

Africa specialty Group, AAG
Annual Business meeting, San Francisco, April 2007.

1. Meeting started at 7.05pm.
2. A moment of silence was observed in honor of the Virginia Tech massacre victims.
3. Introduction: The president of ASG, Dr. Francis Owusu introduced other executive council members: Dr. Abigail Amissah-Arthur, Dr. Seth Opoku-Appiah and Dr. Calvin Masilela.
4. Presidential report: President presented his report on a. the sessions for the AAG 2007; b. budget statement; c. operating budget from dues collected; d. expense items included publication of journal, student award.
5. The 2007 student paper award: Dr. Amissah-Arthur reported that the committee for the student paper award received several entries. She noted that the paper submitted by Sara Nelson of MacAlester College was the best paper in quality and therefore would be given the student paper award. The award was subsequently presented to Sara Nelson.
6. Africa Geographical Review: The president introduced the editors of the journal, Ian Yeboah (editor) and Bill Moseley (associate editor). Dr. Yeboah reported on the improved capability of the journal and that this was achieved by building up the journal website to include detailed information on requirements for publication; expanding circulation of the journal by signing a contract with EPSCO. He also mentioned that he has been working on getting an ISI rating for the journal. He mentioned that he is targeting having 2 issues of the journal per year. He mentioned the need to have special issues of the journal by using papers presented at sessions organized by the group. He also informed the meeting that PDF documents of all articles ever published in the journal are now online at www.macalester.edu/AGR. Dr. Yeboah hopes to ensure a quick turnaround in the review and publication of submitted articles. He therefore urged members who have been requested to review articles quickly to achieve this objective. Altogether, the quality of papers accepted for publication in the journal has improved over time.
7. Benneh foundation: Dr. Joseph Oppong observed that the setting up of the foundation is an effort to recognize the contributions of distinguished geographers on the continent. The foundation was formed to keep the work of Prof. Benneh alive. He noted that the easiest way to generate fund for the effort to go through the AAG to set up a tax exempt foundation to collect money for the foundation. A committee of three has been formed comprising Drs. Godson Obia, Joseph Oppong and Calvin Masilela to organize the foundation. The president then gave a brief biography of Prof. Benneh. He noted that the expectation is that the foundation would provide scholarship to students to attend conferences etc. More information will be communicated to members later.
8. 2008 AAG meeting: Dr. Cavin Masilela observed that the ASG was contributing to 9 sessions during the 2007 meeting. He noted the need to start early to develop sessions for next year. The following sessions were suggested by members: hydro power issues, water privatizing, urban planning problems in Africa, health, transportation, poverty, women and development, HIV and women. Members were informed that ASG has to maintain a critical mass of sessions in order to be maintain and be allotted time slots in prime time.

9. Others: The president informed the members that the AAG would like to see cross disciplinary collaborations between geographers and other groups. AAG is willing to provide some support for efforts along these lines.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Amissah-Arthur, director of Communications.