

**The Graduate Student Affinity Group
of the Association of American Geographers
2016 Report**

1) Mission Statement: To support the graduate students of the AAG by increasing participation of graduate students in the life of the profession and by better preparing graduate students for careers in Geography.

2) Dues Information: \$3 dues for all members.

3) Membership

Chair: Ana Sanchez-Rivera (2016-2017), Vice Chair: Mia Renauld, Past-Chair: Brian Williams, Treasurer: Deborah Ayodele, Secretary: Maël Le Noc, Community Builders: Jon Magee and John Ponstingel.

4) Accomplishments: In 2015-2016, GSAG continued to increase its enrollment. We attribute this in part to the ability of members to add specialty groups at any time throughout the year, and in part to direct outreach that we have engaged in, directly contacting graduate student groups at various universities. In 2016, GSAG conducted a survey of its membership and received 142 responses. This survey found that a significant majority of GSAG members were in a PhD program, and that a balance of professional development, advocacy, and networking resounded with members. Sara Diamond, GSAG's council representative, and Brian Williams, the 2015-2016 chair, were a part of the process of planning for a full voting member of the AAG council. This is an important step for the council and for graduate students, but it does mean that the council representative position will soon be unaffiliated with GSAG. GSAG also, as always, organized a number of events at the AAG annual meeting (see below).

a. Activities Scheduled:

- The Welcome to the AAG panel at the annual meeting, presented in conjunction with the AAG.
- The GSAG plenary address by Dr. Linda Peake: "The new 'normal': states of mental being, graduate students and the Anglo-American academy".
- GSAG business meeting.
- GSAG mixer at Swig in San Francisco.
- GSAG also sponsored a number of sessions at the AAG, which we publicized via email and through our newsletter.

b. Future Plans and Directions

In the coming year, GSAG plans to continue what we have been doing, while making an increasing effort to reach out to MA students and undergraduates who plan to pursue graduate degrees. A significant part of this is by expanding and updating our online presence.

c. Business Meeting at the AAG Annual Meeting

In the business meeting, outgoing GSAG chair Brian Williams presented an overview of the previous year, GSAG presented professional development awards, and held elections for 2016-2017 officers.

d. Student Paper Awards

In 2016, GSAG presented 5 professional development awards, which were awarded to students presenting original work at the AAG annual meeting. These awards were based upon a combination of merit and need, and selected from a field of over 60 applicants.

e. Newsletter information

GSAG published our annual newsletter in March. In the future, we plan to return to bi-annual newsletters.

f. 2017 annual meeting plans for Boston.

GSAG plans to once again co-host the Welcome to the AAG event with the Association, organize a plenary, conduct a business meeting, and hold a social event.

5) Membership and Participation

GSAG is comprised of Graduate and Professional students at the AAG, although our membership is also open to prospective graduate students and recent graduates. Our numbers have grown from only 12 in roughly 2007 to 1,300 today, making the Graduate Student Affinity Group the AAG's second-largest specialty or affinity group.

6) Financial Report

Balance as of 8/31/2016: **4,785.68** (see below).

8/31/15	Balance forward		\$ 4,592.18
9/30/15	Dues collected for Sept. 2015	243.00	4,835.18
10/31/15	Dues collected for Oct. 2015	1,224.00	6,059.18
11/30/15	Dues collected for Nov. 2015	345.00	6,404.18
12/31/15	Dues collected for Dec. 2015	192.00	6,596.18
1/31/16	Dues collected for Jan 2016	330.00	6,926.18
2/29/16	Dues collected for Feb 2016	219.00	7,145.18
3/29/16	AM16 Awards Luncheon		(165.00) 6,980.18
3/28/16	Chen - Professional Development Award		(250.00) 6,730.18
3/28/16	Thomas - Professional Development Award		(250.00) 6,480.18
3/28/16	Steckley - Professional Development Award		(250.00) 6,230.18
3/28/16	Renauld - Professional Development Award		(250.00) 5,980.18
3/28/16	Wyrzten - Professional Development Award		(250.00) 5,730.18
3/8/16	Swig - AM2016 Reception		(1,517.50) 4,212.68
3/31/16	Dues collected for Mar 2016	180.00	4,392.68
4/30/16	Dues collected for Apr 2016	48.00	4,440.68
5/31/16	Dues collected for May 2016	66.00	4,506.68
6/30/16	Dues collected for June 2016	81.00	4,587.68
7/31/16	Dues collected for July 2016	75.00	4,662.68
8/31/16	Dues collected for Aug 2016	123.00	4,785.68
8/31/16	BALANCE		4,785.68

7) Suggestions for Council