
COASTAL LETTERS



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American geographers

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Table of Contents

Specialty Group Officers	1
Membership Renewal Reminder	2
Editor's Comments and Election Results	2
Musings from the Chair – Steve Namikas	2
News and Views from Members	3
New Books & Articles	10
Announced CoMa Special Sessions at AAG-Boston	10
Call for Student Paper Competition Entries	12
Employment Opportunities	12
Minutes – 2006 Business Meeting in San Francisco	16

Jeff Ueland, Secretary-Treasurer
Department of Geography
Bemidji State University
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone: (218) 755-2805
E-mail: jueland@bemidjistate.edu

Tom Allen, Board of Directors
Department of Geography
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858
Phone: (252) 328-6230
Email: ALLENTH@ecu.edu

Specialty Group Officers

Steve Namikas, Chair
Department of Geography and Anthropology
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: (225) 578-6142
E-mail: snamik1@lsu.edu

Harry Jol, Vice-Chair
Department of Geography and Anthropology
University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
Phone: (715) 836-3472
E-mail: JOLHM@uwec.edu

Jean Ellis, Board Member
Department of Geography
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-3147
Phone: (979) 843-7141
E-mail: jean@geog.tama.edu

Jennifer L. Rahn, Board Member
Department of Political Science & Geography
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529-0088
Phone: (254) 710-4934
E-mail: JRahn@odu.edu

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 2006-2007. Membership dues for the Specialty Group are currently \$1 for students and \$5 for regular and associate members.

Editor's Comments

- 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 let me know as well. Additionally please forward this newsletter to anyone who you think might be interested.
- 3) Two new board members were elected at the business meeting in San Francisco last spring, Jennifer Rahn and Jean Ellis. Jeff Ueland was re-elected as secretary/treasurer. We would like to thank outgoing board members Dawn Wright and Richard Daniels for there service.
- 4) The 2008 annual AAG meeting is in Boston, April 15-19. Abstracts are due by the 31st of October. Please be sure to register and check out the CoMa sponsored and co-sponsored sessions listed on page 10 of this newsletter.
- 5) Students, please be sure to register for the Norb Psuty student paper competition (registration information on page 12). We had a great set of papers last year covering two sessions and look to expand this completion in the future.
- 6) If you have any announcements between now and the publication of the next newsletter (in late March or early April) please send them to the editor and we can distribute them immediately or incorporate them into the next newsletter.

Jeff Ueland, Editor (juleland@bemidjstate.edu)

Musings from the Chair – Steve Namikas

Abstract time approaches once again. CoMa will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring a number of sessions at the Boston meeting of the AAG in 2008. Those already in preparation include: *Remote Sensing and GIS for Coastal and Watershed Studies* organized by Ziaojun Yang (Florida State, xyang@fsu.edu) and Luoheng Han (U. Alabama, ghan@bama.edu); *Geomorphic Impacts of Hurricanes* organized by Harry Williams (U. North Texas, williams@unt.edu) And Kam-biu Liu (LSU, kliu1@lsu.edu); and *Marine Geomorphology as a Determinant for Essential Life Habitat: An Ecosystem Management Approach to Planning for Marine Reserve Networks* organized by Dawn Wright (OSU, dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu) and Will Heyman (TAMU, wheyman@geog.tamu.edu). I will organize the general CoMa sessions (including at least one on Coastal Geomorphology) and the Norbert Psuty Student Paper Competition. There is still time to develop additional sessions and I would like to encourage CoMa members to consider participating in the process. As extant sessions lean towards the physical environment and techniques, sessions dealing with human activities in the coastal zone would help round out the program, but al coastal topics are always welcome. Please remind your colleagues (and students!) that they need to both register online on the AAG website, and then supply the PIN number assigned to their abstract (along with the title and abstract) to the organizer of the session they intend to participate in. Also please encourage your graduate students to consider presenting in the student paper competition - we were able to fill two very-high quality sessions at the San Francisco meeting last year, and we would like to see as many or more student participants in Boston. - Steve Namikas

News and Views from Members

The department of Environmental Studies at the University of West Florida received a small NOAA grant through Florida International University's International Hurricane Research Center to investigate direct and indirect mortality associated with hurricanes, specifically in Florida during the 2004 season. Our graduate student involved in the study, Nathan McKinney, will present preliminary results at SEDAAG, Charleston, SC in November 2007. And thanks to the efforts of Chris Houser, now departed for Texas A&M, our department received FL Sea Grant funding to investigate rip currents along the northwest Florida coast.

Clifton "Skeeter" Dixon, Univ. of Southern Mississippi, and Klaus Meyer-Arendt, University of West Florida, spent several days investigating the impacts of Hurricane Dean in late August 2007. Having been there in January of 2007, Klaus had quite a few "before" photos with which to assess hurricane impacts. Some of the slides will be shown at the SEDAAG meeting in Charleston, SC in November 2007.



Klaus J. Meyer-Arendt checking out sand and coral washovers along Mexico's Costa Maya several days after passage of Hurricane Dean. Photo by Clifton V. Dixon, Jr.

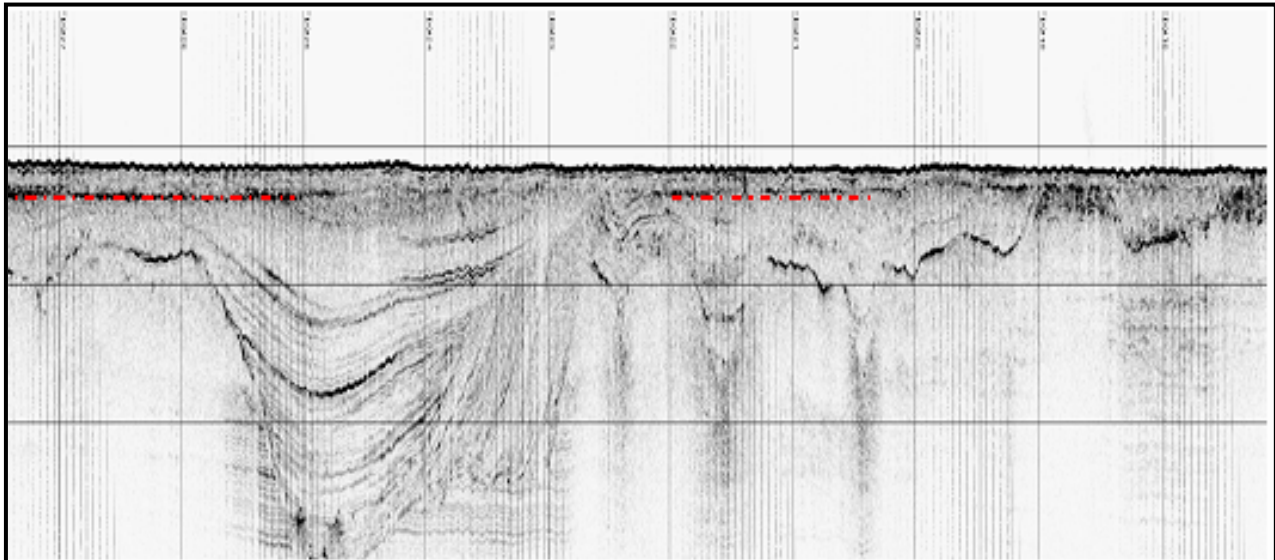
Dr Patrick Hesp of the Department of Geography and Anthropology at LSU, Ms Amanda Evans (Marine Archaeologist at Tesla Offshore LLC, and a Ph.D candidate in Geography and Anthropology), Dr Graziela Miot da Silva (Geologist and Oceanographer in the Physical Sciences Department at Nicholls State University at Thibodaux) and Dr Barry Keim (Geography and Anthropology, LSU) have been awarded \$344,000 from the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service (MMS) for a project entitled 'Examining and Testing Potential Prehistoric Archaeological Features on the Gulf of Mexico, Offshore Continental Shelf'. Since 1982 the Minerals Management Service has been responsible for balancing increasing development of offshore resources by the oil and gas industry with the protection of natural and cultural resources located on the offshore continental shelf.

The Gulf of Mexico is primarily known as the nation's largest domestic producer of petroleum and natural gas, but the Gulf is also an integral part of the nation's cultural and historical heritage. The earliest known human habitation in the New World coincides with periods of lower sea-level, and it is likely that humans lived on exposed portions of the outer continental shelf that are now submerged beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A great deal of research has been conducted on historic shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico, but far less work has been conducted on now submerged prehistoric sites which have the potential to provide a great deal of information regarding the earliest exploration and

subsequent settlement of the Western Hemisphere. It is critically important to find, explore, preserve and protect these sites.

Remote sensing surveys have identified high probability areas in the Gulf with the potential to be prehistoric sites. Three such areas have been selected for this study, with the added criteria of being shallow enough beneath the seafloor to enable future excavation. Although sites have been identified in the past as potential archaeological deposits, none of the possible prehistoric sites have been verified by the presence of material culture or artifacts.

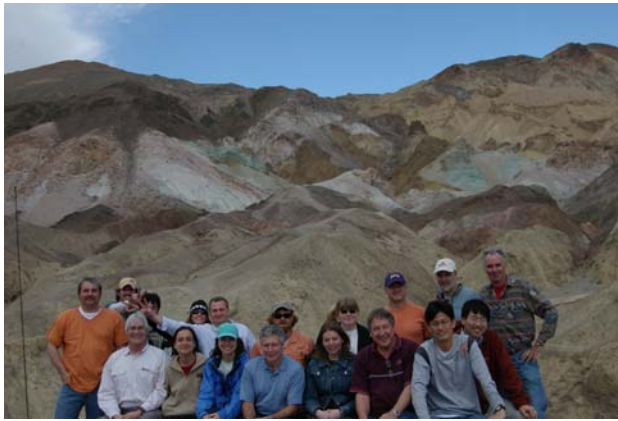
This project will evaluate whether previously identified "sites" actually represent preserved prehistoric archaeological deposits by conducting a series of high resolution marine geophysical surveys, collecting sediment cores, and carrying out detailed geomorphological and sedimentological analyses. As part of the study the researchers also hope to determine the degree of past and future disturbance to the sites by storms and hurricanes and will carry out seafloor mapping, set up a monitoring system at the sites, and conduct an analysis of long term climatological and oceanographic records. The project will ultimately contribute to a better methodology for identifying prehistoric sites on the Gulf of Mexico offshore continental shelf.



Chirp subbottom (2-10 kHz) profiler record of a probable Late Wisconsin channel, with a potential midden deposit (arrowed) located east of the laterally migrating channel beds. The interpreted Holocene/Pleistocene unconformity is shown in red. Horizontal scale lines are in 150m intervals, vertical scale lines are 10ms intervals. Proprietary data acquired by Tesla Offshore, LLC from offshore Texas, Galveston lease area.

Below and to the right are three pictures from the three day, the aeolian field trip organized by Drs' Jean Ellis and Douglas Sherman prior to the 2007 AAG meeting. Many CoMa members attended the trip which went through Death Valley and up to San Francisco. Trip goers found the trip a highly enjoyable and rewarding experience.





Steven Namikas and Patrick Hesp from Geography and Anthropology at LSU recently spent 2 weeks in China conducting wind flow experiments with Professor Yuxiang Dong from the Department of Land Resource and Environment, School of Geography and Planning, Zhongshan (Sun Yat-sen) University, Guangzhou, P.R.China. The study, to be continued next year, was funded by the China NSF, and aims to examine wind flow, sand transport and dune dynamics over various coastal dune types along the mainland China coast. The recent study examined wind flow over the highest coastal dune in China, a 50m high transverse dune situated just landwards of a meso-tidal beach at Changli. Hesp reports that the speed-up of wind flow up the dune was truly phenomenal with a massive flow separation envelope produced on the leeward side. The latter envelope contained highly turbulent, very large, migratory vortices (short-lived, dust devil-like features), making measurement of 3-D surface and near-surface flows highly entertaining.



The University of Wisconsin, Platteville is initiating a new geography field course for summer 2008 based at the University of South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. The course, "Tropical Marine Ecosystems" will focus on the coastal geography, geomorphology, oceanography, and biology of the coastal marine ecosystems in and around Fiji. Dr. Rhea Presiado, Assistant Professor of Geography at UW Platteville, will be co-teaching the course with faculty and staff from USP. Students at any university are eligible to enroll in this summer course for geography course credits. Please email Dr. Presiado at presiador@uwplatt.edu for information on this exciting geography field course.



Coral Reef off of Taveuni Island, Fiji.



Coastal Environment off Taveuni Island, Fiji. Photo by Dr. Rhea Presiado

Paul Gares is organizing a field trip to be scheduled before the meetings begin. He has provided a tentative itinerary. See comment by Gares below:

Participants should arrive in Boston on Saturday, April 12, 2008. They will be picked up at Logan International Airport Saturday afternoon. We will then proceed to Cape Cod where we will spend the night. We will spend all day Sunday on the outer Cape... Stops will include the Nauset Spit area, the Marconi Station site, the Cape Cod dunes, Race Point, and the Park Service Visitors Centers at Salt Pond and Province Lands. We will also stop at one of the beaches (Fisher Beach or Duck Harbor Beach) on the west side of Cape Cod, facing Cape Cod Bay. We spend Sunday night on Cape Cod at the same hotel probably in Hyannis. Monday morning we will get up and go to Sandy Neck. I am thinking about heading to Woods Hole for lunch that day. I thought it might be interesting to people to have a short visit at WHOI/USGS. From Woods Hole we head north towards Boston, with possible stops at Scituate and Nantasket during the afternoon to see these east facing populated barriers that face directly into the Atlantic and are often in the headlines when northeasters hit this coastline. We would spend Monday night north of Boston so we can get an early start the next day and avoid traffic commuting into the city. On Tuesday we would visit north shore sites, with stops at Winthrop beach to see the breakwaters offshore, Revere to see recreational beach Mass. style and Nahant to see a rocky coast. We would also go to Marblehead to see the tombolo, Beverly to look at pocket beaches, and Gloucester to visit Wingersheek Beach. Space for this trip will probably be limited to about 20. Please contact Paul directly if you are interested in attending (or helping lead!) (garesp@mail.ecu.edu).

Studying Whale Behavior from Davey Jones Locker

How do you study an animal that can dive up to 3 km (1.9 miles) to the bottom of the ocean floor, and stay submerged up to 90 minutes? (Image 1) Researchers and graduate students from the Marine Mammal Institute <http://oregonstate.edu/groups/marinemammal/> and the Sea Floor Mapping Coastal and Marine GIS Laboratory <http://dusk2.geo.orst.edu/djl/highseas.html> at Oregon State are teaming up to determine just that. Brett Lord-Castillo, a graduate student in Dr. Dawn Wright's Geosciences Lab has teamed up with the Marine Mammal Institute, directed by Dr. Bruce Mate, to use GIScience to explore the fundamental scientific question, "Where is *Physeter catodon*"? Another of Dr. Wright's graduate students, Michelle Kinzel, is working with the data and analysis to create dynamic geovisualizations, interactive virtual realities designed to teach scientific principles and oceanography to high school students.



Image 1: Sperm Whale Preparing for a Deep



Image 2: Sperm Whale as it raises its flukes at the beginning of a dive

geographic information systems and advanced spatial data analysis is proving useful in understanding the deep sea corners of our marine environment and the animals that live there.

Graduate student Brett Lord-Castillo is exploring these fundamental research questions: How can a geographic information system enhance the advantages of satellite telemetry? In the marine environment, what is the best structure for a multiple user-multiple access level research support application? How can telemetry geovisualization better reflect the movement of individual animals? He is focusing on tracking data from satellite tags attached to sperm whales in the Gulf of Mexico to explore these scientific inquiries. His methodology draws from the ArcGIS Marine Data Model <http://dusk2.geo.orst.edu/djl/arcgis/> and is improving our knowledge of the marine environment. This work is opening doors to new spatial analysis and providing information to marine managers about habitat usage and preferences of sperm whales in the deep sea niches of the Atlantic Ocean. To develop a parametric model for whale locations, Lord-Castillo is applying curvilinear interpolation and speed buffering to georeferenced data sets obtained with the ARGOS satellite system (Figure 1, see end of article). By utilizing this type of spatial analysis in exploring marine animal tracking sets, the research is essentially filling in the deep, dark corners of the map, providing in depth knowledge of the whales' movement patterns and behaviors.

The sperm whale, *Physeter catodon*, possesses a blood volume of up to 3 tones, carrying oxygen stores that enable it to dive great depths to the ocean floor in some regions. While dives of nearly 2 miles deep are possible, more typical dives are in the 300 to 400 m range and last approximately 30 minutes in length (Image 2). The sperm whales reach lengths of 18 m, or nearly 60 feet. Because these elusive behemoths spend a significant amount of time in the deep sea, 20 times deeper than humans can dive and well beyond the visual tracking capabilities of most sea going vessels, scientific study must entail more than direct observations. The use of spatial technologies, satellite telemetry,

Another of Dr. Dawn Wright's *Rogues*, terms for the graduate students who study in the laboratory nicknamed Davey Jones Locker, <http://dusk2.geo.orst.edu/djl/> is using the pieces of the GIS and oceanography puzzle to create educational tools for high school curriculums. Using the same tools and datasets as scientists that study the ocean environment, Michelle Kinzel is creating geographic visualizations (geovisualizations) that visually represent complex spatiotemporal relationships at work in our ocean systems, such as currents, bathymetry, water temperature and salinity (Image 3). These elements will be combined with knowledge of whale locations and behaviors into an animated and integrated environment, immersing the user into a virtual world that encourages the use of spatial and geographic literacy skills. Users of the geovisualizations will literally go where no man has gone before, to the watery depths of the deep sea we are just beginning to understand. These tools are intended to provide immersive and engaging experiences for users that integrate multitasking, decision making and the scientific method in an undersea adventure launched from any computer workstation. Lest you think this is child's play, technological communities term these types of creations 'serious games' and their use in educational settings is gaining widespread attention and acceptance.



Image 3: 3D Visualization of Sperm Whale in Deep Sea

Michelle Kinzel

Photographs in this article Taken by Craig Hayslip, Courtesy of Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University, <http://oregonstate.edu/groups/marinemammal/PhotoMain.htm>

Suggested Further Reading

Downs, R., S.W. Bednarz, R.A. Bjork, P.B. Dow, K.E. Foote, J.F. Gilbert, R.G. Golledge, K.A. Kastens, G. Leinhardt, L.S. Liben, M.C. Linn, J.J. Rieser, G.M. Stokes and B. Tversky, 2006. *Learning to Think Spatially: GIS as a Support System in the K-12 Curriculum*. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press, 332 pp.

Dransch, D. 2000. The use of different media in visualizing spatial data. *Computers & Geosciences* **26**: pp. 5-9.

Floyd, M. 2007. OSU Creates New Institute Based on Success of MarineMammal Program. Press Release, OSU Website. <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ncs/newsarch/2007/Jan07/bbcwhales.html>

Kerski, Joseph, J. 2003. The implementation and effectiveness of geographic information systems technology and methods in secondary education. *Journal of Geography*, Vol. 102, pp. 128-137.

Mate, B.R., B.A. Lagerquist, M. Winsor, J. Geraci, and J.H. Prescott. 2005. Movements and dive habits of a satellite-monitored longfinned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) in the Northwest Atlantic. *Marine Mammal Science*, 21(1): 136-144.

Mate, B.R., R. Mesecar 1997. Forum on Wildlife Telemetry: Innovations, evaluations, and Research Needs; 21-23 September 1997, Snowmass Village, Colorado. <http://www.npwr.usgs.gov/resource/wildlife/telemetry/telemetry.htm>

Ocean Literacy Network. <http://www.coexploration.org/oceanliteracy/>.

Wright, D. J. Blongewicz, M.J. Halpin, P.N. and Breman, J. In press, 2006. Arc Marine: GIS for a Blue Planet. ESRI Press: Redlands, CA. *Computers & Geosciences* **26**: pp. 5-9.

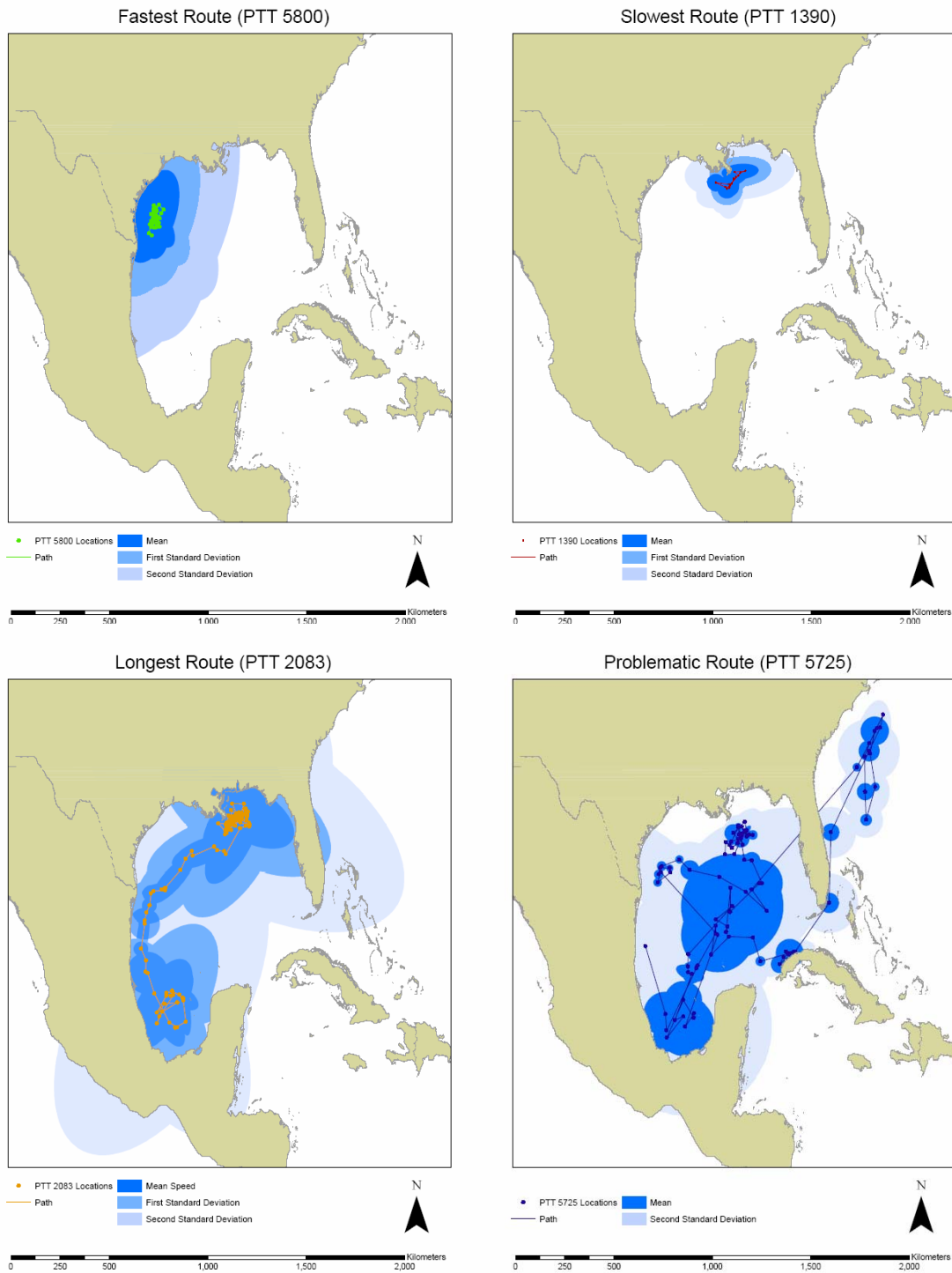


Figure 1: Speed buffers and linear interpolation paths for select sperm whale routes. Results and graphics by Brett Lord-Castillo, 2006.

New Books, Chapters and Articles

Wright, D.J., Blongewicz, M.J., Halpin, P.N. and Breman, J., 2007. "Arc Marine: GIS for a Blue Planet," Redlands, CA: ESRI Press, 202 pp. ISBN 978-1-58948-017-9 With a companion web site and free downloads/tutorial at: <http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/djl/arcgis/book.html>

CoMa Organized Sessions at the AAG in Boston

Title: Marine Geomorphology as a Determinant for Essential Life Habitat: An Ecosystem Management Approach to Planning for Marine Reserve Networks

ORGANIZERS: Will Heyman, Texas A&M University, whyman@geog.tamu.edu Dawn Wright, Oregon State University, dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu

DESCRIPTION: Marine resources are in decline throughout most of the world's oceans and traditional, species-specific and/or catch based means to manage these resources are failing and are instead turning to ecosystem-based approaches. As attractive as it sounds, the concept has not yet been effectively translated into action. The reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management as the Sustainable Fisheries Act in 2006 provides renewed incentive for innovative ways to implement ecosystem-based management.

The goal of these three sessions is to examine critically the growing body of data suggesting that the underlying geology and geomorphology of marine environments dictates the location of critical life habitat for a variety marine species. For example, it is becoming clearer that spawning aggregations of many species of commercially important reef fishes commonly occur at the windward edge of reef promontories that jut into deep water. As another example, seamounts serve as attractors for pelagic fishes. The broad implications of these findings suggest that geomorphology might be used as a proxy for (or at least help to identify) critical life habitat for marine species, and thus serve to advance the application of the ecosystem-based management and the design of marine reserve networks. Our goal is to bring together a group of experts who are examining this problem specifically, present papers, and publish them all together with a synthesis and policy statement, within a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal. In this way, we hope to advance collaboration between scientists from various disciplines and marine managers towards more efficient conservation and management of marine systems.

Papers are welcome in the areas of: essential benthic habitat and geomorphology, marine GIS and/or remote sensing for the purposes of integrating, geomorphology and biology, applications for marine reserve network design.

DEADLINES: October 31, 2007: Submit a PIN to either Will Heyman or Dawn Wright

Title: Remote Sensing and GIS For Coastal and Watershed Studies

ORGANIZERS: Dr. Xiaojun Yang, Department of Geography Florida State University xyang@fsu.edu and Dr. Luoheng Han, Department of Geography University of Alabama lhhan@bama.ua.edu

DESCRIPTION: Coastal areas are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. They are also the foci of human settlement, industry, and tourism. Large coastal population and intense development are exacerbating environmental stress and degradation of the coastal ecosystems, thus placing an elevated burden on organizations responsible for the planning and management of these highly sensitive areas.

Coastal zone management involves procedures of monitoring and modeling which require reliable information base and robust analytical technologies. Remote sensing and GIS, given their cost-effectiveness and technological soundness, are increasingly being used to develop useful sources of information and to support decision making in connection with a wide array of coastal applications. Recent innovations in data, technologies, and theories in the wider arena of remote sensing and GIS have permitted scientists with invaluable opportunities to advance the study of the coastal environments.

This proposed special paper session serves as a forum for researchers to communicate their current development regarding the use and applications of spatial information technologies for coastal and watershed analysis. You are invited to submit abstracts for presentations in this special paper session. Aspects considered include (but not limited to): Nearshore bathymetry, shoreline erosion, and coastal morphodynamics; Characterization, analysis, and modeling of changing watershed landscape structure and patterns in coastal environments; Coastal wetland mapping and change detection; Hydrological and nutrient modeling in coastal watersheds; Remote sensing of coastal water quality (chlorophyll concentration, 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 Coastal watershed management and case studies.

If interested contact Dr. Yang or Dr. Han and Whenever possible, please go through the online AAG submission, and then send us an email containing: (1) Your name, presentation title, and abstract; and (2) The "Participant Number" assigned to you by the online registration system. The deadline for receiving all application materials from presenters is October 31, 2007.

Title: Geomorphic Impacts of Hurricanes

ORGANIZER: Dr. Harry Williams, University of North Texas (williams@unt.edu)

DESCRIPTION: Paper submissions are invited for the 2008 AAG meeting in Boston for the following session "Geomorphic Impacts of Hurricanes". 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.

To participate, register and submit your paper abstract online at <http://www.aag.org/>. Email your presenter identification number (PIN), paper title, and abstract to Harry Williams (williams@unt.edu) by Monday October 29, 2007.

The CCS sessions at the Boston meetings will be held in conjunction with the AAG's Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (COMA) (http://www.homestead.com/aag_coma/files/index.html).

Jean Ellis (Jean.T.Ellis@nasa.gov) has agreed to act on behalf of CCS to coordinate the development and scheduling of joint activities. If you are interested in organizing one or more paper sessions on any aspect of coastal geography that falls within the rubric of our organization, please contact her at as soon as possible. One reason that this coordination is so important is that it will allow us to concentrate our sessions at the beginning or end of the meetings, and minimize potential scheduling conflicts. Note that COMA typically develops 8-12 paper sessions of its own, making coordination especially important. We would like to get at least four sessions on coastal geomorphology and a similar number for coastal remote sensing and GIS.

Call for Boston AAG Student Paper Competition Entries

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 31, 2007 (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 \$200.00 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).

2008 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? _____

Employment Opportunities

Position: *The University of North Carolina Wilmington* invites applications for the position of Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography and Geology (<http://www.uncw.edu/earsoci>). We seek candidates with an outstanding reputation within the academic community who will bring vision and innovative leadership to a multidisciplinary department with both undergraduate and graduate programs. The ideal candidate will have a Ph.D. in geography, geology, or a related discipline, a specialization that complements the university's strong coastal and marine focus, and a distinguished record in teaching, scholarship, and research appropriate to appointment at the rank of full professor. 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 five professional references must be attached to the online application. Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF attachments are preferred. For questions regarding the online application process, contact Catherine Morris at 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, 2007, and continue until the position is filled. The position is anticipated to begin July 1, 2008. Questions about the position may be addressed to Dr. David Webster at webste@uncw.edu.

Position: *Birmingham-Southern College*, a selective national liberal arts college, invites applications for a tenure-track assistant or associate professor position to begin Fall 2008. BSC is an equal opportunity employer and is especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute, through their research, teaching, and/or service, to the diversity and excellence of the academic community.

Qualifications Ph.D. in Environmental Geography or closely related field desired; postdoctoral research and teaching experience preferred. **Desired Attributes:** We seek applicants who are committed to excellence in teaching and research in a liberal arts setting. We are looking for a colleague with several attributes. First, this person should have a broad knowledge of environmental studies and current environmental concerns. Second, this person must be able to teach an environmental earth science course. Third, the courses taught by the new hire will contribute to the overall curriculum as Disciplinary Foundations electives (see <http://www.bsc.edu/academics/foundations/index.htm>), and potentially as electives for some majors. Finally, we seek a colleague who will use GIS in both teaching and research.

Area of Specialty: Applicants should have a strong quantitative background and expertise in urban environmental issues. We believe that an environmental geographer will be especially well suited for teaching concepts that involve a strong social science and natural science component. While the job title is "Environmental Geographer," potential applicants from other sub-disciplines (e.g., Physical Geography) or fields (e.g., Geology) may have the appropriate training and background for this position. Therefore, the particular area of expertise/specialty is open, though the strongest applicants will have an extensive background in an environmental field. Because the UES program is interdisciplinary, we seek a colleague who can work with and relate to students and faculty from across the curriculum through his/her teaching and leadership. Candidates must have GIS expertise and use GIS in courses as appropriate. The new hire is also expected to maintain an active scholarship/research program that involves students.

Teaching Responsibilities: Teaching responsibilities include introductory classes in the interdisciplinary Urban Environmental Studies (UES) major and advanced classes in his/her area of expertise. The successful applicant will teach UES 160 Environmental Earth Sciences (an introduction to earth sciences) and co-teach UES 150 Introduction to Environmental Studies; both courses are geared towards both UES freshmen and non-majors. Advanced classes will be designed by the new hire in his/her area of expertise. While these courses should be designed for the UES major, they will also need to be open to students from other disciplines as Disciplinary Foundations electives. Finally, the new hire will teach senior seminar courses for UES majors. We also expect the use GIS in teaching and research with students.

Coordinator Responsibilities: The successful candidate will serve as Coordinator for our UES program. Responsibilities include developing and maintaining the new curriculum for the UES major, expanding our existing environmental studies internship program, and working with admissions staff to recruit students into the UES program. The Coordinator will be assisted in these responsibilities by the faculty, staff, and students of the UES Committee.

Application Submit letter of application, *curriculum vitae*, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, statements of teaching philosophy and of research interests, recent publications, and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Scot Duncan, Biology Department, 900 Arkadelphia Rd, Box 549022, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, AL 35254. Inquiries may be directed to sduncan@bsc.edu or 205.226.4777. Screening of applications will begin November 1, 2007, and continue until the position is filled. No e-mail applications. BSC complies with the Alabama Child Protection Act.

Position: *East Carolina University Assistant Professor.*

Job Description East Carolina University seeks candidates for a full-time, tenure-track position at the Associate Professor level. This will be a joint appointment within the Institute for Interdisciplinary Coastal Science and Policy (IICSP) and the applicant's corresponding home department. This position carries a reduced teaching load commensurate with a half-time

appointment. The goal of IICSP is to promote research that enhances understanding of the complex interactions between human behavior and the coastal/marine environments. IICSP presently includes faculty with expertise spanning a wide range of disciplines in the natural and social sciences. The position is broadly defined to consider all candidates with strong evidence of research in coastal policy issues. We are open as to discipline and encourage applications by individuals from across the social sciences (eg. political science, public administration, public policy, economics, sociology, anthropology, recreation/tourism, geography, or planning). The ideal candidate shall have a primary orientation in Coastal Policy as demonstrated by a strong publication record, significant external funding and a commitment to graduate education. IICSP affords the opportunity to work in an interdisciplinary setting to teach courses in the PhD Program in Coastal Resources Management.

Evaluation criteria: Research--The successful candidate will have a significant coastal policy-oriented publication record as indicated by quantity of publications and quality of the publication outlets; evidence of external funding and a record of interdisciplinary research.

Outreach/Service--Desirable factors include evidence of professional impact through international activities, record of dissemination to wide audiences, interaction with policy-making organizations, and organization of conferences, workshops and other synergistic activities. Teaching--Evidence of effective teaching and active involvement in all aspects of graduate education especially in an interdisciplinary setting is a plus.

Special Instructions to Applicants: Please submit a letter of interest, a current curriculum vita and names and contact information of three references online. Review of applications will begin November 15, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. For additional information please contact Professor Jamie Kruse, renci@ecu.edu (252) 737-1772. East Carolina University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University that accommodates individuals with disabilities.

Position: *East Carolina University seeks a DIRECTOR, INST FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY COASTAL SCI & POLICY*

Job Description: East Carolina University seeks an individual to oversee the development and management of the new Institute for Interdisciplinary Coastal Science and Policy (IICSP). The new Institute combines the Institute for Coastal Marine Resources (ICMR), the PhD Program in Coastal Resources Management (CRM), and the Office of Diving and Water Safety with an annual permanent budget exceeding \$1.6 million, including 13 faculty (7.5 FTE, 3 expansion positions currently vacant), 9 office and support staff, a fleet of 10+ research vessels, \$311,000/yr in graduate assistantship funds, and operating funds of about \$150,000/yr. The new Institute will serve as a multidisciplinary focal point, drawing broad support from over 70 faculty members in 8 core departments from 3 colleges and forge interactions with other institutes and universities, including the UNC Coastal Studies Institute (<http://csi.northcarolina.edu/>). The goal of the new Institute is to enhance understanding of the complex interactions between human behavior and coastal/marine environmental resources and to draw on this understanding to develop sound public policy. The Institute will focus its research at the interface between 4 areas: coastal & estuarine ecology, coastal geosciences, social science & coastal policy, and maritime studies. The new Director will guide a planned expansion that will add at least 3 new faculty positions to further the Institute's goal of fostering an interdisciplinary environment focused on coastal issues.

Specific duties: Leadership and Program Development - develop and direct research programs; develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for securing external funding from government agencies, non-government organizations, the private sector, and from private donations; interact with relevant communities; lead and coordinate the hiring of selected IICSP scientists who will have joint appointments; recruit and mentor participating faculty. Administration and Management - insure that the Institute is properly managed. Management responsibility includes issues related to personnel, budget, space, and equipment. Agency Relations - develop and maintain effective working relationships with agencies (federal, state, local) that either fund research on coastal and near-shore marine environments, or have management responsibilities for these environments. Research - may undertake research in own area of expertise. Outreach/Service - work with Institute staff to share research findings within the community; work with the community to identify emerging research issues; facilitate stakeholder discussions on research findings and research agendas; forge interactions with other institutes and universities including the UNC Coastal Studies Institute (<http://csi.northcarolina.edu/>) and promote solutions derived from research to the broader social and political communities. The Director will serve as a liaison between coastal stakeholders and the research community.

Special Instructions to Applicants: Please submit a letter of interest, a current curriculum vitae and names and contact information of three references online. Review of applications will begin October 21, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. East Carolina University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University that accommodates individuals with disabilities.

Position: *Mississippi, Hattiesburg, The University of Southern Mississippi. Department of Geography and Geology invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professor commencing August 2008.* The department seeks a **GIScience specialist** with expertise in **Quantitative Methods and Integrated Environmental Science**. We welcome a broad range of sub-specialties, but our goal is to match departmental strengths in coastal science, earth systems science, and nature-society studies. Applicants are expected to show strong skills in graduate mentoring and teaching introductory and advanced GIS, cartography, quantitative methods, and courses in their field of specialization. Minimum qualifications include a Ph.D. in geography at time of appointment, evidence of teaching excellence, and a demonstrable record of conducting quality research. Applicants are expected to engage in cutting-edge scholarship in integrated environmental science and to be committed to securing extramural funding and team-based activities to support our research program. Applicants will also be expected to enhance departmental ties with NASA's Stennis Space Center through collaboration with government and industry in a wide range of geospatial technological initiatives. The Geography Program offers a B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in geography. The Department of Geography and Geology is a member of the School of Ocean and Earth Science, which also includes the Departments of Marine Science and Coastal Science and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratories. The geography faculty has a strong focus in international research and field programs in Jamaica, Cuba, France, Great Britain, Andean South America and Central America, as well as the U.S. South. Please see our website (<http://www.usm.edu/geo>) for more details on this position and our department. A complete applications must include a personal statement of background and experience relevant to the position, especially current and future research and philosophy of teaching, a dated curriculum vitae, transcripts of academic degrees, and names and addresses (including e-mail) of three references. Review of applications will commence on Nov. 1, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. Application materials should be sent to Dr. David M. Cochran; GIS Position Search Committee;

Department of Geography and Geology, Box 5051, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5051. E-mail: David.Cochran@usm.edu, Voice: 601.266.6014, Fax: 601.266.6219. In addition to materials sent to the department, you must also complete an online University of Southern Mississippi employment application, which can be found under the section entitled "Employment" at <http://www.usm.edu/hr>. The University of Southern Mississippi is an equal opportunity employer; diversity is highly valued. Women and members of underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. For additional information about employment at Southern Miss, please visit <http://www.usm.edu>.

2007 CoMa Business Meeting Minutes – San Francisco

Jeff Ueland, Secretary/Treasurer

San Francisco, CA: 20 April, 2007

President Steve Namikas called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

1. Adoption of minutes

Unanimously adopted

2. Approval of 2006 minutes

Unanimously adopted

3. Announcements

- a. Sherman proposed a joint paper session at the upcoming AAG in with coastal systems group of the International Geographical Union.
- b. There was also a suggestion to have a coastal fiesta at the Boston meeting.
- c. There was a lengthy discussion on the award amounts for the student paper competition. I was suggest that the award be raised from the current \$100 to either \$150 or \$200. There was some concern that the new amounts would be sustainable. A motion was made by Gares to raise the award to \$200. The motion was carried and put into effect for the current student paper competition.

4. Treasurers report

The starting balance after AAG last year was \$2916.25. This years expenses were or will be after the meeting today \$99 for website maintenance, \$200 for the student award, and \$150 for the physical geography reception. We collected \$473.75 from dues for a remaining balance of \$2,941.

5. Specialty group chairs meeting report

- a. There was a new specialty group created that focuses on the American south.
- b. The current AAG meeting had 6,500 attendees with 65 concurrent sessions. There was an emphasis on reducing the amount of session for next year.
- c. Tom Berwald encouraged inter-disciplinary research and encouraged Geographers to seek non-geography outlets for research and publication
- d. A new category of membership was created; Internet membership for areas in the developing world. This would include access to all journals and cost \$20.

e. There was discussion to institute sliding scale fees based on income. There was some disagreement and the subject was dropped.

f. The AAG is changing its child care assistance program that it has offered at the AAG. Instead of offering onsite child care they will reimburse you for a portion of the cost.

6. RJ Russell Award

There was no award given for this year. Rich Daniels said there were two nominations for the 2008 award which will be selected in May.

7. Norb Psuty Student Paper Competition

Rich Daniels announced that Dilumie Saumedaka Abeyisirigunawardena from the University of Victoria won with her presentation "*Atmospheric and Sea level responses to Climate Variability and associated impacts on a low lying coastal system in Northern British Columbia.*" She received a certificate and \$200 for her effort and there was widespread agreement that all the participants had produced a high level of scholarship.

8. Election of officers

There were two board members and a secretary-treasurer elected. Both Jean Ellis and Jennifer Rahn were nominated and unanimously elected as board members to serve a two year term. Jeff Ueland was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer for an additional two years.

9. Other Business

a. Steve Namikas discussed the ongoing CD project. He said that he would work with Harry Jol to get an announcement about the project out and will send instructions to upload submissions via ftp. Rich Daniels suggested we target those who presented to contribute to the project. There was also a suggestion to have a CD-related panel in Boston. Diane Horn suggested that we encourage inclusion of text descriptions with images and figures to add proper context to the submissions.

b. Steve Namikas opened discussion on the use of CoMa's due monies as the AAG has asked that we spend down our accounts. Paul Gares brought up the possibility of using some of the money for a field trip during the Boston meeting. Due to some of the bureaucratic issues of running the field trip through the AAG it was suggested that this field trip be non-AAG sponsored. There was some discussion on the location of the trip but it was left open at this time. Gares said that he will try and get something together about the field trip by September.

c. Jess Walker added a historical comment and said that first marine geography session at an AAG meeting was held in San Francisco in 1971. He presented and said the paper session was broad and exciting and that this session set the stage for the specialty group.

d. Doug encouraged CoMa Members to participate in the IGU Coastal Commission and will send a newsletter via our listserv.

e. Gares wants to comment to chairs committee that he keeps getting hard copies of Annals and PG. He suggested that there should be an "on-line" only option for receiving the journals.

10. Adjournment - Mike motions for adjournment which was seconded by Rich.