**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN**

It was 20 years ago this spring that I became a geographer. As a sophomore biology student (please forgive me, but I hadn’t had my “geographic awakening” yet), I was excited about taking a desert field ecology class. Though I was disappointed at the time, my lucky break came when the class was cancelled due to low enrollment. This prompted me to scour the CSU, Stanislaus class schedule for another class to fill out my semester. It was then that I stumbled on Dr. Ida Bower’s field course to Death Valley. Initially, I wondered why one would go all the way to Death Valley just to memorize states and capitols. You see, as with many people, I had an incredibly limited and distorted view of geography. As I continued to read the course description, I was dumbfounded. Why hadn’t anyone told me that geography was so cool? Why hadn’t anyone told me that geographers went

(Continued on page 6)

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**2005 CONFERENCE IN YOSEMITE NAT'L PARK**

Amidst raging waterfalls and a full moon, 342 people gathered in Yosemite Valley over the weekend of April 22-24 for the first CGS conference held in a national park. By all accounts, the event was a huge success – and a record-breaking event in CGS history. The conference drew attendees from 6 different states, representing 59 different colleges, universities, and other organizations. The Association of American Geographers (AAG) Executive Director, Doug Richardson, honored us by flying from Washington D.C. to attend the event. The number of people participating in field trips on Friday and Sunday (280 in total) set a new CGS conference record. Participants enjoyed many field trips led by experts on topics ranging from physical geography, fire ecology, black bear management, giant sequoia ecology, water policy and Native American studies.

Following a great day of exploring the park’s awe-inspiring geography, a record-breaking 273 CGSers gathered for an outdoor BBQ hosted by Steve Cunha and Humboldt State University staff/students at the Yosemite Valley School. Professor Emeritus, Bob O’Brien of San Diego State University entertained the crowd after dinner with his informative narrative and slides amassed during his 60 years of park visitation and research.

On Saturday, 68 paper, poster, map, and workshop presentations were given at one of the national park system’s flagship hotels, the Ahwahnee. In the afternoon, the crowd was entertained outdoors amidst scattered sun rays and spectacular views of Yosemite Falls and Half Dome by special Presidential Plenary guest speaker John Muir (impersonated by professional actor, Lee Stetson). That evening, 210 people attended the Awards Banquet at the Ahwahnee. The ceremony began with AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson and APCG President Jim Allen addressing the audience. Next, moving remembrances were given for late friends: Joan Clemons, whose advocacy for geographic education and support of CGS are unparalleled, and H. J. Bruman, who is credited with

(Continued on page 3)
OUTGOING PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

It’s hard to believe my two-year term as President has come to an end. It has been an honor and pleasure to head this great organization. Consequently, writing this final presidential column is a bittersweet moment.

In collaboration with the CGS board, I’m happy to report we’ve achieved some significant milestones since April 2003:

• The CGS is a tax-exempt, public benefit, non-profit corporation (503 (c) (3)) in the eyes of the IRS and the State of California. This means your future contributions to CGS award and scholarship funds are fully tax-deductible.

• Thanks largely to the success of recent conferences, our organization’s financial standing is at an all-time high, according to CGS Treasurer, Bill Holder.

• Our constitution and bylaws have been updated to reflect contemporary operational procedures.

• The 2005 election included an option to vote online for the first time in the organization’s history. Approximately 75% of voters took advantage of this voting option versus using the traditional mail-in ballot.

• Our peer-reviewed journal, The California Geographer, is now being distributed by EBSCO database services to libraries and research institutions nationwide.

• Membership hit an all-time high of 508 in April 2004, prior to the Long Beach Conference. Membership numbers subsequently dipped because a fairly large number of students who attended the American River Conference chose not to renew. Membership is, however, once again on the upswing, thanks to high attendance at the recent Yosemite Conference. I’m also happy to report that life memberships have grown nearly 400% since 2003.

The achievements listed above were made possible with the help of others, including the CGS Board and past presidents Steve Slakey, Steve Cunha, Carol Cox, and Jenny Zorn. I am very grateful to all of them for their great work.

As I turn over the presidential baton to incoming president John Aubert, I have the utmost confidence that the CGS is poised for greater achievements in the coming years under his capable leadership. He and Vice President Jennifer Helzer will be a great team.

To the CGS board and all members, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as president the past two years. I bid you adieu with best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

Debra Sharkey
Past President
Greetings Fellow Students!

The 2005 CGS conference in Yosemite has proven to be one of the largest and most successful in CGS history! Students from all over California as well as neighboring states came together in this unique setting to support geographic education—with several of you visiting Yosemite for the first time in your lives, and many of you like myself who visit regularly and often.

There seemed to be no shortage of conference highlights starting with the Friday morning field trips of which many, such as the Bear Ecology trip, were highly interactive lending itself to opportunities for a hands-on learning experience. Guided by two expert wildlife biologists, fieldtrip attendees were given the opportunity to use radio telemetry to listen for and track the whereabouts of collared bears (see photo). The evening was kicked off by a superb outdoor BBQ in the Yosemite Valley hosted by students and faculty from Humboldt State. Here students gathered to meet one another and enjoy a meal beneath the backdrop of Yosemite Falls. And as with past conferences, a forum was provided for students to present their academic work in the form of posters, maps, and paper presentations. Once again, students set the bar very high, demonstrating their ability to conduct research and showing great integrity in their work.

As your CGS student representatives, Julienne and I would like to thank you for attending the 2005 CGS conference in Yosemite National Park and contributing to its success! We look forward to seeing you next year in Redding.

Virginia Humphreys, Northern/Central California Student Board Member
v_humphreys2003@yahoo.com

Julienne Gard, Southern California Student Board Member
jgard@csulb.edu

Get A Life…!

Membership in CGS and Receive:

- Lifetime membership for the cost of 10 years of regular dues (at $25/yr.)
- Lifetime subscription to the CGS Bulletin and the California Geographer Journal.
- Recognition for supporting the CGS at the highest membership level.

Join the growing list of CGS life members!

It's easy! Just fill out and mail in the membership application (available online at www.calgeog.org) along with your $250 check made payable to the CGS. It's a win-win situation—you'll have no more annual membership dues to pay and the CGS will be a stronger organization because of it!

2005 Conference (Continued from page 1)

calling the first meeting of geographers that ultimately led to the creation of the CGS. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of over $2,000 in prize money to students in the form of scholarships and awards. Organizing a conference of this magnitude while serving as CGS President is no small feat, and it would not have been possible without the help and support of many, including the CGS board/officers (plus a few dedicated spouses!), Cindy Petty and Kathy McLain at Cosumnes River College (my home institution), past president Steve Cunha, as well as several employees at Delaware North Corporation (Yosemite concessionaire), Yosemite National Park, Yosemite Institute, and the Yosemite Valley School. Thanks to the hard work of all those mentioned above, I received over 30 emails after the conference from jubilant attendees who remarked that CGS Yosemite 2005 was an historic event to be remembered for years to come. Frankly, I couldn’t ask for any greater reward than this.

Debra Sharkey
Past President & 2005 Conference Coordinator
CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY’S 2005 AWARD WINNERS

DAVID LANTIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Graduate Award ($500):
Doreen Crespin, CSU Long Beach

Undergraduate Award ($400):
Ronnie Caluza, CSU Sacramento

GEOSYSTEMS AWARD ($250)
Cassie Hansen & Kevin McManigal, Humboldt State University
Paper Title: “Correlation of Temperature and Snow Water Equivalency in the Sierra Nevada”

TOM MCKNIGHT

PROFESSIONAL PAPER AWARDS

First Place, Undergraduate ($125):
Kevin McManigal, Humboldt State University
Paper Title: “The Economic Geography of Switzerland’s Special Relationship with the European Union”

Second Place, Undergraduate ($100):
Kaitlin Yarnell, Humboldt State University
Paper Title: “A Force of Change: The Mexican Community of the Eel River Valley”

Third Place, Undergraduate ($75):
Stacey Ellis, Humboldt State University
Paper Title: “A Cup of Joe and a Joint: Arcata’s Coffee Culture”

First Place, Graduate ($125):
Crystal A. Kolden, University of Nevada, Reno
Paper Title: “Drought and Escaped Prescribed Fires in California”

Second Place, Graduate ($100):
Michael McDaniel, CSU Long Beach
Paper Title: “Persistence of Culture: Remnants of the Mexican Land Tenure System in Los Angeles and Orange County”

Third Place, Graduate ($75):
Linda Quiquivix, Ben Elisondo & John Hess, CSU Northridge
Paper Title: “Host and Guest Perceptions: A Case Study of Resort/Border Tourism in Rosarito Beach, Mexico”

JOE BEATON

PROFESSIONAL POSTER AWARDS

First Place ($100):
Cassie Hansen & Kevin McManigal, Humboldt State University
Poster Title: “Are Rising Temperatures Threatening California’s Snowpack?”

Second Place ($75):
Ronnie Caluza, CSU Sacramento
Poster Title: “Exploring the Presence of Filipinos in South Sacramento”

Third Place ($50):
Delaney Gerlich, Univ. of Southern California
Poster Title: “The Effects of Marine Protected Areas on the Commercial Fish Density in Turks & Caicos Islands, British West Indies”

MAPPING AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL PAPER CARTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

First Place ($100):
Ronnie Caluza, CSU Sacramento
Map Title: “Integrated Area Planning: American River Parkway Plan Update”

Second Place (Three-way Tie- $75):
Dustine Granville, CSU Chico
Map Title: “Tour de Taco”

Erec DeVost, CSU Chico
Map Title: “The Life of Ansel Adams, A Photographic Journey”

Peter Hansen, CSU Chico
Map Title: “Escape from Death Valley: The Journey to the West via Death Valley by William Lewis Manly and Other Forty-Niners”

Third Place ($50):
Christopher Burton, CSU Sacramento
Map Title: “Oak Park: Non-taxable Property Analysis”

Doreen Crespin (left) accepts David Lantis Scholarship Award from CGS President Debra Sharkey.
PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER DISPLAYED
CARTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

First Place ($100):
Ross Nolan, Humboldt State University
Map Title: “Geography of Rock-n-Roll: Diffusion Across the American Landscape”

SPECIAL AWARDS

Outstanding Educator Award:
Robin Datel, CSU Sacramento

Outstanding Service Award:
Jenny Zorn, CSU San Bernardino

Certificates of Appreciation:
2005 Conference Organizer:
Debra Sharkey, Cosumnes River College

2005 Pre-Conference Preparation/On-Site Support:
Stuart Allan, Benchmark Maps
Carol Jean Cox, Sierra College
Stephen Cunha, Humboldt State University
Carolyn Evans, Delaware North Corporation
Janette Gamble, Yosemite Valley School
Virginia Humphreys, San Francisco State University
Dan Kaveney, Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishing
Katherine McLain, Cosumnes River College
Tom Medema, Yosemite NP
Cindy Petty, Cosumnes River College
Tom Philp, Sacramento Bee
Adonia Ripple, Yosemite Institute
Kimberly Saunders, CSU Northridge
Michael Schmandt, CSU Stanislaus
Steve Slakey, La Verne University
Michelle Sproat, Delaware North Corporation

Field Trip Leaders:
John Aubert, American River College
Ben Cunningham-Summerfield, Yosemite NP
Ron Good, Restore Hetch Hetchy
Jack Hopkins, Yosemite NP
Dave Jaffe, Yosemite Institute
Tom Nichols, Yosemite NP
Jeffrey Schaffer, Napa Valley College
Deb Schweizer, Yosemite NP
Victoria Seher, Yosemite NP
Mike Wangler, Cuyamaca College
Erik Westerlund, Yosemite NP
Nancy Wilkinson, San Francisco State University

Keynote Presenters:
Bob O’Brien, San Diego State University
Lee Stetson, John Muir Live
President’s Column (Continued from page 1)

camping? Why hadn’t anyone told me that a college major didn’t have to seem so limiting? I signed up and a few weeks later made the first of many treks to California’s glorious desert landscapes.

My geographic lens began to take shape on that trip, and I haven’t been the same since. Some years later as a geography graduate student (I got it right that time) I stumbled on the California Geographical Society. I attended the annual meeting at Columbia College (1996) and was delighted by the experience. Here was a group of people devoted to sharing and promoting geographic knowledge in California and beyond. As if that wasn’t enough to interest me, the conference included two days of great field trips. And finally, to top it all off, I met some friendly and engaging folks (not the stuffy types I expected). Fast forward to 2005, and the good news is that CGS hasn’t changed much, except for the better.

This April’s annual conference in Yosemite was an astounding success, due in large measure to our outgoing president Debra Sharkey. Three cheers for Deb!!! As the incoming president, I am fortunate to have a great role model. In fact, I am fortunate to have many great role models among our board and our membership. The spirit of commitment, volunteerism, and geographic inquiry is alive and well among those that make up CGS. I look forward to my tenure as CGS president, and my continued involvement with this fine organization.

Geographically yours,

John Aubert

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MINUTES: CGS BOARD MEETING
THE AHWAHNEE HOTEL
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, APRIL 23, 2005

Present: Debra Sharkey (President), John Aubert (Vice-President), Robin Lyons (Secretary), Bill Holder (Treasurer), Jenny Zorn (Past President), Emily Lieb Townsend, Craig Davis, Matt Ebiner, Richard Eigenheer, Steven Graves, Jennifer Helzer, Mike Murphy, Irene Naesse, Bruce Townsend, Suzanne Wechsler, Lin Wu, Virginia Humphries (Student Representative), and Dan Scollon (Guest)

The meeting was brought to order at 5:00 pm by President Debra Sharkey. Minutes from the October 2, 2004 meeting were approved unanimously.

2006 Conference Site: Vice President John Aubert reported that he was unable to solicit a San Francisco Bay Area proposal to host the 2006 Conference; however, a proposal was received from Dan Scollon to host the meeting at Shasta College in Redding. Possible field trips were outlined and themes related to timber, mining & fire management were suggested. It was noted that Shasta College had adequate facilities for all activities including the banquet. Additional sites for the BBQ and banquet were discussed, including the Turtle Bay area and the park under the bridge. There was a discussion about the campus policy for serving alcohol during the banquet, and it was confirmed by Dan that there is a precedent for on-campus alcohol consumption. Jenny Zorn moved that the board accept the Redding proposal, and all approved. It was decided that April 28 - 30, 2006 would be the tentatively scheduled date for the conference. President Sharkey remarked that holding a CGS conference in Redding could give an important boost to Shasta College’s Geography offerings, which Dan is trying to build. John Aubert suggested the board look into Borrego Springs as a possible site for the 2007 conference.

Election Results: Craig Davis reported on the recent CGS election. John Aubert was elected President and Jennifer Helzer was elected Vice-President. The proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws were passed unanimously. A total of 79 ballots were submitted with 75% of voting done online (59 online ballots and 20 paper ballots were received). President Sharkey thanked Craig Davis and John Aubert for their work to put the ballot online, noting that this use of technology had significantly improved election participation this year.

Three candidates running for positions on the board were clearly elected, but there was a tie amongst two candidates running for the fourth board position. Three options were presented to the board to resolve the tie vote. One was to have a runoff election; one was to flip a coin, and the other was to accept all five candidates as board members and reduce the number of positions next year to three rather than four. John Aubert moved that we choose the third option, accepting all five candidates as board members, and scale back to three positions next year. Emily Lieb Townsend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. As she ends her term on the board, Suzanne Wechsler noted she chose not to run again next year for family and personal reasons, but may opt to run again in the future.
Webmaster Status: The board discussed the status of the webmaster position which has been filled by Kimberley Saunders (a CSU Northridge employee) for the past few years. President Sharkey commended Kimberley for her excellent website support, especially with respect to the recent Yosemite conference, and further explained that Kimberley has requested that her stipend be increased from $300 to $400 every six months. She also recently notified Debra that she is leaving CSUN and is looking for a new job. This led to a discussion of an idea, first raised at last October’s board meeting, to assign webmaster duties to a board member. Steve Graves and Craig Davis both said they were capable of handling website maintenance. Steve volunteered to manage the web site from CSUN. It was then decided that the website, currently located on a server at CSU San Bernardino, should be moved to CSUN, if possible. Following President Sharkey’s suggestion that Kimberley be paid a final stipend, John Aubert moved that we offer a $300.00 stipend to Kimberley Saunders to cover her work until the web site transfer can be completed, probably early in the Fall. This was seconded by Steve Graves, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: CGS Treasurer, Bill Holder, presented the treasurer’s report, noting that the CGS is in a very healthy financial state, with the highest pre-conference checking account balance ever. Following the passage of our Articles of Incorporation amendment, we will soon be incorporated as a tax-exempt organization with the State of CA (we already have tax-exempt status with the IRS). Income from our CD and savings accounts are minimal, but revenue from the last two conferences has exceeded expenses. Besides the conference, the other two major expenses are the production of the California Geographer and awards & grants.

Membership Report: Jenny Zorn reported that in October, 2003 CGS had 472 members. This fell to 266 in October of 2004 but increased to 335 by April, 2005. Membership reached a record high of 508 in April 2004. Lifetime memberships (27) now account for over 7% of the total.

Mailing labels now have “paid thru 4/15/05” (or 4/15/06 for next year). This date reminds members that their membership lapses just before the next annual conference begins. There are 985 potential members who are mailed conference meeting announcements and who are encouraged to join the organization. Bill Holder noted that more flyers will need to be printed to encourage new memberships.

Vendor Report: Irene Naesse reported that the number of vendors for the Yosemite conference was less than in previous years because of the greater travel distance. However, the increase in vendor fees this year made up for the difference. The rent for the Solarium (where vendors exhibited) at the Ahwahnee was $800.00, and vendor revenues were sufficient to pay for this room plus generate a small profit for the CGS. A question was posed for later CGS board consideration: should there be a lower vendor fee for non-profit organizations? Irene noted that she will be updating the mailing list of vendors and outlining the procedures for vendors at future meetings.

Yosemite Conference Report: President Sharkey reported that there were 322 pre-registrations and an additional 20 added during registration for a total of 342. There were 273 who attended the Friday night BBQ. Jennifer Helzer noted some problems at the BBQ that should be avoided in the future, including: long lines, insufficient vegetarian choices and supplies, and absence of tables. It was noted that the catering company had been sold two months earlier and was not well organized. The lunch on Saturday had 238 sold tickets; the banquet 219. Field trips were especially successful in terms of participation (280 people), cost/revenue, and thematic variety.

President Sharkey was commended by the CGS Board for her excellent work in arranging, organizing, and running the conference. President Sharkey, in turn, thanked the board for their excellent work in support.

Old Business: A brief preview of awards for the student presentations was given. It was noted that the student presentations this year were especially well done and the judging difficult because of the high quality of these presentations.

New Business: Jennifer Helzer suggested that future conferences include a panel discussion, or a special session, devoted to Jobs in Geography. Former students now successfully employed could lead a discussion of career opportunities. Steve Graves mentioned a recent study that showed geo-spatial technologies were now third nation-wide in generating new job opportunities.

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 1 at Fresno State University.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm by President Sharkey.

(Meeting minutes prepared by Robin Lyons, CGS Secretary)
You are cordially invited to the

60TH ANNUAL

CONFERENCE OF THE CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

at Shasta College in Redding, California

April 28-30, 2006

CGS returns to far Northern California for its 2006 annual conference. Mt. Shasta will serve as a picturesque backdrop for three days of field trips, presentations, workshops, and geographic camaraderie. Field trips include volcanic landscapes of the Southern Cascades, fire ecology and management, salmon fishery restoration, Iron Mountain Mine, cultural history of Shasta County, and more . . . Please plan on joining us.

For more information and/or to offer your assistance, please contact meeting coordinator:

Dan Scollon
Geography / GIS / Natural Resources
Shasta College
(530) 225-3917
dscollon@ShastaCollege.edu