

GA news

Governing Body GA President 2020-21



Source: GA/Shawn Flannery

Dr Susan Pike began her year as President on 1 September 2020. Susan is an Assistant Professor in Education at the Institute of Education, Dublin City University where she coordinates and teaches geography education. She also taught geography, was a Head of Department in England. In 2016 she received the Geographical Association Award for Excellence.

Susan is a member of the GA's Early Years and Primary Phase Committee and also of the Geography Education Research Collective (GEReCo); she presents annually at the Charney Manor Primary Geography Conference and sits on the editorial board of the journal of *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education* (IRGEE). As a Geography Primary Champion, she has maintained a network of more than 100 teachers and students and uses this to actively promote the GA. Susan has contributed to the GA's *Leading Primary Geography* and is the author of *Learning Primary Geography: Ideas and Inspirations from Practice*.

Welcome back!

Over recent months, as COVID-19 has continued to exercise its profound impacts on every aspect of our lives, the geography teaching community has responded with admirable resilience. Many teachers have continued to attend school in order to teach the most vulnerable. Online, new and resourceful ways of teaching high-quality geography have been developed. Taking the lead perhaps from the GA's eConference in April, we have also seen a proliferation of online networks and professional development opportunities for teachers of geography moving online, including GA 'local' Branch meetings (and I wonder what that term means in this context?).

These are troubling and uncertain times, and yet they are also shining a light on the true value of education, of professional care and of community. I include here widely-distributed communities, such as the GA, where membership has grown steadily and significantly throughout the coronavirus crisis. As GA President Susan Pike and I explain in *Policy matters*, compassion for others is deeply rooted in geography education and the GA. I hope you will find all the help and support you need from and through us, much of it flagged through the pages of this magazine. If you need something specific to your situation, please get in touch.

Meanwhile, as you teach, travel, or visit family and friends, please keep safe.

Alan Kinder, Chief Executive

Governing Body vacancies (from 1 September 2021)

The GA is both a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. Its Governing Body of fourteen people are Trustees of the charity and Directors of the limited company. The Governing Body meets formally three times a year, usually on a Saturday.

Nominations are invited for three elected Governing Body posts. We would like to encourage members of the GA to contribute to the GA's charitable mission of *furthering geographical knowledge and understanding through education* through standing for election to one of these positions:

- **President, 2022–23 (one post)**, Nominees are required to demonstrate that they (i) actively uphold and support the GA's aims, values and mission and usually (ii) have experience of the GA through holding other significant posts within the Association.

The GA President holds a number of key responsibilities, including setting the theme of the GA Annual Conference and Exhibition, chairing the Conference Planning Board and delivering the Presidential Lecture. The **President** is appointed one year before their term of office as President begins and serves as **Vice President** in their first year (2021-2) and as an ex-officio member of Education Group. In the second year, as President, they will also serve as the Chair of Education Group. Following their presidency, they serve for one further year as **Immediate Past President (2023-4)** and remain as a member of Governing Body, acting as mentor to any new Trustees on the Governing Body. Throughout the period of office, they work with the Chair of

Trustees and Chief Executive to help steer the work of the Governing Body and the Association.

- **Elected Member, 2021–24 (one post)**, for an initial three-year term with eligibility to stand for election for a further three years. The key role of this Trustee is to ensure that the views and interests of the GA's wider membership are represented. We welcome nominations from those with practical experience in school settings. For this vacancy, Mr Richard Hatwood, the current post holder, having served an initial term, is eligible to stand for re-election.
- **Named Trustee, 2021-27 (one post)**, for an initial six-year term with eligibility to stand for election for a further three years. Nominees for this post should demonstrate that they have considerable experience of the GA, either through previously being a member of the Governing Body or through holding other significant post(s) within the Association. Named Trustees take a special interest in the GA's finances (including investments) and hold specific roles in relation to staffing matters and estate.

To be nominated for one of these posts you will need to:

- be a current full personal, concessionary or group member of the GA
- complete your own details on a nomination form, including a statement that details your reasons for seeking to be appointed to the GA Governing Body
- have your form signed by two other GA members in support of your nomination.

The GA is an equal opportunities employer and we particularly welcome nominations from Black and Asian minority ethnic members, and from practising teachers. Our equal opportunities policy is at: www.geography.org.uk/about-the-GA.

The closing date for receipt of nominations, either by post or email, is **midday on Monday 2 November 2020**. If there is more than one nomination for any post, a ballot of GA members will be arranged with voting taking place via the GA website in the New Year. If an election is required the ballot details will be given in the Spring 2021 issue of *GA Magazine*. If you have any questions about these roles please contact Richard Gill (rgill@geography.org.uk). If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact Ricky Buck (rbuck@geography.org.uk).

Download the nomination form from: <https://www.geography.org.uk/Elections-awards-surveys>.