

**AAG 1998 Specialty Group Report —  
Human Dimensions of Global Change Specialty Group**

- I. **Review of SG statement:** The SG statement at the AAG Web-site is appropriate and correct.
  
- II. **HDGC Specialty Group Officers:** (all have the two-year term, 1998-2000).

**Chair**

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**III. Statement of SG accomplishment, plans, and directions.** The topic of human dimensions of global change had a high profile at the 1999 Annual Meeting in Hawaii. The HDGC Specialty Group, which now boasts over 200 dues-paying members, co-sponsored 10 sessions and the attendance at those sessions ranged from good to excellent. At least eight additional sessions that were not co-sponsored by the specialty group but had significant HDGC content (such as the Geography in America nature-society session) also did well. (Note that to minimize the proliferation of AAG specialty groups and sessions and to promote the interdisciplinary nature of the Human Dimensions of Global Change, the specialty group does not sponsor sessions without at least one co-sponsor.)

The specialty group has distributed three electronic newsletters to its members in the past year. It has also distributed several ad hoc announcements by email. The Web-site has moved to Penn State (<http://www.essc.psu.edu/hdgc/>) where it is presently undergoing an overhaul, which will be complete soon.

The HDGC Specialty Group will sponsor a student paper competition at the Pittsburgh 2000 meeting. Kirstin Dow (University of South Carolina), Karen Smoyer (University of Alberta), and William Solecki form the judging panel for this year's competition. Guidelines for submissions will be available at the specialty group's Web-site after 1 October. Starting with the 2000 Annual Meeting, Elsevier Science Ltd. will be sponsoring the competition and providing \$100 worth of Elsevier or Pergamon books for 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, \$50 worth of books for 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, and \$25 worth for 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize. In addition, prizewinners

will receive a year's subscription to the Elsevier journal *Global Environmental Change — Human and Policy Dimensions*.

Representatives of the group (Diana Liverman, Billie Lee Turner, and Brent Yarnal) are contributing to the *Geography in America* volume edited by Gaille and Willmott. The title of the chapter, "The Human Dimensions of Global Change," is taken from name of the specialty group.

At the Pittsburgh 2000 meeting, the specialty group will elect new officers and will host a reception for members after the business meeting. Presently, the specialty group is co-sponsoring a series of sessions on urban physical geography and environment, as well as a number of individual special sessions.

**IV. Membership and participation.** There are 204 members of the HDGC Specialty Group in 1999, up from 164 in 1998 and 37 in 1997. This rapid growth underscores a field that is dynamic and expanding. Geographers are central to this interdisciplinary field and many of our members are actively engaged in HDGC at national and international levels. They participate not only as researchers and teachers, but also as organizers and leaders. The more senior of our members expend their energies nationally and internationally, so they tend to take a supportive and enthusiastic, but secondary role in the specialty group. Thus, the most active people in the specialty group tend to be recent PhDs. By the number of co-sponsored special sessions and the attendance, overall participation appears to be very good.

**V. A. Account Information:** Human Dimensions of Global Change/AAG/Chittenden Bank, Two Burlington Square, Burlington, VT 05402. Savings Account #0-01-5111742

**B. Income and Itemized Expenses for Calendar Year 1998.**

**Balance January 1998** **\$ 503.65**

Income:

Specialty group member dues	\$618.00
Interest	20.99
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Total income	\$638.99

Expenses:

Student paper award	\$ 25.00
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Total expenses	\$ 25.00

**Balance December 1998**

**\$1,117.64**

**C. Estimated Income and Expenses for 1999 and 2000.**

Estimated income:

Specialty group member dues	\$700.00
<u>Interest</u>	<u>40.00</u>
Total income	\$740.00

Estimated expenses:

Special speaker (reg. & expenses)	\$500.00
<u>Reception</u>	<u>400.00</u>
Total expenses	\$900.00

**Estimated balance April 2000**

**\$ 967.64**

**VI. None.**

Attached: Aug98\_HDGC\_Newletter.doc, Aug99\_HDGC\_Newletter.doc,  
Mar99\_HDGC\_Newletter.doc