2021 PROGRESS REPORT

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
2021 was a year of expansion for the American Geographic Society. Our primary initiatives, focused on Convening, Education, Publications, and EthicalGEO, all experienced growth since 2020 as did our standing leadership in awarding honors, supporting sister organizations, and the many other activities associated every year with AGS.

The continuation of the COVID pandemic provided challenges and opportunities as the year went on. Our Symposium and other meetings scheduled for 2021 were held as planned but through technology-based platforms that served as imperfect ways to interact with our many constituencies. After over a year of “virtual” everything, the end of 2021 has AGS making plans to bring back the option to resume in-person events as we enter 2022.

Following several years of restructuring our office operations and relying on support from the AGS Council, AGS is now in the strongest financial position it has been in for decades. In keeping with this momentum, our financial situation improved even more in 2021 as cost savings measures were implemented because of COVID and expanded resource support in various areas thanks to contributors who value the work of the Society. Budgets for our initiatives increased and plans for 2022 look to continue this success. This year, our endowment received a very generous gift from Mrs. Ilse Melamid, a long-time supporter of AGS, and will serve as the impetus to develop and implement a significant endowment drive over the next few years.

AGS has 170 years of unquestionable geographic leadership and 2021 was a year, despite the pandemic, to recommit to our mission and vision. Our dedication to include all facets of society who understand the value of geography and geospatial science is a fundamental tenet of AGS and is what provides the very rich leadership that enables AGS to have not only a storied history, but also the basis from which AGS fulfills its role as the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society. Thanks to our Chairman, Chris Tucker, our President, Marie Price and the rest of the prestigious AGS Council, 2021 was a year to be proud of. Because of their energy, and under their leadership, we look towards 2022 for even greater impact.

On behalf of the AGS Staff, it is an honor for us to be a part of this revered organization and we are humbled by the opportunity to continue the work that has been the hallmark of AGS for over 170 years. It is my pleasure to report to you the progress of the Society for 2021.

Regards,

John Konarski, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION
To be the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society
Our signature annual Fall Symposium, Geography 2050, is a multi-year, strategic dialog about the vital trends that will reshape the geography of our planet in the coming decades. The symposium is usually held at Columbia University, in New York City, with participants from around the country.

As it was in 2020, the 2021 symposium was held virtually and focused on "Towards a More Equitable Future." Although the virtual format restricted the amount of discussion by participants, thousands of people from around the world were able to join the symposium who may not have been able to attend had it been in person. Not only was the theme about equity, in fact, the roster of speakers was one of the most diverse for any geographically related conference or meeting to date.

We hope the symposium in 2022, which will focus on The Future of Food, will be able to be an in-person event again.
In May of 2021, AGS held the first GeoConvergence virtual workshop as part of the EthicalGEO Initiative. With a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the GeoConvergence workshop convened a broad and diverse set of stakeholders from all sectors of society to identify and address the scientific, engineering, interoperability, and policy challenges hampering a geographical framework necessary for real time convergence of artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, GIS, remote sensing, among other expanding and emerging technologies. Participants in the three-day workshop had access to 25 different sessions, exchanged ideas, and created recommendations to share with policymakers to help guide policy and research.

In order to further build community and accelerate innovation while actively considering the ethical dimensions of such a fast growing field, AGS launched the GeoAI Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to convene thinkers, innovators, researchers, practitioners, educators, students, policy makers, and concerned citizens around this complex set of issues to shed some light on both the opportunities and perils posed by this exciting field.
The American Geographical Society is dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across all sectors, but most importantly for teachers and students. The Geography Educator Initiative is our major initiative which supports teachers of Advanced Placement Human Geography (APHG), whose commitment to increasing geographic literacy and understanding among secondary students is unparalleled in the US education system.

**2021 Teacher Advisory Board**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and School</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Neil Conner</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>California State University, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Greg Hill</td>
<td>APHG Teacher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Horn High School, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Celeste Reynolds</td>
<td>APHG Teacher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mashpee High School, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Betsy Smalley</td>
<td>Retired APHG Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cinco Ranch High School, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Daniel Whalen</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northwestern High School, MD</td>
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</tbody>
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Members of the board are current and former Advanced Placement Human Geography (APHG) teachers and leaders in geography who guide AGS in our efforts to serve as the foremost champion of geographic education.

**RESOURCES**

AGS is committed to providing all of our resources and support at no cost to AP Human Geography teachers and their school districts.

- Lesson and project plans for the APHG classroom
- Subscription to DailyGeo
- Subscription to our monthly teacher newsletter
- GeoBOOST
- Mappy Hour training on OpenStreetMap
- Professional development opportunities and special events
- Teacher-led webinars
- Video Series: A Conversation with the Chief Reader

"I so admire the energy and commitment of AP Human Geography teachers working across the country to improve geographic education. It is an exciting partnership that continues to grow and evolve."

Dr. Marie Price, AGS President
In 2021, the Geography Educator Initiative...

**WEBINARS**
- AGS hosted multiple webinars featuring leading APHG teachers from across the U.S., who shared their tips and best practices for preparing students to take the APHG exam and incorporating the official course and exam description into engaging lesson plans.
- Released the new video series, *A Conversation with the Chief Reader*, developed by AGS in collaboration with APHG Chief Reader, Dr. Lisa Benton-Short. The first 8-part series provides teachers cutting-edge content that covers contemporary ideas in human geography.

**GEOBOOST**
- AGS expanded our GeoBOOST program after the success of our 2020 pilot.
- Awarded 78 APHG teachers mini-grants, each worth $300-$500, to boost and enrich the learning experiences of APHG students.
- 5,000 students from 33 states and 4 countries/territories benefited from the grants.

**DAILYGEO**
- 3,000+ teachers received the DailyGeo blast and used it to start classroom instruction and incorporate relevant global news into their curriculum.

**GEOGRAPHY2050 VIDEO VAULT**
- AGS added every session, over 65 from Geography 2050: Towards a More Equitable Future, to the website’s Video Vault, accessible by everyone, however teachers have the unique opportunity to share these sessions in the classroom.
- 2 APHG teachers were selected to present Lightning Talks at this year’s symposium.
The Geographical Review (GR) began in 1859 as the Journal of the American Geographical and Statistical Society and is the oldest geographical journal in North America. The GR helps readers to understand what practical impacts these studies have and to learn from the authors themselves on the theoretical implications of their studies and how it compares to other work.

"I may be biased, but I feel that this has been the most exciting period of the journal's history. We have decided to honor this growth with an expansion to five issues per year, starting in 2022."

Chief Editor, David H. Kaplan

In 2021, GR published Volume 111:
- 2 Special Issues
- 30 Articles
- 12 Book Reviews
- 630 Pages

"FOCUS on Geography" is an open access journal which continues in the tradition of the original paper magazine but in a more dynamic and interactive format, including feature articles, photo essays and quizzes. In 2021, 9 new articles were added to Volume 64.
Our most dynamic publication, DailyGEO, is a short, digital news blast highlighting the ubiquitous nature of geography’s role in daily headline stories.

This resource is comprised of three main sections: Where in the World which showcases 3 major headline news stories with maps, In Case You Missed It which provides the top performing social media posts across AGS’ platforms, and a GeoQuestion to test the geographic knowledge of our readers in a fun and informative way.

Subscribers have DailyGeo delivered straight to their inbox Monday through Friday. While currently a benefit of membership and a resource to all APHG Teachers, the popularity of DailyGeo is expanding and plans are underway to increase readership substantially.

In 2021, DailyGEO published

249 Digital News Blasts | 747 Headline Stories | 249 GeoQuestions

CELEBRATING BLACK GEOGRAPHERS ANTHOLOGY

In February of 2021, Dr. Demetrice Jordan in partnership with AGS developed and launched the Celebrating Black Geographers Anthology. The project was inspired by the report titled ‘Black Geographers in Institutions of Higher Education in the United States: Where They Are and a Selected Bibliography of Their Works,’ published in 2003 by Joe T. Darden and Lucia Terra. This anthology is an expansion of the previous report, birthed out of the necessity to have a publicly available single source database that chronicles the contributions of Black Geographers to the discipline of Geography. Dr. Jordan’s 2021 work covered the First Cohort of Black Geographers, whose degree conferrals were between 1900 - 2000, including 83 entries and counting. In 2022, AGS will release the Second Cohort which will cover Black Geographers with degrees conferred from 2001 - 2010.
AGS was one of the first geographic organizations to realize the importance of social media’s role to advance geography. We take our platform seriously as a leader in all things geo and we continuously evaluate and reevaluate our reach and our ability to engage and communicate with our followers as part of our strategy. In the latter part of 2021, we began the process to expand our Instagram presence. We are currently spreading geo-awareness on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

**UBIQUE** means "everywhere" in Latin

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EthicalGEO started in 2019 to support Research Fellows tackling issues at the intersection of ethics and geospatial sciences. In 2020, with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation, EthicalGEO established the Location Tech Task Force in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ethical dilemmas posed by contact-tracing. The Task Force convened ten panels of experts over the course of summer 2020, leading national and international conversations on the ethical use of geospatial technology and location tracking during the pandemic and beyond. In 2021, the EthicalGEO Initiative focused on the GeoConvergence workshop, establishment of the Locus Charter, continued conversation through our EthicalGEO blog and additions to our Knowledge Repository.

AGS convened several international, collaborative workshops in support of the Locus Charter. The Charter consists of 10 founding global principles to help users of geospatial data make more informed decisions, and proposes that wider, shared understanding of the risks and solutions relating to uses of location data can improve standards of practice, and help protect individuals and the public interest. AGS continues to devote resources to leading the evolution of the Locus Charter. The next step for the founding members of the Charter is to create a governance structure, expand the number of participating organizations, and develop activities supporting the Charter.

“Locus” is the Latin word for “Place”

EthicalGEO Blog

The EthicalGEO Initiative includes the EthicalGEO Blog and its own social media platform dedicated to spurring conversations with the public while exploring our five priority issues: Privacy, Politics, People, Planet and Property. Finally, the EthicalGEO Knowledge Repository is a regularly-updated and openly accessible database which provides online resources and information regarding the ethics of location data.

10 FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

1. Realize Opportunities
2. Understand Impacts
3. Do No Harm
4. Protect the Vulnerable
5. Address Bias
6. Minimize Intrusion
7. Minimize Data
8. Protect Privacy
9. Prevent Identification of Individuals
10. Provide Accountability

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Since AGS’ conception in 1851, the Society has awarded various honors, awards, and prizes to many historic figures in geography and exploration. One of the most important responsibilities of AGS is to recognize excellence in geographical research and exploration through the awarding of the field of geography’s most important Medals.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

The AGS Council Fellowship was created to support graduate student scholarship in pursuit of geographical knowledge, and especially fieldwork. Each fellowship is worth $1,500 and four are awarded each year.

### 2021 Medal Recipients

**The Cullum Geographical Medal** for geographical discoveries, or in the advancement of geographical science to

Dr. Laura Pulido

**The Charles P. Daly Medal** for valuable or distinguished geographical services or labors to

Dr. Audrey Kobayashi

**The David Livingstone Centenary Medal** for scientific achievement in the field of geography of the southern hemisphere to

Dr. William Denevan

**The Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal** for outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between human culture and natural resources to

Dr. Caroline Finney

**The John E. Gould Medal** for recognizing commitment to ethics in geography to

Mr. William Herbert

The Wrigley-Fairchild Prize was established in 1994 as a way to promote scholarly writing among new scholars. The prize is given annually to the author of the best article by an early-career scholar published in the Geographic Review.

### 2021 Recipients for their work in 2020:

Mx. Eden Kinkaid
Mrs. Hilda Onuoha
Ms. Özlem Ayse Özgür
Ms. Alana Rader

2021 marked the first time the Gould Medal was awarded, thanks to a generous gift from Mrs. Isle Melamid, long-time supporter of AGS.
We convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning, and exploration; and advance geographic science and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities.

OUR MISSION

About the Council

The AGS Council is the governing board of the Society and has been leading the organization since 1851. Some of the nation’s most prominent geographers, business and not-for-profit executives, public figures, and other geospatial leaders have served on the Council since its inception in 1851. The diversity of the Council has been its greatest strength as AGS has led the cause for geography and geospatial science.

With a limited budget and lean staff, our Council members do far more than just fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities to guide the work of AGS. Our Council is a "working board" -- they contribute their time and expertise on a regular basis and are actively involved in our many initiatives. Besides the frequent interaction with the staff on initiatives, the Council held five official meetings this year.

In 2021, the Council was proud to welcome two new members.

New Council Members

"It has been an honor and a privilege to lead the AGS Council for the last 5 years, learning from and collaborating with this impressive set of leaders to advance the vision and mission of the Society. Our Councilors' commitment, and willingness to roll up their sleeves, has allowed the Society to innovate and raise the standard for Geography in America."

Dr. Christopher Tucker, Chairman

Members

J. Dinsmore Adams
Joshua Campbell
Robert S. Chen
Andrea d’Amato
Al Di Leonardo
Jerome Dobson
William Doyle
Stephen Gillette
Amy Glasmeier
Meredith Gore
John Gould
Demetrice Jordan
David Kaplan
Parag Khanna
John Konarski
Robin Leichenko
Keith J. Masback
Alexander Murphy
Jared E. Novick
Kate Heller O’Reilly
James E. Pickle
Deborah Popper
Marie Price
Wesley Reisser
Mark Safran
Lee Schwartz
Michael Steinberg
Christopher Tucker
John Noble Wilford
Antoinette WinklerPrins
Dean Wise

Governance
AGS is a 501(c)(3) organization. It is also a Project Partner of the Fund for the City of New York (FCNY). Under this arrangement, FCNY serves as AGS’s fiscal sponsor, providing “back office” support to enable AGS to focus energy and resources on its programmatic work. AGS conducts its program-related financial activities through FCNY, with FCNY supplying financial management services, monthly expense and revenue reports, an insurance coverage program, and a comprehensive employee benefits program. FCNY is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions made to FCNY for the benefit of AGS are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

The vision, mission, and day-to-day activities of AGS are overseen by the AGS Council. The annual budget for operations is prepared in consultation with FCNY and approved by FCNY and the AGS Council.

AGS maintains an independent endowment comprised of two investment funds over which AGS has management responsibilities: the Combined Fund and the Medals Fund. The Society’s investment policy is focused on growing the principal value of the investment portfolios in both the Combined Fund and the Medals Fund, while also maintaining a goal of earning predictable annual income from the investments in the Combined Fund for the Society to use in its operations and from the investments in the Medal Fund for the Society to use in awarding medals. All values are at Fair Market Value. All contributions made to the Funds are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

ENDOWMENT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Value (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combined Fund</td>
<td>$1,202,076.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medals Fund</td>
<td>430,107.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Endowment</td>
<td>$1,632,184.26</td>
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The Society’s investment advisory firm with respect to the Combined Fund and the Medals Fund is Wellington Shields Capital Management LLC, 140 Broadway, 44th Floor, New York, NY 10005.
Supporters of AGS help advance the mission of AGS with engagement, guidance, and financial support. Our Partners and Corporate Angels help shape the dialogue and focus of our continuing Symposium programs as well as other relevant Society endeavors. Specifically, Corporate Angels provide financial support and resources to our Geography Educator Initiative. Our supporters play a critical role in ensuring the relevance of Society activities as they address both current and future issues and opportunities.

In 2021, AGS was proud to work with the following organizations supporting our efforts:

**Partners**
- GLADES FOUNDATION
- HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION
- LUCENT NETWORK
- Impact Observatory
- Routledge Taylor & Francis Group
- TeachOSM
- Ab Bernstein
- Economic Innovation Group
- GLADES FOUNDATION
- National Geographic
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- OpenSense
- The Earth Institute
- Columbia University
- WOOLPERT

**Corporate Angels**
- CRITIGEN
- Dewberry
- Voyager
- ManTech
- Tenax Aerospace
- CUBIC
- ESI
- Forward Slope Inc.
- GEOISU
- ManTech International Corporation
- Ayde Analytics
- Arturo
- Constellis
- Sand Hill Geographic
- Image Matters
- Voyaguer
- PLUM RUN
- Dean Wise LLC
- Voyager
- Voyager
- Voyager
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- Voyager
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YouTube: American Geographical Society