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## Specialty Group Officers

### Chair

Tom Allen  
East Carolina University

### Vice-Chair

Karsten Shein  
NOAA

### Secretary/Treasurer

Tom Crawford  
East Carolina University

### Board Member

Eugene Farrell  
Rutgers University

### Board Member

Keqi Zhang  
Florida International

### Board Member

Harry Williams  
University of North Texas

### Student Member

Phillip Schmutz  
Louisiana State University

### Web Editor

Richard Daniels,  
Washington State DOT

## Musings from the Chair

Tom Allen, East Carolina University

Welcome to another issue of the COMA Newsletter. I am pleased to share updates and prospect of a new initiative with the specialty group at the upcoming Los Angeles AAG Annual Meeting. Superstorm Sandy recovery lingers and continues to challenge some of our members, families, and many communities in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Nonetheless, we can take some pride and reassurance that COMA members and affiliates continue to work assiduously on the challenges of coastal storms and sustainability. This year's annual meeting offers additional testament to myriad research efforts, including strong participation among coastal geomorphologists, aeolian specialists, and a quite strong growth in our sponsorship of sessions including human dimensions perspectives.

Although this year's AAG conflicts with the Coastal Symposium in Plymouth, UK, we nonetheless have some amazing sessions and participation across a wide breadth of the discipline. Barry Eakins and Jeff Danielson have done a great job organizing sessions featuring Advances in Digital Elevation Models, including geomorphology and geospatial technical perspectives. Many thanks are also owed Brandon Edwards et al. for coordinating aeolian and coastal geomorphology sessions.



**Superstorm Sandy, NOAA GOES-13 image at 6:02 a.m. EDT Tuesday (Oct. 30). Credit: NOAA/NASA GOES Project**

A reflection of the continuing relevance and import of coastal and marine resources and hazards, an even stronger coastal human geography presence is evident in our program this year. These include multiple sessions on feminist political ecology of coasts and rivers and issues of resilience and adaptation ("Examining the Social Coast.") In addition to theoretical perspective, this year's program includes notable applied coastal geography, with a few sessions focusing on resource management at the local scale and coastal hazard mitigation planning. Sea Level and remote sensing and GIS also continue as prominent themes in sessions (that's what you get with "pixel-pusher" for a COMA Chair.) These paper sessions are easily accessed on the AAG meeting website or our COMA site, and I hope to see many of you in attendance.

Finally, there is an exciting proposition coming to the membership shortly and for the meeting agenda. A "Paper of the Year" Award has been proposed to recognize author/s of an outstanding scholarly contribution in a given year. Emulating successful initiatives in some other specialty groups, the board will present its ideas for award at the upcoming Business Meeting in LA. Meanwhile, check out the highlights in this newsletter and see you in LA!

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 [farrell@marine.rutgers.edu](mailto:farrell@marine.rutgers.edu) to add your post.

COMA Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/?sk=welcome#!/pages/Coastal-Marine-Geography-COMA-of-AAG/119130281434567>

COMA website: <http://www.aagcoma.org/>

## 2013 AAG Meeting ... a preview

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) will be held April 9-13 in Los Angeles. Richard Daniel has provided a guide to travel planning on the COMA website at:

<http://www.aagcoma.org/files/aag2013TravelInfo.html>

A preliminary list of COMA organized sessions and organizers (submissions are now closed):

- Coastal Geomorphology – Brandon Edwards
- Aeolian Processes and Landforms – Brandon Edwards
- Coastal Response to Sea-Level Changes – Keqi Zhang
- Evaluating Coastal Development at the Local Scale – Andrew Bennett
- RS and GIS Techniques in Wetland and Coastal Ecosystem – Caiyun Zhang
- Advances and Challenges in Digital Elevation Models – Jeff Daniels et al.
- Hurricanes – Kam-biu Liu, Harry Williams
- Cultural Geography of Marine Resource Management – Arielle Levine
- Feminist Political Ecology of Rivers, Watersheds, Wetlands and Coasts – Anne-Marie Hanson
- Examining the Social Coast – Andrew Bennett and Michael Griffin
- Norb Psuty Student Paper Merit Award Papers– Karsten Shein
- Student Illustrated Papers– Jennifer Rahn

The program is posted on the AAG website as of early February. Stay tuned to postings from the COMA AAG Discussion Board and e-mails which will provide session details.

# 2013 COMA Awards ... a preview

## R.J. Russell Award

The **COMA 2013 R.J. Russell Award** will be presented in recognition of an individual's major contributions to the field of coastal or marine geography.

Nominations for the 2013 Russell Award were called for and closed at the end of the 2012 Business meeting. The Award Committee received one nomination for consideration. The award will be announced and presented at the 2013 AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles.

Nominations for the 2014 Russell Award are now open and will remain open until the close of the 2013 COMA Business meeting. Two letters in support of a nomination are required, and an unsuccessful nomination will automatically carry forward to the next award year.

## Norb Psuty Student Paper Merit Award

The Norb Psuty 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.

## 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.

## News from the Field

**From Harry Williams, Department of Geography, University of North Texas**

In August, Harry Williams spent a week in Thailand developing a collaborative research project, "Geologic Records of Tropical Cyclone Strikes on the Gulf of Thailand Coast", with Prof. Montri Choowong of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. He cored coastal marshes to look for geologic evidence of prehistoric tropical cyclone strikes, with the goal of establishing a long-term record. Harry also gave a presentation about Gulf of Mexico hurricanes to a geology class at Chulalongkorn University.



Harry Williams coring coastal marshes, Thailand.



Guest lecture at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.



**From Tom Crawford, Department of Geography, East Carolina University**

In September, Tom Crawford led a team of three ECU faculty researchers on a research trip to Bangladesh as part of an Asia-Pacific Network funded project titled, "Human responses to catastrophic monsoon events in South Asia: designing a spatially explicit model in low-lying coastal areas." Two other ECU faculty participated via video teleconferencing including COMA President Tom Allen. Activities including a one-day expert workshop in Dhaka, meeting with agency personnel from the Bangladesh Disaster Management Bureau and the Institute for Water Modeling, and village field work in the delta region at Char Algi located near the mouth of the Meghna River. The Meghna River region is formed at the confluence of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers.



US and Bengali researchers at workshop, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

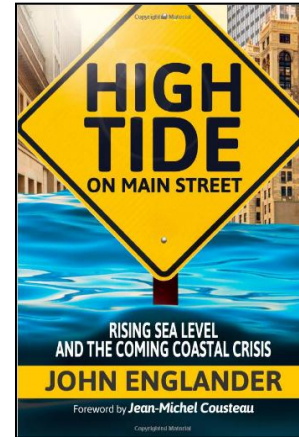


Viewing shoreline erosion on the banks of the Meghna River, Bangladesh.

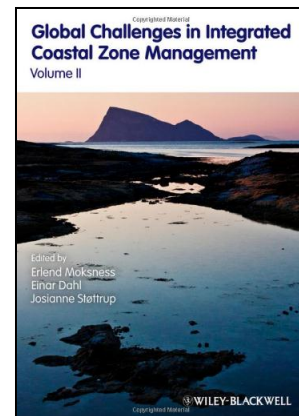


## Recent Publications

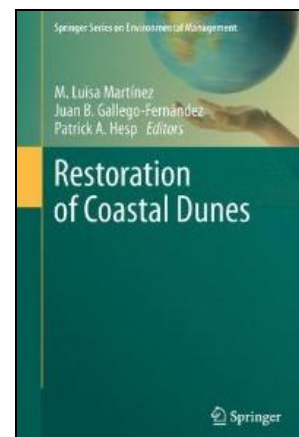
Englander, J. 2012. **High Tide on Main Street: Rising Sea Level and the Coming Coastal Crisis**. Boca Rotan: The Science Bookshelf. “John Englander has been fascinated with the continuous 400-foot rise and fall of sea level since he was a geology/economics major, four decades ago. His passion for ocean processes evolved into a career of ocean exploration, creating the largest resort scuba facility in the world, based in the Bahamas. He went on to become CEO of the Cousteau Society, and then at The International SeaKeepers Society. Englander is a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology, a senior advisor at the Global Environment and Technology Foundation, and a member of various professional scientific groups. “



Moksness, E., Dahl, E., Strottrup, J. 2013. **Global Challenges in Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Vol II**. Wiley-Blackwell. “Growing pressure from increasingly diverse human activities coupled with climate change impacts threaten the functional integrity of coastal ecosystems around the globe. A multi-disciplinary approach towards understanding drivers, pressures and impacts in the coastal zone requires effective integration of data and information in policy and management, combining expertise from nature and social science, to reach a balanced and sustainable development of the coastal zone ... comprises the proceedings of The International Symposium on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, which took place in Arendal, Norway between 3-7 July 2011.



Martinez, M., Gallego-Fernandez, J., Hesp, J. 2013. **Restoration of Coastal Dunes**. Springer. “With this book experts in the field present a comprehensive review of restoration studies and activities, where ‘successful’ and ‘failed’ studies or approaches from around the world are contrasted and compared ... a compendium of studies showing that coastal dune restoration has many definitions and thus leads to many different actions ... addresses those with an interest in conservation ecology and biology, coastal dune dynamics and geomorphology, and coastal management who are seeking information on the different strategies for coastal dune restoration applied in different regions of the world”.



# Conference Announcements

## 44<sup>th</sup> International Binghamton Symposium

The theme of the 44<sup>th</sup> Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium (BGS) is *Coastal Geomorphology and Restoration*. The symposium will be held at New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ, on October 18-20, 2013 and will include oral presentations by 18 invited participants across three sessions. The first session will examine the response of barriers, beaches and dunes to episodic events. The second session will examine geomorphic and biologic processes and interactions in beach and dune systems. The last session will focus on management and restoration practices, with attention on the ability of these practices to maintain or enhance landform and ecosystem functions. A poster session will be organized for October 19<sup>th</sup>. The poster session is open to all geomorphic-related research. The first call for abstracts will be announced in January 2013. A one-day field trip will be conducted on October 18<sup>th</sup> to compare and contrast landforms and habitats on high and low energy shores under developed and undeveloped conditions on the coast of New Jersey. Details and updates are posted to the website <http://web.njit.edu/~jackson/>

### Other Upcoming Conferences

[26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology](#), February 13-15, 2013, Jacksonville, FL.

[Coastal GeoTools 2013](#), March 25-28, 2013 Myrtle Beach, SC.

[Coastal Processes 2013](#), April 9-11, 2013, Gran Canaria, Spain.

[12<sup>th</sup> International Coastal Symposium](#), April 8-12, 2013, Plymouth, UK.

[CoastGIS 2013, Monitoring and Adapting to Change on the Coast](#), June 18-21, 2013, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

[2013 ESRI International User Conference](#), July 8-12, 2013, San Diego, CA.

[ECSA 53: Estuaries and Coastal Areas in Times of Intense Change](#), October 13-17, 2013, Shanghai, China.

[CERF 2013 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation](#), November 3-7, 2013, San Diego, CA.

See a more **comprehensive listing of coastal/marine conferences and workshops** available from the Coastal and Ocean Information Network at <http://coinalantic.ca/index.php/conference-listing>

## COMA News

At the 2013 COMA Business Meeting, Karsten Shein will assume the Chair, and the following positions will be opened for election:

- Vice Chair (2-yr term)
- Board Member (2-yr term)
- Student Board Member (1-yr term)

Please attend the 2013 business meeting to submit a nomination and participate in elections. Members may also self-nominate by alerting the COMA officers of their intention to run. Nominations will close during the 2013 Business meeting.

COMA Board is drafting a proposal for a Best Paper of the Year award. The award would be given to a published, peer-reviewed coastal or marine geography paper.

Currently, COMA membership stands at 203 members according to the list of members displayed on the AAG's COMA community website.

Special thanks: Richard Daniels for his continued great work in maintaining the COMA website, Eugene Farrell for establishing the COMA Facebook page, and Karsten Shein for staying on top of student competitions among other things.

## Websites of Interest

**Go Mobile With NOS.** Get coastal and ocean info on the go using these apps from NOAA's National Ocean Service.

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/mobile.html>

**Ocean Health Index.** A comprehensive new measure that scores ocean health from 0 – 100.

<http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/>

**Marine Traffic Project.** Provides free real-time information to the public, about ship movements and ports, mainly across the coast-lines of many countries around the world.

<http://www.marinetraffic.com/ais/>

**MPAtlas.** Global atlas of marine protected areas.

<http://www.mpatlas.org/>

**Geomorphology from Space.** NASA site on Coastal Landforms.

[http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/geomorphology/GEO\\_6/index.shtml](http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/geomorphology/GEO_6/index.shtml)



## Odds and Ends



“Monkeys on Motorbikes”, photo by Harry Williams, 2012.

This image was shot by COMA member Harry Williams during his August fieldwork in Thailand described in this newsletter issue. Word has it that Thai monkeys are unusually effective research assistants though ranking well below the tremendous capabilities of COMA graduate students who often assist faculty in the field. (Note: monkeys are sitting in back facing the camera).

**Call for Materials:** Send interesting news/views, field photos from your activities or other items of interest for inclusion in the next newsletter to Tom Crawford at [crawfordt@ecu.edu](mailto:crawfordt@ecu.edu).