

COASTAL LETTERS

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

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Coma-Sponsored Sessions in Fort Worth

You are invited.... If you are thinking about presenting a human or physical, hazards or techniques, or any other coastal or marine geography paper at the 1997 annual AAG meeting, please consider participating in a session sponsored by the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (Coma). Joann Mossa of the University of Florida would like to assemble a panel discussion on teaching coastal and marine geography and a paper session concerning key issues in coastal geomorphology. Paul Gares of East Carolina University is organizing all other coastal and marine related paper sessions. If you do participate in these sessions, instead of mailing your abstract, participation form, and participation fee to the AAG central office, make sure they are delivered to Paul or Joann by September 5. Their addresses are listed in the specialty group officers section. The organizers would appreciate hearing of your interest in these sessions and receiving tentative paper titles in advance of the deadline, if possible. Student members should consider applying for the Coastal and Marine Geography Student Paper Merit Award (see p. 7).

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

R.J. Russell Award

It's not too early to send in your nominations for the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group's 1997 R.J. Russell Award for recognition of major contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography. Nominations should come from specialty group members but nominees do not have to be members of either the specialty group or the AAG. Letters nominating individuals should be mailed to the specialty group's vice chair, Paul Gares, who heads the award committee. Paul would also be happy to answer any questions that you might have about the nominating procedure or selection process.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

by Dorothy Sack

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter, including Don Currey of the University of Utah for alerting me and other Earthlings to the Russell Spit situation.

My plan is to send out two newsletters a year, one in June and the other in December. With the AAG abstract deadline in early September, the June issue will enable members to invite participation in coastal and marine sessions that they are organizing for the next year's AAG meeting, and it will allow the specialty group to announce the student paper award. A December issue can provide specifics on the upcoming AAG meeting, including authors and titles in coastal and marine sessions and major topics to be discussed at the business meeting. I am happy to accept at any time whatever you might like to send me for the next newsletter. It just takes a few minutes to jot down and mail, fax, or email what you've been doing, highlights of coastal/marine conferences you've been to, what future conferences you may know about, what coastal/marine books you might recommend, or whatever else you deem appropriate.

Finally, I'd like to welcome those of you who are new to the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group, or Coma, as I call it (some say Comags). Despite the acronym, it's a lively bunch. The purpose of the specialty group is broad, to encourage the intellectual exchange of knowledge related to coastal and marine environments and resources, and our membership is diverse. If you don't see your particular coastal and/or marine interests represented in the newsletter, I hope you can help me remedy the situation.

MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

You Are Who You Hang Out With

by Joann Mossa

When I was a graduate student, my office was down the hall from some philosophers who were forever discussing what "it" was in the advertising slogan "Coke is it." During those days when philosophy was a daily part of life, one of my friend's favorite expressions was "you are who you hang out with." This expression certainly applies to my life, and I have found that it constitutes useful advice for students. If they are

motivated to succeed, I recommend that they seek like-minded colleagues to work with in study groups. Through these positive complementary interactions with others, they can exchange and share ideas, challenge one another, learn through group work, and make new friends.

Although it may not be a written guideline, the AAG strongly encourages specialty groups to "hang out" together in various ways, especially by sponsoring joint paper and discussion sessions at the annual meetings. The purpose behind this proposition is to expand who we are by exchanging ideas with specialty groups that share some of our interests. Thus far, Coastal and Marine Geography has mostly co-sponsored sessions with the Geomorphology and the Hazards Specialty Groups. The results have been excellent; attendance and level of interaction at our paper sessions have typically been highest when we get together with other specialty groups. By thoughtful planning, advertising, and effort beforehand by specialty group members, we have had quality co-sponsored sessions on such focussed topics as coastal plain rivers, coastal hazards, and coastal eolian systems. These interactions with our friends in Geomorphology and Hazards have been fruitful, and we hope to continue them in future sessions and meetings.

We should consider, however, if there are other specialty groups that we could also be "hanging out with" to increase our level of interaction and enhance the sharing of ideas. I certainly think so, and have decided to organize a panel discussion on teaching coastal and marine geography for the Forth Worth meeting because I believe that our teaching could be enhanced by sharing our favorite teaching ideas, and perhaps the unsuccessful ones as well, with colleagues. This session could be co-sponsored with the Geography Education (a new one for us) and the Geomorphology Specialty Groups, and I expect that individuals in these fields would give us useful feedback and fresh ideas based on their experiences.

Some of the other specialty groups with which we likely have enough shared interests to sponsor joint sessions include Applied Geography, Environmental Perception and Behavioral Geography, GIS, Regional Development and Planning, Remote Sensing, Water Resources, Recreation, Tourism, and Sport, and possibly others as well. Yet for these interactions to develop and evolve, there must be some mechanism for creating and nurturing linkages. Perhaps the best approach is to encourage our members who are active in these related groups to step up and consider organizing co-sponsored sessions. If you are willing to do so I would like to hear from you, and I could provide you with an email listing of specialty group chairs and one of our specialty group membership. I encourage you all to think about new linkages and to put some effort into organizing co-sponsored sessions in 1996-97 and in coming years.

Feel free to get in touch--Joann

**MINUTES OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE
SPECIALTY GROUP BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 11, 1996**

Joann Mossa opened the business meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Reports

The minutes of the 1995 business meeting in Chicago, which appeared in v. 8(2) of *Coastal Letters*, were approved without discussion.

Dorothy Sack reported on the specialty group's financial status. In 1995 we earned \$409.21 from dues and interest and spent \$367.29, leaving a year-end balance of \$1,180.93 in our account. The 1995 expenses, however, do not include part of the cost of last December's newsletter or AAG membership fees for three student awards, the latter because a check to the AAG was apparently lost in the mail.

Vice chair Paul Gares announced the recipients of the 1996 Student Paper Merit Award and the R.J. Russell Award. Paul encouraged student Coma members to participate in the student award process. Faculty members need to inform their students about the award and circulate the application form to them before the application deadline in early September. Paul also reminded members to submit their R.J. Russell Award nominations in writing as early as possible each year. The committee suggested establishing a deadline so that they would have adequate time to review the nominations.

Joann reported on the main topics discussed at the specialty group chairs meeting. (1) The AAG has decided to disperse dues to the specialty groups once instead of three times a year. After the disbursement, the AAG would make other payments when \$200 or more accumulates for a group or whenever a specialty group requests their balance. (2) People have been complaining about the cost of attending the annual awards lunch, but the AAG is already subsidizing it, so a decrease in price is not expected. (3) The specialty groups would like more control in the AAG. The AAG's response was that the specialty groups already have voting power in their numbers.

Announcements

The paper sessions that were sponsored by the specialty group or co-sponsored with the geomorphology specialty group this year were very successful and well attended. We thank Paul Gares, Jonathan Phillips, and Doug Sherman for organizing them.

Paul Gares volunteered to organize coastal and marine geography paper sessions for next year's Fort Worth meeting. Paul reminded those interested in participating in the Coma-sponsored sessions next year to send their AAG application materials to him instead of directly to the AAG. Diane Horn suggested that an announcement about next year's sessions appear in the AAG newsletter as well as in *Coastal Letters*.

Joann proposed that we consider sponsoring other types of sessions next year in addition to the traditional paper sessions. She suggested (1) a workshop on strategies for teaching coastal and marine geography, and/or (2) a discussion session regarding key issues in coastal and marine geography.

Old Business

According to the AAG's Coastal and Marine Specialty Group file, we do not have by-laws. A set of proposed by-laws appeared in the last issue of *Coastal Letters*. It was brought up that the regular member specialty group dues are incorrectly written as \$5 in the proposed by-laws. It was moved and seconded that we adopt the proposed by-laws, with the regular dues corrected to \$3, as working guidelines for this year. The motion passed 23 to 0.

Having the secretary-treasurer pay membership fees directly to the AAG for individuals who receive the Student Paper Merit Award has not worked out well in the last couple of years. Sending a check in the amount of the membership fees directly to the student award recipient will solve this problem. There have also been problems in communicating the award's existence and the application procedures to eligible students. Regular appearance of a June newsletter, which will include an announcement of the award and the application form well in advance of the early September due date, should improve the situation.

Any suggestions that members might have regarding the creation and contents of a specialty group home page would be welcomed by the chair. At present, the AAG is not well-equipped to be of much assistance in this regard.

New Business

Norb Psuty observed that professional associations, including the AAG, have been paying increasing attention to their subgroups' contributions to the literature. Norb asked whether the specialty group might be interested in using its expertise to address a national or regional issue. Joann noted that some kind of project would enhance our group's visibility,

and Diane Horn suggested we might publish our results in a special issue of a journal. Norb emphasized that this would be an opportunity for our group to make a statement, to make a contribution on a relevant topic. He suggested that we might, for example, produce a multiauthored work presenting several different viewpoints on a single issue.

Election of Officers

Nancy Jackson and Greg Stone have completed their terms on the executive board of directors. Rich Daniels and Wayne Engstrom were nominated for the two open positions. Both were unanimously elected to two-year terms.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

1996 R.J. RUSSELL AWARD

Karl Nordstrom, a coastal geomorphologist at Rutgers University, received the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group's prestigious R.J. Russell Award this year. The award is given to individuals who have contributed significantly to the field of coastal and marine geography through such outlets as research, education, public service, service to the AAG, and the impact of lifetime achievements in or dedication to the field. In announcing the award at the business meeting in Charlotte, Paul Gares, chair of the R.J. Russell Award Committee, cited Karl's publication record, great teaching, public service, and many years of support for the specialty group. Through all of these activities, Karl has very positively influenced the field and a large number of individual coastal and marine geography students and colleagues.

1996 STUDENT PAPER MERIT AWARD

Congratulations to **Eugene Farrell**, who earned the Student Paper Merit Award in Charlotte for "The relationship between mean grain size and foreshore slope, Derrymore Spit, Ireland." Gene, a graduate student at USC, was the sole author of the paper. He was recognized for his accomplishment at the specialty group business meeting and at the AAG awards luncheon. From the specialty group, Gene receives AAG and coastal and marine specialty group membership fees for 1997 as well as an award certificate.

GET TO KNOW YOUR OFFICERS

This issue highlights our two newly elected members of the executive board of directors....

Richard C. Daniels is a Research Associate and GIS Analyst for the Energy, Environmental and Resources Center, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, working in Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC). Rich's research interests include coastal zone management and modelling the interrelationships between coastal processes and climate change. His most recent publication, "An innovative method of model integration to forecast spatial patterns of shoreline change: A case study at Nags Head, North Carolina," appeared in the May 1996 issue of *The Professional Geographer*. As part of his work with CDIAC, Rich is involved in quality assurance, formatting, documentation, and editing of reports for large digital data sets. Recently completed reports include "United States Historical Climatology Network (U.S. HCN) Monthly Temperature and Precipitation Data" and "Rattlesnake Mountain Observatory Multispectral Optical Depth Measurements: 1979-1994." Additional information on his research activities is available via the world wide web at <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/~r3d>. Rich also keeps busy when he's not at work. He belongs to the East Tennessee Brewers Guild, which is dedicated to the enjoyment of "real beer." For thirteen years, Rich has been a member of the U.S. Army Reserve. He spent two weeks this May in Honduras where his unit helped to build a medical clinic and a two-room school house 2 km from the El Salvador/Honduran border.

Wayne Engstrom received his Ph.D. in 1972 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Although George Dury was his major professor when he finished his degree, Wayne received his formative coastal training from Norb Psuty before Norb moved on to Rutgers. Wayne's dissertation research concerned beach morphology and sedimentology as they relate to hindcasted wave parameters at the Apostle Islands of Lake Superior in far northern Wisconsin. In 1983 on a National Park Service contract he was able to return to the Apostle Islands and update his 1970 beach data. Wayne has also done coastal consulting work at Camp Pendleton in northern San Diego County as well as at Lake Tahoe. Recently, he has been reconstructing the 19th century coastline of southern California using archival materials, newspaper accounts, and U.S. Coast Survey documents. He has completed the wave climate work and is now looking at delivery of sediment to the coast during that period. Wayne has published in such journals as *The Professional Geographer*, *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie*, *Shore and Beach*, *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology*, and *Geographical Review*, and has a paper

coming out soon in *Quaternary Research*. He is currently supervising a master's student who is completing work on the physical geography, human modification, and management of the Danube Delta in Romania.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENTS

From East Carolina University...

The ECU Department of Geography continues to develop its area of emphasis in coastal and coastal plain surficial processes. Joining them in fall of 1996 will be **Jeff Colby**, a recent Ph.D. from Colorado specializing in GIS, water resources/hydrological modelling, and fluvial geomorphology. **Mike Slattery**, **Paul Gares**, and **Jonathan Phillips** are hard at work on their USDA-funded project to unravel the sediment dynamics (fluvial and eolian) of a small coastal plain agricultural watershed. Graduate students **Emily Selby** and **Kent Keeter** are assisting with much of the dirty work, and are developing thesis topics related to the project. **Paul Gares** is also continuing a sea grant-funded coastal geomorphology project in New Jersey. **Paul Gares**, **Jonathan Phillips**, **Mike Slattery**, and **Yong Wang** are involved in ECU's proposed--and getting closer--Ph.D. program in Coastal Resource Management. All four will be in the program's geosciences track. The program has two other tracks, coastal social science and bioscience. All students in the program, regardless of track, will get crosstraining in the coastal geosciences, which include geomorphology, hydrology, sedimentology, geophysics, and physical oceanography. Finally, **Jonathan Phillips** is immersed in the Bay Rochelle (baby) project, which began February 18 and will run indefinitely.

From the University of Florida...

The University of Florida has several faculty working in physical geography and coastal issues, plus coastal expertise in related departments, such as Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering. Faculty members most directly associated with coastal studies in the geography department are **Gustavo Antonini** and **Joann Mossa**, but **Cesar Caviedes** and **Peter Waylen**, who teach courses in natural hazards and hydroclimatology, are also involved.

Gustavo Antonini has been at UF since 1968 and is currently working on a number of projects concerning coastal and marine resource utilization, primarily in south and

southwest Florida. In addition, he has extensive experience and expertise in the Caribbean, especially the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. **Antonini's** coastal graduate students include **Paul Box** and **Charles Sidman**, both Ph.D. students.

Joann Mossa worked at the Coastal Geology Section of the Louisiana Geological Survey before coming to the University of Florida in 1990. Along with several other UF faculty, she is working on a project involving water levels and storms in Dade County, and she has ongoing research concerning coastal plain rivers in Florida and Louisiana. She is supervising three coastal geography master's students, **Ed Carter**, **Joe Hughes**, and **Aleta Mitchell-Tapping**, and three Ph.D. students, **Mike Breedlove**, **Heidi Lannon**, and **Jennifer Rahn**.

Florida has the longest coastline in the conterminous U.S., and a number of beaches that rank high on national surveys. The Florida coastline is diverse and large portions of it are not developed. The University of Florida, which is both a sea-grant and a land-grant institution, is centrally located between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, in Gainesville. Like geography departments at other universities, the Department of Geography at UF is interested in receiving applications from quality, highly motivated graduate students. For more information, feel free to contact any of the individuals listed above including **Peter Waylen**, the Graduate Coordinator.

From Jennifer Rahn...

Jennifer Rahn, a Ph.D. student at the University of Florida, will be attending the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium in Panama City, Panama, this month. The symposium is held every four to six years. After the meeting, she'll be spending a few days on the Caribbean coast and is looking forward to visiting the San Blas Islands.

From Ohio University...

At the Department of Geography, Ohio University, work is well underway on the new 1500 ft² geomorphology and biogeography research lab, which will be housed in the research park area of campus just a few minutes walk from the department. The lab should be fully operational sometime this fall. **Dorothy Sack** will commute as usual to Utah this summer to conduct field work related to her Lake Bonneville research projects. She'll also spend some field time with grad student **Mark Fonstad**, whose master's thesis involves Lake Bonneville erosional shorelines, and will collaborate on a western Utah archaeology project.

A FEW UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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.

Coastal Environment '96: Environmental Problems in Coastal Regions--Aug. 7-9, 1996, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; computer modelling of seas and coastal areas under normal and extreme conditions, and other topics relevant to global and regional coastal environments.

Coastal Zone Canada '96--Aug. 11-17, 1996, Rimouski, Quebec; addresses issues relating to integrated management and sustainable development in coastal zones, conservation and protection, environmental quality, multiple use, etc.; additional information from Prof. M. El-Sabh (418) 724-1701, or fax to (418) 724-1842.

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; contact the NCGE Central Office, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA, 15705, (412) 357-7594.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

When renewing your AAG membership this fall, don't forget to renew your membership in the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group.

YOUR NEWS HERE

AAG Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group Student Paper Merit Award Application Form

AAG Annual Meeting, Fort Worth, Texas, April 1-5, 1997

Eligibility: Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students may compete for this 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 1997 annual AAG meeting, (2) are a member of the AAG and of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group, and (3) have submitted to the chair of the Student Paper Merit Award committee the completed application form and accompanying materials, to be received by September 5, 1996. Poster presentations are not eligible. Papers are judged both on content and on the quality of the presentation. The award consists of AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership fees for the following year and an award certificate.

Instructions: Follow the program participation guidelines outlined in the May 1996 Newsletter of the AAG as an individual participating in an organized paper session. By following those instructions you will have a diskette containing your abstract, one paper copy of the abstract, your participation fee, and a completed AAG program participation form. In addition, complete this application form and attach a second paper copy of your abstract to it. Gather all of these materials into one package and mail it to: Paul Gares, Department of Geography, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, 27858. Dr. Gares must receive your materials by **September 5, 1996**.

The Russell Spit Complex, Churchill County, Nevada:

Geomorphic Treasure or Fallon City Dump?

The Russell Spit, shown here as depicted in Israel Cook Russell's (1885) USGS monograph on late Pleistocene Lake Lahontan, was built while the paleolake was at and near its highest level. Russell's Lake Lahontan monograph is to the western Great Basin what G.K. Gilbert's (1890) Lake Bonneville monograph is to the eastern Great Basin. As this newsletter goes to print, the Bureau of Land Management is deciding on the City of Fallon's application to make this important and impressive set of relict coastal landforms a city dump.



GRAVEL EMBANKMENTS ON SOUTH BORDER OF THE CARSON DESERT, NEVADA.