

**Association of American Geographers
Coastal and Marine (COMA) Geography Specialty Group
Annual Business Meeting
8:30 – 9:30 PM Saturday, 25 February
Liberty 5, Third Floor, Sheraton Hotel**

Chair: Thomas Allen, East Carolina University
Vice-Chair/Note taker: Karsten Shein, NOAA
20 members and officers were in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 8:37 PM

Tom Allen welcomed the attendees and made special recognition of international attendees, COMA's web editor Rich Daniels, COMA session organizers and student presenters, and the Psuty and Russell award committee members and paper session judges.

Minutes from Last Meeting:

The minutes from the last COMA business meeting held at the AAG Annual Meeting in Seattle were presented and were unanimously approved.

AAG Specialty Group Chairs meeting report:

Karsten Shein presented a brief summary of information from the AAG Specialty Group Chair's meeting. This included general meeting statistics:

- Approx.. 8600 registered attendees
- Approx. 6100 abstracts
- 1151 Specialty Group sponsored sessions
- Of these,
 - 23 were sponsored by COMA
 - 2 full Psuty Student Merit Award paper sessions
 - 1 Illustrated Paper award session
 - 1 AAG themed session
 - Multiple DEM and Hurricane co-sponsored sessions

In addition, the AAG will be working to promote its online interactive discussion forums and "Knowledge Communities". COMA has a discussion community on which members may post. Posts might include information about COMA, jobs, calls for papers, conference announcements, and sundry topics germane to COMA interests. Do check it out.

Lastly, the AAG is seeking to encourage specialty groups to participate and organize sessions in its regional association meetings. One suggestion was to have mini specialty group conferences in conjunction with the regional meetings, and have the specialty groups rotate through the different regional meetings each year. However, some SGs

noted that this might prove too costly, and many of the regional meetings are focused only on research taking place in that region.

Membership Statistics:

Currently, COMA membership stands at 222 members, of which 135 are student members and 87 are non-student members. Student members pay a \$1 annual membership fee, and non-students pay \$5 per year.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report:

Tom Crawford (interim Secretary-Treasurer) reported COMA accounts had a balance of \$3,980.25 as of 31 March 2011. Since then, member dues brought in \$488. Expenses included:

- Psuty Award: \$400
- Russell Award: \$265
- Student Illustrated paper award: \$100
- AAG Meeting registration for Davidson-Arnott: \$390
- Reimbursement to Rich Daniels (COMA Web Editor) for Web site registration: \$99.99
- MA Thesis Grant (Stotz): \$150

The COMA account balance as of 31 January 2012 was \$3,063

Student Paper Awards:

The COMA 2012 Illustrated Paper Student Merit Award was presented to Anna Davenport of the Dept. of Geography at San Francisco State University for her paper "Modeling Geomorphic Effects on Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) Distribution Before and After Restoration, Nisqually Delta, Washington"

The COMA 2012 Norb Psuty Student Paper Merit Award was not held prior to the COMA Business meeting. However, at the conclusion of the two paper sessions, the following awards were given:

Best Human Dimensions paper: Nathan Kettle, University of South Carolina for his paper: "The influence of perceived risk, uncertainty, and trust on coastal climate change adaptation planning"

Best Physical Processes paper (tie – 2 awards were given): Patrick Barrineau, University of South Carolina for his paper: "Sediment Transport and Wind Flow Around Hummocks"

Eugene J. Farrell, Texas A&M University for his paper: "Mass flux profiles of wind blown sand: a review of laboratory, field and numerical studies."

R.J. Russell Award:

The COMA 2012 R.J. Russell Award, presented in recognition of an individual's major contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography, was presented to Colin Woodroffe of the University of Wollongong, Australia. Dr. Woodroffe was not able to attend the meeting and his acceptance speech was read by Tom Allen. His award has been sent to him.

Nominations for the 2013 Russell Award were called for and closed at the end of the Business meeting. The Award Committee received one nomination for consideration. The award will be announced and presented at the 2013 AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles.

Nominations for the 2014 Russell Award are now open and will remain open until the close of the 2013 COMA Business meeting. Two letters in support of a nomination are required, and an unsuccessful nomination will automatically carry forward to the next award year.

COMA Officer Elections:

The members in attendance elected Thomas Crawford (East Carolina University) as Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Crawford has been serving as Secretary-Treasurer on an interim basis for the past several years.

Two Board Officer positions (Keqi Zhang and Jean Ellis) were opened for election. Keqi Zhang was re-elected to his position. Jean Ellis declined to run again. Eugene Farrell (Texas A&M University) was elected to the Board.

The Student Board Member position was also opened for election. Three student members were nominated and Phillip Schmutz (Louisiana State U.) was elected.

The current COMA Officers are listed on the COMA Web Page:
http://aag_coma.homestead.com/files/officers1.html

COMA Communications:

COMA has a Facebook Page. Like COMA and share your posts.
We also have an AAG Knowledge Community (mentioned above).
COMA has a Website. It is housed at http://aag_coma.homestead.com. Our Webmaster recently procured an alternate URL that may be easier for some to remember:
<http://www.aagcoma.org>

Upcoming Stuff:

The 2013 AAG Annual Meeting will be in Los Angeles, CA from April 9-13, 2013. Another Coastal city, Los Angeles promises to be a great venue for Coastal and Marine Geography papers. Members, please start to think about organizing sessions that COMA can sponsor and encourage your colleagues and/or students to consider participating. Please also think about possible field trips that COMA might help to organize.

The COMA Spring Newsletter will be issued soon.

At the 2013 COMA Business Meeting, Karsten Shein will assume the Chair, and the following positions will be opened for election:

- Vice Chair (2-yr term)
- Board Member (2-yr term)
- Student Board Member (1-yr term)

If a member wishes to be considered for any open position, they may self-nominate by alerting the COMA officers of their intention to run. Nominations will close during the 2013 Business meeting.

COMA Board will draft a proposal for a Best Paper of the Year award. The award would be given to a published, peer-reviewed coastal or marine geography paper.

Other potential COMA activities being considered include ensuring an AAG highlighted COMA session each day of the Annual meeting, an honored international speaker, and increasing COMA participation in regional AAG meetings.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to COMA members:

The Coastal Society meeting, Miami, FL 3-6 June, 2012

(<http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs23/index.html>)

50th Estuarine Coastal Sciences Association conference, Venice, Italy 3-7 June, 2012

(<http://www.estuarinecoastalconference.com/index.html>)

12th International Coral Reef Symposium, Cairns, Australia 9-13 July, 2012

(<http://www.icrs2012.com>)

32nd International Geographical Congress, Cologne, Germany 26-30 August, 2012

(<https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php>)

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation meeting, Mar del Plata, Argentina 11-14

November, 2012 (<http://www.erf.org/cerf2012argentina>)

New Business:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 PM