

COMA Business Meeting Minutes 2013

Friday, April 12, 8:30pm

Revised 6/12/2013

1. Welcome and social by Tom Allen
2. Specialty Group Chairs' meeting report

AAG encourages the promotion of special sessions and cross-session thematic activities, including distinguished speakers. COMA will seek to encourage this for Tampa mtg, as it has over the last few recent meetings with topical and renowned scholars. Newly elected board members agreed to attempt to identify some speakers that also attract COMA and other group members (e.g., Hazards, Climate, Human Dimensions, as well as Geomorphology Specialty Group.)

COMA membership and meeting stats were reported after reviewing and introducing the current elected officers and Board. Membership is approx. 225 registered by AAG, and the balance is nearly 50/50 faculty and student/professional.

Karsten Shein (Vice-Chair) was unable to travel per federal sequestration, and also is unable to assume the duties of Chair at the end of his VC term.

This meeting has 21 organized sponsored/co-sponsored sessions and approx. 111 presentations (about the same as recent years.)

AAG COMA FaceBook page was near 100 friends.

3. Secretary-Treasurer's report

A detailed treasury report was not available, although the COMA SG balance going into this meeting was approximately the same as recent years (\$3,000), only a few \$200-300 lower as a result of having a few dual Psuty track awards the last two years (Human and Physical, \$200 student awards each) and the continuation of the Illustrated Paper Award (\$100 award.) Dues remain \$5 regular and \$1 student, and brief discussion did not elicit any recommendations to change. Charges for our web page (www.aagcoma.org) remain at \$99.99 per year.

4. Psuty Student Merit Award and Illustrated Paper Award announcement

Karsten Shein organized the Psuty student presentations in the early Examining the Social Coast COMA sponsored session. Two presenters were judged (Brian Marks and Keqi Zhang) with Andrew Bennett (ECU PhD candidate in Coastal Resources Mgt) being selected among the fine papers as the Psuty Award winner, for his paper "Barrier Beach Driving Forces." Bennett will receive a \$200 check from COMA toward his AAG costs.

Jennifer Rahn organized a well-attended COMA-sponsored Illustrated Paper session, with 6 competing presentations (also 3 undergraduates presented in this session.) Although the quality was excellent among all presentations, the winner was Ms. Katharine Currier (masters student, UCSB) for her innovative presentation "Mapping with Strings Attached" on kite aerial

photography in Dura Island, Indonesia. Currier was presented a \$100 award check for her AAG costs.

5. Russell Award presentation

Dr. Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist at ESRI and long-time Oregon State faculty, was awarded COMA's prestigious R.J. Russell Award with plaque at the business meeting. Dawn was commended for her long involvement in COMA and AAG, service and leadership in national and international marine geography and GIScience, 2007 Carnegie Professor of the Year award, her Leopold Institute Fellowship, and her continuing contributions to the field.

- Nominations close this business mtg for 2013-14, although the outgoing vice-chair reports not having received a nomination. A call for nominations/continued open solicitation will be sent by the current board and new vice-chair.

6. Election of board and officer vacancies

Four elected positions became vacant at this meeting. Tom Allen's term as Chair ended, and Karsten Shein's Vice-chair term ended (as well as his sequestration for travel, negating his ability to serve as chair in the immediate future.) In addition, we have regular vacancy for a board member (Harry Williams' 2yr term ending and the PhD student board member, Phil Schmutz' term ending.)

The election results included unanimous votes for the following:

- Tom Allen re-elected Chair for one year appointment (subject to the board's appointment). Hence, the Chair will be open again next business mtg.
- Harry Williams (U. North Texas) was elected Vice-Chair
- Brian Marks (LSU beginning summer) was elected a regular Board member.
- Kate Renken (LSU) was elected PhD student representative for the year

The board and membership will need to consider the V-C and Chair positions for next meeting (e.g., for the new V-C to move up to Chair by ascension, or to elect/appoint a new chair for another year.) For the benefit of continuity and various procedures, Tom and Harry have agreed to transition this year.

Next year's business meeting will require election of 2 board vacancies (for Zhang and Ferrell) and 1 student board member.

7. Proposed Paper of the Year Award

The proposed Paper of the Year Award elicited strong discussion and general approval. Before voting on its adoption and implementation, members asked the board to reevaluate two aspects: 1) the name of the award (preference for a recent or long-standing influential COMA member, perhaps, vs. a truly historical figure) and 2) more careful consideration of the timing of the proposing, awarding, and session coordination (so as to allow for planning a keynote talk and arranging AAG schedule to maximize this accessibility and attendance.) The board should take this up and may propose a vote of members (e.g., electronically) or at least a revision for consideration by next business meeting.

8. Announcements

- Physical Geography Reception

COMA has been asked to consider contribution to a reinstated Physical Geography Reception at the AAG meeting next year. Members discussed the general positive aspects of this but concerns for 1) inclusivity, not promoting physical over human and 2) minimizing or pro rating the contribution on a proportional basis to COMA member attendance or size of our relatively small specialty group. The chair will confer with the other specialty groups and board as this develops. In addition, Brian Marks offered to elicit collaboration opportunities for human-coastal interests in any possible, parallel reception/s. This also opened up discussion about seeking to encourage broader participation in the business meeting.

- Field trip(s) at Tampa mtg.-

A productive discussion about informal specialty group vs. formal AAG field trips resulted in appointing a task force to look into promoting any and all options for coastal-marine field trips at the Tampa mtg (Christy Swann and Jennifer Rahn agreed to investigate with the goal of a field trip of some kind, AAG sanctioned or otherwise.) They may be seeking members and locals who can assist the design or speaking to topics (Houser, Mossa, Tobin or other USF faculty etc. were noted.)

- Other Tampa-related notes

With smaller participation in this year's Psuty award papers, next year members are asked to encourage more student participation.

- *Physical Geography*

Paul Gares announced that Routledge may become the new publisher of the journal *Physical Geography*, which could enhance online, library outlets, and citations for the journal. Coastal-marine related reviews and articles are encouraged. There was interest in promoting a special issue on the AAG conference location, so possibly members working in Florida should contact Paul or the PhysGeo editorial staff.

- Christy Swann, a doctoral student at Texas A&M and speaker in Aeolian sessions, was announced as the winner of the Geomorphology Specialty Group's student paper award.

Adjourned approx. 9:30pm