

REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP  
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

2002-2003 REPORT

**I. Mission Statement (no change):**

The purpose of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group is to foster an understanding of remote sensing science. Emphasis is placed on developing a meaningful dialogue among geographers interested in understanding and applying remote sensing technology in research, instruction, public service, and private enterprise.

**II. 2001-2002 Dues:**

Regular Members: \$5.00; Students: \$1.00

**III. Board of Directors:**

Tim Warner, West Virginia University – Chair (2003-2005)  
Douglas Ramsey, Utah State University – Vice Chair (2003-2005)  
Michael Emch, Portland State University - Secretary / Treasurer (2003-2004)  
Joe Messina, Michigan State University – Director (2003-2005)  
Kelley Crews-Meyer, University of Texas – Director (2002-2004)  
John Althausen, Salem State College - Newsletter Editor (2003-2004)  
John Althausen, Salem State College - Web Site Editor (2003-2004)  
Theresa Burcsu, Indiana University - Student Director (2003-2004)

**IV. Accomplishments, Activities Scheduled, Future Plans and Directions**

**1. Student Awards**

Remote Sensing Specialty Group Student Honors Paper Competition

1st Place - certificate and \$500:

Bing Xu, University Of California, Berkeley

"A comparison of land use classification with multispectral and hyperspectral imagery: an exploratory analysis of EO-1 data"

2nd Place - certificate and \$250

Matthew E. Ramspott, University of Kansas, Lawrence

"Multi-scale remote sensing-based measurement of biophysical characteristics in northeast Kansas grasslands"

3rd Place - certificate and \$150

Le Wang, University Of California, Berkeley

"An object-based method to map mangroves and detect light gaps changes integrating the use of high-spatial resolution satellite images and aerial photos"

Runner up - Erdas Imagine Software 1 year student license  
Nicholas J. Matzke - University Of California, Santa Barbara  
"Geostatistical Analysis of DMSP and MODIS burn area estimation capabilities  
for preserves in Madagascar"

### RSSG, GISSG and CSG Joint Illustrated Paper Student Competition

1st Place - certificate and \$500  
Brian Wardlow, University of Kansas  
"An Agricultural Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) Mapping Protocol for the U.S.  
Central Great Plains Region"

2nd Place - certificate and \$250  
John Rogan, San Diego State University  
"A comparison of machine learning algorithms for land cover"

3rd Place - certificate and \$150  
Feng Qi, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
"Knowledge Discovery from Natural Resource Maps"

Masters Award - - certificate and \$150  
Matt D. Dunbar, University of Kansas  
"Quantifying, assessing and visualizing 60 years of forest cover change in  
northeastern Kansas"

Runner up - Erdas Imagine Software 1 year student license  
Kin M. Ma, Michigan State University  
"Classification methods comparison of Michigan Landsat images (1975-2000)  
and land use change analysis"

## **2. Business Meeting at 2003 AAG Conference in New Orleans**

The Business meeting of the specialty group was held in New Orleans, on Friday, March 7, 2003. Approximately 35 members of the RSSG attended. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tim Warner, because Chair Mark Jakubauskus was not able to attend the meeting, and had offered his resignation effective March 7. Elections were therefore held for a new Chair, Vice Chair, and an additional Director (Directors serve over-lapping terms). The minutes from the 2002 meeting were approved, and a group budget report was presented by the Secretary/Treasurer. The discussion at the business meeting focused on plans for the 2004 meeting in Philadelphia and efforts to stimulate the group, which had been relatively inactive lately. It was noted with pride that the current AAG President, M. Duane Nellis, is a member of the RSSG.

### **3. 2003 Meeting**

2003 RSSG Program Chair, Jane Read (Syracuse University), reported that there were 18 RSSG-sponsored paper sessions, 3 student paper sessions, 4 illustrated paper competitions, and 2 student paper competitions. Dr. Read also discussed some of the difficulties in getting people to submit their papers through the specialty group.

### **4. Web site & List serve**

The main method of communication in the group is the list serve (maintained by Jim Merchant, University of Nebraska) and the web site (maintained by John Althausen, Salem State University).

## **IV. Future Directions**

The RSSG has been relatively quiet recently, especially the last year. The current executive committee is exploring ways of revitalizing the group. We have started an email discussion with an ad hoc group of senior members of the group to share new ideas. In particular, we are discussing plans to move the web site to a new, dedicated URL, institute a new award, check the accuracy of the list serve, organize at least two special issues of remote sensing journals dedicated to the work of our specialty group, and organize special plenary sessions for the 2004 meeting.

## **V. Membership and Participation**

Over the last decade, membership has averaged about 500 members, and is currently at 485. At the end of 2002, the RSSG was the third largest specialty group, surpassed only by the Urban SG (737 members) and GIS SG (1182 members).

RSSG numbers (as provided by the AAG):

<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
492	412	475	495	522	518		498	482	504		485

## **VI. Financial Report**

The RSSG's bank account is kept with funds in the AAG Central Office. The financial statement (see below) was generated from the Central Office's accounting records.

As is clear from the above financial records, the group has a relatively stable financial status. Our only expenditure is student awards for the winners of our very successful student paper and poster competitions.

Association of American Geographers  
Specialty Groups Financial Report  
05/23/03

Remote Sensing Specialty Group

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
08/31/02	Balance Forward			6,812.13
09/09/02	Deposit remaining funds	29.16		6,841.29
02/24/03	Transfer from Cartography SG	370.00		7,211.29
02/28/03	Monika Moskal (Student Director)		45.23	7,166.06
02/28/03	Table at Awards Luncheon		380.00	6,786.06
03/06/03	Deposit check you sent	375.00		7,161.06
05/22/03	Bing Xu (Student Award)		500.00	6,661.06
05/22/03	Matthew Ramspott (Student Award)		250.00	6,411.06
05/22/03	Le Wang (Student Award)		150.00	6,261.06
05/22/03	Brian Wardlow (Student Award)		500.00	5,761.06
05/22/03	John Rogan (Student Award)		250.00	5,511.06
05/22/03	Feng Qi (Student Award)		150.00	5,361.06
05/22/03	Matt Dunbar (Student Award)		150.00	5,211.06
				<u>5,211.06</u>
05/23/03	Account Balance			<u>5,211.06</u>

**VII. Special Requests or Questions for Council**

None

Submitted by  
Timothy Warner, Chair