

COASTAL LETTERS

Newsletter of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers

Vol. 8, No. 2

December, 1995

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Specialty Group Officers	1
Editor's Comments	1
Awards for 1995	2
Sessions in Charlotte	2
Musings from the Chair	2
Minutes of 1995 Business Meeting	4
Proposed Specialty Group By-Laws	5
Get to Know Your Officers	7
News from Members and Departments	7
Announcements	8
Upcoming Conferences	8

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

by Dorothy Sack

I've been a member of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group (Coma) for several years now, but for much of that time I didn't consider myself a mainstream member. I'm not a process coastal geomorphologist and I don't study the impact of people on the coastal zone; I work instead on paleolakes. I have eventually, however, come to realize that there are many widely varying, relevant interests among Coma members, and that this diversity is one of the great strengths of the specialty group.

Two other things that I like about this specialty group are its paper sessions and business meetings. Coma-organized paper sessions have been some of the best that I've experienced at the AAG meetings, and, believe it or not, I've actually found most Coma business meetings to be fun. If you haven't attended one, you might consider doing so this year in Charlotte.

I'm sure I speak for the entire specialty group in thanking **Bernie Bauer** for so aptly handling the reins of power in his recently finished term as chair. **Paul Gares** will continue to serve Coma, now as vice chair, but he deserves our thanks, too, for all the work he did during his seemingly endless stint as secretary-treasurer. Paul did a great job last March of editing his first and last issue of *Coastal Letters*, v. 8(1).

If you would like your particular Coma interests represented, better represented, or to continue to be represented in the newsletter, please send me items to include in future issues. These items, for example, might be announcements of upcoming meetings, calls for papers, a list of recent publications by you or others, updates on your activities or those of your department/company/organization, reports on other meetings which you attended, etc. I expect the next issue to come out in early June, and would be happy to receive newsworthy items at any time. Thanks to everyone who sent in contributions for this issue. Hope to see you in Charlotte!

SPECIALTY GROUP OFFICERS

Joann Mossa, Chair
Department of Geography
3133 Turlington Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
(904) 392-0494
mossa@grove.ufl.edu

Paul Gares, Vice Chair
Department of Geography
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858
(919) 328-6054
gegares@ecuvms.cis.ecu.edu

Dorothy Sack, Sec-Treas
Department of Geography
122 Clippinger Labs
Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701
(614) 593-1149
sack@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu

Dawn Wright, Brd of Dir
Department of Geosciences
104 Wilkinson Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
(503) 737-1229
wrightd@bcc.orst.edu

Nancy Jackson, Brd of Dir
Sci, Technology, & Society
NJ Institute of Technology
Newark, NJ 07102
(201) 596-8467
jackson@tesla.njit.edu

Greg Stone, Brd of Dir
Dept Anthro & Geography
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
(504) 388-5942
gstone@cypress.cadgis.lsu.edu

COMA AWARDS FOR 1995

Student Paper Merit Award

Jennifer Rahn of the University of Florida received the 1995 Student Paper Merit Award for "Coastal Sediments on Saba, Netherlands Antilles: A Pilot Study," which she presented at the Chicago meeting. Congratulations Jennifer!

R.J. Russell Award for 1995

The R.J. Russell Award Committee received no nominations for 1995. Please consider submitting the names of potential candidates for the 1996 award. For more information see the Announcement on p. 8.

H. Lannon: 1993 winter storm effects on coastal property values and ownership.

W. Svekla, N. Psuty, and P. Gares: Alongshore variation in dune erosion.

M. Tollinger: Perception of elusive hazards: Global warming and sea level rise.

4. **Coastal Aeolian Systems:** K. Nordstrom, chair
P. Gares, D. Sherman, and D. Jackson: Ripple morphology on variable beach topography.
D. Sherman, B. Bauer, P. Gares, and D. Jackson: Aeolian sand transport, Castroville, CA.
M. Lampe and P. Gares: Turbulent air flow over coastal dunes.
B. McCann and W. Hales: Vegetation of the coastal dunes of Nova Scotia, Canada.
Questions and Discussion.

COMA-SPONSORED SESSIONS IN CHARLOTTE

1. **Coastal Geomorphology:** D. Sherman, chair
R. Davidson-Arnott and D. Langham: The role of softening in erosion of the nearshore profile on a cohesive coast.
D. Horn and A. Baird: The GRIST (Groundwater Interaction with Swash and Tides) model.
P. Chaney and G. Stone: Soundside erosion and winter cold fronts: West Ship Island, MS.
E. Farrell: The relationship between mean grain size and foreshore slope, Derrymore Spit, Ireland.
B. Greenwood, T. Aagaard, J. Nielsen, and N. Nielsen: Tidal influence on sediment flux within a nearshore rip-bar system.
2. **Coastal Systems--Research Techniques:** J. Mossa, chair
N. Psuty and D. O'Grady: Spatial sediment associations, Great Egg Harbor Estuary, NJ.
M. Kearney, J. Townshend, A. Rogers, and W. Lawrence: Assessing coastal marsh status in Chesapeake Bay using TM imagery.
M. Breedlove: The effects of substrate geometry on coral reef fish populations.
D. Wright, A. Bobbitt, and C. Fox: Marine geography at work: Adventures with a seagoing GIS.
S. Leatherman, I. Turner, and N. Beller-Simms: Coastal process research along the U.S. east coast.
3. **Coastal Hazards:** P. Gares, chair
N. Jackson, M. Bruno, K. Nordstrom, and J. Dobosciewicz: Evolution of a developed coast.
R. Daniels and T. Beaty: A physical and socioeconomic index of coastal vulnerability.

MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

by Joann Mossa

The Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group consists of a group of exceptionally good-natured and dedicated people. I have learned much from various types of interactions with our membership. Speaking from my own past experience, I have admired the friendliness and commitment of previous officers and their interest in and concern for students. I hope to continue the spirit of good humor which has been fostered and maintained by recent officers. Following the example set by Bernie Bauer, as chair I plan to continue the tradition of purchasing refreshments for our business meeting.

Although our group has many positive attributes, because of our talents we can aspire to a higher level of performance. In previous *Coastal Letters* and in discussions at our most recent specialty group meeting in Chicago, numerous goals were suggested so that our group will be able to function even better in the coming years. This column outlines some related issues that will be discussed at our next business meeting.

By-Laws: Structure and Guidelines Are Often Important

Developing by-laws for the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group will enable us to function more effectively and efficiently. There have been some discussions in the past as to whether or not procedural rules have been violated during our operations, yet laws that do not exist cannot be violated. Without by-laws and formal procedures, we repeatedly debate how decisions should be made. There also has been confusion

over how long terms of office are, what responsibilities go with various offices, etc. As a temporary solution, I have proposed some working by-laws. A draft of the proposed by-laws is submitted via this issue of the newsletter for specialty group feedback. Please review it and bring issues for discussion up to me in the coming months and/or at the next specialty group business meeting. Once by-laws are created, they can be destroyed, as long as there is an article that allows such (there is)!

Increased Communication among Members and with Outside Parties

Increased communication among members and between members and outside parties would be desirable. Many of us would like to know more about our members and their interests. A membership directory and a home page for our group at the AAG office could be a great resource for our students, and for the subfield of coastal and marine geography as a whole. Being new to the position of chair, and never having been secretary-treasurer, I have not seen our membership list until recently. A small version of this list can be printed in the newsletter, and a longer version can be posted if we are interested in creating a home page at the AAG for our specialty group. Also, I would entertain that this directory be available through a contact person via email or diskette on a request-by-request basis. So far, I have not done much toward this goal, although we would all benefit from such a directory. Please volunteer if you are willing to assist me in this project.

Navel Staring: Who Are We? Where Have We Been? Where Do We Go from Here?

It has been suggested that we undertake a self study. Who are our members? What are their coastal and marine interests? Where do we go from here? Perhaps from this, we can develop a larger study of coastal and marine geography. What institutions offer coastal and marine courses? Where are coastal and marine geographers working and what do they do? What are our linkages? It would also be useful to compile a history of our specialty group. After all, our historical pathways tell us much about why we are where we are today. I have begun by creating a preliminary database of faculty members who list coastal or marine interests in a recent *Guide to Departments of Geography* published by the AAG. I would like to compare this with a database generated from an older edition of the *Guide* to get an idea of how much the field has expanded and how the centers or areas of coastal and marine academic research and teaching have changed. A questionnaire will likely be in order at some point in the future. I would like to hear whether our membership is generally in support of this idea or not.

Comments and Additional Suggestions

I welcome your comments, either positive or negative, toward these general goals in the coming years. Please consider providing input and assistance to the specialty group. Comments can be made to me at your convenience via phone, mail, or email.

Special Interests: For Those Who Didn't Attend the Chicago Meeting

Those of you who didn't go to Chicago missed some fine weather, some good papers and posters, and a productive specialty group meeting, but not many coastal or marine sessions. From a social perspective, you missed things, too, including the interaction with other coastal and marine geographers at our specialty group meeting and some great parties. (The USC party was unbelievable. Doug Sherman can always find work as a bartender if USC collapses in an earthquake!)

We have a new suite of officers. Paul Gares, a long-time (I no longer will tell how long) friend from Rutgers, is our newly elected vice chair. Paul is from East Carolina University and has already dedicated many years of service to our specialty group as secretary-treasurer. Thanks Paul, but you're not done yet! Paul seems to remember past meetings and social events differently than I do and seems to relish telling his version of these stories, which do not always reflect well on me, but I still like him anyway. I am also looking forward to working with Dorothy Sack of Ohio University, who was elected secretary-treasurer. Although we have known each other for a shorter period of time, I thank Dorothy for taking on this job and expect that she can continue and improve upon our many fine traditions. Please send her your news so that she has a newsletter to compile. Our newest member of the Executive Board of Directors is Dawn Wright of Oregon State University. Dawn has already volunteered for various tasks and, since we have a big agenda, I will likely call upon her for help.

Many friends were missed at the meetings this year because of a shortage of travel monies, time, and coastal sessions. Our lack of organized coastal and marine paper sessions in Chicago was a disappointing contrast to the 1994 Carter lecture series. However, through the efforts of Paul Gares, Doug Sherman, and other members, we have several sponsored and co-sponsored sessions for the Charlotte meetings. Many established coastal and marine scientists will be participating in our sessions in 1996. Also, it appears that we will have several students from a number of universities competing for the Student Paper Merit Award. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the sessions and at the business meeting in Charlotte next year.

Regards and best wishes--Joann

MINUTES OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE SPECIALTY GROUP BUSINESS MEETING MARCH 16, 1995

Chair Bernie Bauer brought refreshments and opened the meeting for business.

Bernie asked for a volunteer to write the minutes in absence of the secretary-treasurer, Paul Gares. Vice chair Joann Mossa volunteered.

Bernie requested a motion to accept last year's minutes as recorded in *Coastal Letters*. The motion was made by Wayne Engstrom and seconded by Doug Sherman. It passed unanimously.

In the absence of the secretary-treasurer, the chair read the treasurer's report. Last year's balance was \$1049.00; the current balance is \$957.01. The cost of copying v. 8(1) of the newsletter has not yet been charged to the account.

Jonathan Phillips passed out copies of the most recent newsletter, written by Paul Gares.

Highlights of the Specialty Group Chairs Meeting

Bernie recounted key topics covered at the specialty group chairs meeting. (1) *Annals* misconceptions--the journal is in fact looking for more articles in physical geography. (2) *The Professional Geographer* has a turnaround time for manuscripts of 45 days. (3) Small specialty groups need to increase their visibility--this applies to us: (a) we need more sponsored paper sessions; (b) it is good that we have a student award, but we could use more applicants; Lisa Wells suggested that raising the award might increase the number of applicants; Jonathan Phillips discussed the problem of getting students to attend the meeting; faculty should encourage their students to enter; better timing of the newsletter would also help. (4) We should keep informed of the national political-economic scene--for example, the USGS is threatened. (5) AAG has a home page on the world wide web: <http://www.aag.org>. (6) Specialty groups should be aware that there are funds available for bringing eminent scholars to the annual meetings (\$3000-\$4000). (7) Volunteer specialty groups are sought to have their bank accounts administered by the AAG--probably not us, but to be decided by incoming treasurer. (8) The annual meeting is outgrowing most cities' facilities; attendance at the last few meetings has been high (3700 in Chicago, 4200 in San Francisco) with 30+ concurrent sessions; the proliferation of panel sessions is causing some problems in this regard; we can either cycle through the same 8 or 9 cities or move to using convention centers rather than hotels; having more poster sessions would help reduce the problem; Coma members may communicate their thoughts or suggestions on this to Bernie. (9) The National Geography Standards are part of the federally sponsored National Education Goals, but adoption and implementation are not federally mandated; serious effort

needs to be directed toward local-level adoption. (10) IGU wants to increase interaction with study groups; several of our members (Norb Psuty, Jess Walker, Doug Sherman) are involved in the commission on coastal systems; we can use Bernie as a clearing house.

Old Business

Bernie described the duties and duration of each office. Because of the lack of duties and other problems with the current position of past chair, Jonathan Phillips moved that we eliminate the position. Richard Daniels seconded the motion, which was passed.

The issue of needing volunteers to judge student papers was raised by Lisa Wells. The Board of Directors is supposed to serve in this capacity and hopefully more will show up for future meetings. Volunteer judges and increased student submissions are desirable.

No nominations were received this year for the R.J. Russell Award. There was some question as to whether the award should be open to anyone or only to Coma members. Arguments were made in support of each alternative, and a discussion ensued about evaluation criteria.

Richard Daniels moved to open the award to members outside of the specialty group, and Michael Craghan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Reed Stewart moved that we accept the first paragraph of the Russell Award procedures, as it appears in v. 8(1) of the newsletter, and Joann Mossa seconded the motion, but there were concerns about the wording. The current phrasing states that the R.J. Russell Award Committee is chaired by the vice chair with two directors being the other members. The motion to accept the paragraph passed when this was reworded to read: "The selection committee shall consist of the three directors of the specialty group, with the vice chair serving as a de facto member, if required."

The Russell Award evaluation criteria and their relative weights were discussed. It was concluded that although the intent of the current procedure is good, the mechanics are a problem. Doug Sherman expressed his preference for qualitative wording, arguing that if the weightings are removed, the award becomes more flexible. Michael Craghan moved to drop the weightings, and Doug Sherman seconded. The motion passed. It was then suggested that the target date for the submission of nominations should be October 1, and nominations for next year were encouraged.

New Business

Jonathan Phillips announced that at the Charlotte meeting there will be a session on coastal plain rivers, co-sponsored by the Coastal and Marine and Geomorphology Specialty Groups.

Jonathan Phillips and Paul Gares may lead an informal field trip in unofficial, approximate conjunction with the Charlotte meeting.

It was agreed that we should organize coastal and marine sessions at the next annual meeting. Joann Mossa and Doug Sherman volunteered simultaneously to organize those sessions.

There were questions as to whether we should do more as a specialty group. It might be useful to develop a purpose statement, define who we are, develop a by-law structure, construct a 5-year plan, and compile information on where coastal and marine courses are taught. Bernie suggested that these issues should be considered by the next chair.

Election of Officers

Chair (currently a two-year position):

Joann Mossa--nominated by Doug Sherman, Bernie Bauer seconded, elected by acclamation.

Vice Chair (currently a two-year position):

Paul Gares--nominated by Joann Mossa, Jonathan Phillips seconded, elected by acclamation.

Secretary-Treasurer (a three-year position):

Dorothy Sack--nominated by Doug Sherman, seconded by Jonathan Phillips, elected by acclamation.

Member, Executive Board of Directors (two-year term):

Dawn Wright--nominated by Jonathan Phillips, seconded by Reed Stewart, elected by acclamation.

Business Meeting Adjourned

PROPOSED BY-LAWS FOR THE COASTAL AND MARINE GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP

by Joann Mossa

Please read over the following draft (version 1.0) of proposed specialty group by-laws, and forward to me any suggestions, comments, or concerns that you may have regarding them. We will be discussing the by-laws at our 1996 business meeting in Charlotte.

Article 1. Name. The name of this organization is the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. The organization shall

be referred to as the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group, and it is understood that it is a component of the Association of American Geographers.

Article 2. Purpose. The purpose of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group is to encourage the intellectual exchange of knowledge related to coastal and marine environments and resources.

Article 3. Membership. Any member of the AAG can become a member of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group upon payment of dues. As of 1995, dues were \$5 for regular membership and \$1 for student membership. There are two classes of membership, regular and student. Both classes of members can vote at the specialty group meeting.

Article 4. Officers. Elected officers must be regular members of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group. Their duties are as follows:

A. Chair. The chair shall preside over the annual specialty group meeting, perform appropriate communication with the AAG central office regarding specialty group news, such as awards announcements and recipients, coordinate between other elected officers when appropriate, submit a column for the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group newsletter, and represent the specialty group at official functions. The term of chair is two years, determined according to the timing of AAG annual meetings.

B. Vice Chair. The vice chair shall assume the duties of the chair if the chair cannot or will not perform them. The vice chair serves as chair of the Student Paper Merit Award Committee, and should actively encourage student involvement. The vice chair also chairs and is a member of the R.J. Russell Award Committee. The vice chair may appoint regular members of the specialty group to judge student papers and to serve on the R.J. Russell Award Committee if the vice chair or any individual on the Board of Directors cannot perform his or her duties. The term of vice chair is two years, determined according to the timing of AAG annual meetings.

C. Secretary-Treasurer. The secretary-treasurer shall record the minutes of the specialty group business meetings, keep membership records, coordinate and distribute the specialty group newsletter, keep financial records, and administer the specialty group's financial affairs. The term of secretary-treasurer is three years,

determined according to the timing of AAG annual meetings.

- D. Executive Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors will consist of three individuals. Each shall function as a judge for the Student Paper Merit Award, serving on that committee under the direction of the vice chair. Members of the board shall also evaluate nominees and select a recipient for the R.J. Russell Award. Each term on the Board of Directors is two years, determined according to the timing of AAG annual meetings.

Article 5. Description of Awards. The Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group has a Student Paper Merit Award and the R.J. Russell Award.

A. The Student Paper Merit Award.

Eligibility. The Student Paper Merit Award is given for a meritorious student presentation in coastal or marine geography which meets the criteria specified in this description. Student participants must be members of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group and of the AAG. Full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for student awards. Awards may be given only for oral paper presentations. Posters are not eligible for this competition. Recipients must be the first or sole author and the presenter of the paper. The same individual can receive the award twice.

Procedures. An application for the student paper award and a copy of the abstract of the paper must be received by the vice chair, who is also chair of the Student Paper Merit Award Committee, one week before abstracts are due at the AAG. This will enable the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group to organize and sponsor or co-sponsor one or more sessions that include these papers. Once the application is submitted, the award committee will determine if the content of the paper is sufficiently coastal or marine in nature to be considered.

Criteria. In order to receive the award, a student paper must meet certain minimum criteria which imply merit or excellence. This award is not a simple "best" student paper award, which might result in giving an award to a paper that does not meet minimal standards of merit. To receive the award, a student paper must earn at least 70 of the 100 points possible in the award committee's evaluation system. The weighted evaluation criteria are published periodically in the specialty group newsletter or are available from the vice chair.

Student Paper Merit Award Committee. This award committee will be chaired by the vice chair of the specialty group, with the Board of Directors serving as the committee members. If both cultural-human and physical geography papers are competing when the award committee consists of only physical or only cultural-human geographers, a geographer from the unrepresented field should be appointed to the committee. If committee members cannot attend the annual meeting or the student paper sessions, they should inform the committee chair so that a proxy can be appointed. Members of the student awards committee should not judge papers given by their current or former students, but they may participate in discussions during which final selections are made.

Award. The student award includes AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership fees for the following year, a certificate, and recognition in the newsletters of the specialty group and the AAG.

B. The R.J. Russell Award.

Nominations. Any person who is contributing or has contributed significantly to advancing coastal and marine geography may be nominated for the award, including people outside of the specialty group and outside the discipline of geography. Nominations may come from any member of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group who is not a member of the selection committee. At least two letters of recommendation are required for each candidate; one may be written by the person nominating the candidate.

Selection Committee. The R.J. Russell Award Committee shall be chaired by the vice chair of the specialty group with the Board of Directors serving as the other three members of the committee. A person shall not serve on the selection committee if they have nominated a candidate being considered for that year's award. At least three individuals should be on the selection committee, and, if conflicts arise, the vice chair should appoint from the specialty group membership to meet this quota.

Criteria for Evaluation of Nominees. The award will be based on *major contributions* in one or more of the categories listed below. The appraisal of the nominee should be a concise summary of his or her achievements in and dedication to the field of coastal or marine geography. The subcategories listed below are not all-inclusive and should be considered as examples.

Categories of contribution and example subcategories include:

1. Research--Research programs (completed or in progress), publications, funding acquired
2. Education--Academic teaching, university and departmental activities, awards, nontechnical publications, public education
3. Policy development--public service/relations, committees, hearings, consulting, publications, workshops
4. Contributions to the AAG and to the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group
5. Appraisal of the impact of lifetime achievements/ dedication to the field of coastal or marine geography

Award. The R.J. Russell Award will consist of a plaque, certificate, and recognition in the newsletters of the specialty group and the AAG.

Article 6. Nonmembers. Nonmembers of the Association of American Geographers and the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group may attend and participate, but cannot vote, at Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group meetings. Nonmembers may receive mailings of the specialty group newsletter for a nominal fee.

Article 7. Amendments. The by-laws of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group can be modified, supplemented, or rescinded by a majority of the voting membership at the annual Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group business meeting.

GET TO KNOW YOUR OFFICERS

This issue highlights two of our current officers....

Joann Mossa took over as chair of Coma at the end of the specialty group business meeting in Chicago. Her current coastal interests involve geomorphology, especially the effects of storms and coastal-riverine interactions. Many of her recent publications were noted in the last issue of the newsletter. Joann obtained her B.A. from Rutgers, where she was influenced by such coastal faculty as Norb Psuty and Karl Nordstrom. She went on to receive an M.S. and Ph.D. from

Louisiana State University, inspired by Jess Walker and researchers at the Coastal Studies Institute. Joann has been an assistant professor at the University of Florida since receiving her Ph.D. in 1990. She has graduate students working on barrier island, coastal erosion, coastal dunes, and coral reef geomorphology theses. Joann cites the Oregon coast from Cannon Beach to Florence as her favorite coastline. She likes field work in spite of the occasional unpleasant outing, like being stuck in a boat under a power line in a soupy SE Louisiana marsh with an upset colleague in a thunderstorm. On another occasion she had to "drag a boat through a mucky canal after the motor died with 400 alligator eyes checking me out in a wildlife refuge in SW Louisiana. Fortunately, at the time, they were not interested in Italian cuisine."

The Coma business meeting in Chicago was **Dawn Wright's** first; by the end of it she had been elected to the Board of Directors! Dawn was born in Maryland, raised on Maui, and schooled in Illinois, Texas, and southern California. She is a recent Ph.D. (1994) from UC-Santa Barbara with research interests in GIS, sea-floor spreading centers, and geographic thought. Dawn started this fall as an assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences at Oregon State University where she'll teach GIS and physical geography courses. She just completed a postdoc at the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Newport, Oregon, at Oregon State's Hatfield Marine Science Center. For 1995, she is the lead author on two and coauthor on a third paper concerning the East Pacific Rise. Besides her academic interests, Dawn enjoys competitive cycling, art films, weight-training, watching cartoons, and a variety of other activities.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENTS

From the Department of Geography, East Carolina University

Michael Slattery and **Paul Gares**, with **Jonathan Phillips** riding along on their coattails, have received a \$149,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a project titled "Quantifying Soil Erosion and Sediment Delivery on North Carolina Coastal Plain Croplands." In addition to providing a comprehensive picture of the links between soil erosion, transport, and storage in the coastal plain, the study will be the first in the region to consider aeolian processes inland of the coastal dunes.

Last spring's annual **Tobacco Road Research Team** project, led by Jonathan Phillips, focussed on soil development in relict dunes of the Pleistocene Newport Barrier (NC).

David Perry, Kelly Carey, Ray Garbee, David Stein, Mary Beth Morde, and James Sheehy (all ECU grad students) did the dirty work, with some help from perennial field assistant Nate Phillips, and Ted Bryant (Wollongong U.), who kindly did a TL date.

Mark Lampe recently finished his thesis on "The Effect of Slope on Aeolian Sediment Transport on a Coastal Sand Dune," and is off to begin Ph.D. studies with Doug Sherman and Bernie Bauer at USC. **Richard Beachley's** thesis, "Aeolian Sediment Transport in an Outer Banks Dune System," should be done any day now. **David Stein** and **David Perry** have coastal-oriented theses in progress.

In addition to firing up the USDA project, **Paul Gares** continues his Sea Grant funded work in New Jersey, in conjunction with **Norb Psuty** of Rutgers. He is also still active in the Aeolus Program, a far-flung group of coastal dune dudes from Tick Bite to Timbuktu. **Jonathan Phillips** is finishing up a project for the Forest Service on landscape change in the Croatan National Forest, where a major issue has been distinguishing historic alluvium in coastal plain rivers from the ongoing aggradation associated with Holocene sea level rise.

Jonathan Phillips has also assumed the tiresome mantle of director of the geography graduate program, which offers an emphasis in surficial processes in coastal and coastal plain environments. If you have brilliant students who would love to grub around in the sand and mud for low wages and high levels of intellectual stimulation, send 'em our way, Phillips pleads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Nominations

Now is the time to send in your nominations for the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group's 1996 **R.J. Russell Award** for contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography. Nominations should be mailed to Coma vice chair, Paul Gares, at the address listed for him on p. 1. The current criteria and nominating procedures are essentially as described in Article 5B of the draft of proposed by-laws (see p. 6). Past recipients include Jesse Walker, Fillmore Earney, and Norbert Psuty.

Call for Papers

Rich Daniels has forwarded the following.... The **International Journal of Marine Geodesy** will publish the second special issue on Marine and Coastal Geographical

Information Systems (M&CGIS) in December 1996. The issue will contain both invited and contributed articles, all peer-reviewed. Authors are especially encouraged to submit manuscripts on the topics of:

- Policy, legal, and economic issues of M&CGIS
- Case studies of GIS in marine & coastal environments
- Spatial and temporal issues
- Electronic charting / navigation systems
- GPS integration and real time processing systems
- Processing of data from multiple sources
- Modelling and visualization of marine spatial data

Submitted manuscripts should conform to the standards described in the "Instructions to Authors" which regularly appears in the journal. Papers should not promote a specific commercial product. Authors who wish to contribute papers for this special issue are invited to mail three copies of their manuscripts to the issue's guest editor:

Dr. Rongxing Li
Dept of Geomatics Engineering
University Drive NW
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2N 1N4
ph. (403) 220-4112, fax (403) 284-1980
email: rli@acs.ucalgary.ca

Send a copy of your cover letter to the Editor-In-Chief:

Dr. Narendra K. Saxena,
Dept of Civil Engineering
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2540 Dole Street, Holmes 383
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

1996 Ocean Sciences Meeting--Feb. 12-16, 1996, San Diego, CA; sponsored by the American Geophysical Union and the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography; encompasses a wide-range of topics including atmospheric science, estuarine science, limnology, oceanography, ocean technology, nearshore sediment transport, and shelf sedimentation; contact Suzette Kimball, Science and Natural Resource Management, National Park Service, Southeast Region, 75 Spring St. SW, Suite 1092, Atlanta, GA, 30303, (404) 331-4916, suzette_kimball@nps.gov.

Geological Processes on Continental Margins: Sedimentation, Mass-Wasting and Stability--May 1-2, 1996, London, England; sponsored by The Geological Society, Marine Studies Group; write or email Dr. Adrian Cramp, Marine Geoscience Research Group, Dept of Earth Sciences, University of Wales Cardiff, P.O. Box 914, Cardiff, Wales, CF1 3YE, cramp@cardiff.ac.uk.

Annual Meeting of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography--June 16-20, 1996, Milwaukee, WI; focuses on marine and freshwater ecosystems; for more information contact the Center for Great Lake Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 600 E. Greenfield Ave., Milwaukee, WI, 53204, (414) 382-1700.

The 7th Pacific Congress on Marine Science and Technology (PACON 96)--June 17-22, 1996, Honolulu, HI; congress theme is solutions for the Pacific century; contact PACON International, PO Box 11568, Honolulu, HI, 96828, (808) 956-6163, or fax (808) 956-2580.

1996 World Congress on Coastal and Marine Tourism--June 19-22, 1996, Honolulu, HI; in conjunction with PACON 96; solutions and strategies for sustainable tourism development in coastal locales; write to Oregon Sea Grant,

Administrative Services A 500G, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, 97331, (503) 737-5130 or fax (503) 737-2392.

Seeking Balance: Conflict, Partnership and Resolution--July 14-17, 1996, Seattle, WA; conference highlights the complex nature of current coastal and marine issues as well as the policies and implementation tools available to decision makers at all levels; for more information write Megan Bailiff, c/o Washington Sea Grant Program, 3716 Brooklyn Ave. NE, Seattle, WA, 98105-6716.

25th International Conference on Coastal Engineering--Sept. 2-6, 1996, Orlando, FL; contact ICCE '96, c/o Conrad Blucher Institute, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX, 78412, call (512) 994-2376, or fax (512) 994-2715.

****National Council for Geographic Education Annual Meeting**--Nov. 13-16, 1996, Santa Barbara, CA; please consider Don Ziegler's invitation (in our previous newsletter) for Coma members to participate in this meeting; papers or other activities on coasts and oceans would be very appropriate; the request for abstracts will be sent to NCGE members in February, or contact the NCGE Central Office, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA, 15705, (412) 357-7594.



THE GREAT BAR AT STOCKTON, UTAH.

Lake Bonneville coastal landforms at the pass between Rush and Tooele Valleys, Utah, as depicted in G.K. Gilbert's (1890) *Lake Bonneville*, USGS Monograph 1.