
COASTAL LETTERS



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Membership Renewal Reminder

Don't forget to renew your membership in the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group. Also, when you renew your membership with the AAG, update your E-mail address – and remind your colleagues! Dues have not changed from 2003-04. Membership dues for the Specialty Group are currently \$1 for students and \$5 for regular and associate members.

Editor's Comments and Election Results

- 1) Welcome to all of you who have recently joined the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (COMA).
- 2) Have you been getting CoMa E-mail? If not, please send an E-mail to the editor to be added to our list. Also, if you would like to be removed from the mailing list please contact the editor.
- 3) The 2004 business meeting in Philadelphia resulted in only one change in the specialty group leadership. **Jennifer Rahn**, whose 2-year term on the Board of Directors was expiring, was nominated for a second term and has agreed to serve.
- 4) If you have announcements or other items to be distributed via the e-mail list please forward them to the editor. Items can be sent at any time. Time sensitive items such as job opportunities can be distributed immediately, upon request. Other items will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Steve Namikas, Editor (snamik1@lsu.edu)

Musings from the Chair – Diane Horn

Dear CoMa members,

Once again I'm writing my contribution to the Chair's column from Australia, where I've just spent the last three months on a research project funded by the Australian Research Council. However, I'm heading back to London in a few days to get ready for the start of the teaching year. I'm not looking forward to going back to London weather, but I guess it's better than being in Florida this September. We should have plenty of material for hurricane sessions at the next AAG.

There were 15 CoMa sponsored sessions at the Philadelphia meeting, all but two of which were co-sponsored with other specialty groups. The co-sponsored sessions in Philadelphia were so successful that I contacted the chairs of other specialty groups to see if they'd be interested in joint sessions again, and not surprisingly most of them are. Assuming that we get enough abstracts to put the sessions together, we hope to have the co-sponsored sessions in Denver with the specialty groups listed below – so start thinking about your abstracts, and encourage any colleagues and students who are working on coastal and marine topics to send in an abstract.

A few sessions are definitely in the pipeline. Dawn Wright is organising the Marine and Coastal GIS sessions, and Dorothy Sack is organising a special session special in honor of Donald R. Currey, who was a premier Lake Bonneville scholar and who passed away in June (see announcements below in "*News and Views from Members*"). At least half the papers will have Coastal/Lacustrine leanings, so the latter session will be co-sponsored by the Geomorphology Specialty Group and CoMa. Also, Suzi Moser of the Human Dimensions of Global Change Specialty Group and I are going to organise another Coastal Futures Panel session, since the one last year was so successful (the discussion would have kept going for another hour, I suspect, if we hadn't been kicked out of the room). If we get enough participants, we will also organise co-sponsored sessions with the following specialty groups:

Applied Geography, Biogeography, Climate, Cultural and Political Ecology, Cultural Geography, Energy and Environment, Environmental Perception and Behavioral Geography, Hazards, Recreation, Tourism and Sport, Remote Sensing, Transportation Geography, Urban Geography, Water Resources.

If any of you are working on topics that would fit into any of the categories above, please send an expression of interest (and eventually an abstract) to me. I am particularly encouraging human geographers and those of you who have not presented in a CoMa sponsored session to send an abstract in this year. Also, you do not have to be a CoMa member to present in one of our sessions, so if you know anyone who is submitting an abstract on a coastal or marine topic, please forward this email to them (and of course, new members are always welcome).

The deadline for submission of abstracts to the AAG for papers and illustrated papers is a bit later this year - 21 October – so I will email you all closer to the time to remind you to get your abstracts in. I know that most of us have a tendency to leave things until the last moment (Steve has been waiting for this column for a while now), but it's not too early to starting thinking about your abstract. The procedure for being included in a CoMa sponsored session is quite straightforward. All participants must first complete the AAG 2005 Individual Registration form, which is on the AAG web site at <http://www.aag.org/>. When you do this, you will be given a PIN number. After registering, you need to email the PIN number as well as a copy of your abstract directly to me as session chair (Diane Horn: d.horn@bbk.ac.uk) so I can arrange to have the session organised within the main conference program. I will then place you in an appropriate session.

Last year we had a problem with sessions on coastal topics that didn't come through CoMa and were organised by the AAG, several of which clashed with CoMa-sponsored sessions. I will try to encourage the AAG to avoid this in Denver, so the sooner the CoMa-sponsored sessions are organised, the better.

Also, don't forget about the student paper competition. There are two awards: a Student Paper Merit Award and a Student Illustrated Paper Award. Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students may compete for the Student Paper Merit Award or Student Illustrated Paper Award if they (1) are the first or sole author of an oral paper concerning coastal or marine geography which they will be presenting - in either of the two formats - at the 2004 annual AAG meeting, (2) are a member of the AAG and of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group (you can still join!), (3) followed AAG guidelines for submitting abstracts and registering, and (4) have submitted to the session organiser the completed application form, a copy of the abstract, and the assigned PIN number, to be received by 6 October 2003. Poster presentations are not eligible. Papers are judged both on content and on the quality of the presentation. Student Paper Merit Award candidates will present in a special session organised by the specialty group. The award consists of a \$100 grant to be used to defray AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership dues and travel expenses to the annual meeting as well as an award certificate. Up to three awards may be given in any given year (best illustrated paper, best paper -physical processes, and best paper -anthropogenic interactions). Information about the awards is on the AAG web site at <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/SGcallforpapers/CoMa.htm> and information on how to apply for the award competition (including application forms) are on the CoMa web site at http://www.homestead.com/aag_coma/files/student.html. If you are a student, please think about submitting your paper or illustrated paper for this competition. If you are a supervisor, please encourage your students to submit their papers.

We are also asking for nominations for the RJ Russell award. This specialty group award is presented in recognition of an individual's major contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography. These contributions may be in research, teaching, public service, and/or service to the specialty group. Nomination are accepted from CoMa members, but nominees do not have to be members of either the specialty group or the AAG. Two nominations are required for consideration for the Award. At least one of the nominations must include a complete letter of nomination which will include one paragraph describing the nominee's contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography and/or to the specialty group and a list of the nominee's relevant publications. Nominations for the R.J. Russell Award should be directed to the Vice-Chair, Pat Hesp (pahesp@lsu.edu). Nominations for the current year should be made at least 2 weeks prior to the annual AAG meeting. An example letter of nomination can be found on the CoMa web site at http://www.homestead.com/aag_coma/files/russell_nom.html. Details of past winners are also on the COMA web site. The Russell Award was not conferred in 2004, as the Specialty Group decided to change the awarding procedure. The nomination deadline will remain unchanged, but recipients will be selected and notified one year prior to conferring of the award. This will make it possible for awardees to plan in advance to attend the AAG meeting at which the award is conferred. Dr. Alan Trenhaile (University of Windsor, Canada) was announced as the 2005 R.J. Russell Award winner, and will attend the Denver meeting to receive the award.

Unfortunately, Denver is not a suitable venue for a coastal field trip (unless someone wants to lead one on palaeo-coasts). However, I suspect that many of you may be taking your own field trip to the ski slopes – just make sure that you find time to attend a few sessions too!

Diane Horn, Chair (d.horn@bbk.ac.uk)

Profile – New CoMa Officer

Jennifer L. Rahn

Jennifer received her B.A. degree from Villanova University (cartography), and her M.A. from Temple University (computer cartography and GIS). She completed her Ph.D. at University of Florida in Gainesville (coastal geomorphology) in 2001, working under Joann Mossa. All degrees were in Geography. She spent a year (1999) as a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow at the USGS Headquarters in Reston VA, in the Coastal and Marine Geology Program. Jennifer holds the position of assistant professor at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Her research interests include coral reef geomorphology, sandy beach anthropogeomorphology, and Cartography & GIS education. Her present areas of fieldwork are Padre Island, TX and the Caribbean island of Dominica. She is an avid SCUBA diver and has had perfect attendance at all of the last twelve COMA business meetings.

News and Views from Members

Movin' South: Chris Houser recently accepted the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of West Florida. Chris's research interests are in process coastal geomorphology with a specific interest in the morphological feedback mechanisms of the upper-shoreface. He received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Guelph and his PhD (Geography) from the University of Toronto. Prior to starting with the University of West Florida, Chris completed a National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship (VF) with the Geological Survey of Canada. The research with the Geological Survey of Canada examines the mechanisms of sediment resuspension and transport on the sandy intertidal flat of the Fraser River Delta, British Columbia and the implications of rising sea level and intensified storminess on the morphology of the flats. At the University of West Florida, Chris will be focusing on nearshore morphodynamics and beach/dune interaction along Santa Rosa Island. More information about Chris can be found at: <http://www.uwf.edu/chouser/>.

Video and Website Recommendations: Instructors interested in learning and sharing information on Louisiana's coastal land loss problem and efforts to restore vanishing wetlands will find the following items useful: "America's Vanishing Treasure" (video, 28 minutes, available free from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program at 1-800-259-0869 or www.btneq.org). This video gives insight into the reasons behind Louisiana's coastal land loss and describes why the entire U.S. should be concerned. The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (www.crcl.org) was the first broad-based group to publicize the need for coastal restoration and to spearhead efforts toward this end. The entire website is useful, but I especially recommend the report "No Time to Lose: Facing the Future of Louisiana and the Crisis of Coastal Land Loss," which you can download from this site. The "America's Wetland" campaign (www.americaswetland.com) seeks to inform the nation about the crisis of Louisiana's coastal land loss and its effects on the U.S., including potential disruption of the nation's energy supply. A variety of educational material is available from this site, including pamphlet and video.

Gay Gomez
McNeese State University

Locals Only!



Diane Horn found the locals to be quite protective of their favorite spot during her recent field season in Australia. Fortunately (upon learning that Diane was the Chair of CoMa), they soon relented and allowed the researchers to set up their experiment.

NOAA Award/Student Ops: Dawn Wright (Geography Program) and Jim Good (Director, Marine Resource Management) of Oregon State University have been awarded \$124,891 by the NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) to establish a new minority graduate fellowship program to attract African-American, Native American, Latino/Hispanic, students to marine geography, GIS, and coastal resource management. This seed grant will fund two outstanding students on graduate teaching and research assistantships towards completion of Master of Science degrees. Summer activities will include paid internships in GIS and remote sensing at the NOAA CSC in Charleston, SC, registrations at state and regional coastal zone management workshops, and all-expenses paid trips to the ESRI International User Conference and Coastal Zone '05 in New Orleans. If you have any students who might be interested in these assistantships please contact Dawn at dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu.

Marine GIS Tools: A new tutorial to introduce users to the object-oriented ArcGIS Marine Data Model has been prepared by graduate student Alyssa Aaby of Oregon State University. The primary goals are to help new users: 1) apply the Marine Data Model schema to a personal geodatabase; 2) prepare and load your marine data for inclusion into the Marine Data Model so that you can be off and running with advanced GIS projects and analysis. Feel free to try it out at: http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/djl/arcgis/MDM_Tutorial/ with feedback to Alyssa at: aabya@science.oregonstate.edu. The Davey Jones Locker Seafloor Mapping and Marine/Coastal GIS lab at Oregon State University has a variety of GIS data sets, maps, images, and 3-D visualizations that may be of interest or assistance to COMA members, particularly for teaching. Set sail to: <http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/djl/>

Call for Papers: Denver AAG Session on "Multidimensional Marine GIS - applications and theory"

Sponsored by the Coastal & Marine Geography Specialty Group,

Organized by Tiffany Vance, NOAA/Oregon State University

Description: This session seeks papers on the broad topic of GIS in the marine realm. As such, this session will be a continuation of past sessions at AAG on similar topics. Specific areas of interest would include, but not be limited to:

GIS for the deep(er) ocean; applications at the air-sea interface

Coastal applications such as the integration of topographic and bathymetric datasets.

Given the multidimensional nature of the marine realm, papers considering any and all aspects of multi-dimensional (in space and/or time) GIS are particularly welcome. If you are interested in participating in this session, send your abstract and PIN number by **15 October** to Tiffany Vance at: Tiffany.C.Vance@noaa.gov.

Call for Papers: Denver AAG Session on "Marine/Coastal GIS & Acoustic Remote Sensing for Benthic Characterization"

Co-Sponsored by the GIS and Coastal & Marine Geography Specialty Groups

Organized by Dawn Wright, Oregon State University

Description: This session seeks papers on the principles, techniques, and applications of GIS in the marine and coastal realm, particularly the incorporation of acoustic remote sensing for benthic habitat characterization. This session will be a continuation of past sessions at AAG highlighting the various ways in which geographers are contributing to this evolving field of research. As such, additional, related topics are also welcome, including: (a) marine sanctuaries and protected areas; (b) marine and coastal data models and data structures; (c) web GIS for marine and coastal data; (d) questions in basic & applied marine science that have been derived, addressed and/or elucidated by GIS; and (e) integration of spatial analysis with policy, legal and/or economic issues, particularly in the coastal zone. If you are interested in participating in this session, send your abstract and PIN number by **30 September** to Dawn Wright (dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu)

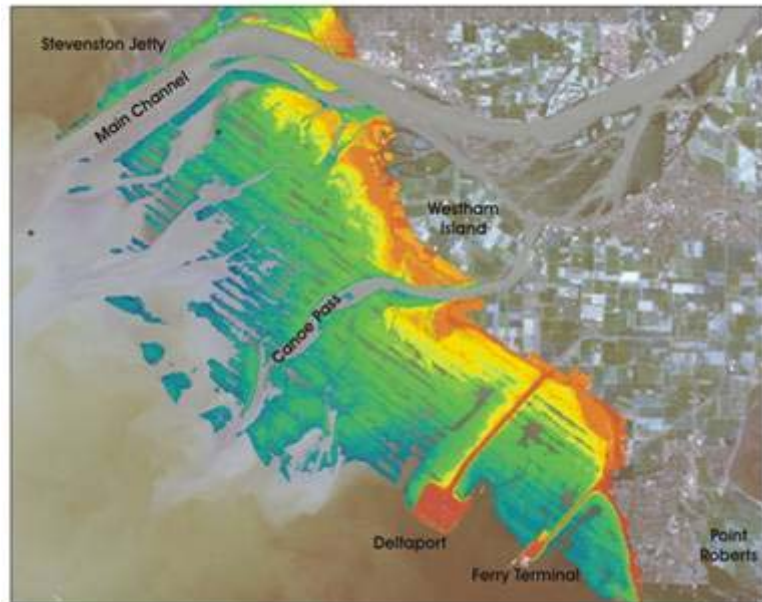
Call for Papers: Denver AAG Special Session in Honor of Donald R. Currey (1934-2004): Interested physical geographers and other earth scientists are invited to participate in the one or more special paper sessions being organized for the Denver AAG meeting in honor of the late Donald R. Currey. Don, who earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Geography at Kansas University in 1969, was a geography faculty member for over 30 years at the University of Utah, where he mentored numerous Ph.D., master's, and undergraduate students of physical geography. Don was an exceptional, field-based Quaternary scientist, geomorphologist, and physical geographer who is best known for his paleolake research, particularly his work on late Pleistocene Lake Bonneville. Through his insatiable curiosity and brilliant intellect, over the course of his career Don developed a truly impressive knowledge and understanding of coastal, lacustrine, glacial, mountain, and desert geomorphic processes and environments, spatial and stratigraphic methods, and the late Pleistocene and Holocene history of western North America. His influence on his numerous students, colleagues, collaborators, and associates as well as on paleolake and paleoenvironmental scholars in general is immense. Researchers interested in presenting the results of their work on a theme related to Don's research should email to one of the session organizers listed below (a) a tentative title, (b) authors' names, and (c) contact information of the lead author at your earliest convenience, but no later than September 25. Formal abstracts will be due no later than **October 15** to meet the AAG's deadline of October 21 for submission of organized paper sessions. We look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Jim Petersen, Texas State University-San Marcos (jp01@txstate.edu; 512-245-3203) Dorothy Sack, Ohio University (sack@ohio.edu; 740-593-9897) Shizuo Nishizawa, University of Utah (sn1734@csbs.utah.edu)

Dorothy Sack
Ohio University

Please send announcements, updates, reports from the field, job listings, or anything else that might be of interest to the Editor (snamik1@lsu.edu). No need to wait, I'll file things for the January/February 2004 issue.

SENSITIVITY OF THE FRASER RIVER DELTA TO ACCELERATED SEA LEVEL RISE AND INTENSIFIED STORMINESS

Researchers from the Geological Survey of Canada have been completing a study of the impacts of climate-induced changes on the Roberts Bank tidal flats and the potential adaptation strategies to such changes. The Roberts Bank tidal flats, along with Sturgeon Bank and Boundary Bay, form the intertidal zone of the Fraser River Delta. Bounded on their landward edge by protective dykes, the Roberts Bank tidal flats comprise three zones: tidal marsh, a muddy high tidal flat and a very broad, sandy, lower tidal flat. On the landward side, the tidal flats border the municipality of Delta and the Tsawwassen First Nation Reserve and represent an important habitat for a variety of migratory birds and juvenile salmon.



The tidal flats cover an area of 113 km² that presently lie between +2 and -3 m of mean sea level, which makes the area vulnerable to accelerated sea level rise and intensified storminess. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) project a global sea level rise of 0.09 to 0.88 m for the period 1990 to 2100 with a central value of 0.48 m (IPCC). For comparison, the sea level rise measured at Vancouver over the twentieth century was approx. 0.04 m. In addition, global climate models suggest an increase in the intensity of storms over the next century, although much uncertainty about the mechanisms and validity of these predictions remain

The effects of sea level rise may be further exacerbated by subsidence of the banks, due to sediment compaction, and by a lack of adequate sediment supply. Deltas are known to subside rapidly, and modeling results suggest that the tidal flat equilibrium profile is sensitive to sediment supply and wave conditions. Since the stabilization of Main Channel, the sediment supply to Roberts Bank has been limited to suspended fines, with little or no sand being available. The model results indicate that a lower sediment supply results in a steeper tidal flat profile.

For such a low-elevation environment, the physical impacts are likely to be major and include a substantial shrinking of the tidal flat area. The potential impact on salmon and shorebird habitats could have very significant negative effects on the regional economy and local quality of life. Mitigation of these impacts would affect a broad range of evolving community, commercial and conservation interests, several of which are already in conflict with each other. Furthermore, eventual resolution of the issues and development of a common adaptation strategy would involve four levels of government: federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations. Decision-making in this context becomes complex and is beyond the project scope. In this study, the goal is to provide a sound technical background for decision-making, to raise the level of awareness of the climate change impacts and to develop integrated biophysical and socio-economic scenarios upon which realistic, implementable adaptation strategies might be based.

For more information and publications contact Dr. Phil Hill (Geological Survey of Canada, phill@nrcan.gc.ca) or Dr. Chris Houser (University of West Florida, chouser@uwf.edu).

Chris Houser
University of West Florida

FIRST CALL: CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED FOR 2005 COMA CD-ROM PROJECT

The intent of the CD(s) is to establish a library of reference coastal images for the use of professional geographers. I will compile images and captions onto a CD and they will be sold at low cost to benefit the Specialty Group. This volume of the COMA CD will be a little different from the last. That volume was focused on research and applications. This CD will be an image library. I will be collecting photos for two thematic compilations. The first is "Coastal Hazards" the second is "Marine Geography". Coastal Hazards seems straightforward. By Marine Geography I am referring to subjects that are usually out of sight of the shoreline (challenge: I would especially like images to use in a political geography course).

I am asking for people to submit no more than 3 images (could be all for one category or any combination). Images must be (1) in the .jpg format, (2) at least 640 x 480 pixels, and (3) the file can be no larger than 100 kb. Name the file "yourname#.jpg" where YOUR name (family name then a personal initial) is followed by either a "1", "2", or a "3" as appropriate. For example, "craghanm1.jpg"

Each image must be accompanied by a text caption (not a word processor document). Name the caption text file the same as its image file, but end it with ".txt" instead of ".jpg" Captions should have no more words than would fit using 12 pt. Times New Roman font on five 6-inch lines of a word processor document. Captions should begin with (1) image name, (2) photographer's name in quotes spelled out as you would like it to appear in the CD index with family name then a comma before your personal name, (3) country or U.S. state where the picture was taken, and (4) approximate Latitude and Longitude accurate to some fraction of a degree.

Example caption: craghanm1.jpg, "Craghan, Michael", New Jersey, 40.1 N, 74.0 W, The Manasquan River Inlet in coastal New Jersey is one of the...

Save your images and captions to a CD and mail them to me (I prefer this). You can also place them on a web page or ftp site and send me an E-mail (mcraghan@macges.org) describing how I can retrieve them. **DO NOT SEND E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS.** My E-mail system isn't up to oodles of messages holding big pictures, but more importantly your message is likely to be deleted unopened.

Michael Craghan
MACGES
P.O. Box 20
Manasquan, NJ 08736-0020

If I get enough images without having to harass you all, then I'll let you know how to order a CD in the next COMA newsletter. I'll probably bring a bunch of CDs to Denver as well.

Michael Craghan
Manasquan, NJ

In Memoriam – James P. McDermott

The coastal community lost a valued friend earlier this year with the passing of James P. (Jim) McDermott, following a long battle with Hodgkins Disease. James was from Cork city, Ireland, and completed an Earth Science degree in 1995 at University College Cork. His final year thesis under the supervision of Dr. Robert Devoy examined seasonal variation in beach profiles at an artificial beach in West Cork. Upon completion of his degree James spent one year in eastern Australia experiencing life in Sydney and along the Gold Coast.

In 1997 James received a scholarship to attend the University of Southern California, to work with Profs. Douglas Sherman and Bernard Bauer. Within two months of his arrival to Los Angeles James was diagnosed with Hodgkins Disease. The following months and years were very difficult on James – both mentally and physically – but his determination and resilience inspired all those who worked with him. He never considered his cancer to be a roadblock to his academic progress – rather he accepted it as another hindrance to be overcome.



With the completion of his Masters thesis entitled *Sediment-level oscillations in the swash zone*, James completed the requirements for the Masters Program at USC and graduated in 2001. During this time, he gave conference presentations and published papers dealing with El Nino storm effects on cobble beaches, levee bank erosion, and berm development on cusps. He won many awards including: 2002 Student Paper Competition Winner, Coastal and Marine Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting; 2002 Graduate Student Paper Presentation Winner, Geography Department, University of Southern California, 2001 *Spirit of Geography* Award, Geography Department, University of Southern California.

James then entered the doctoral program at USC and was focusing his research on the sedimentary budget of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta system in California. We were given the opportunity to witness his intelligence, creativity, motivation, patience, and good nature. In his research, and in his arguments, he displayed a keen appreciation of the complementary roles of theory and fieldwork, and demonstrated a practical awareness of experimental design and analytical methodologies. The work he completed was of the highest quality, and showed exceptional promise for things to come. We can only speculate about what his contributions to the discipline of coastal geomorphology might have been.

Throughout often debilitating treatments, James was constantly in good humor. A true Irishman, he enjoyed good company and beer and was the life and soul of many a gathering. In March, James passed away in Cork with his family around him. James is deeply missed by his parents Gerry and Sara, his sisters Sharon and Yvonne and his younger brother Gary. Our thoughts and prayers are with James and his family. The geography discipline lost a true scholar, gentleman and character. He will be kindly remembered and missed by all those fortunate enough to come to know him.

Eugene Farrell

Doug Sherman

R.J. Russell Award –New Procedures

The issue of the timing of the R.J. Russell award was revisited at the 2004 business meeting in Philadelphia. Traditionally, the award recipient was not announced until immediately prior to the annual meeting, and several recent awardees have faced excessive travel costs and/or been unable to attend to receive the award.

CoMa members discussed the possibility of altering the schedule for nomination and discussion of nominees, but it was decided on the basis of previous experience that such changes would likely introduce additional complications. Ultimately it was decided to maintain the existing schedule (see below: Call for Nominations – R.J. Russell Award) but to confer the award one year after a successful nomination. Hence, no award was given for 2004, Dr. Alan Trenhaile will receive the award for 2005 at the Denver meeting, and this year we will consider nominations for an award in 2006.

The membership also considered the issue of defraying conference costs for awardees. Chair Horn agreed to contact the AAG regarding the possibility of having conference registration fees waived for the awardees. In the event that this approach is not successful, members voted to use specialty group funds to cover the cost of registration for award winners.

Student Paper Merit Award Winners for 2004

Five students entered the 2004 student paper competition in Philadelphia, however only three students were able to attend. The judges noted that the quality of presentations was again very high, making selection of a winner difficult. The Student Paper Award winner for 2004 was:

Arielle Levine, University of California - Berkeley, for her presentation: *A Comparative Analysis of Community-Based Marine Protected Area Programs in Zanzibar, Tanzania*.

Congratulations to Arielle, and to all the contestants, on a job well done. The award includes a certificate, enshrinement on our page of fame (at our web site), and a \$100 prize. The specialty group would like to thank all of the participating students for their efforts, as well as the reviewers for assisting in the judging process, and we would also like to encourage all participants to try again at Denver in 2005.

Consideration of Naming Student Paper Award

Many of you are aware that Jim McDermott, a CoMa member and PhD candidate in coastal geomorphology at the University of Southern California, passed away earlier this year after a long battle with cancer. At the Philadelphia meeting, a number of CoMa members informally discussed the possibility of naming one of our student paper awards in his honor. Jim was diagnosed with cancer shortly after starting his graduate program. Despite a series of debilitating treatments and numerous relapses, Jim was able to complete his Master's degree and won the CoMa student paper award at the Los Angeles meeting in 2002. His perseverance and dedication to the field were such that he continued work towards his PhD despite his condition, a pursuit cut short by his untimely death earlier this year. Jim embodied many of the qualities of a superior graduate student, thus it seems appropriate to consider naming one of our student awards in his honor. This issue will be raised for discussion and consideration at the 2005 CoMa Business Meeting in Denver. Members who cannot attend the meeting but would like to address this issue can send comments to the editor (snamik1@lsu.edu), and they will be read at the meeting.

Call For Papers, Sponsored Sessions in Denver

In general CoMa is happy to sponsor an organized or special session as long as the following apply:

1. At least one of the presenters is a member of CoMa.
2. At least two of the five papers in the session are related to a coastal or marine subject (e.g., a paper on 'Wetland Loss from Sea Level Rise in coastal Louisiana' would meet this requirement while a paper on 'Wetland loss from urban growth in Iowa' would not.)
3. Contact the current Chair (Diane Horn) to formally request sponsorship.

That's it! Be sure to inform the AAG that your session is sponsored when you submit your paper work for the session. If you are planning to present a paper at the 2005 AAG Annual Conference in Denver on coastal or marine geography (human, physical, hazards, or techniques) please consider participating in a session sponsored or co-sponsored by the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (COMA). To present in a CoMa session you must:

1. Register online at the AAG website.
2. Send a copy of your abstract and the PIN number assigned to your paper by the AAG to the session organizer.

Your materials (registration and abstracts) must be submitted to the AAG by **21 October 2004**. However, in order to allow time for organization it would be very helpful if you could send your abstract and PIN number to Diane Horn a week or so in advance.

Call for Student Papers/Illustrated Papers

Eligibility: Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students may compete for the **Student Paper Merit Award** or **Student Illustrated Paper 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 2005 annual AAG meeting, (2) are a member of the AAG and of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group, and (3) have submitted to the session organizer the completed application form and accompanying materials, to be received by October 6, 2005 (oral papers or illustrated papers). Poster presentations are not eligible. Papers are judged both on content and on the quality of the presentation. The award consists of a \$100.00 grant to be used to defray AAG and Coastal and Marine Specialty Group membership dues and travel expenses to the annual meeting as well as an award certificate.

Instructions: Follow the program participation guidelines outlined on the AAG website as an individual participating in a sponsored/special paper session. In addition, complete the application form (at http://aag_coma.homestead.com) and send it with your abstract and PIN number to: Diane Horn (d.horn@bbk.ac.uk).

Call for Award Nominations: The R. J. Russell Award

Nominations for the 2006 R.J. Russell Award should be directed to the Vice-Chair (Patrick Hesp). This specialty group award is presented in recognition of an individual's major contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography. These contributions may be in research, teaching, public service, and/or to the specialty group. Previous awardees include Jess Walker (1991), Fillmore Earney (1992), Norbert Psuty (1993), Karl Nordstrom (1996), Doug Sherman (1997), Bernard Bauer (1999), Robin Davidson-Arnott (2000), Patrick Hesp (2001), Andrew Short (2003), and Alan Trenhaile (2005). The R.J. Russell Award is named in honor of Richard Joel Russell (1895-1971). He founded the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University in 1928, acted as its first Chair, and served as Dean of the Graduate School 12 years. Dr. Russell was an organizer of the Coastal Studies Institute (1954), president of both the Association of American Geographers (1948) and Geological Society of America (1957), and was named to the National Academy of Sciences (1959).

Nominations for the 2006 award should be made at least 2 weeks prior to the annual AAG meeting. Nominations are only accepted from COMA members, but nominees do not have to be members of either the specialty group or the AAG. Two letters of nomination are required for consideration for the Award. At least one of these must include one paragraph describing contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography and/or to the special interest group, and a list of the nominee's relevant publications.

Upcoming Conferences

Littoral 2004. 7th International Conference: *Delivering Sustainable Coasts*. September 19-22 2004, Aberdeen Scotland.

More Info: <http://www.littoral2004.org>

ICCE 2004. 29th International Conference on Coastal Engineering. September 19-24 2004. Lisbon, Portugal.

More Info: <http://www.ICCE2004.org>

National Beaches Conference. October 13-15 2004. San Diego, CA. More Info: <http://www.tetrattech-ffx.com/beaches/index.cfm>

CEO6. *Civil Engineering in the Oceans 6: Meeting the New Challenges of the 21st Century*. October 20-22 2004. Baltimore, MD. More Info: <http://www.asce.org/conferences/ceinoceans6/>

International Conference on Coastal Infrastructure Development – Challenges in the 21st Century. November 22-24 2004. Hong Kong.

More Info: <http://www.hkie.org.hk/html/downloads/events/coastal2004/CoastalBrochure2004.pdf>

4th International Surfing Reef Symposium. January 12-14 2005. Manhattan Beach, CA. More Info: www.surfrider.org/reef4/

ASLO2005. *Aquatic Sciences Meeting. American Society of Limnology and Oceanography*. February 20-25 2005. Salt Lake City, Utah. More Info: <http://aslo.org/meetings/slc2005>

GIS in Marine and Coastal Environments. March 16-19 2005. London, England.

Coastal Dynamics '05. 5th International Conference on Coastal Dynamics. April 11-15 2005. Barcelona, Spain.

More Info: www.coastaldynamics.org/cd05/index.html

ICCM2005. *International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean*. April 17-20 2005. Algarve, Portugal. More Info: <http://iccm2005.tripod.com>

Solutions to Coastal Disasters. May 8-11 2005. Charleston, SC. More Info: www.asce.org/conferences/cd05

ICS 2005. *Second International Coastal Symposium*. June 5-8 2005. Hornafjordur, Iceland. More Info:

www.hornafjordur.is/icecoast/ics2005

Waves '05. 5th International Symposium on Ocean Wave Measurement and Analysis. July 3-7 2005. Madrid, Spain.

More Info: www.cedex.es/waves2005/

Coastal Zone '05: Balancing on the Edge. July 18-21 2005. New Orleans, LA.

More Info: www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/

If you know of any related conferences coming up in 2004 or if you have announcements or newsworthy items concerning you, your department, or agency, *please* take a moment to send them to the newsletter editor. Thanks!

Minutes of the 2004 Business Meeting – Philadelphia

Steve Namikas

Diane Horn opened the meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday 16 March 2004, Marriot, with 26 members present. Vice-chair Patrick Hesp and Board member Doug Sherman were absent.

1. Adoption of Agenda.

Unanimously adopted.

2. Approval of the Minutes, 2003 Meeting

Minutes were circulated and unanimously approved.

3. Announcements

Chair Horn announced that the specialty group was sponsoring 15 paper sessions for the centennial meeting. All but two of the sessions were co-sponsored with a wide range of other specialty groups, including: Tourism, Recreation, and Sport, GIS, Applied Geography, Transportation, Climatology, Biogeography, Hazards, Remote Sensing, and Human Dimensions of Global Change. It was noted that efforts to establish ties and increase interaction with other specialty groups were quite successful.

The problem of concurrent session scheduling was discussed, but it was acknowledged that little could be done other than continuing to request more attention to the problem from the AAG scheduling committee. It was pointed out that sessions sponsored by multiple SGs were particularly problematic since the number of potential conflicts was increased thereby.

Norb Psuty was thanked for organizing the conference field trip to coastal New Jersey, and meeting attendees were urged to participate.

Bernie Bauer announced that the AAG Annals was encouraging manuscript submissions, and particularly for the Environmental Sciences section. He noted that turn-around times for publication had been reduced dramatically, and that the acceptance rate for submissions was currently quite high. Articles on a wide range of topics were being solicited and accepted.

4. Treasurers Report

Secretary-Treasurer Steve Namikas presented the treasurers report (see copy in 2003-04 CoMa annual report). The specialty group funds were in good shape with a (2003 year-end) balance of \$1507.22. Funding from SG dues for 2003 (approximately \$440) had not yet been received from the AAG central office, and an additional payment due from 2002 remained outstanding. Steve stated he would continue to pursue the matters with Paul Abel, and the report was unanimously approved.

5. Specialty Group Chairs Report

The AAG was apologetic regarding the printing errors in the Annual Meeting program.

Discussion focused on ways the AAG could help SG chairs. Ready access to updated membership email lists was requested.

The AAG noted that specialty groups, as well as individuals, could donate funds to AAG projects and particularly the centennial fund. They are also interested in any fund-raising ideas the SGs can generate.

6. R.J. Russell Award

Chair Horn raised the problem of the timing of the award. Several recent awardees have been unable to attend to receive the award in person because the winner was not selected until immediately prior to the conference and travel costs became prohibitively expensive. After discussion by the members, a new procedure was unanimously agreed upon. The nomination deadline will remain unchanged, but recipients will be selected and notified one year prior to conferring of the award. Chair Horn agreed to investigate whether the AAG would waive/reduce the registration fee for award recipients, and the SG voted unanimously to pay the registration fee if this was not possible.

No award was conferred for 2004. Dr. Alan Trenhaile (University of Windsor, Canada) was announced as the 2005 R.J. Russell Award winner. Chair Horn read the following statement outlining Dr. Trenhaile's qualifications, prepared by Patrick Hesp:

Alan Trenhaile completed his BSc in 1966 and PhD in 1969 at the University of Wales. He is a Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Alan has had a very distinguished career in geomorphology and has published 5 books, 15 chapters and articles in books, 45 (and climbing) refereed articles, and was the series editor for a four-book series produced by the IAG. He has written papers and books on a wide range of topics such as the geomorphology of Canada, ripple dynamics, valley steps in the Canadian Cordillera, and cirques and drumlins, and in 1997 produced an excellent text on coastal landforms and dynamics. Alan is renowned for his extensive and wide ranging research and publications on rock platform evolution, processes, dynamics and modeling. His contributions to coastal geomorphology in this area are outstanding, and some of his papers on rock platforms are exceptional, seminal papers on the topic.

7. Student Paper Awards

Three students competed in the student paper competition this year. The judges noted that the quality of the student presentations was again very high, making selection of a winner difficult for the judges. The Student Paper Award winner for 2004 was Arielle Levine, University of California - Berkeley, for her paper *A Comparative Analysis of Community-Based Marine Protected Area Programs in Zanzibar, Tanzania*.

8. Old Business

a. Discussion of Dues Changes

The membership discussed the possibility of raising the Specialty Group dues and decided that a change was not warranted at this time.

b. Coastal Slide CD #2

Michael Craghan agreed to organize a second CD of coastal slides to raise funds for the Specialty Group. Members are requested send digital images with captions and/or relevant information to Michael at: mcraghan@macges.org

9. Election of Officers

Jennifer Rahn's term on the Board of Directors expired this year. Jennifer was nominated for a second term by Norb Psuty, and Paul Gares seconded the nomination. The membership unanimously elected Jennifer to another term, and Chair Horn thanked her for her past and continuing contributions to the Specialty Group.

10. Adjournment

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.