

**AAG - MOUNTAIN GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP (MGSG)
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

- Report -

Submitted by outgoing chair Ulrich Kamp, and Ellen Stein, Mountain Studies Institute
101th Meeting of the Association of American Geographers
April 2004, Denver, CO

The Mountain Geography Specialty Group (MGSG) annual meeting was held in Denver in conjunction with the 101th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. There were 41 attendees.

1. Welcome (Kamp)

Ulrich Kamp, Chair, welcomed the group and handed out the meeting agenda and the report of the annual business meeting 2004 in Philadelphia. Ellen Stein, Mountain Studies Institute, took notes of the meeting.

2. Approval of 2004 Minutes (Kamp)

The report from the MGSG annual meeting in 2004 was approved.

3. Chair's Report (Kamp)

Ulrich Kamp informed the group about the actual budget of MGSG. As of March 2004, MGSG has a balance of \$2,047.44, which has grown modestly over the past few years. No expenses have been reported since the account balance. The account is managed for MGSG by AAG. During the last year, MGSG's membership increased from 201 to 217. The improved AAG online service keeps specialty group membership lists updated. The most actual list can be downloaded by the specialty group chair.

Incoming AAG president Dick Marston made brief comments on the growth of AAG in general and the increasing number of presentations. At the 2005 AAG centennial meeting more than 3,500 papers and posters will be presented. Many members of MGSG are concerned about the quantity of presentations. As discussed during the MGSG meeting in 2004, the focus should be on quality. Again, members recommended installing a review process for the abstracts by a MGSG review committee. The committee should work out abstract guidelines, set session topics in advance, and invite elected speakers. For the 2005 meeting, MGSG had organized nine special sessions with around 50 speakers. Seven of those were co-sponsored by other specialty groups, and six sessions of other specialty groups were co-sponsored by MGSG.

Ulrich Kamp had developed a new MGSG webpage. The webpage includes information on mission, people, meetings, awards, and links. It also includes the program of MGSG sessions at AAG annual meetings. In September 2005, the webpage will move

from its actual location at DePaul University to The University of Montana. Ulrich Kamp will serve as the webpage administrator.

At the specialty groups chairs meeting, the new AAG online service was explained. The sites can be linked to SG websites. They are quite flexible, even containing capabilities for discussion, bulletin board, and archival functions. Regarding the increasing number of SG sessions at AAG meetings, SGs should consider using poster sessions and illustrated poster sessions to alleviate some of the pressure. AAG suggests that SGs organize more joint sessions and install a review process for abstracts. AAG stakeholders need to be communicating with the outside world, in many cases not just through the media. Directors of regional AAG sections are interested in getting assistance from SGs for organizing regional meetings. AAG has passed a resolution stipulating that any AAG-affiliated field trip (including SG trips) must be open to all AAG members. Exceptions must be requested and granted explicitly.

4. Centennial Project Discussion (Kamp and Shroder)

Ulrich Kamp, Marcus Nüsser, and Jack Shroder will submit a proposal for a book on the history of mountain geography. Different approaches (historical, topical, regional, etc.) were presented and briefly discussed. All MGSG were invited to contribute ideas, suggestions, and chapters.

5. Appointment of Chair and Election of Secretary (Kamp)

Alton Byers, Secretary and Treasurer, will be chair of MGSG for the period 2005/06. He will organize the mountain sessions for the AAG annual meeting in Chicago in 2006. Ulrich Kamp called for nominations for secretary-treasurer for the period 2005/06, and, after his nomination, George Malanson (University of Iowa) was elected by enthusiastic consensus.

6. Appointment of New Awards Committee Member(s) (Kamp)

Ulrich Kamp called for nominations or volunteers to serve on the MGSG Awards Committee. After her nomination, Lynn Resler (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) introduced herself to the group and was elected by enthusiastic consensus. She will join Phil Keating and Martin Lafrenze on the committee.

7. Mountain Studies Institute (Stein)

Ellen Stein, Executive Director, reported on the MSI facilities and activities. MSI offers field-based courses for undergraduates and a minor in mountain studies. She encouraged all MGSG members to visit the MSI website and to pass on information about MSI to students. MSI hired and announced new staff: Dr. Koren Nydick, Research and Education Director; Stephanie Reigh, Operations Manager; Dr. Jill Baron, new board member; Dr. Dan Fagre and Dr. Jack Ives, advisory board members. MSI offers a new

mini-research grants program. A minor in mountain studies is close to being approved at Fort Lewis College, Durango – the first of its kind at the college level.

8. Mountain Research and Development Journal (Wachs)

The MRD journal managing director Dr. Ted Wachs described the journal and tried to enlist new subscribers. The journal has approximately 400 paying subscribers and can be found in nearly 500 institutions in developing countries.

9. Journal of Alpine Research (Amilhat-Szary)

The Journal of Alpine Research was introduced by Anne-Laure Amilhat-Szary, Institut de Géographie Alpine, Grenoble, France. This international, multidisciplinary journal is published in French and English, hitherto unpublished scientific papers on regional and environmental problems concerning the Alpine Arc and European mountain areas. Analyses of other mountain areas of the world may also be included in issues dealing with a comparative theme. Areas of interest include: alpine geography, sustainable development, future of the Alps, good air quality.

10. Other Business (Kamp)

Ulrich Kamp thanked all advisory board members for their work and support. All MGSG members were invited to join the Physical Geography Reception.

11. Awards (Malanson)

George Malanson presented the MGSG 2005 awards to the following persons:

The **Award for an Outstanding Student Presentation in Mountain Geography** goes to Meredith Knauf, University of Colorado, for her presentation “*Rock Glaciers as a Source of Nutrients to Alpine Ecosystems: An Aquatic Conundrum*”.

The **Outstanding Student Research Proposal Award in Mountain Geography** to Keith Bosak, University of Georgia, for his proposal “*Nature, Conflict, and Biodiversity Conservation in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve*”. The award is \$500.

The **Award for Outstanding Recent Achievement in Mountain Geography** to Michael Bishop and Jack Shroder, University of Nebraska – Omaha, for their new book “*Geographic Information Science and Mountain Geomorphology*”. Both recipients commented on interesting experience of reciprocity between GIS science and mountain geography.

The **Award for a Distinguished Career in Mountain Geography** to Carol Harden, University of Tennessee for her exemplary field research, work in nature, work with

people, and contributions to mountain geography. Carol thanked her colleagues, students, friends, and family. However, her inner strength originates in the mountains themselves.

As in 2004, Dick Marston donated the award plaques. Carol Harden, Michael Bishop and Jack Shroder were sponsored to attend the awards luncheon.