Message from the President

Dear ABS membership:

I have so enjoyed working with all of you over the past year as we continue to grow our organization, both in terms of membership and participation in our annual meetings. I believe that this year’s conference in Houston will prove to be the largest in the recent history of the ABS, with over 60 papers and presentations, and I encourage everyone who can, to plan on being there. Thanks to Christine Brenner, our 2011-12 President Elect, for all her hard work in making this happen.

We have taken some big steps this year in our efforts to position the ABS as the premier border organization for decision-makers, academics, students and politicians, and we continue to work with our friends and colleagues around the world in support of border scholarship. The ABS has increasingly become a partner of choice for many smaller border groups in Asia, Europe and North America, and this year we have been able to offer our membership opportunities to participate in various workshops and conferences all around the world. We have also continued to provide our membership with an outstanding academic journal, and I would like to thank our Executive Secretary, Dr. Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, the staff at the University of Victoria, as well as the editors of the JBS, for their continuing efforts in this regard.

See you in Houston in April!

Best regards,
Heather Nicol
ABS President 2011-12
Welcome to the Association for Borderlands Studies
Annual Conference, Houston, Texas April 11-14, 2012

The annual conference in Houston brings together many strands of borderlands studies. During the course of the event, scholars will be able to exchange ideas, broaden theoretical perspectives and strengthen research collaboration. Some of the many themes that can be explored are detailed below. Our desire for social justice and the need to assist vulnerable border populations characterized by poverty and marginalization present human challenges to sustainability of border regions. At the same time the movement of natural resources like oil and natural gas across borders can threaten the environmental sustainability of geopolitical borders.

Immigrants and refugees continue to struggle with passage through the borderlands. Secondary migration has brought demographic change to many communities in the US, Mexico and Europe. These changes have caused cultural clashes which in some cases led to a rise in nativism and in other cases new integration initiatives. Activist leaders can play an important role in resettlement.

How we think of these borders is changing as well. Our ability to reframe border issues provides new perspectives for academics as well as politicians. As we respond to natural disasters such as changing river boundaries or manmade nuclear disasters, we give attention to the fragility of political boundaries in an increasingly globalized world. Additionally, we can see the impact of increased global trading corridors and entrepreneurship impacting the economic growth of borderlands.

Narco’s negative energy that saps the potential of the borderlands and has led to increased militarization and high tech security in recent years. This violent energy is playing itself out in social impacts, literature and film.

Thank you for your contributions to the exciting, expanding field of borderlands studies.

Christine Thurlow Brenner, PhD
2012 ABS Program Chair
2011 Executive Secretary/Treasurer Report

Dear ABS members and friends,

The UVic team is now concluding its sixth year as Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS). We were involved in numerous activities this past year, which we are pleased to report on:

The Executive Secretary is responsible for the following activities:

• running annual elections;
• managing the annual membership campaign;
• maintaining the ABS membership database and e-mail listserve;
• Producing the bi-annual newsletter \textit{La Frontera};
• Managing the annual book award process;
• Maintaining the ABS website;
• Managing finances including transferring funds to support JBS as required.

Election

This past fall 2011 we assisted former ABS president, Dr. Tony Payan, who (with Drs. Duran and Bass) was responsible for the nomination of three new board members.

Drs. Sandra Bustillos-Duran (Universidad Autónoma de Cuidad Juárez), Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera (University of Texas, Brownsville), and Benjamin Muller (Kings/University of Western Ontario) were nominated to join our board and will serve until 2014.

We also helped Vice President, Dr. Victor Konrad, who (with Drs. Anderson and Javier) was responsible for the nomination and election of the Second VP. Martin van der Velde (Radboud) and Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary were nominated and agreed to stand for election. Dr. van der Velde was elected to become our new Second Vice President, and will therefore serve on the executive for the next four years in various functions.

Membership and ListServe

We completed 2011 with 234 members, including 63 student members. ABS currently has over 900 individuals on its ListServe. As of April 5, we had 109 new and renewed members for 2012.

\textbf{2011 Memberships as of December 31, 2011}

\begin{itemize}
\item Regular paid memberships \hspace{1cm} 163
\item Gratis regular for work on special JBS issue \hspace{1cm} 1
\item Student paid memberships \hspace{1cm} 62
\item Gratis student for work at 2010 ABS meeting \hspace{1cm} 1
\item Non-OECD members (online only) \hspace{1cm} 5
\item ABS Book Award Winner(s) \hspace{1cm} 1
\item Honorary Members for life (online only) \hspace{1cm} 1
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Total memberships} \hspace{1cm} 234

\textbf{2012 Memberships as of April 5, 2012}

\begin{itemize}
\item Regular paid memberships \hspace{1cm} 71
\item Gratis regular for work on special JBS issue \hspace{1cm} 1
\item Student paid memberships \hspace{1cm} 31
\item Non-OECD members (online only) \hspace{1cm} 4
\item ABS Book Award Winner(s) \hspace{1cm} 1
\item Honorary Members for life (online only) \hspace{1cm} 1
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Total memberships} \hspace{1cm} 109
2011 Executive Secretary/Treasurer Report cont

La Frontera

Jennifer Guest edited and published the fall 2011 and spring 2012 issues of La Frontera.

Jennifer’s outstanding work for the association is unfailing despite new issues and ongoing changes yearly, with both the Journal of Borderlands Studies and our scholarly association!

Book Award

We managed the ABS/JBS Past Presidents’ Book Award process this spring. All in all, our Journal of Borderlands Studies reviewed eight books in 2010/11, and three were preselected for the awards (see Book Award). The award will be presented at the ABS meeting in Houston, Texas at our April 16th reception. The past president book award committee is chaired by 2011 winner Nick Vaughan Williams (Warwick, UK), as always since inception the past president Steve Mumme co-chairs the committee, along with Tony Payan and James Peach.

Website Enhancements

While we are working on redesigning the back of the ABS web site to make it easier to manage, the ‘tip of the iceberg’ still looks the same. But, later in 2012 we will have a new and more fully developed web page.

ABS/CIBR border bibliography online, easily accessible and up to date:

Please remember that this is a partnership with Liam O’Dowd, Director of the Centre for International Borders Research (CIBR) at Queen’s University Belfast. The ABS/CIBR bibliography link is available on the ABS website home page at http://www.absborderlands.org. In 2011, the number of border and borderland works referenced in this bibliography grew to about 1,700. The ABS executive is committed to updating the ABS bibliography annually and is working towards making this an even more useful research tool by providing opportunities for members to submit recent publications and links.

Journal of Borderlands Studies Online:

Please check out the following link: http://www.absborderlands.org/2JBS.html. Do remember that paid members have access to the complete archive of online copies of the JBS via a password protected site located at: http://uvic.ca/borderlands.

Finances

All dollar figures are quoted in Canadian funds.

UVic began to manage the ABS treasury in February 2007. Details of the ABS treasury situation for 2011 can be found on the next page.

Please note that in 2011, the WSSA co-sponsored our annual Book Award ceremony and reception to the amount of $2,929.52. This is following up on an agreement the executives of both organizations agreed to in 2009, where ABS is responsible for the first $2,200 of the cost of the ceremony. WSSA pays any additional costs. Our 2011 reception cost was $5,192.52.
# Financial Report

## Association for Borderlands Studies January - December 2011

### Financial Summary

All funds reported in Canadian Dollars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Account Balance at January 1, 2011</td>
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<td>$19,890.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership dues received by UVic</td>
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<td>Royalty Revenue</td>
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<td>Credit card commissions</td>
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<td>Routledge Journals 2011 contribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank charge for wire from Routledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSD Dean contribution for 11-12 (new agreement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to Secretariat</td>
<td>6,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Rumford travel to April meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental of 3 projectors for April meeting</td>
<td>188.38</td>
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<td>Payment to WSSA for April meeting</td>
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<td>Donation to U of Montreal conference</td>
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<td>Donation to BRIT XI conference</td>
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<td>Honorarium for translation work - John Detre</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Courier and Mail services</td>
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<td>Photocopy charges</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Account Balance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$29,571.39</strong></td>
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</table>

* Total contribution to Secretariat was $10,000 with $3500 coming from the monies received from UVic VP Research for JBS.

** New expense of $30 per ABS member receiving hard copies of JBS is yet to be paid to Routledge, as JBS Volume 26 has not been fully published. ($30x228members = $6,840)
11th Global Studies Association Conference 2012 (July 5th–7th)

ABS/GSA joint panel on ‘Global borders’

In the current era of (in)security, the globalization phenomenon raises important issues in relation to borders. Globalization is both a process (or series of processes) and a form of global society. It is the unprecedented expansion and transformation of the global economy and concurrent fluidity of people and goods, which in a context of increased securitisation, is being identified clearly as a pressing issue by social scientists, policy makers, and political actors who have put borders on the agenda.

Despite normative ideas in border studies that favour a broad cultural, economic and complex governance view of borders and borderlands, a strict top down international relations view of boundaries still dominates policy making. This current era of heightened globalization requires that we pay more attention to the governance of borders and border regions, and the efforts that guide and regulate such development.

In the proposed session we want to take the pulse of border studies in this globalizing era. In 2010 ‘Society and Space’ published a special issues on ‘Global Borders’ (edited by Chris Rumford), which tried to develop a fruitful context for understanding global borders. The main question is, have we progressed since then? We want to revisit some of the main questions raised in the introduction of this special issue.

- What is the global in global borders and how does an understanding of globalization add to our appreciation of the changing nature of borders?
- What is the relation between the local and the global in relation to borders?
- How has the governance of global borders developed in the first decade of this century?
- What role, if any, do borders play in global networking, connectivity and mobility?

This session is organised by Chris Rumford and Martin van der Velde.

Full details of the conference are available at:

http://www.globalstudiesassociation.org/11th-gsa-conference-2012/
Master of Social Science in European Studies

The Faculty of Business and Social Sciences University of Southern Denmark, campus Sønderborg.

“Europe of Regions” has become an increasingly fashionable way to describe European integration, but politicians, businesses and civil society usually do not have a clear picture of what “Europe of Regions” actually means. The aim of the Sønderborg profile in the European Studies program offered in cooperation with the University of Flensburg is to make the students familiar with ‘regions’ in the broadest sense, using historical, cultural, political, administrative and economical approaches to the term ‘region’ and illustrate the concept within European integration. The program includes a sophisticated course of qualitative social science methods. A special focus will be put on borders and border regions. Borders still represent barriers to integration, and border regions are laboratories of European integration.

A special feature of the study program is the opportunity to take electives at the University of Flensburg in the third semester, including the possibility to earn a dual degree. Other options are to specialize by taking electives within the other master programs offered at the Department of Border Region Studies in Sønderborg, or take a company/institution internship or study abroad.

The master programme European Studies (two years) is offered in co-operation with the University of Flensburg. All classes are taught in English. In the first year, you have to choose between two tracks: a track offered in Sønderborg focussing on the popular concept of the “Europe of Regions”, where you will be introduced to regions in an interdisciplinary program with a special focus on borders and border regions as laboratories of European integration. A track offered at the University of Flensburg focuses on more general aspects of European integration. In the third semester, students choose electives from either campus to specialise according to their interests. The master thesis is written at SDU in the fourth semester.

**Further information:** University of Southern Denmark, Student Services, Alsion 2, DK – 6400 Sønderborg

**Email:** SDU-soenderborg@sdu.dk

**Also check out:** www.sdu.dk
ABS Members’ News

Interdisciplinary Water Graduate Degree Program
For the last three years, the Geography Department at New Mexico State University (NMSU) has worked with a team of faculty from other NMSU Departments, including Animal and Range Science, Agricultural Economics and Business, Plant and Environmental Sciences, Civil Engineering, and the Water Resources Research Institute to develop a proposal for an interdisciplinary PhD and MSc in Water Science and Management.

The Board of Governors of the State of New Mexico formally approved the program on 15 November 2011, and the program will go live in fall of 2012.

This program draws on the strength of these departments and offers graduate degrees in the areas of Agricultural Water Resources; Watershed, Riparian, and Aquatic Systems; Water Quality and Treatment; Water Economics and Policy; and Water Informatics. Although a specific border or international water resources theme area does not exist, we expect strong interest from international scholars, and many of these will no doubt be interested in transboundary watersheds and related issues.

Given its location and faculty, NMSU is ideally suited to support such scholars and research. Program materials are being completed at the time this item went to press.

For more information, interested parties can contact:
Dr. Christopher Brown
Department Head of the NMSU Department of Geography
(brownchr@nmsu.edu or 575.646.1892)

Workshop in Pucallpa, Peru in June 2012
David Salisbury (Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Richmond) has been awarded a grant from the Pan American Institute of Geography and History to organize and lead a one week workshop in Pucallpa, Peru in June 2012.

The workshop will be a meeting between representatives from localities in the two countries with the largest portion of the Amazon River basin: Acre, Brazil and Ucayali, Peru.

The principal activities and products of the workshop are to (1) formalize an agreement to share cartographic data between the states of Acre, Brazil and Ucayali, Peru to better prepare for transboundary environmental challenges such as droughts, fires, and infrastructure projects; (2) apply participatory mapping methods to build working relationships between geographers and natural resource specialists of Ucayali/Acre; (3) build an integrated formal map of the region that can be distributed to partner organizations in the region; and (4) increase human/technical capacity and develop priorities for additional data layers within the region, such as watershed boundaries, hydrographic networks and/or applied data models.

The workshop and the resulting shared cartographic data and improved relationships will form the foundation of a plan for Transboundary Amazon Cooperation along Peru and Brazil’s central Amazon borderland.

University of Arizona, Mexican American Studies to Begin Doctoral Program
The University of Arizona Department of Mexican American studies will add a doctoral program to its curriculum in fall 2013. The program is only the third of its kind in the nation. Department head Antonio Estrada said the program will be unique because of the UA's research focus and proximity to the border.
Publications


Publications continued


North American Center for Transborder Studies (NACTS)
Arizona State University
http://nacts.asu.edu/projects/2012-awards-for-us-mexico-cross-border-cooperation-and-innovation
http://nacts.asu.edu/projects/transborder-renewable-energy


Book Reviews


Conference Presentations

Publications continued

**Conference Presentations**


A. C. Roque e P. Santos, “Geodetic field operations for cartography: an overview over the first Portuguese geodetic mission in the colonial territories (1907-1910”, FIG Working Week 2012 - Territory, environment, and cultural heritage, Rome 6-10 May 2012.


Border Region Forecast

Conferences

3rd Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network
Kinming, China
October 12-15, 2012

2012 European ABS Conference
“Borders and Borderlands: Today’s Challenges and Tomorrow’s Prospects”
CEG/IGOT Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal
September 12-15, 2012

Metrolux Conference 2012
“Unpacking cross-border governance”
Luxembourg City
September 6-7, 2012

Association for Borderlands Studies Annual Meetings
In conjunction with the 54th Annual WSSA Conference
Hyatt Regency Houston, Texas, USA
April 11-14, 2012

State and Local Immigration Policy
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice,
University of San Diego
December 6, 2011

U.S.-Mexico Border Economy
The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas
December 1-2, 2011

RISC 2011 Conference
“Social cohesion: The missing link in regional integration?”
University of Johannesburg, Rustenburg, South Africa
November 30-December 3, 2011

The Effects of Violence in Mexico on Migration and Immigration Policy
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice,
University of San Diego
November 2011

North American Manufacturing Competitiveness Conference
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice,
University of San Diego
November 2011

Rethinking Human Security and Ethics in the Spirit of Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961)
The Hague Academic Coalition, The Hague, NL
November 2011

International Conference on (Re)Integration and Development Issues in Multicultural and Border Regions
Portorož, Slovenia
September 2011

Border Regions in Transitions (BRIT) XI
“The Mobile Borders”
Geneva, Switzerland/ Grenoble, France
September 2011
The Association for Borderlands Studies is pleased to announce that their journal, the *Journal of Borderlands Studies* is now published by Routledge Journals, of the Taylor & Francis Group, UK

See: [http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rjbs](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rjbs)

Enquires regarding institutional subscriptions should be made to: [subscriptions@tandf.co.uk](mailto:subscriptions@tandf.co.uk)

It’s never too late to join the [Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS)](http://www.absborderlands.org) and receive a subscription to the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*