAG EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP

June 23-29 • Washington, D.C.  
George Washington University  
Registration deadline: June 1, 2019

**T**he Geography Faculty Development Alliance (GFDA) Early Career Workshop is a program designed for graduate students and faculty who are beginning their careers in higher education— instructors, lecturers, assistant professors, and other untenured faculty. The goal of the workshop is to help participants balance the many responsibilities of academic life and to understand how their teaching, research, service, outreach, and personal lives intersect and interconnect.

The workshop addresses teaching and learning, particularly topics revolving around designing effective courses, issues of diversity and inclusion, and active pedagogy. Topics also include the most frequent sources of stress in the first years of a faculty appointment:

- ▶ Developing significant learning experiences for your students
- ▶ Career planning
- ▶ Time management
- ▶ Getting the most out of academic conferences
- ▶ Ethics in research, teaching, and advising
- ▶ Nuts-and-bolts issues about writing and publishing
- ▶ Preparing a CV, job search and interviewing
- ▶ Promoting collegiality
- ▶ Preparing for the tenure process
- ▶ Balancing personal and professional life

Participants will also have an opportunity to meet, learn with, and share some meals with those attending the Department Leadership Workshop being held during the same week. Most participants have built lasting networks among themselves and with workshop leaders.

George Washington University's department of geography will host this summer workshop on its centrally-located Foggy Bottom campus in the heart of Washington, D.C.

A minimum of 25 participants are needed to meet the costs of the workshop. If fewer are enrolled as of May 15, the workshop may be cancelled and all funds returned to participants.

Questions about the workshop may be sent to Michael Solem (msolem@aag.org).

**REGISTRATION FEES:**

**\$1,250** includes a single dorm room, breakfasts, lunches, refreshments, three dinners, supplies, meeting rooms, computer network and printing access, graduate student support staff, and support for the workshops and teaching staff leaders.

**\$800** excludes dorm room and breakfast for participants wishing to make their own housing arrangements, but includes all other activities and meals.

*Often participants' home departments or colleges pay all or part of the workshop cost, so please check with your chair, advisor, or dean about fellowship opportunities.*

All participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Reagan National Airport is a short taxi or Metro ride away from the workshop venue. Baltimore-Washington International Airport and Dulles International Airport are about an hour away by airport transportation to public transit connections.

You do not need to be a member of the American Association of Geographers to register for the workshop or to enter the website. Follow the instructions to "Sign Up" for a temporary password if you are not an AAG member. Sign in to your account, if you are a member. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis.



[www.aag.org/gfda](http://www.aag.org/gfda)



I'd like to end with a couple of plugs/requests for the group:

- 1) GSAG Travel Award deadline is Feb. 8
- 2) We'd love to include member driven content. Send us your honors, awards, grants, etc...and let us push that content (gsag.chair@gmail.com)
- 3) Similarly, send us your publications so we can push that out to our members
- 4) Finally, and not last, please think about serving on our leadership team next year. Nominations will begin soon and voting will take place at the business meeting at AAG (details to come). Plenty of opportunities to make a real impact!