

RSSG NEWSLETTER MARCH 1987

FROM THE CHAIR

First, the bad news...

You may, by now, have heard that the future of Landsat is, once again, threatened. It is discouraging, to say the least, that our representatives and public servants in Washington, DC still appear to have little understanding of the importance of the Landsat Program. I hope that many of you will act, as I have, to contact your congressional delegations to voice your views and concerns regarding this issue. You may also wish to contact or copy your correspondence to:

James C. Miller III
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

and

Malcolm Baldrige
Secretary of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building
Washington, DC 20230

And, now, for the good news...

A number of you have taken time, recently, to convey your enthusiasm for the initiatives proposed at the 1986 RSSG business meeting. It's been a pleasure to learn of your willingness to contribute to RSSG affairs. As a result, it appears that RSSG will be in a position to inaugurate (or reinstate) several programs during the 1988 (Phoenix) AAG meetings. These include:

1. Preparation of an annual reviewed publication;
2. Reinstitution of annual awards;
3. Organization of one or more annual sessions specifically for students;
4. Initiation of one or more annual sessions focused upon teaching remote sensing; and
5. Organization of one or more sessions sponsored jointly by RSSG and other specialty groups (e.g., GIS, water resources, biogeography).

I hope that those of you who are interested in these activities, or who might wish to offer other ideas, will contact me. We are making substantial progress, but there is plenty of need and opportunity for innovation and participation.

AGENDA, RSSG 1987 BUSINESS MEETING

The RSSG 1987 Business Meeting will be held in Portland on Wednesday, April 22 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Items currently on the agenda are outlined below:

1. Introductions and announcements - James Merchant
2. Report of 1987 Program Committee - Vincent Ambrosia
3. Treasurer's Report - Lennis Berlin
4. Committee Reports
 - Membership - Kamlesh Lulla
 - Awards - Jay Tullos
 - Publications - Donald Rundquist
 - Newsletter - Tina Cary
 - Remote Sensing Program Directory and Student Activities - John Jones
5. Plans for Future Annual Meetings - James Merchant
 - 1988 - Phoenix
 - 1989 and beyond
6. RSSG Contribution to Proposed Anthology Geography in America
7. Status of EOSAT Training Modules Proposal
8. Other Business

Persons wishing to amend the agenda are requested to contact James Merchant, as soon as possible:

Department of Geography
213 Lindley Hall
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
telephone (913) 864-5143.

STATE OF THE DISCIPLINE TO BE REVIEWED IN NEW BOOK

The RSSG has been asked to contribute a chapter to a proposed AAG-sponsored anthology entitled Geography in America. The book will be compiled and edited by G. L. Gaile (University of Colorado), and C. J. Willmott (University of Delaware). Each specialty group will contribute a chapter describing and evaluating the state of its subdisciplinary area, with an eye toward the challenges of the 1990's. Members of the specialty groups will be advised of this activity through publicity in the AAG Newsletter and through the newsletters of the specialty groups themselves. The specialty groups will be given publication specifications, including a limit on the number of pages. Manuscripts will be presented in plenary sessions of the specialty groups at the 1988 Annual Meeting of the AAG.

Professors Gaile and Willmott expect the volume to be in the 700-800 page range, consisting of approximately thirty-five chapters. If desired, the volume might also be divided into three paperback volumes entitled, Human Geography in America,

Physical Geography in America , and Regional and Methodological Geography in America.

Several important aspects of this effort will be discussed at a kickoff meeting of the specialty group chairs in Portland. During this meeting, Professors Gaile and Willmott will review the publication timetable and format as well as plans for plenary sessions at the 1988 meetings in Phoenix. RSSG members interested in contributing to this effort are asked to contact Jim Merchant as soon as possible. Ideas regarding 1) the nature of RSSG's chapter and 2) the selection of authors who will write the chapter on behalf of the specialty group are especially encouraged. This is item 6 on the agenda (see above). Contact James W. Merchant:

Department of Geography
213 Lindley Hall
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
telephone (913) 864-5143.

RSSG ELECTIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for two RSSG offices. The terms-of-office of Duane Nellis, one of our two Non-student Directors, and John Jones, our Student-Director, expire in May. The new Director will serve two years, the Student Director one year. Nominations for either office should be mailed by May, 1987 to James Merchant, Department of Geography, 213 Lindley Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045; telephone (913) 864-5143. Please be certain that nominees are willing to serve. A ballot will be included in the next issue of the RSSG Newsletter.

NHAP VIDEOTAPE

Educators and others interested in the National High Altitude Photography (NHAP) Program may be interested in a new videotape available through the EROS Data Center. The 11-minute long video, entitled "NHAP: The Sky's the Limit," provides an overview of the NHAP program and products. The EROS Data Center's Technical Information Section will copy it, at no charge, onto either a 3/4-inch Umatic or a 1/2-inch VHS blank tape that you provide. The 1/2-inch VHS tape will be in standard play mode only. The presentation is also available for loan at no cost. Send your blank tape or request for loan to

Technical Information Section
A/V Specialist
USGS EROS Data Center
Sioux Falls, SD 57198
Telephone: (605) 594-6175.

DIRECTORY OF REMOTE SENSING

Given the rapid expansion of remote sensing technologies and related educational activities, an update of the directory of Remote Sensing Programs is warranted. The Student-Director will soon be distributing a questionnaire regarding program hardware capabilities, course offerings, and staff listings.

FROM THE STUDENT-DIRECTOR

After consultation with the group officers, several goals have been established in order to increase student participation in the RSSG and visibility within the field of geography.

1) Student RSSG membership must be increased! Students are encouraged to enroll by indicating Remote Sensing as their specialty when joining the AAG and sending their name, address, and affiliation to:

Dr. Kamlesh P. Lulla
Dept. of Geography and Geology
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN 47809

2) Greater interaction between remote sensing specialists and geographers with other specialties is desired, as applications of remote sensing to problems posed in these specialties are recognized. To this end, as "up and coming geographers," students are strongly encouraged to initiate dialogue with students of other specialties - leading to joint research and perhaps joint specialty paper sessions, in the foreseeable future.

3) Student RSSG paper sessions would provide students with presentation experience and opportunity to demonstrate their skills. Planning for future student sessions is underway, but will require student interest and effort. Those interested in helping to organize a student session (particularly for the Phoenix annual meeting - but regional meetings also) are requested to contact John W. Jones,
Dept. of Geography
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0135
Telephone 402-472-3471, extension 253.

Finally, this is the first installment of what should become a regular student column in the newsletter. Any suggestions and/or contributions for future column content would be greatly appreciated. Please send any of the same to my address as indicated above.

Thank you.

John W. Jones
RSSG Student-Director

REMOTE SENSING CENTERS

This is a continuation of the series on Remote Sensing Centers. We would be happy to carry an item on your center; send a description to Tina Cary, Department of Environmental Resources, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. BITNET: 2059007@RUTVM1.

University of Colorado
Center for the Study of Earth from Space

The University of Colorado's new Center for the Study of Earth from Space (CSES), under the direction of Professor Alexander Goetz, is developing an excellent program in a wide range of areas. The interdisciplinary work that it sponsors includes scientists from geography, geology, engineering, anthropology, and numerous other academic disciplines and interdisciplinary organizations.

Current tasks include the development of a curriculum for student training, completion of the installation of the digital image analysis laboratory based on a network of Vax workstations, work on the center's contribution to research on university themes (for example, Earth Systems Science), and decisions about future hirings and the strengths new people should bring to the center. Questions of global habitability are likely to take precedence in some of the center's work. Clearly, geographers are important in this work, which has strong ties to the geography department's graduate level environmental science specialization and remote sensing courses.

For further information, contact Dr. Hazel Morrow-Jones, (303) 492-8642.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Material for the next newsletter should be sent to Tina Cary or Jeff Wasrud, Department of Environmental Resources, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, by the end of June. Brief items can be provided by telephone: 201-932-9632. Or, BITNET address is 2059007@RUTVM1.

Material for this newsletter was provided by Jim Merchant, John W. Jones, Hazel Morrow-Jones. Thanks!