

AAG REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP

No. 85-2

June 1985

From the Chairperson

A NEW YEAR FOR RSSG

It has been about two months since I became Chairperson of the RSSG. I have discovered in that short period of time that the position demands a great deal of time and effort. Although we have a strong, coherent organization that could probably function without me, I want to assure you that I do not want to see us just "exist"; I would like to see us grow, develop stronger organizationally and become more stable financially. The easy part about being chairperson of this specialty group is the strong, helpful and efficient group of individuals who support our activities with their time and effort. I have never met a group of individuals who so willingly volunteer their time for the growth of their organization. They should all be commended, particularly those who organized all the professional activities at Detroit, and who will be planning the 1986-Minneapolis meetings. Last, but surely not least, I think that Jim Merchant should be commended for the development and editing of the newsletter. I feel our newsletter is the most informative and professional of any of the specialty groups' newsletters.

Presently, our most pressing issue is the organization of our program participation for the 1986 AAG meetings in Minneapolis. Along those lines, I have established a program committee composed of our members who willingly volunteered their efforts to this endeavor. Kam Lulla of Indiana State will chair the committee and act as advisor to those who wish to participate on the program. Our participation for 1986 will include numerous on-site field trips (proposed visit to Mark Hurd, etc.), two or more workshops, our business meeting, at least two sponsored paper sessions, and at least one poster session. The other "official" members of the program committee are: Duane Nellis, Ron Weinkauff, Paul Mausel, Ben Richason III, Jim Merchant, and Tina Cary. If you have any suggestions or if you would be willing to participate in any of the planned activities, contact myself or Kam Lulla.

Financially, our specialty group is in a "so-so" position; we are not truly financially stable, and we are not "folding-under" either. Our secretary/treasurer, John Place, has recently acquired tax-

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RSSG MINNEAPOLIS - 1986
PROGRAM TAKES SHAPE

The RSSG Program Committee for the 1986 Minneapolis meeting of the AAG is in the process of developing a varied agenda of activities. Current plans are outlined below. The Committee urges all RSSG members to contribute ideas, volunteer papers and participate in RSSG-sponsored events. Note, however, that all plans must be complete by September 25, 1985.

A. Paper Sessions

The RSSG Program Committee would like to sponsor as many paper sessions as possible. Special sessions focused on two themes are currently being planned:

- Session I : Advanced Sensor Systems and Applications (AIS, TMS, SPOT, TM/ATM, etc).
Session II: Large Area Ecosystem/Biome Characterization via Remote Sensing

Comments and suggestions regarding these sessions, and ideas for other sessions are welcome.

Anyone wishing to participate in an RSSG-sponsored paper session at the Minneapolis meeting must:

- Complete two copies of the program participation form (see May 1985 AAG Newsletter);
- Enclose a fee of \$60 (AAG member) or \$30 (AAG student member) which applies toward meeting registration;
- Provide two copies of a 900-1200 word abstract (based on the format provided in the May 1985 AAG Newsletter);
- Provide two copies of a 100-word abstract (based on the format provided in the May 1985 AAG Newsletter and typed clearly, suitable for printing in the AAG Abstracts); and
- Provide two self-addressed stamped envelopes.

These items should be mailed to Kamlesh Lulla (Indiana State University) by September 16, 1985.

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RSSG Program Committee

AAG 1986 Annual Meeting
Minneapolis, MN

Paper Sessions

Kamlesh Lulla
Department of Geography
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN 47809
(812) 237-2252

Chairperson

Kamlesh Lulla
Department of Geography
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN 47809
(812) 237-2252

Workshops

Tina Cary
Department of Environmental
Resources
Cook College, P.O. Box 231
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
(201) 932-9634

Poster Sessions

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

Field Trips

Ben Richason, III
Department of Geography
St. Cloud State University
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(612) 255-3160

Paul Mausel
Department of Geography
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN 47809
(812) 237-6311

Jim Merchant
University of Kansas
Space Technology Center
2291 Irving Hill Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66045
(913) 864-4775

Ron Weinkauf
Department of Geography
University of Wisconsin
- LaCrosse
LaCrosse, WI 54601
(608) 785-8340

...RSSG MINNEAPOLIS-1986 (Continued from page 1)

B. Poster Sessions

Duane Nellis (Kansas State University) is organizing RSSG-sponsored poster sessions for the Minneapolis meeting. RSSG members are urged to contribute posters on any remote sensing topic. Ideas for sessions are also welcome. Persons wishing to present posters must submit the same materials as those listed above for contributors of papers, except that the long abstract is not required for posters. All materials should be mailed to Duane by September 16, 1985.

C. Workshops

Two workshops are currently proposed. Tina Cary (Rutgers University) is organizing, and will conduct a short course on digital image processing.

An advanced remote sensing course, focused upon research in radar remote sensing is also being planned. The workshop, to be taught by faculty and staff of the University of Kansas Radar Systems and Remote Sensing Laboratory, will be directed towards remote sensing specialists. A basic familiarity with radar will be presumed.

Ideas for other workshops are invited. Suggestions and inquiries should be directed to Jim Merchant (University of Kansas).

D. Field Trips

Ben Richason (St. Cloud State University) and Paul Mausel (Indiana State University) are considering a number of alternatives for field trips in the Twin Cities area. Ideas are solicited from RSSG members.

Additional information on 1986-Minneapolis meeting plans can be obtained from members of the RSSG Program Committee. Details will appear in the September 1985 issue of the RSSG Newsletter.

Contributors to this edition of the RSSG Newsletter included Vincent Ambrosia, (NASA/Ames Research Center), Donald Rundquist (University of Nebraska), Kamlesh Lulla (Indiana State University), Duane Nellis (Kansas State University), Alan Strahler (Hunter College - CUNY), Neil Weber (Murray State University) and Ruth Rowles (University of Kentucky). Loyola Caron (University of Kansas) assisted with layout and editing.

RSSG ELECTIONS
DEADLINE: AUGUST 23, 1985

Nominations for the Offices of Vice-Chairperson, Non-Student Director, and Student Director were solicited from the RSSG membership in early May. The names of the nominees have been checked against both the RSSG list (as of 17 May 1985) provided by the AAG Central Office and the RSSG Treasurer's list of "paying members." Since the instructions on the "Call for Nominations" were explicit regarding a nominee's willingness to serve, it has been assumed that nominees were contacted before being nominated.

Please record, on the accompanying ballot, your choice for each of the three offices, sign your ballot, and return by **AUGUST 23, 1985** to:

Dr. Donald C. Rundquist
Conservation and Survey Division
University of Nebraska
113 Nebraska Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588-0517

Note that only current members of RSSG, as identified by the AAG Central Office, are eligible to vote. The results will be announced in the September issue of the RSSG Newsletter.

...FROM THE CHAIRPERSON (Continued from page 1)

free status for us through the IRS, which should reduce our expenditures considerably. Also, Jim Merchant has informed me that our mailing costs will be reduced since we have now acquired bulk rate mailing status from the Postal Service. The mailing costs of our quarterly newsletter will be much less, but they will arrive a few days later. Due to our financial position, I am asking that all members send their dues (\$5.00) to John Place or myself. Checks can be made payable to the RSSG or Remote Sensing Specialty Group. We have 351 members and our mailings go out to 569 people, and yet this year we have only received dues from about 15-20 individuals. For the RSSG to stay active, we need your support; therefore, please send in your dues as soon as possible.

I have already taken enough space in this issue, so I will stop it here. In closing, I would like to thank all the former officers of the specialty group, particularly Don Rundquist, for getting us through last year. I would also like to thank the Detroit RSSG Program Planning Committee for a tremendous job and thank the 1986 Program Committee for volunteering their time and effort to make 1986 the best we'll have in the RSSG.

Vince Ambrosia
RSSG Chairperson

-BALLOT-

AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group

The following individuals have been nominated for the three offices currently open:

Vice-Chairperson (vote for one)

- Tina Cary, Rutgers University
- Gene Jaworski, Eastern Michigan University
- John Jensen, University of South Carolina
- Kam Lulla, Indiana State University
- Dave Lusch, Michigan State University
- Jim Merchant, University of Kansas
- John Wyckoff, University of North Dakota

Director (vote for one)

- Duane Nellis, Kansas State University
- Jim Norwine, Texas A & I University

Student Director (vote for one)

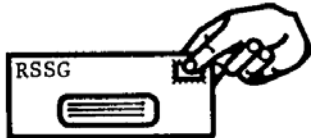
- Dennis Dye, University of Maryland

Your Signature:



From the Editor

NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS



All subscribers to the RSSG Newsletter are requested to please take note of the following:

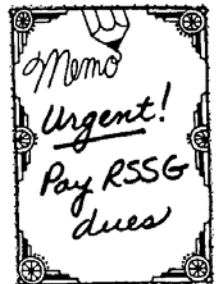
- In accordance with decisions made at the 1985 RSSG business meeting, the Newsletter will now be published quarterly, on a regular schedule, in March, June, September and October. All contributions for a given issue should be mailed so that I receive them on or before the 15th of the month preceding publication (i.e., May 15th for the June issue);
- Each issue of the Newsletter will be assigned a number indicating the year and quarter of publication (i.e., the June 1985 issue is numbered 85-2, the September 1985 issue will be numbered 85-3);
- All Newsletters mailed to U.S. addresses will, hereafter, be mailed using our recently-approved non-profit bulk-rate permit. Although the Newsletter will very likely take from 1-3 weeks to reach you, this third-class permit will significantly reduce RSSG postage costs. Note, however, that undeliverable issues will not be returned to me. Therefore, please keep me informed of changes in your name or address. Please also advise me if there are errors in your mailing label or if you miss an issue;
- Finally, I urge you to use your Newsletter. I hope that you'll contribute articles, news, ideas, comments, and suggestions. Deadline for the September 1985 issue is August 15, 1985. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Jim Merchant, Editor
RSSG Newsletter
University of Kansas
Space Technology Center
Lawrence, KS 66045-2969
(913) 864-4775

1985 RSSG BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

Several important decisions were reached at the 1985-Detroit RSSG business meeting. These included the following:

- The term of office of the RSSG Chairperson will, henceforth, be extended from one to two years. This change, which is to take effect in May 1986, will provide the Chairperson time in which to develop new programs and initiatives. The change also brings RSSG into conformance with AAG guidelines for specialty groups.
- An effort will be made to develop, for each annual AAG meeting, at least one advanced workshop specifically designed to address needs and interests of RSSG members. Topics suggested, to date, include radar remote sensing, advanced sensor systems (TIMS, AIS, etc.), teaching remote sensing, and acquiring and using micro-computer-based image processing and geographic information systems. Instructors of such workshops will presume that enrollees already have a foundation in remote sensing. RSSG will continue to offer introductory remote sensing workshops as demand and interest warrant. Advanced workshops in digital image analysis and radar remote sensing are planned for the 1986 Minneapolis meeting.
- The RSSG Newsletter will be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. In order to disseminate information on RSSG activities as widely as possible, the current mailing list will not be pared, nor will a fee be charged subscribers who are not current RSSG members. All subscribers are, however, requested to pay their annual RSSG dues (\$5.00) in order to help offset costs of RSSG activities (including publication of the Newsletter). Dues should be mailed to: Dr. John L. Place, RSSG Treasurer, U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, Mail Stop 521, Reston, VA 22092; telephone (703) 860-6345.



Questions or comments regarding the 1985 RSSG business meeting should be addressed to:

Vincent G. Ambrosia
RSSG Chairperson
NASA/Ames Research Center
MS 242-4
Moffett Field, CA 94035
(415) 694-6184

Remote Sensing Centers*

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY HUNTER COLLEGE - CUNY

Hunter College, part of the City University of New York (CUNY), is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for its new Master's program in Geography. The program, based in the Department of Geology and Geography under the leadership of Prof. Alan H. Strahler, is designed for students and professionals with backgrounds in traditional geography as well as social science, computer science and engineering. Emphasizing analytical geography, it offers state-of-the-art training in tools and techniques of remote sensing, geographic information systems, computer cartography, traditional cartography, field methods, spatial modeling, and spatial statistics. The program is highly selective, and limits student enrollment to maximize student-faculty interaction.



The department is set up well for teaching and research in remote sensing and related fields. Departmental hardware includes an International Imaging Systems Model 75 Image Processor with software, and a VAX 11/730 running BSD 4.2 UNIX. VICAR/IBIS runs on the CUNY mainframe system - dual IBM 3033 processors running OS/370 and CMS. IBM PC's, other micros and intelligent terminals, an Altek coordinate digitizer, and a separate supermicro dedicated to word processing using UNIX round out the computing equipment. Manual drafting facilities and equipment, a darkroom, and other facilities are available as well.

The department's sponsored research currently runs about \$200,000 per year, mostly from NASA. Other government agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Sea Grant program also support work at Hunter. For additional information contact Prof. Keith Clarke, graduate advisor, at (212) 772-5223. For graduate application forms and information about Hunter call the Admissions Office at (212) 772-4487. Hunter is located at 695 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021.

**Editor's Note. This article is the second in a regular series on Remote Sensing Centers. These articles will summarize the orientation, specialties and current activities of remote sensing research laboratories, academic departments, public agencies and private firms in which geographers are involved. Persons wishing to prepare articles for the series are asked to contact James Merchant, RSSG Newsletter Editor, for guidelines.*

NACIS ANNUAL MEETING THEME: IMAGES OF THE EARTH



NACIS V, the fifth annual meeting of the North American Cartographic Society (NACIS), will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago-Skokie, Skokie, Illinois, November 10-13, 1985. The Society is an interdisciplinary organization whose goal is to promote communication, coordination, and cooperation among the producers, disseminators, curators, and users of cartographic information. The NACIS membership includes professionals from government, academic, and private organizations. NACIS V will be held in Chicago, which is perhaps the center of commercial cartography in the United States with firms such as Rand McNally, R.R. Donnelley & Sons,

Denoyer Geppert, Nystrom, Sidwell, Replogle Globes, and Chicago Aerial Survey calling it home.

The theme of NACIS V will be "Images of the Earth." Topics will include historical map information, cartographic images from remote sensing, maps and imagery for schools, geographic information systems, navigational mapping and charting, utility mapping, metropolitan and regional mapping, marketing cartographic products, map library technology, curriculum development in cartography, and future trends. Direct inquiries on NACIS V to: Ruth Anderson Rowles, NACIS Program Chairperson, Department of Geography, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0027; telephone 606-257-2931. For general information about the Society contact: NACIS, 143 Science Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706; telephone 608-262-6850.

— POSITION AVAILABLE —

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHER/CARTOGRAPHER
Murray State University
Department of Geosciences

Physical Geographer/Cartographer (Ph.D.) specializing in digital cartography and Geographic Information Systems. Experience in computer graphics and programming are required. The position requires the teaching of an introductory world geography course as well as graduate level courses and research in the specialty area. The Department of Geosciences is closely aligned with the Mid-America Remote Sensing Center (MARC), which houses a system dedicated to the digital processing of remotely sensed data.

The level of this appointment and the salary are dependent upon qualifications and experience. This TENURE TRACK appointment is for August 15, 1985. If an adequate pool of candidates is not received, the search will be extended to January 1986.

The letter of application MUST be accompanied by a current curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three (3) referees. Applications must be received by July 1, 1985. Apply to:

Dr. Neil V. Weber, Chair
Department of Geosciences
MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
Murray, KY 42071-3306

**NCLIS ISSUES REPORT ON
SATELLITE DATA ARCHIVING POLICY**

The published report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on the Information Policy Implications of Archiving Satellite Data has been released by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). The report addresses issues related to archiving of the nation's weather and land-sensing satellites, provides an overview of the needs of users of satellite data in both the public and private sectors, and summarizes the findings and recommendations of the panel.

As the federal agency responsible for providing policy and planning advice to the Executive and Legislative Branches in the library/information field, NCLIS assembled a panel of experts to consider the issues. The panel's report was presented to NCLIS in January 1984. The panel's recommendations had a clear impact on the archiving section of the "Land Remote Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984," Public Law 98-365, signed by the President on July 17, 1984, which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to transfer the Landsat system to the private sector. However, the information policy issues introduced by the report go far beyond the archiving issues discussed.

Single copies of the satellite data archiving report are available at no charge from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, General Services Administration Building, 7th and D Streets, S.W., Suite 3122, Washington, D.C. 20024.

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