

Graduate Student Affinity Group American Association of Geographers 2020 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 student for careers in Geography.
2. *Dues Information:* \$3 for all members
3. *Membership/Leadership:*
 - a. **Chair:** Rachael Cofield (Florida State University)
 - b. **Vice Chair:** Dacotah-Victoria Splichalova (University of British Columbia)
 - c. **Past Chair:** Doug Allen (Middle Tennessee State University)
 - d. **Treasurer:** Natallia Leuchanka Diessner (University of New Hampshire)
 - e. **Secretary:** Joshua Merced (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
4. *Accomplishments*
 - a. **Activities Scheduled:** The challenges the 2019-2020 year posed served as a significant factor to making the broader impacts on AAG's graduate student community we anticipated with respect to involvement in the annual meeting and additional programming throughout the year. However, organizational and logistical improvements were made to prepare for the 2020-2021 year, and years to follow. The tradition of "Past Chair Donation" was awarded to the Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group on behalf of Past Chair Doug Allen.
 - b. **2020 Annual Meeting:** GSAG anticipated organizing and sponsoring the following sessions at the face-to-face annual meeting: Welcome to the AAG session, GSAG Plenary, GSAG Business Meeting, "Future Space, Imagined Space and Imaginaries," "An open discussion on engaging your classes in research," and "Addressing Experiences of Mental Health and Power Structures for Early Stage Geographers."
 - i. **GSAG Travel Awards:** We received 62 applicants for the 2020 award cycle and were able to award five (5) \$250 awards. The recipients of the 2020 GSAG Travel Award were:
 1. Onursal Erol – University of Chicago
 2. Shee Siew Ying – National University of Singapore
 3. Shelby Loft – University of British Columbia
 4. Sylvia Cifiuentes – University of California, Santa Barbara
 5. Theresa Hice Johnson – University of California, Santa Cruz
 - c. **Newsletter Information:** Two newsletters were released during the 2019-2020 year. The newsletters are made accessible in the GSAG website (gsagaag.org) under the "Graduate Student Resources" tab. Highlights from the newsletters include:
 - i. *Fall 2019 Newsletter:* Recognizing GSAG Chair Rachael Cofield and her work with adding pronouns to nametags to continue fostering an inclusive annual meeting experience, promoting the 2020 GSAG Travel Award application cycle, recognizing three self-submitted graduate student awards and honors, promoting the AAG Dissertation Research Grant and the Job Board, and a recap from the 2019 annual meeting in Washington DC.
 - ii. *Spring/Summer 2020 Newsletter:* Recap of 2020 virtual annual meeting, promoting participation in regional meetings, recognizing three self-submitted graduate student awards and honors, and promoting the call for nominations for the 2020-2021 GSAG Board.

- d. **Membership and Participation:** As of October 8, 2020, at the time of this document's preparation, AAG's Knowledge Communities reflect a total of 902 members. The following table shows the membership trends during the 2019-2020 year.

2019		2020	
MAY	12	JANUARY	81
JUNE	6	FEBRUARY	23
JULY	12	MARCH	16
AUGUST	29	APRIL	22
SEPTEMBER	58	MAY	14
OCTOBER	327		
NOVEMBER	67		
DECEMBER	19		
Total	530	Total	156

- e. **Future Plans and Directions & 2021 Annual Meeting:** In July 2020, elections for the 2020-2021 GSAG Board took place via Google Forms and circulated through Knowledge Communities. The following individuals were elected – Chair: Josh Merced (University of North Carolina at Greensboro), Vice Chair – Gwyneth Manser (University of California, Davis), Treasurer – Natallia Leuchanka Diessner (University of New Hampshire), and Secretary – Brittany D. Jones (University of Toledo). The new board is excited to challenge their creativity with the 2021 Annual Meeting hybrid plans. The board is considering temporarily suspending the Travel Award process and introduce a Research Grant cycle in consideration of the limited travel opportunities COVID-19 permits. The new board also hopes to increase social media engagement and expand the anti-harassment and mental health resource repository found on the website.

5. Financial Report

The available balance for GSAG as of 08/31/2020 is **\$6,834.65**

8/31/19	Balance forward			\$4,755.65
09/30/19	Dues collected for Sept. 2019	174.00		4,929.65
10/31/19	Dues collected for Oct. 2019	981.00		5,910.65
11/30/19	Dues collected for Nov. 2019	201.00		6,111.65
12/31/19	Dues collected for Dec. 2019	57.00		6,168.65
01/31/20	Dues collected for Jan 2020	243.00		6,411.65
02/03/20	Transfer to Indigenous SG		(250.00)	6,161.65
02/29/20	Dues collected for Feb 2020	69.00		6,230.65
03/31/20	Dues collected for Mar 2020	48.00		6,278.65
04/30/20	Dues collected for April 2020	66.00		6,344.65
05/31/20	Dues collected for May 2020	42.00		6,386.65
06/30/20	Dues collected for June 2020	45.00		6,431.65
07/31/20	Void - Lee CK#23974 dated 4/02/19 and return to AG	250.00		6,681.65
07/31/20	Dues collected for July 2020	57.00		6,738.65
08/31/20	Dues collected for August 2020	96.00		6,834.65
8/31/20	BALANCE			6,834.65

6. Suggestions for Council

- a. **Student Representative on the Board of National Councilors:** It would be nice to have a defined vision for the Student Representative in terms of role with the Graduate Student and the Undergraduate Student Affinity Groups.