

# Board Meeting



International  
Big History  
Association



WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 6 , 2014

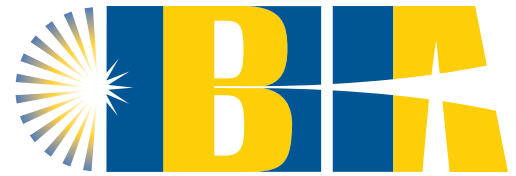
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY  
OF CALIFORNIA



# IBHA Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Edgehill Mansion Garden Room



International  
Big History  
Association

## *Agenda*

8:30 – 10:30 am

1. Opening the Meeting, Introduction of - Welcome to - New Board Members (Fred Spier, Chair)
2. Approval of 2012 Board Meeting Minutes
3. Presidential Remarks (David Christian)
4. Further Board Changes
5. Election of Officers

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

6. President's Report (David Christian)
7. Publications Committee Report (Cynthia Brown, Esther Quaedackers)
8. Treasurer's Report (Craig Benjamin)
9. Secretary's Report (Lowell Gustafson)

1 – 3 pm

10. Advisory Council Report (Pamela Benjamin)
11. International Coordinator's Report (Barry Rodrigue)
12. Archive IBHA papers (Barry Rodrigue)
13. Board Communication (Forum)

3:30 – 5 pm

14. Location for 2016 and perhaps 2018 IBHA Conferences (Esther Quaedackers).
15. Policies
16. New Business
17. Recognition and thanks.
18. Adjournment of Meeting

Attending: Milly Alvarez, Walter Alvarez, Mojgan Behmand, Craig Benjamin, Pamela Benjamin, Cynthia Brown, David Christian, Lowell Gustafson, Jonathan Markley, Esther Quaedackers, Barry Rodrigue, Fred Spier, Joseph Voros, Sun Yue

Absent (notified in advance), Andrey Korotayev

1. Fred Spier opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. He welcomed the four new board members who will each be serving a three year term: Mojgan Behmand, Esther Quaedackers, Joseph Voros, and Sun Yue. Jonathan Markley was elected by acclamation to fill the seat that was open due to the resignation of Walter Alvarez.

2. Craig Benjamin moved and Esther Quadackers seconded a motion that the 2012 minutes be adopted as a true and accurate record of the 2012 board meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. David Christian discussed the points listed in his report. He explained how proud he has been to have been the first President of the IBHA and his reasons for now resigning. Fred Spier clarified that the By-Laws include the immediate past President automatically filling an extra Board seat for one year. David's open seat may be

<sup>1</sup>. The record of the vote includes: those in favor - those opposed - abstentions. The chair did not vote.

<sup>2</sup>. The chair did vote in the elections of officers. The vote still records the number in favor - opposed - and abstentions.

IBHA Board Meeting  
August 2, 2012 9:15 am

Amway Board Room  
Devos Center  
Grand Valley State University



Attending: Leslye Allen, Milly Alvarez, Walter Alvarez, Craig Benjamin, Pamela Benjamin, Cynthia Brown, David Christian, Lowell Gustafson, Esther Quaedackers, Barry Rodrigue, Kathy Schick, Fred Spier, Joseph Voros.

Agenda:

- 1 IBHA Membership in other organizations
- 2 Long Term Financial Sustainability of IBHA
- 3 Fund Raising, Grant Applications
- 4 Role and Future of the Advisory Council
- 5 Chronozoom
- 6 Future of the IBHA

Fred Spier called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.. He welcomed our new board members and guests in attendance. He thanked all for attending and especially GVSU for its support. He mentioned that he and Lowell would review the by-laws prior to the members' meeting. David will encourage at Thursday evening welcome that all IBHA members attend meeting.

1. IBHA Membership in other organizations
  - a. David provides background of IBHA perhaps joining NOGWHISTO (national organization of global and world history). This would give us standing in this organization, permitting Big History panels at their conference. Affiliations also help with fund raising. In order to raise IBHA visibility with those outside of the history discipline, we might also join a Geological Association, a Paleo-anthropology association, etc. Perhaps we could join a Future Studies Association.
  - b. Lowell proposed that we apply for membership in NOGWHISTO and that David Christian appoint an IBHA sub-committee with non-historians to explore how the IBHA forms associations with other related organizations. Craig Benjamin seconded the motion.
    - i. Approved unanimously.
2. Long Term Financial Sustainability of IBHA
  - a. Craig submits Treasurer's report. We had \$67,961 at the end of 2011. We still have that amount after Chronozoom donation of \$10,000 and the Big History Project of another \$10,000.

- b. Craig will ask a financial manager to prepare an understandable financial report. Craig also reported that there will be an external audit, as called for by GVSU rules.
  - c. Our Lake Michigan account has about \$38,000. This includes membership dues and conference fees.
  - d. Craig had submitted and those in attendance approved a preliminary conference budget in February while many board members were in Moscow. In it, he projected a tentative conference profit of \$6,491.82.
  - e. Our actual profit on the conference will be almost \$20,000 (if one counts the BHP and CZ donations). It breaks even if we do not count those two special donations.
  - f. In our combined accounts, we will have about \$94,000 after the conference.
  - g. David Christian proposed a formal thanks to Craig, Pam, Leslye for their work on the budget! Approved by enthusiastic acclamation.
  - h. Craig Benjamin reported that a GVSU PR release had received over 2,000 hits, many by major corporations.
  - i. He reported that we had 259 paid members; 200 are registered for the conference.
  - j. Due to State of Michigan laws, Leslye's position will be advertised. Craig, Pam, and two union reps will be on the committee to hire her.
  - k. We now have enough money to pay Leslye for three years of part-time employment.
3. Fund Raising, Grant Applications
- a. Son of Fred Meijer (stores), Hank, is interested in history; may be a contact. David Frey, who is interested in environmental issues has been contacted, but no response yet. NSF, NEH, need a project, which includes administrative costs.
  - b. Other fund raising possibilities? How do we engage world outside GR? How does as IBHA fund raising interact with that by other centers, such as David's university BH center?
  - c. Two funders in Europe have discussed with Esther about business related programs based in BH. She will explore this.
  - d. Big History Project will be released in the middle of next year. The IBHA should use this to appeal to apply for grants.
  - e. Percentage of grants for external groups could stay with IBHA.
  - f. We may develop an IBHA rationale to be sent to Liberal Arts colleges to open Big History positions.
  - g. Could BH be used to provide rationales for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programs?
  - h. Importance of long term relationships, trust with potential funders for many years before funding is realized.
  - i. David will appoint subcommittee to look into funding and membership.
4. Role and Future of the Advisory Council
- a. David will look into appointing new members, such as Nick Toth and Milly Alvarez, to the Advisory Council. He may put representatives of external groups on Advisory Council.
  - b. The Board recognized Advisory Council member Pamela Benjamin's role as a co-staff supervisor.
5. Chronozoom

- a. Rane Johnson and Roland Saekow joined the meeting to discuss the IBHA role in Chronozoom. Fundraising for CZ would be easier if it were owned by a non-profit organization like the IBHA rather than Microsoft. The IBHA could also appoint a Community Leader who would be paid for a period of time by Microsoft. The job of the CL would be to direct the development of CZ and enlist qualified people to add desired materials.
- b. Rane reported that NASA loves CZ; she talked to them recently. They might use it as an internal tool. Also Library of Congress. They both wanted to know who makes the decisions about what goes into CZ? Who is on the Advisory Board? How does peer review work? Rane asked if there is IBHA interest in CZ being an online journal of BH?
- c. There was discussion about if the IBHA Board sees us playing a serious, hands-on role. Does the IBHA have the resources, expertise, or time to manage CZ? If not, we would not do a good job. The IBHA might be better positioned to be on the CZ advisory board. Does CZ need a wider board than IBHA could provide?
- d. Could a CZ manager could be housed somewhere, and supported by Microsoft Research Connections (MRC). Could CZ be a catalyst for IBHA, attracting scientists? Could CZ help IBHA be a new kind of organization? Rane reported that MRC loves what we're doing, wants us to have big success. MRC contribution would allow creating another staff position within IBHA. Rane affirmed that the code would continue to be written at Moscow State University, Berkeley, and the University of Washington. The Project Manager (PM) is to be at UW, funded by MRC, paid for from Rane's budget. We also need a Community Lead (CL) for Strategy, Content, to build an advisory board, support for the CL would come from MRC for perhaps 2 years, but then we would need to fund with grants. What does it mean to have CZ spread among somany places? What is its organizational structure and who are its ultimate decision makers?
- e. Thinking broadly about goals and strategy, it was suggested that since CZ matches IBHA's purposes, the IBHA should support it. However, CZ's overall approach might be reviewed if IBHA took it on. Should IBHA positions be spread out around the world, maybe placing the Community Leader in Australia, Holland, or Berkeley. If CZ were centered at a 501.c.3, not just at MRC, we could look for more support from individuals who would not give if Microsoft is involved. Would CZ suck up any financial resources and time IBHA would have available. Could CZ help IBHA's visibility, and thus our ability to raise money? The CL doesn't have to be at GVSU, in digital world it could be anywhere, but we need an institution that would be supportive. What is the risk to IBHA if we managed CZ? Would the IBHA take on the organization of scholars from various fields for the CZ editorial board? Rane emphasized that we need explore this in the next few weeks.

- f. Fred, Craig, Lowell will communicate further with Rane, Walter and Roland about IBHA / CZ relationship.
- 6. Future of IBHA
  - a. The IBHA needs to cultivate more science members.
  - b. The IBHA might seek funding to develop curricula for community / college level courses / fora. To do this, the IBHA would:
    - i. Organize seminars such as those now offered by Dominican for its own faculty who teach Big History.
    - ii. Community educational organizers and faculty from colleges who would like to teach Big History could apply for mini-grants that would cover costs to attend the seminar.
    - iii. Graduates of the seminar could apply for seed money to begin Big History courses / programs in their colleges / community educational organizations.
  - c. BH Research. THE IBHA could sponsor / co-sponsor a series of conferences that would focus on themes such as the anthropocene, entropy, time, etc. The IBHA could publish selected papers from the conferences.
  - d. The IBHA can award a prize for a BH publication. This could be named for donor.
  - e. The IBHA could offer funding for PhD students.
  - f. An objective for the IBHA is to break down academic silos, 19<sup>th</sup> century defined disciplines and foster hubs of knowledge, synthesis, unity of knowledge.
  - g. David Christian proposed that the theme of the next (2014) IBHA conference will be on the Energy and Big History. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Brown and was approved unanimously.
- 7. Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
  - a. All agreed that we had an excellent Board meeting and that we have come an enormous way since we met at Coldigioco, less than two years ago!



## IBHA Members' Meeting

Saturday, August 4, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

2012 Conference of the  
International Big History Association  
Grand Valley State University



International  
Big History  
Association

### Agenda:

1. President's Welcome: David Christian
2. Officers' Reports:
  - a. President's Report: David Christian
  - b. Treasurer's Report: Craig Benjamin
  - c. International Coordinator's Report: Barry Rodrigue
  - d. Secretary's Report: Lowell Gustafson
3. Next *International Big History Association* Conference to be held at Dominican University of California, August 6 – 10, 2014: Mojgan Behmand.
4. Proposed amendment to the IBHA by-laws, as proposed by Barry Rodrigue to the IBHA Board on April 22, 2012 and seconded by Craig Benjamin:
  - a. "I propose to have Article 3.2 of the Bylaws changed as follows:
    - i. 3.2 Director Qualifications. To be eligible for election to the Board of Directors, an individual must not be an "Interested Person." For purposes of this section, an "Interested Person" is defined as either (a) a person currently being compensated by the Corporation for services rendered to it within the previous twelve (12) months, whether as a full time or part time employee, independent contractor or otherwise; or (b) any brother, sister, ancestor, descendant, spouse, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, or mother-in-law of any person described in subpart (a), or of already appointed board members."
    - ii. **Accepted** with 6 votes in favor, and one vote against.
    - iii. This motion will be put on the agenda of the general membership meeting in August as a motion proposed by the board that needs to be voted on.
5. Election of Nominated Board Members
  - a. Article 3.1 of the Bylaws states, among other things:
  - b. "Commencing with the first annual meeting of the members in 2012, directors shall be elected for three-year terms at each annual members meeting; provided, however, that some directors may be elected to one or two year terms as the members may deem necessary in order to provide for a relatively balanced staggering of the terms of office, such that approximately one-third of directors' terms shall expire in any given year."
  - c. This is why different term lengths have been proposed. In the future, all terms will be three years. See separate sheet for brief bios of candidates.

## **Minutes**

Fred Spier called meeting to order at 3:08 pm.  
A quorum was established.

### **1 and 2) President's Welcome and Report**

David Christian welcomed everyone to the first IBHA members' meeting. He commented on how thrilling it is to see so many great discussions about big history. He discussed how the International Big History Association was established on 20 August 2010, at the Geological Observatory at Coldigioco in Italy, which is run by Alessandro Montanari and Paula Martello. Michael Dix and Daron Green were among the participants at the meeting.

The Big Historians who met at Coldigioco were David Christian of Macquarie University in Sydney (Australia), Fred Spier of the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), Walter Alvarez of the University of California at Berkeley (USA), Craig Benjamin of Grand Valley State University in Michigan (USA), Cynthia Brown of Dominican University in California (USA), Lowell Gustafson of Villanova University in Pennsylvania (USA), and Barry Rodrigue of the University of Southern Maine (USA). They constituted themselves as a provisional executive committee and voted in favor of the following initiatives:

- Establish an International Big History Association.
- Establish an international Big History website. On this website, we voted to include an active discussion board and an electronic library/archives of Big History.
- Hold the first international Big History conference in 2012. We voted to hold this conference at Grand Valley University (Michigan, USA).

A board was established, with David Christian as President, Fred Spier as Vice-President, Craig Benjamin as Treasurer, Barry Rodrigue as Secretary, and Walter Alvarez, Cynthia Brown, and Lowell Gustafson as board members.

The board met in January 2011 at GVSU. Barry Rodrigue was appointed as International Coordinator and Lowell Gustafson as Secretary. In April 2011, the Board approved the new IBHA By Laws and the IBHA was legally constituted as a non-profit organization. The board was expanded to include Eric Chaisson, Esther Quaedackers, Katherine Schick, and Joseph Voros.

A number of IBHA members presented papers at the World History Association meeting in Beijing in July 2011 and at the Global Futures 2045 conference in Moscow in February 2012. IBHA members Akop Nazaretyan, Leonid Grinin, and Andrey Korotayev, established a Center in Moscow for the study of Big History and Systems Forecasting as a part of the Institute of Oriental Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences), directed by Dr. Vitaly Naumkin. The Big History Project was initiated. David Christian made a presentation at TED and was invited to the World Economic Forum at Davos.

The IBHA now has 260 members. 130 papers are being presented at the inaugural IBHA conference.

The IBHA and its members have made thrilling progress in just under two years!

### 3) **Treasurer Report**

Craig Benjamin reported that Microsoft External Research gave an unrestricted gift of \$75,000 to the IBHA in 2010. It gave another \$10,000 to help pay for IBHA expenses for the 2012 conference. The Big History Project gave the IBHA \$10,000 to help cover IBHA conference costs. With these generous gifts, membership dues, and conference fees, the IBHA will have a little over \$90,000 after the conference.

The major expenses to the IBHA so far have been legal fees in setting up by-laws and non-profit status, a part time administrative assistant salary, and conference costs.

### 4) **International Coordinator's report**

Barry H. Rodrigue reported that several activities have been done as a synthesis of IBHA and independent projects:

- *China*. In July 2011, after our presentations at the WHA conference in Beijing, Barry traveled to South China and spoke on Big History to professors in the History Department at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou. This included a formal power-point presentation and informal discussions. The dialogue has continued since then, and he has also reached out to professors at other universities in China.

He visited the Paleontological Fossil National Geo-Park in Chaoyang (Liaoning), on the border with Inner Mongolia (<http://english.cctv.com/20090805/101461.shtml>). It suggests similarities to the Coldigioco Geological Observatory in Italy, as to its potential as a Big History site: It is a research and teaching site, as well as a preservation site.

- *Anthology*. In the process of recruiting authors for the University of California Press anthology on Big History (sourcebook and student reader), he reached out to many people who were doing macrohistorical research but who were not members of the IBHA. In order to bring them up to speed about our work, he referred them to the IBHA activities, website, newsletter, etc. and encouraged them to join the IBHA. Some of these contacts included biologist Stuart Kauffman (USA), geographer Vaclav Smil (Canada), physicist George Ellis (South Africa), archeologist Sada Mire (Somaliland), and historian Zhu Weibin (China).

- *Moscow Congress*. The Congress on *Global Futures 2045* was held in Moscow (Russia) in February 2012. As co-coordinator of the Congress, he obtained invitations for all the board members of the IBHA and other Big Historians: all expenses paid. It was a good opportunity for us to dialogue with new people on the subject of Big History and related fields of study. A mini-board meeting was held in Moscow at this time.

- *Russian Big History*. As a foreign member of the Eurasian Center for Big History & System Forecasting (Russian Academy of Sciences), along with Fred and David, he has been engaged in discussions with their Russian members about infrastructure and how such western centers operate. He has sought to bring some of their operations in line with how we operate at the IBHA.



- *Articles*. Astrophysicist G. Siegfried Kutter and Barry wrote two articles on Big History and the IBHA for *Nature* and *Science*. They were rejected. We are still looking for a venue for them.

*Networking*. Barry continued to network various people with related interests in the Big History community. For example, there are several big historians engaged in mathematical modeling in Canada and Russia, so he put them in touch with each other so that they can cooperate together. He has done this in several areas, including paleobiology, literature, arts, etc.

These preliminary activities might be elaborated to work to the advantage of the IBHA.

## 5) Secretary's Report

To communicate regularly with members, we have regularly sent out newsletters to all IBHA members. The **IBHA Members' Newsletters** highlight the many activities, projects, and reflections that IBHA members have on Big History.

[Volume II Number 6](#) highlights the timespirals of IBHA member Karen Kudebeh and the forthcoming volume, *From Big Bang to Global Civilization: A Big History Anthology*, co-edited by Barry Rodrigue, Leonid Grinnin, and Andrey Korotayev, to be published in 2013 by the University of California Press.

[Volume II Number 5](#) highlights information about the August IBHA conference and the first in a series on graduate study of Big History, featuring David Baker.

[Volume II Number 4](#) begins with a note from our President, David Christian. We follow this with a piece on the newly launched, revised version of Chronozoom, information about the August 2012 IBHA conference, and conclude with a note on IBHA member Connie Barlow.

[Volume II Number 3](#) features Russell M. Genet of California Polytechnic State University and Cuesta College, and an Interview with William Grassie, the founder of the Metanexus Institute.

[Volume II Number 2](#) highlights The Stone Age Institute of Indiana University, Bllomington, IN and Nicholas Toth and Kathy Schick.

[Volume II Number 1](#) highlights the First Year Experience in Big History program at Dominican University of California.

[Volume I Number 6](#) highlights Michael Duffy, D'Neil Duffy, Jennifer Morgan, and James Lu Dunbar.

[Volume I Number 5](#) highlights Eric J. Chaisson and Nobuo Palette Tsujimura.

[Volume I Number 4](#) highlights Cameron Gibelyou and Barry Wood.

[Volume I Number 3](#) highlights the Center in Moscow for the study of *Big History and Systems Forecasting* as a part of the Institute of Oriental Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences).

[Volume I Number 2](#) highlights IBHA member Erika Gronek, children's Big History book author.

[Volume I Number 1](#) of the newsletter highlights Lawrence A. Husick.

The original IBHA website has migrated to a new one that will maintain membership records more efficiently. It may be accessed at <http://ibhanet.org> or <http://www.ibha.wildapricot.org/>. Certain pages are restricted to IBHA members who need to log in to view them.

Lowell urged all members to continue their participation in the IBHA through renewing their membership on-line when this is due.

3) Next *International Big History Association* Conference is to be held at Dominican University of California, August 6 – 10, 2014. Mojgan Behmand invited all IBHA members to plan on participating in the 2014 conference at Dominican.

4) By-laws adjustment.

1. Proposed amendment to the IBHA by-laws, as moved by Barry Rodrigue and seconded by Craig Benjamin:

a. "I propose to have Article 3.2 of the Bylaws changed as follows:

i. 3.2 Director Qualifications. To be eligible for election to the Board of Directors, an individual must not be an "Interested Person." For purposes of this section, an "Interested Person" is defined as either (a) a person currently being compensated by the Corporation for services rendered to it within the previous twelve (12) months, whether as a full time or part time employee, independent contractor or otherwise; or (b) any brother, sister, ancestor, descendant, spouse, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, or mother-in-law of any person described in subpart (a), or of already appointed board members."

The amendment was approved by acclamation by the IBHA membership.

5) John Mears moved that the list of candidates for the IBHA Board be accepted. The list was approved by acclamation.

**IBHA Board**

Walter Alvarez	Board Member, 3 years
Craig Benjamin	Treasurer, 3 years
Cynthia Stokes Brown	Board Member, 2 years
Eric J. Chaisson	Board Member, 1 year
David Christian	President, 3 years
Lowell Gustafson	Secretary, 1 year
Esther Quaedacker	Board member, 2 years
Barry H. Rodrigue	International Co-ordinator, 1 year
Kathy Schick	Board member, 2 years
Fred Spier	Vice-President, 1 Year
Joseph Voros	Board member, 2 years

6) The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

# Presidential Report

- I'm retiring, Fred's taking over. I want to thank personally all the board members and others who have helped turn this into a well-run professional organization, now with a ramified structure of sub-committees.
- Welcome to Donna Tew and thanks to Leslye Allen
- General progress: I think in the 4 years since we formed the IBHA at our wonderful retreat organized by Walter Alvarez and Sandro Montanari, we've made colossal progress. We have a professional organization now into its second conference, massive progress at high school level and in public, significant steps to globalization with courses in US and Australia, Korea, Russia, Netherlands, Scotland, England and elsewhere
- Publications: huge amount of work and lots of progress towards a journal, while Lowell's Origins has been inspiring and has publicized many important developments and given a forum for ideas; Cynthia Brown, David Baker and Esther Quedackers have played a huge role, as well as our Russian colleagues, in particular Leonid Grinin. The textbook seems to have worked well and Cynthia, Craig and I are still talking to each other. Forthcoming publication of the Dominican guide to teaching big history.
- Changes in the board: it's younger and more international with the arrival of Andrey Korotayev, Sun Yue, Esther Quedackers and Jonathan Markley; but we regret the loss of Kathy Schick, Eric Chaisson and soon Walter Alvarez
- Global progress: the BHP has made great progress, with at least 300 schools teaching big history world wide, a course for the general public and collaboration with the History Channel. I've lost track of the number of Universities teaching some form of big history. The Dominican program is pioneering the idea of big history as a foundation course, but I hope Macquarie will be catching up. David Baker's YouTube course, hosted by John and Hank Green on CrashCourse.
- Personal report on the Macquarie BH Institute: Suddenly, Macquarie is very supportive, courses in BH are flourishing, new appointments (Sean Ross who's here, please meet!), the University is branding itself around big history, the MOOC and a base for BH in Asia
- Personal Report on the emergence of two large constituencies, the yin and yang of BH: Awareness of two constituencies, hard science and meaning and the importance of holding them together



1. The Publication Committee is happy to report the publication of IBHA's first book, *Teaching and Researching Big History: Exploring a New Scholarly Field*. Uchitel Press in Volgograd, Russia, published the book, edited from papers presented at IBHA's first conference in 2012. The editors who chose and edited the papers were: David Baker, Leonid Grinin, Andrey Korotaev, and Esther Quaedackers. They deserve credit for the outstanding quality of the book. The books are available for sale at this conference and henceforth on Amazon. The proceeds of the sale will go to Uchitel Press.

An e-book version of this first book, arranged by Esther Quaedackers, should also be available on Amazon by the time of this second conference. Esther persevered in overcoming the difficulties of arranging the e-book version and deserves enormous credit. The proceeds of the sale of the e-book will be split 50/50 between Uchitel and IBHA.

2. The process of publication went so well with Uchitel Press that our committee is now recommending a proposal for starting publication of a big history journal with Uchitel Press. Our proposal, developed by David Baker, is attached. It expects to draw its contents from papers presented at this second conference, among other sources. We have not proposed a name for the journal, leaving that decision to the board; some discussion of this has already occurred.

A draft of a memorandum of understanding with Uchitel is also attached. It gives the details of what the legal arrangements would be. David Baker also developed this, in collaboration with Craig Benjamin, using a model template from the World History Association. This memorandum has not yet been presented to Uchitel, but it is based on the verbal understandings that David Baker has with Andrey Korotaev and Leonid Grinin.

3. Lowell Gustafson has proposed to the Publication Committee that he would like to edit a book of papers regarding the relationship of big history to religion, based on papers drawn from both IBHA conferences. Lowell hopes that IBHA could publish such a book itself and profit from the interest in the topic, but he could also seek publication from a university press if IBHA preferred not to publish the book itself. Our committee decided that this decision is of such significance to the future of IBHA that the board must make it, rather than our committee. However, in order not to derail other important decisions, we agreed to present this proposal to the board by e-mail soon after the conference.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Brown, Chair of the Publication Committee

## **Recommendations of the IBHA Publications Committee for an Academic Journal**

### **BACKGROUND**

Since September 2012, the IBHA Publications Committee has been engaged with the task of setting up an academic journal of Big History. The question was raised as to whether we should put the journal on eScholarship, with whom one of our members had contact, or out of a more conventional prestigious university press. We ultimately favoured the latter. At the time, one of our members also had contact with Daniel Pearce of Cambridge University Press, who was immensely interested in starting a Big History journal. The subsequent months were spent preparing an official proposal, supplying CUP with a significant amount of information.

The end result of these discussions was CUP favouring an online open access arrangement whereby the IBHA would pay \$10,000 to \$15,000 dollars per annum to pay for CUP's administrative costs and to allow them to avoid any financial risk in the journal's early years. The IBHA treasurer confirmed that this was absolutely out of the question. Indeed, it was difficult to say what services we would be getting in return to justify such a cost. It seems likely most of that money would not have been spent on advertising or website maintenance but on a variety of CUP administrative costs.

We looked into a number of prestigious journals including MIT, Chicago, Oxford, Leiden, Amsterdam, and Wiley Online (which is responsible for a huge percentage of the journal market). They all had interest in producing a Big History journal. One way or another, the difficulty came down to the large annual fees a press required us to pay, ranging between \$10,000-18,000 a year. All the presses we approached would only go for open access journals, since they were not willing to take the financial risk of doing a more conventional subscription-based program to generate revenue. Our current potential readership is not large enough.

At present we have concluded that, in lieu of a very generous grant from an academic or other organization, we cannot afford to go with such a press at this time.<sup>1</sup> The interest in Big History is there, but the money is not. Perhaps in a number of years when the journal itself has built a reputation, when IBHA's revenues are larger, and when our membership is also considerably larger (in the range of the thousands rather than the hundreds) an arrangement with one of these presses may be feasible. This is something for the IBHA Board and Publications Committee to discuss at a later date.

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<sup>1</sup> If any of the board members have access to, or knowledge of, grants and other expedients that would cover the aforementioned costs, a prestigious press again becomes feasible. This opens up a new discussion about whether that money is really a good investment at this point in the journal's evolution.

## UCHITEL: ONLINE OPEN ACCESS

In the meantime, the Publications Committee had contracted Uchitel to produce the conference proceedings for Grand Rapids 2012. Our experience with them has been overwhelmingly positive. As such, the Publications Committee has concluded that the best option to get an academic journal up and running, to aid our more immediate task of fostering Big History as an interdisciplinary research discipline, is to launch a journal online out of the academic press Uchitel. Discussions between the committee and Uchitel have yielded the following deal:

i) IBHA will retain sole ownership of the journal, the journal's name, and any profits that come from the journal.

ii) The journal will be free and open access to all users, with pdfs of articles directly downloadable from the site.

iii) IBHA will be free to print any of the journal articles in published volumes for sale. There will also be a free-flow arrangement between the journal and *Origins*, the publication of an author's ideas in one not affecting the other, since the two periodicals differ in essential nature. The newsletter's articles are generally shorter and are intended for the internal community. The journal's articles will generally be longer and will go through an extensive peer-review process.

iv) Selection of editorial staff, journal format, and academic articles will be entirely in the power of the journal editorial staff and IBHA publications committee.

v) There will be no shared burden of litigation should someone try to sue Uchitel or the BH Journal for whatever reason, e.g. dealing with copyright issues. If Uchitel get sued for another publication, we are not liable. If we get sued for our own publication, they are not liable.

vi) Either party can terminate the arrangement at any time with no fault or financial penalty.

vii) The BH journal page on the Uchitel website will have its own watermark and sidebar, in contrast to other journals currently on the site.

viii) Website maintenance will be handled by Uchitel, journal updates will be handled by the IBHA.

ix) The preferred frequency of the journal will at first be bi-annual. This is the preference of both Uchitel and the Publications Committee for the first few years of publication. It is feasible, given what the Publications Committee knows of the numbers of scholars who have written/are interested in writing research articles in this discipline.

x) The journal will contain predominantly research articles and a significant amount of pedagogy articles, and also book reviews, comment articles, and scholarly articles analyzing and reviewing miscellaneous Big History projects: whether they be non-academic online resources, documentaries, and various popular treatments of big history.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) The weblink to the IBHA journal will be distributable on Blackboard/iLearn sites for university courses. To that end, it would be wise to solicit the approximately 40-50 Big History university courses to make use of the journal as a study resource once it is up and running.
- ii) It is also advisable to enter talks with the Big History Project to have the link posted in their section for extra resources, for both students and teachers. In regard to the latter, the journal's pedagogical component may be of particular use.
- iii) The journals of Uchitel currently have a successful hit rate on Google, usually coming at the top of the list when the name is searched. This will be even more likely with 'Journal of Big History' or 'Big History Journal' which doesn't have all the variations a more conventional discipline does (e.g. Uchitel's Journal of Globalization Studies).
- iv) The Publications Committee and journal editorial board (when it exists) should also undertake to get the journal on Google Scholar, Jstor, etc. We would also be wise not to rule out some form of collaboration with Chronozoom. All of the three points above should compensate somewhat for not paying \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the promotion of something like CUP, which, after evaluation by the Publications Committee left it extremely unclear to what extent we would get any significant promotion at all. As stated, most of the money seems to go toward administrative costs. The justification of such costs at our end seemed to be confined mostly to the prestigious name.
- v) The weblink to the journal should also be placed on the IBHA website, on mailing lists, and papers should be solicited in *Origins* for promotion within our organisation. Announcements of the journal's existence at various conferences would also be a good idea.
- vi) A vigorous campaign to tempt new researchers from the natural and social sciences into the field needs to happen in tandem with the IBHA Research Committee. There are already a number of academics, particularly scientists, who are interested in doing such macro interdisciplinary work, breaking out of their silos. A journal article is certainly an incentive for them to invest some of their time. The campaign needs to continue beyond the researchers from the natural and social sciences on our list to those who might be interested, but have not yet communicated with the IBHA or participated in its activities.
- vii) A few articles in the journal's early years by our more prominent members (names not only prominent in Big History but also in their own conventional fields) would be crucial to bolstering the journal's reputation in this phase.
- viii) A certain emphasis needs to be placed on empirical rigour and originality in the journal, to produce articles that garner internet hits and scholarly citations from people who are outside our field but still find the articles relevant to their own research.

## PROPOSED STAFF STRUCTURE

i) The IBHA Publications Committee proposes that Fred Spier be the journal's first editor-in-chief, given his work in Big History research and also his extensive writing on how Big History research itself can and should be conducted. He will also bring the needed academic prestige to the position. The editor-in-chief will have final say on what articles make it into the journal, final say on edits, and can intervene in the editing/feedback/evaluation process of on a specific level if necessary. The editor-in-chief will also be able to convene discussions about how to improve the journal as it evolves in the future.

ii) Under Fred Spier's direction will be five associate editors with experience in editing Big History publications, experience researching and writing Big History articles of their own, and with appropriate theory and language skills. The Publications Committee recommends the following people: Cynthia Brown, Esther Quaedackers, David Baker, Andrey Korotayev, and Joseph Voros. If any of the above cannot accept the post of associate editor, we have prepared alternatives.

iii) The journal's staff will furthermore be composed of two committees. One, the editorial committee, made up of big historians, who will provide oversight for articles that are published in each issue, in regards to both research quality and editing. The members of the editorial committee are also able to sit as associate editors for a particular article or journal issue, subject to the approval of the Publications Committee and the editor-in-chief. The proposed members for the editorial committee are:

- David Christian
- Lowell Gustafson
- Dan May
- Jonathan Markley
- Sun Yue
- Leonid Grinin
- Ji-Hyung Cho
- Barry Rodrigue
- Tracy Sullivan
- Ken Gilbert
- Craig Benjamin
- John Mears

iv) Two, the advisory committee, which will be composed of experts from a range of disciplines and will be called upon to provide analysis and advice on papers that deal in great depth with the subject matter from those disciplines. A place on the editorial committee should not exclude a place on the advisory committee if a member is willing to provide guidance in both capacities. The proposed members of the advisory committee are:

- Eric Chaisson
- Todd Duncan
- Cameron Gibelyou
- Walter Alvarez
- David Shimabukuru
- James Walker
- Ursula Goodenough
- Steph Menken
- Henry Hooghiemstra
- Jan Smit
- Jan Zalasiewicz
- John de Vos
- Frans de Waal
- Kathy Schick
- Nick Toth
- Kevin Fernlund
- Peter Edwell
- Christian Jennings
- John McNeill
- Alexander Mirkovic
- Peter Turchin
- Dennis Flynn
- Mojan Behmand
- Bob Regan
- Seohyung Kim
- Jos Werkhoven
- Michael Duffy
- D'Neil Duffy

Please note: The advisory list is preliminary and will always be fluid, since we shall need to solicit all manner of advice from a wide range of disciplinary experts, depending on the nature of the specialized research that is submitted to us within a Big History article.

## CONCLUSION

Uchitel is a press that has already put out numerous Big History volumes. They are also colleagues who operate in one of the world's oldest and largest Big History hubs. They have very kindly offered their services and web infrastructure for free. The IBHA journal should have some form of academic press behind it, rather than just throwing pdfs up on our website, if we are going to approach researchers from the natural and social sciences to submit articles for a serious academic journal. With the Uchitel arrangement, we can have the journal up and running as soon as the Board approves the decision, ready in time to capitalize on the flood of papers that will be coming out of the August IBHA Conference.

Having a journal up and running within the timeframe of the next few years is crucial to expanding the discipline. Right now Big History is predominantly teaching-oriented, and is even viewed by many as being entirely concerned with teaching. Some people are completely unaware that Big History research exists. This is an unfortunate misunderstanding. Big History treats cosmological observations, geological data, evolutionary lineages, archaeology, and written sources as one and the same: evidence that clarifies a sequence of events and sheds light on broad overarching historical questions. The natural and social sciences are not only overlap, but are fundamentally historical in nature. As such, Big History could not be anything other than research based.

The development of the research wing of Big History has been a concern of many IBHA members for a while now. A journal would be a great leap forward for i) encouraging new members into the field beyond just pitching the appeal of Big History to them, ii) to expand the student reading resources for more advanced Big History courses that are now being set up in Amsterdam, Macquarie, and elsewhere, iii) to act as a milestone publication for those graduate students who are entering the field of Big History, and iv) to increase both scholarly and public perception of Big History as a legitimate research endeavour. The research issue will remain one of the IBHA's biggest challenges for many years to come, and having a journal would help us advance our research network by leaps and bounds.

Sincerely,

*IBHA Publications Committee*

Cynthia Brown (chair)

David Baker

Esther Quaedackers

David Christian

Barry Rodrigue

Ji-Hyung Cho



## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Agreement dated \_\_\_\_\_, by and between the INTERNATIONAL BIG HISTORY ASSOCIATION (hereinafter referred to as the SPONSOR), and UCHITEL PRESS (hereinafter referred to as the PRESS) for the publication of the *Journal of Big History* (hereinafter referred to as the JOURNAL).

In consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the SPONSOR and PRESS hereby agree as follows:

### 1. Agreement

The SPONSOR and the PRESS hereby agree to cooperate in the publication of the JOURNAL. This Agreement shall be effective upon IBHA Board approval. It shall continue until either the SPONSOR or PRESS terminates the agreement with six months notice. Termination by either party will hold no fault or financial penalty.

### 2. Ownership

Ownership of the JOURNAL, its goodwill, trademark, and financial accounts shall remain with the SPONSOR.

### 3. Copyright & Licensing

- 3.1 Issues of the JOURNAL, as published, shall be copyrighted in the name of the SPONSOR.
- 3.2 The SPONSOR grants to the PRESS a worldwide license for the purpose of including complete content from the JOURNAL on the website of the PRESS.
- 3.3 The SPONSOR will take full control of and responsibility for linking content to Project MUSE, JSTOR, other electronic databases, and new media as they are developed.

### 4. Imprint

The phrase “Published by Uchitel Press” will be printed wherever an imprint appears in the JOURNAL. So long as the International Big History Association remains a sponsor, the descriptor “Official Journal of the International Big History Association” will be printed on the JOURNAL articles and promotional material.

### 5. Frequency of Publication

The JOURNAL shall be published two times each year, or as determined by mutual agreement.

## **6. Responsibilities of the SPONSOR**

- 6.1 The JOURNAL editors shall be appointed by the International Big History Association Publications Committee, in consultation with the International Big History Association Board of Directors.
- 6.2 The editors of the JOURNAL shall be responsible for copy editing and proofreading and submission of issues in a form and on a schedule acceptable to the SPONSOR and the PRESS. Copy will be fully and completely copyedited in accordance with customary publishing standards. The editors will have full control of and responsibility for copy editing and formatting of articles. Nothing shall be printed in the JOURNAL without the consent of the editors.
- 6.3 Once the editors have compiled, copyedited, and formatted the articles for an issue, they will submit the articles to the PRESS for posting on the Uchitel web page designed for the purpose.
- 6.4 Prior to publication, all authors of contributions to the JOURNAL shall grant to the PRESS and SPONSOR in writing the license to publish their individual papers. This shall be deemed a condition of publication except for material in the public domain. Obtaining written license remains the responsibility of the editors, who will provide the SPONSOR and PRESS with all author agreements at the time the manuscripts for each issue are submitted to the PRESS, and the PRESS will retain these for its records.
- 6.5 The SPONSOR will be responsible for the promotion of the JOURNAL and the solicitation of new readers.
- 6.6 The SPONSOR agrees that they are solely responsible for the determination and application of editorial policy, the solicitation, receipt and selection of papers for publication, and other editorial matters. The SPONSOR holds sole burden of litigation for the content of the JOURNAL, and holds absolutely no burden of litigation for any other activity of the PRESS.
- 6.7 The SPONSOR will be responsible for registering copyright.
- 6.8 The SPONSOR will be responsible for keeping electronic and hard copies of finished articles to avoid loss or destruction of content.

## **7. Responsibilities of the PRESS**

- 7.1 Maintaining a web page for the journal that is free and open access.
- 7.2 Providing a journal page on the Uchitel website that will have its own *Journal of Big History* watermark and sidebar, in contrast to other journals currently on the site.
- 7.3 Posting the copyedited and formatted articles to the journal web page in a timely manner once the editors have finished compiling an issue.
- 7.4 Digitally backing up journal articles to avoid loss or destruction of content.

7.5 The PRESS holds absolutely no burden of litigation for the content of the JOURNAL, and continues to hold sole burden of litigation for any other activity of the PRESS.

## **8. Press Run**

The journal is to be completely online and open access. There will be no regular printed version of the journal unless this agreement is amended by subsequent agreement of both the SPONSOR and the PRESS.

## **9. Archiving Content**

Both the SPONSOR and the PRESS undertake to electronically back up the formatted articles to avoid loss or destruction of content. The SPONSOR additionally undertakes to keep hard copies of formatted articles to avoid loss or destruction of content.

## **10. Reprinting**

The SPONSOR may reprint articles in the JOURNAL in hard copy volumes for sale provided they acquire consent from the author. The PRESS may reprint articles in the JOURNAL in hard copy volumes for sale provided they acquire consent from the author and the SPONSOR.

## **11. Authorization of Rights to Quote**

Requests for permission to use material published in the JOURNAL will be routinely handled by the editors and the SPONSOR.

## **12. Prices**

The JOURNAL shall be free and open access with all downloadable content available to all users on the internet. Reprints of articles in hard copy volumes for sale shall be priced at the discretion of the party publishing them, whether they are the SPONSOR or the PRESS.

## **13. Copies to Authors**

No hard copy of articles in the JOURNAL will be sent to authors. Free copies of hard copy volumes for sale may be sent to authors at the discretion of the SPONSOR or PRESS, and will largely be determined by the stipulations of the agreement with the author to reprint that article.

## **14. Author's Alterations**

The editors will supervise all alterations of authors in first and second proofs. The PRESS has no obligation or responsibility to expend time or resources on commenting, copy editing, corresponding with the author, or updating the article.

## 15. Accounts

- 15.1 All incomes resulting from the JOURNAL shall go to the SPONSOR. This includes any incomes that may result from any content placed on Project MUSE, JSTOR, other electronic databases, and new media as they are developed.
- 15.2 The PRESS may charge to the account of the JOURNAL the following: construction of the journal web page on the Uchitel website.
- 15.3 Incomes from hard copy volumes for sale shall fall to whichever party is printing the volume, the SPONSOR or the PRESS.
- 15.4 The PRESS shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the SPONSOR nor for any expenses of the JOURNAL editors or staff, such as travel, telephone, duplication, postage, clerical and editorial assistants, and the like, **unless explicitly approved in advance by the SPONSOR.**
- 15.5 Beyond the expenses of 15.2, the SPONSOR shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the PRESS.

## 16. Marketing

- 16.1 The SPONSOR will take full control of and sole responsibility for marketing the JOURNAL, distributing the JOURNAL link on various academic and university websites, and setting up arrangements with electronic databases.
- 16.2 The PRESS is under no obligation to engage in marketing activities nor is the PRESS responsible for any costs incurred in these activities.
- 16.3 The PRESS may voluntarily engage in activities designed to promote the JOURNAL at their own discretion. The SPONSOR is not responsible for any costs incurred in these activities.

## 17. Termination

This Agreement may be terminated by either the SPONSOR or the PRESS six months after written notice. If notice of termination is submitted in writing by either party to the other, the PRESS shall cease the performance of its obligations as required by this Agreement effective with the publication and distribution of an agreed-upon forthcoming issue of the JOURNAL. Any funds remaining in the JOURNAL account will be held by the SPONSOR. Funds may be used for any and all ordinary expenses, such as editorial, production, manufacturing, and marketing expenses for remaining issues of the JOURNAL.

On or before the end of the six month period, the PRESS shall remove the name “*Journal of Big History*” from the Uchitel web page, due to its ownership by the SPONSOR, remove all previous journal content from the Uchitel web page, and



remove the descriptor “Official Journal of the International Big History Association” from the Uchitel web page.

## 18.Scope

This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the SPONSOR and the PRESS, and no statement, promises, or inducements made by either party or agent of either party that is not contained in this written Agreement shall be valid or binding; and this Agreement may not be enlarged, modified, or altered except in writing signed by the SPONSOR and the PRESS.

## 19.Nonassignment

Neither this Agreement nor any part thereof is assignable by any party.

_____ Signatory Title	_____ Date
_____ Signatory Title	_____ Date
_____ Signatory Title	_____ Date
_____ Signatory Title	_____ Date

### Current Practice

1. Origins begins with one or two articles each month.
2. Uichitel publishes edited book.
3. IBHA produces an epub book

Alternative is that IBHA produces its own journal.

How would hiring / tenure committees evaluate publication by Uichitel vs that by a university press or by the IBHA? Which publishing option best helps establish Big History among academics and university administrators? How do each of the various publishing options help support innovative and recognized scholarship?

-- Lowell

## IBHA Treasurer's Report as of July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014

### Account 1: Grand Valley State University Designated IBHA Fund

(See attached Doc 1 for June 30<sup>th</sup> statement)

Balance of GVSU account as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014: \$29,740.73

#### Notes:

- This account is mostly used to pay wages for our Office Coordinator.
- Account received a boost of \$10K from ChronoZoom in June 2014, as conference sponsorship. They asked to be able to deposit directly to our GVSU account (they already had a tax deductible relationship with this account) and this made sense to me.
- Based on current staff wages we will be able to continue to employ our OC at an annual salary of approximately \$15,000 pa for almost another two years (i.e. to Aug 2016) without having to transfer any money in from our LMCU operating account.

### Account 2: Lake Michigan Credit Union International Big History Association Account

(See attached Doc 2 for June 30<sup>th</sup> statement)

Balance as of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 (Savings Account): \$50  
(Checking Account): \$107,257.41

Balance as of July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 (Checking Account): \$121,280.59

#### Notes:

- The LMCU checking account is the main operating account of the IBHA.
- The checking account balance includes a recent sponsorship of \$10K from the BHP
- The balance of \$121K+ is impressive but misleading, in that it includes all conference registration fees, but few conference expenses have yet been paid.
- I anticipate that after all conference expenses have been paid the actual balance will be closer to \$80-85K+, a very healthy balance for a professional association after less than four years of operation.

**Note: also attached are the IBHA 990 2013 Tax return; and the 2013 financial statement, as prepared by our accountant Andy Bos of Eastown Financial Services (Docs 3 and 4)**

*Respectfully submitted to the Board as a true and correct record of accounts by IBHA Treasurer, Craig Benjamin on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014*

*Craig Benjamin*

REPORT FGABDSC  
FISCAL YEAR: 14

Grand Valley State University  
Budget Status (Current Period)  
AS OF 30-JUN-2014

RUN DATE: 07/15/2014  
TIME: 03:44 PM  
PAGE: 1345

COAS: G Grand Valley State University  
FUND: 121055 Big History Association  
PRED ORG: 4500 COIS Deans Office  
ORG: 45012 BCoIS Creative Inquiry Program

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT TITLE	ADJUSTED BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD ACTIVITY	YEAR TO DATE ACTIVITY	BUDGET RESERVATIONS	AVAILABLE BALANCE	CMT TYP
5001	Beginning Balance Forwards	.00	.00	34,388.31	.00	-34,388.31	U
5501	Miscellaneous Revenue	.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	.00	-10,000.00	U
TOTAL	Operating Revenues	.00	10,000.00	44,388.31	.00	-44,388.31	
6401	Call-in Employees	.00	1,605.00	13,432.50	.00	-13,432.50	U
6610	Employee Fringe Benefits	.00	145.07	1,215.08	.00	-1,215.08	U
TOTAL	Salaries, Wages & Benefits	.00	1,750.07	14,647.58	.00	-14,647.58	
TOTAL ORGANIZATION							
45012	BCoIS Creative Inquiry Program						
TOTAL	Revenue	.00	10,000.00	44,388.31	.00	-44,388.31	
TOTAL	Salaries, Wages & Benefits	.00	1,750.07	14,647.58	.00	-14,647.58	
NET		.00	8,249.93	29,740.73	.00	-29,740.73	
TOTAL FUND							
121055	Big History Association						
TOTAL	Revenue	.00	10,000.00	44,388.31	.00	-44,388.31	
TOTAL	Salaries, Wages & Benefits	.00	1,750.07	14,647.58	.00	-14,647.58	
NET		.00	8,249.93	29,740.73	.00	-29,740.73	



LAKE MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION  
P.O. Box 2848  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2848  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Your Statement Of Accounts**  
**06/01/2014-06/30/2014**  
**Your Account Number**  
**xxxxxxx6370**  
**Page 1**

INTERNATIONAL BIG HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
1 CAMPUS DR  
ALLENDAL MI 49401-9401

Refinance your auto loan with LMCU and we'll give you a \$150 gift card! Rates as low as 2.75% APR. Bring in your title and proof of insurance to any branch, or call our loan switch hotline at (616 or 800) 242-9790, ext. 9944. Loan amount must exceed \$10,000 and be from another financial institution. Rate may vary based on your credit. Offer ends 08/31/14.

### Summary-Share Accounts

ID #	Type	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
00	MEMBER SAVINGS	\$50.00	\$50.00
01	FREE CHECKING	\$85,576.27	\$107,207.41
	Total		\$107,257.41

### MEMBER SAVINGS

Share Account ID 00

Trans	Eff Date	Transaction	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
Jun 01		Beginning Balance			\$50.00
Jun 30		Ending Balance			\$50.00

### FREE CHECKING

Share Account ID 01

Trans	Eff Date	Transaction	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
Jun 01		Beginning Balance			\$85,576.27
Jun 02	Jun 02	Deposit ACH PAYPAL TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL DATA: TRANSFER		\$600.00	\$86,176.27
Jun 02	Jun 02	Deposit ACH PAYPAL TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL DATA: TRANSFER		\$1,000.00	\$87,176.27
Jun 02	Jun 02	Deposit ACH PAYPAL TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL DATA: TRANSFER		\$1,000.00	\$88,176.27
Jun 02	Jun 02	Deposit ACH PAYPAL TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL DATA: TRANSFER		\$1,300.00	\$89,476.27
Jun 02	Jun 02	Deposit ACH PAYPAL TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL DATA: TRANSFER		\$1,400.00	\$90,876.27
Jun 02	Jun 02	Deposit ACH PAYPAL TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL DATA: TRANSFER		\$3,100.00	\$93,976.27
Jun 03	Jun 03	Deposit ACH PAYPAL TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL DATA: TRANSFER		\$600.00	\$94,576.27
Jun 03	Jun 03	Deposit ACH PAYPAL TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL DATA: TRANSFER		\$1,600.00	\$96,176.27
Jun 03	Jun 03	Deposit by Check		\$2,230.00	\$98,406.27
Jun 09	Jun 09	Deposit by Wire 0000064540 GBA090640LEE7Z7K MALTHOUSE AVENUE CARDIFF GATE PETERSON HOUSE		\$80.00	\$98,486.27

---continued on the following page---

## INTERNATIONAL BIG HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Account Number xxxxxx6370

Page 2

**FREE CHECKING****Share Account ID 01**

Trans	Eff Date	Transaction	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
		IBO GENEVA			
Jun 09	Jun 09	Withdrawal I/C Wire Fee	(\$5.00)		\$98,481.27
Jun 11	Jun 11	Deposit ACH PAYPAL		\$500.00	\$98,981.27
		TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL			
		DATA: TRANSFER			
Jun 12	Jun 12	Deposit by Check		\$10.00	\$98,991.27
Jun 12	Jun 12	Deposit Bulk		\$495.00	\$99,486.27
Jun 12	Jun 12	Draft 002593 Tracer 0000000000	(\$549.00)		\$98,937.27
Jun 13	Jun 13	Deposit by Wire 0000064994		\$395.00	\$99,332.27
		GBA130648XF17COW			
		MALHOUSE AVENUE CARDIFF GATE			
		PETERSON HOUSE			
		IBO GENEVA			
Jun 13	Jun 13	Withdrawal I/C Wire Fee	(\$5.00)		\$99,327.27
Jun 21	Jun 21	Deposit Bulk		\$2,845.00	\$102,172.27
Jun 23	Jun 23	Deposit ACH PAYPAL		\$2,700.00	\$104,872.27
		TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL			
		DATA: TRANSFER			
Jun 25	Jun 25	Withdrawal Debit Card Business Debit	(\$540.00)		\$104,332.27
		WILD APRICOT 416-410-4059 CA 06/25/2014			
Jun 25	Jun 25	Withdrawal Debit Card Fee	(\$4.86)		\$104,327.41
		MASTERCARD ISSUER CROSS-BORDER FEE			
		Date 06/25/14			
Jun 27	Jun 27	Deposit ACH PAYPAL		\$500.00	\$104,827.41
		TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL			
		DATA: TRANSFER			
Jun 30	Jun 30	Deposit ACH PAYPAL		\$800.00	\$105,627.41
		TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL			
		DATA: TRANSFER			
Jun 30	Jun 30	Deposit ACH PAYPAL		\$1,300.00	\$106,927.41
		TYPE: TRANSFER ID: PAYPALSD11 CO: PAYPAL			
		DATA: TRANSFER			
Jun 30	Jun 30	Deposit by Wire 0000066305		\$285.00	\$107,212.41
		TO140630B2391300			
		TORONTO, ON, CA			
		125 SCADDING AVE UNIT 111			
		MR CADELL LAST			
Jun 30	Jun 30	Withdrawal I/C Wire Fee	(\$5.00)		\$107,207.41
<b>Jun 30</b>		<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$107,207.41</b>

**Checking Account Summary**

Chk#	Date	Amount	Chk#	Date	Amount	Chk#	Date	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> 2593	Jun 12	\$549.00						
<b>Total Checks Cleared</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>\$549.00</b>			

The Asterisk (\*) indicates a break in check sequence.

**Dividend Summary**

**Account**  
 MEMBER SAVINGS 00  
 FREE CHECKING 01  
**Total**

**Dividends**  
**Year To Date**  
 \$0.00  
 \$0.00  
 \$0.00

Your current account relationship is VIP



☐

• ☐

☐

**SCHEDULE O**  
**(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ **Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.**

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2013**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

Employer identification number

INTERNATIONAL BIG HISTORY ASSOC

45-1559736

**01. Description of other expenses (Part I, line 16)**

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
ADVERTISING AND MARKETING	350
CONFERENCE MEETINGS AND TRAVEL	721
BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEES	870

**02. Other program services (Part III, line 31)**

COORDINATING ACTIVITIES INTERNATIONALLY THROUGH OUR MEMBERSHIP DATABASE, INCLUDING

PROVIDING UPDATES TO MEMBERS ON COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS, SHARING INFORMATION ON

BIG HISTORY THROUGH INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL EFFORTS AND GUEST LECTURING, AND SEEKING

AFFILIATIONS WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH SIMILAR INITIATIVES TO BENEFIT

GLOBAL EFFORTS. EXPENSES \$3000. SERVED 300+

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH AND THE CREATION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE IN BIG HISTORY THROUGH THE

DISSEMINATION OF OUR NEWSLETTER AND EMAIL UPDATES. EXPENSES \$2400. SERVED 700+

ORGANIZATION OF BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCES. 200+ ATTENDEES AND 15 GUESTS. EXPENSES \$9600

Financial Statements prepared for:

# International Big History Association

December 31, 2013

Prepared by:



These statements were not audited by us, therefore we do not express an opinion on them.

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Cash Basis

# International Big History Association

## Statement of Income & Expenses

January through December 2013

	Jan - Dec 13
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Uncategorized Income	0.00
Investments	
Interest-Savings, Short-term ...	0.00
Total Investments	0.00
Program Income	
Membership Dues/Conf Fees	12,555.00
Total Program Income	12,555.00
<b>Total Income</b>	12,555.00
<b>Expense</b>	
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	870.00
Total Business Expenses	870.00
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	1,350.00
Contracted Employee Services	17,965.60
Total Contract Services	19,315.60
Operations	
Bank/Collection Fees	317.01
Books, Subscriptions, Refere...	225.99
Printing and Copying	303.42
Supplies	9.53
Total Operations	855.95
Other Types of Expenses	
Professional Development	350.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	350.00
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Mee...	720.98
Travel	0.00
Total Travel and Meetings	720.98
<b>Total Expense</b>	22,112.53
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-9,557.53
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-9,557.53</b>

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# International Big History Association

## Statement of Income & Expenses

### All Transactions

	Dec 31, 13
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Uncategorized Income	0.00
Direct Public Support	
Corporate Contributions	95,000.00
Total Direct Public Support	95,000.00
Investments	
Interest-Savings, Short-term ...	0.27
Total Investments	0.27
Program Income	
Membership Dues/Conf Fees	73,008.28
Total Program Income	73,008.28
<b>Total Income</b>	168,008.55
<b>Expense</b>	
Uncategorized Expenses	0.00
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	890.00
Total Business Expenses	890.00
Contract Services	
Accounting Fees	1,350.00
Legal Fees	1,880.00
Contracted Employee Services	44,738.12
Total Contract Services	47,968.12
Facilities and Equipment	
Rent, Parking, Utilities	109.80
Total Facilities and Equipment	109.80
Operations	
Bank/Collection Fees	1,986.96
Books, Subscriptions, Refere...	225.99
Postage, Mailing Service	19.64
Printing and Copying	682.45
Supplies	113.94
Total Operations	3,028.98
Other Types of Expenses	
Advertising & Marketing	1,557.35
Professional Development	590.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	2,147.35
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Mee...	38,265.70
Travel	6,055.73
Total Travel and Meetings	44,321.43
<b>Total Expense</b>	98,465.68
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	69,542.87
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>69,542.87</b>



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**International Big History Association**  
**Statement of Financial Condition**  
As of December 31, 2013

	Dec 31, 13
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
LMCU Checking	42,796.78
LMCU Savings	50.00
Paypal	486.27
GVSU Account	26,209.82
Total Checking/Savin...	69,542.87
Total Current Assets	69,542.87
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>69,542.87</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Ass...	79,100.40
Net Income	-9,557.53
Total Equity	69,542.87
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQ...</b>	<b>69,542.87</b>

## Secretary's Report

The IBHA now has 359 members.

The IBHA Facebook page has 782 “likes.”

The IBHA Twitter feed has 245 followers.

Wild Apricot does not have usage rates, but our website seems to be well utilized.



*Origins* highlights the many activities, projects, and reflections that IBHA members have on Big History.

Volume IV Number 8 presents “On Power: George Lucas, Jerry Garcia, and Barack Obama’s Big Black Helicopters” by Richard B. Simon; “Big History on Youtube” by David Baker; “The first introductory book to Big History in Japanese” by Nobuo Palette Tsujimura, and “Teaching & Researching Big History: Exploring a New Scholarly Field,” the new book edited by Leonid Grinin, David Baker, Esther Quaedackers, and Andrey Korotayev.

Volume IV Number 7 includes reflections by Big History faculty at Dominican University of California on teaching the new field, and “What role has nothingness played in Big History? Nothing, in Particular,” by John Paton.

Volume IV Number 6 includes “Birth of the Biosphere” by Jan Zalasiewicz, and “A Little Big History of a Big Historian” by Esther Quaedackers

Volume IV Number 5 features “Encore des Buffonades, mon cher comte?” by Jan Zalasiewicz, a response to “Towards a Theory of Big History” by Matthew McConnell

Volume IV, Number 4, “Towards a Theory of Big History” by David Blanks, “Big History’s Greatest Lesson?” by David Gabbard

Volume IV Number 3, Articles by Carlos Eduardo Sacchi and Jennifer Morgan.

Volume IV Number 2, Layers within Layers: Complexity Built Upon Complexity by Jonathan Markley; The Life and Works of Antonio Vélez Montoya by Natalia Vélez Lopera; Dances with the Earth: Geophonic Music from the Stratigraphic Record of Central Italy by Gabriele Rossetti and Alessandro Montanari

Volume IV Number 1, Protein Folding, Pteropods, A Characterization of the IBHA, The Study Road, Big History Songs Enlarging History

Volume III Number 11, Globalization, ChronoZoom in China, Big History Project, History Channel, Colbert Report

Volume III Number 10, Part 2 of Cosmic Safari

In Volume III Number 9, we are pleased to highlight Christian Jennings and his “Cosmic Safari: From African History to Big History.”

In Volume III Number 8 of the International Big History Association Newsletter, we are pleased to highlight:

the recent publication of *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything*, the First Big History Student Research Conference, the IBHA Board Elections, Teaching Big History, The Universe Verse Kickstarter Campaign, and the Call for Papers: 2014 IBHA Conference.

Volume III Number 7 highlights Joseph Voros' review of Al Gore's book, *The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change*, notice of the 2014 IBHA Conference at Dominican University of California, and the highly anticipated first edition of *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything* by David Christian, Craig Benjamin, and Cynthia Brown!

Volume III Number 6 highlights:

the work of Barry Rodrigue, the IBHA International Coordinator, with East Asian scholars (on pages 1 - 10), an essay on "Big History and Big Politics" by Lowell Gustafson, who is the IBHA Secretary (pages 11 - 24), the Students' Big History Research Conference at the University of Amsterdam in June (pages 25-26), the August 2014 IBHA Conference at the Dominican University of California (page 27), and the highly anticipated first edition of *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything* by David Christian, Craig Benjamin, and Cynthia Brown, available August 30, 2013 (page 28)!

Volume III Number 5 highlights the Big History program at the Institute of World and Global History, Ewha Womans University and its director, Seohyung Kim, Melanie Aranka Dominique During's painting, "Eye Catcher," Michael and D'Neil Duffy's piece on the IBHA for Montessori Life, Craig Benjamin address to award winning GVSU students and faculty, and the forthcoming text from McGraw-Hill: *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything*!

Volume III Number 4 highlights IBHA Board Member, Walter Alvarez of the University of California, Berkeley (pp 1-5).

Roland Saekow gave presentations on ChronoZoom in China (p 6).

Dana Visalli has taught Big History in Afghanistan (pp 7-9).

Metanexus is sponsoring the One Day Universe (p 10) and

IBHA member Jennifer Morgan gave the keynote address, telling the Big History story to the American Montessori Conference attended by 3,000 (pp 11-12).

Volume III Number 3 features an essay on sustainability in China by Sun Yue (pp. 1- 4),

two book reviews by Cynthia Brown (p. 5),

notices of Metanexus' One Day Universe (p. 6),

a new book by Akop P. Nazaretyan (pp. 7-9),

a collage of images presented by Leslye Allen of a Grand Valley State University Big History trip (pp. 10-20 ),

and the Graduate Student Big History Research Conference (p. 21).

Volume III Number 2 highlights one of the pioneers of Big History, Dr. John A. Mears of Southern Methodist University, the Big History Summer Institute, held each year at Dominican University of California, and concludes with a reminder about the First Students' Big History Research Conference and a conference wrap - up session montage put together by Leslye Allen.

Volume III Number 1 highlights Sun Yue of the Global History Center at Capital Normal University in Beijing, China and Melanie During, who studies Big History at the University of Amsterdam,

Volume II Number 9 highlights Neal Wolfe of Dominican University of California and Constance van Hall and

the Big History program at Roland Holst School in Hilversum in the Netherlands.

Volume II Number 8 highlights Ken Gilbert and Tracy Sullivan.

Volume II Number 7 highlights Cathy McGowan Russell's work on "Generous Genes and Teaching the Big History of Life" as well as reflections by David Christian and Fred Spier on our inaugural conference in Michigan last month. We have a few of the wonderful pictures of the conference taken by Nathan Everett. Please note the call for papers from The International Society for the Study of Time for its Fifteenth Triennial Conference on "Time and Trace," June 30 - July 6, 2013. And we conclude with a chance to order IBHA t-shirts.

Volume II Number 6 highlights the timespirals of IBHA member Karen Kudebeh and the forthcoming volume, *From Big Bang to Global Civilization: A Big History Anthology*, co-edited by Barry Rodrigue, Leonid Grinnin, and Andrey Korotayev, to be published in 2013 by the University of California Press.

Volume II Number 5 highlights information about the August IBHA conference and the first in a series on graduate study of Big History, featuring David Baker.

Volume II Number 4 begins with a note from our President, David Christian. We follow this with a piece on the newly launched, revised version of Chronozoom, information about the August 2012 IBHA conference, and conclude with a note on IBHA member Connie Barlow.

Volume II Number 3 features Russell M. Genet of California Polytechnic State University and Cuesta College, and an Interview with William Grassie, the founder of the Metanexus Institute

Volume II Number 2 highlights The Stone Age Institute of Indiana University, Bloomington, IN and Nicholas Toth and Kathy Schick.

Volume II Number 1 highlights the First Year Experience in Big History program at Dominican University of California

Volume I Number 6 highlights Michael Duffy, D'Neil Duffy, Jennifer Morgan, and James Lu Dunbar.

Volume I Number 5 highlights Eric J. Chaisson and Nobuo Palette Tsujimura.

Volume I Number 4 highlights Cameron Gibelyou and Barry Wood.

Volume I Number 3 highlights the Center in Moscow for the study of Big History and Systems Forecasting as a part of the Institute of Oriental Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences).

Volume I Number 2 highlights IBHA member Erika Gronek, children's Big History book author.

Volume I Number 1 of the newsletter highlights Lawrence A. Husick.

# 1 ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

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## MEMBERS:

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Pamela Benjamin (Chair)  
Penelope Markle  
Milly Alvarez  
Bob Bain  
David Blanks  
Dennis O Flynn  
Marcel Koonan  
Tracy Sullivan  
Franz Mauelshagen

These are the current financial members. We have two past members, Mojgan Behmond and Sun Yue who have been elected to the current board, and four members whose membership has lapsed.

The Advisory Council exists to advise the IBHA board on matters which need a wider and more time consuming exploration than other board matters. We serve to come up with suggestions that the board may use at their discretion.

In the last two years following the first IBHA conference and after the AC was formed, we have discussed membership. The board was interested in hearing ideas for increasing membership and promoting interest in Big History across all age groups, fields and interests.

In short, this is what the AC suggested:

1. Complimentary memberships for all teachers involved in teaching the Big History Project. While this was an excellent idea, the board decided that it did not have the funds at this time for this.

2. A monthly email newsletter for our basic member listserv which goes out to all 357 members (now named Origins). We also send out a monthly eblast to a larger listserv of approximately 450 readers with teasers from the upcoming Origins issue which encourages them to join to receive Origins each month.
3. At the same time, an online members Forum was set up through the website for ongoing discussions of Big History
4. One idea that the AC suggested was for a special section in Origins for examples of teachers Big History lesson plans. This is still only in the suggestion phase.
5. Twitter and an IBHA Facebook page has been launched with great success. Instagram will be implemented.
6. The development of Little Big Histories – a tool the Big History Project has used to great advantage in middle and high schools, both in the States and overseas.

Respectfully

Pamela Benjamin

Chair: Advisory Council, IBHA



## International Coordinator's Summary Report for the IBHA

Barry H. Rodrigue  
7 August 2014

*Barry Rodrigue is the International Coordinator (IC) for the IBHA and has engaged in several outreach projects since his last report in 2012.*

One of my particular concerns has been to include a variety of global perspectives on Big History from many societies around the world. As a result, I have been engaged in seeking alternative approaches, principally Asian perspectives, which have an ancient and venerable vision of the universe. During my sabbatical last year, I made a commitment to pursuing this activity.

Through an arrangement fostered by Professor Sun Yue with Qi Tao, Minister of Education for Shandong Province, I served as a visiting professor at Shandong Normal University in Jinan in the spring of 2013. Minister Qi's desire was to have the first Big History course in China developed in his province, which was the homeland of Confucius. Sun Yue, a professor at the Global History Center, also set up a presentation for me to make on Big History at Capitol Normal University in Beijing. Several direct outcomes occurred as a result of the relationships built in China:

- IT professor Duan Huichuan at Shandong Normal University developed *ChronoZoom* as a fully operational online platform in China. For this, he and the Chinese development team received an award, which I arranged with Microsoft Research.
- Duan Huichuan also set up a webpage for Big History on the *Global Chinese Science NET* (<http://www.sciencenet.cn/>), the leading site for scientists and engineers in the Chinese-speaking world.
- We established the base for a China Big History Association.
- I continue discussions of Big History with a dozen engaged graduate students in Jinan, Beijing and Guangzhou.

A growing interest in Big History exists in China and we continue seeking its development as an academic discipline. Therefore, as another outcome of the time in China, we arranged for a panel presentation on Big History at the up-coming conference of the Comité International des Sciences Historiques (CISH) that will take place in Jinan, China on 23–29 August 2015. The IBHA has been included in this conference as a member of the CISH constituent body, the Network of Global & World History Organizations (NOGWHISTO), which we joined this year.

In the course of my sabbatical, I was also able to make a presentation on Big History at the Hanoi National University of Education and the University of Education (Vietnam National

University). Afterwards, and at their request, I facilitated for Andy Mink, a professor from the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a member of the *ChronoZoom* development team, to engage with them on new methods for their teacher education programs, ones including Big History as a part of their curriculum.

While in Japan, I met with Osamu Nakanishi and Nobuo Tsujimura, the founders of Big History in Japan. Since Professor Nakanishi is a Russian specialist, I put them in touch with our colleagues at the Eurasian Centre for Big History & System Forecasting at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Later in 2013, they visited the centre in Moscow. Both Professor Nakanishi and Nobuo Tsujimura then published the first book in Japan about Big History in 2014, a description of which just appeared in the latest issue of the IBHA newsletter.

In the course of my work as IC, I've discovered a number of dynamic big historians coming from the background of psychology. So, we are in the process of establishing a special interest group (SIG) in the IBHA for those interested in global aspects of Big History and psychology.

As a result of work on a three-volume anthology on Big History, which is being published in South Asia, I am working on the further development of publications and conferences in India.

I think that the most important aspect of my work as IC is in networking people and groups of people around the world. These projects and others have certainly accomplished the expansion of these Big History networks, and continue to do so.

## *IBHA Introductory Speakers during the 2014 Conference*

### *Wednesday August 6:*

- 8:30 - 5 pm: Board meeting (Fred Chair)
- 6:30 pm: Reception and President's dinner, Barowsky House (David)

### *Thursday August 7:*

- 9:00 am: Opening of the conference (Fred opening, announcing new board members and officers, and introducing David)
- 12:15-1:15 pm: Members' meeting (Fred chair)
- 5:00 - 6:30 pm: Opening reception (Lowell)

### *Friday August 8:*

- 5:15 - 6:15 pm: Dinner: (Craig)

### *Saturday August 9:*

- 5:30 - 6:30 pm: Big History Round table, Guzman Lecture Hall (closing of conference by Fred)
- 6:45 - 9:00 pm, Closing reception, Anne Hathaway Lawn (no speaker ??)