2022 was a reunion year for many organizations, and the American Geographical Society (AGS) was no exception. Finally...after over two years of COVID isolation we were able to meet “live and in person”. Two years is a long time to use Zoom as the only way to interact with family, friends, and colleagues, and as great as it was to at least have that, nothing beats person-to-person human contact. And especially for geographers...and everyone who is geo-interested...being able to go back to exploring our planet is something that is even dearer to our hearts after two years of not being able.

AGS initiatives continued and were strengthened during 2022. Perhaps most affected by our return to in-person events were our opportunities to convene two meetings: our annual Geography2050 Symposium in the Fall and a special meeting held in July in Washington DC, Geography2050: The Discussion Continues. At both events you could feel the energy of being back together...and all of us realized that while it was like “old times”, the world was different now: there were new people, a changed sense of “stability”, and a common thread of uncertainty that everyone had as we all “moved forward”.

With our Advanced Placement Human Geography (APHG) Teachers back in the classroom, we continued to work closely with them and provide materials and assistance. The Teacher Fellow program was reinstated, and the 2022-2023 Fellows were an integral part of the Fall Symposium. Our commitment to the APHG Teachers is as strong as ever, and the relationship between the teachers and AGS continues to grow. Because of this, 2022 found us in deep discussion as to how we can maintain and expand our support to those on the front lines of geographical education in this country.

We maintained and expanded many of our other initiatives and activities. Publications, outreach, awards/honors, and other special projects continue to make up a substantial amount of AGS’ geo leadership. In fact, there are so many things going on that we felt trying to cover them all sufficiently in this report was almost impossible. So, to further explain the work we are doing, we have added direct links from this report to our many initiatives so you can see the extent of AGS’ influence. Whenever you see this symbol you can find a link to more information.

AGS, as it has for the last 172 years, is in the unique position of having a lot of experience with looking to the future as a time for opportunity. We took advantage of 2022 to position ourselves to continue our cause to provide leadership for geography and geospatial science in a post-pandemic world. And as I noted in last year’s Progress Report, 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 which has been the hallmark of AGS since 1851.

It is my pleasure to report to you the progress of The Society for 2022.

Regards,

John Konarski, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

AGS MISSION STATEMENT

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 annual Fall Symposium, Geography 2050, is a multi-year, strategic dialog about the vital trends reshaping the geography of our planet in the coming decades. This year's Symposium took place on November 17th and 18th, marking both our return to holding the event in-person at Columbia University and a new, closer partnership with the newly-launched Columbia Climate School. Our theme this year, "The Future of Food" drew an assortment of diverse speakers and participants from five continents, who joined AGS Councilors and contributors from the Columbia Climate School to identify the challenges and opportunities of feeding the Earth's growing and shifting population in a time of political and environmental uncertainty. This year's Symposium featured sessions that linked the all-encompassing nature of geography with the extensive systems that comprise what it takes to feed our planet. 2022 was also the first year AGS was able to bring back our annual Teacher Fellows, which had been paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Geography Educator Initiative provides an opportunity for selected Teacher Fellows to attend the annual 2050 Symposium in New York City, where they participate in the Symposium, and several specially-designed workshops that focus on how the Symposium material can be transferred to their classrooms.
Following on the success and lessons learned from holding online symposia in 2020 and 2021, AGS took an integrated approach to the presentations for the 2022 Symposium. Ahead of the event, we released recordings previewing three speakers, known as Appetizers. Presenters unavailable to join us in New York provided pre-recorded Lightning Talks for the website. And for the first time ever, we livestreamed three sessions during the Symposium. As with every Geography 2050 Symposium, all sessions and recordings are hosted on the Geography 2050 website’s Video Cellar.

GEOGRAPHY 2050: DC

The Discussion Continues

Geography 2050: DC – “The Discussion Continues” – is a one-day symposium co-sponsored by AGS and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). Held on July 27th at the NGA Headquarters in Springfield, VA, "The Discussion Continues" was AGS' last in-person event in 2020 and first in-person event in 2022. The one-day event revisited themes and conversations from the previous year's Symposium, "Towards a More Equitable Future." AGS continued the dialogue about challenges of inequity and climate change, the changing face of the Arctic, and new technologies to improve understandings and capabilities in dealing with these challenges. NGA livestreamed the event throughout their headquarters, thus enabling an even larger audience than the auditorium could hold.
AGS continues to be one of the most important providers of teaching resources and materials to high school teachers teaching Advanced Placement Human Geography (APHG). Many APHG teachers make use of the DailyGeo as a way to engage students in lively discussions while also building geographic literacy. GeoBoost grants, while modest in size, have significant impacts for many teachers who lack up-to-date resources such as atlases or textbooks, or who want to undertake innovation programming with their students. The webinars they organize provide teachers with information that is timely and helpful. And the AGS Teachers Fellows program celebrates AP Human Geography teachers and creates a learning community that benefits from sharing and exchanging ideas, activities, resources, and experiences. The highlight of the AGS Teachers Fellows program takes place at the annual AGS Symposium, where teachers meet with academics and practitioners to learn more about Geography. The work AGS is doing to support AP Human Geography teachers is truly making a difference for teachers, and for the thousands of students they teach each year.

Dr. Lisa Benton-Short
APHG Chief Reader

The Geography Educator Initiative's Teacher Advisory Board is made up of APHG experts, including many former or current APHG Teachers who guide AGS in our efforts to provide support for the teachers. The Advisory Board meets regularly to advise us on the resources we design and curate for the APHG community, and identify new opportunities to develop supplemental content relevant to the curriculum.
For the 2021-2022 academic year, the Geography Educator Initiative offered APHG Teachers across the globe a chance to enhance their students’ geographic learning through our GeoBOOST program.

In the Fall of 2021, we selected more than 50 teachers from 32 U.S. states to receive $300 grants to use towards geographic or geospatial-related activities, resources, or experiences for their students. In 2022, AGS released the GeoBOOST Story Map, hosted on ArcGIS, as an interactive tool to see how our selected teachers have spent their funds during the 2021-2022 academic year. From field trips to map collections, geography books, and lego sets, APHG Teachers were able to provide thousands of students with new and creative ways to learn about geography and geospatial sciences.

In the Fall of 2022, we selected 76 teachers to receive GeoBOOST grants for the 2022-23 academic year!

The AGS Teacher Fellows program invites 50 APHG Teachers to attend our annual Geography 2050 Symposium at Columbia University in NYC. Fellows have the opportunity to engage hundreds of thought leaders across academia, government, industry, and the social sector -- professionals with whom they would not ordinarily have the chance to interact. Our Teacher Fellows program was temporarily suspended in 2020 and 2021 as we pivoted to virtual Symposia due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2022, AGS welcomed the fifth class of Teacher Fellows in NYC to the November Symposium. APHG Teachers from across the United States not only attended Symposium sessions, but also joined special teacher-only workshops before and after the Symposium that connected Symposium themes to APHG curriculum units and helped teachers explore basic mapping tools.
On February 28th, AGS Councilor Dr. Alec Murphy, Professor Emeritus at the University of Oregon, gave his lecture, “Political-Geographic Dimensions of the Ukraine Crisis,” on the history, politics, and geography behind Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and then provided a recording to our APHG Teachers.

For the second year in a row, AGS held the APHG Exam Prep webinar. On April 9th, the Society welcomed back experienced APHG Teachers from across the country to share their strategies and expertise on best practices for their students preparing for the APHG exam.

Beginning in May, and in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Office of the Geographer of the United States, our Short Takes’ video series, lead by APHG Chief Reader Dr. Lisa Benton-Short, renewed for a four-part series featuring conversations with Dr. Lee Schwartz on the history and current activities of his position at the U.S. State Department.

The Geography 2050 website houses the video archives from all previous Symposia. Recordings from 2022’s Fall Symposium, The Future of Food, can be found in the Video Cellar. Both teachers and students can utilize sessions to spark discussions in the classroom complimentary to the curriculum.

DailyGeo

DailyGeo is one of our most popular resources for APHG Teachers, where they can incorporate relevant world news and current geopolitical events into their daily discussions. In 2022, nearly 3,100 teachers received the DailyGeo email blast and used it to commence their classroom instruction.

Lesson Plans

The APHG course curriculum includes seven units spread out over the academic year. For each unit theme, AGS works with the Teacher Advisory Board to curate lesson plans that support classroom objectives. Our robust lesson plans include books, movies, maps and story maps, YouTube videos, podcasts, games, articles, databases, and even social media accounts relevant to each unit.

Besides being part of the APHG curriculum, in 2022, AGS Councilor Dr. Alec Murphy’s seminal book, Geography: Why it Matters, was translated into Korean and became a best seller online and in many Korean book stores.

In 2022, AGS launched the newsletter, Geography Educator Insider, tailored specifically to the APHG community as a way to stay connected and up-to-date on all GEI happenings.

Professional Development

In partnership with OSM TeenMaptivists and TeachOSM, AGS provides professional development opportunities for educators and learners. In 2022, through the TeachOSM program, AGS hosted monthly, and sometimes bi-monthly virtual Map-Along and Mapathon events, training users on how to incorporate open mapping in the classroom, and how to map with the OpenStreetMap platform.
The EthicalGEO Initiative seeks to stimulate thinkers, innovators, entrepreneurs, policymakers, practitioners, students, and citizens and involve them in a global dialogue that focuses on ethical challenges and opportunities posed by geospatial technologies and data sources that are reshaping our society. In 2022, the EthicalGEO Initiative disseminated its work about the ethical issues surrounding the use of geospatial technology through our EthicalGEO Blog, Knowledge Repository, and regular updates to our social media platforms. One of our main efforts has been to increase supporters of the Locus Charter and expand awareness of its 10 Principles.

The EthicalGEO Blog posted 19 blog entries to the website and various social media platforms in 2022, exploring the five priority issues, and spurring conversations with the public.

The article, 'The Ethics of Location Tracking During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Building Awareness and Consensus,’ was published in the journal, The Professional Geographer.

The article, 'Ethics in the use of geospatial information in the Americas,’ was published in the journal, Technology in Society.

"It would be premature to state that a formal consensus exists regarding the ethical handling of location data, but there is growing awareness, which is changing practices of data collection, access, storage, masking, and timed removal. Through EthicalGEO and the Locus Charter, the American Geographical Society is sharing best practices so that geoprivacy is better understood and practiced."

Privacy
- Defining our rights to privacy in an age of location tracking

Politics
- Investigating how governments use data to draw maps, inform policing, and surveil citizens

People
- Empowering communities seeking social, environmental, and economic justice through geospatial data and tools

Planet
- Encouraging ethical treatment of the planet through geographic enquiry

Property
- Exploring the ways in which geospatial data inform property rights
The **Locus Charter** is a set of international common principles to support ethical and responsible practice when using location data. Consisting of **10** founding principles, the Charter is set up to help organizations and users of geospatial data realize the ethical questions posed because of the use of geospatial technology and assist them to make ethically-informed decisions. This year, the Charter's main focus has been to increase the number of supporters, and to encourage them to submit "**Use Cases.**" The Locus Charter is constantly evolving with, and adapting to, new technologies. Use Cases are an effective way to more clearly understand how the principles are being applied in every day scenarios. The goal for these Use Cases is to analyze what factors are pertinent, to adapt the Charter's language to improve its application. In 2022, the Locus Charter supporters gathered for **three** meetings and added **10** new **supporter** organizations. In October, the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), spearheaded by OGC's CEO, Nadine Alameh, hosted the webinar, 'Locus Charter Applications for GeoEthics,' in an effort to engage data practitioners on how to apply the Charter principles in their work.

"...advancing the responsible use of location data"
The Geographical Review (GR) finds its origins going back to 1859 when it was known as the ‘Journal of the American Geographical and Statistical Society.’ Since then, the GR has been publishing cutting-edge geographically-related research. As the oldest geographic journal in North America, it is recognized throughout the world as an important source of geographical knowledge. Our Geographical Review Previews on Ubique expand the readership base by providing an opportunity for non-subscribers to the journal to have access to it. Over the past several decades, the journal was published four times annually. 2022 was an important milestone for the GR, in that it was the first year the journal increased its issues to five issues per year. Of those, three of them were special issues including, Issue 1: ‘The Power of Place in Place Attachment,’ Issue 3: ‘Sustaining Rural Systems,’ and Issue 5: ‘Chilean Patagonia.’

In 2022, the GR added a Book Review Editor and Social Media Coordinator. This allowed us to expand our commitment to providing interesting and thought-provoking book reviews, and cultivate the journal’s growing digital influence as one of the most important sources for geographic and geospatial research. In March, the GR launched its Twitter account, and already is a widely shared subject of social media.

2022’s most read GR article was: ‘LOCAL DIFFERENTIATION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN COASTAL GHANA’ by Victor Owusu and Edo Andriesse. Our GR Preview includes pictures from their fieldwork in Ghana, including this one to the left, as well as questions and answers from the authors.

Prior to joining the GR, Ms. Cann was AGS’ Special Projects and Initiatives Manager, and is now pursuing her PhD at Rutgers!

Katherine Cann Social Media Coordinator
Sara Keough Book Review Editor

FOCUS on Geography provides a digital space for geographers to showcase their work in a multi-media and interactive format. For many decades, FOCUS was a printed subscription-based publication. In 2016, a group of AGS Councilors came up with the idea to change it completely, moving it to a peer-reviewed, open access, digital publication. The digital FOCUS platform enables a more dynamic and creative interactive approach, and includes featured articles, photo essays, and geo-quizzes. In 2022, FOCUS released Volume 65.

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. In addition, each featured article and photo essay has a Digital Object Identifier (DOI)!

The Editors of FOCUS:

Deborah Popper Wesley Reisser Michael Steinberg

Wesley Reisser
Deborah Popper
Michael Steinberg

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DailyGeo is our daily communication with the world, and is a short, digital news blast highlighting stories that showcase the ubiquitous nature of geography's role in the daily headlines. DailyGeo reaches thousands of people everyday, Monday through Friday, year-round.

In 2022, DailyGeo published:
251 Digital News Blasts | 753 Headline Stories | 251 GeoQuestions

Beyond being our daily face to the world, DailyGeo has become an integral resource for AP Human Geography Teachers. Because of this, in 2022, we developed a new portal on Ubique, designed to make past issues of DailyGeo easily navigable via our new searchable database. The new database includes all DailyGeo entries since it began in 2017. The database is accompanied by the new DailyGeo Map. Users can search through thousands of DailyGeo news blasts by country, topic, and even by APHG curriculum units.
In February of 2022, AGS released the second installment of the Celebrating Black Geographers Anthology, developed by Dr. Demetrice "Dee" Jordan. The Second Cohort features Black Geographers whose degrees were conferred between 2001 - 2010. This collection aims to bring awareness to the impacts, contributions, and legacies Black geographers have had on the discipline, their communities, and the world. Hosted on the Anthology, each geographer is also individually highlighted across AGS' social media platforms, where we spotlight their often unrecognized contributions to the discipline of Geography. The Anthology also demonstrates the varying professional opportunities possible with an advanced degree in geography, as we aim to encourage future students from underrepresented backgrounds to seek higher education opportunities in geography.

"I stand on the shoulders and in the company of giants, and it has been my pleasure to share their works through the Celebrating Black Geographers Anthology!"

Dr. Dee Jordan
AGS Councillor

The Anthology includes photographs, biographies, and interesting facts, situated into a timeline of events occurring when these geographers were matriculating.

Submissions Are Rolling! AGS is always accepting profile submissions to be featured on the Anthology!

Black geographers are teachers, lecturers, or professors of African American, Black/African descent (i.e. African, Afro Latino, Afro Caribbean) and all members of the African Diaspora, who possess advanced degrees in geography, and who have a demonstrated track record of teaching, research, or practice in the discipline of Geography. To be featured in the Anthology, submit a form.
Meaning “everywhere” in Latin, Ubique is one of the oldest phrases tied to AGS’ history. Ubique is our consistently updated blog that includes the Society’s news, Map of the Week, Company Spotlights, Newsletters, Geographical Review Previews, and the DailyGeo archive.

In 2022, Ubique published: 52 Maps of the Week | 12 Newsletters | 100+ Total Entries

AGS engages and connects with the geographic community on a daily...near hourly...basis through our energetic, online presence. We are one of the most active geographical societies in the world utilizing social media as part of our communication strategy to promote geographical knowledge and thinking. AGS is in a unique position to reach broad and diverse audiences across our various platforms, many of which use social media as their main mode of communication. Our continued online presence and ability to showcase geography...especially what’s trending at the moment...is part of AGS’ international reputation. Each social media platform is given its own approach depending on the intended audience. We systematically analyze our engagement on a continual basis, enabling us to adapt methodologies to broaden our reach. In March, after revamping our Instagram account and increasing our followership, we added TikTok to our social media priorities, connecting to a whole new community of younger people who are now able to engage with the Society. Currently, geo-enthusiasts can connect with us on a variety of platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and now, TikTok!

Social_Media

Click the icons to be directed straight to our social media profiles!

16k Twitter Followers
30.3k Facebook Followers
1.7M Facebook Reach
180+ Instagram Posts
500k TikTok Plays
Since AGS’ founding, the Society has awarded various honors recognizing extraordinary accomplishments in fields related to geographic study and practice. AGS currently has 10 distinguished medals which are awarded on a regular basis. In 2022, AGS conferred medals to three individuals who demonstrated excellence in their fields at Geography 2050 in New York City. Dr. Joe T. Darden and Dr. Karen Seto received their medals at the Symposium. As Mrs. Norwood was unable to attend the event, AGS President Dr. Marie Price presented Mrs. Norwood’s medal to her at her Los Angeles home. AGS also awarded four AGS Council Fellowships of $1,500 to support geographic research and fieldwork by graduate students. In addition, AGS recognized excellence in research through the Wrigley-Fairchild Prize for the best article published in the prior year of the Geographical Review.

Left to Right: Dr. Joe T. Darden receiving his medal from Chairman Chris Tucker. Mrs. Virginia Norwood and Dr. Karen Seto receiving their medals from President Marie Price. Watch 2022’s Honors and Awards Ceremony!
The passion and excitement that the AGS Council has for the vision and mission of the Society is infectious. It is an honor to chair the AGS Council and to work with this community of thought leaders and innovators to advance geography, geographic thinking and geospatial innovation in America and beyond.

The AGS Council is the governing board of the Society, leading the organization since 1851. Since its conception, 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.

The vision, mission, and day-to-day activities of AGS are overseen by the Council. 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,” contributing their time and expertise on a regular basis while being actively involved in our many initiatives. Besides the frequent collaboration with staff, the Council held five meetings this year, including our first in-person meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic, held in New York City following the Geography 2050 Symposium in November.

Historical and geographical leaders such as Henry Grinnell, Seth Low, Isaiah Bowman, Archer M. Huntington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John Noble Wilford, have all sat on the AGS Council!

COUNCILORS ELECTED IN 2022

Clinton Johnson
Carrie Stokes
Chris Verlinden

AGS Operations

AGS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a "Partner Project" of the Fund for the City of New York (FCNY). 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 also 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. Under this arrangement, FCNY serves as AGS' fiscal sponsor, providing “back office” support which enables AGS to focus resources on its programmatic work and initiatives. The annual budget for operations is prepared in consultation with FCNY and approved by FCNY and the AGS Council.

The Endowment

AGS maintains an independent endowment comprised of two investment funds - the Combined Fund and the Medals Fund - over which AGS retains management responsibilities. The Society's investment policy focuses on growing the principal value of the investment portfolios in both Funds, while also earning a predictable annual income from investments made to the Combined Fund for the Society's operations, and from investments made to the Medal Fund for the Society's annual Honors and Awards ceremony, where outstanding geographers are awarded medals. All values are at Fair Market Value, and all contributions made to the Funds are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

In 2022, AGS retained the services of Censullo, Gupta & Associates, LLP, to handle endowment accounting matters. Censullo, Gupta & Associates is a Minority and Woman-owned firm committed to promoting equity in the field of accounting. In 2021, our symposium theme was "Towards a More Equitable Future," and this is just one the many ways AGS has committed to making this future a reality.

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SUMMARY OF CASH OPERATING ACTIVITIES AT FCNY
FISCAL YEAR 2022
OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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<td>REVENUE</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Program Related Income</td>
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<td>EXPENSE</td>
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<td>CASH AT END OF YEAR</td>
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ENDOWMENT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

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<td>Medals Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Total Endowment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,479,448.68</strong></td>
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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 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.

2022 SUPPORTERS
Click the logo to go to the organization's site.