

AAG 1999-2000 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

Outgoing Officers

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III. STATEMENT OF SPECIALTY GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENT, PLANS, AND DIRECTIONS

At the Pittsburgh 2000 meeting, the Specialty Group co-sponsored 15 sessions and the attendance at those sessions ranged from good to excellent. An important aim of the HDGC Specialty Group is to promote the interdisciplinary nature of the Human Dimensions of Global Change by co-sponsoring sessions. (In fact, the by-laws prohibit the sole sponsorship of sessions by the Specialty Group). In Pittsburgh, 13 specialty groups co-sponsored with HDGC, including: Climate; Cryosphere; Economic; Energy and Environment; Geomorphology; GIS; Hazards; Mountain; Political; Regional Development and Planning; Remote Sensing; Russian, Central Eurasian and East European; and Water Resources.

At the annual business meeting in Pittsburgh, the Specialty Group elected new officers and hosted a reception for members before and after the business meeting. The most important order of business was the establishment of new by-laws. The changes included the following points:

- The Chair and Secretary-Treasurer are elected to two-year terms in even calendar years (e.g., 2000, 2002).
- The Secretary-Treasurer is automatically on the ballot for the Chair at the even-year elections.
- The Secretary-Treasurer will attend the Specialty Group Chairs Meeting at least once before taking office as Chair.
- The number of Directors is reduced from three to two, and one of those positions is for a Young Scholar Director; e.g., graduate students, post docs, and recent Assistant Professors.
- Elections for Directors occur in odd calendar years (e.g., 2001, 2003).

To facilitate these changes, Director James Eflin agreed to continue in that position until the 2001 Annual Meeting in New York. Furthermore, Young Scholar Director Robert Neff agreed to a three-year term to end at the 2003 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The third Director position is open until next year.

The HDGC Specialty Group is in the early phase of sponsoring a student paper competition. For the Pittsburgh 2000 meeting, Kirstin Dow (University of South Carolina), Karen Smoyer (University of Alberta), and William Solecki formed the judging panel. Elsevier Science Ltd. sponsored the competition and providing \$100 worth of Elsevier or Pergamon books for 1st Prize, \$50 worth of books for 2nd Prize, and \$25 worth for 3rd Prize. In addition, prizewinners receive a year's subscription to the Elsevier journal *Global Environmental Change — Human and Policy Dimensions*. There were just two applicants for the Pittsburgh 2000 competition and the judges selected Bill Moseley, Department of Geography, University of Georgia as winner of the only prize. A discussion at the annual business meeting focused on ways to increase the visibility of the competition and to raise the number of applicants. The discussion also refined the rules for future competitions. Specifically, papers authored by more than one graduate student are permissible. If the paper wins an award, then each student will get recognition, but only the first author will receive a prize; the first author can decide how

s/he wants to split the award. The competition will not allow co-authored papers with faculty because the aim of the competition is to promote student work and to give all students an equal chance.

The Specialty Group distributed two electronic newsletters to its members in the past year (attached). It has also distributed several ad hoc announcements by email. Penn State maintains the Web-site at <http://www.essc.psu.edu/hdgc/> where it will remain for at least one more year.

The Specialty Group plans to co-sponsor a plenary session with the Climate Specialty Group at the 2001 Annual Meeting in New York.

IV. MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION.

There are 183 members of the HDGC Specialty Group in 2000. This number is down from the peak membership of 204 in 1999, but up from the 164 in 1998 and 37 in 1997. The membership dip mirrors falling membership in the AAG. Nevertheless, because the Specialty Group is just a few years old, these numbers suggest that HDGC is maturing as an important element of geography.

Geographers are central to the field of HDGC 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 reported in II, above, overall participation appears to be very good.

V. ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Outgoing account

Chittenden Bank, Two Burlington Square, Burlington, VT 05402. Account name: Human Dimensions of Global Change/AAG, c/o Marla R. Emery. Savings Account #0-01-5111742

Incoming account

Wainwright Bank & Trust Company, 63 Franklin St., Boston, MA 02110-1301; voice: 888-428-BANK. Account name: Human Dimensions of Global Change, c/o Susanne C. Moser. Account # 701065549, Routing # 011002550

Income and Itemized Expenses

Calendar year 1999

Balance January 1, 1999		\$1,117.64
Income:		
Specialty group member dues	\$625.00	
Interest	36.79	
Total income	\$661.76	
Expenses:		
None	\$ 0.00	
Total expenses	\$ 0.00	
Balance December 31, 1999*		\$1,779.43

2000 Year-to-Date

Balance January 1,2000		\$1,779.43
Income:		
Specialty group member dues	\$563.00	
Interest	13.21	
Total income	\$576.21	
Expenses:		
Annual Meeting reception	\$304.12	
Total expenses	\$304.12	
Balance April 30, 2000*		\$2,355.64

* \$304.12 disbursement for reception at Annual Meeting will be reflected in the May statement & balance.

Attached: Aug99_HDGC_Newletter.doc, Feb00_HDGC_Newletter.doc