**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