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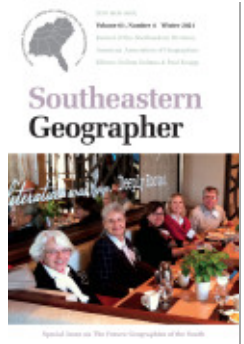
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Division

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Correction [12.02.21]: There were two errors in the caption for Figure 1.: - "Margaret "Peggy" Gripshover, Western Kentucky University" should be replaced with "Elizabeth Leppman (late), Walden University" - "Michael Brown" should be replaced with "Mathew Cox". The online version has been updated.

COVER ART

Status of Women in Geography (SWIG) in the Southeastern Division

HEIDI J.L. LANNON

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In honor of the women of the Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG) and in recognition of the second consecutive female President, it is with pleasure that the cover of *Southeastern Geographer* is dedicated to the Status of Women in Geography (SWIG) in the Division. Women are strongly represented at the American Association of Geographers (AAG) in addition to the Southeastern Division. SEDAAG is led by President Lynn Resler of Virginia Tech, who followed Joann Mossa of the University of Florida. Women are represented on the SEDAAG Executive Board by Vice President Jennifer Rahn of Samford University, Amy Potter of Georgia Southern University as Treasurer, and Selima Sultana as Regional Councilor and Co-Editor of *Southeastern Geographer*. Amy Lobben of the University of Oregon served as the first virtual President of the AAG from 2020–2021. Emily T. Yeh of the University of Colorado at Boulder is serving as the second consecutive female President of the AAG from 2021–2022.

The following recollections began as anecdotal observations to accompany the cover of this issue. The author was ushered to her first meeting in the early 1990s as a graduate student by her female mentor, Joann Mossa. Further research and assistance by mentors and friends Peggy Gripshover, Anne Oberhauser, and Ezra Ozdenerol (personal communications 2020) unearthed a lengthy history of female participation in SEDAAG.

An exact date for the establishment of SWIG at the Division level has not been determined, and membership is not formally recorded. Meetings of women geographers have historically been over breakfast and scheduled at the uncivilized hour of 7 AM. Meetings were informal and attended by a faithful few (Figure 1). *Southeastern Geographer* has a tradition of publishing details of annual conference activities. From the accounts, historical activities of women in geography can be gleaned. In a 1979 report of the annual meeting, Nancy Erwin and David Lee arranged a session entitled "Questions and Answers: AAG Committee on the Status of Women" (Lineback 1980). The first acknowledgement of the SEDAAG Committee on the Status of Women in Geography was at the 1981 meeting when SWIG sponsored a discussion on "The Working Woman" (Fisher 1982). At that meeting, Jackalie Blue convened a regional meeting of the AAG Committee on the Status of Women and Susan Moorlag led two workshops on careers in geography. The award for best Ph.D. student paper that year was to a woman, Ellen Cromley of the University of Kentucky, and Jonathan Phillips of East Carolina University



Figure 1. Enjoying breakfast together, SEDAAG meeting, Asheville, NC, 2012.

Elizabeth Leppman (late), Walden University; Helen Ruth Aspess, Virginia Commonwealth University (retired); Amanda Rees, Columbus State University; Heidi Lannon, Santa Fe College; Mathew Cox, Northwest Florida College (retired).

Image courtesy of Heidi Lannon, Eric Spears, photographer.

won at the master's level. In 1982, Helen Jane Armstrong of the University of Florida led a map library workshop (Fisher 1983).

At the 1984 meeting, the first Merle C. Prunty Scholarship was awarded to Jeanne Murday of the University of South Carolina. The same year Risa Palm was elected the President of AAG (Aiken 1985). She was the second female President of the AAG since 1904, after Meredith Burrill in 1965 (Wikipedia 2020). SWIG meetings are reported as being part of annual meetings beginning in 1991 (Meentemeyer 1992). At the 50th meeting of SEDAAG in Knoxville, conference highlights included that "panel sessions were organized to address current issues, including the status of women in geography" (Hartshorn 1996, 82). The 1997 meeting was reported on by Moore (1998), who wrote that two panel sessions were organized by the SWIG Committee.

Table 1. Female Presidents of SEDAAG

| Year | President ¹ |
|-----------|---|
| 1949 | Lillian Worley Stimson, University of Tennessee |
| 1994–1995 | Lizabeth Pyle, West Virginia University |
| 1996–1997 | Susan Brooker-Gross, Virginia Tech |
| 1998–1999 | Kavita Pandit, University of Georgia |
| 2018–2019 | Joann Mossa, University of Florida |
| 2020–2021 | Lynn Resler, Virginia Tech |

1 Formerly “Chair” until 1976

Sources: *Southeastern Geographer* (1961 to 2020), Wheeler (1996a)

Table 2. Female Treasurers of SEDAAG

| Year | Treasurer |
|-----------|---|
| 1990–1993 | Lizabeth Pyle, West Virginia University |
| 1994–1996 | Julie Elbert, University of Southern Mississippi |
| 1996–1997 | Kavita Pandit, University of Georgia |
| 2002–2003 | Susan Wolcott, Georgia State University |
| 2005–2007 | Altha Cravey, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill |
| 2009–2009 | Katie Algeo, Western Kentucky University |
| 2001–2011 | Sharon Cobb, University of North Florida |
| 2012–2013 | Heidi Lannon, Santa Fe College |
| 2016–2017 | Korine Kolivras, Virginia Tech |
| 2020–2021 | Amy Potter, Georgia Southern University |

Sources: *Southeastern Geographer* (1961 to 2020), Wheeler (1999b)

A perusal of *Southeastern Geographer* volumes provides a record of female participation and the activities of SWIG.

Table 1 shows the six women who have served as the President (previously “Chair”) of SEDAAG, since 1946, beginning with Lillian Worley Stimson of the University of Tennessee in 1949. After Dr. Worley Stimson, women did not lead SEDAAG again until the mid-1990s. From 1994 to 1999, three women served consecutively, followed by the current and Past President beginning in 2018. Figure 2 depicts the SEDAAG Past President, Joann Mossa, and other SEDAAG members celebrating her RJ Russell Award from the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group of the AAG. Table 2 shows that the position of SEDAAG Treasurer has been held by ten women spanning twenty-two years.

Female representation in the capacity of SEDAAG Vice Chair also began with Lillian Worley Stimson in 1948. There have been four subsequent women Vice Presidents: Susan Brooker-Gross of Virginia Tech, Susan Wolcott of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, Lynn Resler of Virginia Tech, and, recently elected 2021 Vice Chair, Jennifer Rahn of Samford University. The title “Vice Chair” became “Vice President” in



Figure 2. Celebrating the RJ Russell Award to Dr. Joann Mossa, AAG Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2018.

Jennifer Rahn, Samford University, Vice President of SEDAAG; Joann Mossa, University of Florida, Past President of SEDAAG; Heidi Lannon, Santa Fe College, Former SEDAAG Treasurer; Jean Ellis, University of South Carolina, Chair of AAG Coastal and Marine Specialty Group.

Image courtesy of Heidi Lannon, Philip Schmutz, photographer.

1976. Table 3 shows that seven women have served as SEDAAG Secretary over fourteen years since 1981.

At the national level, female representation from SEDAAG as Regional Councilors began in 1996 with Lizbeth Ann Pyle of West Virginia University. There have been two others including Kavita Pandit from the University of Georgia and currently Selima Sultana of the University of North Carolina Greensboro who will serve until 2023.

Southeastern Geographer enjoys editorship by the second consecutive female co-editor. Selima Sultana, of the University of North Carolina Greensboro follows Hilda Kurtz, of the University of Georgia. These women are pioneering co-editors, in conjunction with their colleagues Paul Knapp and Deepak Mishra, respectively. Prior to their service, *Southeastern Geographer*, which has been published since 1961 (Wheeler 1996b), there was one female editor, Lillian Worley Stimson in 1964. The *Memorandum Folio*, the publication of the Division from 1950 to 1966, had no female editors. The Editorial Committees have a similar pattern, beyond the pioneering days of Worley Stimson. The

Table 3. Female Secretaries of SEDAAG

| Year | Secretary |
|-----------|---|
| 1981–1982 | Melinda Meade, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill |
| 1987–1988 | Susan Brooker-Gross, Virginia Tech |
| 1989–1990 | Wilma Walker, Eastern Kentucky University |
| 2008–2009 | Hilda Kurtz, University of Georgia |
| 2010–2011 | Jamie Strickland, University of North Carolina, Charlotte |
| 2013–2014 | Katherine Hankins, Georgia State University |
| 2015–2016 | Kathy Sherman-Morris, Mississippi State University |

Sources: *Southeastern Geographer* (1961 to 2020), Wheeler (2000)

Table 4. Female SEDAAG Regional Councilors for the AAG Council

| Year | Secretary |
|-----------|---|
| 1996–1999 | Lizabeth Ann Pyle, West Virginia University |
| 2002–2005 | Kavita Pandit, University of Georgia |
| 2020–2023 | Selima Sultana, University of North Carolina Greensboro |

Sources: *Southeastern Geographer* (1961 to 2020), Wheeler (2000), Sultana (personal communication 2021)

editorial role of *Southeastern Geographer* was termed “Editorial Staff” from 1964 to 1972 and 1975 to 1997, “Editorial Board” from 1973 to 1975, and “Editorial Committee” since 1998 (Wheeler 1998c). Melinda Meade of the University of North Carolina was added in 1980, and Lizabeth Pyle was included in 1998. In 1992, three additional female members were added, and in 1996 there were six women on the committee. The longest-serving editor is Jim Wheeler of the University of Georgia, who served from 1992 to 2003. In an acknowledgement to reviewers between 1994 and 1998, the only female noted is Susan Cutter of the University of South Carolina (Wheeler 1998b). Female representation on the Editorial Committee since 2000 has been between 25 and 30 percent. Currently there are eight women on the thirty-member Editorial Committee. However, publications by women geographers have been very well received. According to the current editorial team: “we are happy to report that during the past five years (2016–2020) the number (46 percent) of publications by women as first authors in *Southeastern Geographer* is above the gender distributions of current (2018) female faculty (34.6 percent) and closely matches that of female graduate students (47.5 percent) in college and university geography departments (AAG 2020). We are hopeful that the gender gap in publications will continue to close in the coming days and that the relevancy of geographic work awareness will continue to increase among decision-makers and the public domain” (Sultana and Knapp 2020, 288).

Table 4. Female Members of the Executive Committee of SEDAAG

| Year ¹ | President ² | Vice-President ³ | Treasurer | Secretary | Editor |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 1948 | | X | | | |
| 1949 | X | | | | |
| 1950–1963 | | | | | |
| 1964 | | | | | X |
| 1965–1980 | | | | | |
| 1981–1982 | | | | X | |
| 1983–1986 | | | | | |
| 1987–1989 | | | | X | |
| 1990 | | | X | X | |
| 1991–1993 | | | | X | |
| 1994–1997 | X | X | X | | |
| 1998–1999 | X | | | | |
| 2000–2001 | | | | | |
| 2002–2003 | | | X | | |
| 2005–2007 | | | X | | |
| 2008–2011 | | X | X | | |
| 2012 | | | X | | |
| 2013 | | X | X | X | |
| 2014 | | X | | X | |
| 2015 | | | | X | |
| 2016 | | | X | X | X ⁴ |
| 2017 | | X | X | | X ⁴ |
| 2018–2019 | X | X | | | X ⁴ |
| 2020 | X | X | X | | X ⁴ |
| 2021 | X | X | X | | X ⁴ |

1 Terms are staggered, year ranges vary

2 Formerly “Chair” until 1976

3 Formerly “Vice Chair” until 1976

4 Co-Editor

Sources: *Southeastern Geographer* (1961 to 2020), Wheeler (1996a, 1996b, 1998a, 1999b, 2000)

Formal recognition of the importance of issues can be construed by funding allocations. The Women in Geography annual breakfast has a specific line item within the SEDAAG Conference budget. As treasurer of SEDAAG in 2012 and 2013, the author introduced revenue projections and planned expenditure budgets in lieu of end-of-year annual report accounting details. In 2012, a specific line item was created to fund the SWIG meetings with the support of President Doug Gamble of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, and adopted by members at the business meeting. The previous informal meetings have been replaced with a funded modest continental breakfast buffet available to all who can rouse themselves at 7 AM. Since 2012, the SWIG breakfast

Table 5. 2021–2022 Members of the Association of American Geographers Executive Committee¹

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| President | Emily T. Yeh | University of Colorado at Boulder |
| Vice-President | Marilyn Raphael | University of California, Los Angeles |
| Past-President | Amy Lobben | University of Oregon |
| Treasurer | LaToya E. Eaves | University of Tennessee, Knoxville |
| Secretary | Joseph Oppong | University of North Texas |

1 Executive Director, Gary M. Langham is also part of the AAG Executive team

Source: Association of American Geographers (2021)

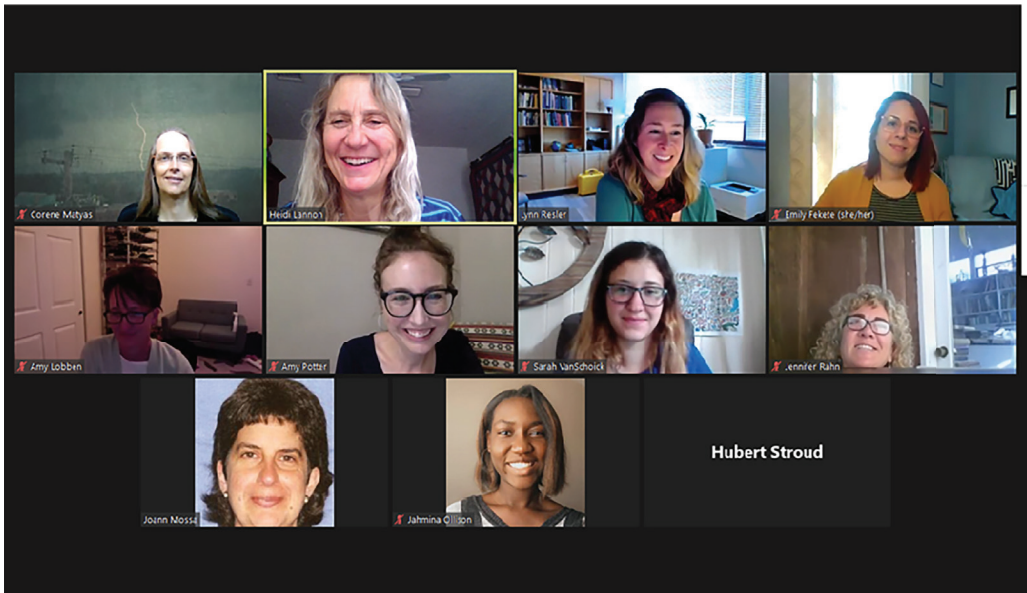


Figure 3. The virtual Status of Women in Geography meeting, 2020 SEDAAG conference.

Corene Matyas, Heidi Lannon, Lynn Resler, President of SEDAAG, Emily Fekete, Amy Lobben, Past-President of AAG, Amy Potter, Sarah VanSchoick, Jennifer Rahn, Joann Mossa, Jahmina Ollison, Hubert Stroud.

has regularly drawn twenty to thirty women, and a few men. It is now scheduled and appears in the annual conference announcement and itinerary. This is an improvement from the handwritten signs at conference registration and occasional fortunate student who was afforded breakfast through the benevolence of their faculty mentors. The wide range of participants includes full professors, Presidents and Executive Board members of SEDAAG, department chairs, graduate, and undergraduate students. The author believes the first AAG President to attend a SWIG breakfast was Derek Alderman in 2017, followed by David Kaplan in 2019, and virtually Amy Lobben in 2020 (Figure 3). Derek Alderman had attended previously as a member and President of SEDAAG. At the

national level, the AAG Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group, renamed Feminist Geographies (Oberhauser and Caretta 2019) currently has 392 members (AAG Feminist Geographies Specialty Group 2020). In addition, Table 5 shows the 2020–2021 Association of American Geographers Executive Committee is comprised of five members, four of whom are women.

This record of the roles of women and the activity of SWIG in SEDAAG is notable as our professional associations in the academy attempt to represent the characteristics of our membership and society. President Lynn Resler recently appointed the SEDAAG IDEAL Geographer (Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, Accessible, and Learning) Committee, that is charged with leading the Division's endeavors in these matters.

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