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Student Paper Competition

**Santa Ynez Valley, CA
Saturday May 3rd, 2009**

The California Geographical Society invites students - undergraduate *and* graduate - to share and be rewarded for their scholarly work at our annual conference. The CGS offers a serious and supportive environment for students to make professional presentations. A panel of geographers will judge all entries. Winners will be announced, and cash awards will be presented during the CGS Awards Banquet on Saturday night.

Awards

McKnight Professional Paper Awards

Three undergraduate *and* three graduate awards (\$150, \$125, and \$100)

Geosystems Award

One Award for best Physical Geography/Earth Systems Science Paper -open to both undergraduate and graduate students (\$500)

Paper Judging Criteria

1. Abstract: Abstracts should be clear, complete, and accurately reflect the content of presentation, including the research question, methods, results, and significance of the project. Abstracts must be submitted via the conference online submission form and should not exceed 150 words in length.
2. Introduction: The presenter clearly states the objectives of the study and its relationship to earlier work.
3. Methodology: Methods are appropriate and properly applied.
4. Content: Topic is relevant, original, interesting and scholarly.
5. Results and discussion: Results are logical and clearly presented; conclusions are consistent with results.
6. Demeanor and professionalism: Student's presentation features good vocal delivery, clear diction, a comfortable rate of speech, and consistent eye contact with the audience. Presenter responds effectively to questions and maintains professional conduct throughout the session.
7. Organization and timing: A polished presentation is thoughtfully organized and sequenced, including a logical progression of ideas and a clear beginning, middle, and end. The student allots an appropriate amount of time to each section of the presentation and adheres to the 20-minute time limit. Ideally, the presenter will limit his or her comments to approximately 15 minutes in length, leaving five minutes to respond to questions.
8. Visual aids: Presentations should make use of high-quality visual aids: photos, graphs, tables, and especially maps are welcome and encouraged. To the degree possible, presenters should use visual aids that they have themselves taken/prepared. Presenters must give proper citation to visual aids created by others.

Entering the Competition

1. Register for the conference (required for all presenters). See www.calgeog.org for details.
2. Submit a title and abstract using the online submission form at www.calgeog.org. Deadline for submission is: April 4th, 2009.
3. All digital presentations (PowerPoint or other) should be on a USB thumb drive AND a backup CD. The CGS will provide a PC and digital projector. Please familiarize yourself with all hardware and software before presenting. Further details regarding available audio visual equipment can be found on the online presenter submission form at www.calgeog.org.

Contact Prof. Joy Adams, Paper Competition Coordinator, with inquiries:

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