

REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

2003-2004 REPORT

I. Mission Statement (no change):

The purpose of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group is to foster an understanding of remote sensing science. Emphasis is placed on developing a meaningful dialogue among geographers interested in understanding and applying remote sensing technology in research, instruction, public service, and private enterprise.

II. 2001-2002 Dues:

Regular Members: \$5.00; Students: \$1.00

III. Board of Directors:

Tim Warner, West Virginia University – Chair (2003-2005)
Douglas Ramsey, Utah State University – Vice Chair (2003-2005)
Monika Moskal, SW Missouri - Secretary / Treasurer (2004-2005)
Joe Messina, Michigan State University – Director (2003-2005)
Jane Read, Syracuse University – Director (2004-2006)
John Althausen, Salem State College - Newsletter Editor (2004-2005)
John Althausen, Salem State College - Web Site Editor (2004-2005)
George Raber, University of Southern Mississippi– RSSG Session Organizer (2005)
Theresa Burcsu, Indiana University - Student Co-Director (2004-2005)
Christine Erlien, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill – Student Co-Director (2004-2005)

IV. Accomplishments, Activities Scheduled, Future Plans and Directions

The RSSG can be proud of a year full of accomplishments.

1. Student Awards

2004 RSSG Student Honors Paper Competition Winners

First Place

Elena Tarnavsky - San Diego State University (Presenter)
Presentation Title: Fidelity of Scanned and Direct Digital Imagery in a Land-cover Change Context

Second Place

Qinghua Guo - University of California Berkeley (Presenter)
Presentation Title: An object-based classification method in detecting Sudden Oak Death

Third Place

Claudia M. Stickler - University of Florida (Presenter)
Presentation Title: Predicting the Complexity of Primate Habitat Selection in Kibale National Park, Western Uganda, Using Multi-scale Spatial Analysis and Remote Sensing

Undergraduate Award
Christopher Lippitt - Clark University (Presenter)
Presentation Title: A method to distinguish real landscape change from map error during map comparison

2004 Cartography/GIS/RSSG Student Illustrated Paper Competition Winners

First Place

Erik Strandhagen - University of Oregon (Presenter)
Presentation Title: Views of the Rivers; Representing Hydrological data of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

Second Place

Carl J. Legleiter - University of California Santa Barbara (Presenter)
Presentation Title: Remote mapping and geostatistical analysis of river channel morphology and change in Yellowstone National Park

Third Place

Christopher Zanger - Oregon State University (Presenter)
Presentation Title: Ecoregion delineation: Using a GIS to identify and model the dominant ecoregion variables in Southern Oregon / Northern California

2. AAG RSSG Outstanding Contributions Award

Co-Winners

Dr. Douglas Stow (San Diego State University)

Dr. Nin Lam, Louisiana State University

The award consists of a cast bronze medal.

3. RSSG Early Career Award

Winner

Dr. Bing Xu of Texas State University: *Snail density prediction for Schistosomiasis control using IKONOS and ASTER images.*

The Award consists of a check for \$250 and publication of the winning manuscript in the journal *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*.

Runner up

Dr. Soe Myint, University of Oklahoma: *Examining lacunarity approaches in comparison with fractal and spatial autocorrelation techniques for urban mapping.*

2. Business Meeting at 2004 AAG Conference in New Orleans

The Business meeting of the specialty group was held in Philadelphia, on Thursday, March 18, 2004. Approximately 40 members of the RSSG attended. Elections were held for the position of Director (Directors serve over-lapping terms), Awards Committee Chair and student Co-Director. The minutes from the 2003 meeting were approved, and a group budget report was presented by the Secretary/Treasurer. Award winners for the groups many awards (Student Paper Award, Student Illustrated Paper Award, Outstanding Contributions Award and Early Career Award). It was noted with pride that the current AAG President, M. Duane Nellis, is a member of the RSSG.

3. Paper and Poster Sessions at the Annual Meeting

2004 RSSG Program Chair, Jerry Griffith (University of Southern Mississippi), reported that there were many sessions organized by RSSG members, leaving a relatively small number of sessions for the specialty group to organize. A total of 28 paper and poster sessions were sponsored by the RSSG and its members.

4. Special Events held in commemoration of the Centennial of the AAG

a. Reception in honor of the past winners of the RSSG Outstanding Contributions Awards

In one of the highlights of the convention, RSSG Director Kelly Crews-Meyer organized a reception for past RSSG medal winners. The reception was attended by 10 of the 15 surviving medal winners. The reception was partly underwritten by the University of Texas, Michigan State University, and the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University.

b. Establishment of a new award: The RSSG Early Career Award

In honor the centennial of the AAG, the RSSG established a new award, the Early Career Award. This award is designed to recognize the new faculty and post doctoral scientists in the specialty group, who are in an early stage of their research and academic careers. The award is based on a external review of research papers, and the winning paper is published in one of the leading remote sensing journals, *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*.

c. Special Issue of *Geocarto International* journal

As a lasting tribute to the centennial of the RSSG, the specialty group is publishing a special issue of *Geocarto International*. The editors are Tim Warner, Duane Nellis (both West Virginia University), Doug Stow (San Diego State University) and Kam Lulla (NASA). The special issue consists of 8 research articles, and a broad review

article discussing the history of the RSSG, and relating it to remote sensing and the contributions of geographers.

d. Hall of History poster on the RSSG; Geography in America Timeline

The RSSG contributed a poster on the RSSG to the Hall of History poster display, and added key remote sensing dates to the Geography in America Timeline.

5. Communication with Members: Web site List serve

a. Web Site

The group purchased the domain aagrssg.org, and has moved the website to that location. The web site is maintained by John Althausen, Salem State University.

b. List serve

The RSSG operates a list serve, maintained by Jim Merchant, University of Nebraska. This year we put a special emphasis on updating the list serve, because members claimed it was out of date. Members can now subscribe, and unsubscribe through the group's web site.

c. Newsletters

After a hiatus in 2003/2004 two excellent newsletters by editor John Althausen, Salem State University. The newsletters were respectively 14 and 16 pages long. The newsletters are sent to members by mail, but we are transitioning to an electronic (pdf) format.

IV. Future Directions

The main aims for the next year are to consolidate the gains over the last year. We aim to continue the newsletter, and possibly even increase the number of issues. Future newsletters will probably be entirely electronic (pdf), as this will save a lot of money. We also plan to enhance the group's web site (aagrssg.org) to include more archive information, to serve as an on-line "office." All old newsletters have been scanned, and we have purchased additional space from our web hosting service, so that these archived newsletters can be placed online. We also plan to review our bylaws, which were originally drafted by John Jensen in 1981. We are running low on the bronze medals that we present to the AAG RSSG Outstanding Contributions Award winners; we are discussing casting new medals.

V. Membership and Participation

Over the last decade, membership has averaged about 500 members, and is currently at 485. At the end of 2002 (the last year for which data are available), the RSSG was the third largest specialty group, surpassed only by the Urban SG (737 members) and GIS SG (1182 members).

RSSG numbers (as provided by the AAG):

1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
492	412	475	495	522	518		498	482	504		485

VI. Financial Report

The RSSG's bank account is kept with funds in the AAG Central Office. The financial statement (see below) was generated from the Central Office's accounting records.

As is clear from the financial records shown below, the group has a relatively stable financial status. Our only expenditure is student awards for the winners of our very successful student paper and poster competitions. Subsequent to the statement below, we had additional expenses for events associated with the RSSG special events at the AAG 2004 Centennial, but most of those expenses were covered by donations, so we anticipate a continued healthy financial situation.

Association of American Geographers
Specialty Groups Financial Report
08/31/03

Remote Sensing Specialty Group

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	Balance Forward - 08/31/02 Audit			6,812.13
09/09/02	Deposit remaining funds	29.16		6,841.29
02/28/03	Monika Moskal		45.23	6,796.06
05/22/03	Bing Xu		500.00	6,296.06
05/22/03	Matthew Ramspott		250.00	6,046.06
05/22/03	Le Wang		150.00	5,896.06
05/22/03	Brian Wardlow		500.00	5,396.06
05/22/03	John Rogan		250.00	5,146.06
05/22/03	Feng Qi		150.00	4,996.06
05/22/03	Matt Dunbar		150.00	4,846.06
08/31/03	Dues collected 9/01/02 - 8/31/03	1,897.50		6,743.56
	Account Balance - 08/31/03 Audit			<u>6,743.56</u>

VII. Special Requests or Questions for Council
None

Submitted by
Timothy Warner, Chair