

LATIN AMERICA SPECIALTY GROUP

Business Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2009

Skybox Room 206, Riviera Hotel

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

LASG Officers in Attendance:

Margaret Wilder, University of Arizona, Chair

Joe Scarpaci, Virginia Tech, Vice-Chair

Taylor E. Mack, Louisiana Tech University, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, call meeting to order

2. Secretary/Treasurer's Report, by Taylor E. Mack, Secretary/Treasurer

- Balance of LASG Account from the AAG

- Feb 28, 2009 - \$7,088.22

- monies spent between March 2008 and February 2009 on two Field Study Awards @ \$500.00 each and 2 student paper awards, one at \$400.00 and one at \$200.00

- Membership

- Total – 481 members

- Student Members – 221 (45.95% of the membership)

- Non-Student Members – 260 (54.05% of the membership)

3. Old Business

- none

4. New Business

a. Joe Scarpaci, LASG Vice-Chair, proposes that LASG should work with the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) to encourage members of each group to join the other group. Analysis of both groups membership lists shows there is not much overlap between the groups. The LASG executive committee believes that both groups would benefit from such a project.

b. Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, proposes that LASG work together with CLAG to coordinate the student field study awards of both groups. Some students and faculty were confused when both groups called for student proposals for the field study awards, not being aware that both groups had awards with different criteria. Members of the CLAG Executive Committee who were attending the LASG Business meeting agreed, and arrangements were made to work over the summer and finalize coordinated student field study award proposals and dates for 2010.

c. Announcement of Student Awards

Student Awards: A total of \$1650 will be awarded for the LASG Field Study Award and the LASG Student Paper Award for 2009.

2009 LASG Field Study Award:

Zoe Pearson, The Ohio State University, "Oil, Conflict and Territory in Yasuni National Park, Ecuador." \$300 (Master's level)

Brittany Davis, University of Arizona, "Unintended Ecologies of Marine Protection: Exploring Livelihood Adaptations and Ecological Outcomes in Utila, Honduras." \$600 (Ph.D. level)

2009 LASG Best Paper Award:

Emma Mullaney, University of Miami (Ohio). \$250 (Master's level)

Anne-Marie Hanson, University of Arizona. \$500, (Ph.D. Level)

d. LASG Sponsored Session at AAG 2009 Las Vegas – Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, reported that there were 19 sessions sponsored and co-sponsored by the LASG, covering a wide range of topics.

e. LASG Special Session for AAG 2010 Washington, D.C., Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, discussed LASG sponsoring a special session for the Washington DC 2010 meeting. The suggestion was to have a panel discussion with a Q&A session and general discussion after the panelists finished. The suggested topic was Ethics in Field Work. The LASG Executive Committee will work to put this together over the summer and fall of 2009.

5. Election of New Secretary/Treasurer – Taylor Mack, LASG Secretary/Treasurer, had finished his 3 year term and was not running for re-election in order to give other LASG members a chance to serve. Nominations were opened, and Claudia Radel was nominated. It was proposed to close nominations and accept Claudia Radel by acclamation. The proposal was accepted and passed. Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, thanked Taylor Mack for his years of service to LASG.

6. Adjournment. Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, proposed for adjournment of the meeting, the proposal was accepted and passed by acclamation.

7. LASG & CLAG Joint Special Reception – after the business meeting adjourned LASG & CLAG sponsored a joint reception for members of both groups to socialize, network, and provide and relaxed atmosphere for general discussions of Latin America research by geographers.