

**Mountain Geography Specialty Group, AAG  
Annual Report 2008**

**Submitted by Matthew Bekker (Filling in for Mark Fonstad), Chair, and Lynn Resler, Secretary-Treasurer**

**Mission Statement.**

The MGSG serves to foster communication, promote basic and applied research, enhance education, and encourage service related to mountain peoples and mountain environments, and their interactions.

**Dues Information:**

Any member of the AAG can become a member of the MGSG upon selection of the specialty group interest box on the AAG annual dues form and payment of specialty group dues. There are two classes of membership, regular and student. Both classes of members can vote at the specialty group meeting. Dues are \$5.00 for regular members and \$3.00 for students.

**Officers and Organizers for the 2008-2009:**

Chair: Matthew Bekker

Secretary/Treasurer: Lynn Resler

Awards Committee: Don Friend (Chair), Carol Sawyer, Grant Elliot

Founding Committee: Karl Birkeland, Kevin S. Blake, Barbara Brower, Alton Byers,  
Leland R. Dexter, Donald A. Friend, Katherine J. Hansen, Richard  
Marston

Webmaster: Ulrich Kamp (Web site: <http://www.umt.edu/aagmountains/>)

**Actions 2008 Meeting:**

(16 people present at meeting)

Accomplishments

Period of service for MGSG officers. Voted to have each officer run a 2 year term, coupled, and staggered.

**(Reminder from 2007)** Naming of the MGSG Awards. Voted to name awards after mountains or ranges rather than after people. Individual names:

- (1) Career award: Chomolungma/Everest/Sagarmatha Career Award
- (2) Recent Achievement Award: Denali Recent Accomplishment Award
- (3) Students Proposal Award: Chimborazo Student Research Grant Award
- (4) Student Presentation Award: Mauna Kea Student Presentation Award

Activities Scheduled:

The MGSG hopes to organize several sponsored sessions at the 2009 AAG.

Future Plans and directions:

The MGSG would like to initiate standing special sessions at the AAG. Two ideas for standing sessions were Treelines and a GIS in Mountain Geography session. Both of these sessions should emphasize a multidisciplinary perspective. To have our sessions co-sponsored with other SGs, contact the other group chairs, and try to initiate cross-connections among groups.

Reminder: The AAG has a special membership category by which people who are resident in and citizens of financially strapped countries (about 2/3 of nations) can join the AAG and receive electronic access to publications for \$20/yr. We agreed that the MGSG would sponsor some of these as nominated by the membership. Nominate!

Other notes from 2007 Annual business meeting:

Journal reports, Calls for papers;

*Mountain Research and Development* will likely change its publication mode. They want feedback, especially about the option of going online.

*Geography Compass* and *Physical Geography* - George Malanson

*Mountain Science* – an announcement was made in behalf of Don Friend

Election of Secretary-Treasurer (rises to chair in 2010)

Lynn Resler, nominated and elected

New Chair, 2008-2010 (Matt Bekker)

Election of new Awards Committee members

Carol Sawyer, Grant Elliot (student representative)

Awards:

Chimborazo Student Research Grant Award: Evan Larson, University of Minnesota, “Forest Dynamics in High-elevation whitebark Pine Forests: Natural Variability in Critical Mountain Ecosystems”

*Runner up* – Grant Elliot, University of Minnesota

Student Presentation Award: Dan Weiss, University of North Carolina, “A Multiscale Spatial Analysis of Hypothesized Controls on the Alpine Treeline Ecotone in the Western United States”

Denali Recent Accomplishment Award: Mark Williams, INSTARR (snow hydrology)

Chomolungma/Everest/Sagarmatha Career Award: George Malanson, University of Iowa

**Current membership:** 210 (87 students, 123 non-students)

**Current account:** \$

New expenditures: \$500 student proposal award

\$300 physical geography reception