

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

COASTAL LETTERS

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Inch: Just Another Spit?

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Comments from the Co-Editor

by Doug Sherman

Bernie Bauer and I have co-edited *Coastal Letters* since 1988, and this edition is the last in this series. The Newsletter has been 85% complete since last August, but we have had a difficult time finishing it. I would like to say that it has been because of sentimental reasons, but really it is representative of why we are passing the privilege along: the thrill is gone (and we have both gotten our promotions). Six years is a long time, and most of our running jokes are getting weary.

The purpose of *Coastal Letters* is to serve as a node for information concerning our specialty group. It is where we report our individual activities and those of our group. It is where we record our business as conducted at the annual meetings. It is where we collect information about forthcoming meetings. It is where we recognize the progress and achievements of our colleagues and peers.

It has been an honor to have been entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining this standard on behalf of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group. It has been fun collaborating with Bernie to get each number out the door. It has been rewarding to receive the support of contributors (even Bastinado). But now Paul Gares will be forced to dig through his photo archives to try to find socially acceptable cover graphics.

Thanks to all of you who have helped us with the newsletter. We ask that you extend the same (or greater) level of support to the new guy: good luck Pablo.

And I think that Bauer buys the beer this year!

Musings from the Chair

"What Is Our Purpose?"

By Bernie Bauer

Several years ago when Doug Sherman was Chair of the Coastal and Marine Specialty

Group (CoMaSpeGro or CoMa or CMSP?) I engaged him in a conversation about the viability of our specialty group. I was somewhat distraught over the level of participation by the general membership, particularly with respect to the small number of submissions to *Coastal Letters* and the small number of "regulars" attending the annual business meeting. My suggestion to Doug was that he initiate a discussion at the next business meeting about the wisdom of disbanding the specialty group. He contemplated this suggestion for no more than 2 seconds and stated quite emphatically, "You can raise the issue if you want, but it ain't gonna happen while I'm Chair." I immediately appreciated the rationality of his response and have not raised the issue since, although I wonder about it from time to time. It is unlikely that the demise of our specialty group will occur before March, 1995, at which time my tenure as Chair expires, so I feel somewhat comfortable in raising this issue. I raise it not because I feel there is wisdom to disbanding the group, but as a vehicle to initiate discussion--there is wisdom in periodic introspection regarding the purpose of our specialty group. What is its purpose? Does it meet those objectives? If not, why not? If not, are the reasons terminal? Will a few cosmetic changes alter the situation, or are more drastic, fundamental changes required?

At present, the stated purpose of our group is "To encourage the intellectual exchange of knowledge related to coastal and marine environments and resources." This sounds impressive, but is this what we actually do? Is this what we should be doing? A quick survey of other specialty groups' statements shows that there is a lot of "promoting, furthering, encouraging, fostering, or advancing" of "knowledge, research, education, teaching, technology, and theory" going on. With all this promotion and furtherance, it is surprising that the state of geographic education in the US has been in such dire straits over the past two decades! Of all the statements, perhaps the only one that really comes close to approximating reality is the statement by the Water Resources specialty group, which reads, "To provide its

membership with services that enhance professional opportunities...and to announce events and discuss major developments..." I find this most interesting and encourage everyone to think about what our specialty group's raison d'être ought to be. If our purpose is truly as stated, then we should rethink our activities and direct them toward that end. This will require substantial effort from all of us, not just a chosen few. Alternatively, we might want to consider purposes that are more social and less missionary.

It occurs to me that our specialty group is very much a microcosm of the geographic discipline. There is a poorly defined core that serves as a broad umbrella under which we all gather, but there are significant centrifugal tendencies driven by sub-specialization. We are all interested in coasts, oceans, seas, or lakes, but we are also interested in beach erosion by waves, over-development of coastal margins, environmental degradation by oil spills or urban effluents, recreational opportunities, coastal hazards, economic value of ocean resources, legal frameworks dealing with marine systems, wetland environments, mapping and representation of maritime boundaries, and the list goes on. Perhaps it is not surprising that we have difficulty in finding common ground. On the other hand, if it is not possible to make a success out of our specialty group (an ostensibly desirable entity with voluntary membership), what are the implications for the discipline for which there is much more at stake?

My belief is that our specialty group is a viable and, indeed, useful entity. We need to devote a little thought toward defining our goals and a little effort toward achieving them. But, I think we can make it work and I am more optimistic now than in the past. My mistake several years ago was to associate levels of "participation" with expressions of "interest, value, and satisfaction." Although these are clearly related, there is not necessarily a direct correlation. This revelation comes through conversations with other specialty group chairs and through participation in other specialty groups. Business meetings seem to be

universally poorly attended, probably because they are usually boring. In addition, those individuals that regularly attend, inevitably get saddled with work. This is not necessarily bad. Yes, there is work to be done. But, there can be honor and reward in service. The honor and reward, however, only accrue if the organization is legitimate and if the appointments to service come with the support and appreciation of the membership.

Next time, some musings on bylaws as a sound foundation upon which to build.

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Association of American Geographers

March 30, 1994

The Coastal and Marine Specialty Group met for a business meeting at the annual conference of the Association of American Geographers on March 30, 1994. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Bernie Bauer at 5:20 pm. At least 24 members of the Specialty Group were in attendance at one time, although there was considerable flux.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous business meeting held in Atlanta on April 7, 1993 were printed in the Spring 1994 newsletter and were not re-read. Doug Sherman made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1993 COMAGS business meeting. The motion was seconded by Joann Mossa. The motion passed by acclamation.

Financial Report

Paul Gares submitted the Treasurer's report. Mr. Gares indicated that there was a total balance of \$1047 in the account at the end of March 1994. The AAG sent the reimbursement of specialty group dues for 1993 to Paul in April and June of 1993 in the amount of \$331 and for 1994 in March in the amount of \$353. Interest accrued during 1992-93 amounted to \$18.99.

Expenses were \$220.30 for the R.J. Russell award plaque, the student award, and newsletter publication costs.

Report from Chairs Meeting

Chair Bauer reported on items discussed at the Chairs meeting. One topic of discussion pertained to publicity as related to geographical events and issues. The question was whether persons requesting information about such events or issues should be referred to the Specialty Groups who would then identify individuals with the desired expertise, or whether the central office should maintain a list of people and their areas of expertise. The general feeling of the audience was that the central office should deal with this problem rather than the specialty groups.

Bauer announced that future AAG meetings would be scheduled for mid-March to avoid the conflicts with Easter and Passover that occurred in the past. The change has implications for the submission of abstracts. This year the abstract due date was moved up by two weeks to Sept. 1 to accommodate the earlier meeting date. Ron Abler suggested the possibility of moving the abstract deadline to late spring, right after the AAG meeting, because the early September deadline might conflict with starting dates for the semester. All chairs at the lunch argued against the spring deadline. Further, it was pointed out to Abler that other professional associations (GSA, AGU) are able to put on larger meetings with short time lags between the abstract deadline and the meeting. Abler agreed to study the procedures used by these organizations to see if the AAG might be able to do something similar.

Bauer also reported that the central office is aware of the scheduling conflicts that exist between sessions with comparable topics. They will try to accommodate requests from specialty groups that specific sessions not be scheduled concurrently. The AAG would also like to encourage increased participation of students in the meetings. They ask each specialty group to consider ways of improving the situation.

Other issues discussed by Bauer: the

inclusion of the field of geography in the National Security Education Program; the possibility of organizing special pre- or post-conference sessions; and placing specialty group announcements in the AAG Newsletter.

New Business

Sherman and Bauer announced that they were resigning as editors of Coastal Letters. They have been doing this job since 1988 and are burned out. Furthermore, there is the issue of cost, and the USC Department of Geography can no longer support the effort. No member volunteered to take over this difficult task. It was pointed out that the Secretary-Treasurer often publishes the newsletter in other specialty groups. Gares, as current Secretary-Treasurer, recognized the inevitable and agreed to take on the task of editing the newsletter. He did note that the ECU Geography Department would not support production costs and these would have to be factored into the COMAGS budget in the future.

Bauer turned the discussion to the issue of specialty group awards. With respect to the student awards, he reminded the audience that a committee had been formed at the 1993 business meeting to review the situation. He asked Joann Mossa to report on the findings of the committee. Joann reviewed the results of the questionnaire that she sent out after the 1993 meeting that was designed to solicit peoples' opinions of the number of awards we should sponsor, who should be eligible for the awards, what the criteria are for the selection of the winner. Mossa indicated that the results of the survey and the proposed guidelines for the awards were published in the spring issue of Coastal Letter. These came in the form of several recommendations and resolutions. Bauer called for a discussion which became very involved. At the conclusion of the discussion, several changes were made to the items listed in the last Newsletter regarding the student awards and the R.J. Russell award. A summary of the new rules and guidelines appears in another article in this Newsletter.

The most controversial issues dealt with

the potential pool of nominees for the RJ Russell award and with the name to be used for the Student award. Some members argued that only COMAGS members or AAG members should be eligible for the Russell award while others believed that all geographers should be included. Making all geographers eligible would allow us to select the awardees from a larger pool that was likely to be stronger and that this would make the award more prestigious. As for the name of the student award, some argued that we should retain the OAC Williams title, given its history and the absence of any objection from students polled by Mossa. Psuty, Earney and Allen objected, arguing that the award should be serious, particularly as future recipients may not appreciate the connection to Alan Williams. The result of the discussion was that the OAC Williams title was dropped from the award, but further discussion was deemed desirable to determine what, if any, name should be used.

Gares made a motion to accept the guidelines as listed in the spring 1993 Coastal Letters and amended with changes, this was seconded by Psuty. The motion passed 12-6.

Following the vote, Bauer requested nominations for the R.J. Russell award committee for 1994-95. The following members accepted appointments to the committee: Larry Handly, Jim Allen, Karl Nordstrom. The committee was charged by Bauer to select a chair, develop awards criteria, issue a call for nominations and establish a deadline for nominations.

In a separate issue, Bauer made a motion to change the term of appointment of the chair and vice-chair to 2 years in order to assure some continuity over time. The motion passed unanimously and both the existing chair and vice-chair will serve another year. Two positions on the Board of Directors were vacated this year. Nancy Jackson and Greg Stone were nominated to fill the positions. They were voted in by acclamation.

In Memorial

Bauer regretfully announced the deaths of three individuals who have had significant

impacts on coastal geography - Andre Guilcher, Bill Carter and Bill McIntire. He asked Doug Sherman, Norb Psuty, and Jess Walker to say a few words about these individuals. Slides were shown of these individuals on numerous field trips and the audience enjoyed the many memories of these friends. Bauer then asked for a moment of silence in honor of our departed colleagues.

Chair Bauer adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

News from the Vice-Chair

by Joann Mossa

The Coastal and Marine Specialty Group would like to thank all students who participated in the Student Awards Competition. We hope to see more of you in paper sessions and at the Specialty Group meetings. This year, two awards were given, one for the best paper in Physical Geography and the other for the best paper in Human Geography. Recipients and titles of the student awards for 1994 include:

Physical Geography: Christopher Meindl, Department of Geography, University of Florida, Title: "Tampa, Florida and the Storm of the Century"

Human Geography: Paul Box, Department of Geography, University of Florida, Title: "Computer Simulation and Recreational Boat Traffic Monitoring Strategies for Serosity Bay"

The Coastal and Marine Specialty Group acknowledges the assistance of several individuals who participated as judges of student papers during the San Francisco meetings. These individuals include Richard Daniels (Oak Ridge National Labs), Fillmore Earney (Northern Michigan U.), Paul Gares (East Carolina U.), Larry Handley (National Wetlands Laboratory, Slidell), Norbert Psuty (Rutgers U.), Dorothy Sack (Ohio University), and Tom Terich (Western Washington U.). We sincerely appreciate their contributions and hope to get

more feedback from the membership regarding improvements to the awards process.

Because the level of student participation is not overwhelming, we have reverted to giving a single award for meritorious student paper beginning with the 1995 competition. In forthcoming years, we would like to continue to increase the level of student paper participation at the AAG. Please spread the word about the student paper competition to your students and colleagues. They can continue to get forms in past and current newsletters or directly from the Vice-Chair of the Specialty Group (currently Joann Mossa at the University of Florida).

News from Members

In 1990 Australia's National Greenhouse Advisory Committee provided funding for a project titled *Evaluation of Impacts of Climate and Sea Level Change on Coastal Environment Conditions* proposed by a network of universities in eastern Australia with Bruce Thom (formerly University of Sydney and now Vice-Chancellor, University of New England, Armidale, NSW) as project leader. Universities in the coastal network include James Cook University in Townsville, University of Sydney, University of Wollongong and University College, UNSW Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. The funding has primarily been used to provide scholarships and field support for six full time PhD students covering a range of coastal science projects. Scholarship recipients and topics include:

Marina Hunt (JCU) Effects of Sea Level changes on coral reefs: an experimental approach to coastal ecology.

Neil Holbrook (Sydney) Temperature variability in the Southwest Pacific Ocean 1955-88.

Paul Kench (ADFA) Atoll sediment transport dynamics and the implications of sea level rise.

Jacki de Kroon (Sydney) Potential effects of rising sea level on the ecology of rocky intertidal assemblages.

Scott Smithers (Wollongong) Microatolls as biophysical monitors of sea level.

Ian Turner (Sydney) Assessing the sensitivity of macro-tidal coasts to greenhouse climate change.

These projects are now at various stages of completion and most theses will be submitted during 1994. University geographers involved in the project include Roger McLean (ADFA), Andy Short (Sydney), Bruce Thom (UNE), and Colin Woodroffe (Wollongong).

Roger McLean
Department of Geography and Oceanography
Australian Defence Force Academy
Canberra 2600

Status Report on COMAGS Awards

In the last newsletter, abbreviated histories of the Richard J. Russell Award and the Student Paper Merit Awards were given. Despite extensive discussion at the Business Meeting in San Francisco, several issues about these awards remain unresolved. Below are descriptions of issues that have been agreed upon (through majority vote at the Business Meeting) and those that remain open for discussion (to be voted upon by ballot).

The Richard J. Russell Award

All prior rules and guidelines appearing in old issues of the Quarterly or Coastal Letters are superseded by those below.

The R.J. Russell Award is made in recognition of and to honor outstanding contributions to the field of coastal geography. This might include, but is not restricted to, recent research programs or publications of particular note and impact, lifetime achievement or dedication to coastal geography, noteworthy educational efforts either within coastal geography or by way of public service or public relations, longstanding and active service within the specialty group, or some combination thereof. Nominations should include these specifics, as should the citation during presentation of the award.

Nominations for the R.J. Russell Award will be accepted from any member of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group, including members on the Executive Board (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Directors). Nominations are to be communicated in writing to any member of the Executive Board who, in turn, should pass this information on to that year's Chair of the R.J. Russell Award Committee (see below). Nominations must be submitted by October 1, and need not require more than a name and short justification outlining the rationale for the nomination. In any year for which there are no nominees, no award will be given.

The Board of Directors of the specialty group is charged with administering the R.J. Russell Award. In particular, they will be required to:

- (a) select one of its members as Chair of the Russell Award Committee who will be charged with the responsibility to co-ordinate the effort and disseminate information to others on the Board. The selection of this person in position of responsibility should be made at the Business Meeting preceding the year for which the award is to be made;
- (b) solicit nominations for potential awardees from the general membership over the ensuing year;
- (c) select the meritorious awardee from the pool of nominees;
- (d) inform the Secretary-Treasurer of the outcome of the decision at least 4 months prior to the specialty group Business Meeting so that a plaque can be produced for presentation at the Annual Meeting;
- (e) inform the Chair of the specialty group, in writing, of the outcome of their deliberations, including appropriate justification for their decision, so that announcements can be forwarded to the Awards Banquet at the Annual Meetings and so that a historical record of the awards can be maintained by the subsequent Chair of the specialty group;
- (f) select and inform an appropriate individual (ordinarily, the Chair of the R.J. Russell Award Committee) to present the award at the Business Meeting;

(g) inform the awardee well in advance of the Annual Meeting so that (s)he can make plans to attend the specialty group Business Meeting to receive the award.

Additional Guidelines:

- a) In any year, only one R.J. Russell Award will be made.
- b) Nominees not selected for the award will automatically be considered for the next year's award, although their eligibility lapses thereafter and requires re-nomination for consideration in following competitions.
- c) Awards are not made posthumously unless the nomination was made prior to death.
- d) Any rule or guideline pertaining to the R.J. Russell Award can be modified, but this action requires majority vote at the Business Meeting or through a balloting procedure. The Chair of the R.J. Russell Award Committee is responsible for disseminating the information and for conducting the voting process. Any modifications to the rules or guidelines are to be communicated in writing to the Chair of the specialty group, and the details of these modifications communicated to the general membership through the newsletter.

The above rules and guidelines have been voted upon and accepted. There remain two issues that require your consideration and input. The following rule was proposed in the last newsletter, but never resolved at the Business Meeting: "Nominees must be past or current members of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers."

A lengthy discussion about the wisdom of this rule took place at the Business Meeting. Some members argued that eligibility for this award should be restricted to those who have demonstrated allegiance to our specialty group, the rationale being that there are already several

awards offered by other specialty groups and organizations. Other individuals argued that eligibility should be expanded to include all AAG members, specialty group allegiances aside, so that a healthy pool of potential nominees is always available. Some even argued that anyone affiliated with coastal geography, whether a member of the AAG or not, should be eligible for nomination since this would ensure that the award will be given to those who are truly of high quality and deserving of recognition. However, there is the possibility that the award will be given to someone who has never heard of the award, the specialty group, or even the AAG, and perhaps, cares less. Thus, we need to consider carefully what our purpose in offering this award is.

A related issue deals with the (as of yet, unwritten) criteria or guidelines for evaluating the relative merits of and selecting a single awardee amongst several nominees. This year's interim R.J. Russell Award Committee, consisting of Larry Handley (Committee Chair), Jim Allen, and Karl Nordstrom, were charged with recommending a list of such criteria, and these will be published in the next newsletter.

The Student Paper Merit Awards

All prior rules and guidelines appearing in old issues of the Quarterly or Coastal Letters are superseded by those below.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group are to take proactive steps and coordinate strategies to increase publicity for student awareness and potential participation in the annual student paper merit award competition. Advertisements in newsletters and mailings to academic departments and other specialty groups are encouraged.

A Student Awards Committee will be constituted every year at the Business Meeting of the specialty group to serve for the following year's competition. The committee will consist of the Vice-Chair of the specialty group (to act

as Student Awards Committee Chair) and two other members of the specialty group including one physical geographer and one human-cultural geographer. These members may be Directors on the Executive Board, but do not necessarily have to be so because the intent is to constitute a balanced committee with respect to specialization. If one of those members is unable to attend the annual meeting of the year of competition or any sessions in which students are presenting, that member should inform the Student Awards Committee Chair so that a proxy can be appointed. Committee members are not eligible to vote or judge papers given by current or former students, but may participate in information-seeking discussions eventually leading to choices being made.

Student Paper Merit Awards are given only to meritorious performances, and thus, must meet certain criteria implying excellence. This will be ensured through the use of an evaluation form that outlines a weighted, numerical scheme (see attached). A score of 70 out of a potential score of 100 is the minimum acceptable standard for meritorious performance. The attached evaluation form (see Coastal Letters, Vol.7, No.1) will be adopted for an indefinite period of time. It may be changed by committee consensus and such changes do not require membership approval.

Recipients must be first- or sole-authors on the paper and students must be the presenter.

Full-time and part-time undergraduate or graduate students are eligible for competition.

Each student award (beginning 1993) will be accompanied with payment of the following year's AAG membership fees including Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership fees, a certificate, and appropriate recognition in the newsletters of the AAG and the specialty group.

An application form and copy of the abstract for the student paper award must be received by the Vice-Chair of the specialty group at least one week prior to the general AAG submission deadline for abstracts. This will enable us to organize and sponsor or co-sponsor the session(s) that include(s) these student

papers. Once the application is submitted, the student awards committee will determine if the content of the paper is sufficiently "coastal" or "marine" in nature to be eligible for competition.

Awards will only be given for papers presented orally. Posters are not eligible for competition.

Only one award will be given in any one year.

The last rule (one award only) was subject to lengthy debate at the Business Meeting because there had always been two awards (1 for physical geography; 1 for human/cultural geography). It was decided that only one award recognizing an outstanding student contribution would suffice at this time, especially since the competition for these awards in the past was limited to only a handful of entrants. The only issue that remains unresolved at this time is an appropriate name for the award. Please forward possible candidate names to any member of the Executive Board.

Announcements/Calendar 1995

January

14-19 ♦Cool and Cold-Water Carbonate Conference, Melbourne, Australia. Contact: Dr. Jonathan Clarke, Western Mining Corporation, P.O. Box 157, Preston, Victoria 3072, Australia. Tel: 61-03-4853646; Fax: 61-03-4822647; E-mail: Jonathan.Clarke.@WMC.Telememo.Au.

19-22 ♦Alghero Convention on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity in the Mediterranean, Alghero, Sardinia. Contact: Medmaravis: Via S. Satta 96, 07041 Alghera, Sardegna, Italy.

February

6-10 ♦Coastal Change 95—Past, Present and Future, Bordeaux, France. Contact: Gilles Roulland, 2 Place de la Bourse, 33076 Bordeaux Cedex, France or Fax: +33 56482819.

March

5-8 ♦SEPM/AAPG Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, U.S.A. Contact: Julie Ball, SEPM's Business Office, Tulsa, OK., U.S.A. Tel: (918) 743-9765.

April

11-16 ♦4th Pan-Mediterranean Seabird Symposium, Tunisia. Contact: Medmaravis, BP2 - 83470 Saint Maximin, France.

24-26 ♦16. IAS Regional Meeting, Aix-les Bains, Savoie, France. Contact: Isabelle Cojan, Congres Aix 95, Ecole des Mines de Paris, Laboratoire de Sedimentologie, 35 rue St. Honore, 77305 Fontainebleau Codex, France. Tel: (33) 1-64 69 49 11; Fax: (33) 1-64 69 49 35.

26-29 ♦Coastal structures and breakwaters '95, London. Contact: Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 Great George Street, London SW1 3AA, U.K.

June

11-14 ♦Sustainable Aquaculture '95, Honolulu, Hawaii. Contact: PACON International, P.O. Box 11568, Honolulu, HI 96828. Tel: (808) 956-6163 or Fax: (808) 956-2580

26-July 2 (incl. field trips) ♦13th Spanish Sedimentological Congress, Teruel, Spain. Contact: Alfonso Melendez or Marc Aurell, Dpto. Ciencias de la Tierra, Universidad de Zaragoza, 50009 Zaragoza, Spain. Tel: 34-76-351114; Fax: 34-76-565852.

July

3-9 ♦11th Symposium on Coastal Sedimentology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Contact: Prof. Cleverson Guizan Silva, Dept. de Geologia/LAGEMAR, Univ. Federal Fluminense, Av. Bento de Maria de Costa 115-a, Charitas, Niteroi, R.J. 24.370-190, Brazil. Fax: 5521-711-9917.

17-22 ♦ Coastal Zone 95—Spotlight on Solutions, Tampa, Florida, U.S.A. Contact: Billy Edge, Ocean Engineering Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3136.

18-23 ♦5th EUCC Congress: "Coastlines 95 - Linking science, management and development in the coastal zones of Europe", Swansea, Wales, U.K.

August

13-16 #SEPM Congress on Sedimentary Geology, St. Petersburg, Florida. Contact: Myra Lee Rogers, Meetings and Educational Program Coordinator, SEPM, P.O. Box 4756, Tulsa, OK 74159-0756, USA; 918-743-9765.

14-21 ♦3rd International Ichnofabric Workshop (The workshop will be held in conjunction with The First International Linogeological Congress: Research Methods in Ancient and Modern Lacustrine Basins), Bornholm, Denmark. Contact: Richard Bromley, Geological Inst., Univ. of Copenhagen, Oster Voldgade 10, DK-1350 Copenhagen K, Denmark. Tel: (45) 35 32 24 42; Fax: (45) 35 32 24 99.

21-25 ♦The First International Limnogeological Congress Research Methods in Ancient and Modern Lacustrine Basins, The congress is sponsored by IAS, GLOPALS, UNESCO-IUGS, IGCP-324 Project, Copenhagen, Denmark. Contact: "ILIC", Nanna Noe-Nygaard, Geological Institute, University of Copenhagen, Oster Voldgade 10, DK-1350 Copenhagen K, Denmark. Tel: (45) 35 32 24 91; Fax: (45) 35 32 24 99.

September

2-5 ♦3 International Brachiopod Congress, Sudbury, Canada. Contact: Paul Copper, Laurentian Univ., Sudbury, Canada P3E 2C6. Tel: (705) 675-1151 (ext 6575); Fax: (705) 673-6532.

♦COPODEC IV--Fourth International Conference on Coastal and Port Engineering

in Developing Countries, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Contact: COPODEC Permanent Secretariat, c/o Lanka Hydraulic Institute, John Rodrigo Mawatha, Katubedda, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka or Fax: +94 1507470.

November

6-7 #Geological Society of America, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: Vanessa George, GSA, Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301, Phone: 303-447-2020.

12-16 ♦The 13th Biennial International Estuarine Research Federation, Corpus Christi, Texas, U.S.A. Details to be announced. Contact: ERF at (410) 586-0997.

♦IAS Newsletter

*EOS

♦TCS Bulletin

•EUCC

○Journal of Coastal Research

#Journal of Sedimentary Research

●AAG Newsletter

More News from The Membership

Bernie Bauer has relinquished his editorial grip on the COMAGS Newsletter, claiming Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. The COMAGS Directors are to check with the AAG concerning disability liability. The co-editor wishes Dr. Bauer a speedy recovery (like in time to help me write this Newsletter).

Alexi Bastinado has written to blast the character of our organization and the membership. According to Dr. Bastinado, we are a bunch of "...self-serving, back-slapping, tea-sipping hypocrites who wouldn't know a good manuscript..." if we saw one. He continues, "Why do we accept the poor quality dribble that passes for editing of our flagship Newsletter?" Dr. Bastinado also levels some serious accusations relating to the morals and behavior of specific members, but the editor declines to repeat them.

Alexi has pre-withdrawn his draft abstract for the Chicago meetings as a protest against modern symbolism and the treatment ("savage beating") of political protesters during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. He is working on an autobiography, "One Man's Struggle: Beaches or Bombs". He has also issued a request for a room-mate for Coastal Abuse Systems '95. Anyone interested may contact Alexi via Paul Gares. Alexi was the co-organizer of Sand '94. All reports suggest that the small but active group of participants enjoyed Alexi's hospitality and the amenities of Frebton College, in Smackdab, Alaska. Thanks from all of us Alexi!

Imre Faust has taken the 'golden handshake' from Waldo Emmerman Community College, Spitdribble, PA. At forty years of age, Imre seeks new career horizons. He writes "... I've been administrating for a few years, and should be able to chair a major department now." Imre is especially interested in the prospects of building a coastal political geomorphology program. "We don't know enough about the political processes shaping modern beaches and coasts." And the editors concur.

Doug Sherman, USC Geography, has spent another year not teaching at USC. His colleagues applaud his consideration. Doug says he is working on some abstracts and that they should be some of his best work. Resignation of the co-editorship of the Newsletter should allow completion of some of the abstracts this academic year. Doug also notes that he would love to meet Alexi Bastinado, and soon.

Muriel Kast and Truman Harriod have announced their semi-engagement. The geomorph phenoms met at Sand '94, and have been an item since then. I wish that we could reproduce the beautiful photos they sent along, but there is some US Postal Service law... Truman has just announced the prospectus for a new book, "Sediment Transport, Science, Society, and Funding." He has just completed a draft of "Maritime boundary disputes: geoid perturbations, sea level change, and the programmable calculator." Sounds like an Annals article.

Muriel has been extremely busy. A new Ph.D. in hand (Postmodern Sieves: the making of a distribution), and a new job in the Geography Department at Lonely State State University, in Lonely State, Idaho. She joins Truman there as the core of a coastal research group. They hope to fund a two year postdoc position next year in the area of grain shape analysis, with emphasis on Fourier, fractal, and humanistic methods. Prospective applicants are urged to contact Paul Gares.

On behalf of all of the COMAGS membership, the editors wish these youngsters all the very best for a productive relationship.

Position Available

The Department of Geography, University of South Carolina, seeks to fill a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level with a person with expertise in physical and/or environmental geography who will be able to foster links between physical processes and environmental policy, or between environmental geography and economic development. Strong analytical, conceptual, and modelling skills are required and a regional focus is a plus. Contact Dr. Susan L. Cutter, Columbia, SC 29208; phone 803-777-5236; fax 8 0 3 - 7 7 7 - 4 9 7 2 ; e - m a i l scutter@hsscsls.hssc.sc Carolina.edu.

COASTAL LETTERS

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