**PEC Specialty Group Meeting – Agenda**

1. Introduction and Welcome – Dave Porinchu.
* DP calls meeting to order and presents agenda. Introduces board members:
	+ - Chair – Dave Porinchu, University of Georgia (DP)
		- Secretary-Treasurer – Matthew Kerr, University of Tennessee (MK)
		- Director – Zach Taylor, Berry College (ZT)
		- Director – Maegen Rochner, University of Louisville (MR)
		- Student Representative – Luke Blentlinger, University of Tennessee (LB)
		- Past Chair – Tim Beach, University of Texas (TB)
		- Honor’s Committee Chair – Sam Krause, University of Texas (SK)
1. Membership/Treasurer’s Reports (MK)
* 2022 Account Balance: $3891
* 2023 Account Balance: $4620
* 2022 members: 119
* 2023 members: 107
	+ Currently have 45 student members, increase from 2022
	+ Regular members decreased from 2022 (58 to 45)
1. Student Paper/Poster Presentation Awards (MR)
* 2022 Paper award (PhD): Julie Edwards, University of Arizona
* 2022 Paper award (MS): Luke Blentlinger, University of Tennessee
* 2022 Poster award: Rebecca Vail, Cal State Sacramento
* 2023 winners to be announced later – 7 students in competition.
1. Student Research Grant Awards (ZT)
* 2023 (MS) winner: Sydney Hamann-Ball, University of Georgia
* 2023 (PhD) winner: Meghna Ray, University of Georgia
1. Webpage (Anna K-P)
* Anna K-P maintains the webpage.
* Jon-Paul McCool continues to do the newsletter.
* Please send Anna material!
* New participants on the webpage and newsletter needed!
1. PEC Honors (SK)
* 2023 Ellen Mosley-Thompson Award: Bigio et al. 2022
* 2023 Butzer Award: Tim Beach
* DP suggests making an award panel for Ellen Mosley-Thompson award next year – feasible to fly people out? Will the conference be well attended?
* Comments:
	+ Jim Speer: In support, nice gesture, but needs funding.
	+ Scott Mensing: Need budget to get people to Hawaii for it to work but suggests more planning/funding before starting. Difficult/confusing for people to donate on current website layout.
	+ Stockton Maxwell: Suggests career award panels to combine award event, funding needs consideration. Should prioritize grad student awards over funding for faculty award winners.
1. 2024 AAG – Honolulu (April 16-20)
* Need session and field trip organizers.
1. PEC Elections
* Chair (DP), Director (ZT), and Student Rep (LB) rotating out.
* Elections to come online later.
1. Announcements from the floor
* Journals – no announcements
* Meetings – no announcements
1. Other Business
* Increase student awards.
	+ - No more free radiocarbon dates (UGA bookkeeping won’t allow it)
		- Awards must be in cash now.
		- DP suggests raising amount of student research awards. Currently $250 for MS and $300 for PhD, should they be raised to $500?
			* DP asks if this requires a vote. Yes, probably. Will be done online after meeting for full representation.
			* Stockton Maxwell: in support but says that biogeography has managed to go negative due to declining membership and high award amounts, suggests slow increase.
			* Jim Speer agrees.
			* Megan Walsh thinks there will be more applicants.
			* DP agrees that something like $500 would be a good idea, for airline ticket or radiocarbon date.
* Ellen Mosely Thompson award discussion.
	+ - Glen MacDonald did not know he won Butzer award until the plaque came to his house. Suggests making a session for people who have won the Mosely-Thompson award. Send emails to winners so they know.
		- Jim Speer thinks the idea of the M-T panel is good.
		- Scott Mensing - We need to have a better budget to get there.
		- DP - maybe form a session around Tim Beach’s work next year.
		- Stockton Maxwell - instead of giving money to past recipients to travel to Hawaii, give money to grad students instead.
* Membership and dues
	+ - Mensing - The PayPal button on the AAG website is not good.
			* Maxwell - They have one for the BSG website, need to add one to the PEC website.
		- Rochner - How many student members?
			* DP - 45 student members last year and this year.
		- Maxwell - BSG at 212 members, down from last year. The general trend of physical geography membership is going down. How do we make that better?
		- DP - BSG and PEC need to come up with an annual lecture or something to promote Physical Geography.
* Jim Speer
	+ - African Dendro Field School, July 22nd in Zambia
		- NADEF, July 19-28, Lake Tahoe (Maxwell, Heeter, Speer)
* Matthew Kerr asked about bringing BSG and PEC together.
	+ - Stockton - greater AAG problems. What can we do to increase participation in physical geography? Need more top-down approach from AAG helping.
		- Jim Speer - what we would get from joining the two? We pay two fees now and by combining there would only be one fee, thus less money.
		- Don Sullivan says it could show that we are shrinking, not good.
* Megan Walsh says AAG is too long, missed dendro stuff at the beginning.
	+ - DP - We should stack BSG and PEC sessions in same couple of days.
		- Make sure BSG and PEC do not have overlapping sessions.
* Comments on 2024 meeting
	+ - Walsh - Student numbers will go down because of Hawaii. Maybe do virtual sessions next year to incentivize people attending virtually online.
		- DP and Walsh think fully online is better than hybrid (clunky to attend session virtually when it’s happening in person).
		- Maxwell - The 6-hour time difference between Hawaii and the east coast will make hybrid and virtual sessions tricky.
1. Adjournment