

**Graduate Student Affinity Group  
of the Association of American Geographers  
2018 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/Leadership**

Chair: Mia Renauld (2017-2018), Vice Chair: Doug Allen, Past-Chair: Ana Sanchez-Rivera, Treasurer: Kristin Smith, Secretary: Maël Le Noc, Community Builders: Melva Treviño-Peña, Melissa Bernardo, Maël Le Noc

**4) Accomplishments:** In 2017-2018, GSAG focused on building a strong, supportive graduate community. While GSAG increased its enrollment, it did not increase as much as we had anticipated and have developed a plan for the next calendar year to help with recruitment. We have increased our communication to the GSAG community through newsletters that were released in two issues. These newsletters included information about opportunities, graduate student publications, and hot-button issues that concern graduate students. We have put together some ideas for next year's committee to increase our online presence and to have more communication with our GSAG community. At the 2018 AAG, GSAG hosted two social events rather than one at the request of the GSAG community. While it was organized because of GSAG members ask, the second event was not as well attended as we had hoped and will continue next year with only one social event to network and bond graduate students. Additionally, in 2017, at the ask of AAG president Derek Alderman, we surveyed our GSAG population about their wants, needs, and opinions about the annual AAG conference in addition to other graduate issues.

**a. Activities Scheduled:**

- The Welcome to the AAG panel at the annual meeting, presented in conjunction with the AAG.
- The GSAG plenary – this year, a spotlighted session – was organized by Dugan Meyer and Aretina R. Hamilton and entitled: “The Words We Dare Not Speak: Navigating Mental, Emotional Psychological Sites of Trauma in the Academy.” It featured Toni Alexander, Linda Peake, and Alisa Shockley.
- GSAG business meeting.
- GSAG lunch at Oceana Grill and GSAG bowling social at Fulton Alley in New Orleans.
- 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 masters students who plan to pursue graduate degrees and to international graduate students. A significant part of this is by expanding and

updating our online presence and through recruitment calls promoting the annual conference in the fall.

**c. Business Meeting at the AAG Annual Meeting**

In the business meeting, outgoing GSAG chair Mia Renauld presented an overview of the previous year, GSAG presented professional development awards, and held elections for 2018-2019 officers.

**d. Student Paper Awards**

In 2018, GSAG presented 7 professional development awards, which were awarded to students presenting original work at the AAG annual meeting. Because enrollment increased, there were sufficient funds to increase the awards from 5 to 7. These awards were based upon a combination of merit and need and selected from a field of over 95 applicants. The number of applicants for this award greatly increased from previous years.

**e. Newsletter information**

GSAG published our annual newsletter in March that highlights all the activities at AAG and the year of GSAG work. We also sent a newsletter in January to ring in the new year. We plan on having three newsletters this coming term.

**f. 2019 annual meeting plans for Washington DC.**

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. We also plan to sponsor sessions that focus on student instruction, disciplinary diversity, and graduate student mental health. We are also working on ways to advocate for geography and education while in proximity to lawmakers.

**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 well over 1,250. We hope to continue growing our membership and to increase various modes of participation through online forums like Facebook, Instagram, and the launch of a new website.

**6) Financial Report**

Balance as of 7/3/2018: **4,371.65** (see below).

<b>8/31/17</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>			<b>6,156.68</b>
<i>8/31/17</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>			<i>\$ 6,156.68</i>
9/30/17	Dues collected for Sept. 2017	252.00		6,408.68
10/31/17	Dues collected for Oct. 2017	1,038.00		7,446.68
11/30/17	Dues collected for Nov. 2017	288.00		7,734.68
12/31/17	Dues collected for Dec. 2017	108.00		7,842.68
1/31/18	Dues collected for Jan 2018	189.00		8,031.68
2/28/18	Dues collected for Feb 2018	186.00		8,217.68
3/12/18	Renauld - AM18 Reimbursement		(150.00)	8,067.68
3/12/18	Allen - AM18 Reimbursement		(50.00)	8,017.68
3/30/18	AM18 Awards Luncheon		(110.00)	7,907.68
3/30/18	Diaz - Professional Development Award		(250.00)	7,657.68
3/30/18	Velednitsky - Professional Development Award		(250.00)	7,407.68
3/30/18	Tome - Professional Development Award		(250.00)	7,157.68
3/30/18	Barbero - Professional Development Award		(250.00)	6,907.68
3/30/18	Dowtin - Professional Development Award		(250.00)	6,657.68
3/30/18	De Carvalho - Professional Development Award		0.00	6,657.68
3/30/18	Smyth - Professional Development Award		(250.00)	6,407.68
3/31/18	Dues collected for March 2018	84.00		6,491.68
4/10/18	AM18 Awards Luncheon		(55.00)	6,436.68
4/20/18	Allen - AM18 Reimbursement for social		(1,932.03)	4,504.65
4/4/18	Murillo Sandoval - Professional Development Award		(250.00)	4,254.65
4/30/18	Dues collected for April 2018	78.00		4,332.65
5/31/18	Dues collected for May 2018	39.00		4,371.65
<b>5/31/18</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>			<b>4,371.65</b>

## 7) Suggestions for Council