
COASTAL LETTERS



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

Vol. 21, No. 2

Website: http://aag_coma.homestead.com

Fall 2009

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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 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 Las Vegas: Karsten Shein and Tom Allen was elected Vice-Chair.
- 4) Thanks to Jennifer Rhan and Jean Ellis for helping out with the minutes and Treasurer's Report in Las Vegas.

Jeff Ueland, Editor (juleland@bemidjstate.edu)

Musings from the Chair – Jennifer Rahn

October greetings COMA members. We had an excellent meeting last year in Las Vegas even though it was not near a coast. This coming year we will be near our beloved oceans once again in Washington DC. The October 28 deadline is fast approaching so submit your abstracts soon. Please encourage your colleagues and students to present in our sessions this year. Thus far we have six COMA sponsored or cosponsored sessions:

Coastal Geomorphology and Management

E-Mail Jean Ellis at JTELLIS@MAILBOX.SC.EDU

Aeolian Processes and Landforms

E-Mail Jean Ellis at JTELLIS@MAILBOX.SC.EDU

Coastal & Marine and Animal Geography (Animal Geography co-sponsor) –

E-Mail Jennifer Rahn at JLRahn@gmail.com

Coastal Applications of Remote Sensing and GIS (Remote Sensing & GIS co-sponsors)

E-Mail Xiaojun Yang at xyang@fsu.edu or Luoheng Han at lhan@bama.ua.edu

Coastal and Marine Climatology (Climate co-sponsor)-

E-Mail Karsten Shein at Karsten.Shein@noaa.gov

Norbert P. Psuty Student Paper Competition-

E-Mail Jennifer Rahn at JLRahn@gmail.com

A complete list will be published in the next newsletter. If you have a coastal session that you would like to organize please contact me with session topic, co-sponsors and your contact information. We are planning one field trip to the Outer Banks and one in town – details later. Please join us at the meeting and in our sessions. - Jennifer Rahn

News and Views from Members

Marine and Coastal Geography at Texas A&M University

The newly formed Marine and Coastal Geography Group at Texas A&M University has a number of exciting research projects on the go. **William Heyman** and **Chris Houser** recently travelled to Gladden Spit in southern Belize as part of a preliminary study to determine how the interactions between submarine geomorphology and far field ocean forces create localized wave and current fields that are the biology of this important reef fish spawning aggregation site. This study is a small part of Heyman's research on the functional dynamics of coastal and marine systems with a particular emphasis on developing and promoting sustainable fisheries.



In addition to the work with Heyman, Houser was recently awarded an NSF grant to examine the spatial and temporal synchronization of the beach-dune system along Matagorda Island in central Texas. Brendan Roark is continuing his biogeochemical proxy development work with deep-sea corals (DSC) from the Pacific as part of a joint study between Texas A&M, Stanford University, the University of California-Santa Cruz and the Australian National University as well as starting to work in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Much of this work involves diving in research submersibles to selectively collect specimens in rarely visit locations such as the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. In a recent publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science Roark and his colleagues found that some species of DSC were more than 4,200 years old, making them among the oldest skeletal accreting organism on Earth. These results have important implications for the conservation and management of DSC beds around the world. For more information about Marine and Coastal Geography at Texas A&M (including graduate studies) please visit our website at <http://marinegeog.tamu.edu/>.

Michael Grilliot, MS Candidate (Geography) Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA has received the Marc Hershman Marine Fellowship. The Fellowship carries with it a \$30,000 award. Grilliot will join the staff of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for the next nine months working on a variety of coastal management projects.

Jennifer Rahn (Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama) conducted summer fieldwork on the volcanic Caribbean island of Saba. This included beach surveys and a new SCUBA project designing an innovative sea turtle monitoring and mapping program. Come to her AAG presentation for more details.

New Books, Chapters and Articles

Heyman, W.D., and Wright, D.J. (eds.), Special focus section: Marine geomorphology in the design of marine reserve networks, *The Professional Geographer*, in press, 2009 [look for it in 2010!]

Wright, D.J. and Heyman, W.D. (eds.), Sixth special issue on marine and coastal geographical information systems: Marine and coastal GIS for geomorphology, habitat mapping, and marine reserves, *Marine Geodesy*, 31(4): 223-371.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01490410802466306>

Wright, D.J., Spatial data infrastructures for coastal environments, in Yang, X. (ed.), *Remote Sensing and Geospatial Technologies for Coastal Ecosystem Assessment and Management*, Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography, Berlin: Springer-Verlag, DOI 10.1007/978-3-540-88183-4_5, 91-112.

Ocean Studies Board Biennial Report 2006-2008, National Research Council. Includes overviews of: Coastal Studies...

- Mitigating Shore Erosion along Sheltered Coasts
 - Review of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Program
 - Review of the Tsunami Warning and Forecast System
 - Development of a Coastal Impacts Factor to Assess Hurricane Intensity
 - Tackling Marine Debris in the 21st Century
 - Assessment of the Department of Energy's Methane Hydrate Research and Development Program
 - Hydrates as a Future Energy Resource
 - Developing an Integrated Science Strategy for Ocean Acidification Monitoring
 - Responding to Oil Spills in Ice
- Access the report from http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/Pickup/OSB_biennial_rpt2006-08.pdf

Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted for the Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program; two 12-week sessions will be held in 2010. While this announcement is circulated broadly to academic institutions and science organizations, the OSB staff would like to make a special request for your help in spreading the word to *marine* science and policy graduate students. The Ocean Studies Board will support at least one fellow in 2010, so we are looking for high quality applicants from graduate programs in any ocean-related field. Many of our sister boards will also be seeking fellows, so there are a variety of opportunities here at the Academies for those interested in environmental policy. The program is a wonderful opportunity to introduce students to S&T policy in DC; no prior policy experience is expected or required! Many of our fellows continue in policy careers – both Claudia and I are former fellows – and many also return to their home institutions and research careers with a better understanding of the policy process.

Please help us spread the word about the program by forwarding this "Call for Applications" to friends and colleagues who may be interested in this unique opportunity for themselves or to professors, department heads, and graduate programs that may be willing to pass it on to their students.

Please visit www.national-academies.org/policyfellows for details on criteria, application instructions, and access to the online application and reference forms.

The Department of Geography and Geology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor to begin August 2010. We seek a scholar with expertise in applying current remote sensing technology to coastal studies such as

dynamic processes, geomorphology, hazards, engineering and/or development. The successful candidate will teach introductory and advanced courses in remote sensing and in their area of expertise, direct graduate student research, and establish an externally funded research program. Opportunities exist to collaborate with a wide range of related programs within the College of Arts and Sciences and the Center for Marine Science. The department currently offers B.A., B.S., and M.S. degrees in geology, B.A. geography, along with a G.I.S. certificate and minors in geology, geography, and oceanography. A PhD in geography, geological sciences, or other related discipline is required.

For additional information on faculty and programs see: www.uncw.edu/earsoci. To apply, complete the online application process at <http://consensus.uncw.edu>. A letter of application including brief statements of teaching and research interests, a curriculum vitae and contact information, including e-mail addresses, for three professional references should be attached to the online application. Not e-mailed, mailed or faxed. MS Word or PDF attachments are required. For questions about the position, contact Dr. Doug Gamble, Search Chair, gambled@uncw.edu, (910) 962-3778. For questions about the online application process, contact Ms. Cathy Morris, morris@uncw.edu, (910) 962-3736. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by February 1, 2010 but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. UNC Wilmington actively fosters a diverse and inclusive working and learning environment and is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified men and women from all racial, ethnic, or other minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

We invite submissions for the GEOMED2010, The 2nd International Geography Symposium to be held on 2-5 June 2010 in Antalya, Turkey. The purpose of this symposium is to share your, experiences, knowledge and research results about all aspects of geography, ecology, environment in general. Call for abstracts and papers is now open. Please find attached the first announcement of GEMED2010, for further information and updates about the symposium; please visit the Symposium website at: <http://web.deu.edu.tr/geomed2010> We look forward to welcoming you in Antalya, Turkey on 2-5 June 2010.

Introducing the International Coastal Atlas Network. As we all know, coastal mapping plays an important role in informing decision makers on issues such as national sovereignty, resource management, maritime safety and hazard assessment. A key trend has been the development of coastal web atlases (CWAs), defined as a collection of digital maps and datasets with supplementary tables, illustrations, and information that systematically illustrate the coast, oftentimes with cartographic and decision support tools. They are playing an increasingly crucial role in informing regional decision- and policy-making across the themes of coastal governance, hazard mitigation, climate change impacts and vulnerability mapping, marine spatial planning, and more. While multiple benefits are derived from tailor-made atlases, the potential exists to derive added value from the integration of disparate CWAs, to optimize decision making at a variety of levels and across themes. And while digital data sets have continued to grow exponentially, our ability to derive meaning, knowledge and management decisions from all of these data in an analytical context remains poor. In response to the need for coordinated CWAs, the International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN) was recently established. This network consists of 35 organizations from 10 countries, and has garnered the interest of local and state governments, non-governmental organizations, universities, NOAA, the European Environment Agency (EEA), and UNESCO. If interested in ICAN and our workshop series, please contact Dawn Wright, dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu and/or peruse <http://ican.science.oregonstate.edu>

2010 AAG CoMa Field Trip Information

AAG 2010 COMA FIELD TRIP : Eastern Shore of Virginia-Maryland (Assateague Island, Chincoteague, and Ocean City). Drs. Tom Allen and Paul Gares of ECU are planning a field trip for interested COMA members to Assateague Island National Seashore and Chincoteague. The trip will precede the AAG meeting for 1-1.5 days and include visits to the National Seashore and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, surrounding geomorphic and landscape features of interest on the mainland Delmarva Peninsula and possibly a visit to Ocean City, Maryland. Participants would tentatively arrive 1-2 days early in D.C. and share a van to the area, spending one overnight on Chincoteague. The area is renowned for coastal geomorphologic research and management and representative of the regional barrier islands and coastal bays. Interested participants and those with local field experience to share are welcome to contact Tom Allen (allenth@ecu.edu) or Paul Gares (garesp@ecu.edu). A solicitation and itinerary will be distributed via the COMA list after the AAG preliminary program has been scheduled (December/January.)

2010 CoMa Norbert P. Psuty Student Paper Competition

The Norbert P. Psuty Student Paper Merit Award competition is held each year in conjunction with the AAG annual meeting.

Eligibility:

Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate students may compete for this award if they are

- (1) the first or sole author of a paper concerning coastal or marine geography which they will be presenting at the annual AAG meeting,
- (2) a member of the AAG and of the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group.

Guidelines for Applications:

Applicants must first register for the 2010 AAG Annual Meeting before submitting an abstract to the COMA student paper competition. For detailed instructions on how to acquire a participant number for the annual meeting, see the AAG web page (<http://aag.org/annualmeetings/2010/registration.htm>).

Competition Evaluation:

Papers are judged both on content and on the quality of the presentation.

The Norbert P. Psuty Student Paper Competition Scoring Sheet is located at your AAG My Communities homepage. Log in to AAG with your username and password. The link to

- ▶ [My Home Page](#)
- ▶ Coastal Specialty Group
- ▶ [Community Home Page](#)
- ▶ View Document Archive

Application Submission:

Please make the subject “**COMA student paper competition – your AAG participant number**”.

The abstract, participant code and contact information are due to Jennifer Rahn (JLRahn@gmail.com) by October 28, 2009.

Judging:

Abstracts and written papers will be judged by the COMA Awards Committee on several criteria: Potential contribution to the field of coastal and/or marine scholarship, originality, appropriate use of

methodology, scholarship, organization, and written composition. The oral presentation of papers will be judged on professional delivery, organization, clarity, and appropriate use of graphics. Judging will take into account the academic level of the applicants.

Awards:

competition finalists will be selected by the CSG Awards Committee on the basis of the quality of their abstracts. Each finalist will be awarded a full student registration to attend the 2010 AAG Annual Meeting in Washington DC. The first place winner will receive a \$100 cash prize.

Up to two awards are available for winners of the competition. The awards committee reserves the right not to offer such prizes if the presentations are not a professional quality. The award will be decided on the basis of the oral presentation. The results of the competition will be published in the AAG Newsletter and on the specialty group's web page.

2009 CoMa Business Meeting Minutes – Las Vegas

AAG COMA Specialty Group Meeting

Las Vegas, NV; 25 March 2009

1. Jennifer Rahn (COMA Chairwoman) called the meeting to order
2. Chair's Meeting Review (J. Rahn attended)
 - a. Electronic AAG voting will be enacted in the near future
3. Council Report (D. Wright)
 - a. In an effort to reduce the length of the AAG meeting; starting in 2010 each AAG member will be limited to two AAG meeting activities per year. The previous rule was that a member could have one oral presentation and unlimited panel presentations. Under the new rule, only one panel presentation is allowed if presenting an oral paper.
 - b. AAG is actively supporting developing regions through a reduced membership fee for AAG (\$20 USD). COMA has agreed to waive the fees for the specialty group membership for developing nations memberships.
4. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. Applied Geography in Baton Rouge, LA (October, 2009). Abstracts are due in May, 2009 (P. Hesp,).
 - b. Coastal change climate workshop at CERF in Portland, OR (1-5 November 2009). Workshop is a half a day (K. Shein, NOAA).
5. Unanimous vote to approve minutes.
6. Treasurer report (J. Ellis presented for J. Ueland)
 - a. The AAG office (Teri Martin) is managing the finances for the specialty group
 - b. Profits:
 - i. \$576.25 – Dues
 - c. Expenses
 - i. \$200 – Student presentation award (Boston AAG, 2008)
 - ii. \$200 – Student presentation award (Boston AAG, 2008)
 - iii. \$100 – To R. Daniels for COMA website
 - iv. \$150 – Physical Geography party (Las Vegas AAG, 2009)
 - v. \$200 – Student presentation award (Las Vegas, 2009, *forthcoming*)

- d. Starting account balance = \$2678.54. Ending balance (considering i-iv expenses and membership fees) = \$3328.54
- e. It was suggested that profits from membership will increase this year (averaging \$75/month, increased from \$60/month)
- 7. Website update (R. Daniels) - Appendix I
 - a. COMA website at www.aag_coma.homestead.com
 - b. It is suggested that hits per year are decreasing because the newsletter has been sent as an attachment to an email, rather than an announcement indicating the updated newsletter is posted on the website.
- 8. Nominations for the 2010 RJ Russell award will be accepted until 1 May 2009. Send nominations to J. Rahn. Information about the nomination process is found on the website
- 9. Student paper session had four participants. Winner this year was Bailiang Li (PhD candidate, TAMU, D. Sherman advisor)
- 10. New Business
 - a. D. Sherman just completed his eight-year tenure as chairman of the IGU Commission on Coastal Systems. E. Anthony is the new chairman. D. Sherman encourages participation from the AAG members.
 - b. Elections
 - i. T. Allen (ECU) was nominated and elected (pending his approval) COMA vice chair
 - ii. K. Shein (NOAA) was nominated and elected as a board member of COMA.
 - c. P. Hesp asked about an image CD. P. Gares (absent from the meeting) was identified as the coordinator of this effort
 - d. COMA group is seeking a leader for a 2010 coastal field trip around Washington, DC

Appendix I - COMA website statistics

