

CSGS 2024 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Greenville, SC, March 15, 2024

12:36 Mary Farmer-Kaiser began the meeting.

Over 29 institutions were present, Ruth Bahr confirmed a quorum.

Report of the President

Mary Farmer-Kaiser

The President remarked that she has been honored to continue as President for an unexpected second term. In 2023-2024, the organization transitioned to a new secretary, and the President thanked the new Secretary for her efforts. With Julie recording the undertakings, the CSGS Officers and/or Executive Board continued to meet monthly, with more meetings as this meeting drew closer. In Fall 2023, the officers traveled to Dallas to select a conference site for 2025. In doing so, we have decided to try out a slightly different format for the meeting. With the support of Robin Poston and her team, will meet **on the campus of Southern Methodist University on March 12-14, 2025**.

The President offered another special shout-out to John Lopes and the Clemson Grad School. They really set the bar high for providing local support for our conference.

On the topic of the conference, she noted that we implemented the decision to move the meeting up one day—starting on Wednesday and ending on Friday. That, by all accounts, seems to have been successful and will continue as the conference timeline for 2025.

Finally, the President thanked the Executive Committee and reported that working with this extraordinary group of humans was one the best parts her year.

Report of the 2024 CSGS Nominating Committee

Presented by Greg Bell on behalf of Andrea Golato

Thanks to the committee.

Committee membership:

- Dr. Andrea Golato, Texas State University (chair)
- Dr. Gregory Bell, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- Dr. Jack DeRochi, Winthrop University
- Dr. Katy E. Leonard, Emory University
- Dr. Jean Van Delinder, Oklahoma State University

The nominating committee was charged with identifying a slate of candidates to fill the following positions:

- President-elect (to replace Jon Hakkila who will assume the president position)
- Executive Committee (4 positions) (to replace Brian Dominy, Sanjay T. Menon, and Jill Huerta, whose terms expire in 2024. An additional member is needed since the sole candidate for the president-elect position is a current executive committee member (Troy Terry).

A call for nominations and self-nominations was sent out to the membership for these positions was sent out by the CSGS president, and a reminder was sent a week prior to the (self) nomination deadline of

February 1. The nominating committee met on February 8, 2024, and reviewed the nominations we had received. We received one nomination for president elect and five nominations for executive committee positions. The committee decided that it would benefit the organization and the individual serving in the role, if the president-elect had prior experience as an executive committee member of the organization. The nominating committee nominated additional candidates for the position of president elect and executive committee positions, some of whom declined due to personal or professional conflicts. The following slate of candidates was presented to CSGS membership for consideration for election:

President-elect:

Dr. Troy Terry, University of North Georgia

Executive Committee: Four to be elected (Three positions are 3-year terms, one position is a two-year term)

Dr. Desi Hacker, Norfolk State University
Dr. Alan Itkin, Southern Methodist University
Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University
Dr. Annette Kluck, The University of Mississippi
Dr. John M. Lopes, Clemson University
Dr. Sharon James McGee, East Tennessee State University
Dr. Mark Riley, Florida State University
Dr. Brian Wayne, Elizabeth City State University
Dr. Melissa Webb, University of West Florida

Election Results

Ballot error caused a delay. Results of the elections were announced at the 3MT Finals.

President-Elect: Troy Terry

Executive Committee:

Three-year terms: John Lopes, Desi Hacker, Annette Kluck

Two-year term: Sharon James McGee

Report of the President-Elect

Jon Hakkila offered the strong conference program as his report and made remarks, thanking the Program Committee members Brian Dominy and Irene Aiken, members of all CSGS committees, and conference attendees.

Report on the Graduate Student Program

John Lopes

There have been two breakout sessions so far, which were well attended, especially time management.

That session was the best they've ever attended. This afternoon we have a new approach, before the 3MT competition, which is a reflection and relaxation session with lavender lotion and coloring books. Credit and thanks to Marieke Van Puymbroeck at Clemson.

Report of the 2024 CSGS Membership Committee

Presented by Sharon James McGee.

Sharon James McGee (Co-Chair) and Juan Gonzalez (Co-Chair)

Committee Members:

Patricia Abril

David Shafer

Desi Hacker

Patricia Gamboa

Jessica Queener

Julie Harlin

The Membership Committee did not meet in Fall 2023. They plan to meet in Spring 2024 to plan a membership strategy for the upcoming year. Does the membership have ideas for how to get more members? We're open to all ideas so please let us know.

Report of the Treasurer

Peter Harries

The Conference of Southern Graduate Schools	
Profits & Loss	
January through December 2023	
Income	
Intuit Refund	\$ 721.52
Subtotal Other Income	\$ 721.52
2023 Membership Fees	\$ 800.00
2023 Annual Meeting	
Registration	\$ 38,850.00
Sponsorships	\$ 16,100.00
Subtotal	\$ 55,750.00
2024 Membership Fees	\$ 35,800.00
2024 Annual Meeting	
Registration	\$ 66,650.00
Sponsorships	\$ 4,250.00
CHBGS Reimbursement	\$ 11,650.58
Subtotal	\$ 118,350.58
Total Annual Meeting Income	\$174,100.58
Total Income	\$174,822.10
Interest Earned	
Interest - BOA CD	\$ 12.66
Interest - BOA Savings	\$ 4.01

Total Interest Earned	\$ 16.67
TOTAL INCOME/GROSS PROFIT	\$ 174,838.77
Expense	
2023 Annual Meeting	
Rooms	\$ 8,751.75
Meals	\$ 99,959.87
Travel Reimbursements	\$ 4,282.02
Offsite Reception - Catering	\$ 14,450.26
Offsite Reception - Venue	\$ 1,182.50
Other	\$ 779.45
Badges and misc	\$ 147.02
Honoraria	\$ -
Sponoser Posters	\$ 218.79
Award Payments	\$ 5,000.00
3MT Awards	\$ 2,500.00
3MT Judge parking	\$ 172.00
Conf Support	\$ 600.00
Refunds	\$ 2,550.00
Subtotal	\$ 140,593.66
2024 Annual Meeting	
Site Visit (Officers)	\$ 4,936.16
Hotels	\$ 3,849.88
Other	\$ 2,494.52
Subtotal	\$ 11,280.56
2025 Annual Meeting	
Site Visit (Executive Committee)	\$ 1,781.84
Subtotal	\$ 1,781.84
Total Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 153,656.06
General Expenses	
Plaques	\$ 818.52
Services	\$ -
Quickbooks	\$ 1,311.45
Zoom	\$ 1,999.00
Guidebook	\$ 3,500.00
WIX	\$ 120.00
Accounting Assistance	\$ 90.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 200.69
Total General Expenses	\$ 8,039.66
Merchant Deposit Fees	\$ 4,957.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 166,652.97
NET INCOME	\$ 8,169.13
Note: Additional financial resources	
Savings Account	\$ 10,019.13
CD	\$ 25,148.10

Total	\$ 35,167.23
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Report of the Audit Committee

Presented by John Lopes, Chair

The Audit Committee:

Katie Anthony – University of Southern Mississippi (unable to attend)
 Joy Bowers-Campbell – Western Carolina University
 John Lopes - Clemson University
 Robin Poston – Dean at SMU (host of the 2025 CSGS meeting)
 B. Ramu Ramachandran – Louisiana Tech University

Summary:

The Committee reviewed a Summary Statement of Jan 23 to Dec 23 income and expenditures provided by Peter Harries – Treasurer. The committee found one minor error that was corrected. The committee also checked the first and last month checking account statements which validated information in the summary. The Committee also requested that the Treasurer include other assets (Savings Acct and CD) in the Summary Statement. The final Summary Statement is attached.

The Committee extends its sincerest gratitude to Treasurer Peter Harries for being an outstanding steward of the Conference's financial well-being.

Recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- CSGS Treasurers should continue to include other assets in the Summary Statement – Savings Acct and CD.
- A refund policy with a specific deadline should be considered.
- Alternatives to Guidebook should be explored – Consider partnering with CGS etc. for joint contract or paying a graduate student.
- The Committee also recommends increasing the registration fee for all types of registration except 3MT students by \$25. The goal is to create sufficient buffer to manage potential unanticipated shortages at future meetings and flexibility for honoraria.

Report of the 2024 3MT Committee

Presented by Jill Huerta

Committee Members: Jill Huerta, Chair
 Robyn Olejniczak
 Marieke Van Puymbroeck
 Jennifer O-Brien Brown
 Aura Young

CSGS held a face-to-face 3MT competition during the 2024 annual meeting in Greenville, South Carolina. This year, CSGS required that at least one regular registrant from each institution must accompany 3MT competitors. Based on an issue from last year’s competition, a new rule prohibiting screaming during the presentation was added.

Fifty-eight institutions sent competitors who competed in four simultaneous preliminary round heats on March 14, 2024. They were judged by 12 preliminary round judges, and the two highest scoring competitors from each heat (3 in one heat because of a tied score), in addition to the People’s Choice Award winner, moved on to the final round competition. The final round was held on March 15, 2024, and was judged by 3 judges from varied backgrounds.

The judges determined first and second place winners and the audience voted for the People’s Choice Award using Mentimeter. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Award	Competitor Name	School Name	Presentation Title
First Place (\$1000)	Vishal Thomas	Clemson	A Novel Implant for Cartilage Repair
Second Place (\$500)	Sindupa De Silva	West Virginia University	Land-Use Practices and Their Impacts on Nature’s Kidneys
People’s Choice Award (\$250)	Jacob Botello	Auburn	What’s in a ‘Game?’ How Video Games Can Teach Evolution

Each finalist received \$150. Treasurer, Peter Harries, issued the students checks for their awards just after the final round.

Report of the 2024 Thesis Awards Committee

Presented by Dr. Ethan Carver, Chair

A special thanks goes to all the committee members:

Dr. Caterina Bristol, Dr. Clay Gloster, Dr. William Huckle, Dr. Annette Kluck, Dr. Mark Ridley, and Dr. Robert Wojtowicz

This year we worked with the following 3 categories of awards that were submitted to the committee by November 15th, 2023.

The applications were due to the committee by November 15th, 2023.

These were packaged and sent to the committee for review on December 8th, 2023. The theses were evaluated on the basis of clarity of style and presentation, scholarship, research methodology, and contributions to the field or discipline. 31 applications.

We met on January 4th, 2024 to discuss our reviews and to finalize our selections for the awards with the results sent to CSGS leadership on January 8th, 2024. Winners were contacted by Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser. Honorable mentions and all other applicants were informed by Dr. Ethan Carver.

The following lists the winners and honorable mentions for each category.

Social Sciences / Business / Education Thesis category

12 applications

Winner

Bec Stargel NC State
Pathways of Survival and Resistance: How Trans People Navigate Healthcare Barriers.
Dean Contact: Peter Harries, (919) 515-1995 or pjharrie@ncsu.edu
Thesis directed by Dr. Jessica Pfaffendorf

Honorable mention

Savannah Rommel University of South Alabama
Justice Revisited for Sexual Assault Survivors: A Qualitative Analysis of the Initial Phase of Mobile, AL's Promise Initiative
Dean Contact: Tres Stefurak, (251) 380-2734 or jstefurak@southalabama.edu

Honorable mention

Xinming Andy Zhang West Virginia University
Distributed Energy Infrastructure Development: Geospatial & Economic Feasibility in Rural West Virginia
Dean Contact: Kimberly M. Barnes (304) 293-1841 or kim.barnes@mail.wvu.edu

Life Sciences Thesis category

11 applications

Winner

Furkan Erdogan Virginia Commonwealth U
RADIATION SHIELDING EFFECTIVENESS OF HAFNIUM DIBORIDE (HfB₂) REINFORCED EPOXY COMPOSITES FOR ENHANCED RADIATION PROTECTION AND SAFETY
Dean Contact: Gary C. Tepper (804) 828-1087 or gradenqr@vcu.edu
Thesis directed by Dr. Jessika V. Rojas

Honorable mention

Kendyl Berry West Virginia University
Expansion on the Use of the Novel Compound, ELP-004, Using a Mycobacterium tuberculosis Experimentation Model
Dean Contact: Julie Lockman (304) 293-4437 or jmlockman@hsc.wvu.edu

Honorable mention

Courtney Shrader UNC Charlotte
Understanding the Role of YDJ1 Acetylation of Chaperone Binding and Translation in Yeast
Dean Contact: Katherine Hall-Hertel (704) 687-7251 or KHall-Hertel@charlotte.edu

Nontraditional Thesis / Project

8 applications

Winner

Diksha Pilania Virginia Tech
UPAYA: Transforming spaces, Uplifting Lives- An In-depth Exploration of Interior Design's Impact on Mental Health in Marginalized Communities
Dean Contact: Aimée Surprenant (540) 231-7581 or asurprenant@vt.edu
Thesis directed by Brad Whitney

Honorable mention

Daniel M. Collins University of Kentucky
KILL ON THE LEFT FOOT
Dean Contact: Padraic Kenney (859)257-4613 or padraic.kenney@uky.edu

Honorable mention

Mia Greenwald James Madison University
Heretic Territories: spells for fracture
Dean Contact: Linda M. Thomas (540)568-4213 or thoma7lm@jmu.edu

Report of the 2024 CSGS Faculty Awards Committee

Presented by Aimee Surprenant

Thanks to the Committee Members:
Aimee Surprenant, Chair, Virginia Tech
Brian Dominy, Clemson University
Cherisse Jones-Branch, Arkansas State University
Heather Greenhalgh-Spencer, Texas Tech University
Matthew McCullough, North Carolina A&T
James Nguyen Spencer, Louisiana State University
Mary Anne Templeton, Troy University

The faculty awards committee met on January 18, 2024 to consider the nominees. There were 11 nominations for the Outstanding Mentoring Award and none for the Outstanding Contributions Award. Committee members ranked the nominees on their relevant contributions based on the award criteria. As usual, it was an outstanding field and a very difficult decision. The committee was very impressed by the quality and depth of mentoring in our graduate community. There are many extraordinary mentors doing extraordinary work.

After discussion, we agreed to give the award to:
Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji, UNC Greensboro
Nominated by: Greg Bell, gcbell@uncg.edu

Dr. Shivaji's outstanding record of mentorship and guidance makes him a perfect candidate for this award. Under his guidance, a diverse group of 17 doctoral students and 15 master's students have completed their degrees. Additionally, a further two students are currently working towards their Ph.D. and another towards their M.A. degree. He provides mentorship to his graduate students from the beginning of their studies through their professional careers. His former students praise his "extraordinary ability to seek to understand the emotional, intellectual, and psychological needs of each of his students" and to support

them as individuals working to achieve their academic and professional goals. Whether he's hosting evening special topics seminars with students, driving students to conferences, or treating them to coffee in a café, Shivaji infuses the expectations of academic life and research into all his interactions with students. Many of his former students are now excelling in their careers. A former student writes: "Shivaji has been an awesome mentor, teacher, and an academic father to me. He has been one of the single most positive influences in my life". Another said: "Shivaji is the perfect type of mentor one could dream about, and I believe every graduate student needs a Shivaji in life to thrive and succeed". For this and many more reasons, we're pleased to recommend awarding the CSGS 2024 Outstanding Mentor award to Dr. Ratnasingham Shivaji.

Aimee Surprenant and Mary Farmer-Kaiser presented the award to Dr. Shivaji, who thanked the committee and the CSGS in remarks.

Other business:

1. For the mentoring award, it was noted by members of our committee that the nominations skewed heavily toward men this year. A review of the winners of the award was conducted and, in the 15 years CSGS has been giving the award, 10 of the winners have been men (66%). In the two years since I've been chair, men were 9 out of 12 nominees in 2024 (75%) and 7 out of 9 nominees 2023 (77%). The committee discussed some of the reasons why this might be the case including: a possible pipeline issue (women mentors are not getting department and college awards); gender inequities in mentors' access to resources and prestige; the possibility that women are expected to be good mentors so they are not rewarded for their efforts; and the data above showing that women are less likely to be nominated for this award. Most of these factors are systemic in academia and beyond our control. However, the last observation is something we can, and should, do something about. We recommend directly addressing the inequity in our announcements for this award and asking members to consider gender, race, ethnicity, and persons with disabilities when putting together nomination packages.

2. The other issue we discussed was the lack of nominations for the Outstanding Contributions Award. We had a fruitful discussion of the reasons behind this and what changes we might recommend to the award to make it more likely to get nominations.

First, we suggest that it be easier to put the nomination together by requiring only one letter of recommendation (in addition to the letter from the graduate dean).

Second, we would like to expand the criteria to include a broader definition of impact. As currently described, the award feels like it would be limited to those at high research intensive programs with the luxury of time and resources to contribute outside their home institution. Some members of the committee were of the opinion that no one from smaller, regional universities would ever be nominated.

Therefore, we recommend rewarding those making differences in graduate education across the board both in and outside the university, including building, establishing, and revitalizing the graduate school and its programming, broader community impact, and multi-university initiatives.

We suggest the following changes to the description of the award (strikeouts to delete, red for suggested changes, yellow for question).

Eligibility

- Any person except elected public officials currently in office or candidates for elective public office may be nominated.
- The nominee's work and contributions must have been performed, at least in part, within the previous ten-year period.
- The nominee's ~~contributions to~~ **impact on** graduate education **should be transformative** ~~must extend beyond their home institution~~. **Examples can include: contributions to CSGS or other graduate education societies or groups; building, establishing, or revitalizing a graduate school or college; creation of initiatives to improve graduate education that are shared or extend beyond their campus; participation in multi-university initiatives, etc.**

Nomination and Selection Process

Nominations may be made by any CSGS member institution representative. Nominations should include the following materials:

- A summary of the nominee's qualifications and contributions (2-page maximum)
- A curriculum vitae of the nominee (6-page maximum)
- A letter from the graduate dean (or ~~equivalent~~ **designee**) of the nominee. In the event that the graduate dean is nominated, the letter should be from the dean's current provost or president (2-page maximum).
- ~~3~~ **One** letters of recommendation (~~each letter is limited to 2 pages~~) attesting to the contributions of the nominee.

3. Finally, it has been noted that CSGS does not have a professional staff award. Our committee would like to recommend that one be developed. Our staff do such amazing things and we would like to be able to recognize their work in a formal way.

Mary Farmer-Kaiser pointed out that these items will be on the agenda of Executive Committee upcoming meetings.

Report on the New Dean's Breakfast

Presented by Ruth Bahr

The William "Bill" Carr Breakfast for New Deans and Leaders was facilitated by Ruth Bahr and Nancy Biggio. Ten people attended the New Dean's Breakfast, from a good mix of universities. They talked about the biggest challenges and shared solutions. Six Deans attended, and four Assistant/Associate Deans attended. Large, small, public and private universities we all represented.

CHBGS Debrief

Presented by Clay Gloster

The CHBGS Annual Meeting was successful, with more than 50 participants. Thanks to the CSGS for joining the meeting. Tia Dumas gave the keynote address: (Re)Thinking Strategic Alliances to Achieve Institutional Goals. They had several other productive sessions. The schedule was shifted earlier in the week, corresponding to the CSGS Annual meeting: dinner Tuesday, sessions Wednesday.

Thanks to Mary Farmer-Kaiser

Jon Hakkila presented a plaque to Mary Farmer-Kaiser for her extraordinary two-year term as President. Jon and Mary made remarks.

Passing of the Gavel

Mary Farmer-Kaiser congratulated winners, gave final remarks, and passed the gavel to Jon Hakkila, who used the gavel to close the business meeting.

1:36 Adjourn.