

The California Geographical Society: A Retrospective Look

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THE CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (CGS) is a vibrant organization of geographers from across the state. The strength of the organization has endured over fifty-eight years and currently the CGS is enjoying one of its strongest eras. There are other state geographical societies but none as active and respected as the CGS, which is widely viewed as the premier state geographical society. The CGS hosts a large annual conference; publishes a high-quality academic journal and a professional quality newsletter; awards more than \$2,000 annually in student scholarships and prizes, including an endowed student award; hosts a listserv; and has a diverse membership that includes students, K–12 teachers, community college and university faculty, and applied geographers.

It hasn't always been this way for the CGS. The organization has had periods of instability and uncertainty as well as periods of prosperity. It has had times of visionary leadership as well as times where it has drifted. I write this article from my perspective as a ten-year member and immediate past president. I came to the game relatively late, having attended my first meeting in 1994 (five years after I first arrived in California) at Cal Poly Pomona, at the urging of Joe Beaton. I was immediately hooked, and have not missed a meeting since. I soon became involved in editorial work for the *CGS Bulletin*, knowing that I wanted to associate with, learn from, and grow with this group.

Many members have been active with the CGS far longer than I and know much more than I do about the organization's past. But despite my relatively short history, I have learned a great deal about the organization through a review of the presidential archives and conversations with some of the "old timers." They have provided the insights and perspectives that give the CGS the foundation for its current strength and high standing.

History of the CGS

In 1946 V. Calvin McKim, State Director of the National Council of Geography Teachers and Chair of the Geography-Geology Department at Fresno State College, contacted Clifford Zierer, UCLA Geography Department Chair, suggesting “the possibility of establishing a state council and proposing a meeting” (Carthew 1965, 11). Zierer assigned Henry J. Bruman, Assistant Professor of Geography at UCLA, the task of calling together geography educators from across the state.

Letters of invitation were sent (Figure 1) and on December 7, 1946, a group of seventeen geographers met in Royce Hall at UCLA “to discuss the role of geography in the schools of California and the possibility of organizing a State section of the National Council of Geography Teachers.” (The National Council had been pushing individual states to establish state councils.) Thus began what we now know as the California Geographical Society.

In the immediate years following World War II, geographic educators were seeking to keep geography in the forefront of academic arenas. While the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG) already existed as a professional organization, those at the UCLA meeting felt it focused too heavily on graduate research, and that California needed a geographical organization to address all educational levels. At that meeting in 1946, the seventeen founding members—men and women from universities, community colleges, and high schools throughout the state (Table 1)—organized as the “California Council of Geography Teachers.”

The name of the organization has at times been subject to debate. In 1960, a move to change the organization’s focus from teaching to research forced the membership to consider a name change, but in the end members voted to maintain its mission and name (Carthew 1965). In 1969, after some deliberation, the organization made a minor name change to the “California Council for Geographic Education” (from the “California Council of Geography Teachers”).

By the 1970s, the organization had moved beyond its formative years and began to examine its mission. President Richard A. Ellefsen (1971–72) established a new “Grass Roots Program” that the next president, William J. Frazer (1972–73), continued to implement. According to CGS archival records, the goal of the Grass Roots Pro-

December 2, 1946

Head, Department of Geography
Geography Teacher, or Staff Member
interested in Geography

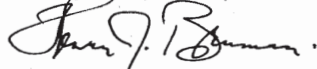
Dear Colleague:

At the suggestion of Dr. V. C. McKim, State Director, National Council of Geography Teachers, we are holding a meeting on Saturday, December 7, in 250 Royce Hall on the U.C.L.A. campus, to discuss the role of geography in the schools of California and the possibility of organizing a State section of the National Council of Geography Teachers. We should like very much to have you attend.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. with a general discussion of the function of geography in education in the California schools. Its role at all educational levels will be evaluated. Luncheon for the group has been arranged at the Tearoom of the Bullocks Westwood. The afternoon will be devoted to an organizational meeting.

A few hotel rooms have been reserved for the night of December 6-7. Please inform me by Thursday at the latest if you need hotel accommodations.

Very truly yours,



Henry J. Bruman
Assistant Professor of Geography

HJB:IQ

Figure 1—H. J. Bruman's 1946 letter.

gram was to aid in the improvement and promotion of geographic education at all levels within the state. This was to be accomplished by developing a regional network of geographers to work on curriculum and teacher credentialing and to organize workshops. As the decade progressed, the CGS became increasingly active, working closely with the K-12 community. President Christopher L. Salter brought higher visibility to the organization through various media outlets and journals.

In 1983, the organization assumed a broader mission and changed its name to the "California Geographical Society" in order to at-

Table 1—CGS Founding Members

Name	School Affiliation
Homer Aschmann	San Diego State College
Ruth Baugh	UCLA
Rex Brittingham	Ventura Junior College
Henry Bruman	UCLA
Arthur Carthew	Los Angeles City College
Myrtle Grenels	Fresno State College
Walter Hacker	San Francisco State College
Cecilia Irvine	University High School, Los Angeles
John Kesseli	UC Berkeley
V. Calvon McKim	Fresno State College
Robert Pease	Hollywood High School
Lauren Post	San Diego State College
Ida Mae Shrode	Pasadena City College
Adolf Stone	Long Beach City College
Alfred Sumner	Stanford University
Walter Willey	El Rodeo School, Beverly Hills
Clifford Zierer	UCLA

tract members outside of education. The past twenty years have seen the CGS build on its solid reputation. In the late 1990s, in an effort to boost student participation, the organization began offering more student scholarships and awards. Students now assume leadership roles, with representatives on the CGS board voicing student needs and concerns.

Leadership

The CGS has enjoyed a strong history of visionary leadership. A total of forty-nine people have served as president of the organization since its inception—thirty-seven from universities or colleges, nine from community colleges, and three from high schools. The initial convener, V. Calvon McKim, served as the first president. Not surprisingly, the first four presidents were among the organization’s founding members (Table 2).

Thirty-two years after founding member Arthur Carthew served as president (1948–49), his son John was elected (1980), making them the only father-and-son presidents of the organization. John is an example of past presidents who remain active in the organization; twenty-three years after his presidency he still is a force at the meetings.

It took thirty years for members to elect a woman to the presidency: in 1976 Gertrude Reith from CSU Fullerton became the first female president of the CGS. Since Reith’s path-breaking election, four other

Table 2—CGS Presidents

Year	President	School Affiliation
California Council of Geography Teachers (1946–1969)		
1946–47	V. Calvon McKim	Fresno State College
1947–48	Walter Hacker	San Francisco State College
1948–49	Arthur Carthew	Los Angeles City College
1949–50	Robert Pease	Hollywood High School
1950–51	Benjamin Thomas	UCLA
1951–52	Chester Cole	Fresno State College
1952–53	David Lantis	University of Southern California
1953–54	Alfred Butz	Santa Rosa Jr. College
1954–55	Bruce Ogilvie	Chico State College
1955–56	David Jennings	LA City College
1956–57	Adolf Stone	Long Beach City College
1957–58	Robert Johnston	Petaluma High School
1958–59	Robert Eidt	Los Angeles State College
1959–60	Walter Olson	San Francisco State College
1960–61	Howard Nelson	UCLA
1961–62	John Crosby	Fresno State College
1962–63	Lauren Post	San Diego State College
1963–64	Raymond Stanley	San Jose State College
1964–65	Sheldon Erickson	Long Beach State
1965–66	Arthur Karinen	Chico State College
1966–67	Robert Richardson	San Diego State College
1967–68	William Thomas	CSC Hayward
1968–69	Rodney Steiner	Long Beach State College
California Council for Geographic Education (1969–1983)		
1969–70	George Nasse	Fresno State College
1970–71	Charles Yahr	San Diego State College
1971–72	Richard Ellefsen	San Jose State
1972 (1 week)	D.R. Lee	Florida Atlantic University
1972–73	William Frazer	Sonoma State College
1973–74	James Switzer	Southwestern College
1974–75	Thomas Pagenhart	CSU Hayward
1975–76	Christopher Salter	UCLA
1976–77	Gertrude Reith	CSU Fullerton
1977–78	Thomas Best	CSU Los Angeles
1978–79	David Hendrickson	Fresno CC
1979–80	Donald Holtgrieve	CSU Hayward
1980–81	John Carthew	Pierce College
1981–82	Charles Yahr	San Diego State
1982–83	Joseph Leeper	Humboldt State
California Geographical Society (1983–present)		
1983–85	James Blick	College of the Sequoias
1985–87	Susan Hardwick	CSU Chico
1987–88	Clement Padick	CSU Los Angeles
1988–91	Richard Hough	San Francisco State
1991–93	David Helgren	San Jose State
1993–95	Bruce Bechtol	CSU Chico
1995–97	Stephen Slakey	La Puente HS/University of La Verne
1997–99	Stephen Cunha	Humboldt State University
1999–01	Carol Cox	Sierra College
2001–03	Jenny Zorn	California State University San Bernardino
2003–05	Debra Sharkey	Cosumnes River College

women have served as president: Susan Hardwick, CSU Chico (1985–87), Carol Jean Cox, Sierra College (1999–2001), Jenny Zorn, CSU San Bernardino (2001–03), and current President Debra Sharkey, Cosumnes River College (2003–05).

Until 1983, presidents served a one-year term; since then they have served two-year terms. Presidents typically serve on the board for a few years prior to election to a two-year term as vice president, followed by a two-year presidential term and then another two-year term on the board as past president. Therefore, a run for vice president is a six-year commitment. The dedication of the presidents is evident by their continued participation in the organization well after their years of intense leadership. Indeed, each year eight to ten past presidents can be seen actively participating in the meetings and organization. They serve as senior advisors and mentors for the current board, offering encouragement, gentle criticism, sage advice, and insightful ideas for the betterment of the CGS.

CGS board members, elected by the general membership, assume active roles in the organization. Positions include president, vice president, past president, secretary, and treasurer. Board members also assume responsibilities at meetings (organizing vendors, judging student competitions, awarding student scholarships, etc.). In addition, they help run elections, work on publicity and membership, and perform many other tasks. I have served in various other volunteer organizations and find the CGS board an exceptional group of dedicated, reliable professionals. They assume their responsibilities with sincere concern for the organization, the membership, and the discipline. It is difficult to imagine a better assemblage of volunteers.

Other dedicated volunteers—who may or may not be on the board—include a business manager, the editors of *The California Geographer* and the *CGS Bulletin*, and a Webmaster (a position created in the 1990s as the CGS moved into the Internet age with its own Web site).

Today CGS membership stands at 472, the highest yet documented. During most of the 1960s and 1970s the organization had over 300 members and usually more than 400. Very few records of membership statistics are available for the 1980s and 1990s, so it is impossible to identify trends in membership during this period.

Financial Status

At present, the financial status of the organization is stable and secure. The road to this security was long, however, with a few short inclines between the steep declines. At times, the balance in the treasury was unknown due to a missing checkbook or records in disarray. Today's treasurer, Bill Holder, has maintained impeccable records that show the organization's financial health at its very best. Over the past decade, the board has acted responsibly and conservatively to ensure continued financial stability. It has established a presidential spending limit and has carefully limited signature lines on bank accounts to ensure that no single person can abscond with CGS funds. This became necessary as the treasury balance continued to grow.

The California Geographer

The publication of a journal was a stated goal at the initial meeting of the founding members in 1946. But it wasn't until 1960 that the first edition of *The California Geographer* was printed. The origins of the journal actually go back to the newsletter of the Council, first edited by Lauren Post of San Diego State College. The newsletter was "published several times a year... [and] covered annual meeting plans, program developments on the campuses, professional notes and similar matters" (Frazer 1980, 2).

In 1953, Chester Cole began publishing the *Bulletin* in place of the newsletter, expanding it to include manuscripts. Members still maintained a goal of publishing a journal, and this was viewed as a step toward that end (Carthew 1965; Frazer 1980). The 1959 Executive Board was particularly aware of the need for a journal to serve the "largest and fastest growing concentration of professional geographers in the nation except for Washington, D.C." (Frazer 1980, 2). There was a strong post-World War II expansion of geography and higher education in California, and the journal was seen as "a means of publishing more material on California, on the work of California geographers, or perhaps as an outlet for work which was not finding space in the four national professional geograph[y] [sic] journals of the time" (3).

The shallow pockets of the organization in 1959 gave the board reason to pause over this momentous decision. Dues were \$2.00 and annual income totaled less than \$500. Producing a high-quality journal could prove expensive, at least initially. Despite this fis-

cal uncertainty, the 1959 board gave the go ahead. Robert A. Kennelly assumed the editorship and immediately set upon the task of finding financial support and an inexpensive publisher. He published the first *California Geographer* in 1960 with articles drawn mostly from paper presentations at the annual meetings (Carthew 1965; Frazer 1980).

Editors of *The California Geographer* have continued to increase the quality of the publication, with each editor leaving his/her mark on the publication (Table 3). There were periods when the publication was nearly not produced and production schedules often lagged. However, with the concerted effort of dedicated editors, *The California Geographer* is now on schedule and continues to include institutional memberships (mainly libraries) in its distribution.

Table 3—Editors of *The California Geographer*

Issue Years	Editor
1960–1969	Robert A. Kennelly
1970	Robert W. Durrenberger
1971–1972	Elliot G. McIntire
1973–1974	Roderick C. McKenzie
1975–1978	Donald G. Holtgrieve
1979–1982	Ronald F. Lockmann
1983–1990	Donald R. Floyd
1991–1994	Elliot G. McIntire
1995–1996	Bill Takizawa
1997–2001	Ray Sumner
2002–2003	Judy Walton
Associate and Guest Editors	
1970	Elliot G. McIntire
1978	Nancy Schluntz
1979	James W. Yerdon
1983–1990	William L. Preston
1995	Ray Sumner
1996	Carol Jean Cox
1997	Arnold Court, Dennis Napier, Barney Warf
1998	David Nemeth
1999	Dale Pullin

Annual Meetings

The initial constitution of 1946 established annual meetings of the Council. The first meeting was held on Saturday, June 21, 1947, in the San Diego Hotel in conjunction with the APCG meeting. Homer Aschmann from San Diego State College was the local arrangements chair, and Lauren Post gave a slide presentation on “A Geography Field Trip in San Diego.” In June 1948, the second annual meeting

was held in Berkeley, where the tradition began of offering a full slate of paper presentations as well as field trips. Like many field trips since, the first was wrought with challenges: only the leader's car completed the trip over the hills of San Francisco (Carthew 1965).

In 1949, the APCG planned to meet outside of California, so the Council held its meeting at Ventura Junior College and discontinued holding joint meetings with the APCG. The meetings also moved to the first week of May, a tradition that remained until 2003 (Sacramento meeting), when the board moved the meetings to the last week in April in order to accommodate colleges and universities with semester schedules. The Ventura meeting included vendors for the first time (Carthew 1965), a practice that continues today. Under the direction of Carol Jean Cox and Debra Sharkey, the vendors have become an integral part of the organization and meetings.

Following the Ventura meeting, the Council established a policy of rotating meetings between northern and southern locations (Carthew 1965). Recent boards have continued this effort, although not always with strict adherence to the north-south alternation. At times in the past, no one on the board was from an institution interested in hosting the meetings, so there was little or no choice in locations. However, the pattern has generally held through the years. A list of the meeting locations (Table 4) demonstrates the variety of places the CGS has met, including one out-of-state location—Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

The organization's fifty-seven meetings have been held as far north as Redding (40° 36' N), as far south and as far east as San Diego (32° 43' N, 117° 10' W), as far west as Ukiah (122° 12' W), and at many points in between. There have been a variety of meeting hosts: almost half (twenty-eight) were hosted by a university, seventeen were hosted by a community or junior college, seven were at a hotel, four at a high school, and one at a member's townhouse!

The most frequent meeting destinations have been San Diego and Fresno: the organization met six times in each city over the years. Meetings were held in Los Angeles five times; Chico, Long Beach, Sacramento, and San Jose three times each; San Luis Obispo, Shasta, and Ventura twice each; and once each in twenty-one other cities. The membership tends to seek out relatively remote locations—such as, in recent years, Ukiah, Sonora, and Lone Pine—but mem-

Table 4—CGS Meeting Sites

Year	Location	Year	Location
California Council of Geography Teachers (1946–1969)			
1947	San Diego Hotel	1959	Long Beach Community College
1948	UC Berkeley	1960	San Jose State
1949	Ventura Jr. College	1961	San Fernando State College
1950	Stanford University	1962	Fresno State College
1951	UCLA	1963	San Diego State
1952	Fresno State College	1964	University of the Pacific
1953	San Diego State	1965	Long Beach State
1954	Chico State College	1966	Watsonville High School
1955	Santa Monica High School	1967	Los Angeles Community College
1956	Sacramento Junior College	1968	CSC Hayward
1957	Compton College	1969	San Diego State
1958	Santa Rosa Junior College		
California Council for Geographic Education (1969–1983)			
1970	Del Webb's Townhouse, Fresno	1978	Pierce College
1971	Sonoma State College	1979	CSU Fresno
1972	Pasadena Hilton	1980	Shasta College
1973	Hyatt House, San Jose	1981	Harrah's, Lake Tahoe, NV
1974	CSC Bakersfield	1982	Bahia Hotel, San Diego
1975	CSU Chico	1983	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
1976	CSU Long Beach		
1977	Independence High School, San Jose		
California Geographical Society (1983–present)			
1984	Conestega Hotel, Anaheim	1994	Cal Poly Pomona
1985	CSU Chico	1995	CSU Fresno
1986	West Hills College, Coalinga	1996	Columbia College
1987	Clarion Hotel, Ontario	1997	Mendocino College
1988	Pierce College	1998	CSU San Bernardino
1989	Cosumnes River College	1999	CSU Channel Islands
1990	USC	2000	San Diego State University
1991	Porterville College	2001	Delta College, Stockton
1992	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	2002	Lone Pine High School
1993	Shasta College	2003	American River College

bers also enjoy urban settings, such as Pomona and Sacramento. All of these venues attract large numbers of meeting participants.

Geographers love field trips, so it is not surprising that field trips have been a focal point of the meetings. Field trips at the early meetings included the hills of San Francisco (1948), an aerial field trip of the Bay region (1950), an aerial field trip of the San Andreas Fault and Los Angeles (1951), the Russell Giffen Ranch west of Fresno (1952), the San Diego hinterland to Julian (1953), the Sutter Buttes (1954), an aerial field trip of Orange and Los Angeles counties (1955), flood field trips in the Sacramento area (1956), Santa Rosa's apple

country to the coast (1958), a Long Beach Harbor boat tour (1959), and the San Fernando Valley's Anheuser-Busch Brewery (1961) (Carthew 1965). Many of these trips have been repeated in succeeding years, including most recently Sutter Buttes (2003) and Long Beach Harbor (a boat tour is planned for 2004).

Attendance at the annual meetings is difficult to track. While it is safe to assume the meeting at Del Webb's townhouse had a smaller turnout than the 2003 Sacramento meeting at American River College (with over 400 in attendance), the archives provide no precise attendance statistics. The evidence, however, suggests that the 2003 meeting was among the largest ever. Other large meetings in recent years include Pomona (1994) and Lone Pine (2002), with approximately 250 in attendance at each. Some remember meetings from the early 1970s, when membership was consistently high, as setting attendance records.

The past decade has seen high attendance and participation at the meetings. Some members have suggested that the 1993 meeting at Shasta College, hosted by Carol Jean Cox, was a turning point that brought us into the "modern" era. I concur. Cox set a high standard of professionalism in the quality of the meetings. She established a model that organizers for the past ten years have followed.

Awards

Over the years, the organization has established a series of annual awards that are announced at the meeting banquet. Non-student awards include Outstanding Educator, Distinguished Service, Distinguished Teaching, and Friend of Geography.

The Outstanding Educator Award, established in 1975, has been given to geography educators throughout California (Table 5). A majority (sixteen) of the past awardees have been from four-year institutions, while four were from community and junior colleges and five from public schools. One time, the award went to the two California Geographical Alliances, north and south.

Numerous people have served the CGS in exemplary fashion. In 1970, the first Distinguished Service Award was bestowed. The Distinguished Teaching Awards began in 1974. In 1995 the first Friend of Geography Award was given. Tables 6, 7, and 8 provide lists of award winners in these three categories.

Table 5—CGS Outstanding Educators

Year	Educator	School Affiliation
2003	Gail Hobbs	Pierce College
2002	Matt Ebner	El Camino College
2001	Bill Preston	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
2000	Stephanie Buttell-Maxin	San Diego Unified SD
	Stephen Prendergast	San Diego Unified SD
1999	Mike Murphy	Clovis Unified SD
	Jerry Williams	CSU Chico
1998	Barbara Fredrich	San Diego State University
1997	Robert Christopherson	American River College
1996	Janice Hamner	San Bernardino County Schools
1995	Richard Ellefsen	San Jose State
1994	Bill Bowen	CSU Northridge
1993	Steve Cunha	Cosumnes River College
1992	Calif. Geographical Alliance, North	
	Calif. Geographical Alliance, South	
1991	David Lantis	CSU Chico
1990	Bruce Bechtol	CSU Chico
1989	Don Holtgrieve	CSU Chico
1988	Tom McKnight	UCLA
1987	Walter Olson	Sonoma State & San Francisco State Univ.
1986	William Thomas	CSU Hayward
1985	Chet Cole	CSU Fresno
1984	[unknown]	
1983	Willis Park	[unknown]
1982	Robt. Kiskadden	Los Angeles City Schools
1981	Kit Salter	UCLA
1980	[unknown]	
1979	Steve Slakey	La Puente High School
1978	Howard Nelson	[unknown]
1977	[unknown]	
1976	Richard Logan	UCLA
1975	Bill Wake	[unknown]

A perusal of tables 5–8 demonstrates the number of individuals who have contributed to the vitality of the CGS and its mission, including educators who have inspired generations of students and colleagues with their superior teaching. These are just a few of the many people who have made a difference to geography in California.

Student awards are also important to the CGS. As mentioned at the start of this article, the CGS now distributes more than \$2,000 each year in student scholarships and awards. Student participation is at an all-time high, with faculty members bringing van loads of students to each meeting. For many students, it is their first professional geography meeting and their first formal research presentation in a professional setting. Student awards, all of which are monetary, include the David Lantis Student Scholarship, Tom McKnight

Table 6—CGS Outstanding Service Awards

Year	Awardee	Affiliation
2003	Carol Cox	Sierra College
2002	Steve Cunha	Humboldt State University
2001	Ray Sumner	Long Beach City College
2000	Bill Holder	Fountain Valley High School
1999	Steve Slakey	La Puente High School
1998	Carolyn Whorff	Mt. San Jacinto College
1997	Joe Leeper	Humboldt State University
1996	Bruce Bechtol	CSU Chico
1995	David Helgren	San Jose State
1994	Rich Hough	San Francisco State University
1993	Emmett Hayes	La Puente High School
1992	Rod McKenzie	University of Southern California
1991	William Preston	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
1990	Don Floyd	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
1989	Jim Blick	San Diego State University
1988	George Nasse	CSU Fresno
	John Carthew	Los Angeles Pierce College
1987	Jim Switzer	Southwest College, Chula Vista
1986	Charles Yahr	San Diego State College
	David Jennings	Los Angeles City College
	Adolf Stone	Long Beach City College
1985	Tom Best	CSU Los Angeles
1984	[unknown]	
1983	[unknown]	
1982	Don Holtgrieve	CSU Hayward
	Dave Hendrickson	Fresno City College
1981	Art Karinen	CSU Chico
	Dave Hendrickson	Fresno City College
1980	Rodney Steiner	CSU Long Beach
1979	Andrew Kennelly	CSU Hayward
1978	David Jennings	Los Angeles City College
1977	Gertrude Reith	CSU Fullerton
1976	David Lantis	CSU Chico
	Chet Cole	CSU Fresno
1975	Adolf Stone	Long Beach City College
1974	Haig Rushdoony	CSU Stanislaus
1973	[unknown]	
1972	Loren Post	San Diego State College
1971	Alfred Butz	Santa Rosa Jr. College
1970	Art Carthew	Los Angeles City College

Student Paper Award, Joe Beaton Student Poster Award, Student Map Award, and Geosystems Award.

The **David Lantis Student Scholarship** is named after the organization's seventh president, from CSU Chico. David Lantis received the Distinguished Service Award in 1976 and was named Outstanding Educator in 1991. Now deceased, Lantis authored numerous articles and textbooks including a California geography textbook used by educators throughout the state. He was a strong supporter of the CGS.

Table 7—CGS Distinguished Teaching Awards

Year	Teacher	Year	Teacher
2003	Cynthia Vaughn	1981	[none awarded]
2002	[none awarded]	1980	Jerry Williams
2001	Jerrell Croskrey	1979	Frank Seawall
	John Anderson		Cal Wilvert
2000	[none awarded]	1978	Bruce Bechtol
1999	Cynthia Delameter		Peter Farquhar
	Ann Gonzalez		Sin-Tong Han
	Gwen Jones		Bob Hoffman
	Lynda Lemon		Larry Lane
	Gwen Newman Jones		Art Karinen
1998	Diane Bruns		James O'Keefe
	Don Cross	1976	Clem Padick
	Laurie Finucane		Todd Berens
1997	Sharon Hamid		Dan Epstein
	Rodney Jones		Constance L'Aventure
1996	Stephanie Buttell-Maxin		Tso-Hwa Lee
	Cheryl Connolly		Don Reasons
	Liz Meyer		Christine Roed
	Tom Nelson	1975	Jean Vance
	Larry Osen		David Balogh
	Rosaleen Zisch		Jerry Brothen
1995	Kevin Clark		Charlotte Crabtree
	Steven Kemper		Bill D. Holder
	Bill McElree		Jim Huning
	Ed Myles		Celeste Kostanick
1994	Joe Beaton		Richard Logan
	Jeff Cenoz		Chuck Martinson
	Carol Jean Cox		Crane Miller
1993	Carol Douglas		Marilyn Millington
	Bonnie Emerson		Dennis Napier
	Donald Floyd		Art Nichols
	Tom O'Brien		Richard Reed
	Terry Williams		Lester Rowntree
1992	Robert Christopherson		Steve Slakey
	Janice Jersbek	1974	Lawrence Stevens
	Carol Light		William Adam
	Marilyn Renger		Ken Crump
	Robert Williams		Richard Dastyck
1991	Joan Clemons		Don Forth
	Pamela Gilgert		Carol Hatcher
	Sherri Grazda		David Hedgecock
	Emmett Hayes		Donn Jewell
	Mary Miller		Richard Mackinnon
	Edy Nielson		Marion Menzel
	Richard Raskoff		Ellen Murphy (Oicles)
1988	James Claflin		Arthur Nichols
	Susan Hardwick		David Prewetkt
	Steve Herman		Marianne Reese
	William Preston		Stephen Slakey
1982	Patricia Chapla		Claire Walter
	Jim Scofield		

Table 8—CGS Friend of Geography Awards

Year	Awardee
2003	[none awarded]
2002	[none awarded]
2001	Joan Clemons, UCLA
2000	Yumiko Tsuneyoshi, San Diego State University
1999	[none awarded]
1998	Jack Dangermond, Environmental Systems Research Institute
1997	Joseph Beaton, Cal Poly Pomona
1996	Beth Cantrell, Thomas Brothers Maps Educational Foundation
1995	Frank Baughman, DDS, Porterville
Special Awards	
1994	Huell Howser, KCET Television
1975	Carl Nelson, Denoyer-Geppert Co.

The **Tom McKnight Student Paper Award** honors another long-time supporter of the CGS and its mission. Tom McKnight, from UCLA, was named Outstanding Educator in 1988 and continues to be an active participant today. His consummate professional style and inquisitive nature have earned him the respect of generations of students, whom he has engaged with his dynamic lectures. A prolific author of textbooks on North American and introductory geography, McKnight has received awards from both Australian and Canadian geography organizations for his contributions to the field.

The **Joe Beaton Student Poster Award** carries the name of the late Joe Beaton, who received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1994 and a Friend of Geography Award in 1997. Beaton, who taught at the California State Polytechnic Institute at Pomona, worked hard to stimulate students to observe and participate in the world. Never known for timidity, he taught with a bravado and energy that inspired students and colleagues alike.

The **Geosystems Award** became the first endowed award in the organization's history. This was made possible in 2002 by Robert and Bobbé Christopherson. Bobbé and Robert's *Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography* is a leading textbook in physical geography. Their dedication to furthering our knowledge of the environment is reflected in their enthusiastic support of students. Robert Christopherson, from American River College, received the Outstanding Educator Award in 1997 and was keynote speaker in the Presidential Plenary at the 2002 meeting.

Future Directions

The CGS is an outstanding organization and has provided me opportunities for a great deal of professional growth. While it is flourishing today, I see a few areas in which the organization needs to more aggressively pursue its full potential.

The status of the discipline is continually being challenged in state and institutional arenas. The CGS could take a lead in positioning itself in state curriculum committees and arguing its case before the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The educational institutions in our state regularly review curriculum, and it is important that geographers have a voice on curriculum and general education committees.

CGS should also take an active role in ensuring that departments are well poised to fight the inevitable curriculum battles and maintain geography's presence in the curriculum at all levels. We need representatives on committees reviewing K–12 standards, establishing curriculum for future teachers, and defining general education requirements. We need to convince the CCTC that geography should be identified in the earth sciences curriculum. Its members need to hear from this organization and understand that geographers must be present on the History and Social Sciences review committees. We have to speak in order to be heard, and I don't think we've been voicing our concerns in an organized effort to effect change.

In previous times, geographers were more politically astute and active in ensuring that the relevance of geography was known to decision makers. The 1999 CGS meeting at CSU Channel Islands was the first academic conference held at the not-yet-opened campus (Alvarez 1999). Meeting organizer Linda O'Hirok's intent was to make administrators aware that they needed geography in the curriculum. Following the meetings, however, the CGS made little effort to stay in the minds of key administrators and faculty. We could have written letters and scheduled a meeting with the Provost. The same should be done with the developing UC Merced campus.

The CGS should continue to work with the California Geographic Alliance. We should be offering the expertise for pre-service and in-service training of K–12 teachers. At our statewide meetings, the field trips are extremely popular. I propose we begin organizing field trips at other times during the year that are aimed at K–12 educators. We could organize in time frames that make sense for the teach-

ers, who often cannot attend our meetings because they must get released from classroom duties. The CGS could sponsor these field trips for teachers at lower costs.

I would also like to see improvement in the quality and quantity of manuscripts submitted to our professional journal, *The California Geographer*. While the CG is on-track with its schedule and operating in a professional manner, I see even greater potential. An increased competitive status is an attainable and necessary goal.

The CGS is a healthy organization at present, but it is at risk. Currently, half of the board members are community college faculty members. A healthy CGS needs more balance in its board membership. While in recent years community college faculty members have increased their involvement, university and college faculty and K-12 educators have diminished their participation and are now underrepresented. (At other times in the organization's history, university faculty members dominated.) We need more university faculty involvement in paper presentations and service on the board. We need to find better ways to connect with the K-12 educators and help in their efforts to enhance geography education in their classrooms.

It is also time to start thinking of new ways to raise awareness of geography among the general public. Perhaps the CGS could install "geographical markers" similar to the "historical markers" we see along the roadside. I would love to see a sign reading: "Geographic Point of Interest, 200 Yards Ahead." Just as our founders did nearly sixty years ago in the aftermath of World War II, we should take advantage of the situation we find ourselves facing. Issues surrounding globalization, global conflicts, and advancing technologies are what geography is all about. We certainly have a role to play and we should position ourselves to do so.

We need to widen our sights and enlarge our sphere of influence beyond preaching to the choir. We are poised with financial resources, professional integrity, strong leadership, and an energetic membership. The time is right for us to seize this opportunity and take advantage of our circumstances. As the organization is financially sound, I also believe it's time to begin taking small risks by subsidizing meetings that might open up new opportunities in different venues; for example, Yosemite, Catalina Island, or San Francisco.

I challenge future CGS leaders to set their goals high, because this is an organization that usually attains its goals. The organization's past leadership is positioned to influence some of these changes. The present leadership and the newcomers are energetic visionaries for the future. I fully believe we can improve this already great organization.

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