

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 listserve; 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. Calvon 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

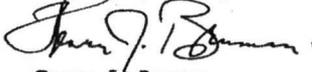
Dear Colleague:

At the suggestion of Dr. V. G. McKim, State Director, National Council of Geography Teachers, we are holding a meeting on Saturday, December 7, in 230 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

EB: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 geogrpahy [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 | Conestoga 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 | | Clem Padick |
| | Laurie Finucane | 1976 | 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 | | Jean Vance |
| | Larry Osen | 1975 | 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 | | Lawrence Stevens |
| | Carol Light | 1974 | 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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