

Table of Contents

Group Officers	1
Musings from Chair	1
CZMA 45 th birthday	2
Jesse Walker award	2
2016 award winners	3
2017 Business Mtg	4
Officer nominations	4
Visting Boston	5
2017 AAG Program	6
Website of interest	7
Odds and Ends	7
Conferences	8

Specialty Group Officers

Chair

Harry Williams
University of North Texas

Vice-Chair

Heidi Lannon
Santa Fe College

Secretary/Treasurer

Brian Marks
Louisiana State University

Board Member

Brian Bossak
Florida Gulf Coast
University

Board Member

Philip Schmutz
University of West Florida

Board Member

P. Michael Link
University of Hamburg

Student Member

Katherine Seto
University of California-
Berkeley

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 chair. We have a strong COMA-supported program this year in Boston. COMA is sponsoring an illustrated paper session and 12 paper sessions (see listing below). Topics cover a broad range of physical, environmental and human perspectives on coastal and marine issues. We have two prestigious student competitions - the Norb Psuty Student Paper Merit Awards and the H. Jesse Walker Student Illustrated Paper Merit Awards. Winners in both competitions receive prestige and a cash prize to help defray the cost of attending the AAG meeting. Please support your COMA colleagues by attending these sessions when you have the chance. The culmination of all this activity will be the COMA business meeting on Friday at 7.10 pm in Room 201, Hynes, second level. 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 Chair, Vice Chair, Board member and a 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 who 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 Boston.

Harry Williams

COMA Website

Please visit and bookmark the COMA website <http://www.aagcoma.org/>. Thanks to Richard Daniels, COMA member and Web Editor, for creating and maintaining our site which contains helpful links and information regarding the upcoming Boston meeting in addition to many other COMA related items.





2016 AAG Meeting COMA Awards

2016 Norb Psuty Student Paper Merit Awards

Best Paper by a doctoral student: Donna Selch, Florida Atlantic University.

Extracting Water Column Salinity Data for Shallow Waters by Correcting Reflectance Influences.

Abstract: Light reflects off many surfaces before it reaches the remote sensing detector contributing to the reflectance value extracted from satellite and aerial imagery. For example the benthic environment may distort information about the water in the water column and thus the data extracted must be first corrected to obtain information solely concerning the water column. Other factors that may influence the remote sensing detector include atmospheric conditions, sun glint, and whitecaps. Many algorithms have been determined to reduce these influences. This research aims to determine the optimal algorithm combination for the Florida Bay region to assess salinity levels in the water column. The results of this research have potential regarding determining the health of many shallow water habitats including estuaries, coral reefs, and ongoing restoration efforts.

Best Paper by a master's student: Gladys Valentin-Gonzalez, University of New Mexico.

GIS-based Sub-aerial Beach Inventory of Puerto Rico (2010).

Abstract: This project introduces the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the design of a sub-aerial beach inventory of Puerto Rico. It consists in the identification and digitization of sub-aerial beaches as polygon features, utilizing ArcGIS 10.2 software, based on their geomorphic definition: deposits of unconsolidated sediments, extending from permanent vegetation, dunes and/or man-made structures to the high water level. High spatial resolution aerial images of 2010, provided by the Puerto Rico Planning Board, were interpreted to produce the inventory. Characteristics such as beach area, length, presence of beachrock and other barriers, river mouths, and adjacent structures were added to the attribute table. Results showed that ArcGIS succeeded as a tool for coastal studies of this nature, allowing to design and execute a comprehensive inventory, based on features and their multiple attributes. A total of 1,225 sub-aerial beaches were identified in Puerto Rico mainland, Vieques and Culebra island-municipalities, and Caja de Muertos Island. This beach inventory represents the first detailed geographic database of beaches in Puerto Rico, which can be updated and could serve to monitor morphological changes and data relevant to coastal studies.

2016 H. Jesse Walker Student Illustrated Paper Merit Award

Best Illustrated Paper: **Francisco Laso**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Improving Ecological Literacy in the Galapagos Islands through Outdoor Education.

Abstract: Inhabitants of the Galapagos Islands are largely unaware of the detrimental anthropogenic impacts on local ecosystems. For this reason, Ecology Project International (EPI) and Galapagos National Park (GNP) have teamed up to provide local and international students with life-changing outdoor experiences that teach them about the unique biota of the Galapagos, and how to conserve it. Students join Galapagos park rangers in their duties, including wild tortoise monitoring, tortoise nest protection, reforestation, and invasive species eradication, among other activities. The curriculum has been carefully crafted to provide students with knowledge, competencies and dispositions required to be ecologically literate citizens and active agents of conservation. Pre and post-course assessments show a small positive increase in ecological knowledge and scientific competencies and a large positive effect on environmentally friendly dispositions. This was the first year that the EPI-PNG partnership took place and it is likely to strengthen in the future.

2017 Annual Business Meeting

The 2017 **COMA business meeting is Friday, April 7th from 7:10 - 8:10 PM** in Room 201, Hynes, Second Level. Winners of COMA student paper merit competitions will be announced at the meeting. Officers will be elected and reports will be given. We all recognize Friday night is not optimal due to social/dinner plans of members, however, meeting this night is necessary to announce student competition results from sessions scheduled earlier that day.

COMA Officer & Board Member nominations

At the 2017 COMA Business Meeting we will elect four officer positions:

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

Submit nominations to Secretary/Treasurer Brian Marks bmarks@lsu.edu or any other COMA officer. Officers must be members of COMA and members may self-nominate. Nominations close at the 2017 Business Meeting on April 7th.

Visiting Boston on the run

Richard Daniels, Washington State Department of Transportation

Welcome to Boston! You will not have much time between sessions so we have done some research to identify some good places near The Haynes Convention Center (CC) to meetup! The CC is located in Back Bay Boston and is named after a former Boston Mayor. This is the second convention center on the site. The current 1988 design "attempted to relate in scale and materials to its Back Bay setting, adopting granite and an interior reminiscent of an early 20th-century railroad station." The CC is connected by aerial passageways to several hotels and can be reached by public transportation via the **MBTA Green Line, Hynes Convention Center Station**. Passageways also extend from the center to the Back Bay (MBTA station) station on the Orange Line -which serves commuter rail and Amtrak. Logan Express shuttles run directly to and from Logan International Airport. [Hotels directly connected to the convention center](#) (via Copley Place Mall) include the Westin Copley Place, Marriott Copley Place, and Sheraton Boston. The Colonnade Hotel Boston is connected via the Prudential Center Mall.

The Back Bay neighborhood is a quaint residential community and includes Boston's main shopping districts in Copley Square and Newbury Street. For those interested in ['Pub Crawls'](#) four pubs are located just north of the center at Bolyson Street & Gloucester Street: McGreevy's, The Pour House, Lir Iris Pub, Whiskey's Smokehouse, and Towne Stove and Spirits (attached to the Center). If you are just looking for \$1 oysters check out Select Oyster Bar near here as well. If you continue east two blocks on Bolyson you will go by many other foody options to include Solas in the Lenox Hotel, a recommended happy hour spot with a Irish theme and good lunches (I will be found here ☺). If you have someone special to impress check out the [Top of the Hub](#), located on 52nd floor of the Prudential Center with 360-degree views of Boston. Obviously, other options can be found on [Yelp!](#)

For those looking for a walk through the neighborhood head north from the Convention Center (CC) on Gloucester Street for 9 short blocks to Beacon St, head east one block to Fairfield, then north again to the [Charles River Esplanade](#) (you cross over Storrow Drive on a walking bridge to the river front park). If you are looking for "History" take the MBTA Green Line "inbound" from the CC. Get off at Boylston Street Station (10 minutes from CC) to access Boston Common or continue on-board to Government Center Station (20-24 minutes from CC). Once on the surface, head south about 100 yards to Court Street, then follow Court St. east (name changes to State Street), cross Congress Street, and continue one block further to Merchants Row and the Faneuil Hall Historic Site on your left. The amazing Farmers Marketplace is located here and is a good place to hook up with [The Freedom Trail](#), a 2.5-mile-long path through downtown Boston that passes by 16 locations significant to the history of the United States.

See you in Boston!

2017 AAG Meeting – COMA Sessions

COMA Sponsored Sessions at AAG 2017:

- [Aquatic resources: Water-based consumption, networks, safety and governance practices](#)
Sunday, 4/9/, 10:00 - 11:40 AM in Provincetown, Marriott, Fourth Floor
- [Coastal and Aeolian Geomorphology I: Coastal Geomorphology](#)
Wednesday, 4/5/, 12:40 - 2:20 PM in Kent, Sheraton, Third Floor
- [Coastal and Aeolian Geomorphology II: Aeolian Processes and Landforms](#)
Wednesday, 4/5/, 2:40 - 4:20 PM in Kent, Sheraton, Third Floor
- [Coastal and Aeolian Geomorphology III: Managing Coastal Landscapes through Applied Research](#)
Wednesday, 4/5/, 4:40 - 6:20 PM in Kent, Sheraton, Third Floor
- [Coastal and Marine Geography Issues and Science](#)
Thursday, 4/6/, 3:20 - 5:00 PM in Hynes, Third Level
- [Coastal and Marine Geography Norbert Psuty Merit Award Competition I](#)
Friday, 4/7/, 8:00 - 9:40 AM in Maine, Marriott, Fifth Floor
- [Coastal and Marine Geography Norbert Psuty Merit Award Competition II](#)
Friday, 4/7/, 10:00 - 11:40 AM in Maine, Marriott, Fifth Floor
- [Coastal and Marine Specialty Group Business Meeting](#)
Friday, 4/7/, 7:10 - 8:10 PM in Hynes, Second Level
- [Coastal geomorphology and Impacts of sea-level rise](#)
Thursday, 4/6/, 3:20 - 5:00 PM in Exeter, Marriott, Third Floor
- [Hurricanes I: climatology](#)
Thursday, 4/6/, 8:00 - 9:40 PM in Exeter, Marriott, Third Floor
- [Hurricanes II: Risk, Vulnerability, Resilience](#)
Thursday, 4/6/, 10:00 - 11:40 AM in Exeter, Marriott, Third Floor
- [Hurricanes III: coastal geomorphology and paleotempestology](#)
Thursday, 4/6/, 1:20 - 3:00 PM in Exeter, Marriott, Third Floor
- [Ocean/Ontology/Anthropocene: Feminism, STS, and the Oceanic Turn](#)
Saturday, 4/8/, 5:20 - 7:00 PM in Room 301, Hynes, Third Level
- [Sea Level, GIScience and Uncertainty](#)
Saturday, 4/8/, 3:20 - 5:00 PM in Liberty B, Sheraton, Second Floor



Website of Interest

Louisiana 2017 Coastal Master Plan

<http://coastal.la.gov/a-common-vision/2017-draft-coastal-master-plan/>

The Louisiana [Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority](#) (CPRA), established in 2006 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit that state, is commissioned with producing a 50-year coastal restoration plan every five years. The CPRA's third Master Plan, recently published, has a wealth of information on modeling, physical processes, restoration programs, levees and other means of coastal protection, and a lot more on the multiple challenges Louisiana faces from coastal land loss and vulnerability in the 21st century.

Odds and Ends

Professor Harry Williams, COMA chair, was invited by Professor Sangheon Yi of the Korean Institute for Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM) in Daejeon South Korea, to present invited lectures on storm surge washover sedimentation and paleotempestology, and visit field sites and provide feedback to several KIGAM researchers on ongoing paleotempestology studies.



Conferences

* **Annual conference of coastal and marine geography in Germany 2017: April 19-22, 2017 in Kiel.** Call for presentations open until March 25, 2017. Further details about this event can be found at www.amk-geographie.de. The conference is held in both German and English.

* **Working group session of the Working Group on Coastal and Marine Geography** during the German Congress of Geography in Tübingen, Germany, on September 29, 2017. Further information about the event available at: <mailto:michael.link@uni-hamburg.de> Abstracts for possible presentations should also be submitted to the same address.

1st Announcement

ICS 2018

International Coastal Symposium 2018

May 13–18, 2018 | Haeundae Grand Hotel, Busan, Republic of Korea

KIOST
Korea Institute of Oceanographic Technology

KSCDP
Korean Society of Coastal Disaster Prevention

JCR

Please submit your abstract online at www.ics2018.org
before 31st May 2017

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstract submission system will be opened from 1st March 2017.

The ICS2016 Scientific Program Committee invites authors to submit an abstract for either an oral or poster presentation. The conference theme is 'Safe Coasts beyond Climate change and Coastal development'.

Abstract Guidelines

Please ensure you submit your abstract as a Word document. The abstract template is shown by .

Themes

Abstracts can be submitted from all areas of coastal science, from Geology to Coastal hazards. The themes* are:

- Rivers and Estuaries
- Tidal inlets
- Dunes and Beaches and Coasts
- Coastal Biology and Ecology
- Coastal Geology
- Continental shelves and slopes
- Coral reefs
- Climate and Sea level change
- Coastline and Estuarine evolution
- Blue carbon
- Coastal hazards
- Hydrodynamics
- Coastal engineering
- Marine Renewable energy
- Coastal Management
- Managing the coasts of Busan
- ICS2020 Seville : Coastal Research in the confluence of the Mediterranean and Atlantic