
COASTAL LETTERS



NEWSLETTER OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

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Membership Renewal Reminder

Don't forget to renew your membership in the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group. Also, when you renew your membership with the AAG, update your E-mail address – and remind your colleagues! Dues have not changed from 2005-06. Membership dues for the Specialty Group are currently \$1 for students and \$5 for regular and associate members.

Editor's Comments and Election Results

- 1) Welcome to all of you who have recently joined the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (CoMa).
- 2) Have you been getting CoMa E-mail? If not, please send an E-mail to Jeff Ueland to be added to our list. Also, if you would like to be removed from the mailing list please contact the editor.
- 3) The 2005 business meeting in Philadelphia several changes to the specialty group leadership. Diane Horn has agreed to remain the Chair of CoMa for one additional year. Steve Namikas was elected Vice-chair and will assume the chairmanship in 2006. Jeff Ueland was elected secretary-treasurer. Richard Daniels was elected to the Board of Directors and Dawn Wright was also elected to the Board of Directors for a second term.
- 4) Please get your abstracts in for the Chicago Meeting. The deadline is the 13th of October and of this writing, only one abstract has been turned in to Diane for CoMa sponsored sessions.
- 5) If you have announcements or other items to be distributed via the e-mail list please forward them to the editor. Items can be sent at any time. Time sensitive items such as job opportunities can be distributed immediately, upon request. Other items will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Jeff Ueland, Editor (ueland@ohio.edu)

Musings from the Chair – Diane Horn

Dear CoMa members,

This year's musings comes at a time of serious reflection in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. To those of us who went to the New Orleans AAG, and especially those who went on the Gulf Coast field trip afterwards, the contrast with the scenes on television is particularly shocking. As geographers, we should be thinking about our response to natural disasters such as Katrina and the Asian tsunami. As I'm sure most of you know, the AAG has organised an online clearinghouse, and is establishing a fund to support geography departments and others impacted by Hurricane Katrina. It may not be possible to prevent natural disasters, but geographers should be able to play a role in hazard mitigation and understanding the impacts of natural disasters – human and physical. I used to tell my students that casualties tend to rise in inverse proportion to the wealth of a country, a reflection not only of the amount of resources allocated to offset hazards, but also the technical infrastructure of the country. I also used to tell them that natural hazards in less-developed countries tends to result in loss of life, while in developed countries the main impact is large economic losses but little loss of life. However, Hurricane Katrina has challenged these assumptions – not the hurricane itself, but the aftermath. How could this happen in a prosperous society like the US? I'm writing this column from Australia again, so I haven't heard any of the US news coverage, but I hope that this experience makes us (and our government) think more seriously about how the risk to human life can be reduced in hazard zones. In the Coastal Futures panel at the Denver AAG, we discussed the idea that immediately after a disaster, there is a window of opportunity to implement better hazard management and to rebuild in ways that provide better protection against future disaster. However, as Susi Moser of the Human Impacts of Global Change Specialty Group pointed out, the reality is often that these moments are psychologically and politically among the most difficult times to implement new practices. How can geographers contribute to the debate? One way, of course, is to organise sessions on hurricanes – see the call for papers below.

Annual meeting: Chicago 2006

The deadline for abstracts for the Chicago AAG isn't until 13 October, so I suspect most of you haven't started thinking about abstracts yet. Last year most of the abstracts came in at the last minute – including the student paper submissions, almost all of which came in on the last day. Maybe you could all pretend the deadline is a week earlier and get the abstracts to me sooner so I can organise the coastal sessions earlier. That might make it easier to reduce the conflict with coastal sessions that didn't come through CoMa and were organised by the AAG, several of which clashed with CoMa-sponsored sessions.

At the Denver specialty group meeting, we agreed that I would organise a session that would be based around viewing and selecting member slides for the next compilation CD of coastal slides. If anyone would like to be part of this session, please let me know – otherwise I may be writing to you to ask you to participate. This is probably best organised as a panel session, so you don't need to do a formal presentation. It's basically a 'show-and-tell' session, so just bring your best photos!

I haven't heard yet of many sessions that have already been organised. The only ones I know of now are a session on Remote Sensing and GIS For Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystem Analysis, which is being organised by Xiaojun Yang (Florida State University) and Luoheng Han (University of Alabama), and the sessions on Hurricanes being organised by Kam-biu Liu (LSU). The call for papers on the Hurricane sessions is listed in this newsletter.

Dorothy Sack and I have talked about organising a session on lake geomorphology which would be jointly sponsored by CoMa and the Geomorphology Specialty Group, so if any of you are working on lakes (or know anyone who is), send those abstracts in to Dorothy on sack@ohio.edu. It's a pretty obvious topic for Chicago! Once again, I would like to encourage human geographers and those of you who have not presented in a CoMa sponsored session to send an abstract in this year. Also, you don't have to be a CoMa member to present in one of our sessions, so if you know anyone who is submitting an abstract on a coastal or marine topic, please forward this information to them (and of course, new members are always welcome). Finally, if anyone is interested in organising a field trip, please let me know.

The student paper competition was a highlight of the Denver meeting, with 9 students presenting in two sessions, and I hope we will get a lot of student papers again this year. There are two awards: a Student Paper Merit Award and a Student Illustrated Paper Award. Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students may compete for the Student Paper Merit Award or Student Illustrated Paper Award if they (1) are the first or sole author of an oral paper concerning coastal or marine geography which they will be presenting - in either of the two formats - at the 2006 annual AAG meeting, (2) are a member of the AAG and of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group (you can still join!), (3) followed AAG guidelines for submitting abstracts and registering, and (4) have submitted to the session organiser the completed application form, a copy of the abstract, and the assigned PIN number, to be received by 13 October 2005. Poster presentations are not eligible. Papers are judged both on content and on the quality of the presentation. Student Paper Merit Award candidates will present in a special session organised by the specialty group. The award consists of a \$100 grant to be used to defray AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership dues and travel expenses to the annual meeting as well as an award certificate. Up to three awards may be given in any given year (best illustrated paper, best paper - physical processes, and best paper - anthropogenic interactions). Information about the awards is on the AAG web site at <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/SGcallforpapers/CoMa.htm> and information on how to apply for the award competition (including application forms) are on the CoMa web site at http://www.homestead.com/aag_coma/files/student.html. If you are a student, please think about submitting your paper or illustrated paper for this competition. If you are a supervisor, please encourage your students to submit their papers.

This year the AAG is encouraging specialty groups to organise a new type of session, called Interactive Short Paper Sessions (ISP for short). The format of ISP Sessions allows for ten to fourteen five-minute paper presentations, summarising research or research-in-progress in a particular field with a maximum of ten PowerPoint slides per presentation. Time is then available for interactive round table discussion and participation by all in attendance. To facilitate the smooth transfer from one presentation to the next, ISP Sessions will feature a computer and a digital

projector so that presentations can be preloaded. Participants in ISP Sessions will be encouraged to send in their PowerPoint presentations ahead of time and they will be loaded onto the computer prior to the session. (There will be no overhead projector or slide projector in ISP sessions.) Interactive Short Paper Sessions are a great way to bring more geographers together in one session, and they avoid the type of overlapping session time conflicts that can lead to poor turnout. This type of session has become popular at other meetings as it provides the audience with rapid and intensive overview of research and also allows for more in-depth discussion among presenters and with the audience. If anyone is interested in participating in, or organising, an ISP, please let me know.

The procedure for being included in a CoMa sponsored session is very easy. All participants must first complete the AAG 2005 Individual Registration form, which is on the AAG web site at <http://www.aag.org/>. When you do this, you will be given a PIN number. After registering, you need to email the PIN number as well as a copy of your abstract directly to me as session chair (Diane Horn: d.horn@bbk.ac.uk) so I can arrange to have the session organised within the main conference program. I will then place you in an appropriate session.

R.J. Russell Award

No nominations for the 2006 R.J. Russell Award were received by the official deadline, so it was agreed at the Denver specialty group meeting to extend the deadline. After nominations and voting, the 2006 Russell Award will be given to Dr. Raymond Smith, UCSB. Dr Smith is the first marine geographer to receive the Russell Award. Dr. Smith's contributions are in the areas of marine geography in general, and within that earth system science, marine bio-optics, and satellite oceanography. As chair of the Department of Geography at UCSB, he oversaw the establishment of the first focal area in marine geography (in terms of faculty hires, coursework, and research programs) within a geography department in the U.S. While at UCSB he also co-founded the University of California Marine Bio-Optics Group (with UCSD), and the Center for Remote Sensing and Environmental Optics (which is now called the Institute for Computational Earth System Science). From 1993-2002, he served as lead PI of the Long Term Ecological Research station at Palmer, Antarctica, and continues on the coordinating committee of that LTER. Dr. Smith has authored and co-authored over 150 articles of the highest quality, that have had major impacts on optical oceanography, marine ecology, and marine geography. For example, Dr. Smith's research has contributed much to our understanding of how the ozone hole over Antarctica has severely impacted marine ecosystems, from primary production, all the way up the food chain to marine mammals and birds. (Thanks to Dawn Wright for this bio.)

The deadline for nominations for the 2007 Russell Award is 14 February 2006. This specialty group award is presented in recognition of an individual's major contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography. These contributions may be in research, teaching, public service, and/or service to the specialty group. Nomination are accepted from CoMa members, but nominees do not have to be members of either the specialty group or the AAG. Two nominations are required for consideration for the Award. At least one of the nominations must include a complete letter of nomination which will include one paragraph describing the nominee's contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography and/or to the specialty group and a list of the nominee's relevant publications. Nominations for the R.J. Russell Award should be directed to the Vice-Chair, Steve Namikas (snamik1@lsu.edu). Nominations should be made at least 2 weeks prior to the annual AAG meeting. An example letter of nomination can be found on the CoMa web site at http://www.homestead.com/aag_coma/files/russell_nom.html. Details of past winners are also on the CoMa web site.

Other news

We agreed at the Denver specialty group meeting that the Board of Directors would develop a set of guidelines for judging the student paper competition and that this will be announced in the (next) newsletter and made available on the CoMa website for future participants. Anyone who would like to comment on these guidelines, please email me at d.horn@bbk.ac.uk.

The AAG is interested in and actively seeking input and ideas regarding ways to increase diversity in geography departments, and also how to increase public outreach. This led to a lively discussion at the specialty group meeting,

where many related issues were also discussed. Paul Gares noted that the ability of NOAA to collect aerial photography had been substantively curtailed by lobbying groups acting on behalf of the private sector. After much discussion of the potential implications of this action, Paul Gares and I agreed to contact appropriate AAG officials regarding the situation and determine whether lobbying would be appropriate. If any of you would like to comment on this issue, please send your comments to me or Paul (garesp@mail.ecu.edu). In addition, Jean Ellis volunteered to work on outreach from the specialty group to non-geography organisations, with help from Jennifer Rahn and Lindsey Kraatz. Please email them with any comments or suggestions (jean@geog.tamu.edu, Jennifer_Rahn@baylor.edu, lmk6824@uncw.edu).

Start thinking about those abstracts for Chicago!

Diane Horn, Chair (d.horn@bbk.ac.uk)

Profile – New CoMa Officer

Jeff Ueland

Jeff Ueland received his B.A. and M.A in geography from the University of North Dakota in 1994 and 1995 respectively. He worked for five years in a GIS related capacity in Minneapolis before returning to graduate school and completing his Ph.D. at Florida State University in 2005. There he worked with Dr. Tony Stallins on modeling historical changes and potential future distributions of mangrove habitats in Florida. Jeff currently holds the position of assistant professor at Ohio University in Athens, OH. He teaches several courses on GIS and remote sensing techniques and a seminar on coastal and marine systems. Beyond mangrove issues, Jeff is currently involved in a research project that examine goliath grouper distribution, habitat and predation in Florida, another project that examines the impacts of recreational fishing on fish stocks in the United States, and has begun dabbling with AVHRR Pathfinder SST data.

News and Views from Members

Investigation of Surface Moisture Content on a Fine-Grained Barrier Beach

Steve Namikas, Yuanda Zhu, and Brandon Edwards of the H.J. Walker Geomorphological Research Laboratory at Louisiana State University have begun investigating the nature of beach surface moisture at Padre Island National Seashore, Texas. Beaches in this region consistently exhibit high levels of surface moisture, which may be acting as a key control to limit the supply of wind-blown sediment from the beach to the foredune. A pilot study conducted during July-August 2006 focused on mapping spatial patterns of surface moisture on the back beach, and documenting temporal changes in those patterns. Moisture contents were measured using two Delta-T probes, across a 60 x 20 m grid at 4-hour intervals for a two-week tidal cycle.

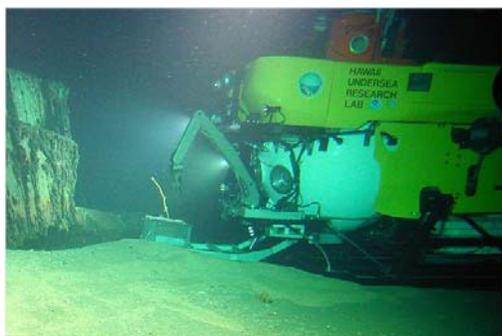


A variety of methods were used to examine processes that may be

influencing surface moisture content at this site. The native sediments are very fine (mean about 0.14 mm), and the water table is generally within about 0.5-1.0 m of the beach surface, so that capillary transport from the water table appears a likely contributor. Condensation resulting from radiative cooling of the surface sediment overnight is also a possible moisture source. Direct supply from precipitation may be a key source, but only trace amounts of precipitation occurred during the study period. Pressure-transducer equipped groundwater wells were used to monitor fluctuations in the water table elevation, and link these with tidal elevation. A profile of buried moisture probes extending from just below the surface to just above the water table was used to monitor subsurface moisture levels. Contributions from condensation were assessed using trays of sediment set into the beach but isolated from groundwater contributions. Evaporation was monitored both from these sediment trays and from a free water surface using a Zhu-type evaporimeter. Environmental variables that were monitored included sediment surface temperature, wind direction, and vertical profiles of wind speed, air temperature and humidity.

Steve Namikas
H.J. Walker Laboratory
Louisiana State University

This summer Dawn Wright of Oregon State University led a submersible dive expedition to endangered coral reefs in American Samoa, in collaboration with the American Samoa Dept. of Marine & Wildlife Resources and the NOAA Coral Reef Ecosystem Division.



Dives in the Pisces V submersible (University of Hawaii, Hawaii Undersea Research Lab) were made to the coral reef platform of Taema Bank, and the submerged caldera forming Fagatele Bay and Canyon. In addition, a night-time program of Sea Beam 210 bathymetric mapping was conducted along the north side of the island to fill in a data gap from previous multibeam surveys in that region. The overall objectives of the cruise were the characterization and ground-truthing of underwater features previously mapped in sonar, and for areas below the reach of SCUBA, the estimation of the amount of live bottom, the species identification of fish and invertebrates, and the assessment, where possible, of benthic change within the coral reefs encountered. These observations were made toward an ultimate goal of ground-truthing previous benthic terrain

maps (geo) made in the region, as well as informing the preparation of future benthic habitat maps (biogeo). Research questions guiding the objectives include: (a) What are the significant deep-water coral reef habitats, relative to the territory's coastal ecology and current initiatives for sanctuary management (i.e., areas of 20% or greater coral cover as mandated for protection)? (b) Where are these critical habitats located, and with what major species are they associated with? (c) Which habitats appear to be "biological hotspots" (e.g., areas of high biodiversity), and what are the implications for coral reef conservation and management? For example, which sites should be deemed of special biologic significance (such as a no take zone within a pilot marine protected area)?

Dives were extremely successful with the identification at both sites of 32 species of invertebrates and 91 species of fish, at least 9 of which are "new records" for American Samoa. The base of extensive live bottom for Taema Bank (coral cover of 20% and greater) was identified at a depth of 36 m. Alternating sections of carbonate reef and basalt were observed at ~185-220 m depth along the west walls of Fagatele Canyon, and large, grooved mass-wasting scarps were noted at ~300-400 m depth near the base of the south central wall of Taema Bank. No evidence of eutrophication or slurry from Pago Pago harbor was seen on the south side of Taema Bank. Sea Beam mapping on the north flank of Tutuila revealed 3 new cones that will eventually be added to the Scripps Biogeosciences Seamount Catalog (EarthRef.org).



Subsequent benthic habitat maps that may be created with the aid of these data should be of great use for ongoing studies by the American Samoa Government's Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (FBNMS), the American Samoa Coastal Management Program, and the National Park of American Samoa (NPAS); including the selection of sites for habitat class designation and protection (e.g., no-take marine protected areas, a major American Samoa initiative), development of marine park monitoring protocols, and general understanding of species composition and abundance. In addition, we were pleased to have 2 local secondary school teachers join the cruise as observers. These teachers were recently involved in a marine science workshops co-funded by the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group, and will be using selected videos, photos from the cruise, and perhaps some of the GIS data sets, directly in their classrooms.

By Dawn Wright

Please send announcements, updates, reports from the field, job listings, or anything else that might be of interest to the Editor (ueland@ohio.edu). No need to wait, I'll file things for the January/February 2006 issue.

New Books and Articles

Books

Just published this month by Oregon State University Press, Wright, D.J. and Scholz, A.J. "Place Matters: Geospatial Tools for Marine Science, Conservation, and Management in the Pacific Northwest"

"Place Matters" explores how marine GIS is contributing to the understanding, management, and conservation of coastal and marine regions. There is a focus on Pacific Northwest and the Channel Islands of Central California, which are becoming a hotbed of marine GIS development and applications for a variety of ocean science, policy, and management issues. Chapters show how researchers, conservation organizations and even citizens' groups are using GIS to handle and exploit present and future data streams from observatories, experiments, numerical models, simulations, and other sources, yielding fresh insights into oceanographic, ecological, and socioeconomic conditions of the marine environment.

The book begins with a conceptual framework, laying out selected methods and models for conservation-based marine GIS. Chapters in the second section describe working examples of marine GIS tools and large-scale implementations. The final section focuses on the use of GIS by environmental advocacy and local citizens' organizations. A companion Web site at <http://www.ecotrust.org/placematters/> includes GIS maps and databases, as well as extensive Web-based resources.

The book should be useful as research monograph or an alternate text for a coastal and marine geography course or a GIS course. Available for \$29.95 from OSU Press (<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/press/o-p/PlaceMatters.html>) or Amazon

Geomorphology for Engineers by P. G. Fookes (Editor), et al (Hardcover - August 30, 2005) is another new book which has just been published which contains several chapter of interest on coastal and marine issues is Available on Amazon for \$249.95

Articles

Goman M., (2005) The Development and application of a Statistical Calibration Model of Marsh Sediment Characteristics to the Stratigraphic Record, *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, 75, 3, 398-408.

Goman, M., A. Joyce, and R. Mueller (2005) Stratigraphic Evidence for Anthropogenically Induced Coastal Environmental Change from Oaxaca, Mexico. *Quaternary Research*, 63, 3, 250-260.

Employment Opportunities

Program Coordinator - Distance Education and Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

The Department of Geosciences and the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (COAS) invite applications for a full-time, 12-month, fixed term, non-tenure-track Program Coordinator. Applicants must have an M.S. (Ph.D. preferred) in physical geography, geology, marine science or a closely related field, with demonstrated experience in the development and delivery of distance education courses. A demonstrable commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity is preferred. We seek an outstanding teacher and scholar who will develop, deliver and coordinate our distance education courses through Extended Campus and will support our research and outreach in the areas of geohazards, GIS, oceanography and atmospheric science. This individual will also coordinate and supervise a joint COAS-Geosciences REU program, and develop new REU programs integrated with other OSU units. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to participate in externally-funded research programs in geosciences, that complement the existing areas of expertise in the Department of Geosciences and COAS. Reappointment is at the discretion of the department Chair. For more information on the Department of Geosciences and COAS see <http://www.geo.oregonstate.edu/research/depresearch.htm> and <http://www.coas.oregonstate.edu>. OSU is an AA/EOE. For full consideration, apply by November 1, 2005. Submit a letter of application describing your research interests, teaching experience, qualifications for this position, CV, and the names of three references (with contact information) to Dr. Roger Nielsen, Chair, Search Committee, Dept. of Geosciences, 104 Wilkinson Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-5506. Fax: 541-737-1200, Voice: 541-737-1235.

E-mail: petersom@geo.oregonstate.edu.

The Marine Institute in Ireland is looking for someone to work with assist in implementing the ArcMarine data model and developing associated tools. This information along with Guidelines for Applicants and the official Application Form will be on our website from Monday 26th Sept here: <http://www.marine.ie/funding/marine+institute+funding/marine+rtdi+fund/index.htm> Since the purpose of the funding is to develop Irish skills in specific areas, approaches such as collaboration with an Irish university or research centre would likely be more successful. The deadline for applicants will be November 17th.

For additional information contact
Martina Hennessy
Martina.Hennessy@marine.ie

Texas A&M University. The Department of Geography (<http://geog.tamu.edu>) invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position specializing in Human-Environment Relations to begin in January or September 2006. appointment at a senior level is possible for an outstanding candidate. We seek a scholar with research interests in political ecology, environmental decision-making, environmental governance, or human dimensions of environmental change in urban or rural contexts. This position is one of six faculty hires in a College of Geosciences' environmental program initiative. The successful candidate will collaborate with faculty in the strong and growing programs in land use and land cover change, political ecology, biogeography, geomorphology, and water resources. Outstanding opportunities exist for collaboration with other departments, research units, and interdisciplinary initiatives within the College of Geosciences (e.g., the departments of Atmospheric Sciences, Oceanography, and Geology and Geophysics, the Sustainable Coastal Margins Program, <http://geosciences.tamu.edu>), and the University (e.g., the Departments of Sociology and Forest Science, and the George Bush School of Government and Public Service). The successful applicant must have a strong commitment to quality teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels and demonstrate the potential to initiate and maintain a vigorous externally funded research program. The Ph.D. is required at time of appointment. Candidates should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and names and addresses (including e-mail addresses) of three referees to the address below. SEP 05-185. Apply: Professor Andrew Millington, Search Committee Chair. Review of applications will begin on October 17,

2005, and will continue until the position is filled. Texas A&M University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The University is dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic community committed to teaching and working in a multicultural environment. We strongly encourage applications from women, underrepresented ethnic groups, and individuals with disabilities.

Postdoctoral Research Opportunity with the U.S. Geological Survey to Study Effects of Urban Growth and Climate Change on Societal Vulnerability to Multiple Hazards

The USGS Mendenhall Research Fellowship Program is seeking applicants for a postdoctoral position in research related to understanding societal vulnerability to natural hazards. Description of the opportunity and contact information for the Research Advisors can be found here: <http://geology.usgs.gov/postdoc/2007/opp/opp37.html>. Mendenhall Fellows are appointed to the USGS for two years and receive full salary and benefits at the GS-12 level. Appointments are to begin between October 2006 and March 2007. The application deadline is 1 December 2005. The U.S. Federal Government gives strong priority to U.S. citizens and nationals, but for two-year excepted service positions, non-citizens may be considered under certain circumstances. For additional information on the Mendenhall Fellowship Program, application process, necessary qualifications, and detailed descriptions for the 38 other research opportunities go to <http://geology.usgs.gov/postdoc/2007/research.html>

Proposed Duty Station: Menlo Park, CA or Vancouver, WA

Areas of Ph.D.: Geography, environmental science, environmental policy, or economics

Qualifications: Applicants must meet one of the following qualifications: [Research Geographer](#), [Research Physical Scientist](#), [Economist](#) (This type of research is performed by those who have backgrounds for the occupations stated above. However, other titles may be applicable depending on the applicant's background, education, and research proposal. The final classification of the position will be made by the Personnel specialist.)

Research Advisor(s): Leonard J. Gaydos, (650) 329-4330, lgaydos@usgs.gov; Nathan Wood, (360) 993-8951, nwood@usgs.gov

Personnel Office contact: Marie Guillory, (650) 329-4112, guillory@usgs.gov

FLORIDA, TAMPA 33620-5250. University of South Florida. The Department of Geography invites applications for two full-time positions:

Position 1: Tenure-track position at the **Assistant Professor** level beginning August 2006. We are seeking an individual with research and teaching interests in applications of **Remote Sensing**. Responsibilities include teaching at all levels of the undergraduate program and full participation in the Masters' program in Geography, the GIS Certificate Program, and the new interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Geography and Environmental Science and Policy. Salary is negotiable. Minimum requirements are a Ph.D. in geography or a related discipline by time of appointment and a demonstrated research record. Preferred requirements include college level teaching experience; an active research agenda leading to refereed publications and external grant funding; and a commitment to university and community service. Applicants should submit by December 31, 2005: a letter describing interests and possible contributions to our program; a curriculum vitae; the names, addresses, e-mail, and telephone numbers of at least three referees; and evidence of scholarly work completed or in progress. Apply: Dr. Jayajit Chakraborty, Search Committee Chair, 4202 East Fowler Ave, NES 107, Tampa, FL 33620. Ph: 813-974-8188; Email: jchakrab@cas.usf.edu.

Position 2: Twelve-month position at the **Instructor** level beginning August 2006. We are seeking an individual with teaching interests in general, technical, and applied **GIS**. Responsibilities include teaching GIS courses at the senior undergraduate and graduate levels, and assisting in the development and management of the GIS Certificate Program. Salary is negotiable. Minimum requirements are a Ph.D. in geography or a related discipline by time of appointment and a demonstrated teaching record in GIS. Preferred requirements include primary instructor responsibility for college-level, or equivalent professional-level, GIS courses, and a commitment to departmental service. Applicants should submit by January 13, 2006: a letter describing their teaching interests and possible contributions to our program; a curriculum vitae; the names, addresses, email, and telephone numbers of three referees; and evidence of teaching excellence. Apply: Dr. Steven Reader, Search Committee Chair, 4202 East Fowler Ave, NES 107, Tampa, FL 33620. Ph: 813-974-4943; Email: sreader@cas.usf.edu.

Call For Papers, Sponsored Sessions in Chicago

In general CoMa is happy to sponsor an organized or special session as long as the following apply:

1. At least one of the presenters is a member of CoMa.
2. At least two of the five papers in the session are related to a coastal or marine subject (e.g., a paper on 'Wetland Loss from Sea Level Rise in coastal Louisiana' would meet this requirement while a paper on 'Wetland loss from urban growth in Iowa' would not.)
3. Contact the current Chair (Diane Horn) to formally request sponsorship.

That's it! Be sure to inform the AAG that your session is sponsored when you submit your paper work for the session. If you are planning to present a paper at the 2006 AAG Annual Conference in Chicago on coastal or marine geography (human, physical, hazards, or techniques) please consider participating in a session sponsored or co-sponsored by the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (CoMa). To present in a CoMa session you must:

1. Register online at the AAG website.
2. Send a copy of your abstract and the PIN number assigned to your paper by the AAG to the session organizer.

Your materials (registration and abstracts) must be submitted to the AAG by **13 October 2005**. However, in order to allow time for organization it would be very helpful if you could send your abstract and PIN number to Diane Horn a week or so in advance.

Announced Sponsored Sessions for the 2006 AAG Meeting

Hurricane Sessions at the 2006 Chicago AAG Annual Meeting

Hurricane Katrina has caused the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The devastation caused by Katrina is a sobering reminder that hurricanes are a multi-faceted research problem that must be studied from a multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary perspective. Better understanding of the climate mechanisms controlling the frequency, intensity, and tracks of catastrophic hurricanes is needed to more accurately predict future changes in hurricane activity in the light of global warming. Questions concerning the return periods or landfall probabilities of hurricanes can be tackled by statistical modeling of hurricane activity in the historical record. Paleotempestology has emerged as a burgeoning young science that can produce proxy records of past hurricane landfalls spanning hundreds to thousands of years. In addition to sedimentary proxies from coastal lakes and marshes, new isotopic techniques based on tree rings and corals offer promise of detecting past hurricane activities at sub-decadal to annual resolution. The impacts of hurricanes and their associated storm surges on coastal ecosystems as well as coastal landforms offer many research opportunities for biogeographers and coastal geomorphologists. The chaos and tragedy that have unfolded in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina also highlight the societal dimension of hurricanes. What are the long-term and short-term socio-economic impacts of major hurricanes like Ivan and Katrina on coastal communities? What are the factors affecting people's decision to evacuate or to stay in the face of an impending hurricane strike? Questions like these await more research by hazard researchers and human geographers.

Since 1997 I have been organizing paper sessions on Hurricanes at the AAG meeting every year. I will organize Hurricanes sessions again in the 102nd AAG meeting, to be held in Chicago, March 7-11, 2006. Papers may deal with all aspects of hurricanes and typhoons. Presentations pertaining to Hurricane Katrina are especially welcomed. I anticipate that some of these sessions will be sponsored by the Climate, Biogeography, Hazards, and Coastal and Marine specialty groups as appropriate.

If you are interested in presenting a paper in a Hurricane session, please let me know (kliu1@lsu.edu) by October 10. For information on online registration and abstract submission, please go to the AAG website: <http://www.aag.org>. I would need your abstract and your presenter identification number (PIN) by October 10 in order to put together the sessions.

Kam-biu Liu
James J. Parsons Professor of Geography
Department of Geography and Anthropology
Louisiana State University

Remote Sensing and GIS For Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystem Analysis

Special Paper Session for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), 7-11 March 2006, Chicago, IL

Organizers: Drs. Xiaojun Yang (Florida State University) and Luoheng Han (University of Alabama)

Estuaries, the transitional zones where salt water from the sea mixes with fresh water flowing from the land, belong to the most dynamic ecosystems on Earth. On the other hand, estuaries are the foci of human settlement, industry, and tourism. Coastal human population growth accompanied by agricultural, industrial, and urban development has led to an unparalleled acceleration of contaminant and nutrient inputs into coastal estuaries and their watersheds, thus exacerbating environmental stress and degradation of estuarine ecosystems. Therefore, there is a strong need to find efficient ways to manage and protect these highly dynamic ecosystems.

Aspects considered will include (but not limited to):

- * Characterization, analysis, and modeling of changing estuarine landscape structure and patterns;
- * Coastal wetland mapping and change detection;
- * Pollutant load modeling and prediction at coastal watershed level;
- * Remote sensing of coastal water bio-optical properties (chlorophyll, turbidity, TSS and others);
- * Mapping of seagrass, littoral aquatic vegetation, and benthic habitats; and
- * Linking conditions in upstream watersheds to downstream estuaries for integrated assessment of the estuarine ecosystems.

Abstract submission details are available in recent issues of the AAG newsletter and at the AAG website (<http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/Chicago2006/abstract.cfm>). Please note that the AAG is now using online submission of abstracts and registration materials (check AAG's webpage for details). Whenever possible, please go through the online submission, and then send us an email containing: (1) Your name, presentation title, and abstract; and (2) The "Participant Number" assigned to you by the online registration system. AAG Deadline for paper abstracts is 13 October 2005. Our deadline for receiving all application materials from presenters is 12 October 2005.

Please contact us with questions or for further details.

Dr. Xiaojun Yang
850-644-8379 (phone)
xyang@fsu.edu (email)

Critical Coasts, Sustainable Oceans: A Session to Honor Dr. Raymond C. Smith

Co-sponsored by the Coastal and Marine (CoMa), Remote Sensing, GI Systems and Science, and Cryosphere Specialty Groups

DESCRIPTION:

Dr. Raymond C. Smith, professor emeritus of geography at UCSB, will be the 2006 recipient of the CoMa Specialty Group's R.J. Russell Award for outstanding contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography. He has made huge contributions in the fields of marine bio-optics, satellite oceanography, marine ecology, is former director of the Palmer LTER in Antarctica, and as chair of UCSB Geography from 1988 to 1991 oversaw the establishment of the first focal area in marine geography (in terms of faculty hires, coursework, and research programs) within a

geography department in the U.S. To honor Dr. Smith's contributions (and to celebrate marine geography in general), a broad array of papers is invited by researchers, faculty members, ****and**** graduate students in the fields of:

- 1) ocean/coastal remote sensing, particularly ocean color remote sensing; bio-optical profiling; sensor development for satellites, ships, or deployed instruments; tools to deliver remotely sensed imagery and derived products
- 2) ocean/coastal GIS, including ocean informatics or distributed GIS, marine data modeling and visualization
- 3) ocean conservation, including marine mammal tracking, marine resource management, marine protected area designation, public education
- 4) polar studies, including seasonal atmosphere-ice-ocean interactions, Antarctic or Arctic biogeography or climatology
- 5) other related topics in earth system science or long-term ecological research as it applies to the oceans

Depending on the response, an additional Interactive Short Paper (ISP) Session will be organized, consisting of several 5-minute paper presentations (which may be especially enjoyable for the students).

SESSION ORGANIZER:

Dawn Wright, Oregon State University

DEADLINES:

September 30, 2005: Submit a title and draft abstract to Dawn Wright at dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu as an expression of your interest in contributing to the session(s) and indication of your research topic, particularly by way of methodological and/or applied research perspective.

October 1, 2005: AAG registration. The AAG on-line abstract submission system is available at www.aag.org. All participants must register individually via this site. Upon registration you will be given a participant identification number (PIN). Send this PIN and a copy of your final abstract to Dawn. Abstracts will not be edited by Dawn or the AAG, so please make sure it is grammatically correct without typos.

October 10, 2005: Session submitted to the AAG for approval.

Paul Gares and Jean Ellis are organizing sessions on aeolian processes and dune systems. They would encourage anyone interested in participating in these sessions to contact Paul Gares. They would like to encourage as much participation as possible. As of now, they might have enough interest for at least two sessions and perhaps a third. These sessions will be co-sponsored by the geomorphology specialty group.

For more information contact Paul Gares: garesp@MAIL.ECU.EDU

I am a board member of the Society for Conservation Biology's Social Science Working Group. One of the roles of the Group is to link to the various social sciences. I am designated to reach out to geographers.

I hope to provide a forum at the Chicago AAG meeting to help build these linkages. I've invited Dr. Michael Mascia, Senior Program Officer with the World Wildlife Fund and currently president of our SCB Social Science Working Group, to kick off a panel discussion on how geography as a social science can help resolve biodiversity and endangered species issues around the globe. If you can think of leaders within your specialty group who might like to participate in this panel, please let me know.

William Forbes, Ph.D.

936-468-2373

forbesw@sfasu.edu

Call for Award Nominations: The R. J. Russell Award

Nominations for the 2007 R.J. Russell Award should be directed to the Vice-Chair (Steve Namik). This specialty group award is presented in recognition of an individual's major contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography. These contributions may be in research, teaching, public service, and/or to the specialty group. Previous awardees include Jess Walker (1991), Fillmore Earney (1992), Norbert Psuty (1993), Karl Nordstrom (1996), Doug Sherman (1997), Bernard Bauer (1999), Robin Davidson-Arnott (2000), Patrick Hesp (2001), Andrew Short (2003), Alan Trenhaile (2005) and Raymond Smith (2006). The R.J. Russell Award is named in honor of Richard Joel Russell (1895-1971). He founded the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University in 1928, acted as its first Chair, and served as Dean of the Graduate School 12 years. Dr. Russell was an organizer of the Coastal Studies Institute (1954), president of both the Association of American Geographers (1948) and Geological Society of America (1957), and was named to the National Academy of Sciences (1959).

Nominations for the 2007 award should be made February 14, 2006. Nominations are only accepted from CoMa members, but nominees do not have to be members of either the specialty group or the AAG. Two letters of nomination are required for consideration for the Award. At least one of these must include one paragraph describing contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography and/or to the special interest group, and a list of the nominee's relevant publications.

Upcoming Conferences

Coast to Coast 2006: Australia's National Coastal Conference. May 22-25, 2006 Melbourne, Australia.
More Info: <http://www.iceaustralia.com/coasttocoast2006/>

Coastal Environments 2006: June 5-7, 2006 Rhodes, Greece.
More Info: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2006/coast06/index.html>

Coastal Zone Canada 2006 Conference: August 14-18, 2006 Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories.
More Info: <http://www.czc06.ca/e/home.html>

CoastGIS 2006 - 7th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management: July 13-17 Wollongong and Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.
More Info: <http://www.uow.edu.au/science/eesc/conferences/coastgis06.html>

30th International Conference on Coastal Engineering: September 3-8, 2006 San Diego, California.
More Info: <http://www.icce2006.com/>

Littoral 2006 - Coastal Innovations and Initiatives: September 18-20, 2006 Gdansk, Poland.
More Info: <http://www.littoral2006.gda.pl/index.html>

Marine Waste Water Discharges and Coastal Environment: September 25-30, 2006 Santander, Spain.
More Info: <http://www.mwwd.org/>

If you know of any related conferences coming up in 2006 or if you have announcements or newsworthy items concerning you, your department, or agency, please take a moment to send them to the newsletter editor. Thanks!

Call for Student Papers/Illustrated Papers

Eligibility: Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students may compete for the **Student Paper Merit Award** or **Student Illustrated Paper Award** if they (1) are the first or sole author of an oral paper concerning

coastal or marine geography which they will be presenting at the 2007 annual AAG meeting, (2) are a member of the AAG and of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group, and (3) have submitted to the session organizer the completed application form and accompanying materials, to be received by October 13, 2006 (oral papers or illustrated papers). Poster presentations are not eligible. Papers are judged both on content and on the quality of the presentation. The award consists of a \$100.00 grant to be used to defray AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership dues and travel expenses to the annual meeting as well as an award certificate.

Instructions: Follow the program participation guidelines outlined on the AAG website as an individual participating in a sponsored/special paper session. In addition, complete the application form (below) and send it with your abstract and PIN number to:

Diane Horn (d.horn@bbk.ac.uk).

2006 Student Paper/Illustrated Paper Award Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Are you a Ph.D., M.A./M.S., or undergraduate student? _____

Thesis/project advisor _____

Are you a member of the AAG? _____

Are you a member of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group? _____

Is your paper primarily focused on human/social or physical geography? _____

Minutes of the 2005 CoMa Business Meeting - Denver

Steve Namikas, Secretary-Treasurer

Diane Horn opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., Friday 8 April 2005, Adam's Mark Hotel, with 21 members present. Vice-chair Patrick Hesp was absent.

1. Adoption of Agenda.

Unanimously adopted.

2. Approval of the Minutes, 2004 Meeting

Minutes were circulated and unanimously approved.

3. Announcements

Doug Sherman announced the upcoming IGU-CCS coastal symposium in Brisbane, Australia, 2006, and invited the participation of CoMa members.

4. Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Steve Namikas presented the treasurer's report (see copy in 2004-05 CoMa annual report). The specialty group funds were in good shape with a (2004 year-end) balance of \$2451.42. Funding from SG dues for 2004 (\$615) was received from the AAG central office in January 2005. The increase in funds was primarily due to the receipt of dues payments from the AAG owed for calendar years 2003 and 2003. The report was unanimously approved.

5. Specialty Group Chairs Report

The AAG is interested in and actively seeking input and ideas regarding ways to increase diversity in geography departments.

The AAG is having problems scheduling the growing number of specialty group business meetings, and raised the notion of shifting some of the meetings to lunch or breakfast time periods.

The AAG has made a number of improvements to their website, notably the inclusion of a new discussion forum.

The AAG is encouraging expanded specialty group participation in regional AAG meetings.

6. R.J. Russell Award

Dr. Alan Trenhaile (University of Windsor, Canada) was announced as the 2005 R.J. Russell Award winner. Chair Horn read the following statement outlining Dr. Trenhaile's qualifications:

- Dr Alan Trenhaile completed his BSc in 1966 and PhD in 1969 at the University of Wales. He is a Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Alan has a very distinguished career in geomorphology and has published 5 books, 15 chapters and articles in books, 45 (and climbing) refereed articles, and was the series editor for a four book series produced by the IAG. He has written papers and books on topics such as the geomorphology of Canada, ripple dynamics, valley steps in the Canadian Cordillera, and cirques and drumlins, and in 1997 produced an excellent text on coastal landforms and dynamics. Alan is renowned for his extensive and wide ranging research and publications on rock platform evolution, processes, dynamics and modeling. His contributions to coastal geomorphology in this area are outstanding, and some of his papers on rock platforms are exceptional, seminal papers on the topic. Dr Trenhaile presented a paper at the Denver AAG entitled *Erosional processes on sloping and horizontal shore platforms in eastern Canada*.

7. Student Paper Awards

The student paper competition was a highlight of this year's sessions, with 9 students presenting in two sessions. After much deliberation the judges selected Joanna Wolaver, University of Texas-Austin, as the winner for

her paper: [Competing for Water: Challenges and Strategies for Maintaining Freshwater Inflow into Texas Coastal Reserves](#).

Congratulations to all who participated, and we look forward to seeing many of the participants in next year's competition in Chicago.

8. Election of Officers

Patrick Hesp was not able to succeed Diane Horn as Chairman, due to conflicting obligations. Diane Horn agreed to remain as chair for an additional year to provide continuity, and this was unanimously approved by the membership. Steve Namikas was elected as vice-chairman, and will take over as chairman in 2006. Jeff Ueland, Ohio University, was elected secretary-treasurer. Rich Daniels was elected to the Board of Directors, and Dawn Wright was elected to a second term on the board.

9. Other Business

a. Discussion of Dues Changes

The membership discussed the possibility of raising the Specialty Group dues and decided that a change was not warranted at this time.

b. Coastal Slide CD #2

Michael Craghan reported that the response to calls for contributions to the second CD of coastal slides had been very limited. The suggestion was raised that we organize a session or panel at the 2006 meeting that would be based around viewing and selecting member slides for a CD. The suggestion was met with enthusiasm and Chair Horn agreed to organize such a session.

c. Student Award Judging

The criteria used for judging the student paper competition were discussed at some length. The Board of Directors agreed to develop a set of guidelines that would be announced in the newsletter and made available on the CoMa website for future participants.

d. R.J. Russell Award

No nominations for a 2006 R.J. Russell Award had been received by the official deadline. The membership agreed to extend the deadline to April 30th.

e. Non-CoMa coastal sessions

It was noted that once again several coastal sessions were organized by the AAG and competed with CoMa-sponsored events. Chair Horn agreed to email participants in those sessions to inform them about CoMa and invite them to participate in CoMa sessions at future meetings. The possibility of announcing the CoMa sessions on other coastal lists was discussed and Jean Ellis agreed to look into this action.

f. Restrictions on NOAA data collection

Paul Gares noted that the ability of NOAA to collect aerial photography had been substantively curtailed by lobbying groups acting on behalf of the private sector. After much discussion of potential implications of this action, Paul Gares and Diane Horn agreed to contact appropriate AAG officials regarding the situation and determine whether lobbying would be appropriate. Jean Ellis and Jennifer Rahn agreed to coordinate public outreach efforts on the issue.

10. Adjournment

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.