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# COASTAL LETTERS



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Newsletter of the coastal and marine geography specialty group of the association  
of American geographers

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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 2008-2009. Membership dues for the Specialty Group are \$1 for students and \$5 for regular 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) 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.
- 4) Please note all the interesting papers being presented in this year's Norbert Psuty student paper competition. Plan to attend and support the research of these scholars.
- 5) Please send your nominations for the Russell Award. The information for this award can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Jeff Ueland, Editor ([jueland@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:jueland@bemidjistate.edu))

## **Musings from the Chair – Steve Namikas**

Greetings once again, and goodbye. This will be my last musings column, with Jennifer Rahn set to take over as CoMa chair at the Las Vegas meeting. While I'm glad to be passing the torch, I have to say that it has been an enjoyable three years as our specialty group has continued to thrive. Our increasing numbers have led to significant increases in dues and in CoMa activities. This year we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring a total of fourteen sessions (a complete list appears later in this newsletter). Unfortunately our business meeting ended up in a lunch hour slot this year, rather than the customary early evening slot. To compensate, Rich Daniels has volunteered to organize an evening field trip to the world famous beer emporium, the Hofbrauhaus. A description of the Hofbrauhaus appears later in the newsletter. If you visit their website you can print a coupon good for a free beer (but it expires in 1 week, so wait until the last minute). Rich will provide details at the business meeting.

In closing, I'd like to thank the CoMa membership for the opportunity to serve as chair, and wish Jennifer the best as she takes over. Cheers.

## News and Views from Members

**Jennifer Rahn** (Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama) spent two weeks in January with Samford University undergraduate students on the volcanic Caribbean island of Saba. The students received course credit for learning how to SCUBA dive and for doing a variety of data collection on the island. The 14 dives included SCUBA certifications in OpenWater, Advanced, NITROX and National Geographic which included advanced buoyancy, navigation and fish survey skills. The most fantastic event was on day 4 of diving, we saw an 18 foot manta ray glide past us several times as we were hanging on our safety stop, oh yeah, and the beach profiles were fun too. Jennifer also had a new course accepted by the curriculum committee called Coastal and Marine Geography – currently the only ocean course on campus.

**Dr. Tom Allen** has recently been appointed Director of the Center for Coastal Systems Informatics and Modeling (C-SIM) at East Carolina University. Part of a statewide effort to apply high performance computing and geospatial technology to disasters, ECU's project is beginning a three-year program of research on storm surges, shoreline erosion, and sea-level rise. Other geographers at ECU participating in the project include Paul Gares, Yong Wang, Tom Crawford, and Jennifer Brewer. To date the center has investigated rates of estuarine erosion, wetland response to sea-level rise, and combining numerical models and estuarine observing systems. Human dimensions research has included residential and second-home owner comparative risk perception for long-term beach erosion. The ECU center has been awarded \$1.2M for three additional years' work, including research and development of visualization system for emergency manager evacuation and storm surge warnings, linkage of GIS to high-performance numerical models, and prediction and mitigation tools for dune and estuarine beach erosion.

As an example of the integration of coastal hazard geosciences and geospatial technology, a team of geographers and geologists have also developed a new web-based education program, the North Carolina Coastal Hazards Decision Portal (NC COHAZ). <http://www.coastal.geology.ecu.edu/NCCOHAZ/>. The site features maps and visualizations, such as vulnerability of barrier islands to inlet-opening, shoreline erosion potential, and real-time weather and hazards. The RENCIE@ECU group is also soliciting potential graduate students interested in the study of coastal hazards and GIScience. Potential students can contact Dr. Tom Allen (Geography), Director, RENCIE@ECU C-SIM, 102 Rivers West, Greenville, NC, 27858 (Email: [allenth@ecu.edu](mailto:allenth@ecu.edu))  
RENCIE@ECU Website: <http://www.ecu.edu/renci/>

**Heidi Lannon**, a CoMa member since 1994, has finally joined the ranks of academia. She retired from her job in industry and is teaching at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida. She replaces Bob Brinson, who taught at Santa Fe since 1970. The position is perfect in many ways, but particularly because it does not require relocation from Gainesville and uprooting of family members. Heidi hopes to continue her research on development and the geomorphology of the Florida coast. Heidi was also elected Chair Elect of the Florida Society of Geographers at their January meeting in St. Augustine.

In 2007, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Coastal States Organization undertook an effort to envision the future of coastal and ocean resource management in the United States. The results of this effort are contained in *Envisioning our Coastal Future* ([http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/czma\\_vision.html](http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/czma_vision.html)). Since that time, NOAA's National Ocean Service has been developing draft legislation to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act. The goals of the proposed legislation are: to provide for sustainable healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems; reduce the impacts of climate change on the Nation's coastal areas; and to ensure safe, sustainable, and resilient coastal communities. Some of the provisions proposed by NOAA include conducting a comprehensive assessment of the Nation's coastal and ocean resources every five years; establishing ocean and coastal resource management plans with measurable objectives at the state and federal levels; and establishing a national effort to make science available to managers through an integrated program of research, synthesis and translation, technical assistance and training. The mission of the national program will be to increase the capacity of government officials at the state and local level to make land use and infrastructure decisions that will help to achieve the goals of the Act. For more information, contact: **Ralph Cantral** [ralph.cantral@noaa.gov](mailto:ralph.cantral@noaa.gov)

**Jessica Burns** is a new member to the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group. She is recent Geography graduate from San Jose State University located in San Jose. She is looking to enter a graduate program to obtain my masters in the field of Geography and researching schools that fit her interests. She is also considering applying to the military, either Air Force or Navy reserves as a means to be able to work in the field and gain valuable experience.

## **CoMa Guide to the Las Vegas AAG Meeting**

### **CoMa Sponsored or Co-sponsored Sessions**

#### **Sunday**

None

#### **Monday**

None

#### **Tuesday**

##### **3419 Environmental Degradation, Resource Use, and Socio Economic Implications in the Niger Delta**

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in Capri 106, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

*Organizer(s)*: Jimmy Adegoke - University Of Missouri-Kansas City, Sylvester Osagie - The Pennsylvania State University

*Chair(s)*: Jimmy Adegoke - University Of Missouri-Kansas City

### **3527 Aeolian Processes and Landforms**

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in Capri 115, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

*Organizer(s)*: Jean Taylor Ellis - University of South Carolina, Steven Namikas - Louisiana State University

*Chair(s)*: Paul A. Gares - East Carolina University

### **3627 Remote Sensing and GIS for Coastal and Watershed Research and Management**

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in Capri 115, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

*Organizer(s)*: Xiaojun Yang - Florida State University, Luoheng Han - Univ of Alabama

*Chair(s)*: Xiaojun Yang - Florida State University

## **Wednesday**

### **4153 Applied geospatial technologies for sustainable development and preservation in coastal zones**

Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in North Hall N114, Las Vegas Convention Center

*Organizer(s)*: ByungYun Yang - University of Georgia

*Chair(s)*: ByungYun Yang - University of Georgia

### **4458 Marine Geomorphology and Mapping for an Ecosystem-Based Management Approach to Marine Reserve Design and Planning I**

Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in North Hall N119, Las Vegas Convention Center

*Organizer(s)*: Dawn J. Wright - Oregon State University, William Heyman - Texas A&M University

*Chair(s)*: Dawn J. Wright - Oregon State University

### **4558 Marine Geomorphology and Mapping II**

Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in North Hall N119, Las Vegas Convention Center

*Organizer(s)*: Dawn J. Wright - Oregon State University, William Heyman - Texas A&M University

*Chair(s)*: Dawn J. Wright - Oregon State University

### **4658 Marine Geomorphology and Mapping III**

Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in North Hall N119, Las Vegas Convention Center

*Organizer(s)*: Dawn J. Wright - Oregon State University, William Heyman - Texas A&M University

*Chair(s)*: Dawn J. Wright - Oregon State University

*Panelist(s)*: Charles Steinback - Ecotrust, Markus Diesing - Cefas, William Heyman - Texas A&M University,

Lisa Wedding - University of Hawaii at Manoa

## **Thursday**

### **5253 Hurricanes I: Coastal Vulnerability and Risk Assessment**

Thursday, 3/26/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in North Hall N114, Las Vegas Convention Center

*Organizer(s)*: Kam-Biu Liu - Louisiana State University, Harry Williams - University of North Texas

*Chair(s)*: Kam-Biu Liu - Louisiana State University

### **5447 Coastal and Marine Environments I**

Thursday, 3/26/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in North Hall N108, Las Vegas Convention Center  
*Organizer(s)*: Steven Namikas - Louisiana State University, Jean Taylor Ellis - University of South Carolina  
*Chair(s)*: Diane P. Horn - Birkbeck College, University of London

### **5547 Coastal and Marine Environments II**

Thursday, 3/26/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in North Hall N108, Las Vegas Convention Center  
*Organizer(s)*: Steven Namikas - Louisiana State University, Jean Taylor Ellis - University of South Carolina  
*Chair(s)*: Paul A. Gares - East Carolina University

### **5647 Coastal and Marine Environments III**

Thursday, 3/26/09, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in North Hall N108, Las Vegas Convention Center  
*Organizer(s)*: Steven Namikas - Louisiana State University, Jean Taylor Ellis - University of South Carolina  
*Chair(s)*: Jean Taylor Ellis - University of South Carolina

## **Friday**

### **6148 Hurricanes V: Paleotempestology**

Friday, 3/27/09, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in North Hall N109, Las Vegas Convention Center  
*Organizer(s)*: Kam-Biu Liu - Louisiana State University, Harry Williams - University of North Texas  
*Chair(s)*: Lisa M. Kennedy - Virginia Tech

### **6248 Hurricanes VI: Geomorphic Impacts and Paleotempestology**

Friday, 3/27/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in North Hall N109, Las Vegas Convention Center  
*Organizer(s)*: Harry Williams - University of North Texas, Kam-Biu Liu - Louisiana State University  
*Chair(s)*: Harry Williams - University of North Texas

## **Business Meeting**

### **4358 Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Business Meeting**

Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 11:55 AM - 12:55 PM in North Hall N119, Las Vegas Convention Center

## **Physical Geography Reception**

The Physical Geography Reception, which CoMa contributes to annually, will be held again this year. It is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 from 9:00-11:00 pm in Royale Pavilion 1 at the Riviera Hotel. Each year Fritz Nelson has run a slide show at this event, and Fritz has agreed to do so again this year. If any of you have slides depicting the current year's SG awards, SG news, or other relevant material, you can email them to Fritz ([fnelson@udel.edu](mailto:fnelson@udel.edu)) for incorporation in the current year's show. It will be Fritz's call as to what actually makes it into the show.

## **Norb Psuty Student Paper Competition**

**Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM**

**North Hall N118, Las Vegas Convention Center**

*Organizer(s):* Steven Namikas - Louisiana State University

*Chair(s):* Steven Namikas - Louisiana State University

*Abstract(s):*

**10:10 AM Author(s):** \*Frank Hopf - Texas A&M University

*Abstract Title: Causes and implications of historical levee failures in the California Delta.*

**10:30 AM Author(s):** \*Katherine Renken - Louisiana State University

Patrick Hesp - Louisiana State University

Phillip Schmutz - Louisiana State University

Ryan Orgera - Louisiana State University

**Luke Driskell - Louisiana State University**

*Abstract Title: Nebkha Morphometry in Dona Juanna, Veracruz, Mexico*

**10:50 AM Author(s):** \*Wansang Ryu - Geography, Texas A&M University

*Abstract Title: The Study of Sand Patch Patterns of Coastal Sand Dunes in the United States by Using Landscape Ecology*

**11:10 AM Author(s):** \*Bailiang Li - Texas A&M University

Jean Ellis - University of South Carolina

Eugene Farrell - Texas A&M University

Walter Cox - Texas A&M University

Douglas Sherman - Texas A&M University

*Abstract Title: Field evaluation of grain-scale aeolian saltation sensors*

**11:30 AM Author(s):** \*Eugene Farrell - Texas A&M University

Douglas J Sherman - Texas A&M University

*Abstract Title: Comparison of fitted decay functions for wind-blown sand measured in wind tunnel and field experiments*

## **Publications**

**Gay Gomez**, Associate Professor of Geography at McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana, is author of THE LOUISIANA COAST: GUIDE TO AN AMERICAN WETLAND. The book was published in November 2008 by Texas A&M University Press.

**Louisiana State University Press** (LSU Press) is accepting manuscripts for publication on a wide range of cultural, geographical and environmental research subjects pertaining primarily to the U.S. South, Caribbean and Latin American regions. If anyone is working on topics in environmental history, environmental justice, political ecology or ecological / environmental anthropology, LSU Press would be very pleased to consider your proposal or finished manuscript.

## **Opportunities**

**Graduate Research Assistantships in Coastal Hazard Geoscience** . East Carolina University's Center for Coastal Systems Informatics and Modeling (C-SIM) (<http://www.ecu.edu/renci/>) announces opportunities for up to four graduate research assistantships in the areas of coastal geoscience and hazards, GIScience, and related modeling and information systems pertaining to North Carolina coastal hazards (storm surges, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise.)

Prospective students may pursue masters degrees or certificate programs among departments participating in the RENaissance Computing Institute at East Carolina University (RENCI@ECU). Current proficiency and aptitude for advanced level work is desirable among a wide breadth of geospatial analysis, such as geovisualization and cartography, geoprocessing models, spatial analysis, geophysical and remote sensing data analysis, or Internet GIS. Students will assist a multidisciplinary team researching coastal hazards in North Carolina. Selected examples of these hazards and geospatial approaches can be found at the NC Coastal HAZards Decision Portal (<http://www.coastal.geology.ecu.edu/NCCOHAZ/>).

Graduate degrees can be achieved in Geography, Geological Sciences, Economics, Ecology, and Coastal Resource Management. For further information on graduate programs, consult the East Carolina Graduate School (<http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/>) and the respective department.

Prospective applicants may inquire by sending a statement of interest and academic background to Dr. Tom Allen (Geography), Director, RENCI@ECU C-SIM, 102 Rivers West, Greenville, NC, 27858 (Email: [allenth@ecu.edu](mailto:allenth@ecu.edu)), tel. 252-737-1771 or Dr. J.P. Walsh (Geological Sciences), [walshj@ecu.edu](mailto:walshj@ecu.edu), 252-328-5431

**GEBCO** has been funded by the Nippon Foundation, based in Tokyo, Japan, to train a new generation of scientists and hydrographers in ocean bathymetry. The twelve-month course, leading to a **Postgraduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry** (PCOB), is held at the [University of New Hampshire](http://www.gebco.net/training/training_project/), USA. For More information go to: [http://www.gebco.net/training/training\\_project/](http://www.gebco.net/training/training_project/)



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

Nominations for the R.J. Russell Award should be directed to the Vice-Chair (Jennifer Rahn, e-mail: [jlrahn@gmail.com](mailto:jlrahn@gmail.com)). Nominations for the award should be made at least 2 weeks prior to the annual AAG meeting. The individual selected will receive the award at the next years annual meeting (e.g., the nominee selected in 2009 will receive the award in 2010). 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. Nominations are accepted from CoMa members, but nominees do not have to be members of either the specialty group or the AAG. Two nominations are required for consideration for the Award. At least one of the nominations must include a complete letter of nomination which will include a one paragraph letter describing the nominees contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography and/or to the special interest group and a list of the nominees relevant publications.

Further Award Information: [http://aag\\_coma.homestead.com/files/russell\\_nom.html](http://aag_coma.homestead.com/files/russell_nom.html)

Past R.J. Russell Awardees - see [http://aag\\_coma.homestead.com/files/pastrussl.html](http://aag_coma.homestead.com/files/pastrussl.html)

Background R.J. Russell - see [http://aag\\_coma.homestead.com/files/russell.html](http://aag_coma.homestead.com/files/russell.html)