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Introduction

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, 2019 through September 30, 2020. 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 leadership team members are Mrs. Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, USNS President and U.S. Census Bureau Geography Division Chief; Mr. Paul Cooper, USNS Vice President; Ms. Lynda Liptrap, USNS Executive Secretary; and Mr. Benjamin Barron, Department of State Liaison and Political Officer for Hemispheric Security with the U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States.

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.

USNS Leadership, Participation, and Promotion of PAIGH Activities

USNS Leadership

Two USNS members have been serving in leadership positions within PAIGH. Dr. Patricia Solis, as President of the Geography Commission and Ms. Jean Parcher, serving as Vice President. The USNS recognizes the vision of both leaders while serving as Authorities and providing leadership and direction for the Geography Commission and PAIGH. Their significant accomplishments include:

- Focusing on strategic actions, such as gender, technical capacity building, institutional strengthening, and resource management;
- Supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Pan American Agenda;
- Improving and modernizing communication between members;
- Continuing the work of the editor of the Geographical Journal aimed at content quality improvement; and
- Strengthening geography teaching and learning at the level of basic education and strengthening the training of geographers and geography teachers.
The USNS continues growing. New members have joined from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). In addition to the long-time maritime representation, new NGA members come from the fields of Geodesy, Geophysics and Cartography. We are grateful to Ms. Lidia Lopez for her efforts to increase the NGA participation in USNS. We look forward to their participation and contributions.

**USNS Participation**

*49th Meeting of the PAIGH Directing Council*

The 49th Meeting of the PAIGH Directing Council was originally scheduled to take place during the week of November 18, 2019 in Santiago, Chile. Instead, it was recast as a virtual meeting on November 20, 2019, due to political and travel restrictions in Chile. The virtual meeting was well organized and flowed effectively. The agenda was completed in slightly less than one working day. The resolutions that were passed during the Directing Council may be found here at https://www.ipgh.org/49-directing-council.html.

*PAIGH USNS Monthly Teleconference Meetings and Annual Meeting*

The 2020 PAIGH USNS Annual Meeting was held March 10 and 11, 2020 at the United States Census Bureau Headquarters in Suitland, MD. Ms. Bishop and Mr. Cooper provided opening remarks. Ms. Bishop thanked Mr. Cooper for organizing the meeting agenda and Mr. Paul Riley for coordinating the meeting logistics. Ms. Liptrap was introduced as the International Geographic Program Coordinator of the Census Bureau who will be providing support to the PAIGH USNS.
The meeting had many invited presentations including, the “The Annual Report of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History” by Mr. César Rodríguez Tomeo, PAIGH Secretary General and an update on Western Hemisphere Affairs by Mr. Barron from the U.S. Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS). Dr. Solis provided an update on the PAIGH Authorities, and there were several presentations and discussion segments on approved projects and items of interest. Reports from the four USNS Commission representatives were presented as well. For a full listing of presentations provided, see Appendix 1: 2020 PAIGH USNS Annual Meeting Agenda.

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

**United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) promotes international collaboration in global information management and reports to the UN Economic and Social Council. PAIGH and some of its member states are members and contributors.

The 10th Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts was convened virtually on August 26, August 27, and September 4, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Associated informal side events also occurred during the two-week period. Ms. Bishop served as Head of Delegation, by appointment of the Chief Statistician of the United States and confirmation by the Director of the UN Statistics Division.

Seventeen topics were covered by the Committee, listed in the Organization of Work: https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/E_C.20_2020_21-organizaiton-work-E.pdf.

During this gathering, a series of formal meetings focused on:

- The strengthening of global geospatial information;
- An integrated geospatial information framework;
- A global geodetic reference frame;
- Geospatial information for sustainable development;
- The integration of geospatial, statistical, and other related information;
- Land administration and management;
- Geospatial services for disasters;
- Marine geospatial information;
- Legal and policy frameworks; and
- The adoption of standards for the geospatial community.
USNS Member John Nyberg is Co-Chair of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information. The key work program goal is to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable geospatial information including for the marine environment in support of national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Several USNS members had the opportunity to participate in the 7th Session of the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee, held virtually on September 10 and 11, 2020. Ms Bishop had the honor of delivering a presentation focused on the PAIGH technical assistance project entitled “Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in Central America.” A description of this project is included in the report of the Geography Commission below.

USNS Promotion of PAIGH Activities

The USNS members continues to support the goals and objectives of the organization through their promotion of PAIGH activities. For example:

- After several years of leading and/or participating in the development of the Integrated Maps of Central America, South America, and North America, USNS members are working with the Secretariat and industry partners about the creation of an Integrated Map of the Caribbean;
- PAIGH is making an effort to engage private industry in mutually beneficial arrangements or memoranda of understanding. Each National Section is being requested to reach out to their potential national partners to develop relationships. A browse of the PAIGH home page, https://www.ipgh.org/index.html, will show some of the partnerships that PAIGH has developed.
- The GeoSUR Program is an initiative of the CAF (Development Bank of Latin America), in coordination with the PAIGH, whose objective is to promote the use and dissemination of relevant geospatial information produced in the region and the development of Open Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) in the Americas. More GeoSUR detail is provided in the Cartography Commission report.
Commission Reports

The USNS continues to benefit from the expertise of the USNS Commission Representatives who reliably serve as active members. The USNS is grateful that each Commission Representative faithfully maintains the positions they have held in previous years. Dr. Erick Langer, Georgetown University is Principal U.S. Representative to the Commission on History; Mr. Eric van Praag, Esri, serves in the role of Principal U.S. Representative to the Commission on Cartography; Dr. David Salisbury, University of Richmond, as the Principal U.S. Representative to the Commission on Geography; and Dr. Christopher Castro, ASU, serves in his role as Principal U.S. Representative to the Commission on Geophysics. Their reports follow.

Cartography Commission
Prepared by Eric van Praag, USNS Representative to the Cartography Commission

The mission of the Cartography Commission is to promote the exchange of technical knowledge in Cartography and to develop collaborative partnerships among member countries and between the PAIGH and other multi-national institutions. During 2020, several members of the USNS Cartography Commission supported activities in the Americas aimed at increasing data sharing, improving data interoperability, strengthening SDI initiatives and supporting the work of geospatial agencies in PAIGH member countries. We provide an overview below of these activities and their outcomes.

CARIGEO

Substantial progress was made in 2020 towards the establishment of CARIGEO, a collaborative effort by the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGGN), public agencies of Member States and Territories within the Caribbean, geospatial private sector organizations, academic institutions and civil society representatives. CARIGEO seeks to empower the countries and territories of the Caribbean region to advance the greater use and sharing of geospatial, statistical and related information to support improved decision making for sustainable national and regional development.
Esri has been actively supporting this initiative, and under its aegis stood up a Caribbean Geoportal for the regional community (https://www.caribbeangeoportal.com/) leveraging ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Hub.

Mr. van Praag is participating in the CARIGEO Steering Committee and is supporting the preparation of the initiative’s Terms of Reference and Action Plan.

Esri - PAIGH MoU

Esri and PAIGH completed and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and associated Annex in June of 2019 at the Esri User Conference in San Diego, California.

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework for exchange of geographic, cartographic, and scientific expertise to strengthen and continue the development of regional and national SDIs and enterprise Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the Americas.

During 2020, Esri provided support to the PAIGH Secretariat to stand up an ArcGIS Online account - donated as part of the MoU - and to start populating it with some regional data currently hosted in GeoSUR. A working group with representatives from geographic institutes and disaster response agencies from Honduras and Ecuador was formed and will be tasked with testing the functionality of this platform and designing pilot projects for the two countries and beyond. Esri will support this process via knowledge transfer and technical assistance. Some of the data to be hosted in this platform will be registered with the Esri Living Atlas for wider public reach and consumption.

Esri and other regional stakeholders in Latin America have discussed the possibility of moving towards a regional SDI. In support of this goal, and during the joint UN-GGIM Americas – AmeriGEO session celebrated on September 9, 2020, Esri announced its support for collaboratively co-designing and co-developing a regional SDI infrastructure for the Americas.
Regional Map of the Americas

The Regional Map of the Americas is a collaborative effort of the national mapping organizations of the Americas and several regional stakeholders such as PAIGH, the USGS, Spain’s National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG) and CAF. The work started in 2013 with seed funding provided by PAIGH and is now nearing completion, with the last sub-region, North America, scheduled for completion within the next two years.

The Regional Map of the Americas has produced a digital geographic database at 1:250,000 scale that covers basic and fundamental topographic themes: Administrative Boundaries, Hydrography, Villages, Roads, Morphology and others (Points of Interest) using official geographic information provided by PAIGH member countries.

Two members of the USNS Cartography Commission, Mr. Roberto Lugo and Mr. van Praag, have provided management and technical support for this project since its inception. It should be noted that Ms. Parcher was instrumental in establishing the project and in getting funding to execute it. She also played a key coordinating role during its first operational phase.

All the data produced as part of this project is available for viewing in the GeoSUR Regional Map Service (https://geosur.info). Esri and the PAIGH Secretariat have been discussing the possibility of registering some of these datasets, for viewing, in the ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World (https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/en/home/) aiming to reach a wider audience.

GeoSUR

With a new agreement between USGS and CAF finalized in early 2020, USGS has been able to resume development on the GeoSUR's Geoportal platform (https://geosur.info). In this short period, USGS has released an updated regional map viewer replacing the obsolete Adobe Flash version. This new viewer highlights all web mapping services hosted by GeoSUR, allowing the user to interact with all these datasets.

GeoSUR has released the Integrated Map of South America map service, made possible by the support of CAF, CNIG, and the participation of several South American agencies (https://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/es/visualizador-del-mapa-integrado-de-america-del-sur). In addition, GeoSUR released the updated version of Integrated Map of Central America. Again, made possible by the dedicated work of CNIG, CAF and the Central America country participants (https://www.geosur.info/geosur/index.php/es/visualizador-del-map-integrado-de-centroamerica).
USGS and CAF have extended their agreement through December 2020 to allow more time for PAIGH, USGS, and others to define a short-term operational plan for the GeoSUR Portal website and a long-term strategy for PAIGH, UN-GGIM, AmeriGEO, USGS, and others.

USGS has participated in dialogs between the aforementioned agencies on the role of GeoSUR in a broader Americas context. The theme of these discussions is to develop a broader Americas SDI platform that provides unified access to geospatial resources. This centralized portal would provide data, research, applied science tools, and capacity building opportunities to help the Americas governing bodies to make well-informed geospatial science-based decisions. One initiative already off the ground is the Academy of the Americas servicing as the coalition's primary training resource. In the next twelve months, GeoSUR will see exciting new opportunities to expand its reach and broaden the services it provides.

**Geography Commission**

Prepared by Dr. David Salisbury, USNS Representative to the Geography Commission

This past year, the USNS Geography Commission advanced activities focused around the Research and Education Committees of the now four-fold committee structure of PAIGH.

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 USNS Geography Commission is strengthened by two members who lead PAIGH’s Geography Commission as the President, Dr. Solís, and Vice President, Ms. Parcher. Their leadership ensures an active representation of the USNS 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 by participating in three projects with PAIGH funding:

- Taller del Grupo Geográfico Transfronterizo de la Amazonia Sudoccidental (GTASO) para Mitigar los Desafíos Ambientales en la Amazonía Peruana y Brasileña;
- Desarrollo Colaborativo del Atlas del Cambio Climático de las Américas: Taller Participativo 1; and
- PAIGH Technical Assistance Project for the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in Central America.
Conferences and Meetings

The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting

The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting was held virtually instead of in Denver in 2020 as result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

36th Conference of Latin American Geography

The 36th Conference of Latin American Geography was held on January 3-5, 2020 in Antigua, Guatemala (https://clagscholar.org/conferences/guatemala-2020/).

PAIGH Projects with Significant USNS Geography Commission Participation

Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information in Central America Technical Project

This year the Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information in Central America Technical Project began with the technical project team hosting weekly virtual meetings and working toward the integration of statistical and geospatial information related to education and education quality. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the worsening global situation, the technical project team, during a weekly meeting at the end of March, had discussions and made the decision to set aside the work on education to focus on how they could assist decision makers in Central America with their response to COVID-19.

The team wanted to do something meaningful and did not want to duplicate the ongoing efforts of others, creating dashboards on the number of COVID cases, deaths, etc. The team was very interested in the work of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) and their development of a Vulnerability Index. The technical project team had been discussing something very similar on how to identify vulnerable populations in Central America. The team reached out to DANE to discuss how they developed their Vulnerability Index and how the same could be done in Central America. The team agreed, and with the support of DANE, began work on the development of a Vulnerability Index for the countries in Central America.

At a high level, the Vulnerability Index identifies those in a population that, due to their demographic characteristics and health conditions, may be more susceptible to contracting COVID-19. The Vulnerability Index is calculated, at varying levels of geography (from a national level to the block level) using K-means and the elbow method.
The data variables used to calculate the index, include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Elements</th>
<th>Vulnerability Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population Data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Age 60 and over</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density (Overcrowding)</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density (Number of people per house)</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Public Water</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Public Sanitation (Sewage)</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Data - Health Conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease (stroke, heart attack, etc.)</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immune System</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory System</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aside from the integration of statistical and geospatial information, another goal of the project is to develop harmonization between the different bodies of work underway in the region. To that end, the technical project team decided to use the Statistical and Geospatial Framework of the Americas (MEGA) as a basis for the data structure, allowing the data structure to fit within the framework of the MEGA.
As the technical project progressed, and the data structure development began, the team identified that the MEGA and its’ current structure needed to be expanded to accommodate the data variables needed to develop the Vulnerability Index to ensure the work could be shared with and was harmonized with the MEGA. The technical project team worked with the MEGA technical project team to expand the MEGA data structure to accommodate the 13 data variables used for the Vulnerability Index and to provide these variables at lower levels of administrative/statistical geography than the MEGA allowed for.

As part of the development of the Vulnerability Index, the technical project team hosted a virtual workshop. This workshop was held in two sessions and both sessions were approximately 2 hours long and facilitated in Spanish. The first session, held on July 9, 2020, was a theoretical session in which the methodology and calculations used to build the Vulnerability Index were discussed with participants. The second session, held on July 16, 2020, was a practical session in which the adaptation of the methodology, calculations, scope, and limitations for each country were discussed based on the availability of data variables and the levels of geography those variables were available. During this session, participants broke into small virtual groups and had an opportunity to apply the vulnerability index methodology using their own data variables. There were 43 participants representing all of the countries in Central America. The workshop was recorded and these recordings will be available on the project hub in Spanish with English subtitles.

Participants are currently finalizing their data structures and have started to calculate the Vulnerability Index for their countries.

Maps from the Integration on Geospatial and Statistical Information in Central America Technical Project

Preliminary results of the Vulnerability Index for Honduras
Preliminary results of the Vulnerability Index for Guatemala

Preliminary results of the Vulnerability Index for El Salvador

Preliminary results of the Vulnerability Index for Costa Rica
Looking more closely at the results for Costa Rica and comparing the Vulnerability Index to the actual number of COVID-19 cases at the same levels of geography, you can see some strong correlations.

**Collaborative Development of the Atlas of Climate Change in the Americas: Participatory Workshop 1**

The Climate Change Atlas of the Americas project’s participatory workshop took place October 11-16, 2019 at the Universidad Bernardo O’Higgins (UBO) in Santiago, Chile. The workshop brought together participants from Argentina, Colombia, Chile, and Spain to further the project consisting of a prototype of hemispheric wide mapping of climate trends, and a dynamic web atlas of case studies. In addition, the University of Richmond sent nine students to present their Climate Change Atlas of the Americas StoryMaps, conduct fieldwork with UBO students in the new Laguna de Aculeo and the urban-fire interface at Valparaiso, and facilitate StoryMap creation by UBO student partners. The workshop ended with a series of products:

- Presentations by workshop participants and students at the Café Científico;
- A proposal to develop, implement, and integrate the Climate Change Atlas of the Americas into a participatory university curriculum between countries of the Americas;
- A BETA version of the Atlas del Cambio Climático de las Américas (ACCA):
  - [https://idearagon.aragon.es/ACCA](https://idearagon.aragon.es/ACCA);
- Presentation at COP 25 in Madrid
- Presentation at the Conference of Latin American Geography, Antigua, Guatemala
Photographs and Images from Climate Change Atlas of the Americas Project

Students from University of Richmond and Universidad Bernardo O’Higgins pose for a drone photograph together in the Laguna Aculeo, Chile. October 12, 2019.

Students from University of Richmond and Universidad Bernardo O’Higgins create StoryMaps together in Universidad Bernardo O’Higgins, Santiago, Chile. October 14, 2019.

Flyer for Café Científico, Casa de la Cultura, Universidad Bernardo O’Higgins, Santiago, Chile. October 16, 2019.

Geo PanAm-PAIGH

The Online Program designed by the Geo PanAm-PAIGH Project was launched at the end of August and is to be developed until October 17, 2020.

The Project’s objective is to prepare senior university students who are pre-service teachers in geography in different countries in the Pan American World. The Online Program is the practical activity of the Project that will allow selected senior students to engage in full online international learning.
The Commission on Geography approved this Project in order to promote international cooperation and collaboration among young and future professionals. They will share local experiences and work globally about geographic problems that are common in the Latin American countries. The experience on the recontextualization of geographic knowledge focuses on climate change.

The Program received applications from 18 potential participants and the final selection of 12 participants included seven countries. The selection was based on individual qualifications to integrate the activity. The coordinator of this Project and the Online Program is Dr. Osvaldo Muñiz-Solari, member of the Geography Education Committee.

The Transboundary Geographic Group of the Southwestern Amazon's (GTASO) Workshop to Mitigate Environmental Challenges in the Peruvian and Brazilian Amazon

An ESRI Hub (https://gtaso-data-urichmond.hub.arcgis.com/) was created at the University of Richmond to host the data and details of The Transboundary Geographic Group of the Southwestern Amazon’s (GTASO) 2019 workshop (July 1-5, 2019) which included 27 professionals from 18 governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions from Peru (Ucayali, Madre de Dios) and Brazil (Acre). The Puerto Maldonado, Peru based workshop produced transboundary maps of climate scenarios, socio-environmental threats, vulnerable zones, transboundary Indigenous culture corridors, and protected areas. The workshop also identified the technical challenges and key knowledge gaps impeding collaborative geospatial analysis of a bioculturally diverse region threatened by climate change, deforestation, expanding road networks, and uncontrolled resource extraction. Results demonstrated the importance of collaborative transboundary regional workshops in sharing geospatial knowledge for improved decision making in a remote and threatened borderland.

Products of the 2019 GTASO Workshop:

- University of Richmond’s GTASO Hub: https://gtaso-data-urichmond.hub.arcgis.com/
- English Video 2019 GTASO Workshop (3 minutes)
- Español Video 2019 GTASO Taller (2 minutes)
**Youth Mappers**

In the summer of 2020, eight YouthMappers students across the United States participated in a virtual Science, Technology and Society Fellowship Program as part of a National Science Foundation study on crowdsourced and official data landscapes in Central America and the Caribbean. The students are completing remote internships with the geographic institutes of seven countries in Mesoamerica. They are collaborating with institute staff to design crowdsourced mapping projects and improve understanding of the connection between volunteered geographic information and national agency cartographies. They are also providing support to their host countries' existing YouthMappers chapters and assisting with the creation of new chapters.

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

In the coming year, the USNS 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.
History Commission
Prepared by Dr. Erick D. Langer, USNS Representative to the History Commission

In part because of the strangeness of this year due to the COVID-19 crisis, the History Commission has not been very active. The History Commission is composed almost completely by faculty from universities, which have been in crisis mode and have had to work under severe financial constraints due to the pandemic. In addition, faculty have had to move to online teaching and train themselves in this method, leaving little time for other activities. As a result, the History Commission does not have much to report regarding Commission activities. We intend to change this dynamic by regrouping, finding projects, and looking for new members who will revitalize the Commission.

History Commission members have been active on the professional front. Dr. Thomas Field was promoted to Full Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He also published *Latin America and the Global Cold War* (University of North Carolina Press), co-edited with Stella Krepp and Vanni Pettiná. He also is on the Editorial Board of *Historia de América*, the journal that is sponsored by PAIGH.


Last year, Dr. Erick Langer published “Diplomacy and Trade: The Current Contradictory Relations Between the United States and Bolivia,” *Bolivian Studies Journal*, vol. 25 (2019), 88-97. He was also busy on the University Committee on Rank and Tenure. In May, he presented to a large virtual audience “The Diary of Francis Burdett O’Connor,” sponsored by the Secretaría de Cultura y Turismo of Tarija, Bolivia. In August 2020, Dr. Langer presented a webinar on the “Franciscan missions and the Ava-Guaraní in the Chaco War” to an audience of over 300 people from Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador.

**Geophysics Commission**
Prepared by Dr. Christopher L. Castro, USNS Representative to the Geophysics Commission

Dr. Castro is assuming lead for the Geophysics Commission of the USNS. He is the Principal Coordinator for the Climate Change Committee for the PAIGH Geophysics Commission and has been very active with several projects in Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. Current research focuses principally on physical understanding and prediction of climate in North America through regional atmospheric modeling and analysis of observations. Specific topics being investigated in the scope of projects include improving seasonal climate forecasts, convective-resolving simulations of severe weather, water resource projection at the regional and local scale, and contributions to parameterization development in the Weather Research and Forecasting model. Projects engage the operational weather forecast community and water resource providers in the Southwest. Through collaborations and outreach activities, he is also working to develop improved capacity for weather climate research in other parts of the world, especially Latin America.
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Cartography Journal Editor Committee
Principal Member – Maria Ester Gonzalez - Chile
No U.S. Representation

Network and Academic Cooperation Committee
Principal Member – Carlos Lopez - Uruguay
No U.S. Representation

Technical Committees and Working Groups

Geographic Information Rules and Standards
Principal Member – Freddy Gutierrez - Colombia
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Topical Cartography Committee
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Aeronautical Charts (Working Group)
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PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
Specialized Organization of the Organization of American States
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UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECTION

Agenda

2020 Meeting of the U.S. National Section
Pan American Institute of Geography and History
U.S. Census Bureau Building
Room T-14
Suitland, MD
10-11 March 2020

Phone: 1-866-692-3158 Participant Code 1208700
Skype for Business: Individual meeting invites sent separately

Tuesday, 10 March

8:45 – 9:00  Optional light refreshments (Juice, coffee, pastries, fruit)

9:00 – 9:10  Welcoming Remarks & New Member Welcome
□ Deirdre Bishop, USNS President

9:10 – 9:20  Opening Remarks
□ Paul Cooper, USNS Vice-President

9:20 – 9:30  USNS Discussion Items
□ USNS Roster Update
□ USNS Annual Report Instructions
□ USNS Action Items Follow-up

□ Benjamin Barron, Department of State Liaison
10:00 – 10:45  Annual Report of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History

☐ César Ródriguez Tomeo, PAIGH Secretary General
  ○ Including Discussion of Cooperating Partners

10:45 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:00  Commission Reports

☐ Geophysics – Jorge Bajo
☐ History – Erick Langer
☐ Cartography – Eric Van Praag
☐ Geography – David Salisbury

12:00– 12:05  Group Photo

12:05 – 1:00  U.S. Delegation Lunch

1:00 – 1:15  Discussion led by USNS Members

☐ PAIGH 100th Anniversary – Ways to Celebrate - Chely Sandoval & Erick Langer

1:20 – 1:30  Status of Approved Projects

☐ Archiving Project – Erick Langer and James Siekmeier History

1:35 – 2:00  Status of Approved Projects

☐ Pan American-Geography/Online (GeoPanAm) - 2018-2020 (Objective. To develop an international online geography program (GeoPanAm) for teachers who do not have experience in online teaching and learning in their universities of the Region.) – Osvaldo Muniz

2:05 – 3:00  Status of Approved 2020 Projects

☐ Geographic Transborder Working Group of the Amazonian South Occidental (GTASO) to mitigate the environmental challenges in the Peruvian and Brazilian Amazon – David Salisbury
☐ Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Data in Central America – Paul Riley
☐ Integrated Map of North America - Mike Tischler

3:00 – 3:15  Break
3:15 – 3:45 Discussions led by USNS Members
   □  IHO Meso American Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Update - Jim Rogers
   □  MACHC UN GGIM Maritime WG - Jim Rogers

3:50 – 4:30 Invited Presentations by USNS Member
   □  Erick Langer - History Commission
   □  Dan Winester - Geophysics Commission

4:30 -5:00 OPEN POSSIBLY
   □  Strategic Plans and Potential 2021 Projects– Deirdre Bishop

Delegation Dinner near Census - National Harbor

Wednesday 11 March

8:45 – 9:00 Optional light refreshments (Juice, coffee, pastries, fruit)

9:00 - 9:30 Africa GIS Portal
   Linda Peters, Esri

9:30 -10:00 GeoSUR
   Matt Cushing

10:00-10:45 Geographic Names
   PAIGH Course Update - George Troop
   ROK involvement in GN as Permanent Observer - Group
   NGA GN activities - Lidia Lopez, Christopher Hanson, David DeHosson

1045-1100 Break

11:00-11:30 Introduction of NGA Cartography and Geophysics Participation
   Lidia Lopez and Casey Burkemper

11:30 - 12:30 USNS Discussion Items
   □  Meeting Action Items recap
Appendix 2

USNS Member Conference Participations,
Significant Accomplishments and Published Works
Grouped By Commission

Geography Commission Individual Accomplishments related to PAIGH objectives

☐ **Research Committee (Principal David Salisbury)**
  
  ○ Dr. Tim Trainor
     
     ☐ President of the International Cartographic Association (elected July 2019 for 4-year term). ICA has 12 Latin American countries who are current members.
     
     ☐ Regular column for ArcNews publication on various topics including the IGIF and the importance of governance and institutions.
     
     
     
     
     ☐ Regular involvement in PAIGH activities during the past year have contributed to the content of the various chapters within Part 2 of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, commonly referred to as The Guide. While many events, including those of PAIGH and others in the region occurred that provided general direction to the composition of the nine Strategic Pathways, during this last year, a comprehensive effort was devoted to writing each chapter. In every aspect, outcomes from each meeting with UN-GGIM stakeholders, including the PAIGH, were evaluated for their contribution to each respective chapter reflecting the theme of each Pathway. In summary, the interests and needs of PAIGH were helpful in formulating the guidance provided by The Guide.
     
     ☐ Three chapters: SP0, Solving the Puzzle; SP1 Governance and Institutions; and SP3 Financial (along with the World Bank) and reviewed other Strategic Pathway chapters (SP7 Partnerships; and SP9 Communication and Engagement).
Presented at the XIX Meeting of the Executive Committee of SCA-ECLAC on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information: Perspective from the Statistical Offices. This presentation was made to advance the challenges each country in the region faces in integrating statistical and geospatial information. The outcome goal of the presentation was to identify a path forward to addressing the challenges.

UN-GGIM Expert Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information where I provide guidance on current and future work streams.

Article for Summer 2020 ArcNews entitled: "Countries Need an Integrated Geospatial Information Framework." This includes countries participating in PAIGH.

- Dr. David Salisbury
  - Chair, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Richmond
  - Took 9 students to Santiago, Chile for Atlas del Cambio Climático de las Américas, Universidad Bernardo O’Higgins, Santiago, Chile.
  - Vice Chair Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG)

- Dr. Andrew Sluyter
  - Board Member Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG)
  - Honors Awards Committee American Association of Geographers
  - Kathleen Morrison, Emily Hammer, Oliver Boles, Marco Madella, Nicola Whitehouse, Marie-Jose Gaillard, Jennifer Bates, Marc Vander Linden, Stefania Merlo, Alice Yao, Laura Popova, Austin Chad Hill, Ferran Antolin, Andrew Bauer, Stefano Biagetti, Rosie Bishop, Philip Buckland, Pablo Cruz, Dagmar Dreslerova, Gerrit Dusseldorp, Erle Ellis, Dragana Filipovic, Thomas Foster, Matthew Hannaford, Sandy Harrison, Manjil Hazarika, Hajnalka Herold, Joanna Hilpert, Jed Kaplan, Andrea Kay, Kees Klein Goldewijk, Jan Kolar, Elizabeth Kyazike, Julian Laabs, Carla Lancelotti, Paul Lane, Dan Lawrence, Krista Lewis, Umberto Lombardo, Giulio Lucarini, Manuel
Arroyo-Kalin, Robert
Marchant, Meriel McClatchie, Madeleine McLeester, Scott
Mooney, Magdalena Moskal-del Hoyo, Vanessa
Navarrete, Emmanuel Ndiema, Marek Nowak, Welmoed Out, Cameron
Petrie, Leanne Phelps, Zsolt Pinke, Thembi Russell, Andrew
Sluyter, Amy Styring, Selvakumar Veerasamy, Lynn
Welton, Marco Zanon. 2020 (forthcoming). Mapping Past Human Land
Use Using Archaeological Data: A New Classification for
Global Land Use Synthesis and Data Harmonization. PLOS
ONE (submitted 2020).

A. Sluyter and Brett Spencer. 2020. Past and Present in CLAG

Training, several grads doing research in Latin America, the last one a
Panamanian and the first two Americans, all doing political ecology
topics.

- Adam Dohrenwend, PhD in progress concerning Argentina, yerba
  mate.
- Brett Spencer, PhD in progress concerning Miskitu social
  movements and territory.
- Ginés A. Sánchez Arias, graduated with PhD on Linguistic
  Political Ecology with the Ngäbe Indigenous People of Panama.

Dr. Patricia Solís

- Executive Director, Knowledge Exchange for Resilience, Arizona State
  University
- Youth Mappers

**History Commission Individual Accomplishments related to PAIGH objectives**

- Thomas Field was promoted to Full Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
  University. He also published Latin America and the Global Cold War (University of
  North Carolina Press), co-edited with Stella Krepp and Vanni Pettiná. He also is on
  the Editorial Board of Historia de América, the journal that is sponsored by PAIGH.

- James Siekmeier published “Foreign Policy in the ‘Backyard:’ Historiography of
  United States-Latin American Relations,” in Dietrich, Christopher R.W., ed. A
  Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations, Colonial Era to the Present. Hoboken, NJ:

- Last year, Erick Langer published “Diplomacy and Trade: The Current Contradictory
  Relations Between the United States and Bolivia,” Bolivian Studies Journal, vol. 25
  (2019), 88-97. He was also busy on the University Committee on Rank and Tenure.
In May, he presented to a large virtual audience “The Diary of Francis Burdett O’Connor,” sponsored by the Secretaría de Cultura y Turismo of Tarija, Bolivia. In August, 2020 Dr. Langer presented a webinar on the “Franciscan missions and the Ava-Guarani in the Chaco War” to an audience of over 300 people from Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador.