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Specialty Group Officers

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Musings from the Chair

Jennifer Rahn- Samford University

After teaching classes at Samford University for three years straight, I can say that I truly enjoyed my two month sabbatical research trip to the island of Saba. Saba is a small volcanic island in the Caribbean with some very unique characteristics. These refreshing two months near a pristine coast allowed me to recharge my mind and spirit and I returned to Samford refreshed and ready for a new school year. It was on Saba, 20 years ago, that I learned how to SCUBA dive and really began to appreciate the wonders of the underwater world.



The time spent on my 2010 sabbatical reminded me of why I originally wanted to study the coast. I began to wonder about the processes and changes that affected the island since I first set foot on its rocky beaches in the 1980's. During my first few weeks on Saba in July, the BP oil spill was on the news 24/7 and the locals were very worried about the oil coming to their island. It gave me a good opportunity to talk about the regional winds and currents and the long term effects of oil on the Gulf Coast.

Read more about Jennifer's time in Saba on page 4.

Beer, Coffee and Other Things

Richard Daniels, Washington State Department of Transportation

Are you looking forward to your trip to Seattle? The 2011 Annual Meeting is fast approaching and takes place from April 12-16 at the Washington State Convention Center and the Seattle Sheraton Hotel, both of which are just off I-5 at exit 165B near the corner of Eighth and Pike Street. The Convention Center opened to the public in 1988 and was significantly renovation and expanded in 2001. The Center is in the central business district and can be reached using several rapid transit options. These include [Metro](#) buses, [Sound Transit](#) Light Rail, and the [Monorail](#) (from the 1962 World's Fair).

The Center is built over I-5, restricting the number of lanes on the Interstate to two lanes in each direction as the Interstate goes under the building. This one of the major causes of traffic congestion in the mornings and evenings in downtown Seattle, so plan extra time if commuting in via car from outlying Hotels. As another option, use one of the local Park and Rides found along the Interstate and at Link Light Rail stations and take one of the rapid transit options to the Convention Place Station. If you travel by car, near real-time traffic reports are available for Seattle from <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/seattle/> and <http://web5.seattle.gov/travelers/>.

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facebook

Information and instructions for the 2011 Norb Psuty Student Paper Competition are found on Page 6



COMA is now on facebook

In order to tap into a resource that is wholly embraced by this current generation we have created a Facebook page for COMA. Please “like” Coastal & Marine Geography (COMA) of AAG. Post any interesting conferences, scholarships, news and great (or goofy) photos. This is a great way to keep in touch- especially with our student members! If you have trouble posting please contact our student board member Eugene Farrell at ejfarrell@tamu.edu to add your post.

2010 Norb Psuty Competition

Student Presenters (from left to right)



Marilyn Montgomery, Spatial Analysis of Vulnerability to Coastal and Inland Flood Hazards in Tampa Bay, Florida

Rosana Grafals-Soto, Local effects of remnant fences on landward vegetation diversity at developed foredunes

Sherestha Saini, Swash zone sediment transport on an estuarine foreshore

Katherine Korotky, Effects of sand fences and beach raking on the coastal landscape, Avalon, NJ USA

Jillian Eldridge, The Thames Gateway: flood risk, vulnerability and insurance loss potential

This year’s winners were Marilyn Montgomery (best paper on Human Interaction) and Sherestha Saini (best paper on Physical Interaction).

R.J. Russell Award Nominations

This award is made to a person who is contributing or has contributed significantly to advancing coastal and marine geography. Nominations for 2010-11 were closed following the Washington, D.C., business meeting but will be opened for the 2012 award through the time of the AAG COMA business meeting in Seattle.

The award is open to people outside of the specialty group and the discipline of geography. Nominations may come from any member of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group who is not a member of the selection committee (Vice-Chair and Board).

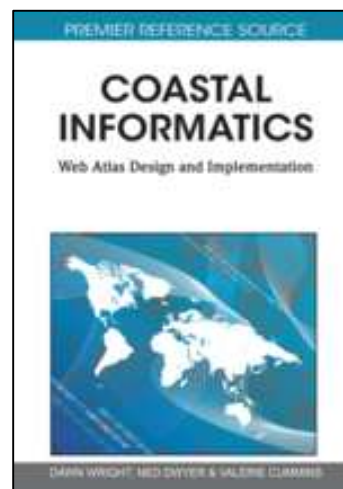
At least two letters of recommendation are required for each candidate; one may be written by the person nominating the candidate. Nominations or questions about the award can be submitted to the Vice-Chair of COMA, Tom Allen, email: allenth@ecu.edu

News and Views from Members

From Dawn Wright, Department of Geosciences, Oregon State University

Coastal Informatics: Web Atlas Design and Implementation, Hershey, PA: IGI-Global, 350 pp. (ISBN: 9781615208159, doi: 10.4018/978-1-61520-815-9), edited by Dawn Wright (Oregon State U.), Ned Dwyer, and Val Cummins (Coastal & Marine Resources Centre, Cork, Ireland), 2010.

Foreword by Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency: In recent years, significant momentum has occurred in the development of Internet resources for decision makers, scientists and the general public who are interested in the coast. A key aspect of this trend has been the development of the coastal web atlas (CWA), based on a web-enabled geographic information systems (GIS). A CWA is 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, all of which are accessible via the Internet.



CWAs deal with a variety of thematic priorities (e.g., oil spills or recreational uses) and can be tailored to address the needs of a particular user group (e.g., coastal managers or education). There are many benefits which CWAs can provide, including: A portal to coastal data and information from diverse sources;

- Up-to-date geospatial data which are frequently changing;
- A widely accessible coastal resource to a broad audience;
- A comprehensive and searchable data catalogue;
- Improved efficiency in finding data, but also a wide range of ancillary information;
- An instrument for marine spatial planning;
- Interactive tools and resources which empower users to find their own answers;
- An educational resource which raises people's consciousness

The book presents the latest developments in the new field of coastal web atlases and to share best practices and lessons learned, which will in turn help readers to determine future needs in mapping and informatics for the coastal practitioner community and improve spatial thinking in the coastal context. This handbook provides a complete guide to CWA development and implementation including established principles and recommendations for atlas design, data requirements, necessary software technology and institutional capacity, as well as best practices for achieving interoperability between CWAs.

From Alexi Bastinado, Recently Released

Dear Establishment: You have tried to silence me for too long. Fifteen years without sharp objects and eating gruel has focused my attention on the inevitable collapse of the charade that we call science – especially coastal science. You cost me my career, my



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Musings from the Chair Cont'd

Jennifer Rahn- Samford University

In July, the first Lionfish was spotted cruising the reefs of Saba by some divers. Lionfish are a voracious invasive species that can eat up to 80% of the juvenile reef fish population, decimating the native species on the reef. They have been in Atlantic and Caribbean waters for about a decade but had not been spotted this far East in the Lesser Antilles until this summer. I was invited by the Saba Marine Park manager and a Marine Ranger to join them on a small boat to film the planned capture of the unwelcome, toxic Lionfish.

At the dive site we donned our SCUBA gear and jumped in, and after about 45 minutes they successfully captured the Lionfish. I was honored to be the official photographer, documenting the capture process. We took the Lionfish back to the marine park office and "Lenny" is now living there and is being used for educational programs. He's quite a local celebrity!



I researched the history and geographic spread of Lionfish to share with the local people on Saba. I realized what an interesting biogeographic story this was. Their movements in the Atlantic and the Caribbean don't follow a straightforward pattern. Unfortunately the threats to coral reefs all over the world are already extreme and devastating, and now Saba must deal with this alien predator. Last week, for the first time, several Lionfish were reported in the Gulf of Mexico in Alabama, Florida and Louisiana waters. The news isn't good, only time will tell what the overall impact of this non-native fish on the coastal and marine habitats of the region.

The one good part of all these types of environmental problems is that coastal and marine geographers are in the news and that gives us the opportunity to share our knowledge and pass on our concerns affecting critical environmental changes.

I have been able to share my summer experiences with my students in a wide variety of conversations, as well as talking to "regular folks" about these issues. I plan on returning to this wonderful island soon to see the effects that Lionfish are having on the reefs and the damage hurricane Earl has managed to do to my cobble beaches.

I am thankful that I was able to experience these types of exciting habitat changes firsthand to see how these issues are affecting people who live in the area I study. I will tell you more details in Seattle – **hope to see you all there!**



News and Views Cont'd

Bastinado Cont'd

wife (well, she might have been if I had asked her out – who could resist my Van Dyke?), and my freedom. But that's over now. I told you about Katrina, I told you about Ike, I told you about H1N1. Now I'm telling you about me. I'm writing an abstract, I'm going to Seattle. I'm entering the student paper competition (no I didn't ever graduate you dipstick), and I better win this time. You need to watch your backs – razors of scientific insight will eviscerate your complacency.

And who has been censoring my writings? I can't tell if was my minders or you slags. In any event, how dare you reject my abstracts? And you know I couldn't submit digital files because the conditions of my confinement – I mean sequestering, forbade my access to computers. Postage due? You're telling me that you rich snots couldn't front me a stamp? Register for the meeting? Not until the AAG makes good on its promise to lower fees after the 100th anniversary meeting. And those books wouldn't fit through my food – errr -- mail slot. How long do you think it will take to walk to Seattle? Can we share a room? Anyone??? With greatest delight, Alexi Bastinado

Call for Papers : REMOTE SENSING Special Issue on Coastal Ecosystems

Many coastal regions face continuing pressure from surging population growth, natural resource extraction, natural and technological hazards, climate change and attendant sea-level rise. This special issue invites scholarly papers that advance the science of remote sensing for coastal environments through innovative algorithm development and novel applications. Prospective paper topics are sought from a wide range of remote sensing technology or applications. *Remote Sensing* publishes regular research papers, reviews, letters and communications covering all aspects of the remote sensing process, from instrument design and signal processing to the retrieval of geophysical parameters and their application in geosciences. For additional information on the special issue, contact Dr. Thomas R. Allen, Guest Editor, allenth@ecu.edu or visit: http://www.mdpi.com/journal/remotesensing/special_issues/coastal_ecosystem/

From Will Heyman, Department of Geography, Texas A&M University

The [Marine and Coastal Geography Group at TAMU](#) has been active in research this summer. Dr. Shin Kobara earned his Ph.D. from the lab of Dr. Will Heyman in December 2009. Kobara's dissertation focussed on the geomorphology of reef fish spawning aggregations throughout the wider Caribbean and has been the subject of several recent papers including Kobara, S. and W.D. Heyman. 2010. Sea bottom geomorphology of multi-species spawning aggregation sites in Belize. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 405:243–254. This research contributes to a growing body of literature suggesting the important role of marine geomorphology as a proxy for critical life habitat for marine species, and its concomitant importance in marine reserve design, the subject of two past [AAG symposia](#) a special issue of [Marine Geodesy](#), and a forthcoming focus section in *The Professional Geographer*. Enjoy exciting videos from our lab on [You Tube](#).



News and Views Continued on Page 11

2011 Student Paper Awards

Norb Psuty Student Paper Merit Award

The Student Paper Merit Award is given for a meritorious student presentation in coastal or marine geography. Student participants must be members of the COMA Specialty Group and of the AAG. Full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. Awards may be given only for oral paper presentations. Posters are not eligible for this competition. Recipients must be the first or sole author and the presenter of the paper. The same individual can receive the award twice. A \$200 prize is awarded to defray the cost of AAG and specialty group membership and travel. A certificate of recognition is also provided.

Criteria for Merit: Traditionally, this award is given to a student from human dimensions and/or physical geography. Not merely a “best” paper award, the merit committee also takes into account oral presentation, supporting visuals, originality and quality of the research, and ability to field questions from the audience.

How to apply: For full consideration, submit your abstract to Tom Allen (allenth@ecu.edu) by Oct. 13, 2010, one week before the final deadline for papers for the Annual Meeting. The award committee will review papers for appropriate content for consideration.

COMA Student Illustrated Paper Merit Award

Similar to the Psuty Award, the Student Illustrated Paper competition recognizes excellence in research in coastal and marine geography. Posters are not eligible for this competition. A \$100 award is provided to defray costs of AAG and COMA membership and travel.

Criteria for Merit: As with the Psuty Award, the student should demonstrate rigorous research in their presentation, originality and quality, supporting visuals, and handling of questions from the audience. Selections are made by the merit committee composed on the Vice-Chair and Board.

How to apply: For full consideration, submit your abstract to Tom Allen (allenth@ecu.edu) by Oct. 13, 2010, one week before the final deadline for papers for the Annual Meeting. The award committee will review papers for appropriate content for consideration.

2011 AAG Annual Meeting

Registration and Abstract and Session Submission are now open.
Submissions are due by October 20, 2010. In addition to the Special Sessions sponsored by COMA there will be general Coastal and Marine Sessions for you to present your research.



COMA Sessions at the 2011 AAG

Remote Sensing and GIS for Coastal Research and Management

This special paper session serves as a forum for researchers to communicate their current development regarding the development of remote sensing and geospatial technologies for coastal research and management. You are invited to submit abstracts for presentations in this special paper session. Aspects considered include but are not limited to: Remote sensing of coastal water quality; Mapping of seagrasses, littoral aquatic vegetation, and benthic habitats; Nearshore bathymetry, shoreline erosion, and coastal morphodynamics; Coastal wetland mapping and change analysis; Coastal geohazards (hurricanes, landslides, flooding, sea-level rise, etc.); Global change and coastal impacts; Coastal ecosystem assessment case studies; and Coastal remote sensing/GIS education. Please go through the online submission system, and then send Tom Allen (allenth@ecu.edu) or Luoheng Han (lhan@as.ua.edu) an email containing: (1) Your name, presentation title, and abstract; and (2) The "Participant Number" PIN assigned to you by the online registration system. The deadline for receiving all application materials from presenters is **October 20, 2010** (or AAG's extended deadline if applicable).

Hurricanes

Kam-biu Liu (LSU; kliu1@lsu.edu) and Harry Williams (UNT; HarryF.Williams@unt.edu) will again be organizing multiple hurricane-themed sessions at the 2011 AAG meeting in Seattle. We invite paper presentations on a wide variety of topics, including: Forecasting, Monitoring, Societal Response, Coastal Vulnerability, Risk Assessment, Meteorology, Climate Dynamics, Hydrological Impacts, Ecological Impacts, Societal Resilience, Historical and Modern Climatology, Geomorphic Impacts and Paleotempestology. The anticipated sessions will be:

Hurricanes I: Climatology/Meteorology

Hurricanes II: Historical Records/Vulnerability

Hurricanes III: Community Recovery and Resilience

Hurricanes IV: Geomorphic and Ecologic Impacts/Paleotempestology

Hurricanes V: Paleotempestology

Coastal & Marine and Animal Geography Illustrated Paper Session

Papers in this session can cover any coastal or marine topic (physical or human geography) or any animal geography topic. If you have a paper that includes coastal, marine and animals all the better! If you would like to present a poster please send your full name, abstract, *Participant Number* (assigned by the AAG when you register online), and PIN to Jennifer Rahn at JLRahn@gmail.com and make sure your email subject is AAG COMA Illustrated Paper Session Submission.

Special Sessions in Honor of Robin Davidson-Arnott

These special sessions will include a number of internationally recognized coastal and marine scientists discussing their research in light of Robin Davidson-Arnott's continuing contribution to the field. The papers presented at the Seattle meeting will be published in a special issue of *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. For more information about these sessions please contact Chris Houser (TAMU; chouser@tamu.edu) and/or Jean Ellis (USC; jtellis@mailbox.sc.edu).



Beer, Coffee and Other... Cont'd

Richard Daniels, Washington State Department of Transportation

As is always the case for a big city, there are many things to do and to see. Some key tourist attractions in downtown that you should consider seeing are:

- [Seattle Aquarium](#), listen to the calls of our region's orca whales. Stand within a circle of glowing jellyfish. Run your fingers along a sea anemone's soft tentacles and delight in the antics of the sea otters all while standing over Puget Sound.
- [Seattle Waterfront](#), there's never a dull moment on the Downtown Seattle Waterfront. Blend education with excitement at the Seattle Aquarium or Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center. Waterfront Park, Myrtle Edwards Park and the Olympic Sculpture Park provide great places to stretch your legs or sit back and enjoy the view.
- [Pike Place Market](#), open Monday-Saturday 10 am to 6 pm and is a hub of social connectivity in downtown. Some call it a European-style plaza where there is always something happening. Be it street corner musical performances, cooking demos, or a lively farmers market out on the cobblestones. Don't forget to check out the Salmon toss.
- [Westlake Center](#), in the heart of downtown Seattle and the Monorails downtown, Westlake Center is a four-story, glass enclosed retail pavilion offering a mix of food, national reputation retailers, and a unique selection of the finest quality regional merchandise.
- [Columbia Center](#), the tallest building in the Pacific Northwest, the 938 feet tall building was completed in 1985 and its observation deck, found on the 73rd floor, is open during regular business hours.
- [Smith Tower](#), has Seattle's original and most accessible observation deck. The 35th floor, outside, open-air Observation Deck wraps around the historic Tower providing breathtaking panoramic views of Mt. Rainier, and the Olympic and Cascade Mountain ranges. Plus, it's the closest view in town of Safeco Field, the Colman Ferry Terminal, and Pioneer Square.
- Seattle Center, home of the [Space Needle](#), [Pacific Science Center](#), the [Experience Music Project](#), and the [Monorail!](#)
- And [How about a Ferry ride?](#) This is the low cost way to take a two hour cruise of Puget Sound and to see it the way locals do.



There are many other sites to visit within ten miles of downtown Seattle including Seahawks Stadium, Mariners Stadium, and the Boeing Museum of Flight. For those looking for a day trip, a visit to [Snoqualmie Falls](#) & Salish Lodge & Spa , the ski areas on I-90 (i.e., Summit, Crystal Mountain), Mt. Rainier National Park may be in order, just remember that it will be winter in the Pacific Northwest when you arrive and the snow will be about 10 feet deep in the mountains.

Seattle Places After Dark



In Washington it will be dark by 5:30 pm, so where should you go for some night life? Seattle, along with Portland, is the original home of the micro beer revolution that began in 1995. This revolution has resulted many brew pubs and many more multi-tap pubs, taverns, and restaurants in the downtown area. Some recommended places to visit are shown here.

1. Elliott Bay Brewing Co. 4720 California Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98116. Phone: 206-932-8695.
2. Elysian Brewing Company. 1221 E. Pike Street, Seattle WA 98122. Phone: 206-860-1920.
3. Elysian Brewing Company. 542 1st Avenue, Seattle WA 98104. Phone: 206-382-4498.
4. Elysian Brewing Company. 2106 N. 55th Street, Seattle WA 98103. Phone: 206-547-5929.
5. Gordon Biersch Brewery. 600 Pine Street, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone: 206-405-4205.
6. Hale's Ales. 4301 Leary Way NW, Seattle, WA 98107. Phone: 206-706-1544.
7. Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub, 1916 Post Alley, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone: 206-728-1916.
8. Naked City Brewery and Taphouse. 8464 Greenwood Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98103.
9. Pike Place Pub and Brewery. 1415 First Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone: 206-622-6044.
10. Pyramid Alehouse, Brewery & Restaurant. 1201 First Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98134. Phone: 206-682-3377.
11. Taphouse Grill. 1506 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone: 206-816-3314 (160 beers on tap!).
12. Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery. 1333 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Phone: 206-623-3070.

Note, pubs 4, 6, and 8 are about 4 miles north of the area shown on the map and pub 1 is 4 miles southwest. If you were looking for the Redhook Ale Brewery, it has relocated to wine country in Woodinville, Washington. See you in the Emerald City in 2011.



News and Views Cont'd

Recent Publications from Klaus Meyer-Arendt, Dept. of Env. Studies, UWF

- Meyer-Arendt, K.J., 2009, The Costa Maya: Evolution of a Touristic Landscape, *Études Caribéennes* 13-14: xxxx. (posted online June 29, 2010; <http://etudescaribeennes.revues.org/3867>)
- Meyer-Arendt, K.J., 2009, Grand Isle, Louisiana: A U.S. Gulf Coast Resort Fights Losing Battle with Mother Nature, in *Disappearing Destinations*, (A. Jones, ed.), Oxford University Press, London, pp. xxxx. (in preparation)



Erosion and tree damage persists on the Costa Maya following Hurricane Dean (2009)



Klaus Meyer-Arendt and Antonio Klein inspect peat layers at base of scarp dune, east coast of Santa Catarina Island,