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## Specialty Group Officers

### Chair

Harry Williams  
University of North Texas

### Vice-Chair

Karsten Shein  
NOAA

### Secretary/Treasurer

Tom Crawford  
Saint Louis University

### Board Member

Andrew Bennett  
Barton College

### Board Member

Heidi Lannon  
Santa Fe College

### Board Member

Brian Marks  
Louisiana State University

### Student Member

Robert Munroe  
East Carolina University

### Web Editor

Richard Daniels,  
Washington State DOT

## Musings from the Chair

Harry Williams, University of North Texas

Welcome to another issue of the COMA Newsletter and greetings from the new chair. I take over the reins of COMA this year from Tom Allen. Tom has done a great job over the last three years as chair and I'm sure you will join me in thanking him for his service to our organization (I'm sure Tom will continue to be COMA-active "behind the scenes"). We have a strong COMA-supported program this year in Chicago - 16 COMA-sponsored paper sessions and 1 COMA-sponsored illustrated paper session. Topics cover a broad array of physical, environmental and human perspectives, ranging from aeolian processes and coastal geomorphology, through physical, economic and social aspects of hurricane impacts, to social-media-based coastal change detection and coastal tourism.

Three of the paper sessions are student merit paper competitions featuring thirteen student presenters, vying for one of COMA's prestigious Norb Psuty Student Paper Merit Awards. Eight student presenters are also contending for COMA's Student Illustrated Paper Merit Award. Appropriately for this meeting in Chicago, we have a paper session devoted to Great Lakes coastal issues. A big Thank You goes out to all the session organizers – Brandon Edwards, Phillip Schmutz, Jennifer Rahn, Burrell Montz, Tom Crawford, Peter Michael Link, Jurgen Scheffran, Enid Lotstein, Kam-biu Liu, Chandra Giri, Qian Yu, Ruiliang Pu, Jida Wang and Brandon Scott Krumwiede. Please support your COMA colleagues by strong attendance at these sessions. More details on all the COMA-sponsored sessions can be found inside this newsletter. The culmination of all this activity will be the COMA business meeting on Friday at 7.15 pm in the Hyatt, West Tower, Bronze Level, Water Tower room. Don't be put off by the word "business"; the meeting is more of a social event and will include a report of COMA activity over the preceding year, presentation of student merit awards and election of new officers. Available officer positions include Secretary-Treasurer, Board member and Student Board member. Any COMA member in good standing may run for an available officer position (The student board member must be a doctoral student). Members may self-nominate or nominate another member (if willing to serve). If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please let me know. Please try to join us for collegiality, networking and fun at the business meeting. Looking forward to seeing you all in Chicago.

**Harry Williams**



Early experiments in beach morphology.



## COMA Website

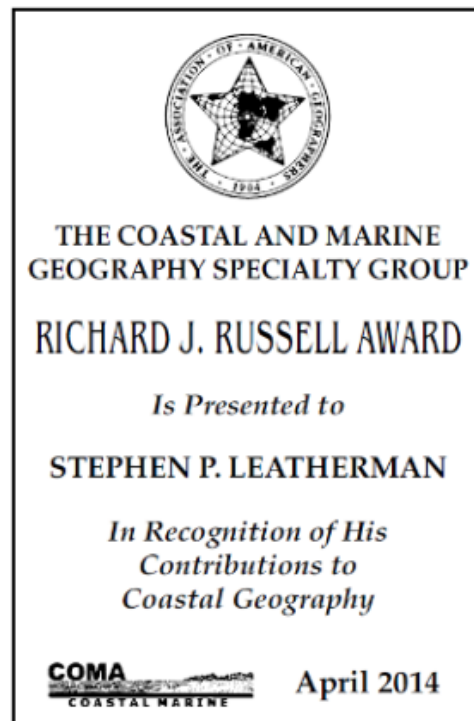
Please visit and bookmark the COMA website [http://aag\\_coma.homestead.com/](http://aag_coma.homestead.com/). Thank you to Richard Daniels, COMA member and Web Editor extraordinaire, for creating and maintaining our site which contains helpful links/info regarding the upcoming Chicago meeting in addition to many other COMA related items.

## 2014 AAG Meeting COMA Awards

### 2014 R.J. Russell Award

The **2014 R.J. Russell Award** was presented to **Dr. Stephen Leatherman** at the COMA business meeting in Tampa, FL. Dr. Leatherman is a Professor in the Department of Earth & Environment at Florida International University and served as the Director of FIU's Laboratory for Coastal Research from 1997-2014. He is internationally recognized expert on coastal storm impacts, beach erosion, and the effects of sea level rise. He has authored over 100 journal articles and authored or edited 16 books. He has given expert testimony multiple times to U.S. Congressional committees. Dr. Leatherman is known to the

general public as "Dr. Beach". For more than 23 years, Dr. Beach has evaluated and rated beaches and coastal areas across the globe. His annual ranking of America's Best Beaches is regularly reported by many media outlets. Congratulations Dr. Leatherman!





## 2014 Norb Psuty Student Paper Merit Award

Best Paper: **Christy Swann**, Texas A&M University.

Defining the Threshold of Motion for Wind-blown Sand.

*Abstract:* Most often aeolian sand transport models over-predict observed transport rates in field environments. The largest deviations between predicted and observed transport models occur at lower rates, and these deviations are attributed to errors in the threshold of motion. R.A. Bagnold derived the threshold for wind-blown sand from a series of wind-tunnel experiments in 1936, and identified two thresholds: (1) a fluid threshold, where particles are moved by the action of the wind alone, and (2) a dynamic threshold, where particles are moved by the fluid and saltating grains. This paper addresses fundamental questions regarding the physical definition of the threshold of motion. Is the threshold 1, 10, or 100 grains? ...over what area? ...and over what duration? Here, we present the results of a field campaign designed to observe, quantitatively-define and test Bagnold's (1936) fluid threshold of motion.

## 2014 Student Illustrated Paper Merit Award

Best Illustrated Paper: **Donna Selch**, Florida Atlantic University.

Building a Spectral Library for Sand Classification Using an ASD Spectrometer.

*Abstract:* Quantitative assessment of substrate classification for land management and conservation are needed for sand properties. Establishing a sand spectral library is the first step in this process. Hyperspectral analysis allows for rapid, nondestructive data acquisition using an ASD spectrometer in a laboratory setting with an artificial light source. Sand collected worldwide was also analyzed by a substrate geologist for grain size and composition. Development of spectral libraries of sand is an essential factor to facilitate analytical techniques to monitor coastal problems including erosion and beach nourishment. This in turn can affect various flora and fauna which requires specific substrate to grow, nest, or live. Preliminary results show that each sand sample has a unique signature that can be identified using hyperspectral data.

Honorable Mention: **Sherika Gibson**, University of Michigan.

Investigating the effectiveness of stream restoration strategies in urban tributaries using Ultrasonic Stage-height Datalogger (USD).



# Call for Nominations

## R.J. Russell Award nominations

COMA is requesting nominations for the annual R.J. Russell Award. This award is made to a person who has contributed significantly to advancing coastal and marine geography. These contributions may be in research, teaching, public service, and/or to the specialty group. Nominees do not have to be members of either the specialty group or the AAG. 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 nomination are required for consideration for the Award, and one of the nomination letters must include a paragraph describing the nominee's contributions to the field of coastal and marine geography and a list of some of the nominee's relevant publications. Nominations for the R.J. Russell Award should be directed to the COMA Vice-Chair, Karsten Shein at [Karsten.Shein@noaa.gov](mailto:Karsten.Shein@noaa.gov). More information about the Award and an example letter are available at the COMA website. [http://aag\\_coma.homestead.com/files/russell\\_nom.html](http://aag_coma.homestead.com/files/russell_nom.html)

**R.J. Russell** (1895-1971) was a renowned coastal scientist who was a president of both the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and the Geological Society of America (GSA). He was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences. A more complete biography of R.J. Russell is found at [http://aag\\_coma.homestead.com/files/russell\\_nom.html](http://aag_coma.homestead.com/files/russell_nom.html) .

## Elected Officer & Board Member nominations

At the 2015 COMA Business Meeting we will elect the following positions:

- Secretary Treasurer (3-yr term)
- Board Member (2-yr term)
- Student Board Member (1-yr term)

Please submit nominations to current Secretary/Treasurer Tom Crawford [crawfordtw@slu.edu](mailto:crawfordtw@slu.edu) or any other current COMA officer. Elected officers must be regular members of the Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group. Members may self-nominate. Nominations will close during the 2015 Business meeting in Chicago on April 24<sup>th</sup>.



## 2015 Annual Business Meeting

Please note that the **COMA business meeting is scheduled for Friday, 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM** in Water Tower, Hyatt, West Tower, Bronze Level. Winners of our student paper merit competitions will be announced at the meeting. Officers will be elected and reports will be given. While not optimal, the Friday night scheduling is necessary to announce student competition results from sessions earlier in the day. We intend to keep the meeting as brief as possible to accommodate attendees' Friday night social plans.

Please endeavor to attend the business meeting so that there is strong representation. The meeting atmosphere is welcoming and collegial. A group or groups will likely depart from the meeting for refreshments and/or dinner at a local establishment.

## 2015 AAG Meeting – COMA Sessions

The preliminary AAG program is available at the AAG website. Below we list all COMA sponsored sessions with links.

**Schedule Note:** In this preliminary program, the Student Merit Paper Competition III on Friday at 3:20 is concurrent with the Coastal and Aeolian Geomorphology Session II. We hope to shift one of the sessions to another Friday time slot to avoid this situation.

Smartphone friendly list of [COMA Sponsored Sessions](#) at AAG 2015 is now available.

- [Coastal and Marine Issues and Science](#)  
Wednesday, 4/22/2015, 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Wrigley, Hyatt, West Tower, Bronze Level
- [Hurricanes I: Meteorology/Climatology](#)  
Thursday, 4/23/2015, 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Wright, Hyatt, West Tower, Silver Level
- [Hurricanes II: Risk, Vulnerability, Resilience](#)  
Thursday, 4/23/2015, 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Wright, Hyatt, West Tower, Silver Level
- [Viewing the Great Lakes Through the Geospatial Periscope: Data and Tools to Help Bring Great Lakes Coastal Issues into Focus](#)  
Thursday, 4/23/2015, 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Grand Suite 2 AB, Hyatt, East Tower, Gold Level
- [Hurricanes III: Geomorphic Impacts](#)  
Thursday, 4/23/2015, 1:20 PM - 3:00 PM in Wright, Hyatt, West Tower, Silver Level

- [Hurricanes IV: Paleotempestology](#)  
Thursday, 4/23/2015, 3:20 PM - 5:00 PM in Wright, Hyatt, West Tower, Silver Level
- [Current concepts in modern coastal and marine management](#)  
Friday, 4/24/2015, 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Plaza A, Hyatt, East Tower, Green Level
- [Coastal and Marine Student Paper Merit Competition I - Social Coast](#)  
Friday, 4/24/2015, 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Alpine 1, Swissôtel, Lucerne Level
- [Coastal and Aeolian Geomorphology I: Coastal Geomorphology](#)  
Friday, 4/24/2015, 1:20 PM - 3:00 PM in Plaza A, Hyatt, East Tower, Green Level
- [Coastal and Marine Student Paper Merit Competition II - Social Coast](#)  
Friday, 4/24/2015, 1:20 PM - 3:00 PM in Alpine 1, Swissôtel, Lucerne Level
- [Coastal and Aeolian Geomorphology II: Aeolian Processes and Landforms](#)  
Friday, 4/24/2015, 3:20 PM - 5:00 PM in Plaza A, Hyatt, East Tower, Green Level
- [Coastal and Marine Student Paper Merit Competition III - Environmental/Physical](#)  
Friday, 4/24/2015, 3:20 PM - 5:00 PM in Alpine 1, Swissôtel, Lucerne Level
- [Coastal hazard management: applications of GIS to decision-making](#)  
Friday, 4/24/2015, 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in Plaza A, Hyatt, East Tower, Green Level
- [Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Business Meeting](#)  
Friday, 4/24/2015, 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM in Water Tower, Hyatt, West Tower, Bronze Level
- [Examining the Social Coast I](#)  
Saturday, 4/25/2015, 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Skyway 261, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level
- [Examining the Social Coast II](#)  
Saturday, 4/25/2015, 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Skyway 261, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level
- [Mangrove Mapping and Monitoring](#)  
Saturday, 4/25/2015, 4:00 PM - 5:40 PM in Skyway 261, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level
- [Remote Sensing of aquatic and wetland environment](#)  
Saturday, 4/25/2015, 2:00 PM - 3:40 PM in Skyway 261, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level

## Upcoming Conferences

[Coastal GeoTools](#), March 30-April 2, 2015, North Charleston, SC.

[CoastGIS 2015](#), April 22-24, 2015, Cape Town, South Africa.

[GeoHab 2015](#), May 3-8, 2015, Bahia, Brazil.

[Coastal Sediments '15](#), May 11-15, 2014, San Diego, CA.

[Blue Planet Symposium](#), May 27-29, 2015, Cairns, Australia.

[5th International Summit on Hurricanes and Climate Change](#), June 9-14, 2015, Chania, Greece.

[7<sup>th</sup> EARSeL Workshop on Remote Sensing of the Coastal Zone](#), June 17-19, 2015, Stockholm, Sweden.

[Coastal Cities 2015](#), July 7-9, 2015, New Forest, UK.

[2015 ESRI International User Conference](#), July 20-24, 2015, San Diego, CA.

[IGU Regional Conference 2015](#), Aug 17-21, Moscow, Russia.

[Estuarine Coastal Sciences Association Conference](#), Sept 6-9, 2015, London, UK.

[ICE Coastal Management 2015](#), Sept 7-9, 2015, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

[46<sup>th</sup> Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium](#), Sept 18-20, 2015, Buffalo, NY.

[American Shore and Beach Preservation Association](#), Oct 14-16, 2015, New Orleans, LA.

[Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Meeting](#), November 8-12, 2015, Portland, OR.

[International Congress on Coastal and Marine Tourism](#), November 10-13, 2015, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

[7<sup>th</sup> Intl. Conference on Geo-Information Technology for Natural Disaster Management](#), Dec 8-10, 2015, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates.

## Website of Interest

### **NOAA's Office for Coastal Management**

<http://coast.noaa.gov/>

Coastal geographers are probably familiar with NOAA's Coastal Services Center and also the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management. In 2014, these two programs were merged to form the Office of Coastal Management.

## Opportunities

### **Post-doc in Applied Geospatial Analysis – Saint Louis University**

The Center for Sustainability at Saint Louis University seeks a postdoctoral research fellow with expertise in applied geospatial analysis whose experience and career goals connect to themes broadly defined as human-environment interactions, socio-ecological systems, or coupled human-natural systems. The individual selected should have strong technical geospatial skills and the ability to bridge social and natural science perspectives for interdisciplinary research. The fellow will work with Dr. Tom Crawford whose research initiatives include: riverbank erosion and human response in Bangladesh, coastal hazards and the social coast, geospatial public health, and urban form. The full ad and application information is at <https://jobs.slu.edu> (Req ID 20141005). Questions regarding this position can be directed to Dr. Tom Crawford at [crawfordtw@slu.edu](mailto:crawfordtw@slu.edu). Review of applications will begin in mid-February and continue until the position is filled.

### **Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Summer Program with CCMI: Coral Reef Biodiversity and Resilience at the Little Cayman Research Centre.**

The Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) invites undergraduate students interested in ocean sciences to apply to the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in Coral Reef Biodiversity and Resilience on Little Cayman. CCMI has support from the National Science Foundation for eight students for an 8 week experience living and working at our Little Cayman Research Centre (LCRC). For more information, please visit the REU in Little Cayman website at <http://reefresearch.org/research/research-experience-for-undergraduates/>.

Applications are due 15 March 2015.

For more information, please contact:

Tom Sparke

Education and Programme Coordinator

Central Caribbean Marine Institute

Little Cayman Research Centre

PO Box 37, Little Cayman, KY3-2501

Phone: (345) 948 1094 <http://reefresearch.org/>



## Odds and Ends



Image from 2014 AAG Meeting fieldtrip to the Santa Fe College Resources Lab at Seahorse Key, Florida. (Photo submitted by Dr. Heidi Lannon).

### Field Trip Planning for AAG 2015 in Chicago

When AAG meeting are at coastal sites, the specialty group has a tradition of hosting a coastal field trip. Situated along Lake Michigan's coast, this year's meeting in Chicago presents us the opportunity to host a coastal Great Lakes field trip. We have heard murmurings of an emerging field trip, but to date we do not have a firm date and itinerary set.

We are asking COMA members who are knowledgeable of the Chicago coastal area and attend the AAG meeting to please consider leading a field trip. Please contact COMA secretary Tom Crawford [crawfordtw@slu.edu](mailto:crawfordtw@slu.edu) or any other group officer if interested.

We hope to be able to share details of a field trip well prior to the April 21-25 meeting.

## Chicago Guide

The location of this year's annual meeting at the Hyatt at 151 East Wacker Drive on the Chicago River places you in the middle of one of the highest concentrations of restaurants, pubs, and jazz joints in the nation. The Navy Pier is only 1 mile from the conference center and the famous Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park is only 0.8 miles south. Some "must see" places to visit are listed below (distances/directions shown are from the Hyatt):

- The original Pizza Uno on East Ohio and 601 North Wabash. Home of the original Uno deep dish pizza (0.6 miles NNW)
- Harry Caray's Tavern, a Chicago sports-themed bar & grill with patio seating serving great American standards. Other choices on the Navy Pier include Jimmy Buffet's Margaretville and Bubba Gump Shrimp Company. Located at Streeter Drive and East Grand Avenue (1 mile ENE)
- Berhoff Restaurant, for those looking for some German beer. Located at 17 West Adams Street and South State Street. This has been an institution since 1898 serving traditional German cuisine & steins of beer in an old-world setting (0.9 miles SSW, 2 block west of the Art Institute of Chicago).
- For those looking to visit several pubs in a single night, eighteen pubs such as Howl at the Moon and O'Callaghan's can be found on a three block stretch of West Hubbard Street between North State & North Clark (0.6 miles, NW).
- Or find your own place by Googling the "Best Restaurants in Downtown Chicago 2014".

Getting to these locations can be done easily on foot. However Chicago Transit Authority Bus 124, the Navy Pier Route, provides a nice figure eight loop that goes directly in front of the Hyatt. This route goes east bound on Wacker Drive past the Hyatt every 20 minutes and then continues over the river to Streeter Drive and the Navy Pier. On its return trip it goes south and west bound past Millennium Park to Union Station via South Michigan Avenue and Madison Street. This is a good tour route to see downtown. Other bus routes and maps of the CTA L rail system can be found at <http://www.transitchicago.com>.

Note – the bus routes accepts cash, fare is \$2.00, exact change required. CTA 1, 3 and 7 day passes are available for purchase.