



United States of America  
National Section  
of the  
Pan American Institute  
of  
Geography and History  
**2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

[www.aag.org/cs/paigh](http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh)

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## **Introduction**

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Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, USNS PAIGH President

The United States of America National Section (USNS) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) is pleased to submit this report of USNS activities for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. Included are reports from the Geography, Cartography, Geophysics, and History Commission Representatives from within the USNS; summaries of significant activities and meetings; and the USNS roster.

The USNS is pleased to have two members serving in leadership positions within PAIGH. Dr. Jean Parcher continues to serve as President of the PAIGH Geography Commission and Dr. Patricia Solis as Vice President. Jean and Patricia bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to their roles within the organization.

The leadership of the USNS has remained consistent over the past year, with the exception of one significant change. The USNS welcomes Ms. Maria Perez as the new Department of State Liaison. Maria is a Foreign Affairs Officer with the U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States. The USNS wishes our previous liaison, Melissa Kopolow McCall, the best of luck in her new endeavors. Ms. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop of the U.S. Census Bureau remains President of the USNS, Mr. Paul Cooper of CARIS USA continues as Vice-President, and Ms. Ally Johnson of the U.S. Geological Survey maintains her role as Executive Secretary.

Similarly, the leaders of the USNS Commissions continue to serve as active members. Dr. David Salisbury of the University of Richmond is the Principal U.S. Representative to the Commission on Geography. Dr. Erick Langer of Georgetown University continues to serve as Principal U.S. Representative to the Commission on History. Mr. Jorge Bajo of the University at Buffalo continues in his role as Principal U.S. Representative to the Commission on Geophysics. The USNS is actively recruiting to fill the role of Principal U.S. Representative to the Commission on Cartography.

Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop led the USNS delegation to the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Directing Council in Santiago, Chile in November 2014. Two members of the USNS accompanied Deirdre, Patricia Solis, and Ally Johnson.

The USNS webpage aids in promoting U.S. activities within PAIGH and facilitates communication both within the national section and with the general public. The website is hosted by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and can be found at <http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh>.

During the reporting period, Ambassador Carmen Lomellin, U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization for American States, arranged for payment of the assessed contribution to PAIGH in the amount of US \$323,900.00 on May 20, 2015, fulfilling the United States annual quota of PAIGH's budget, set at 59.47%.

This report is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive of the activities conducted by the USNS members, but it is representative of the nature of involvement and contributions that the USNS makes to PAIGH direct activities, goals, and strategic priorities.

## **PAIGH USNS Annual Meeting, Buffalo State College, March 4 and 5, 2015**

The 2015 USNS Annual Meeting was held on March 4 and 5, 2015 at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Earth Science and Science Education Department Chair, Dr. Gary Solar. Deirdre Bishop, President of the USNS, opened the meeting with a special thanks to Dr. Solar, Doctoral Candidate Jorge V. Bajo, and Dr. Bettina Martinez- Hackert for their generosity in coordinating the logistics and agreeing to host the event.



*Jorge Bajo and Bettina Martinez Hackert*



The USNS was fortunate to receive important remarks from PAIGH Secretary General Rodrigo Barriga via teleconference. He provided a history of the organization, highlighted key accomplishments from 2014, and discussed current activities and publications.

The meeting included invited presentations such as “Volunteered Geographic Information,” “Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference,” “History of the Americas,” and “Resource Conflict in Peru.” The meeting also included a review of 2014-2015 PAIGH projects and discussion of proposed projects for the 2016 submission cycle. See Appendix 1 for the full agenda.



*Niagara Falls at night: Dolly Garcia, Diana Sinton, Deirdre Bishop*



*Paul Cooper, Deirdre Bishop, Jorge Bajo, Bettina Martinez-Hackert, Dolly Garcia, Ally Johnson*

Additionally, the members of the USNS continue to participate in monthly teleconferences to discuss ongoing business of the National Section.

## **Cartography Commission**

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Paul Cooper, Acting Representative (USNS Vice-President)

The position of Principal USNS Representative to the Cartography Commission is being done by Mr. Paul Cooper. Mr. Mark DeMulder retired from the position at the beginning of 2015.

The mission of the Cartography Commission is to promote the exchange of technical knowledge in Cartography, develop collaborative partnerships among member countries and between the PAIGH and other multi-national institutions. During 2015, the USNS Cartography Commission advanced activities in the Cartography, Institutional Strengthening Committee, and participated in the Mapa Integrado Andino del Norte (MIAN) project in Ecuador.

### **Technical Committees and Working Groups**

See the USNS Roster at the end of this report for current membership on Cartography Commission Technical Committees and Working Groups.

### **Cartography Commission and Committee on Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation**

Paul Cooper, Principal Member

### **Nautical Charting and Hydrography**

As a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and PAIGH, cooperation between the two organizations has been increasing. IHO is an international organization with 83 member states. Fourteen of those states are also members of PAIGH, comprising 16 percent of the total IHO membership

PAIGH attended the IHO 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) in Monaco, October 6-10, 2014.

EIHC proposals affecting and to be supported by PAIGH include:

- Creation of a trusted crowd sourcing policy and cookbook (submitted by France and the United States); PAIGH has been invited to join the IHO Crowd Source Bathymetry Cookbook Working Group. The first meeting of the working group will be in October 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.
- Development of an IHO satellite-derived bathymetry and charting program for remote areas (submitted by France and the United States).

Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala are requesting that the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) provide digital data for electronic chart production<sup>1</sup>. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) has offered all three countries royalty agreements for the sales of their nautical charts.

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<sup>1</sup> Nicaragua is currently a non PAIGH member but information received indicates that Nicaragua plans to reinstate to PAIGH.



Paul Cooper, attended the IHO Interregional Coordinating Committee (IRCC) and Capacity Building Sub Committee Meetings in Mexico City. The principal objectives of the IRCC are to: establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation in hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis and between regions; establish co-operation to enhance the delivery of capacity building programs; monitor the work of specified IHO Inter-Organizational Bodies engaged in activities that require inter-regional cooperation and coordination; promote co-operation between pertinent regional organizations and review and implement the IHO Capacity Building Strategy, promoting Capacity Building initiatives.

### **Mapa Integrado Andino del Norte (MIAN)**

MIAN is the second phase of a regional cooperation project that brings national mapping institutes together to take advantage of the shared culture, language and borders of PAIGH member states. A similar workshop was held in Mexico for Central America 3 years ago. Through partnerships led by PAIGH and the valuable assistance from "Instituto Geográfico Militar" (IGM) of Ecuador, representatives from the National Geographic Institutes of five South American countries met for the MIAN mapping project workshop. The representatives present were from Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Panama, Spain, and also participation from United States and PAIGH Headquarters.



This was the second workshop that has taken place for this project and was held in Quito, Ecuador on July 13-17, 2015 at the Geographic Military Institute (IGM) of Ecuador. The first workshop that inaugurated the MIAN project was held in

Bogota, Colombia in February of 2015. During the Bogota workshop the group discussion focused on goals and how the work was to proceed. Once the task was agreed upon, all participating countries started working together preparing their digital data so they could merge all layers to create a large continuous regional map.

During the Quito workshop, the group received great assistance from the IGM Staff under the direction of IGM Director, Coronel William R. Aragon, from PAIGH Secretary General, Rodrigo Barriga, and Ecuador National Section PAIGH President; and appointed employees from the IGM. IGM staff provided logistical support throughout the week. They coordinated the opening ceremony at the Ecuadorian planetarium that involved approximately 300 participants. They provided logistical support to all workshop participants insuring they had the necessary computers, projectors, network connectivity, microphone and sound system and if any problems occurred they were ready to assist. They also made sure the group made it safely from the hotel to the training facilities and



back to the hotel during the entire week of the workshop. They took the time to organize several site seeing tours around the City of Quito.

The workshop was conducted under the leadership of two representatives from “Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica” (CNIG) from Spain, Antonio Federico Rodriguez and Luis Miguel Blanco.

The participants worked with their institutional data while processing five unique base map layers. Throughout the workshop, their focus was largely on Roads, Rivers and Water Bodies, Population Centers, and Political boundaries (urban, county, national, international). Additional layers for future workshops will focus on a Contours layer and another on a hydro network. The work conducted was mainly more correction of data that was initially compiled during the February workshop in Bogota, Colombia. An important part of the workshop included a detailed discussion on how they will represent the information for the field attributes. The reason for this is for the data to merge correctly, the joining fields need to be identical and the way feature attributes are described has to be comparable. There were a few differences in the descriptive attributes for similar features. These had to be agreed upon and then modified so they would match across the different countries’ base layers.

One new component incorporated into the workshop was how to create a hydro network using the river layer which was already being worked. The explanation of the process for modifying how rivers were digitized and stored in the geodatabase was conducted by Roberto Lugo from the USGS. During the presentation it showed how to correct the flow direction when it was incorrectly represented in the river data layer. The participants will be working with their river layer and will have some of the work in progress by the next time we hold the third workshop.



*William Aragón Cevallos, Robert Lugo, Rodrigo Barrera*

There was a new discussion regarding MapServer technology and how to prepare the MIAN project data with specific symbology to allow for incorporation into the GeoSur mapserver. A consistent look and feel with the already published Mesoamerica project map will allow for viewing as a continuous map of the region. The group has a tentative timeline of completing the publication of the data onto the GeoSur MapServer by the Spring of 2016 barring any complication with the correction and processing of the country data sets.

Even though the second workshop ended, the project continues with each representative working while at their institutes, enhancing their countries data layers. The project leads from Spain will continue to provide any support needed by the participants via email, WebEx, or phone calls in case they run into problems or have any questions regarding issues with their data or process. Participants are expected to have their data completed for merging when the next workshop takes place in Panama in November of 2015 at the Instituto Geográfico Nacional “Tommy Guardia”.

For questions regarding the project, send email to:  
Rodrigo Barriga IPGH  
email: [rbarrigav@ipgh.org](mailto:rbarrigav@ipgh.org)

## **Geography Commission**

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Dr. David Salisbury, Representative

This past year, the USNS Geography Commission advanced activities focused around the three-fold committee structure of PAIGH (research, education, and institutional strengthening).

The role of the USNS Geography Commission is to help foster collaboration among geographers of the Americas through its member activities and its participation in PAIGH programs. The Geography Commission provides the technical infrastructure for the USNS website and maintains updates so that these pages are current. The Geography Commission tab of the website is facilitating communication and visibility of these priorities:

[www.aag.org/cs/paigh/geography\\_commission](http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh/geography_commission).

The USNS Geography Commission is strengthened by two members who lead PAIGH's Geography Commission as the President, Dr. Jean Parcher, and Vice-President, Dr. Patricia Solís. Their leadership ensures an active representation of the USNS Geography Commission at the highest level.

### **Work Plan**

The work plan of the Geography Commission emphasizes the aim of championing geographic research at the Pan American level, spurring the educational community towards collaborative production of scientific and geographic knowledge, and backing the goals of the PAIGH 2010-2020 Pan American Agenda in interdisciplinary coordination with the other Commissions.

Implementation of the work plan is to be interactive and strengthen communication with Member States. USNS Geography Commission Members are contributing leadership to the Pan American Working Groups, organized under each of the three committees, including:

- Research Committee - Working Group for an Atlas of Climatic Change in the Americas: This annotated Atlas will supply investigators and students with a view of the changing landscape, goals, and opportunities associated with the climatic change in the Americas. This working group is now being led by Editor in Chief Dr. Andrew Sluyter who is a USNS Geography Commission member and Executive Director of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG). This effort seeks to combine the expertise of CLAG and PAIGH to provide researchers and students alike with a representative understanding of the changing landscape of the Americas. This book will use case studies comprised of images, maps, and a few pages of accessible but rigorous analysis to introduce readers to the human-environmental dynamics of climate change in the Americas.



- Education Committee - Working Group for Online Courses: The objective is to design a plan and develop a research proposal to promote geographic online courses with the end goal to create collaboration amongst geography professors in the Americas. Dr. Osvaldo Muñoz Solari led a proposal writing team that obtained funding via a PAIGH research grant. Dr. Muñoz-Solari is the Lead, working together with Graciela Cacace and Maria Cristina Peneda. The RedOnline-IPGH (2015) Global Climate Change (GCC) started in July with 18 participants from Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, and Uruguay. It is a 12 week online program to build a network of teachers to develop capacity, and abilities in Climate Change analysis. International case studies will be conducted and then lessons will be applied to their region. Participants will produce case studies about GCC in their countries.
- Committee for Institutional Strengthening - The Working Group of the Geographic Census of 2015: This working group seeks to improve and expand on the existing data regarding the geography discipline in Latin America by developing surveys, following previous data gathered in 2005 and 2010. Dr. Patricia Solís is leading the organization of the 2015 census which is also endorsed by the International Geographical Union (IGU), the Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina (EGAL), the Association of American Geographers (AAG), and the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG). Dr. Solís presented information on the current state of data from the multi-institutional collaborative survey.

### **Conferences and Meetings**

The Association of American Geographers 2015 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, hosted nearly 9,000 geographers, GIS specialists, environmental scientists, and other registrants from around the world sharing the very latest in research, policy, applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. Approximately 35 percent of all attendees came from 82 countries other than the United States, which continues a steady trend toward increased international participation at AAG Meetings, including most countries of Latin America ,



*Chicago City skyline with Navy Pier in the foreground at dusk  
(Photo from Choose Chicago/AAG).*

At the AAG meeting, geographers focusing on Latin America received the Presidential Achievement Award (Diana Liverman), Distinguished Scholarship Honors (Anthony Bebbington), and Enhancing Diversity Award (Wendy Jepson).

Of particular note is that AAG members voted to change the AAG name from the Association of American Geographers to the American Association of Geographers, by a vote of 2,411 voting yes and 444 voting no (approximately 85% voting in favor of the name change and 15% not in favor).

Dr. Salisbury co-organized (with Dr. Mary Finley-Brook) a special session on Geography in the Americas titled **Pan-American Partnerships: Working with Higher Education Institutions**

**in Latin America to enrich Research and Education.** The session enjoyed the sponsorship of the Association of American Geographers Latin America Specialty Group, Applied Geography Specialty Group, Graduate Student Affinity Group, and the PAIGH USNS. The panelists included PAIGH's Dr. Patricia Solís, Dr. Osvaldo Muñiz, and Secretary General Rodrigo Barriga Vargas. The session came forth with a declaration arguing for, "increased collaboration and interchange between universities, professors, and students to improve access to information through networks, technology, and innovation with the objective of creating applied knowledge communities to realize an equitable and sustainable society unified across global and local scales."



*Fifteen participants from seven countries participated in the panel discussion, **Pan-American Partnerships; Working with Higher Education Institutions in Latin America to enrich Research and Education**, to develop a new paradigm of Pan-American cooperation focused on applied & sustainable knowledge communities on themes of regional significance in the Americas.*

PAIGH's USNS Geography Commission was also ably represented at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG) at the Universidade do Ceará in Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil (CLAG's first ever meeting in Brazil). The conference included 250 papers across 6 themes.

**Table 1: Themes, Titles, and Number of Papers at CLAG's 33<sup>rd</sup> Conference**

Axis	Title	Papers
1	Land Change Science and Applied GIS in Latin America	13
2	Geographic Epistemology, Philosophy, and Education	30
3	Landscape Ecology, Resources, Rural and Environmental Impacts	57
4	Regional and Tourism Studies in Latin American Development	50
5	Economic Networks, Urbanization, and Energy Sources	50
6	New Territorialities and Questions of Contemporary Culture	49

USNS Geography Commission member, and CLAG Executive Director, Dr. Andrew Sluyter opened the conference by serving on the symposium 1<sup>o</sup> Simpósio "Espaço-Tempo dos Estudos Latino Americanistas." Dr. Salisbury served on the Scientific Commission for Axis 4 and delivered an address at the third symposium, "Olhares da CLAG: a Latinidade e o Brasil." More about the conference can be seen at the conference's website [2015 CLAG conference website](#) or on [CLAG's own website](#).

Dr. Osvaldo Muñiz-Solari and Dolly García Joyé attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Technical Committee PAIGH Meetings in Mexico City (June 16-18, 2015) on behalf of the USNS Geography Commission. Drs. Muñiz-Solari, Solís, and Salisbury all presented at the meetings.

Looking forward to the coming year, the U.S. Geography Commission will continue to pursue appropriate activities within these priority areas. These activities will continue to add value to and support both the USNS work and the direction of PAIGH in terms of geographic research, geographic education, and the strengthening of institutions of geography in academic, public, and private sectors.



*Dr. David Salisbury, Edson Vicente da Silva, Dr. Otavio José Lemos Costa, Dr. Robert Walker, and Dr. Cristina Carballo serve as panelists\* on the 33rd Confernece of CLAG's third symposium, "Olhares da CLAG: a Latinidade e o Brasil" in the Universidade do Ceará, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil. \*Lemos Costa was moderator.*

## **History Commission**

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Dr. Erick D. Langer, Representative

The past year has been one of consolidation and expansion. The USNS History Commission gained two new members and significant progress was made on the *History of the Americas/Historia de América* book project. Next year looks to be a very productive year as well, given the activities of the U.S. History Commission's members.

One of the issues that the U.S. History Commission faces almost uniquely is that, since the Commission relies heavily on academic historians and the U.S. Government does not provide funds for PAIGH activities, that the historians must dig into their research funding for attendance to PAIGH events. With universities cutting back travel funding, it has become a challenge for the Commission members to attend meetings.



*Juana Moriel de Payne*

Despite this important issue, the USNS gained new members in the past months. Juana Moriel de Payne, a graduate student finishing her Ph.D. at the University of Texas at El Paso is one of our new members. She is also a published novelist in addition to working on El Parral during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and is also interested in the U.S.-Mexico border.

Thanks to USNS Vice President, Paul Cooper, the History Commission was able to add another member. Tim Schultz is the Staff Historian of the U.S. Southern Command. He has a Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh. He specializes in the recent military history of Southcom, including hostage rescues in Colombia, the history of truth commissions in Central America, and humanitarian missions in the Caribbean.



*Timothy Schultz*



*Dr. Erick Langer*

The U.S. History Commission Representative, Dr. Erick Langer, was able to attend the Third Joint Technical Meeting of Committees that met in Mexico City June 16-19, 2015. The meeting was extremely productive, in large part because of the tireless organizing of the History Commission's President, Patricia Galeana (Mexico).



There were more historians present from across the Americas than in any other meeting in recent memory.

The meeting was especially productive for the *Historia de América* project that aims to publish a one-volume history of the Western Hemisphere co-written by scholars from the region.

Following-up on the Buenos Aires workshop held in 2011, the History Commission in Mexico concluded that it would be best to add two co-editors, who would add diversity and strength to the editorial team. Thus, Andre Figueiredo (Brazil) and Patricia Galeana (Mexico) joined Erick Langer on the editorial team. In addition, the assembled historians refined the distribution of the chapters, their content, and the timeline. The Canadian and Haitian historians promised to work to make possible a French edition, in addition to the English, Spanish, and Portuguese versions.



*Andre Figueiredo and Patricia Galeana*

At present, Erick Langer has written a publication proposal for Oxford University Press (OUP), which is being refined in conjunction with editors Galeana and Figueiredo. The proposal will go out by the end of August 2015.

OUP is interested in publishing such a unique work that then can be marketed to schools and universities throughout the hemisphere. The Press has offices in Canada, the United States, Mexico, and São Paulo Brazil. It also has an excellent distribution system throughout the hemisphere, in Europe, and in Asia. It is the only book of its kind and will be useful for upper-



level high school students and college students. The idea is to provide a version of hemispheric history written by scholars from throughout the region, combining for the first time North America, South America, and the Caribbean into one history.

All in all, this has been a good year. The book project in particular, in which the U.S. History Commission members are participating, has much potential to create a product from PAIGH that will impact the field of History and make the common threads of our common past known to people throughout the hemisphere and beyond.

## **Geophysics Commission**

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Jorge V. Bajo Sanchez, Representative

This year the USNS Geophysics Commission welcomed Dr. Gary Solar, Chair and Associate Professor of the Earth Sciences and Science Education Department at SUNY Buffalo State as a new member. He is the Director of the Laboratory for Orogenic Studies at Buffalo State and was nationally elected to a three-year term as a Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) councilor (2008-2011) for the Geosciences Division. He expressed, “My primary research interests relate to the application of multi-disciplinary techniques to elucidate orogenic processes. Along with my collaborators, I use field relations of structures and stratigraphic sequences, and supporting petrology, to erect models that are then tested using laboratory methods including microtectonic fabric analysis, geochronology (U-Pb and Rb-Sr systems) and geochemistry (REE patterns, major and trace element composition). Where possible, supporting laboratory work is performed by me and my students in collaboration with laboratory personnel at other colleges and universities, such as the Isotope Geochemistry Laboratory at Syracuse University, the Geochemistry Laboratory at the University of Maryland, and the Geochronology Laboratory at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. All of my research is heavily dependent upon student involvement, primarily at the undergraduate level.” Dr. Solar is interested in working in Latin America and collaborating with Dr. Martinez-Hackert, an established and active member of the USNS Geophysics Commission for many years. Dr. Solar participated in the USNS annual meeting that took place in Buffalo, NY this past March at SUNY Buffalo State, and was actively recruited at that time.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Dr. Lyndsay Ball from the USGS as one of the Geophysics Commission members. Dr. Ball expressed her desire to continue to be a part of the Commission, but due to work schedule conflicts she had to leave. She left the door open to possibility to come back as an active member if her job schedule would allow her to do so. Her expertise in hydrology will be missed.

Dr. Castro is part of The Fulbright Regional Network for Applied Research (NEXUS) Program which brings together a network of junior scholars, professionals and mid-career applied researchers from the United States, Brazil, and other Western Hemisphere nations for a series of three seminar meetings and a Fulbright exchange experience. Dr. Castro presented on the Fulbright Nexus project at the 3<sup>rd</sup> PAIGH Joint Technical Committee Meetings.



The Fulbright NEXUS Program fosters collaborative and multidisciplinary research to address challenging regional issues and produce tangible results.

It provides a platform for scholars from across the region to engage in collaborative thinking, analysis, problem-solving and multi-disciplinary research in one of five areas:

- o Renewable Energy, including Micro-Grid Innovations;
- o Social and Behavioral Adaptation to Climate Change;
- o Measuring Climate Change and its Impact (Metrics and Standards);
- o Climate Change and Food and Water Security

Detailed information about the program is available at <http://www.cies.org/program/fulbright-nexus-regional-scholar-program>.

Also at the 3<sup>rd</sup> PAIGH Joint Technical Committee Meetings, Jorge V. Bajo presented his research on the Santa Ana Volcano. This project has been partially funded by PAIGH. The USNS Geophysics Commission will continue to submit project proposals, to expand the breadth of PAIGH-sponsored geophysics related research into key areas emphasized at the PAIGH General Assembly and Directing Council meetings, such as hazard risk. Outreach activities from current projects have expanded the awareness of PAIGH among researchers and academia to increase the involvement with the organization.

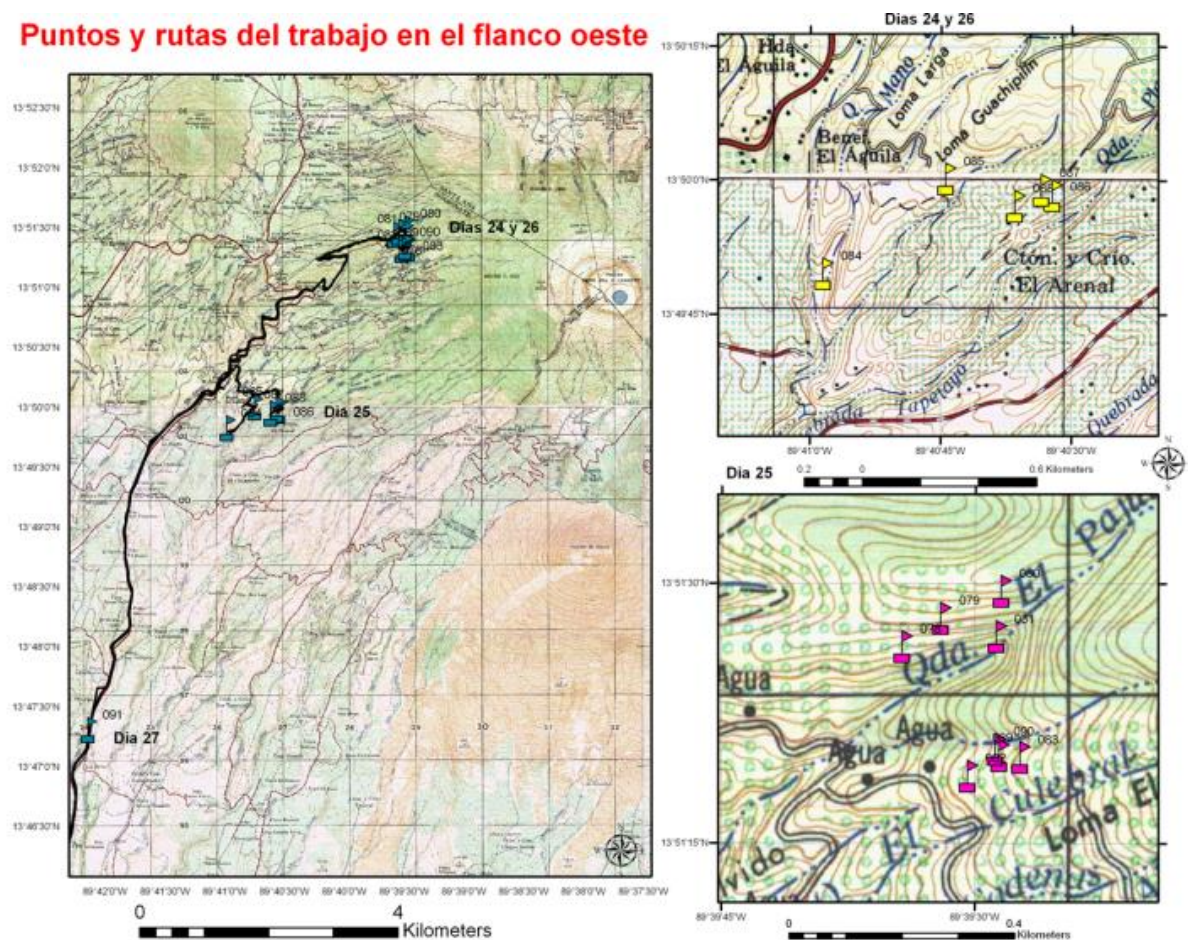
During this meeting, Dr. Castro and Jorge V. Bajo met in several occasions with other members from different national sections and the Geophysics Commission President to discuss possible collaborations and ways in how to improve future meetings. This resulted in an increase of email communication between the USNS Geophysics Commission Head and the Geophysics Commission President, exploring ways to strengthen future meetings.

USNS Geophysics Commission activities for the past year include submission and approval of a project to study the Santa Ana Volcano in El Salvador. In 2012, PAIGH approved funding for a project titled Preliminary Studies over ethnophysiological differences and maps covering the high risk areas in the communities surrounding the Santa Ana Volcano (Estudios Preliminar sobre diferencias etnofisiograficas y mapas de perspectivas de peligros volcánicos de las comunidades de alrededor del Volcán de Santa Ana).

As a result of its success, a Continuing Preliminary Studies over ethnophysiological differences and maps covering the high risk areas in the communities surrounding the Santa Ana Volcano (Continuacion Estudios Preliminar sobre diferencias etnofisiograficas y mapas de perspectivas de peligros volcánicos de las comunidades de alrededor del Volcán de Santa Ana) project was approved by PAIGH. During the past year, a team of collaborators from three different countries (USA, Mexico, and El Salvador) coming from several universities and institutions which worked together in the field. This project, as in the past with projects in El Salvador, is being done in collaboration with the Dirección General del Observatorio Ambiental (DGOA) of El Salvador. The principal investigators (PI) of this grant are Doctoral Candidate Jorge V. Bajo from University at Buffalo (UB), and Dr. Bettina Martinez-Hackert from SUNY College at Buffalo. This project has benefited from the partnership created through other projects that were submitted and approved by PAIGH by the above mention PI and members of the DGOA in El

Salvador. These projects continue to be and provide a strong bond between the United States researchers and the DGOA.

### Puntos y rutas del trabajo en el flanco oeste



Sample of one of the routes that Dr. Legorreta and Jorge V. Bajo's group took during three of the days to collect field data for later analysis. This was a very successful field work with more than half a dozen carbons found which the researchers hope to be able to date and several stratigraphic columns were done in order to find a temporal sequence of behavior for the Santa Ana Volcano.

The group discussing the plans for the day. Left to right Dr. Martinez-Hackert (Buffalo State), Inga. Polio (DGOA), Jorge V. Bajo (UB), Ing. Gutierrez (DGOA) and Dr. Bursik (UB), Dr. Legorreta (UNAM) took the picture.

There were also meetings in the main offices of DGOA where Dr. Legorreta, Dr. Bursik, Dr. Martinez-Hackert and Jorge V. Bajo presented their research and work to the whole community.







*Jorge V. Bajo in front of an outcrop and measuring thickness of the different deposits and the photo on the right shows a carbon sample that was found in that outcrop.*



*Dr. Martinez-Hackert (red bandana) and Dr. Bursik with members of the Red Cross in the crater.*



*Dr. Bursik (front) and Dr. Martinez-Hackert (background) working and collecting samples in the crater of Santa Ana Volcano.*

## Directory

September 2015

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<b>Representative Cartography Commission</b>	VACANT	
<b>Representative Geography Commission</b>	Dr. David Salisbury Associate Professor Department of Geography and the Environment University of Richmond 27 Westhampton Way Richmond, VA 23173 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dsalisbu@richmond.edu">dsalisbu@richmond.edu</a>	Tel: (804) 289-8661 Fax: (804) 484-1577
<b>Representative Geophysics Commission</b>	Jorge V. Bajo Sanchez PhD ADB 104 Wilkeson Quad Department of Geography University at Buffalo Buffalo, NY 14261-0055 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jvbajo@buffalo.edu">jvbajo@buffalo.edu</a>	Tel: (716) 907-1400
<b>Representative History Commission</b>	Dr. Erick Detlef Langer Department of History Georgetown University 37th and O Streets, N.W. Washington, DC 22207-3401 E-mail: <a href="mailto:langere@georgetown.edu">langere@georgetown.edu</a>	Tel: (202) 687-0140 Fax: (202) 687-0142
<b>Honorary Member</b>	Bruce W. Presgrave U. S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center P. O. Box 25046, MS 966 Denver, CO 80225 E-mail: <a href="mailto:presgrave@usgs.gov">presgrave@usgs.gov</a>	Tel: (303) 273-8461 Fax: (303) 273-8450
<b>Honorary Member</b>	Mark L. DeMulder Emeritus, National Geospatial Program U.S. Geological Survey 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Mail Stop 511 Reston, VA 20192-0002 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mdemulder@usgs.gov">mdemulder@usgs.gov</a>	Tel: (703) 648-5569 Fax: (703) 648-5939

## Commission on Cartography

### Representation

<b>Representative</b>	VACANT
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Alternate Representative                      VACANT

## **Policy Committees**

### **Geospatial Data Infrastructures Committee**

<b>Principal Member</b>	Eric Van Praag Esri Professional Services Project Manager 380 New York Street Redlands, CA 92373-8100 E-mail: <a href="mailto:EvanPraag@esri.com">EvanPraag@esri.com</a>	Tel: (909) 793-2853 x 1878 Cell: (909) 328-9235
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<b>Alternate Member</b>	Heath Hill Esri International, Latin America Account Manager – Central America & Caribbean 55 Miracle Mile, Ste 250 Coral Gables, FL 22134 Email: <a href="mailto:hhill@esri.com">hhill@esri.com</a>	Tel: (305) 446-9786 x1970 Cell: (909) 289-5127
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<b>Member</b>	Andrea Huber Nonprofit and Global Organizations Account Manager Esri Washington DC Office 8615 Westwood Center Drive Vienna, VA 22182 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ahuber@esri.com">ahuber@esri.com</a>	Tel: (703) 506-9515 x8144 Fax: (703) 506-9514
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### **Committee on Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation**

<b>Principal Member</b>	Paul R. Cooper Vice President USA Operations CARIS USA 415 N Alfred Street Alexandria, VA 22314 E-mail: <a href="mailto:paul.cooper@caris.com">paul.cooper@caris.com</a>	Tel: (703) 299-9712 Fax: (703) 299-9715
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### **Communications Committee**

\*No U.S. Representation on this committee

## **Technical Committees and Working Groups**

### **Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) (Working Group)**

<b>Principal Member</b>	VACANT
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### **Geographic Names (Working Group)**

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**Tactile Cartography (Working Group)**

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**Hydrography (Technical Committee)**

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**Aeronautic Charts (Technical Committee)**

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**Fundamental Data (Working Group)**

**Principal Member**                      VACANT

**Member**                                      Roberto Lugo                                      Tel: (916) 278-9509  
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**Thematic Cartography and Applications (Working Group)**

VACANT

**Editor of the Revista Cartográfica (Technical Committee)**

**Member**                                      Dr. Osvaldo A. Muñoz-Solari                                      Tel: (512) 245-0375  
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## Commission on Geography

### Representation

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### Committee Members: US Geography Commission

#### Research Committee

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<b>Member</b>	Dr. Andrew Sluyter Executive Director, Conference of Latin American Geographers Department of Geography and Anthropology Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA 70803 E-mail: <a href="mailto:asluyter@lsu.edu">asluyter@lsu.edu</a>	Tel: (225) 578-4261 Fax: (225) 578-4420
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#### **Committee on Institutional Strengthening**

<b>Principal Member</b>	VACANT
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<b>Member</b>	VACANT
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## Commission on History

### Representation

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## Commission on Geophysics

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**Geomagnetism and Aerometry Committee**

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**Seismology and Volcanology Committee**

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**Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics Committee**

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**Environment Geophysics Committee**

**Gravimetry Committee**

VACANT



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UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECTION

## **Agenda**

**2015 Meeting of the U.S. National Section  
Pan American Institute of Geography and History  
SUNY Buffalo State University  
Buffalo, NY  
March 4 and 5, 2015**

### **Wednesday, March 4**

- 11:00 – 12:00    Optional: U.S. Delegation Lunch**  
**Buffalo State Campus House**  
**1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222**
- 12:00 – 12:30    Welcoming Remarks**  
**Cleveland Hall 418**
- Bettina Martinez-Hackert, Department of Earth Sciences and Science Education, SUNY Buffalo State University
  - Jorge Bajo Sanchez, Department of Geography, University of Buffalo
    - Meeting Room and Safety Logistics
- 12:30 – 12:45    Opening Remarks**
- Deirdre Bishop, President, USNS
    - Introductions
    - Overview of Meeting Agenda
    - USNS Updates
- 12:45 – 1:15    USNS Discussion Items**
- USNS Roster Update – Ally Johnson
  - USNS Annual Report Discussion – Deirdre Bishop/Paul Cooper
  - USNS Membership Recruitment – Paul Cooper

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To get people involved in recruiting</li> <li>○ Set our process for getting a person to commit</li> <li>○ Determining commitment level for a new person</li> <li>● USNS Brochure – Paul Cooper</li> </ul>
<b>1:15 – 2:00</b>	<b>Remarks from the Secretary General of PAIGH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rodrigo Barriga, PAIGH Secretary General</li> </ul>
<b>2:00 – 2:15</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>2:15 – 3:00</b>	<b>Institute Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Significant Institute Dates and Deadlines – Jean Parcher</li> <li>● Cartography Commission Award – Dolly García Jové</li> </ul>
<b>3:00 – 4:00</b>	<b>Invited Presentations by USNS Members and Guests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overview of Volunteered Geographic Information – Elizabeth McCartney</li> <li>● PAIGH attendance at Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference - Paul Cooper</li> </ul>
<b>4:00 – 4:15</b>	<b>Status of Approved 2015 Projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Study of the Santa Ana Volcano in El Salvador – Jorge Bajo Sanchez</li> </ul>
<b>4:15 – 4:30</b>	<b>Reports by Commission Representatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commission on Geophysics – Jorge Bajo Sanchez</li> </ul>
<b>4:30 – 5:00</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>
<b>5:00</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourns</b>
<b>6:00</b>	<b>Delegation Dinner</b>

## **Thursday, March 5**

<b>9:00 - 9:15</b>	<b>U.S. Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States - State Department</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Melissa Kopolow McCall, U.S. Mission to the OAS</li> </ul>
<b>9:15 – 9:30</b>	<b>Status of Approved 2015 Projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Network for Geographic Learning – Osvaldo Muñoz-Solari</li> </ul>
<b>9:30 – 10:15</b>	<b>History Commission Report and Invited Presentation</b>

- Commission on History – Erick Langer
- History of the Americas – Erick Langer

**10:15 – 11:15      2016 Project Proposals**

- Project Proposals Timeline – Deirdre Bishop
- Guidelines for Submitting Proposals Electronically– Patricia Solis
- Presentation on Project Proposals Available for Submission
  - Gulf of Fonseca Project – Paul Cooper
  - Eruption of San Miguel Volcano, El Salvador – Bettina Martinez-Hackert and Jorge Bajo Sanchez
- Brainstorm on Possible Multi-Commission Project Proposals

**11:15 – 11:30      Invited Presentations by USNS Members**

- Resource Conflict in Perú– David Salisbury

**11:30 – 12:00      Reports by Commission Representatives**

- Commission on Geography – David Salisbury/Diana Sinton
- Commission on Cartography – Paul Cooper

**12:00 – 1:45      Informal Lunch Discussion with Buffalo State Professors  
Buffalo State Campus House**

**1:45 – 2:00      Group Photo**

**2:00      Meeting Adjourns**

## USNS Member Conference Participations, Significant Accomplishments, and Published Works

### Dr. Andrew Sluyter

- Conference of Latin Americanist Geographer's (CLAG's) executive director as of January 1, 2015.
- CLAG's journal, [Journal of Latin American Geography](#) includes articles and book reviews on geographical research on Latin America.
- Publications
  - A. Sluyter, Case Watkins, James Chaney, and Annie M. Gibson. In press for 2015. *Hispanic and Latino New Orleans: Immigration and Identity since the Eighteenth Century*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.
  - Annie Gibson, Case Watkins, Jim Chaney, and A. Sluyter. In press for 2015. Vínculos Históricos entre Nueva Orleans, Luisiana y Cuba. *Revista Universidad de la Habana* 32: in press.
  - Richard Hunter and A. Sluyter. In press for 2015. Sixteenth-Century Soil Carbon Sequestration Rates Based on Mexican Land-Grant Documents. *The Holocene* 25: in press.
  - A. Sluyter. 2015. How Africans and Their Descendants Participated in Establishing Open-Range Cattle Ranching in the Americas. *Environment and History* 21: 77-101 (25 pp.).
  - A. Sluyter. 2015. African Cowboys on the Argentine Pampas: Their Disappearance From the Historical Record. *BlackPast.org* ([www.blackpast.org/perspectives/african-cowboys-argentine-pampas-their-disappearance-historical-record](http://www.blackpast.org/perspectives/african-cowboys-argentine-pampas-their-disappearance-historical-record)) (invited essay).
  - A. Sluyter. 2014. African Arrivals and Transformations. In Craig E. Colten and Geoffrey L. Buckley, eds., *North American Odyssey: Historical Geographies for the Twenty-First Century*, pp. 49-66. New York: Rowman and Littlefield (textbook chapter) (18 pp.).

### Dr. David Salisbury

- Awarded International Education Faculty Award, University of Richmond.
- Project Director: Higher Education for Development-USAID funded 2.5 year Grant in June, 2015. University of Richmond & Universidad Nacional de Ucayali, Perú. Building Conservation Capacity for a Changing Amazonia.
- Co-Organizer of two conferences in Pucallpa, Peru.
- Gave 11 conference presentations and invited talks on Latin America
- Publications
  - Salisbury, David S., Anderson, E., Bilsborrow, R., Campbell, C., Madonado-Ocampo, J., Perz, S., Díaz-Zúñiga, E. 2015. Transformando la Educación Superior para una Amazonía Cambiante. *Investigación Universitaria, Edición Extraordinaria, Revista de la Universidad Nacional de Ucayali*: 7-9.
  - Leal, Diego B., Salisbury, David S., Faquín Fernández, Josué, Cauper Pezo, Lizardo, Silva, Julio. 2015. Ideas Cambiantes sobre Territorio, Recursos, y Redes



Políticas en la Amazonía Indígena: Un Estudio de Caso sobre Perú. *Journal of Latin American Geography* 14, no 2: 181-204.

- Salisbury, David S., Leal, Diego B., Chávez Michaelsen, Andrea B., Balbín Ordaya, Bertha, Flores de Melo, A. Willian, Tipula Tipula, Pedro, and Maria Luisa Ochoa 2014. Cartografía, Corredores, y Cooperación: La Búsqueda de Soluciones Transfronterizas en las Fronteras Amazónicas. *Revista Cartográfica*. 89: 131-143.
- Salisbury, David S., Flores de Melo, A. Willian, and Pedro Tipula Tipula. Transboundary Political Ecology in the Peru-Brazil Borderlands: Mapping Workshops, Geographic Information, and Socio-Environmental Impacts. *Revista Geográfica* 152: 105-115.

#### Dolly V. García Joyé

- Led planning of 2015 USNS Annual Meeting in Buffalo, NY, in March 2015
- Strengthening links to PAIGH Cartography Commission
  - Worked with Carlos López on "Prize for the Outstanding Master's thesis in Cartography, Geodesy and/or Geographic Information"
  - coordinating a virtual informational session requested by the Cartography Commission regarding the new ASPRS Positional Accuracy Standard for Digital Geospatial Data.

#### Dr. Osvaldo Muniz-Solari

- On editorial board of
  - Revista Geográfica
  - Revista Cartográfica
  - Geotrópico
- Profesor Principal of CEPEIGE Online
- REDONLINE-PAIGH2015. PAIGH approved project to develop a network of geography teachers in Latin America to study global climate change.
- Member of International Geographical Union's Commission on Geographical Education (Coordinator for Latin America) <http://www.igu-cge.org/>
- Worked with Texas State University graduate students to conduct Quality Assurance analysis regarding the accuracy of the 2010 Census data. This analysis will be reviewed by the Census Department.

#### Dr. Betty Smith

- Local arrangements committee AAG annual meeting Chicago
- Chaired (2) and co-organized (7) multiple sessions on Latin America at AAG annual meeting Chicago.
- New online course development, fully enrolled Eastern Illinois University course to be taught first time fall semester 2015, "Geography and Culture of South America."

#### Dr. Diana Sinton

- Active in Geographical Education: Gave online presentation to USNS in 2015 on ROGTAL. ([http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00221341.2014.950684#.VLbaHSvF\\_bo](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00221341.2014.950684#.VLbaHSvF_bo)), +can distribute a PDF to those who would like this information: [dianasinton@gmail.com](mailto:dianasinton@gmail.com).

Dr. Patricia Solís

- *Comité del Fortalecimiento Institucional: Grupo de Trabajo del [Censo de la Geografía 2015](#)* Con el objetivo de desarrollar la(s) encuestas para la ampliación de la recopilación de datos sobre la disciplina, dando seguimiento a los trabajos de 2010 y 2005. *Líder Dra. Patricia Solís, con Raquel Alvarado, Ana Victoria Rincon*
  - Three instruments in all three languages (Eng/Sp/Port, so 9 in all) used in 2010 in review now by a committee to update them for 2015 –Nancy Aguirre of Colombia key. Survey slated to be released.
- NAS Pre-proposal to the Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Program entitled “Toward an Integrated Geospatial Information System in Mesoamerica for Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Hazards Management” has been selected to move to the next stage of NAS review process.

Erick D. Langer

- Presentations
  - March 24, 2015: “Indigenous Movements in Latin America,” Foreign Service Institute, Arlington, VA
  - August 13, 2015: “Evo Morales and Other Indigenous Movements in Latin America, Foreign Service Institute, Arlington, VA
  - Regular Panel Member, “Club de Prensa,” NTN24 News Channel
- Publications
  - In press for 2015: “Indigenous Independence in Spanish South America and Beyond, 1800-1870,” **New Nations in a New World, 1750-1850**, John Tutino, ed. (Durham: Duke University Press)
  - In press for 2015: “Indians and the Chaco War: Power and Acquiescence in Bolivia, Argentina, and Paraguay,” **The Chaco War: Environment, Ethnicity, and Nationalism**, Bridget Chesterton, ed. (London: Bloomsbury Press)

## ABOUT PAIGH

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was created in 1928 during the VI International American Conference at the Ministerial Level held in Havana, Cuba. Headquarters were established in Mexico City at the disposition of the American nations for the installation of the offices of the General Secretariat. In 1949, one year after the signing of the Charter of the OAS in Bogotá, Colombia, the Institute signed an agreement with the Council of the Organization of American States and became its first Specialized Organization. The agreement was modified and signed in Washington, D.C., on May 6, 1974.

## OBJECTIVES

- To encourage, coordinate, and publicize cartographic, geographic, geophysical, and historic studies as well as other related scientific studies of interest to the Americas.
- To promote and carry out studies, work, and training in the aforementioned fields of activity.
- To promote cooperation among organizations interested in these fields of activity in the Americas, and with related international organizations.

## NATIONAL SECTIONS

The National Section is the body established by each of the 22 Member States for the accomplishment of the aims of PAIGH on the national level and relies upon the financial support of its government for that purpose. The National Sections are composed of the persons appointed by the governments of the Member States as representatives to the various bodies of PAIGH.

## COMMISSIONS

The structure of PAIGH is based on the four commissions – Cartography, Geography, History, and Geophysics. These commissions are the organizations responsible for developing and executing the scientific and technical programs of PAIGH, approved by the General Assembly or the Directing Council. They also promote and coordinate the scientific and technical development in their respective fields in the Member States.



PAIGH is a voluntary organization and we have members from private industry, US government, and academia. Generally, responsibilities for membership are that you attend our annual national section meeting, call in monthly to our scheduled teleconference, and interact with commission representatives in other national sections to develop and/or participate in projects. Projects can be funded by PAIGH and funding requests are submitted by PAIGH annually on a scheduled timetable and awards are announced in January of each year.

*Join Us!*

The U.S. National Section of PAIGH draws from expertise and networks from many US agencies and organizations. Cooperation and a diversity of skills and perspectives are essential to continuing our contribution and participation in this organization. To learn more, visit:

[www.aag.org/cs/paigh](http://www.aag.org/cs/paigh)

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U.S. NATIONAL SECTION



## U.S. NATIONAL SECTION

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## **CARTOGRAPHY COMMISSION**

Through its Commission on Cartography the Institute develops important projects in the areas of: Fundamental Geospatial Data (SIRGAS, Global Map of the Americas, Geographic Names, Aeronautic and Hydrographic charts), Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation (Geospatial Data Infrastructure), Thematic Applications (Geospatial Information for the Prevention and Mitigation of Disasters, Information for Planning and Decision-Making), and Standards (Positioning, Digital Cartography, Data Exchange).

### **REPRESENTATIVE - Mark L. DeMolder**

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## **GEOGRAPHY COMMISSION**

The Commission addresses three major areas of the PAIGH Strategic Plan, for Research, Education, and Institutional Strengthening. The commission undertakes activities analyzing the impact of the occupation of space and its social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspects; generating analysis to prioritize the action of spatial planning; promoting policies that propel development in its diverse scales and relationships with economic, social, and cultural integration; developing mechanisms to strengthen education and geographic science at all levels, and promoting cooperation among institutions in the Americas.

### **REPRESENTATIVE - Dr. David Salisbury**

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## **HISTORY COMMISSION**

The History Commission plans, conducts, and publishes historical works on the Western Hemisphere experience. Contributing to the conservation of archaeological sites and historical monuments in the Americas, the History Commission promotes the organization, preservation, and arrangement of historical archives and museums. Additionally the History Commission is involved promoting cooperation

among individuals and institutions dedicated to studying the history, anthropology, and archaeology of the Americas.

### **REPRESENTATIVE - Dr. Erick Delf Langer**

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## **GEOPHYSICS COMMISSION**

The Geophysics Commission promotes exchange between institutions of PAIGH Member States to study and resolve problems in solid Earth and atmospheric geophysics. The Commission supports a graduate-level scholarship program in earth sciences with well-respected universities in the Hemisphere. The Geophysics Commission promotes the development of interdisciplinary multinational projects between the distinct Commissions of PAIGH and encourages the publication of the results of projects financed by the Commission in scientific journals.

### **REPRESENTATIVE - Dr. Jorge L. Bajo Sanchez**

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## **THE PAN AMERICAN AGENDA - 2010 - 2020**

In support of PAIGH's broader mission, there is new emphasis on fostering development of spatial data bases. This includes information obtained from the systematic observation of Earth from space in order to assist with decision making processes, improve early warning systems and disaster response systems, and promote sustainable use of natural resources. The Agenda also looks to encourage innovative study of Pan American development by fostering a broader vision of the history of the Americas and a plurality of approaches in environmental history, historiography, historical cartography, climate change, natural hazards, cultural diversity, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

## **U.S. NATIONAL SECTION AND PAIGH COMMISSION 2014 HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◆ PAIGH representatives attended the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) in Monaco October 6 - 10, 2014.
- ◆ PAIGH supported the conduct of a series of cross-border mapping workshops and research activities, to expand and update a GIS database to mitigate transboundary environmental challenges in the Brazilian, Bolivian, and Peruvian Amazon.
- ◆ The principal History project by the USNS section remains the *Historia de las Américas/History of the Americas* project.
- ◆ Geological Survey of Deposit Flows and Pyroclastic surges, tephra fall, lahars, and Debris Flows in the Western Zone of the Santa Ana volcano project is a collaboration between SUNY at Buffalo, the Dirección General del Observatorio Ambiental (DGOA) of El Salvador, and UNAM de México.