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Specialty Group Officers

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Samford University

Vice-Chair

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East Carolina University

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Texas A&M University

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University of South Carolina

Board Member

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NCDC

Board Member

Keqi Zhang
Florida International

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Eugene Farrell
Texas A&M University

Web Editor

Richard Daniels,
Washington State DoFT

Musings from the Chair

Jennifer Rahn- Samford University

Welcome to the 23rd volume of Coastal Letters! We hope you find the contents informative and interesting and please consider contributing in the future. We want to hear from all of you!

As I was pondering what to write in this issue I thought about how long I have been involved in this group and I began reminisce about my first Coastal and Marine specialty group business meeting 20 years ago. In 1991 I was applying to Ph.D. geography programs with coastal specialties and thought it would be a good idea to go to a COMA business meeting (I had no idea what a business meeting was at the time). I quietly and nervously sat down in a room full of strangers and august personalities. Doug Sherman was the chair at the time and he was leading the meeting. I was pleasantly surprised to find the meeting very entertaining (and it even included beverages!). As a prospective student I was very nervous and intimidated around all these Ph.Ds. However, after the meeting I found everyone very welcoming and encouraging and I made many new friends and professional contacts that I still interact with to this day. And although parts of the business meeting can be dry, I encourage all of you to attend and socialize with our group – especially newbies – we want you there !!



This year at the annual meeting we have a strong showing of Coastal and Marine related and sponsored sessions. They begin on Wednesday morning with the Norb Psuty student paper merit competition and continue on Wednesday afternoon with a special series of four sessions as a Tribute to Robin Davidson-Arnott. There are also COMA-sponsored sessions all day Thursday and Friday (see list of sessions in this newsletter). The culmination of all this activity will be the COMA business meeting on Friday at 7 pm. Available officer positions include Chair, Vice Chair, Board member and Student Board member. Any COMA specialty group member in good standing may run for an available officer position (with the exception of the student board member). Vote will be by simple majority of those members present, and will be by open polling unless a secret ballot is requested by a member.

Please be sure to join us for beverages, collegiality, and new beginnings! Looking forward to seeing “y’all” in Seattle,

Jennifer

facebook

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 efarrell@tamu.edu to add your post.

2011 Norb Psuty Competition

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. The following students are in this year’s competition.

**Wednesday, 4/13/2011, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in 214
Washington State Convention Center, Level 2**

8:00 AM Andrew T Bennett - East Carolina University

Land cover in the Coastal Barrier Resources System: Has policy prevented development?

8:20 AM Marilyn C Montgomery - University of South Florida

Vulnerability to Coastal and Inland Flood Hazards: A Comparison of GIS-Based Spatial Interpolation Techniques

8:40 AM Brian Marks - University of Arizona

Trajectories of Land Use and Farming Systems Change in the Coastal Mekong Delta of Vietnam

9:00 AM Nicole M Caldwell - University of West Florida

Assessment of Beachgoers' Perception of Rip Currents at Pensacola Beach, Florida

9:20 AM Katherine Renken - Louisiana State University

Evolution of transverse dunes into parabolic dunes, Manawatu region, New Zealand

Students entered in the Student Paper Competition continued on next page

2011 Norb Psuty Competition Cont'd

**Wednesday, 4/13/2011, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in 214
Washington State Convention Center, Level 2**

- 10:00 AM** Sherestha Saini - New Jersey Institute of Technology
Bulkhead configurations and Horseshoe crab spawning on sandy shorelines in Delaware Bay, NJ.
- 10:20 AM** Michele M Tobias - University of California, Davis
Long Walks on the Beach: Impact of Foot-Traffic Concentration on California's Beaches
- 10:40 AM** Gemma Barrett - Texas A&M University
Alongshore variation in nearshore bar morphology at decadal time scales using wavelet analysis
- 11:00 AM** Billy U Hales - TAMU Geography
Pattern analysis of the impact of Hurricanes Ike, Rita, and Tropical Storm Fay on Bolivar Peninsula, TX
- 11:20 AM** Richard Curran - East Carolina University
Using Remote Sensing to Map North Carolina Seagrass

Student Awards from the CGRG

Through the efforts of Ian Walker of the University of Victoria, the **Canadian Geomorphology Research Group** will be awarding the *Jean-Claude Dionne* and the *Alan S. Trenhaile* student awards for students in the special sessions in *Tribute to Robin Davidson-Arnott*

The **Jean-Claude Dionne Award** is presented to the best student oral presentation at a CGRG-sponsored session at a national or regional meeting. Dr. Jean-Claude Dionne is an Emeritus Professor of Geography at the Université Laval and is a member of Centre d'étude nordiques. Dr. Dionne has made an enormous contribution to geomorphology, particularly in the field of periglacial environments and on "le glacier". He has published more than 300 papers, notes and reports and has received la médaille André-Cailleux and the Canadian Association of Geographers Award. In 1998, he was named a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

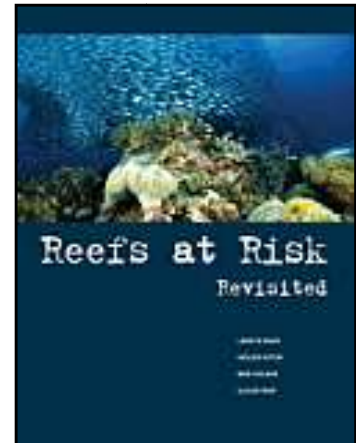
The **Alan Trenhaile Award** is presented to the best student poster at a CGRG-sponsored session at a national or regional meeting. Dr. Alan Trenhaile is a Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Windsor and is the author of *Geomorphology: a Canadian Perspective*, published by Oxford University Press. Dr Trenhaile has won several faculty teaching awards, including Windsor's Alumni Award for Distinguished Contributions to University Teaching, and has received the Richard J. Russell Award for research in coastal geomorphology from the Association of American Geographers.

New Publications

Reefs at Risk Revisited

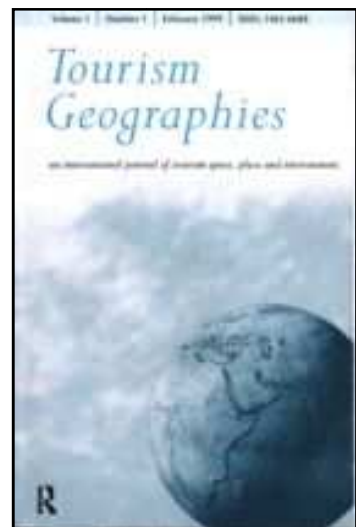
This report provides a detailed assessment of the status of and threats to the world's coral reefs.

<http://www.wri.org/publication/reefs-at-risk-revisited>



Special Issue of Tourism Geographies on Tropical Island and Coastal Tourism

The quarterly journal *Tourism Geographies*, edited by Alan Lew of Northern Arizona University, will dedicate a special issue to **Tropical Island and Coastal Tourism**. Guest editor will be Klaus J. Meyer-Arendt of the University of West Florida. We will encourage submissions by presenters at the Martinique conference as well as presenters at the AAG meeting in Seattle, where two CoMa-cosponsored Coastal Tourism sessions will be held. Any topic linking aspects of human or physical geography to tropical island and coastal tourism will be considered. The due date for articles will be May 31, 2011. Follow the submission guidelines at <http://www.geog.nau.edu/tg/notes.html>. When you submit your paper, you will see an option to check for "Special Issue" (be sure to click that). All submissions will be anonymously peer-reviewed.



Conferences

Coastal Tourism conference in Martinique

The Université des Antilles et de la Guyane (French West Indies) sponsored a conference on Coastal and Island Tourism Jan. 27-29, 2011 in Martinique. Although the conference was fairly small, most of the 70 or so participants came from (or at least presented on) the far-flung corners of the world. Topics of presentations ranged from economic to physical, and there was much emphasis upon sustainability along tropical coasts. A conference field trip was ably led by conference organizer Dr. Olivier Dehoorme, to the drier, more touristically developed southern end of the island. An unofficial post-conference field trip went to the neighboring island of St. Lucia, where coastal tourism was more widespread than on Martinique.

News and Views from Members



Jennifer Rahn (Samford University, Birmingham AL) is continuing her research on Caribbean cobble beaches on the island of Saba. Saba recently changed status from Netherlands Antilles (a dependency) to an actual part of Holland. The dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles occurred on 10 October 2010 (10/10/10, an auspicious date....). It is now officially called Saba, Dutch Caribbean

(along with Saint Eustatius and half of Saint Martin) and the top of Saba's volcanic Mount Scenery is now "the highest point in the Kingdom of the Netherlands" at 877 m (2,877 ft). Back down at sea level, Jennifer has recently monitored significant changes in the slope and volume of the beach profiles after the 2010 hurricane season. Also, an underwater housing was developed (by an ingenious friend) for her inclinometer, so she is extending her profiles offshore to the adjacent reef structures. She reports that SCUBA diving and profiling underwater is harder than it looks! For more information about this location and methodology please come to the Coastal and Marine & Animal Geography jointly sponsored illustrated paper session on April 14th at the AAG annual meeting.

Klaus Meyer-Arendt from the University of West Florida spent some time in Caribbean and submitted these photographs:



Beach erosion at the Club Med, St. Anne, Martinique



Town of Soufriere and the Pitons (volcanic plugs), St. Lucia

News and Views Cont'd

The **Marine and Coastal Geography Lab at Texas A&M** has had a busy year. One aspect of particular interest to this group are the recent papers emerging on reef fish spawning aggregations. We are conducting studies around the Caribbean, some lead by partners in the region, some by PhD students in our lab (Shin Kobara and Liam Carr), and some by our faculty, (Will Heyman and Chris Houser). We are broadly interested in the relationship between marine geomorphology, marine ecology, and human use and management. As part of this evaluating the regional applicability of the hypothesis that multi-species reef fish spawning aggregations occur at specific times and locations. Papers from Kobara's doctoral dissertation illustrate this phenomenon in Belize and the Cayman Islands. Another paper offers evidence that divers at these locations have only minimal impact on the behavior of the fishes, such that ecotourism may be a viable option to support conservation. The currents at the site are scrutinized in a 2010 paper from *Ocean Dynamics*. Finally, Heyman and Wright have completed a focus section, forthcoming in *The Professional Geographer: Marine Geomorphology in the Design of Marine Reserve Networks*. Come visit our website for the [papers](#), and our [YouTube site](#) to see bathymetric mapping methods, fish spawning behavior, and other undersea goodies.

Student Profile I

Katherine A. Renken (PhD student at Louisiana State University)

Katherine Renken, an active member of COMA for the last four years, arrived at her graduate career through her love of the great outdoors and nature. Katherine's interest in the physical sciences began on a backpacking



trip in the Appalachians in 2002. This interest brought her to the Geology department at UNC – Chapel Hill. She took her first coastal geology class and fell in love with the idea of having a career that would routinely allow for beach camping. She took a field course in Barrier Island Ecology and Geology and fell further in love with the coastal sciences, particularly along the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Katherine went straight to a Master's program in geography at East Carolina University, working with Paul Gares. Her thesis analyzed topographic changes in beach and dune zones at inlets along the Outer Banks using lidar data. She won the Honors competition at SEDAAG in 2008 for presenting this research. Currently at Louisiana State University and studying with Patrick Hesp, Katherine's doctoral research focuses on geomorphologic changes that result from vegetation colonization in transgressive dunefields. Academically, her interests include barrier island morphodynamics, dunefield evolution, dune-vegetation interactions, and climatology

Life in Louisiana has been quite an adventure for Katherine, with Mardi Gras parades, zydeco dances, jazz and blues concerts, and camping in the bayou. Katherine's personal interests and hobbies include camping, backpacking, hiking, kayaking, knitting, crocheting, quilting, ultimate frisbee and disc golf, reading, and a good live music show.

COMA Sponsored Sessions

To help you plan your trip to the Annual Meeting in Seattle here is a list of the COMA sponsored sessions. One of the sessions has no papers and will be used as a social hour for COMA members in attendance.

Wednesday April 13, 2011

- 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM 2145 Topics in Coastal and Marine Geography: Student Paper Merit Competition I
10:00 AM - 11:40 AM 2245 Topics in Coastal and Marine Geography: Student Paper Merit Competition II
12:40 PM - 2:20 PM 2472 Remote Sensing and GIS for Coastal Research and Management
12:40 PM - 2:20 PM 2445 Tribute to Robin Davidson-Arnott I: Aeolian Transport
2:40 PM - 4:20 PM 2545 Tribute to Robin Davidson-Arnott II: Coastal Dunes
4:40 PM - 6:20 PM 2645 Tribute to Robin Davidson-Arnott III: Aeolian Transport and Coastal Dunes
4:40 PM - 6:20 PM 2656 Emerging Methods for the Study of Coastal Landscape Structure and Change

Thursday April 14, 2011

- 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM 3145 Coastal Tourism I: Trends, Conflicts, & Sustainability
8:00 AM - 9:40 AM 3133 Hurricanes I: Wind, Rain, and Societal Impacts
10:00 AM - 11:40 AM 3245 Coastal Tourism II: Land Use & Recreation Planning

10:00 AM - 11:40 AM 3247 Coastal & Marine and Animal Geography Illustrated Paper Session
10:00 AM - 11:40 AM Hurricanes II: Tropical Cyclones and Climate Change
12:40 PM - 2:20 PM 1431 The blue frontier: linking projects, processes, and politics in oceans governance I
12:40 PM - 2:20 PM 3433 Hurricanes III: Past and 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM Present Hurricanes on Mexico's Pacific Coast
12:40 PM - 2:20 PM 3445 Tribute to Robin Davidson-Arnott IV: Coastal Systems
2:40 PM - 4:20 PM 3545 Tribute to Robin Davidson-Arnott V: Beaches and Dunes
2:40 PM - 4:20 PM 1531 The blue frontier: linking projects, processes, and politics in oceans governance II
2:40 PM - 4:20 PM 3533 Hurricanes IV: Paleotempestology
4:40 PM - 6:20 PM 3645 Tribute to Robin Davidson-Arnott VI: Coastal Habitat and Marshes
4:40 PM - 6:20 PM 1631 The blue frontier: linking projects, processes, and politics in oceans governance III

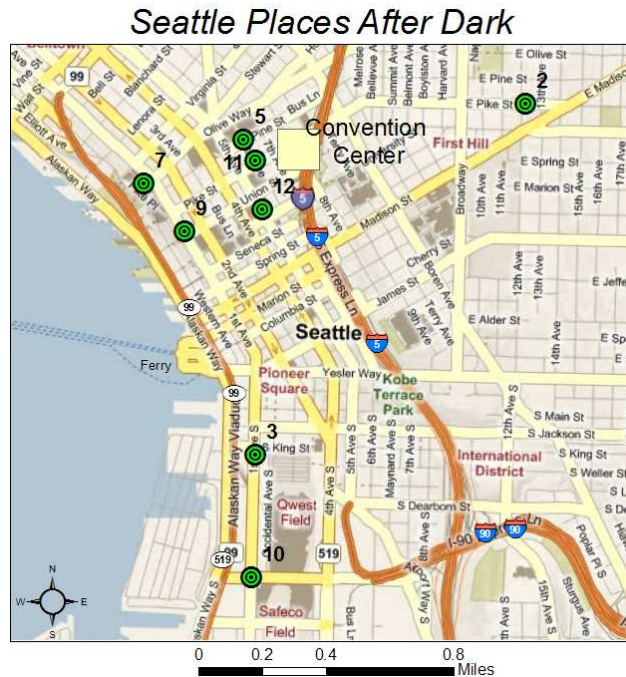
Friday April 15, 2011

- 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM 4129 Sea Level Rise, Impacts, and Policy I
10:00 AM - 11:40 AM 4229 Sea Level Rise, Impacts, and Policy II
2:40 PM - 4:20 PM 4529 Applications of GIS and Remote Sensing in Coastal and Estuarine Studies
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM 4833 Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Business Meeting

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 renovated 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 is 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/>.

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.

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: 206-32-8695.

Beer, Coffee and Other Cont'd

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

Sent via regular mail and scanned

DEAR COME EDITOR AND READERS,

I MUST APOLOGISE FOR MY LAST
MESSAGE IT WAS RUDE AND
INCONSIDERATE! I MEANT NO
HARM. I CAN'T GO TO SEATTLE
THIS YEAR. THEY TOOK MY COMPUTER
AWAY AGAIN IT IS YOUR FAULT, AND
I WON'T FORGET- EVER

SO ENJOY YOUR HAPPY MEETING.
THE FACES CHANGE, BUT THE
SONG REMAINS THE SAME...

BEEN A LONG TIME, BEEN A LONG TIME,
BEEN A LONG LONELY, LONELY TIME.
ALEXÍ BASTINADO

Student Profile II

Gemma Barrett (Ms student at Texas A&M University)



Gemma Barrett was a traveler from the start. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa to British parents, Gemma moved back to the U.K. when she was 2 years old. In 1988, her father was offered a 3 year expat position in Houston, TX. With two more siblings in tow, the family moved across the pond to Houston, TX making this the third continent Gemma had lived on at the age of 7. Five years later, the family was still living in the suburbs of Houston and decided to make it their permanent home. Gemma attended a high school outside of Houston and became interested in environmental issues through a course in AP Biology.

Gemma entered Texas A&M University in the Fall of 2009 to pursue a B.S. degree in Environmental Geosciences. During the summer of her freshman year, she got a job as a field intern at the Katy Prairie Conservancy. Her job involved hiking out into properties to collect plant samples for the center's first comprehensive botanical library. During her junior year, she accepted an offer to do undergraduate research with Chris Houser on a swash zone experiment at Pensacola Beach, Florida that following summer. Through her involvement with this research, she applied and was accepted to be a Texas A&M Undergraduate Research Scholar Program which included writing an undergraduate thesis on her research and presenting it at a national conference. Shortly after finishing her undergraduate thesis, Gemma was accepted to Texas A&M's Department of Geography to pursue a Master's degree.

The last two years have consisted of trips to various beaches in Florida and Texas for research trips as well as three research trips to the cloud forest of Costa Rica to survey and map secondary growth forest donated to Texas A&M University. She is currently working towards finishing her Master's thesis on "The Decadal Variation of Nearshore Bar Migration and its Effect on Rip Current Drownings at Pensacola Beach, Florida". Gemma has been a regular presenter at conferences starting with AAG in Las Vegas during her senior year as an undergraduate and is an active member of COMA. Gemma enjoys backpacking, traveling, reading, camping, and spending time with her friends and family. Gemma is actively seeking an entry-level environmental position that utilizes her field experience, data analysis techniques and knowledge of environmental policy.

