

RSSG

Newsletter



Remote Sensing Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers
<http://www.earthsensing.com/rssg/>

June 2000 Volume 21 Number 1



From the Chair

For as many years as I've been involved with the RSSG, I've always wondered what "words of wisdom" I would come up with in writing a "From the Chair" column for the *Newsletter*. Well, now it's my turn to be "in the hot seat" and I must admit that I'm a bit intimidated by this task! I wish to first thank Bill Tyler, my predecessor, for taking up the flag for me at the RSSG Business meeting in Pittsburgh. Due to some health problems my wife has been having, I had to make my trip to Pittsburgh for the AAG meeting a very abbreviated one. I was unable to stay for the business meeting so I asked Bill to cover for me. He graciously accepted my request for which I am extremely grateful. Thanks Bill for a job well done.

From what Bill has told me, as well as from the minutes that Mark Jakubauskas took as our "newly minted" Vice-Chair (as well as the "secretary de jour" in Pittsburgh), it was a productive business meeting with great attendance (see page 10). The RSSG had a significant presence (as usual) at the Pittsburgh meeting, and I thank all of you who organized and chaired RSSG-sponsored sessions, as well as presented papers, illustrated, papers, or posters at the meeting. Again, I wish to congratulate Mark Jakubauskas (University of Kansas) for his election as Vice-Chair. Congratulations also are in order to Michael Emch (University of Northern Iowa) for becoming our new Secretary, to Tom Allen for his appointment as Director and to Joe

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AAG 2001 Annual Meeting New York, New York *Call for RSSG Program Participation*

Come and join the Remote Sensing Specialty Group in the "Big Apple," February 27–March 3, 2001, and share your remote sensing research and interests by submitting an abstract for a paper,



poster or session for the 2001 Annual Meeting of the AAG. This is expected to be the biggest AAG meeting ever, so you can expect a large forum for your presentation. The RSSG program co-chairs

for AAG 2001 are Scott Loomer (US Military Academy), John D. Althausen, Jr. (Central Michigan University), Joseph P. Messina (University of North Carolina), the RSSG Student Director,

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John Althausen to Edit RSSG Newsletter

It has been my great pleasure to serve two terms (1984-1986 and 1990-2000) as editor of the RSSG Newsletter. Although I have almost always enjoyed my work on the newsletter, it is time for me to move on towards other professional and personal goals. Therefore, in September 2000, John Althausen (Central Michi-

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Messina (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) for becoming Student Director.

Additionally, kudos are in order to those winners of the RSSG Student Paper and Poster Competitions. These are: Paper Competition – 1st place (tie) John Rogan (San Diego State University), 1st place (tie) Steven R. Schill (University of South Carolina), 3rd place Joseph Messina (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill); Poster Competition (combined RSSG/GIS/SSG winners) – 1st place Jill Hallden (Michigan State University), 2nd place Richard Warnick (University of Utah), 3rd place J.M. Shawn Hutchinson (Kansas State University). 1st place in the undergraduate division for this competition went to Kevin Coughlin (with Brian Cacchiatti, and Daniel Boudreau) (Salem State College). The 2000 RSSG Outstanding Contributions Medal was awarded to Dr. Paul Mausel from Indiana State University. Paul is an icon in geographical remote sensing and is well deserving of this award. Congratulations Paul!

Although the 2000 AAG meeting is still fresh in our minds, it is now time to prepare for the 2001 meeting in New York City. The RSSG program chair for the New York meeting is Scott Loomer from the U.S. Military Academy. If you wish to organize a session under the auspices of the RSSG, please contact Scott at loomer@usma.edu. Also, Scott White from Fort Lewis College and Robert Maxwell Beavers from the University of Northern Colorado, are organizing a combined AAG GIS and Cartography Specialty Group session at the 2001 meeting on Visualization. Remote sensing obviously can contribute to this theme, so if you are interested in participating in Scott's session, please contact him at white_s@fortlewis.edu.

Now for a bit of introductory material about myself for those of you who don't know me. I've been involved with remote sensing for some 25 years. I got acquainted with remote sensing while I was a graduate student working on my Master's degree in geography at the University

of Tennessee way back when. I was on a different track in following my geography graduate studies when I took my first course in remote sensing, and the rest as they say, is history. I later went on to get my Ph.D. in geography and remote sensing from the University of Utah. I've been doing remote sensing research for NASA for 20 years. My career with NASA first started with the old Earth Resources Laboratory at what was then the National Space Technology Laboratories – now the Stennis Space Center - located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In 1992, I moved from Stennis to the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. I've done many kinds of Earth resources analyses using remote sensing data, but for the last eight years or so, the focus of my research has been on the application of thermal remote sensing data for characterization of the urban thermal landscape, and in the use of geostatistics as applied to remote sensing. My work in thermal remote sensing has been devoted to the application of thermal IR data for analysis of the urban heat island effect. My research in geostatistics has been focused on applying fractals to characterization multispectral remote sensing data, particularly data collected at multiple space and time scales. It's been fascinating work and a lot of fun too.

Although I'm sure I'll be "pontificating" in future *Newsletters* on what I'd like to see the RSSG do in the next couple of years during my tenure "at the helm", I'd like to proffer a couple of things now to perhaps get the "creative juices" flowing amongst the membership. First, I'd like to see if we can become more earnest in getting papers from RSSG-sponsored sessions at AAG meetings published in a special issue of a major remote sensing journal. We started this with a special issue of *Geocarto International* in 1997 that was dedicated to papers authored by RSSG members. The status of continuing this involvement with *Geocarto* is indeterminate at the present, but I would like to see if this effort can be "jump-started" with papers presented at the 2001 meeting. I think such an effort gives the RSSG considerable visibility in the remote sensing commu-

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nity, as well as to the AAG on an international level. I am well aware, however, of the sage advice that Ron Abler, Executive Director of the AAG, gave us when we first presented him with the idea of possibly initiating a monograph series sponsored by the RSSG. As Ron noted, "it is much easier to start such an effort than it is to sustain it.....".

Second, I'd like to see the RSSG work with other AAG specialty groups that we normally don't interact with, for example Cultural Ecology, Human Dimensions of Global Change, or Economic Geography, and see if we can organize some joint sessions at AAG meetings. I do think there are rather intriguing possibilities for potential collaborative research in working with other specialty groups that are not imbued with remote sensing expertise. On the converse, we can potentially explore and develop other avenues for applying and using remote sensing data that are new an innovative, especially with the availability of high resolution and hyperspectral remote sensing data either available now or coming on line in the very new future. I've thought about this potential to work with other specialty groups that don't have a direct lineage to the RSSG, ever since I heard B.J. Turner from Clark University talk at a Pecora Symposium a few years ago. He gave a very eloquent presentation on the need for remote sensing researchers to look towards developing a "socialization of the pixel" by including economic geographers, cultural geographers and the like, into a truly interdisciplinary analysis of how socioeconomic and cultural information can be integrated with remote sensing data. As he noted, we can learn a great deal from these social scientist types, but to date, neither we – nor they – have made significant strides on combining our collective expertise to address research problems of mutual interest. Please contact me if you'd like to share your thoughts on what I've provided here, or if you other ideas on what you'd like to see the RSSG do or "become" in the future.

Lastly, I must acknowledge the hard work that

Jim Merchant has done over the last 10 years as the editor of our *Newsletter*. Jim has done an outstanding job on the *Newsletter* and he is to be highly commended for his dedicated service to the RSSG. Jim, however, is now "retiring" as our editor. John Althausen (Central Michigan University) has voluntarily "stepped up to the plate" to become our new *Newsletter* editor. Thanks John for volunteering your services, and I know Jim with all of his experience and expertise, will be there to help in transitioning editorship to you.

See you all in "The Big Apple" in 2001!

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New Editor...continued from page 1.

gan University) will take over as editor of the RSSG Newsletter. I very much appreciate John's willingness to assume this responsibility. For the present, Jim Lacy (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and I will continue to maintain the RSSG listserver and I will continue to serve as custodian of the RSSG archives.

Please contact John with articles, news and announcements for the Fall issue of the RSSG Newsletter at:

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With best wishes,
Jim Merchant
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Call-for-Papers...continued from page 1.

will be coordinating the student paper and poster competitions. See pages 6-9 of this newsletter for other announcements

If you wish to submit an abstract for a poster or paper to be included in a RSSG organized session, mail your abstract, program participation form (from the May 2000 AAG Newsletter or see <http://www.aag.org/PDF/2001call.pdf>), disk, and check by August 21, 2000 for papers or September 18, 2000 for posters to either Scott Loomer or John Althausen.

If you have questions concerning the student paper or poster competitions, see pages 6-7 of the issue of the RSSG Newsletter, or contact:

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Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3220
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Email: messina@email.unc.edu

If you wish to organize a session to be sponsored by the RSSG, solicit abstracts directly from the participants, organize the session sequentially and fill out the Group Participation Form in the May 2000 AAG newsletter (see <http://www.aag.org/PDF/2001call.pdf>). Please contact either Scott Loomer or John Althausen to coordinate your session.

Best wishes over the summer (write those abstracts *before* you go on vacation!) and we look forward to seeing you at another great meeting in 2001!

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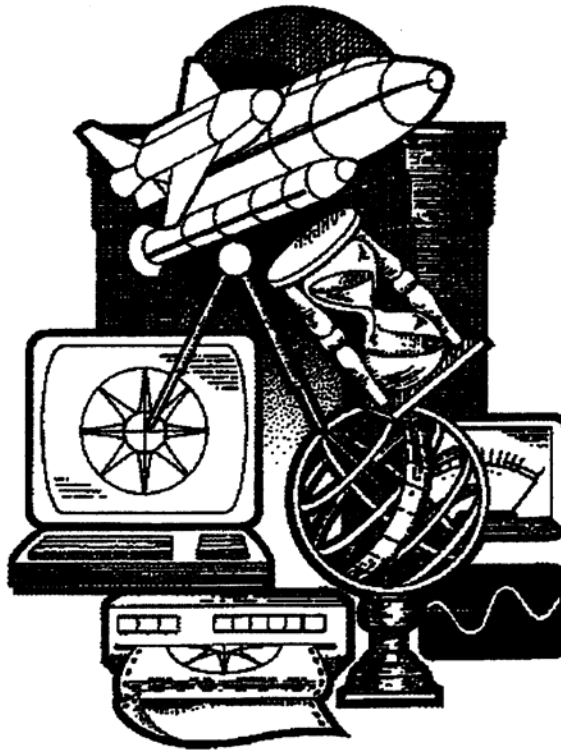


RSSG 2000 Outstanding Contributions Award Presented to Paul Mausel

Dr. Paul Mausel, Director of the Indiana State University Remote Sensing Laboratory and Professor of Geography was awarded the 2000 RSSG Outstanding Contributions Award at the Pittsburgh-AAG Meeting. He was chosen by the RSSG Awards Committee chaired by Stephen J. Walsh (University of North Carolina), Daniel Brown (University of Michigan), and Ling Bian (SUNY-Buffalo).

Professor Mausel richly deserves the award and this recognition because of his leadership in geographic remote sensing for over two decades. He was one of the early geographers involved with Purdue's Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing (LARS) and did pioneering work with what was called "machine processing of remotely-sensed data." Paul has consistently published excellent papers in the field for over twenty years. His papers on urban and regional planning applications of remote sensing are among the best work that geographers have done in remote sensing sciences. Paul also wrote papers on soils, water quality, and land use for several major journals. Recently, he has collaborated with Emilio Moran of Indiana University and has published papers on successional forests in the Amazon Basin. Paul's work has been very original and very thorough. He is an excellent geographer and an outstanding remote sensing scientist. He has published over 120 papers in professional journals during his long and distinguished career.

Paul has been teaching remote sensing and GIS for over 25 years at Indiana State University. He has directed well over 40 graduate students both at the masters and doctoral levels. Paul has also developed new remote



sensing courses within the Department of Geography and became one of the early pioneers in remote sensing education. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Paul was heavily involved with AAG RSSG in conducting remote sensing workshops, short courses, and paper sessions. He chaired the RSSG in the late 1980s and has been involved with the group since its inception.

In summary, Professor Paul Mausel is a leading scholar who has made extraordinary contributions to our discipline. He is a most deserving recipient of the RSSG's Outstanding Contributions Award. Congratulations Paul!

AAG/Remote Sensing Specialty Group 2001 Student Paper Competition

Call for Participation - Student Paper Competition

Abstracts are invited for participation in the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group (RSSG) 2001 Student Paper Competition. The main theme of the paper should deal with scientific developments in or applications of remote sensing. Student applicants are required to be the sole or first author of the paper.

Awards: Along with a certificate of achievement, first, second, and third place winners will receive \$150, \$75, and \$50 respectively. An Awards Committee, consisting of members from the RSSG, will judge papers based upon their research contributions to the field of remote sensing and the effective presentation of the information. Awards will be presented to the top competitors invited to the AAG Awards Banquet; tickets to the banquet will be provided for each of the winners. Results of the competition will be published in the *AAG Newsletter*, and in the specialty group newsletter and web page.

Eligibility: This competition is open to any undergraduate or graduate student who is a current member of the AAG and the RSSG. For more information regarding membership simply contact the AAG (<http://www.aag.org>). RSSG student dues are only \$1.00.

Abstract Submission: Student applicants should submit their abstract (one paper copy and one copy on an IBM-compatible disk), their program participation form, and their participation fee to the RSSG Student Director by 21 August 2000 so that all materials can be forwarded to the AAG by the 1 September 2000 AAG deadline. Detailed information on AAG program participation, abstract length and format, and fees can be found in the May 2000 AAG Newsletter and on the AAG web page (<http://www.earthsensing.com/rssg/index.html>). Abstracts may be sent via email if the corresponding participation form is received via fax and payment is to be made with a credit card.

Questions about this competition and application materials should be directed to:

Joe Messina
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Phone (919) 962-3870
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AAG Remote Sensing/GIS/Cartography Specialty Groups 2001 Student Illustrated Paper Competition

Call for Participation

Abstracts are invited for participation in the 1st AAG Student Illustrated Paper Competition. The main theme of the poster should deal with scientific developments in or applications of remote sensing, GIS, and/or cartography. Student applicants are required to be the sole or first author of the illustrated paper.

Awards: Along with a certificate of achievement, first, second, and third place winners will receive \$150, \$75, and \$50 respectively. An additional award will be provided for the best undergraduate presentation. An Awards Committee, consisting of members from the three sponsoring specialty groups, will judge the illustrated papers. The committee will judge papers based upon their research contributions to the fields of remote sensing, GIS, and/or cartography, the quality of information content in the poster portions, and the effective presentation of the information. Awards will be presented to the top competitors invited at the AAG Awards Banquet; tickets to the banquet will be provided for each of the winners. Results of the competition will be published in the *AAG Newsletter*, and each of the specialty group newsletters, as well as on the specialty group and web pages.

Eligibility: This competition is open to any undergraduate or graduate student who is a current member of one of the three sponsoring AAG specialty groups. For membership information simply contact the AAG (<http://www.aag.org>) for instructions. Student dues are only \$1.00 for the Remote Sensing Specialty Group (RSSG) and \$2.00 for the Cartography Specialty Group (CSG), and there are no student dues for the GIS Specialty Group (GISSG).

Abstract Submission: Student applicants should submit their abstract (one paper copy and one copy on an IBM-compatible disk), their program participation form, and their participation fee to the RSSG Student Director by **18 September 2000** so that all materials can be forwarded to the AAG by the 30 September 2000 AAG deadline. Detailed information on AAG program participation, abstract length and format, and fees can be found in the May 2000 AAG Newsletter and on the AAG web page (<http://www.aag.org/PDF/2001call.pdf>). Abstracts may be sent via email if the corresponding participation form is received via fax and payment is to be made with a credit card.

Questions about this competition should be directed to Joe Messina, RSSG Student Director, or Dr. Aileen Buckley, CSG Academic Director, University of Oregon, voice: (541) 346-4160, email: aileen@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

Please send all application materials to:

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2001 AAG Special Session on Visualization

Call for Participation

The AAG GIS and Cartography Specialty Groups are once again organizing sessions on visualization for the 2001 annual meeting of the AAG in New York City. Pittsburgh's sessions were very well received and included a total of 35 participants in eight different sessions over two days. Thanks to Aileen Buckley and Jeremy Crampton for organizing these visualization sessions. Recent information on the Pittsburgh sessions can be found at <http://www.cla.sc.edu/gis/aaggis/newsnotel.html> and abstracts from the past four years of AAG Visualization sessions can be perused at <http://geography.uoregon.edu/buckley/aag/sessions.htm>.

This year Scott White (Fort Lewis College) and Robert Maxwell Beavers (University of Northern Colorado) are organizing AAG Visualization sessions for the 2001 Annual Meeting. If you are interested in presenting a paper or illustrated paper (i.e., poster) on geographic visualization, please contact Scott White (white_s@fortlewis.edu or 970-247-7475). Posters would be presented in an illustrated paper session, in which presenters have 3-5 minutes to provide an oral summary of their research followed by one-on-one or small group discussions (as in regular poster session format). Since these will be organized sessions, each individual participating in a session must submit (1) a Program Participation Form, (2) participation fee, and (3) abstract (on floppy disk and/or emailed to white_s@fortlewis.edu). Please refer to the Call for Program Participation in the May 2000 *AAG Newsletter* for more information (also available at <http://www.aag.org/PDF/2001call.pdf>).

~~Deadlines are listed below. Since we have to send application materials to AAG as a group,~~ please adhere to the deadlines. Your application materials, registration forms and fees should be sent to Scott White, not AAG. Scott will send them all to AAG as a group.

- **Deadline for paper abstracts** - Scott's deadline for receiving all application materials (including AAG registration form and fees) for paper presenters is August 25, 2000.
- **Deadline for illustrated paper abstracts** Scott's deadline for receiving all application materials (including AAG registration form and fees) for paper presenters is September 22, 2000.

These sessions are open to all interested researchers in geographic visualization. Please help support these sessions as you have done in the past. For more information, feel free to contact Scott White (white_s@fortlewis.edu) or Max Beavers (RMBeave@unco.edu).

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2001 AAG Special Session on Remote Sensing-GIS Integration

Call for Participation

Over the past three decades there has been a dramatic increase in the availability and use of remotely sensed (RS) data. Geographic information systems (GIS) make it possible for computer systems to handle spatial data of various kinds. The opportunity of combining ever-increasing computational power and more plentiful digital data has resulted in an integrated approach to remote sensing and GIS for various types of environmental and socioeconomic analysis. Indeed, the 1990s have witnessed scientists from various fields pushing the integration into the frontier of scientific inquiry. Current trends in research on RS/GIS integration include combined raster and vector processing, three-dimensional representation and visualization, information extraction from RS data, spatial analysis on hyper-spatial, hyper-spectral, and hyper-temporal data, fusion of multiple sensor systems for spatial information generation, and multi-temporal data representation and analysis. With the advancement of computer technology and increasing demands of the market for integration, RS and GIS will continue to be tightly coupled in research and application. This is particularly true when considering the availability of sub-meter resolution satellite data in the near future. The processing and management of such information necessitates current GIS and spatial analysis technology to be adapted, modified, and extended.

We hope to put together several sessions on this issue that will stimulate discussions and lead to an increased cross-fertilization of research ideas and work. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Convergence of spatial analysis, GIS, and image processing
- 2) Impacts and integration of new sensor systems (IKONOS, TERRA, LIDAR, RADAR)
- 3) Technical and conceptual impediments to GIS/RS integration
- 4) New computer technologies that facilitate GIS/RS integration
- 5) The rationale and mechanisms for GIS/RS integration
- 6) Issues of accuracy, scale, and generalization
- 7) Remote sensing and GIS in support of modeling
- 8) Remote sensing and GIS in support of science
- 9) Approaches to data fusion and data mining
- 10) Environmental applications
- 11) Socioeconomic applications

The deadline for receiving all application materials (including registration form, fee, disk, and paper copy of abstract) is August 15, 2000. Send all material to Qihao Weng.

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Minutes of the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

April 6, 2000

President William A. Tyler (the newly minted City of Livonia, Michigan, GIS Administrator) distributed the agenda and the minutes from the 1999 RSSG business meeting in Hawaii.

Report on AAG 2000 sessions: Tim Foresman (NASA) reported that there were about 5 sessions sponsored by the RSSG at the Pittsburgh meeting.

RSSG Newsletter: Jim Merchant (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) will "retire" as newsletter editor. John Althausen (Central Michigan University) will become editor in Fall 2000.

RSSG Archive: Bill Tyler discussed the need for some form of an archive or permanent repository for the RSSG papers, most of which are still held by Jim Merchant at UNL. Western Michigan University was proposed as a possible location, and this will be investigated.

Nominations/Elections: Bill Tyler announced that the positions of Vice chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Director, and Student Director needed to be filled. Results of elections are:

- ~~Vice Chair: Mark Jakubauskas (University of Kansas)~~
- Secretary: Michael Emch (University of Northern Iowa)
- Director: Tom Allen (Old Dominion University)
- Student Director: Joe Messina (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Student Paper Awards: Outgoing Student Director Mike Hernandez (University of Utah) submitted the following report:

- RSSG Student Paper Competition Winners (**Tie for 1st place):
 - 1st: John Rogan - San Diego State University
 - 1st: Steven R. Schill - University of South Carolina
 - 3rd: Joseph P. Messina - University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- RSSG/GISSG/CSG Student Poster Competition Winners:
 - 1st: Jill Hallden - Michigan State University
 - 2nd: Richard M. Warnick - University of Utah
 - 3rd: J.M. Shawn Hutchinson - Kansas State University

1st (Undergraduate Division): Kevin Coughlin (with Brian Cacchiatti and Daniel Boudreau) - Salem State College

Mike Hernandez thanked this year's judges: Papers - John Althausen (Central Michigan University); Doug Ramsey (Utah State University); Posters: John Althausen (Central Michigan University); Scott White (Fort Lewis College); and Tim Warner (West Virginia University).

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A motion was made to increase the amount awarded in this year's Student Paper Competition by an additional \$50, due to a tie for 1st place. Motion passed at meeting. A motion was made to permanently increase awards budget an additional \$50 (\$175 total) to cover the award of first place in the newly created undergraduate division of the student poster competition (6 of 12 competitors were undergraduates in Pittsburgh). Motion passed at meeting. (This was subsequently voted on in the GIS Specialty Group meeting. The GISSG agreed to contribute an additional \$20 to help offset the cost for the undergraduate division award. The CSG president was in the GISSG business meeting. He stated this would be brought up to the CSG board for a vote). New RSSG Student Director (Joe Messina) will follow up on the disbursement increase for the SGs.

The RSSG discussed changing the Student Poster Format to an "illustrated paper" format for next year's meeting. The members did not object to a format change. This information was also passed on to the GISSG and the CSG. The GISSG members also did not object. The CSG president would bring up the format change with the CSG board. New RSSG Student Director (Joe Messina) will need to follow up on the decision. The size of available rooms will also need to be addressed (to determine the number of sessions required).

Honors Committee: Steve Walsh (University of North Carolina) announced that the 2000 RSSG Medal was awarded to Paul Mausel of Indiana State University, recognizing his contributions to the field of remote sensing. In a career spanning 25 years at the Indiana State University Remote Sensing Laboratory (ISURSL), Dr. Mausel has been the author of over 125 journal articles and produced over 40 masters and PhD students. Mausel performed some of the pioneering work in machine processing of remotely sensed data in cooperation with the Laboratory for Applications of Remote Sensing (LARS) at Purdue University, and has continued to focus on general remote sensing and remote sensing of soils.

Communications Committee: No report.

Publications Committee: No report.

Regional Councillors: No reports.

AAG 2001 Program Chair: It has been the practice for the assistant program chair to move into the position of program chair for the following AAG meeting. Scott Loomer (USMA) served as assistant program chair for the 2000 AAG meeting, and will become the program chair for the 2001 AAG meeting in New York City. Bill Tyler called for nominations for the position of 2001 assistant program chair, who would then serve as the program chair for the 2002 AAG in Los Angeles. After several long and extended silences, John Althausen (Central Michigan University) finally buckled and agreed to serve as assistant program chair for the 2001 AAG meetings.

Announcements: Bill Tyler thanked a number of people for their help and contributions during his tenure as Chair of the RSSG, including his predecessors and successors: Kevin Price (KU), Dale Quattrochi (NASA), Jim Merchant (UNL), Jeff Olsenholler (UNO), Steve Walsh (UNC), and Duane Nellis (UWV).

Submitted

Mark Jakubauskas, University of Kansas

Newly minted Vice-Chair (and secretary de jour).

2000 AAG Annual Meeting RSSG Student Competition Results

The student competitions sponsored and co-sponsored by the RSSG at the 2000 AAG Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh were a great success! My thanks to the competitors and those involved with helping me organize and judge the competitions (Aileen Buckley-University of Oregon, Geoffrey Duh-University of Michigan, John D. Althausen Jr.-Central Michigan University, Doug Ramsey-Utah State University, Scott White-Fort Lewis College, and Tim Warner- University of West Virginia). Your willingness to help resulted in a very successful and exciting competition. All the papers and posters were outstanding! We had the highest number of competitors yet in both competitions (8-paper, 12-poster).

The winners of the **RSSG/GIS-SG/Cartography SG-sponsored Student Poster Competition** were:

- 1st place: Jill K. Hallden - (Michigan State University)
Development of a System for Visualizing Remotely-Sensed Data
- 2nd place: Richard M. Warnick - (University of Utah)
Reverse Proximity and the Demand for Additional Wilderness Areas in Utah
- 3rd place: J.M. Shawn Hutchinson - (Kansas State University)
A Comparison of Techniques to Remove the Influence of Topography from SAR Imagery
- 1st place - Undergraduate Division: Kevin Coughlin (Brian Cacchiotti, Daniel Boudreau and Michael Hamilton) - (Salem State College)
Remote Sensing: How it Works

The winners of the RSSG-sponsored Student Paper Competition were (1st place tie):

- 1st place: John Rogan (and Janet Franklin) - (San Diego State University)
Processing Multitemporal TM Imagery to Extract Forest Cover Change Features in Cleveland National Forest, Southern California
- 1st place: Steven R. Schill - (University of South Carolina)
Evaluating the Influence of Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF) When Modeling Biophysical Variables in Coastal Environments
- 3rd place: Joseph P. Messina - (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
The Application of Non-Traditional Pattern Metrics in the Development of a Multiphase Hybrid Classification Scheme: Landuse/Landcover Dynamics in the Ecuadorian Amazon

Besides receiving an awards certificate, first place winners were awarded \$150, second place winners \$75 and third place winners \$50. The student with the best poster in the undergraduate division received \$50. Fellow students, the competitions are a great opportunity to meet faculty and other students with similar interests. Faculty, please encourage your students to participate in these competitions. Note that we have formed an undergraduate division for the poster competition to recognize the most outstanding poster presented by an undergraduate student in 2001. Undergraduates presented 6 of the 12 posters in Pittsburgh. The 2000-2001 RSSG student director, Joseph Messina (UNC-Chapel Hill) will be the point of contact for next year's student competitions. Contact Joe at messina@email.unc.edu. Finally, thank you for your support of the RSSG. The great members make this an exceptional specialty group.

Best Regards,
Michael W. Hernandez
1999-2000 RSSG Student Director
University of Utah

Survey on the Current Status of Remote Sensing Programs

John Althausen and Jaclyn Burke, of Central Michigan University (CMU), are developing a database for the RSSG that describes the current status of remote sensing (RS) programs in the academic world. The effort, to date, is primarily concentrating on RS programs in US Geography Departments, but welcoming information from programs hosted by other disciplines (e.g. Engineering, Forestry, Natural Resources, etc.) and/or from countries outside the US. It is hoped that students, faculty, and others will be able to use this database as a means of assessing a program for its strengths and potential offerings, whether as a place of study or for collaboration on research.

To facilitate and improve this effort, we are asking fellow RSSG members that are faculty/staff involved in remote sensing to answer the questionnaire below. Results from the survey will be posted on the RSSG web site (<http://www.earthsensing.com/rssg>). You can send your responses to John or Jaclyn by e-mail (John.Althausen@cmich.edu or jrburke@care2.com) or postal mail (c/o Central Michigan University, Department of Geography, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859). All information will be welcomed and very much appreciated. Please feel free to pass this on to colleagues in other departments and disciplines.

Questionnaire

Name of respondent: _____

Respondent's e-mail: _____

Department Information:

1. Academic Department hosting the RS Program
2. Academic Department's University or College
3. Web URL for Department

Program Information:

1. Type(s) of undergraduate degree(s) offered with RS specialization (e.g. BA).
Title of Degree Specialization, if any (e.g. Geographic Information Processing)
2. Type(s) of graduate degree(s) offered with RS specialization (e.g. MA or Ph.D.).
Title of Degree Specialization, if any (e.g. Geographic Information Processing)
3. Approximate number of graduate assistantships offered yearly within department.
4. Postgraduate opportunities offered with RS specialization (Yes or No).

Faculty Information:

1. Current number of faculty actively involved in RS program (teaching & research).
2. Current number of faculty/staff actively involved in RS program as research staff/post docs (other than those counted above).
3. Names of current RS faculty/staff members.
4. Research areas that the RS faculty/staff members specialize in.
5. Average # of grants received each year by RS faculty and staff.
6. Approximate amount of funding received by the RS faculty over the last decade (1991-2000).

Continued on page 14...Questionnaire

Course Information:

1. Number of "strictly" undergraduate courses in remote sensing.
2. Number of "strictly" graduate-level courses in remote sensing.
3. Number of RS courses that are cross-listed as both undergraduate and graduate.
4. Short description on each course. Please include course title, course designator and number, number of credits, targeted audience (undergraduate, graduate, or both) and topical area (Air Photo Interpretation, Photogrammetry, Principles & Theory of RS, Digital Image Processing, Special Topic, etc.). As an example, Introduction to Remote Sensing, GEO 305, 4, undergraduate, Principles & Theory.

Other Information on Program:

1. Any certificates offered specializing in remote sensing?
2. Are there any centers and/or labs specializing in remote sensing (if possible, please include the name of the center/lab and the number of faculty/staff involved)?

Other Departments at your University/College that offer RS courses:

1. Name of the department
2. Number of faculty involved in RS in the department.

For additional details, contact:

John D. Althausen, Jr.
Central Michigan University
Department of Geography
Dow Building, Room 282
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
e-mail: John.Althausen@cmich.edu
Phone: 517-774-1305
FAX: 517-774-2907

**The AAG Remote Sensing
Specialty Group**
News and Information

The RSSG Newsletter is your vehicle for communicating with colleagues interested in remote sensing. You are invited to send news regarding research activities, students, publications, awards, honors, academic programs, projects, commercial ventures, jobs and other announcements to the editor, John Althausen (see address below). If possible, please submit contributions by e-mail in MS Word or RTF format.



The RSSG WWW site is located at <http://www.earthsensing.com/rssg/>

Participate in the on-line RSSG discussion list: rssg@calmit.unl.edu To subscribe to the neb-gisnews list, please send a message to: listserv@calmit.unl.edu with the line, *subscribe rssg* in the body of your message.

For additional details, contact:

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Dow Building, Room 282
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
e-mail: John.Aldhausen@cmich.edu
Phone: 517-774-1305
FAX: 517-774-2907

**2001 RSSG Outstanding
Contributions Award**
Nominations Requested

The RSSG Outstanding Contributions Award is presented to members of the AAG RSSG who have made especially noteworthy contributions to the field of Remote Sensing. Past honorees have included: Dr. David Simonett (posthumously), Dr. Benjamin Richason, Jr. (posthumously), Dr. Alan Strahler, Dr. John Estes, Dr. John Jensen, Dr. Duane Nellis, Dr. Kamlesh Lulla, Dr. James Campbell, Dr. Stephen Walsh, Dr. Robert Holz, Dr. Sam Goward, Dr. James Merchant, Dr. Dale Quattrochi and Dr. Paul Mausel.

Candidates for the award are evaluated by a selection committee appointed by the RSSG board. The Chair of the RSSG Outstanding Contributions Award Committee is Stephen J. Walsh (University of North Carolina). Other member of the committee are Daniel G. Brown (University of Michigan) and Ling Bian (State University of New York at Buffalo).

Nominations for the 2001 award must be received by December 15, 2000. Nominations must include a letter of nomination and a complete vita for each candidate. Send nominations to:

Stephen J. Walsh
Department of Geography
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3220
(919) 962-3867 (tel)
(919) 962-1537 (fax)
swalsh@email.unc.edu

Call for Nominations AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group

Nominations for two RSSG offices are solicited. Offices to be filled in 2001 include:

Director (2 year term)
Student Director (1 year term)

All nominees must be current members of RSSG and AAG, and must have agreed to serve.
If you are interested in serving as an RSSG officer, you are encouraged to nominate yourself!
However, no anonymous nominations will be accepted. The name of the person placing the nomination must be provided.

Office (Circle one): Director Student Director

Name of nominee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____


Name of person placing the nomination: _____

Please send nominations by **September 15, 2000** to:

Dale Quattrochi
NASA/Global Hydrology and Climate Center
SD60
Marshall Space Flight Center
Huntsville, AL 35812
(256) 922-5887
dale.quattrochi@msfc.nasa.gov

WHAT'S NEW

America's Farm



America's Farm is a new collaboration between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT) and the University of Nebraska at Omaha Office of Internet Studies. Funded by NASA, the America's Farm project will bring near-real-time data on farm operations into high school and college classrooms via the WWW. The web site will feature web-camera, GIS and remote sensing data acquired over the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center, a 9500 acre farm located near Mead, NE. The WWW site will also include background tutorials on farming, remote sensing, GIS, GPS and mapping; data collected and integrated from field, aerial and satellite platforms; and educational materials in the form of modules. For additional details, see www.americasfarm.org

Arizona Regional Image Archive

The Arizona Regional Image Archive (ARIA) provides (1) an interdisciplinary resource for digital image and map data for the Sonoran desert region, including the US Southwest and northern Mexico, (2) Internet courseware modules and (3) outreach to state and county agencies in the region to provide access to data for the Sonoran desert region. ARIA can be accessed at <http://aria.arizona.edu/>

Note the links to the NASA State and Local Government Initiative at aria.arizona.edu/slg and an announcement of the NASA Regional Applications Initiative at aria.arizona.edu/slg/announcement.html

New Tutorials on CCRS Web Site

The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) has developed some excellent tutorials on remote sensing at <http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/> These include on-line training in *Fundamentals of Remote Sensing* and a *Tutorial on Radar and Stereoscopy* at <http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ccrs/eduref/educate.html> In addition, see *Watching Over Our Planet From Space—A Fun New Activity Kit for Kids* at <http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ccrs/eduref/youthkit/edukite.html>

Digital Earth

Check out the Digital Earth web site at <http://www.digitalearth.gov/> Digital Earth will be a virtual representation of our planet that enables a person to explore and interact with the vast amounts of natural and cultural information gathered about the Earth.

Topozone

TopoZone (<http://www.topozone.com/>) has, on-line, every USGS 1:100,000, 1:25,000, and 1:24,000 scale map for the entire United States; Alaska (1:63,360) and Puerto Rico (1:20,000) will be coming soon. You just type a place name in the search box and view the map at the scale you desire. *Access is free.*

Land Use History of North America

The Land Use History of North America web site at <http://biology.usgs.gov/luhna/> has a wealth of information on topics such as urbanization, plant diversity, landscape changes in the Great Lakes region and the Yellowstone ecosystem, expanding agriculture and population. Persons interested in the southwestern U.S. will want to explore the link to the Land Use History of the Colorado Plateau at <http://www.cpluhna.nau.edu/>

RSSG Newsletter
c/o James W. Merchant
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Lincoln, NE 68588-0517

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