

## AAG REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP

### I. Overview of the RSSG in Denver

The RSSG activities at the national AAG meeting Denver last April were very successful. The RSSG sponsored two workshops, two paper sessions and a poster session. In addition two more paper sessions were devoted to remote sensing, thus in total there were seven major programs in our area of interest at this meeting.

A short business meeting followed by an entire evening of an open house for persons with remote sensing interests was held on Monday, April 25. The open house was tried as an experiment and proved to be an excellent event which the RSSG wants to repeat at the national meeting in Washington in April, 1984.

### II. Reports of RSSG Committees

Reports from RSSG committee chairpersons were presented at the business meeting in Denver. Elements of the reports which are most pertinent to 1983-84 RSSG activities are provided below.

#### A. Nominations Committee: (Chair--John Jensen, University of South Carolina).

John Jensen tabulated and reported on the RSSG election results. The RSSG officers elected, with the addition of carry over positions not up for election, resulted in the following list of officers. Any RSSG member can contact appropriate members on this list for assistance in conducting business, asking questions, etc.

Paul W. Mausel, Chairperson  
Department of Geography and Geology  
Indiana State University  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47809

Sam Goward, Director  
Department of Geography  
University of Maryland  
College Park, Maryland 20742

Donald Rundquist, Vice-Chairperson  
Remote Sensing Center  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588

Roland Mower, Director  
Department of Geography  
University of North Dakota  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202

Lee Williams, Secretary-Treasurer  
Department of Geography  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Steven Dicks, Student Director  
Department of Geography  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

#### B. Goals Committee: (Chairperson--Samuel Goward of the University of Maryland)

1. A seminar/tour/field trip to Goddard Space Flight Center during the Washington D. C. meetings should be developed by RSSG for AAG members interested in remote sensing.

2. A paper session or sessions whose theme is contemporary foci of remote sensing in geography should be developed by the RSSG for the Washington, D. C. AAG meetings.

C. Awards Committee: (Donald Rundquist from the University of Nebraska, Chairperson)

1. If approved by the AAG, an award will be given by the RSSG to the best student paper in remote sensing which is submitted for presentation in an RSSG sponsored paper session at the Washington, D. C. meetings. The exact nature of the award is to be determined.
2. If approved by the AAG, an award will be given by the RSSG for the best poster presentation in one of the RSSG sponsored poster sessions. Students and non-student members of the AAG are eligible for this award.
3. Exploration of developing an award to an individual for distinguished service to geography in remote sensing will be made.

D. Publications Committee: (M. Leonard Bryan of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Chairperson)

1. Explore developing a series of publications focused on various geographical applications of remote sensing.
2. Work with editors and reviewers of the Annals and Professional Geographer (and possibly others) to assess and promote the publication of remote sensing oriented articles in geographic journals.
3. Explore developing remote sensing slide sets initially utilizing the expertise and facilities of the NCGE if they are willing and if the AAG has no objections.
4. Develop a system/mechanism which will facilitate the exchange of remotely sensed data (e.g. images, CCT's, etc.) between individuals and universities on an actual cost-of-copy basis.

E. Program Committee: (James Latham from Florida Atlantic University, Chairperson)

1. Implement activities associated with the AAG Washington, D.C. meetings identified by the Goals Committee.
2. Develop paper/poster sessions at the Washington, D.C. meetings which focus on (a) policy aspects of remote sensing; (b) nature and implementation of new remote sensing technology/products; and (c) other remote sensing research.

### III. RSSG Programs at the AAG Washington Meetings

RSSG-sponsored programs have been planned for the Washington meetings. These plans include:

#### A. Workshop

Ron Weinkauf of the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences (University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse) is organizing a basic workshop in remote sensing tentatively entitled "The Basics of Satellite Land Remote Sensing". More details about the nature of this workshop will be presented in the next RSSG Newsletter; however, based on the preliminary proposal it appears that an excellent introductory workshop is being developed.

#### B. Field Trip

Samuel Goward of the Department of Geography (University of Maryland/NASA) is developing a field trip to explore remote sensing related facilities of Goddard Space Flight Center near Washington. The preliminary program looks very exciting and undoubtedly will be an excellent field trip for beginning as well as advanced students of remote sensing. More information about this field trip will be published in a future edition of the RSSG Newsletter.

#### C. Paper and Poster Sessions

The RSSG would like to sponsor as many paper and poster sessions as possible. To attain RSSG-sponsor status all papers of a designated session are submitted together with the appropriate materials (abstract, fees, etc.) along with a group participation form filled out by the session organizer. Basically, anyone wishing to participate in a poster session at the Washington meeting must:

1. Complete a program participation form (p. 7 in the May, 1983 AAG Newsletter or contact Paul Mausel, Chair, RSSG).
2. Enclose a fee of \$50 (AAG member) or \$25 (AAG student member) which applies toward meeting registration.
3. Provide a 100 word abstract.

These three items should be sent along with two self-addressed stamped envelopes to the following person if the poster is to appear in a RSSG-sponsored session.

Dr. James Latham (Chair, Program Committee)  
 Department of Geography  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 Boca Raton, Florida 33432

Dr. Latham will assemble poster papers received into appropriate sessions. Please get these materials to him by September 25 in order that he may organize them for submission to the AAG by their October 3 deadline.

The instructions for submitting a paper are the same as for a poster except that two copies of a long (900-1200) word abstract must be included with the material sent to Jim Latham.

Currently Jim Latham is organizing a paper session on Remote Sensing and Public Policy which fits one of the themes of the Washington meeting. Dr. David Gregor is organizing a paper session on the theme of Global Habitability. Thus, two RSSG paper sessions are being organized. The remainder of RSSG-sponsored sessions will be from the membership at-large. Please consider submitting a paper or poster (or organize a full session) on any remote sensing topic. The Program Committee will submit sessions to the AAG based on the responses it receives. Also, please make certain that all the requested items are sent to Dr. Latham by September 25.

#### IV. Awards at the AAG Washington Meetings

The RSSG is in the process of acquiring permission from the AAG to give awards for student papers and student/nonstudent posters. The following announcements pertain to this award.

##### A. \* \* \* STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION \* \* \*

The Remote Sensing Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers announces a competitive paper session for students at next year's Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C. All Geography students are eligible to submit manuscripts dealing with some aspect of remote sensing. Authors of the best four papers, as selected by the Awards Committee of the RSSG, will be invited to present their work at the RSSG Special Session for student competition at the national meeting. The author of the best paper presentation will receive an engraved plaque as a prize for his/her accomplishment.

To be eligible for the RSSG student competition, please submit your completed, typed manuscripts on or before September 21, 1983, to: Dr. Donald C. Rundquist. Also, to be eligible for AGG paper session participation a student must send Dr. Jim Latham the appropriate materials previously cited.

Dr. Donald C. Rundquist  
113 Nebraska Hall  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0517

B.

## \* \* \* POSTER COMPETITION \* \* \*

The Remote Sensing Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers announces a competitive poster session for next year's Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C. All Geographers are eligible to prepare posters addressing some aspect of remote sensing. Posters will be judged by the Awards Committee of the RSSG, and the winner will receive an engraved plaque as a prize for his/her accomplishment.

To be eligible for this competition, please submit an abstract summarizing your poster presentation on or before September 21, 1983, to Dr. Donald Rundquist. Also, to be eligible for AAG poster session participation an individual must send Dr. Jim Latham the appropriate materials previously cited.

## V. Membership Dues

The RSSG has \$5 annual dues which is not mandatory. However, if the Group is to give student and faculty awards, provide an open house at the national meetings, and do other things to promote remote sensing in geography it is important that as many members as possible pay dues. The chairperson of the RSSG urges members to send \$5 to the Secretary/Treasurer listed below.

Dr. T. H. Lee Williams, Treasurer RSSG  
 Department of Geography  
 University of Kansas  
 Lawrence, Kansas 66045

## VI. Tenth International Symposium on Machine Processing of Remotely Sensed Data

The International Symposium on Machine Processing of Remotely Sensed Data will be held at Purdue University from June 12-14, 1984. This symposium offers geographers a good opportunity to present major papers and acquire the latest information about computer-assisted approaches/applications using digital remotely sensed data.

The Tenth Symposium may be particularly good for geographers since Dr. Paul Mausel (Geography - Indiana State University) is co-chair of the symposium and it is expected that several geographers will participate in the program. The program themes are on thematic mapper applications/techniques and geoinformation systems. However, remote sensing papers and posters on any topic which has a machine processing element is also appropriate for the symposium.

Any one interested in attending this symposium or presenting a paper or poster can contact Paul Mausel for further information. Abstracts for long papers are due December 1, and abstracts for poster papers can be submitted as late as February 16.

## VII. RSSG Committees

Names of individuals who were interested in joining a RSSG committee was acquired at the Denver business meeting. From this list and current committee members, the 1983-84 membership was to be determined. This summer the RSSG chairperson, Paul Mausel, has tried in vain to contact several of last years chairs to develop the 1983-84 committee membership. This summer many persons have been out-of-town and could not be reached, thus, the committee membership is not yet complete. Later this fall the committee membership list should be completed and it will be published in a future RSSG Newsletter.

## VIII. Remote Sensing Questionnaire

At the Denver meeting it was decided that it would be wise for the RSSG to obtain current information pertaining to remote sensing programs at American Universities. Don Rundquist, the RSSG vice-chairman, has developed a questionnaire which the RSSG would like you to complete. Thus, please take a few minutes of your time and send answers to these questions to:

Mr. Steven Dicks, RSSG Student Director  
 Department of Geography  
 University of Florida  
 Gainesville, Florida 32611

The completed results will be made available to students and other RSSG members upon request to the student director. Thank you in advance for your participation.

1. Is the primary Remote Sensing facility at your University located within/ associated with the Department of Geography? If not, please indicate which administration unit houses the Remote Sensing Laboratory/Center.
2. How many faculty in the Department of Geography have expertise in Remote Sensing? Please provide names.
3. How many faculty in other departments of the university have expertise in Remote Sensing? Please provide names and departments.
4. Is Remote Sensing an "area of excellence" in the Geography Department - i.e., do you consider it a specialty of your department?
5. Please list the courses taught at your university which are aimed at Remote Sensing. Indicate whether they are taught at the undergraduate or graduate levels (or both), and the frequency with which the course is taught. A course description and average enrollment would also be useful.
6. How would you describe the photo-interpretation hardware capabilities at your university; poor, fair, good, or excellent? Please provide a list of important photo-interpretation and related equipment.
7. How would you describe the automated image-processing capabilities at your university; poor, fair, good, or excellent? Please provide a list of important image-processing and related equipment.

8. Have the Geography/Remote Sensing graduates from your university been successful in obtaining meaningful employment where their training in remote sensing has been put to good use? Please provide examples, if possible.
9. How many of your graduate assistants have teaching or research responsibilities related to Remote Sensing? Any detail which you could provide here would be appreciated.
10. How many Geography theses/dissertations involving Remote Sensing have been completed in your department in the last five years? Names and titles would be helpful here.
11. How would you describe the data holdings, both photographs/images and computer-compatible tapes, at your university; poor, fair, good, or excellent? Please indicate where your strengths lie with regard to data.
12. Would you recommend your Geography Department to prospective students who desire training in Remote Sensing?