

# RSSG Newsletter

Remote Sensing Specialty Group  
Association of American Geographers

March 1991

## FROM THE CHAIR

As I prepare for the Miami AAG, I am reminded of the contributions of many who continue to make the Remote Sensing Specialty Group one of the leading focal points of the AAG. Kam Lulla (NASA), as immediate past Chair of our group, deserves a special thanks for his help in easing my transition to the position of Chair. Thanks also to Vince Ambrosia (NASA), Kevin Price (University of Kansas) and Tina Cary (EOSAT). Each provided assistance in preparation of the RSSG Miami program and workshop. In addition, Jim Merchant (University of Nebraska) continues to edit and produce an excellent RSSG Newsletter.

In this issue you will note the Miami RSSG business meeting agenda. The RSSG business meeting is scheduled from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 1991.

I encourage all of you to attend and participate in discussions on the various items that impact the strength and vitality of our group. I want to know how the RSSG can serve you better. We also need your active participation in the group.

Doug Stow (San Diego State University) has agreed to serve as RSSG Program Chair for the 1992 San Diego AAG meetings. It is not too early to begin organizing special sessions, workshops, field trips and other activities for San Diego.

Please feel free to call or write when you have ideas to share or whenever I can be of help. I hope to see you in Miami!

M. Duane Nellis, RSSG Chair  
Department of Geography  
Kansas State University  
Dickens Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-0801  
(913) 532-6727

## RSSG BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA 1991

The RSSG annual business meeting will be held in Miami at the AAG meetings on Saturday, April 13, 1991 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. RSSG Chair Duane Nellis has proposed the following agenda:

1. Recognition of 1991 RSSG Program contributors - papers sessions and workshop
2. Secretary-treasurer's report - Greg Plumb, University of Oklahoma
3. RSSG Newsletter report
4. Status of committees:

Nominating Committee - Kam Lulla, NASA

Awards Committee - Ted Alsop, Utah State University

Fund-raising Committee

Membership Committee

Liaison Committee with ASPRS

(Continued on page 2)

## THE DAVID SIMONETT FUND

The University of California-Santa Barbara has established a fund in memory of Dr. David S. Simonett. Dr. Simonett lost a courageous fight against cancer on December 22, 1990. Those wishing to contribute should contact:

The David Simonett Fund  
c/o College of Letters and Science  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

MEETING AGENDA (from page 1)

- 5. RSSG Outstanding Contributions Award and medal
- 6. Regional councilors for RSSG
- 7. New RSSG/AAG dues procedure
- 8. Fielding RSSG candidates for national AAG positions
- 9. Joint meeting with the Remote Sensing Society (United Kingdom) - Paul Curran, University of Swansea
- 10. Sessions for the 1992 San Diego RSSG meetings - Doug Stow, San Diego State University
- 11. Social gathering
- 12. New business

For additions to the agenda please contact Duane Nellis.



ANNUAL DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN MIAMI

Tina Cary (EOSAT) has once again organized an RSSG-sponsored workshop on Digital Processing of Remotely-Sensed Data. Other instructors will include Shamim Naim (University of Wisconsin-Waukesha) and David Lusch (Michigan State University). The workshop will be offered in Miami on Tuesday, April 9, 1992 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY SESSION PROPOSED FOR 1992 SAN DIEGO MEETINGS

Mark Jakubauskas (University of Kansas) has proposed a session on Remote Sensing and Landscape Ecology for the San Diego meetings. Possible co-sponsorship of the session with the Biogeography Specialty Group is envisioned. Persons wishing to assist with or participate in such a session are invited to contact:

Mark Jakubauskas  
Department of Geography  
University of Kansas  
213 Lindley Hall  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
(913) 864-5143

HONORS



Kamlesh Lulla (NASA/Johnson Space Center) has recently received two honors. He was unanimously elected a Senior Member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). AIAA is an international society of space engineers and scientists. Admission to Senior Membership is given on the basis of significant scholarship in the space-related sciences.

Kam also received the 1990 Outstanding Professional Achievement Award given by the Greater Houston Asian-American community, an umbrella organization for the 300,000 Asian-Americans in Houston. His award recognizes Kam's contributions to NASA's science and technology programs. India's ambassador presented the award to Kam at the Asian-American award banquet in December.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Earth System Monitor

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has initiated publication of a newsletter entitled the Earth System Monitor. The newsletter contains material on NOAA's information and data services, many of which will be of interest to RSSG members. To be placed on the mailing list contact:

Office of the Chief Scientist  
NOAA/Data and Information  
Management Program Office  
Universal Building, Room 522  
1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20235

or call:

Andrew Horvitz  
(301) 763-8402

### Satellite Snaps

Satellite Snaps produces a set of four Landsat-5 posters that make excellent display or teaching materials. Images of Rhode Island, Chicago, Miami, and New York City are currently available. Each measures about 24" x 36" and sells for \$19.95 (unframed). A set of all four is \$64.00. The posters are also available framed or laminated. For additional details contact:

Satellite Snaps  
P.O. Box 703  
Brewster, NY 10509  
(800) 828-SNAP

### Spaceshots

Spaceshots produces two dozen Landsat poster images including a new 18" x 24" natural color rendition of the Cape Cod area. The Cape Cod poster sells for \$10.00 (\$16.00 laminated). For additional details and a catalog contact:

Spaceshots  
P.O. Box 3430  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
(800) 272-2779

### U.S. AVHRR Data on CD-ROM

The U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Data Center has recently released a set of five CD-ROMs providing AVHRR data for the conterminous U.S. collected over the 1990 growing season. The CDs contain bi-weekly composite satellite images of NOAA-11 AVHRR Local Area Coverage (LAC) data for bands 1-5 afternoon acquired coverage, normalized difference vegetation index images for each of the 19 composite periods, satellite and solar zenith data for each image pixel, and miscellaneous state, county, climatic and ecological region raster polygons and linework for the entire conterminous U.S.

IMDISP, a PC-DOS compatible display software package, is provided on an

accompanying floppy disk. Each CD-ROM also contains IMDISP and Land Analysis System (LAS) label files for each image. A CD-ROM reader with the software drivers that read ISO-9660 formatted CD-ROM discs is required.

The CDs cover the following periods:

Disc 1: March 2 - April 26, 1990  
Disc 2: April 27 - June 21, 1990  
Disc 3: June 22 - August 16, 1990  
Disc 4: August 17 - October 11, 1990  
Disc 5: October 12 - October 25, 1990; November 9 - November 22, 1990; December 7 - December 20, 1990

Each CD in the five CD-ROM set sells for \$32.00. To order or to obtain additional details contact:

Customer Services  
USGS/EROS Data Center  
Sioux Falls, SD 57198  
(605) 594-6151

### MSS Data Price Reduction

EOSAT has announced that Landsat Multispectral Scanner (MSS) data more than two years old will now be sold through both EOSAT and the U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Data Center at prices set by the government. More than 600,000 MSS scenes acquired between 1972 and 1988 are included.

EROS Data Center has announced that prices will range from \$12.00 for a 7.3 inch black and white film positive to \$315.00 for a 29.2 inch paper false color composite. Computer compatible tapes will cost \$200.00. For additional details contact:

USGS/EROS Data Center  
Customer Services  
Sioux Falls, SD 57198  
(605) 594-6151

or

EOSAT  
4300 Forbes Boulevard  
Lanham, MD 20706  
(800) 344-9933

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**INTERNATIONAL REMOTE SENSING  
MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN  
WASHINGTON, D.C. IN 1992**

Three important meetings will be held in Washington, D.C. during August 1992. From August 2-14, 1992 the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) will hold its 17th Congress. For information about the technical program contact:

Lawrence W. Fritz  
Congress Director  
GE Aerospace  
P.O. Box 8048-10A26  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
(215) 531-3205  
FAX (215) 962-3698

For other information on ISPRS contact:

XVII ISPRS Congress  
P.O. Box 7147  
Reston, VA 22091

During the time of the ISPRS meeting two other major remote sensing-related meetings will occur. The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) will conduct a conference on Global Change from August 2-7, 1992. The International Geographical Union will convene its 27th International Geographical Congress August 9-14, 1992. All three conferences will share exhibition space at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center.

Information on the ASPRS-ACSM Global Change Conference can be obtained from either ASPRS (301-493-0290) or ACSM (301-493-0200). Information on the International Geographical Congress can be obtained from:

Anthony R. de Souza  
IGC Committee  
1145 17th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 828-6688



**Remote Sensing  
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Chair: (1990-1992)

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**RSSG NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL  
ASSISTANCE**

The RSSG Newsletter editor, Jim Merchant, would like to acknowledge the assistance of Ms. Bernice Goemann who maintains the RSSG mailing list and handles duplication and mailing. In addition, James Nelson has joined the staff as editorial assistant responsible for layout and design. All are affiliated with the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

IN MEMORY  
of  
David S. Simonett  
(1926-1990)

He could have pursued a career in soil genetics, Pleistocene geomorphology, agricultural economics, or any of several other specialties in the discipline, but David Simonett chose instead to become the father of remote sensing in Geography. In the early years of the '60s Dave was first fascinated, then engrossed, and finally professionally consumed by the potential of aerial and satellite sensing of the earth's surface; but his training as a physical Geographer always ensured that his focus was on the spatial dimension of the spectral domain. While others toiled to improve spectral identifications, Dave was concerned about contrast ratios, modulation transfer functions, environmental modulation and similar landscape attributes that observers could use to interpret the fundamental arrangements of surface phenomena. He once said to me that observing a Chinese funeral procession would be the ultimate in sensing capability, not because the procession itself was necessarily important, but because, to be able to see these events meant people could see very fine linear features...almost in real-time.

So contagious was his spirit and enthusiasm that by 1970 Dave had helped to plant the seeds of remote sensing in dozens of departments, worldwide; trained and touched many of those in the first echelon of remote sensing specialists (both within and external to Geography); and literally created new career opportunities within the discipline and throughout the earth science community. For this legacy, and in memory of his numerous other contributions to friends and profession alike, we remember him with fondness and gratitude in this hour.

Dave was born in Sydney, Australia in 1926, taking his three degrees from the University there, and arrived at Kansas University in 1955. After 15 years and promotion to Full Professor, he returned to Sydney in 1970 to serve a brief stint as Head of the School of Geography, but found his interests and energies steering ever closer to research and management in the private sector (1972-1975). In 1975, he resumed his academic life as Chairman of Geography at the University of California-Santa Barbara, and through his leadership, doggedness, powers of persuasion, and sheer dint of drive, helped to elevate that department to national and international prominence...in less than a decade! To his endearing and enduring credit, he spear-headed the creation of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, one element of which now bears his name at UCSB - the David Simonett Center for Spatial Analysis.

His students will remember him for his even-handed, but challenging demands in applying scientific methods; for his mentorship in both academic and personal matters; and for his insistence that we each hone our skills in critical thinking. His long-term friends and colleagues will remember him for his boundless energy, for his leadership, and for his fatherly concern for our careers. For all of us in the discipline fortunate enough to have known him personally, we recall his seminal and legion contributions. Thank you, Dave, for enhancing our lives so richly and so selflessly. You are indeed the father of us all.

Stan Morain  
University of New Mexico

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**USE YOUR NEWSLETTER**

The RSSG Newsletter is your vehicle for communicating with colleagues interested in remote sensing. You are invited to send news regarding publications, awards, honors, new programs, commercial ventures, student activities, jobs and other announcements to:

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