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# COASTAL LETTERS



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

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## Table of Contents

Specialty Group Officers	1	
Membership Renewal Reminder	2	Jeff Ueland, Secretary-Treasurer
Editor's Comments and Election Results	2	Department of Geography
Musings from the Chair – Steve Namikas	2	Ohio University
Profile – New CoMa Officer	3	Athens, OH 45701
News and Views from Members	3	Phone: (470) 593-0304
CoMa Media CD-ROM 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed	6	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ueland@ohio.edu">ueland@ohio.edu</a>
Program and Workshop News	6	
New Books and Articles	7	
Employment Opportunities	8	Tom Allen, Board of Directors
Call for Papers, Sponsored Sessions in San Fran	11	Department of Geography
Announced CoMa Sponsored Sessions in San Fran	11	East Carolina University
Call for Award Nominations: The R.J. Russell Award	13	Greenville, NC 27858
Call for Student Papers/Illustrated Papers	14	Phone: (252) 328-6230
Upcoming Conferences	14	Email: <a href="mailto:ALLENTH@ecu.edu">ALLENTH@ecu.edu</a>
Minutes, 2004 Business Meeting – Chicago	15	

## Specialty Group Officers

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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 2006-07. 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 Jeff Ueland to be added to our list. Also, if you would like to be removed from the mailing list please contact the editor.
- 3) The 2005 business meeting in Chicago several changes to the specialty group leadership. Steve Namikas was elected as chair. Additionally, Harry Jol was elected Vice-chair and Tom Allen was also elected to the Board of Directors.
- 4) This years annual AAG meeting is in San Francisco April 17-21, 2007. COMA is sponsoring and co-sponsored several sessions so be sure to get your abstracts in by the deadline (Oct 26).
- 5) Be sure to spread the word about the 2007 Norb Psuty student paper competition which will be held during the annual AAG meeting. Instructions for submitting a paper or illustrated poster for the competition can be found below.
- 6) 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.

Jeff Ueland, Editor ([ueland@ohio.edu](mailto:ueland@ohio.edu))

## Musings from the Chair – Steve Namikas

Dear CoMa Members,

While reviewing old issues of coastal letters in search of inspiration for my first 'musings' column, I was struck by Klaus Meyer-Ahrendt's concluding remark in August 2002: "Ah, nothing better than dynamic weather and a dynamic coastline." Maybe the gods took umbrage at this statement (sorry to blame everything on you Klaus). But today, as the northern gulf coast continues the slow and arduous task of rebuilding from the devastating 2005 hurricane season (and the eastern gulf from 2004), the need for a group like CoMa has never been more apparent. The complexity of the intertwined human and physical agencies that played out in these recent disasters, and that continue during this recovery phase, are as poignant a reminder of the need for communication and integration between human and physical geographers as I can imagine. During her tenure as CoMa Chair, Diane Horn made great strides in expanding the focus of our group and encouraging such interaction, through numerous boundary-crossing sessions, many co-sponsored with other specialty groups. It is my hope we can continue this exciting growth, and foster a deeper appreciation of the relevance and need for the broadest possible base of approaches to investigating, understanding and managing coastal environments.

On a pragmatic note, it's once again time to start preparations for the AAG annual meeting. CoMa will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring a number of sessions in San Francisco, and these are outlined later in this newsletter. Please make a note of the deadlines and procedures - in most cases you need to register for the conference with the AAG and then send your abstract and PIN number to the session organizer. If you can get the needed info to the organizer a few days early, it's always appreciated. One final note, there were no nominations for the R.J. Russell award for 2007, so no award will be given at the San Francisco meeting. I'm sure most of us can think of colleagues who are deserving of this award, and I'd like to encourage you to submit nominations for the 2008 award to Vice-Chair Harry Jol.

Steve Namikas, Chair ([snamik1@lsu.edu](mailto:snamik1@lsu.edu))

## Profile – New CoMa Officers

### **Harry Jol – Vice-chair**

Harry Jol earned his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Simon Fraser University (British Columbia, Canada) and Ph.D. from the University of Calgary (Alberta, Canada). He was then awarded 2 post-doctoral fellowships and in 1996, he took a position at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he is presently a Professor. He is also an adjunct associate professor at the University of Toledo and an associate researcher with the Bethsaida Excavations Project.

During his Master's degree he worked on the Fraser River Delta (south of Vancouver, Canada) conducting a high resolution shallow seismic program in cooperation with the Geological Survey of Canada. During his Ph.D. research through to the present he has utilized ground penetrating radar (GPR) in many fields of the earth sciences, particularly geomorphology, sedimentology and more recently into geoarchaeology.

He has been to more than 1200 sites in North America, Europe, Israel, New Zealand and Australia to collect GPR data and from these extensive research experiences he has developed an expertise in understanding coastal (marine/lacustrine) environments. For example he has spent over 10 years investigating the Washington and Oregon shoreline to better understand how the coast is dramatically effected when an earthquake occurs offshore. In addition, he has recently become involved with mapping tsunamis deposits in the same region.

Much of Harry's research is collaborative in nature with other researchers and therefore funding has come from various sources ranging from federal to state agencies, private industry to research institutes. He looks forward to collaborative research and continuing his GPR research program.

### **Tom Allen – Board of Directors**

Dr. Tom Allen is Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at East Carolina University. He is currently working on GIS and remote sensing applications to coastal and estuarine environments. His teaching similarly emphasizes GIScience methods to augment field, laboratory, and modeling approaches to understanding coastal processes. He has taught courses such as "Spatial Analysis of Coastal Environments" and "Geospatial Field Techniques." He recently has used GIS to model bathymetry, tidal prism, and estuary hydrodynamics in Chincoteague Bay. He is interested in responses of coasts to sea-level change, including vegetation and geomorphic responses.

## News and Views from Members

### **Dr. Raymond Smith Receives the R.J. Russell Award**

At the Chicago AAG CoMa specialty group meeting, Dr. Dawn Wright Presented Dr. Raymond Smith the R.J. Russell award for his many contributions to the study of marine environments. Below is the text of Dr. Wright's nomination letter and photo of the award presentation provided by Richard Daniels.

It is my privilege to nominate Dr. Raymond C. Smith for the R.J. Russell Award. In looking at past Russell Award recipients, it appears that if Dr. Smith's nomination is successful, he will become the first marine geographer to receive the award. Dr. Smith's contributions are in the areas of marine geography in general, and within that earth system science, marine bio-optics, and satellite oceanography. In a 40+-year career that began with post-docs at Harvard and Scripps, and is now drawing to a close at UCSB, he has displayed extraordinary research acumen and leadership. A significant example is his service from 1988 to 1991 as chair of the Department of Geography at UCSB, where he oversaw the establishment of the first focal area in *marine* geography (in terms of faculty hires, coursework, and research programs) within a geography department in the U.S. This laid the groundwork for UCSB's current reputation as a leading campus for marine geography and general marine science.



While at UCSB he also co-founded the University of California Marine Bio-Optics Group (with UCSD), and the Center for Remote Sensing and Environmental Optics (which is now called the Institute for Computational Earth System Science). From 1993-2002, he served as lead PI of the Long Term Ecological Research station at Palmer, Antarctica, and continues on the coordinating committee of that LTER. Dr. Smith has authored and co-authored over 150 articles of the highest quality, that have had major impacts on optical oceanography, marine ecology, and marine geography (including several in *Science*, *Nature*, and *BioScience*). For example, Dr. Smith's research has contributed much to our understanding of how the ozone hole over Antarctica has severely impacted marine ecosystems, from primary production, all the way up the food chain to marine mammals and birds. He has also developed several novel optical instruments, including spectral

radiometers to measure light in the ocean from the visible to the ultraviolet. These were integrated into BOPS (bio-optical profiling system), which is the forerunner of many systems that have been used for ocean color remote sensing from space and bio-optical profiling in the water column. His work is referenced in CoMa's contributing chapter to *Geography in America at the Dawn of the 21st Century*, edited by Gaile and Wilmott (2004).

And finally, Dr. Smith has proved to be a tremendous teacher and mentor over the years, having produced a host of M.S. and doctoral students who are making further impacts in marine geography and oceanography, as well as successful and popular geography courses in ocean remote sensing, physical geography, and navigation (which included night-time star-gazing labs on the Goleta bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean).

Dawn J. Wright, Ph.D., GISP  
Professor, Geography and Oceanography

### **The origins of CoMa from the 1970 Annual AAG meeting in San Francisco**

1991 R.J. Russell award winner, Harley "Jess" Walker, provided some interesting perspective on a session that was held during the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of American Geographers meeting which was also in San Francisco. He provided information so on a session devoted to Marine Geography, and chaired by Evelyn Pruitt in the days before CoMa and before specialty groups were a part of the AAG. Below is a list of the participants and papers that appeared in that session. Thanks for the historical context Dr. Walker.

Opening Remarks, Evelyn L. Pruitt, Chairman (Office of Naval Research)

Marine Orientation: a framework for analyzing man/sea relationships, Lewis M. Alexander (Univ. of Rhode Island)

The World Fisheries, Astvaldur Eydal (San Francisco State College)

Coastal Geomorphology, William G. McIntire (Louisiana State University)

European Coastal Research, some examples and implications, Harley J. Walker (Louisiana State University)

Federal Coastal Interests and Research Funding, Evelyn L. Pruitt (Office of Naval Research)

Remarks, Professor Maurice B. Ballabon (Bernard M. Baruch College)

## **Research at Padre Island National Seashore**



Steve Namikas and Diane Horn spent some summer research time at Padre Island National Seashore, on the gulf coast of Texas. Several inter-related experiments were conducted with the able assistance of LSU grad students Yuanda Zhu, Brandon Edwards, and Phillip Schmutz. These projects investigated the relationship between tide-induced water table fluctuations and the moisture content of surface sediments, spatial and temporal variability in surface moisture content, storm-induced nearshore bar migration, and high-frequency changes in swash zone elevation.

Image: *Diane and Phillip discuss whether “Irma’s” really does make the finest burger in America.*

## **Examining Coral health and Terrestrial Development in Roatán, Honduras**

Danielle Aiello, Graduate student of Geography at Ohio University, spent the summer in Roatán, Honduras performing field research. Roatán, the largest island of the Bay Islands, is approximately 30 miles off the north coast of Honduras in the Caribbean Sea. The research examines the relationship between changes in development activity in the terrestrial zone of Roatán’s watersheds and the health of their associated coral reef habit. Satellite images were used to determine the amount of change in human development, for the watersheds of Roatán, from 1985-2005. Reef locations were then selected within several watersheds of varying degrees of development and surveys of reef condition were done by recording the presence of coral disease at each site utilizing SCUBA techniques.



Danielle worked in Roatán for two months, SCUBA diving to complete surveys almost daily and carrying out the ‘ground truthing’ for the land use classification she is producing of the island. The data gathered will be used to extrapolate to all reef habitats on Roatán to create a spatial risk assessment map identifying the reef areas which are at the greatest risk of degradation due to terrestrial development activities.



The coral reefs of Roatán, Honduras are threatened by over fishing, marine recreation, and coastal development. Of these anthropogenic activities, the connection between the terrestrial environment and coral condition has received little attention, but has increasingly been cited as potential cause of degradation. Therefore it is critical to better understand the interaction of these two environments. The results of the study will provide a better understanding of the link between terrestrial development and the state of the marine environment, using the presence of coral disease as an indicator.

*Please send announcements, updates, reports from the field, job listings, or anything else that might be of interest to the Editor ([ueland@ohio.edu](mailto:ueland@ohio.edu)). No need to wait, I’ll file things for the January/February 2006 issue.*



## CoMa Media CD, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

In response to the discussion at the specialty group meeting in Chicago, CoMa is putting together a second edition of the slide and photo compilation CD Rom. Much of the details of implementation and roll out have yet to be decided, but we are ready to take submissions via an FTP site set up by Dr. Harry Jol (instructions are listed below). In discussing this, it was hoped that this edition will allow for a wider variety of material including short video clips, slides, photos, schematics, and other relevant, digital material.

If you have something you want included in the CD follow the directions below.

1. Take all the content you want to include and put it into a folder on your machine.
2. Include a text or word document that identifies, describes, and provides a source for each item in the folder.
3. Type the following ftp url into your web browser: <ftp.uwec.edu>
4. You will be prompted for a username and password. Enter the following (these are case sensitive):  
username: JOLHM  
password: !harry8\*\$
5. Once you have pasted your entry, email Dr. Jol to let him know: [jolhm@uwec.edu](mailto:jolhm@uwec.edu)

Thanks to Dr. Jol and the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire for supplying the ftp site.

## Program and Workshop Information

### Program News



The Department of Environmental Studies at the University of West Florida (<http://uwf.edu/environmental/>) has a new graduate program (M.S.) with a research and teaching focus on coastal and estuarine environments. Hurricanes Ivan, Dennis and Katrina have left us with a unique coastal environment and numerous opportunities for research. Currently we have funded research on hurricane impacts using LIDAR data (National Park Service), field studies of post-hurricane beach and dune recovery (National Park Service) and inner-shelf sediment transport (Petroleum Research Fund).

UWF is also a member of the Florida Hurricane Mitigation Alliance, which is spearheaded by the International Hurricane Research Center at Florida International University. As part of a statewide NOAA grant beginning in Fall 2006, the UWF Department of Environmental Studies will be investigating Direct and Indirect Mortality Associated with Tropical Cyclones. Klaus Meyer-Arendt and Chris Houser will be the principal researchers. Faculty in the department also maintain funded projects examining coastal tourism along the Gulf of Mexico, contaminant transport in estuaries, coastal hydrogeology and the biogeography of barrier island systems.

Students interested in learning more about the department and opportunities for graduate research should contact Dr. Chris Houser ([chouser@uwf.edu](mailto:chouser@uwf.edu)) or Dr. Klaus Meyer-Arendt ([kjma@uwf.edu](mailto:kjma@uwf.edu)).

### Workshops

#### Transatlantic Mapping Workshop Fosters International Collaboration

Coastal and marine researchers from the U.S. have just returned from Ireland after attending the first of two workshops where informatics solutions are being devised that will improve management practices and decision-making. Workshop 1 ("Potentials and Limitations of Coastal Web Atlases") took place in Cork, Ireland (July 24-28) and brought together over 40 key experts from academia, government agencies, and conservation organizations on both sides of the Atlantic to share technologies and lesson learned from the development of coastal atlases. A follow-up workshop will be held on the Oregon State U. campus next summer. U.S. participation in both workshops

is being funded by a grant from the NSF Office of International Science and Education.

Both workshops are being co-organized by Professor Dawn Wright of Oregon State U Geosciences in collaboration with the Coastal & Marine Resources Centre (CMRC) of the University College Cork, Ireland. The idea for the workshops was hatched during a 2004 Fulbright visit of Wright to the CMRC. At that time researchers noted striking parallels between independent efforts in Oregon and Ireland to make coastal resource data and information available via interactive online atlases, along with more advanced geographic information system (GIS) tools and procedures for the desktop. Wright has been involved in the development of the Oregon Coastal Atlas (OCA, <http://www.coastalatlus.net>), an NSF- and NOAA-funded collaboration of Wright's lab with the state of Oregon's Ocean-Coastal Management Program, and the environmental organization Ecotrust. The OCA was launched in December 2002, and is now the primary interactive map, data, and metadata portal for Oregon coastal resource managers and planners, with additional outreach sections for the general public. For the past 4 years researchers at the CMRC have been developing a similar site with similar goals, the Marine Irish Digital Atlas (MIDA; <http://mida.ucc.ie>). MIDA relies on the same internet mapping technology as the OCA (Minnesota MapServer), and will serve as a catalog of existing GIS data related to Ireland's coastal and marine areas, as well as an informational tool for the general public.

Wright led a U.S. delegation of researchers from the Oregon State U Institute of Natural Resources, the state of Oregon Ocean-Coastal Management Program (OCMP), the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the San Diego Supercomputer Center, the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, and the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Workshop 1 was also attended by researchers and government officials from Ireland, the UK, Spain, Belgium, Canada, and the European Environment Agency. Presentations were given about the OCA, as well as the Oregon State U Institute for Natural Resources' North Coast Explorer (<http://northcoastexplorer.info/>), a new statewide data portal and interactive mapping site created in collaboration with the governor's Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to support the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

In an evening ceremony near the workshop's conclusion, the President of University College Cork, Professor Gerard T. Wrixon, officially launched The Marine Irish Digital Atlas (MIDA). MIDA was developed by the CMRC with initial funding from the Irish Higher Education Authority. One of its primary designers is Liz O'Dea, who earned an M.S. degree in geography from Oregon State U in 2004, and is also one of the co-organizers of the workshop series. The launch of MIDA is a significant milestone for Ireland, as it is now positions Ireland as one of a limited number of European countries with a sophisticated level of web-based access to integrated coastal and marine information on a national scale.

Workshop 2 will be held on the Oregon State U campus July 16-20, 2007 and will focus on building a common approach to managing and disseminating coastal data, maps and information within these atlases, including an agreement on initial common vocabularies and thesauri to facilitate database searches in Europe and North America. The participants will then have the opportunity the following week to attend the national Coastal Zone '07 conference, the largest international gathering of ocean and coastal management professionals in the world, to be held for the first time in Portland.

Web links:

Workshop web site - <http://workshop1.science.oregonstate.edu>

Oregon Coastal Atlas - <http://www.coastalatlus.net>

Marine Irish Digital Atlas - <http://mida.ucc.ie>

North Coast Explorer - <http://northcoastexplorer.info>

## **New Books, Articles, and Data Resources**

### **Books**

Wright, D.J., Blongewicz, M.J., Halpin, P.N., and Breman, J., "Arc Marine: GIS for a Blue Planet," Redlands, CA: ESRI Press, in press, due out 2007, Estimated page count of 275

## Articles

"Evelyn L. Pruitt and Coastal Science" in Zeit. fur Geomorphology. N.F., Suppl. Vol. 141, pp 213-218.

"Evelyn Lord Pruitt, 1918-2000" in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 96(2), 2006, pp. 432-439.

Bode, J.A., and Jol, H.M., 2006. GPR investigation of Hapuna Beach, Hawaii: coastal and fluvial deposits. Proceedings of the Eleventh International Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR 2006), June 19 - 22, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA, Papers on CD-ROM.

Jol, H.M., Grote, K.R., Smith, D.G., and Smith, N.D., 2006. Investigation of data quality problems in portions of the William River Delta, Saskatchewan, Canada. Proceedings of the Eleventh International Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR 2006), June 19 - 22, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA, Papers on CD-ROM.

Jol, H.M. and Peterson, C.D., 2006. Imaging earthquake scarps and tsunami deposits in the Pacific Northwest, USA. Proceedings of the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (SAGEEP), 19th Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, April 2-6, Papers on CD-ROM, p. 217 - 229.

Nahas, C., Bauman, P., Jol, H., Reeder, P., and Freund, R.A., 2006. Geophysical investigations at coastal archaeological sites in Israel. Proceedings of the Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (SAGEEP), 19th Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, April 2-6, Papers on CD-ROM, p. 1397 - 1406.

## Data Resources

The ArcGIS Marine Data Model  
<http://dusk2.geo.orst.edu/djl/arcgis>

Details on an upcoming book on this data model and can be found at the following:  
<http://dusk2.geo.orst.edu/djl/arcgis/frame.html>

.FEMA's Flood Map Modernization Initiative (FMMI) will produce extensive new lidar and air photo data sets for coastal and riparian areas in the United States over the next decade. Major contracts for data collection have been let in the last 6 months. The report to congress on FMMI can be found at

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/71025.pdf#search=%22flood%20hazard%20mapping%20air%20photo%20contract%202006%22>.

## Employment Opportunities

**FLORIDA, BOCA RATON 33431.** The Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University invites applications for a tenure-track position at the **Assistant Professor** level beginning August 2007. We seek candidates with expertise in **human-environmental interactions**, particularly focused on one or more of the following areas: natural hazards, human-environmental systems, coastal environments, biogeography, population analysis, and environmental modeling. Quantitative, field and technical skills are highly desirable. Applicants should have strong teaching interests as well as a track record in published research and grant work relative to time since terminal



degree. The successful candidate is expected to pursue funded research independently and or collaboratively within or outside of the Department. The Department of Geosciences has working relationships with various FAU departments and centers such as Biology, Environmental Sciences, Center for Environmental Studies, Civil Engineering, Urban and Regional Planning, Anthropology and Economics. More information about the Department can be found at [www.geosciences.fau.edu](http://www.geosciences.fau.edu). SEP 06-173.

Apply: Dr. Russ Ivy, Human-Environmental Search Committee Chair, Department of Geosciences, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL 33431. Send letter of application stating teaching and research interests, curriculum vitae, and names and contact information for four references. Applications will be accepted until November 3, 2006. E-mail applications will not be accepted. Florida Atlantic University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Institution.

**LOUISIANA, NEW ORLEANS 70148.** The Department of Geography at the University of New Orleans invites applicants for the tenure-track position of **Assistant Professor of Geography**, to begin August 2006. We seek a candidate with teaching interests and research capabilities in human and environmental geography. Candidate should be eager to become engaged in a city and region experiencing an unprecedented time of rebuilding, redefinition, and new opportunities. Applicants must have a demonstrated teaching ability and research expertise in human geography, and be willing to teach World Regional Geography. Ability to teach urban geography, coastal environments, natural hazards, field methods in human geography, environmental impact assessment, are a plus, as is expertise that complements the department's existing emphases in Latin American studies, environmental analysis, and GIS/remote sensing. Candidates must also be willing and able to participate in our Master's program. Ph.D. required by date of appointment. Please send: 1) letter of application; 2) vitae; 3) names of three referees to the address below. SEP 06-157.

Apply: Dr. Peter Yaukey, Chair, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148. Review of materials will begin immediately and will continue until position is filled. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. EO/AEE.

**MASSACHUSETTS, WORCESTER 01602. Assistant Professor/Geomorphology.**

Broadly trained **physical geographer with a specialization in geomorphology**. The position involves teaching introductory courses in geomorphology, soil science and physical geography and developing upper level courses in the candidate's area of expertise such as fluvial, coastal or glacial processes and environments. This position also carries the primary responsibility for a new required course in geographic research methods.

Applicants may be asked to contribute to a research methods course and to develop freshman seminars. All applicants should demonstrate a potential for excellence in undergraduate teaching, an active engagement in research and scholarship and a commitment to public higher education. Involving undergraduates in research and interest in geographic education are also desirable.

This position offers an opportunity to shape the future of a department in transition. We currently have 40 majors and offer a B.S. in Geography. Average class size is 20-30. Worcester State College is part of the Massachusetts state college system. The contractual teaching load is 12 credit hours per semester. The position includes full state benefits.

Minimum requirements include a Ph.D. in Geography or a related discipline and undergraduate teaching experience. Desirable qualities include integrating geoscience technologies into teaching and research and developing field courses. Enthusiasm for developing the physical geography curriculum and growing the major is essential. Interested applicants should send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, original transcripts (highest degree), and three original, current professional letters of recommendation to the address below. NOV 06-271.

Apply: Director of Human Resources, Worcester State College, 486 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602-2597. Worcester State College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. It actively seeks nominations of and expressions of interest from women and individuals of color.

For more information please visit the Human Resources Department site at <http://wwwfac.worcester.edu/hr/jobs.htm>.

**NORTH CAROLINA, GREENVILLE, 27858.** The Department of Geography at East Carolina University invites applications for a tenure-track position in Physical Geography at the assistant professor level to begin August 20,

2007. Candidates with research interests that complement existing areas of expertise in coastal or fluvial geomorphology preferred, but all applicants with interests in earth and environmental science will be considered. The successful candidate is expected to develop an externally funded research program. Ability to contribute to a growing departmental expertise in GISc is also desirable. Appropriate service to the university, community and profession is expected. Competitive salary and teaching load in a progressive department that offers the BA, BS, and MA. In a continuing effort to enrich its academic environment and provide equal educational and employment opportunities, the department actively encourages applications from members of all groups underrepresented in higher education. PhD in geography or related field is required at the time of appointment. The successful candidate will demonstrate commitment to excellence in teaching and research.

Review of applications will begin October 30, 2006 and will continue until the position is filled. Applicants must complete a candidate profile and submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statements of research and teaching interests, and the names and contact information (including email addresses) for three current references online at [www.jobs.ecu.edu](http://www.jobs.ecu.edu).

East Carolina University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University that accommodates individuals with disabilities. Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at (252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY). Proper documentation of identity and employability is required at the time of employment. Official transcript required upon employment.

**NORTH CAROLINA, WILMINGTON. Chair, Department of Geography and Geology.** The University of North Carolina Wilmington invites applications for the position of Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography and Geology in the College of Arts and Sciences (<http://www.uncw.edu/earsci>). We seek candidates with an outstanding reputation within the academic community; individuals with expertise in physical geography (especially in coastal settings), remote sensing, or natural hazards are particularly encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will have a demonstrated ability to bring dynamic and innovative leadership to the department. A PhD in geography is preferred; candidates with a PhD in a related discipline and experience with geography programs will be considered. The successful candidate must possess a strong record of leadership experience; excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with students, faculty, and the administration; a commitment to working with a diverse faculty; and a distinguished record in teaching, scholarship and research appropriate to appointment at the rank of full professor. SEP 06-198.

To apply, please complete the online application process available on the Web at <http://consensus.uncw.edu>. A letter of application including curriculum vitae, a brief statement of administrative philosophy, a description of research and instructional interests, and contact information for three professional references should be attached to the online application – not e-mailed, mailed or faxed. Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF attachments are preferred. For questions regarding the online application process, contact Catherine Morris at [morris@uncw.edu](mailto:morris@uncw.edu) or (910) 962-3736. Under North Carolina law, applications and related materials are confidential personnel documents and not subject to public release. UNCW conducts criminal background checks on finalists prior to offers of employment.

Review of applications will begin December 1, 2006, and continue until the position is filled. The position is anticipated to begin July 1, 2007. Questions about the position may be addressed to Dr. Patricia H. Kelley at [kelleyp@uncw.edu](mailto:kelleyp@uncw.edu).

UNCW is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

**VIRGINIA, NORFOLK 23529-0088.** The Department of Political Science and Geography at Old Dominion University invites applications for **two (2) tenure-track positions in Environmental and/or Physical Geography (one Assistant Professor, one Associate/Full Professor)**, beginning August 2007. For more information on the geography program see <http://al.odu.edu/pols-geog/academics/geog/> Requirements include research interests in two or more of the following: environmental issues, coastal/marine systems, natural and technological hazards, and landscape change; and the application of geospatial technologies to the topics above. Teaching requirements include introductory environmental geography and two or more of the following: research methods, remote sensing, and natural and technological hazards. Also required are effective communication skills and demonstrated teaching and research ability. Ability to obtain outside funding, a regional focus on North and/or Latin America, and ability to teach applied GIS and field techniques are preferred. Successful candidates must have a Ph.D. and are expected to

develop excellent instructional programs and research agendas in their areas of interest. Submit an application letter, CV, statement of teaching philosophy, evidence of teaching and research excellence, and three letters of reference to the address below. OCT 06-217.

Apply: Chair, Environmental Geographer Search Committee, Department of Political Science and Geography, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529-0088. Screening of applicants will begin October 25, 2006 and continue until position is filled. Old Dominion University is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer and requires compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

## **Call For Papers, Sponsored Sessions in San Francisco**

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 (Steve Namikas) 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 2006 AAG Annual Conference in San Francisco 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 **26 October 2005**. However, in order to allow time for organization it would be very helpful if you could send your abstract and PIN number to Steve Namikas a week or so in advance.

## **Announced Sponsored Sessions for the 2007 AAG Meeting**

**1) CoMa will sponsor and requests abstract submissions for the usual sessions on coastal geomorphology, the student paper competition, coastal and marine geography.**

**Organizer:** Steve Namikas

**2) Environmental Degradation, Resource Use, and Socio Economic Implications in the Niger Delta**

**Session Organizers:** Jimmy O. Adegoke<sup>1</sup>, and Dr. Sylvester Osagie<sup>2</sup> (1) Laboratory for Climate Analysis & Modeling (LCAM), Department of Geosciences, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City MO;

Email: [adegokej@umkc.edu](mailto:adegokej@umkc.edu). (2) Department of Labor Relations, The Pennsylvania State University, Altoona, PA  
Email: [soo1@psu.edu](mailto:soo1@psu.edu)

**Session Abstract:** The Niger delta region, located in south-central Nigeria, is home to the largest Mangrove forest in Africa and fourth largest in the world, following Indonesia, Brazil and Australia. The region is one of the most productive eco-zones in the West African sub-region on account of its rich biodiversity. The Niger Delta is also endowed with immense natural resources, especially hydrocarbon deposits. Crude oil production and export from

the region, in the range of two million barrels a day, dominates the Nigeria economy, accounting for over 90% of the Nation=s total export earnings. Consequently, the Niger Delta is a prime example of a region undergoing tremendous physical, political and social changes with major environmental and social consequences. This session will include presentations that explore the nature of these pressures; the driving forces behind them; their immediate consequences on sensitive coastal environments; and the complex interactions between these drivers and the socio-economic fabric of the Niger Delta coastal communities. The session will provoke discussions that could help advance our understanding of the dynamics of coastal change through a critical and constructive engagement with the dialectic, politics, conflicts and social equity issues associated with the physical and created environments, which provide the enveloping contexts within which the lives of Niger Delta coastal inhabitants are structured. Researchers interested in contributing to the session should send a brief statement of intent, including a title, by email to the session organizers.

**Session Chair:** Dr. Michael Watts, Institute of International Studies & Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley, CA

**AAG Specialty Group (SG) Sponsors:** Coastal & Marine SG; Africa SG; Cultural & Political Ecology SG

### **3) Special Paper Session: Remote Sensing and GIS for Coastal and Watershed Analysis**

**Organizers:** Dr. Xiaojun Yang (Florida State University) and Dr. Luoheng Han (University of Alabama)

**Brief Session Description:** This special paper session will serve as a forum for remote sensing and GIS researchers to communicate their current development regarding the use and applications of spatial information technologies for integrated assessment of coastal ecosystems. Aspects considered include (but not limited to): \$ Characterization, analysis, and modeling of changing watershed landscape structure and patterns in coastal environments; \$ Coastal wetland mapping and change detection; \$ Watershed hydrological modeling in coastal environments; \$ Remote sensing of coastal water bio-optical properties (chlorophyll, turbidity, TSS and others); \$ Mapping of seagrass, littoral aquatic vegetation, and benthic habitats; \$ Linking conditions in upstream watersheds to downstream estuaries for integrated assessment of the estuarine ecosystems; and \$ Spatial information technologies for coastal watershed management.

Please contact me for any question or additional information. Best wishes, Xiaojun Xiaojun Yang Department of Geography Florida State University 304 Bellamy Building Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA +850 644 8379 +850 644 5913 (fax) email: [xyang@fsu.edu](mailto:xyang@fsu.edu)

### **4) Aeolian Geomorphology**

**Organizer:** Jean Ellis, TAMU, [jean@geog.tamu.edu](mailto:jean@geog.tamu.edu)

(contact for a brief description)

### **5) Politics and The Life Aquatic**

**Organizers:** Max Handler and Danielle Meinhardt, University of Minnesota

**Overview:** Oceans were once places where the unwitting traveler could sail right off the edge of the world. The maritime world was one of uncertain boundaries, where the laws of the terrestrial world might suddenly drop away (with the ship) from beneath one's feet, where order could quickly give way to disorder. The contemporary ocean, too, is a place of unsettled order and disorder, where the edges of our world are exposed and transgressed. These edges are both territorial and categorical. They are physical and ontological boundaries that are continually built up, traversed, and refigured at sea in order to distinguish (among other things) nations from other nations, humans from nonhumans, nature from society, and states from the bodies of citizens. Throwing such categories and boundaries into flux, the ocean is a place where order is always flirting with disorder; where human activities always seem to teeter on the ragged edge of control; where stabilization is perpetually sought through competing projections of power. The ocean is unsettled not just by physical storms, but by social and political ones as well.

We seek paper submissions that attend to the protean nature of ocean space, that are fundamentally concerned with power relations at sea, and that consider the nonhuman and human materialities associated with the ocean. Papers, which should be empirically grounded and theoretically informed, might approach this topic through any number of

avenues: piracy, resource extraction, migrations, climate and sea level change, shipping, flotsam and jetsam, environmental management, seaborne activism or marine preserves.  
Please submit abstracts to Max Handler (hand0106@umn.edu) or Danielle Meinhardt (mein0081@umn.edu) by October 10. Please limit your abstract to 250 words.

**Discussant:** Philip Steinberg, Florida State University

## **6) Geomorphic Impacts of Hurricanes**

**Organizer:** Harry Williams (williams@unt.edu)

**Overview:** Submissions covering a broad variety of topics are encouraged, including erosion and deposition resulting from hurricane storm surges, changes in coastal morphology, mass wasting triggered by hurricane-related rainfall, techniques for assessing geomorphic change caused by hurricanes and geological records of hurricanes. The session will consist of oral presentations. The session is sponsored by the AAG Geomorphology Specialty Group. To participate in the session: M Register and submit your paper abstract online at: <http://www.aag.org/>  
M Email your presenter identification number (PIN), paper title, and abstract to Harry Williams (williams@unt.edu) by Wednesday October 25, 2006. Please address any questions to Dr. Harry Williams, Associate Professor Geography, University of North Texas

## **7) The Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina (Paper/Panel)**

**Organizer:** Vandana Wadhwa (vandanaw@comcast.net)

**Overview:** So much tax-payer money and so much sweat has gone into the reconstruction of the gulf-coast area hit by Hurricane Katrina. Yet, families are still devastated, and there remain many reminders that much work still remains to be done. Over and above this, there is always the question of whether there is a cohesive and strong plan in the event of future disasters that will defend the lives and >property of those who continued to live in these areas, and those who found the courage to return. This CFP invites discussion on “post-Katrina evaluations” of the environmental, physical, economic, and human conditions currently present in the hurricane hit region, and also reports/suggestions on any future plans for it. Those interested should contact me at by September 30, 2006

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

Nominations for the 2008 R.J. Russell Award should be directed to the Vice-Chair (Harry Jol). 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), Alan Trenhaile (2005) and Raymond Smith (2006). 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 2008 award should be made February 14, 2007. 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.

## Call for Student Papers/Illustrated Papers

*Eligibility:* Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students may compete for the **Norb Psuty 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 2007 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 26, 2006 (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 (below) and send it with your abstract and PIN number to:

Steve Namikas ([snamik1@lsu.edu](mailto:snamik1@lsu.edu)).

### 2007 Norb Psuty Student Paper/Illustrated Paper Award Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Ph.D., M.A./M.S., or undergraduate student? \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis/project advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the AAG? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your paper primarily focused on human/social or physical geography? \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Conferences

### OCTOBER

**1-5: National States Geographic Information Council's 2006 Annual Conference**

Location: Little Rock, Arkansas: [www.nsgic.org/events/future.cfm](http://www.nsgic.org/events/future.cfm)

**12-15: Rally 2006, Land Trust Alliance National Land Conservation Conference**

Location: Nashville, Tennessee: [www.lta.org/training/rally.htm](http://www.lta.org/training/rally.htm)

**15-20: 25th Annual International Submerged Lands Management Conference**

Location: Red Bank, New Jersey: [www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/czm\\_news.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/czm_news.html)

**19-21: Place Matters 06: A Creative Planning Collaborative for Sustainable Communities**

Location: Denver, Colorado: <http://placematters.org/conference.html>



NOVEMBER

**6-9: American Water Resources Association's 2006 Annual Conference**

Location: Baltimore, Maryland: [www.awra.org/meetings/Baltimore2006/](http://www.awra.org/meetings/Baltimore2006/)

**8-9: Second Annual Coral Reef Conservation and Management Conference**

Location: Miami, Florida: [www.informalearning.com/CoralReefs](http://www.informalearning.com/CoralReefs)

DECEMBER

**6-8: Northeastern Aquaculture Conference and Exposition**

Location: Mystic, Connecticut: [www.northeastaquaculture.org/index.htm](http://www.northeastaquaculture.org/index.htm)

**9-13: Restore America's Estuaries' 3rd National Conference and Expo on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration**

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana: [www.estuaries.org/conference/](http://www.estuaries.org/conference/)

**2007**

MARCH

**3-8: GeoTools '07**

Location: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina: [www.csc.noaa.gov/geotools/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/geotools/)

**25-28: PORTS 2007**

Location: San Diego, California: [www.asce.org/conferences/ports07/](http://www.asce.org/conferences/ports07/)

APRIL

**17-21: Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting**

Location: San Francisco : <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/SF2007/index.cfm>

MAY

**9-11: Working Waterways and Waterfronts - A National Symposium on Water Access**

Location: Norfolk, Virginia: [www.wateraccess2007.com](http://www.wateraccess2007.com)

**13-17: Coastal Sediments**

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana: [www.asce.org/conferences/cs07/](http://www.asce.org/conferences/cs07/)

JULY

**22-26: Coastal Zone 07: Brewing Local Solutions to Your Issues**

Location: Portland, Oregon: [www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/)

NOVEMBER

**4-8: Estuarine Research Foundation (ERF) 2007**

Location: Providence, Rhode Island: <http://erf.org>

*If you know of any related conferences coming up in 2007 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 2005 CoMa Business Meeting - Chicago**

*Jeff Ueland, Secretary-Treasurer*

AAG Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Minutes  
2006 Meeting Chicago, IL Palmer House Hilton  
Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

Meeting Called to Order at 8:00pm

### **1.) Adoption of the Agenda**

-the agenda for the current meeting was unanimously approved.

### **2.) Approval of the 2005 Denver Meeting Minutes**

-the minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

### **3.) Announcements**

- Nominations for the 2007 R.J. Russell Award should be sent to Harry Jol
- Dawn Wright handed out brochures that asking for feedback on the National Science and Technology initiative US Ocean Research Priorities Plan. More information at: <http://ocean.ceq.gov/>
- A vote was passed to name the student paper competition award after Norb Psuty
- A great deal of discussion was directed toward the creation of a new edition of coastal and marine slide CD ROM.
  - Jeff Ueland will announce on the list serve
  - Harry Jol will set up an FTP site to accept submissions
  - This addition will welcome animation, model schematics, and multi-mediac presentations, as well as traditional still photos.
  - It was suggested that submitters include GPS location of pictures and movies.
  - Some concern was expressed over proper citation and credit of the materials that appear in the CD when the material is used by others. It was agreed that applying strict copyright would be difficult to implement

### **4.) Treasurer's Report**

- We started the year with a balance of \$3237.55. After expenses from the Chicago AAG were paid, including Psuty student award money, Smith award plaque, web site renewal, and our share of the physical geography reception our current balance is \$2,667.18.

### **5.) AAG Specialty Group Chairs' Report**

-Individuals and specialty groups are encouraged to invite colleagues from outside of geography to the annual meeting. The AAG has some "enrichment" funds to help subsidize this effort

### **6.) Announcement of R.J. Russell Award Winner**

-The 2006 winner of the Russell award was Dr. Raymond Smith who is a Professor Emeritus at University of California – Santa Barbara. The award was presented by Dr. Dawn Wright. In her statement she cited Dr. Smith's long list of achievements which included his invaluable contributions in the fields of marine bio-optics, satellite oceanography, and marine ecology as well as his love for teaching and mentoring students.

### **7.) Student Paper Award**

- The winning paper for the 2006 Norb Psuty student paper award was:

*Interpolating surface moisture variations on a fine grained beach, Padre Island National Seashore, Texas.*  
Presented by: Michael C A Bitton, Jennifer Booth, Yuanda Zhu, and Brandon Edwards of Louisiana State University. The students split an award of \$100 and each received a certificate of achievement.

### **8.) Election of Officers**

- Harry Jol of the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire was elected as vice chair
- Tom Allen from Old Dominion University was elected to the board of directors

### **9.) Other Business**

- A new coastal and marine geography working group has been set up by the Royal Geographic Society. The director is Steve Fletcher and he can be contacted at: [steve.fletcher@solent.ac.uk](mailto:steve.fletcher@solent.ac.uk)  
Additional Information can be found at <http://www.rgs.org>
- The international Coastal Symposium will be April 16-20, 2007 on the Gold Coast in Australia. More information at <http://www.gu.edu.au/school/eng/ics2007>.

### **10.) Adjournment**

-meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm