

LATIN AMERICA SPECIALTY GROUP  
Business Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2011  
6:30-7:00 pm  
Room 604, Washington State Convention Center  
Seattle, WA, USA

**LASG Officers in Attendance:**

Craig S. Revels, Central Washington University, Chair  
David S. Salisbury, University of Richmond, Vice-Chair  
Claudia Radel, Utah State University, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Craig Revels, LASG chair, called the meeting to order and presented the agenda.

2. **Treasurer's Report**, by

The secretary/treasurer, Claudia Radel, went over her report. The report is attached to these minutes.

3. **2011 LASG Student Awards**

The vice-chair, David Salisbury (and chair of the selection committee for the best paper award) announced the student winner (Peter D. Richards) of the Best Paper Award, at the PhD level, and presented the check. No award was made this year for best student paper at the masters level. The chair, Craig Revels, announced the student winners (Gary R. Schnakenberg and Laurel Bellante) of the Field Study Awards. The checks will be mailed following the AAG meetings, as these two winners were not present at the LASG business meeting.

- Best Paper Award (PhD level) \$500: Peter D. Richards, Michigan State University, *Fuel to the Fire: On how currency fluctuations generated the South American soy boom*
- Field Study Award (PhD level) \$600: Gary R. Schnakenberg, Michigan State University, *Food, Tourism, and Globalization: Revitalizing Smallholder Agriculture in Jamaica?*
- Field Study Award (MA/MS level) \$300: Laurel Bellante, University of Arizona, *Emerging Alternative Food Networks in Chiapas, Mexico*

4. **Officer Elections: Secretary/Treasurer**

As the two-year term of office for the current secretary/treasurer (Claudia Radel) was ending directly following the AAG meetings, The chair, Craig Revels, sought nominations for incoming secretary/treasurer over several months leading up to the business meeting. One nomination was received for **Steven Rainey** (McNeese State University) and no additional nominations were proffered from the floor. Steven Rainey was unanimously elected by voice vote of the membership. Outgoing secretary/treasurer, Claudia Radel, briefly raised the issue

of moving the hosting of the LASG website to the institution of the incoming secretary/treasurer and this move will be pursued over the coming months.

#### **5. Discussion of Remaining Business from 2010 Meeting**

The chair, Craig Revels, reminded the membership of the tasks set forth for the LASG officers last year, around the issues of research ethics and the AGS Bowman Expeditions/México Indígena controversy. He informed the membership that no additional action was required: The previous chair, Margaret Wilder, had completed her assumed task of coordinating with AAG on the production of a new research ethics training module. Additionally, Craig reported that following several exchanges with the Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group, no further action was required on the San Miguel Tiltepec events.

#### **6. New Business from the Chair**

The chair, Craig Revels, reported that new opportunities are in the works for AAG-server hosting of specialty group websites and other online content.

No other business was raised by the officers or the membership and the meeting was adjourned, to be followed immediately by the annual CLAG business meeting.

Association of American Geographers  
Specialty Groups Financial Report  
February 28, 2011  
**Latin America Specialty Group**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
8/31/09	<i>Balance forward</i>			<b>\$ 5,077.48</b>
	Dues, Sept. 2009 - Feb. 2009	994.00		6,071.48
	Dues, Mar. 2010 - Aug. 2010	520.00		6,591.48
4/6/10	Garmany - Best Paper Award		(500.00)	6,091.48
4/15/10	Haeckel - PhD Student Field Study Award		(600.00)	5,491.48
4/15/10	Klinger- PhD Student Field Study Award		(600.00)	4,891.48
4/15/10	Davis - MA Student Field Study Award		(300.00)	4,591.48
4/22/10	LASG/CLAG 2010 B. Meeting Reception		(500.00)	4,091.48
8/31/10	<i>Balance forward</i>			<b>\$ 4,091.48</b>
	Dues, Sept. 2010 - Feb. 2011	1,266.00		<b>5,357.48</b>
	All Student Awards 2011		(1,400.00)	3,957.48

**Current LASG Membership**  
(8 April 2011)

526 total  
248 student members (47 %)  
278 Non-student members (53 %)

Compare to:  
537 members on 8 April 2010 (45 % student)  
477 members on 13 April 2009 (41 % student)

Current LASG Membership Dues: Regular \$8, Student \$2,  
(AAG Developing Regions Program \$0)