Dear GORABS Members,

On behalf of the GORABS Board, we hope that you will enjoy the Spring 2019 edition of the GORABS Newsletter. Although we have fewer sponsored sessions this year than in the past, you will see that there are quite a number of paper presentations being given throughout the week that will be of direct relevance to GORABS members, and you are encouraged to attend these. Please also note that all official GORABS activities will be taking place on Wednesday April 3 in the Directors Room, Omni, West. This includes our 11th Annual GORABS Lecture, this year featuring Professor Peter Hopkins, who will be giving a lecture entitled “Understanding Islamophobia.” Immediately following the lecture, we will hold the GORABS business meeting. We of course hope to see you at both of these events!

Our webpage can still be found at: aaggorabs.wordpress.com. You can also find us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/GeographyOfReligionAndBeliefSystemsGorabsAag/

-Vincent M. Artman, GORABS Secretary & Vice-Chair and Maxim Samson, Assistant Secretary

GORABS at AAG 2019 – Washington, DC

Please note the following GORABS-related information, with reference to our forthcoming annual AAG meeting in New Orleans:

1. The 11th Annual GORABS Lecture, In this GORABS annual lecture, Peter Hopkins will be giving a lecture entitled “Understanding Islamophobia.” 4:30-6:10 pm; Directors Room, Omni, West

2. The Annual GORABS business meeting is scheduled in the same room, immediately after the Annual Lecture. 6:20-7:50 pm in Directors Room, Omni, West.

3. GORABS is also sponsoring 1 lecture and 1 paper session this year.

GORABS Mission Statement

The central objective of GORABS Specialty Group is to encourage and advance the study of the geographical dimensions of religious phenomena and belief systems. This includes, but is not limited to, the study of spatio-religious aspects of human behavior, socioeconomic and political issues, material culture, gender role, and human-environment relations from a religio-geographical perspective.

GORABS intends to achieve its objectives by organizing scholarly paper presentations and discussion of sessions at the professional meetings, developing strategies to facilitate teaching the geography of Religions, publicizing information about GORABS, establishing contact with scholars in other related disciplines, and by seeking funding for research pertaining to the geography of religions.
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear GORABS Members,

Once again, it is time for my pre-conference address to you, when we reflect on the achievements of the past year or so and look to the impending AAG conference.

AAG 2017 and 2018 were particularly productive for GORABS – being the lead up to and main year of our Ruby Anniversary (40th) Celebration – and accordingly full of energy and enthusiasm. This vibrancy culminated, last April, with two significant anniversaries being celebrated, namely our aforementioned GORABS Ruby Anniversary and, just as significantly, the milestone 10th Annual GORABS Lecture. With both of these in mind, it was my pleasure to organize the delivery and finding of a trio of invited papers from Dr. Avril Maddrell, Professor Paul Cloke and Professor Caroline Nagel, being the special trio of speakers chosen to address The Ruby Anniversary Lecture Series on ‘GORABS Day’ at AAG 2018, Thursday April 12. Their three papers, with ensuing discussion, were presented back-to-back and drew a very commendable audience, as did also the several GORABS-sponsored paper sessions and our Annual Business Meeting.

The number of GORABS-interest presentations, and GORABS-sponsored sessions can peak and trough, as I have noticed has occurred several times since I first became involved in our specialty group at board level, back at AAG2006 in Chicago; the geographical location of the conference can have a bearing upon not only numbers of GORABS-interest papers, but also the physical attendance of board members. Our overall diaspora has been known to vary from just a sponsored session or two and, perhaps, two dozen papers of interest (as we have this year) – to over 50 papers and 5 sponsored sessions (as occurred last year at AAG2018). AAG2019 is certainly a quieter one for GORABS. Regardless, our board has continued its annual tradition of personal approach to non-faculty and grad students to consider an application for The David E. Sopher New Scholar Award, ahead of our deadline of March 27, 2019, seven day before the conference commencement.

Our GORABS Social Media Sub-Committee, intends to ‘up our game’ with our website and Facebook posts, going forward. In case you have not already browsed them, these are located at the following links: [https://www.facebook.com/GeographyOfReligionAndBeliefSystemsGorabsAag/] [https://aaggorabs.wordpress.com/]. This is something I hope to see grow under my successors. We do need to grow our membership significantly.

Several positions come available at each conference for those interesting in serving on the GORABS Board, and this year is no different. Now is the time, to consider serving for the betterment and future-proofing of GORABS and, indeed, feel free to bring your expertise and opinions to our Annual Business Meeting on April 3, to support a successful conclusion to our 40th anniversary year. Do reach out to your circle meantime, in making sure people know all that is happening. Be happy to report upon our innovations and achievements.

It has been a privilege to serve the GORABS membership over the past thirteen years, whether in two year terms as an ordinary board member, secretary, or immediate past chair, or during my two installments as chair, totaling five years: particularly coinciding with the Ruby Anniversary Year. I hope to remain of service in the coming years, once more as immediate past chair, and beyond.

Best wishes,

David J. Butler
THE DAVID E. SOPHER NEW SCHOLAR AWARD 2019

Description: The purpose of the David E. Sopher New Scholar Award is to promote intellectual enquiry from new scholars into geographies of religions and belief systems through the presentation of papers at the AAG meeting. Papers will be judged on potential contribution to the field of Geography of Religions and Belief Systems, organization, and written composition.

Eligibility: Both graduate students and untenured faculty, who are not currently serving on the GORABS board, can apply for the award.

Award: The amount for the 2019 award is a travel grant of $250. The recipient will also be given an official certificate at the AAG awards luncheon.

Disbursement: A check will be disbursed to the winner at the 2019 Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Annual Business Meeting at the AAG event.

Requirements: The paper and application form must be submitted in rich text or Microsoft Word format by March 27, 2019. The paper must subsequently be presented at the national AAG meeting, though it does not have to be in a GORABS sponsored session. A panel drawn from the GORABS board will judge the papers and determine a recipient. The winner will be announced in time to attend the awards luncheon with a GORABS representative. GORABS reserves the right to not make an award in a given year.

THE WILBUR ZELINSKY AWARD 2019

GORABS has recently inaugurated The Wilbur Zelinsky Award, which students can apply to upon submitting a session of papers to the AAG, having first taken out student membership in GORABS and received GORABS group sponsorship. This award was first presented in 2018. Applications are now open for The Wilbur Zelinsky Award 2019, whereby a certificate and $100 will be given to the best session of papers that qualifies in the above categories.

Inquirers regarding either the Sopher or Zelinsky Awards may email any of the following GORABS Board Officers:

Chair: Dr David J. Butler, University College Cork, Ireland d.butler@ucc.ie
Secretary & Vice Chair Dr Vincent Artman, artmanvm@miamioh.edu
Assistant Secretary Dr Maxim Samson, DePaul University, Chicago msamson6@depaul.edu

***** Don’t miss the 11th GORABS Annual Lecture *****

The GORABS Annual Lecture 2019, closing out our Ruby Anniversary. In this GORABS annual lecture, Peter Hopkins draws upon recent research about Islamophobia to explore what enables it and how it operates, what its impacts are and who is affected by it, and how to challenge and report it. 4:30-6:10 pm; Directors Room, Omni, West

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Finally, please join us at the GORABS Annual Business Meeting.
The meeting will be held immediately after the Annual Lecture. (6:20-7:50 pm)
Postsecularism in Europe: Trends and Regional Differentiation

The organizers have the honor of inviting you to join

11th Meeting of European Geographers of Religion: International Colloquia on the Changing Religious Landscape of Europe

that is held in the heart of Europe, the historical city of Prague, Czechia, on June 27–28, 2019.

The conference is organized by members of the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Science, Charles University, supported by the project of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic no. 1708370S “Post-Secularism in Czechia: Trends and Regional Differentiation”, under the auspices of the president of the Czech Geographical Society and the vice dean of the Faculty of Science, Charles University.

Conference Themes
The conference topics focus on the development of religious landscape in Europe with particular emphasis on the new trends related to postsecularism. Both the theoretical and applied contributions from the geography of religion and related disciplines such as sociology of religion, religious studies, cultural geography etc. are welcome.

Registration & Fees
The registration for the conference in the form of the name, affiliation, address, status (student/researcher), the title of presentation and abstract (max. 200 words) is to be sent to email tomas.havlicek@natur.cuni.cz due to April 15, 2019.

Attendance without presentation is also possible, however, there will be no poster session.

All participants and attendees are obliged to pay the registration fee which is 1000 CZK (40 EUR) for researchers and 500 CZK (20 EUR) for students. Payment is accepted only in cash during registration at the conference venue.

Venue
The conference will take place in the main building of the Faculty of Science, Charles University. The address of the conference location is Charles University, Faculty of Science, Albertov 6, 12843, Praha 2, Czechia.

Preliminary Program
Thursday, June 27, 2019
Registration, Opening, Thematic Sessions, Conference Dinner

Friday, June 28, 2019
Registration, Thematic Sessions, Half Day Excursion

Excursion
The detailed information of the excursion “Alternative religious spaces in Prague” will soon be specified.

Contact
Conference website: https://goo.gl/z3NvPD

Should you need further information, please contact Tomáš Havlíček (tomas.havlicek@natur.cuni.cz).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Prague!
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Dear GORABS members: Please find below details of the upcoming GORABS business meeting, panels, and sessions. You will see that all official GORABS activities are taking place on Wednesday April 3 in the Directors Room, Omni, West. The schedule for the day is as follows:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**

(1) **Lecture: The Online Spiritual Atlas of China (40 minutes)**
- **Day:** 4/3/2019
- **Start / End Time:** 9:55 AM / 11:35 AM
- **Room:** Directors Room, Omni, West
- **Organizer:** Justin Tse

**Description**
The Online Spiritual Atlas of China was created by the Center on Religion and Chinese Society (CRCS) at Purdue University to complement the print volume, Atlas of Religion in China: Social and Geographical Contexts, by Fenggang Yang (Brill, 2018). In this AAG co-sponsored lecture from the China Specialty Group and the Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Specialty Group, Fenggang Yang will present the OSAC, with the objective of engaging geographers in the continued effort to map religiosity and spirituality in China.

OSAC allows users to visualize the spatial distribution of individual religious sites in China, as well as see how provinces, prefectures, and counties compare with each other in terms of the number of religious sites. The data largely comes from China’s 2004 Economic Census, which listed 72,887 religious sites from all of China’s 31 provinces or provincial-level regions and municipalities. There are a variety of ways to use OSAC. First, all religious sites can be viewed on a point map, with each of the five main religions (Buddhism, Catholicism, Daoism, Islam, and Protestantism) as a different color. Using the filter function, users may limit the points to a single religion and/or a geographic region (province, prefecture, or county). Next, the “Predominant Religion by Province” layer reveals the religion with the largest number of sites for each province. Likewise, the “Predominant Religion by Prefecture” and “Predominant Religion by County” layers do the same for smaller geographic areas. Finally, users may also view the distribution of sites for each religion as a heat map, revealing where there are more or less sites for a single religion.

(2) **Session: Pedagogy and Religion in Geography**
- **Day:** 4/3/2019
- **Start / End Time:** 2:35 PM / 4:15 PM
- **Room:** Directors Room, Omni, West
- **Organizers:** Maxim Samson, Justin Tse
- **Chair:** Maxim Samson

**Description**
Geographers are increasingly exploring a wide range of issues concerning religion’s place in contemporary societies, including questions of citizenship, nationalism and education in diverse social contexts. However, given that such topics can be highly charged, educators may opt to use distinctive pedagogical strategies and techniques that enable students to negotiate conflicting information and ideologies in a safe space. This session therefore aims to share new approaches and ideas concerning the teaching of religious issues in geography.
### (1) Paper Presentation: The common space use at a religious institution in Kerala, Southern India: Aspects of inhabitants’ interpersonal relationships for their social welfare

**Authors:** Sachi Matsuoka*, Kyoto University  
**Day:** 4/3/2019  
**Start / End Time:** 2:35 PM / 4:15 PM  
**Room:** Taylor, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

### (2) GORABS 11th Annual Guest Lecture - Ruby Anniversary Year

**Day:** 4/3/2019  
**Start / End Time:** 4:30 PM / 6:10 PM  
**Room:** Directors Room, Omni, West  
**Organizer:** David Butler  
**Chair:** David Butler

**Description:**  
A lecture, and panel discussion, from one of the founders of the GORABS Annual Lecture Series –Professor Peter Hopkins - on the occasion of the completion of ten annual lectures and the Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Specialty Group 40th or Ruby Anniversary Year.

In this GORABS annual lecture, entitled “Understanding Islamophobia,” Peter Hopkins will discuss a report published by the All Party Parliamentary Group in the UK Parliament providing a working definition of Islamophobia. The report notes that ‘Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness’. In this lecture, Professor Hopkins draws upon recent research about Islamophobia to explore what enables it and how it operates, what its impacts are and who is affected by it, and how to challenge and report it.
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<td>Peter Hopkins <em>Newcastle University</em></td>
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<td>David Butler <em>Department of Geography, University College Cork (UCC)</em></td>
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(4) Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Specialty Group Business Meeting.
Day: 4/3/2019
Start / End Time: 6:20 PM / 7:50 PM
Room: Directors Room, Omni, West

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

**Paper Presentation:** The Invisibility of Pre-Mennonite Settlement History in Mountain Lake, MN 1870-1890
Authors: Lisa Brownell*, Ohio Development Services Agency
Day: 4/4/2019
Start / End Time: 8:00 AM / 9:40 AM
Room: 8217, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

**Paper Presentation:** Refusing to write: A critique of 19th-century American missionary practice
Authors: John Kendall*, University of Minnesota
Day: 4/4/2019
Start / End Time: 9:55 AM / 11:35 AM
Room: 8201, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level

**Paper Presentation:** Producing diverse and multi-scalar climate subjects: a relational approach for understanding faith-based climate action
Authors: Bregje Van Veelen*, University of Durham, Alice Hague, James Hutton Institute
Day: 4/4/2019
Start / End Time: 3:05 PM / 4:45 PM
Room: Cabinet Room, Omni, West
FRIDAY, APRIL 05

Paper Presentation: Religious Urbanisation and the ‘Infrastructural Turn’ in Urban Theory: reflections from Lagos and Kinshasa  
Authors: Gareth Millington*, University of York, David Garbin, University of Kent, Simon Coleman, University of Toronto  
Day: 4/5/2019  
Start / End Time: 9:55 AM / 11:35 AM  
Room: Blue Room, Omni, East

Paper Presentation: The role of emotions in the religious mediation of socio-political worlds for Kurdish women in Turkey  
Authors: Jessie Clark*, University of Nevada, Saadet Altay, Ağrı University  
Day: 4/5/2019  
Start / End Time: 3:05 PM / 4:45 PM  
Room: Roosevelt 5, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Paper Presentation: Web scraping and the geographical analysis of African-American Seventh-day Adventist churches  
Authors: Nathan Burtch*, George Mason University  
Day: 4/5/2019  
Start / End Time: 5:00 PM / 6:40 PM  
Room: Maryland A, Marriott, Lobby Level

Paper Presentation: Difficulties with Creating an Ecological Catholic Church: The Diocese of Syracuse  
Authors: Dominic Wilkins*, Syracuse University  
Day: 4/5/2019  
Start / End Time: 5:00 PM / 6:40 PM  
Room: Maryland A, Marriott, Lobby Level

Paper Presentation: Ethics, Religion and Cultural Practices in Hotels in Ashanti Region of Ghana  
Authors: Foster Frempong*, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology  
Day: 4/5/2019  
Start / End Time: 5:00 PM / 6:40 PM  
Room: Maryland A, Marriott, Lobby Level

Paper Presentation: Evangelical Christian Uses of Geotechnologies at the Advent of the 21st Century  
Authors: Jennifer Rahn*, Samford University  
Day: 4/5/2019  
Start / End Time: 5:00 PM / 6:40 PM  
Room: Maryland A, Marriott, Lobby Level
SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**Paper Presentation:** COP and the Cloth: The Role of Religion at the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
**Authors:** David Krantz*, Arizona State University
**Day:** 4/6/2019
**Start / End Time:** 8:00 AM / 9:40 AM
**Room:** President's Boardroom, Omni, East

**Paper Presentation:** Thirsting for Lemonade: Beyoncé and Racialized Urban Landscapes in Rio de Janeiro
**Authors:** Ty Redden*,
**Day:** 4/6/2019
**Start / End Time:** 8:00 AM / 9:40 AM
**Room:** Directors Room, Omni, West

**Paper Presentation:** Territorial Infrastructure and Techno-Managerial Faith: The Case of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor
**Authors:** Swarnabh Ghosh*, Harvard University
**Day:** 4/6/2019
**Start / End Time:** 8:00 AM / 9:40 AM
**Room:** Diplomat Room, Omni, West

**Poster Presentation:** Regional Differences in the Relationship Between Religious Adherence and Belief in Climate Change [guided poster]
**Authors:** Richard Bohannon*, Metropolitan State University
**Session Type:** Guided Poster
**Day:** 4/6/2019
**Start / End Time:** 9:55 AM / 11:35 AM
**Room:** Roosevelt 3.5, Marriott, Exhibition Level

**Paper Presentation:** Spatial relative probability pattern of cancer-screening behavior among African-Americans in the United States
**Authors:** Debarchana (Debs) Ghosh*, University of Connecticut, Shamayeta Bhattacharya*, University of Connecticut
**Day:** 4/6/2019
**Start / End Time:** 9:55 AM / 11:35 AM
**Room:** Marshall West, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

**Paper Presentation:** “Take Pride in Our Culture”: The Idea of “the West” and the Imagined Geographies of Islamophobia and the “Counter-Jihad Movement”
**Authors:** Vincent Artman*, Miami University, Ohio
**Day:** 4/6/2019
**Start / End Time:** 3:05 PM / 4:45 PM
**Room:** Empire Room, Omni, West
**Paper Presentation:** Islamaphobia. An appropriate concept for understanding and confronting the racialisation of religion  
**Authors:** Thierno Diallo*, Western Sydney University, Kevin Dunn, Western Sydney University, Rachel Sharples, Western Sydney University  
**Day:** 4/6/2019  
**Start / End Time:** 3:05 PM / 4:45 PM  
**Room:** Empire Room, Omni, West

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

**Title:** Performing and counterperforming the organic food markets in East Asia: ahimsa, scientific knowledges and faith groups  
**Authors:** Chi-Mao Wang*, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan (R.O.C.)  
**Day:** 4/7/2019  
**Start / End Time:** 2:00 PM / 3:40 PM  
**Room:** Washington 3, Marriott, Exhibition Level
Minutes of GORABS Annual Business Meeting for 2018

The annual business meeting of the Geography of Religions and Belief Systems (GORABS) specialty group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) was held in Astor Ballroom II, Astor Second Floor, Sheraton Marriott New Orleans LA on Thursday, 12th April, 2018, commencing at 11.50 AM.

Present: David J. Butler (DJB), chair (via Skype); David Rutherford (DR), treasurer; Vincent Artman (secretary, coordinating Skype connection); Darrel McDonald (DMD), past chair; Ed Davis (ED), past chair; Meagan Todd, Nathan Burtch (minutes secretary), Stan Brunn, Richard Dodge, Tom Christoffel, Steven Silvern, Francesca Basil and Jolyon Thomas.

I. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was called to order by the chair, DJB, who welcomed the attendance at the annual business meeting, via Skype from Ireland, owing to an impending family surgery that week; he invited any apologies to be registered. X were received, namely, Justin Tse (JT), immediate past chair; Michael P. Ferber (MPF), Peter Hopkins (PH) and Betsy Olsen (BO), past chairs; together with ordinary board members: Richard Scriven (RS), Emma DeVries, Maxim Samson (board members).

Copies of last year’s minutes had been previously circulated; copies of the 2018 business meeting agenda were then circulated amongst the attendance for consideration.

DJB then called upon the attendance to introduce themselves and sign the attendance sheet, giving their electronic contact details; this done, the floor was opened for the discussion of issues pertinent to GORABS.

The minutes of the 2017 GORABS business meeting were passed unanimously.

II. Proposal to create two new positions – Vice Chair/Secretary & Assistant Secretary

These two new positions were proposed by DJB for multiple reasons, having been previously discussed with the GORABS officers. There can be difficulty in members making several AAG meetings in a row in any period of office; this development would provide backup and overlap. Other Specialty Groups have moved to make these positions in recent years and, indeed, recruiting from these positions helps fill vacancies/absences in the governance of GORABS, as well as providing an institutional memory. The positions would help to spread the burden of service and responsibility.

The Board moved to support the motion and it was passed unanimously.

III. Election of Officers

The effect of the above resolution being an interim year, all of the principal officers continued at mid-cycle and no election is required before 2019. They all signaled satisfaction continuing in office for a further year.

In the Ordinary Board, several vacancies were available for filling; firstly, the Graduate Student positions, of which there is a maximum of two: two worthy applicants allowed their name to be put forward – Maxim Samson and Emma DeVries, and these were passed unanimously.
As DMD, JVH, and ED are end-of-term in their GORABS service as ordinary board members, the filling of these positions arose and ED and DMD volunteered to continue their board positions, with JVH retiring – voted and passed. Steven Silvern (SS) and Richard Dodge (RD) volunteered as nominees for open Ordinary Board Member positions; Richard having previously served. Voted and passed unanimously.

Last year, Richard Scriven (RS) was continued for a second two-year term and the names of Nathan Burtch (NB) and Meagan Todd (MT) were added to the GORABS Board. They are therefore all currently mid-term.

IV. Financial Report for the year 2017-18

The financial report of our treasurer, DR, reported that last year $249 in dues were collected. [Our 2015-16 AAG dues cheque amounted to $328, which would appear to be our annual income. We have received $306 over the same period 2016-17.]

It was acknowledged we need to increase our membership, so as to be able to maintain our awards in a sustainable way, as our income currently covers slightly more than 60%. At current projections, this year’s income should exceed expenditures. A big help was DJB getting institutional support for speaker awards this year from Ireland, which entirely covered The Ruby Lecture Series speakers at this AAG conference. There are worries though that unless such sponsorship is found, GORABS will run deficits soon. It is suggested that we attempt to procure similar institutional support for funding speakers (like Cork) about every other year or so, to conserve our financial resources.

Current expenditure continues at from two to three potentially annual awards of $250 each, namely, The GORABS Lectureship (annual); The David E. Sopher Junior Scholar Award (annual); The Wilbur E. Zelinsky Paper Award (annual) and, The Stoddard Senior Scholar Award (occasional).

A big way to increase income is to have more group members. There are suggestions to increase visibility at AAG through having more panels, sponsored events, and field trips. Members leading sponsored panels/paper sessions are asked to emphasize that our group is the sponsor and could ‘consider registering’ for GORABS. We may also work at co-sponsoring with other groups to get overlap and interest. It is suggested that we try to make connections outside of AAG to other religious scholars. For example, the American Academy of Religion has a Place, Space, Religion group; Parliament of World Religions as another group to work with. Those that can get institutional support to go to these other conferences should contact session chairs and work on integration.

The Treasurer’s report is then accepted with thanks.

V. GORABS website

The website is now WordPress, a development undertaken by JT during AAG 2015; the migration of the old website is largely complete, maintaining all of its content (which JT has copied). Any board will be able to update the website, with login and password to be supplied us by JT – Facebook page will be treated the same, so that we can coordinate all together and post items of interest. We are still transitioning and JT was thanked for his role here, by those in attendance.

Our website address is aaggorabs.wordpress.com which entitles us to free web hosting. JT has downloaded all past newsletters and will work on the remainder of the website shortly.
VI. AAG 2018 Conference Report

A semi-annual GORABS newsletter will issue, following the conference. The newsletter that issued prior to AAG 2017 proved both useful and effective, and was managed between VA and DJB, for which many thanks.

DJB audio-recorded the Stanley Brunn (9th Annual GORABS) lecture (as also several in previous years) and perhaps these could be made available on our website, even if only in a members only section. Food for thought, certainly, along with the upload of photographs of the lecture and award recipients at the GORABS Annual Lecture, from which he will write a report. This could form part of the population of our new website with data.

All Board members should search out material for website and newsletter – particularly new bibliographical material of use to researchers and news of inter-AAG events, articles and photographs of interest.

We should seek a report on every paper session from a participant (volunteer officers or participants to seek these) to add to our online and newsletter compilations. This is as agreed since 2010, that our post-conference newsletter should include a list of all sessions and a summary of the papers delivered at the annual conference, together with anything of GORABS interest.

This year, we had a respectable three-GORABS-sponsored paper sessions, which is a good yearly average.

VII. The Tenth Annual GORABS Lecture

As with our 9th Annual Lecture given by Professor Stanley D. Brunn (University of Kentucky) on Sanctuary and Refugees in Europe. Attendance at this year's lecture series was much better than it had been in recent years, and was thought to have been our joint-second best ever, (equal with last years) with up to 30 persons present at some point, and an average of low-to-mid-twenties throughout. This is vindication of having the lecture mid-morning, with an adjacent GORABS annual business meeting in the same room, to maximize retention of attendance.

A significant anniversary was reached, this year, at AAG2018 New Orleans, with our 10th Annual GORABS Lecture in what is the 40th year of GORABS, our Ruby Anniversary Year. See below in sub-committee report.

VIII. Sub Committee Reports Field Trips

At AAG 2017, was agreed by the attendance that Ed Davis and Nathan Burtch would form a Sub-Committee, to look at what can be managed in time for the relevant AAG2018 advertisement deadlines. It must be borne in mind that only AAG attendance is qualified to attend fieldtrips, and these are subject to minimum recruitment.

At AAG2018, we had 7 sponsored sessions; one extra sponsored session was created through scouring unfiled abstracts; our subcommittee will repeat this success, hopefully, at AAG2019 and subsequently.

With AAG in DC next year, and with a few members located nearby, it was suggested that we try to work on a sponsored field trip. Nathan Burtch volunteered to lead this, but requests help from others that have attended or organized field trips. There was a short discussion of potential themes (American Civil Religion, Arlington Cemetery, National Cathedral, etc.), with the overall idea that we brainstorm specifics over the summer. It was suggested that we create a map of sites around DC as a means to market GORABS (not necessarily field locations)

Ruby Anniversary Year

This year, for the first time ever, we had a double session with papers by Dr Avril Maddrell, Professor Paul Cloke in the first part and then, following a short recess, Professor Caroline Nagel spoke, after which we had a discussion of
all three papers. This worked really well and was well attended. Shortly after the close of this session, we are now holding our annual business meeting in the same room, which is a great use of time and resources. The papers were well received and the exercise well worthwhile and the end of our Ruby Anniversary Year will be celebrated at AAG2019 in DC, with a joint presentation by the founders of the lecture series, Professor Peter Hopkins and Dr Betsy Olsen.

At this point, there was a discussion about other topic areas for papers/speakers. There was a discussion of focusing on climate refugees to lectures and for recruitment of interested scholars. Also a suggestion to contact with SED, MAD regional divisions, other DC-area Universities in an effort to find DC-based religion papers

GORABS Awards

In our discussion of the Sopher Award 2018, it was noted that 1 applicant wished to submit, but did not come to AAG (which is a requirement); a second submission was entered from a non-tenured, but tenure-track academic. There was a discussion as to whether this category of early career academic should be eligible. As there was support for this, this change was motioned, seconded, and passed. The GORABS awards subcommittee will refine the definition for award eligibility from 2019 and update our website and social media.

Our current holder, Professor Stanley D. Brunn, was appointed to the position of GORABS Senior Scholar in 2016 and his first duty occurred at AAG2017 – the delivery of the 9th Annual GORABS Lecture. In 2017, it was decided by the Board that Stanley Brunn would hold The Stoddard Award until such time as a successor is appointed to the position.

This year also saw the inaugural Zelinsky Award recipient in Maxim Samson.

Social Media

Meagan Todd requested the Facebook password to become more active with posts. She also suggested and offered to start a GORABS Twitter account, from which she will be active. The website will need to be kept more up-to-date and we need to use all three to recruit membership.

IX. Any Other Business

The replacement for our GORABS online journal, that is, a twice-yearly or quarterly e-bulletin (advocated 2017), has not yet been commenced and a board volunteer will be sought to complement our ongoing newsletter. Both have continued potential, subject to us all getting news items to help populate our website, increase Facebook traffic and, thereby, membership.

With regard to our Ruby Anniversary Year (2018) and, indeed, the significance of our ten years of GORABS annual lectures (13 speakers, 15 including those forthcoming in 2019), it has been proposed that a publication be attempted, whether in connection with Progress in Human Geography (edited volume) or elsewhere.

In wrapping up the meeting, it was suggested that we should all inform the GORABS board/membership about future conferences for other non-AAG groups. These can be sent to our secretary and disseminated.

There being no further business, the 2018 Annual GORABS Business Meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.