

# The RSSG Newsletter

Volume MMIII, Issue I

August 2003

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**AAG 2004 Annual Meeting  
Philadelphia, PA  
March 14 to 19, 2004**

## “Ruminations” from the Chair:

### An invitation to participate more fully in the RSSG...

Greetings from the Remote Sensing Specialty Group! Like all volunteer organizations, the effectiveness of the RSSG is entirely dependent on volunteer enthusiasm. I therefore want to encourage all RSSG members to participate in the group, especially those who have not participated in the past. There are many ways to participate; I will list only a few below.

**Check that your email address is correct on the RSSG listserv, and use the listserv!**

The RSSG has not published a newsletter since 2001, partly because the email listserv provides a more informal and rapid method of communication. In addition, email is a lot

cheaper than paper mail. However, the loss of the newsletter has also resulted in a reduction of the focus of our group, especially since our email addresses can change rapidly, and thus we can easily lose touch. Part of the rationale for sending this newsletter was therefore to provide a mechanism to find out if you are on the RSSG listserv. If you have not received an email from the listserv (rssg@calmit.unl.edu) lately, it probably means that your email address is not correctly listed. The listserv has recently been updated based on the most current information from the AAG, but it is possible that this information is not correct. If you did not recently hear from the listserv, please

contact Jim Merchant (jmerchan@unlnotes.unl.edu) to give him your correct email address. Thank you.

While on the topic of the listserv, I would like to thank Jim Merchant for maintaining the list. The listserv can potentially provide a very efficient method for communication, and I encourage all RSSG members to use it more. (Though I'm sure some will dread the thought of yet more email, wouldn't it be nice to have more email related to remote sensing, instead of Viagra?)

**Bookmark the RSSG Web Site!**

Did you know that the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Notes from the Editor:

John D. Althausen, Jr.

I welcome all of you to the August 2003 issue of the RSSG Newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to share the thoughts and direction of the group in a written, quarterly format. In recent times, the interest in the newsletter has declined

and it has been tough for me to put anything together that resembled the group's interests over my own.

I thank Tim Warner for trying to get the group to think as a group and thus share their interests with

postings to the listserv, web site, and newsletter.

As editor, I will do my best to keep the newsletter up-to-date and expressing the interests of the membership. With that said, here is Issue MMIII, Number I. Enjoy!

## “Ruminations” from the Chair: An invitation to participate more fully in the RSSG...

(Continued from page 1)

RSSG web site has moved to <http://www.aagrsg.org>? The specialty group has purchased this URL to provide a long-term home for the web site. This will reduce the burden on our web master, John Althausen of Salem State College. For a number of years John has not only maintained the web site, but has financed the hosting of it on his own personal space! In recent changes to the web site, John has added information on previous winners of the RSSG Outstanding Contributions Award. John has done an excellent job on the web site, and deserves the group's thanks.

### Plan to attend the RSSG sponsored events at the AAG Centennial in Philadelphia!

If you are able to attend the AAG Centennial conference, please attend the RSSG sponsored sessions. In

particular, the student paper and poster competitions are very worthwhile. Not surprisingly, the student presentations include some of the most exciting, innovative work at the conference. The students also deserve your support, and greatly appreciate the interest of the general RSSG membership.

The RSSG is hoping to sponsor some special events at the conference. There will be more information about these in the future, but in the meantime, if you have any ideas for organizing a special session, please contact the program organizer, Jerry Griffith of Univ. of Southern Mississippi ([griffith@usm.edu](mailto:griffith@usm.edu)).

In addition, please attend the RSSG business meeting, which is normally held one evening during the conference. This is your opportunity to influence the future of the group, and propose your own RSSG-sponsored

activities.

### Submit papers to RSSG-sponsored special issues of journals!

Look out for announcements on the RSSG listserv about opportunities to submit papers to special issues of journals guest-edited by RSSG members. In particular, Kelley Crews-Meyer (Univ. of Texas) is working on the possibility of a special issue in *Remote Sensing of Environment*.

### Let me know if you have any suggestions!

I would love to hear suggestions about how we can improve our specialty group.

Tim Warner  
RSSG Chair  
West Virginia University  
[Tim.Warner@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Tim.Warner@mail.wvu.edu)

## Program in the Spotlight: M.S. in Geography at Stennis Space Center

The University of Southern Mississippi has been selected to offer a graduate degree program in geography at NASA's John Stennis Space Center starting this fall. Administered by the Department of Geography, the degree focuses on advanced training and student research in geospatial applications, remote sensing, and geographic information systems (GIS).

The Geography Department at Southern Miss was selected as the best fit for students at Stennis after several universities in Mississippi and Louisiana presented their programs to the Center's Policy Board on Higher Education.

A 36-hour program, the program will offer all of its classes at Stennis, where the majority of students are Stennis employees seeking to continue and upgrade their education.

“USM is providing a one-of-a-kind opportunity for employees at Stennis, as well as for potential students living in southern Mississippi,” said Dr. Clifton Dixon, professor and chair of the geography department. “It is an excellent association when skilled employees can apply their work experience to graduate opportunities. The outcome will result in some of the best graduates in geospatial technologies anywhere in the U.S.”

“USM is providing a one-of-a-kind opportunity for employees at Stennis, as well as for potential students living in southern Mississippi.”

The graduate program will utilize faculty from Southern Miss' Geography Department, who will be at Stennis teaching, advising students, and assisting with graduate research. These types of graduate opportunities in geospatial applications, where private and government agencies link with state institutions, exist in only a few locations in the United States. Because

(Continued on page 3)

## Member in the Spotlight: Dr. Chor Pang Lo



Dr. C.P. Lo  
Professor  
Univ. of Georgia

Chor Pang (C.P.) Lo is a Professor of Geography at the University of Georgia. He obtained his B.A. in Geography and Geology, and M.A. in Population Geography both from the University of Hong Kong. His Ph.D. is in Photogrammetry and Urban Geography from the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Dr. Lo's research interest is in the application of remote sensing to urban analysis. He has pioneered the use of Landsat image data for land use and land cover mapping in China, in par-

ticular, the Hong Kong-Pearl River Delta Region (where he also has extensive field experience). His focus has always been the integration of biophysical and socio-economic data for a better understanding of the urban environment through the use of remote sensing, GIS, and census statistics.

He has conducted research on population estimation using aerial photography, Large Format Camera photography, Landsat MSS, Landsat TM, SPOT, DMSP-OLS, and Shuttle Imaging Radar images for the city of Hong Kong as well as settlements in China and the United States. His most recent research is the investigation of

the impact of land use and land cover change in Atlanta on air quality and air temperature, a project funded by NASA. He has also acquired research funding from the National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society, and American Philosophical Society.

He has published over 70 refereed research papers and four books. His *Applied Remote Sensing* text (Longman, 1986) has been used by many English-speaking universities in the world as a textbook in remote sensing in the 1980s and early 1990s before it went out-of-print. In 1996, it

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Program in the Spotlight: M.S. in Geography at Stennis Space Center

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of the proximity between USM and Stennis, students who participate in this program are given the opportunity to complete a graduate degree while working for some of the most prestigious geospatial contractors. Typical employers include Lockheed Martin, NASA, the Naval Oceanographic Office, and Boeing.

Hattiesburg Provost, Dr. Tim Hudson, said Southern Miss is committed to serving the higher education needs of Stennis. "We want to be a partner in advancing the capacity of that wonderful community of professionals," Hudson said.

He added: "As a geographer myself, I am delighted to see the growing use of contemporary geographical techniques to find solutions for problems and to create new opportunities for economic development."

This program will greatly assist Stennis in becoming a world-class center for remote sensing and GIS applications, said Dr. David Powe, chair of the NASA Stennis Space Center Policy Board on Higher Education. "The Center of Higher Learning and The University of Southern Mississippi have shown great initiative in bringing their Master's program in Geography to Stennis to meet the needs of our resident agencies," he said.

The collaboration between USM and Stennis will result not only in graduate degrees, but also in the further extension of sponsored research between the university and contractors at Stennis, as well as with NASA.

"The Center of Higher Learning and our participating universities strive to meet the educational needs of Stennis Space Center," said Dr. Peter Ranelli, Director of the Center of Higher Learning. "This new degree program is

a perfect example of this. We are very excited about working with USM to offer such a high-quality program."

For information concerning the program, applicants can contact either Dr. Dixon at the Department of Geography at USM (C.Dixon@usm.edu or 601-266-4729) or Mr. Keith Long at Stennis (Keith.Long@usm.edu or 228-688-7662).



**Stennis is...**

## Digital Geography Laboratory Salem State College

Salem State College's Digital Geography Lab (DGL) was officially established in 1983 and proclaimed by Governor Michael Dukakis of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1986. The DGL is considered, by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a Center of Educational Excellence and has received special funding for its development of geo-computing technology.

The DGL has three main functions:

**Education** - The DGL is a unique facility dedicated to geo-computing education. Students study such diverse subjects as:

- Image Processing
- Computer Cartography
- Geographic Information Systems
- Space-Time Analysis
- Terrain Modeling
- Spatial Database Analysis
- GIS Design and Management Techniques
- Surveying Technologies
- Additionally, students are trained in hardware and software design.

**Research** - The DGL provides state-of-the-art facilities for researchers around the world interested in geo-computing technology.

Research projects span a wide range of

interests, including:

- Expert Systems Applications in Cartography
- Environmental Modeling
- Error Analysis in GIS Processing

**Public Service** - The DGL provides, through the Salem State College's Geography Department, a wide variety of services to the public and private sector:

The DGL offers a wide range of internships and co-op educational opportunities. Internship and co-op education programs are available from a variety

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Online Remote Sensing Discussion Lists

The Internet provides several remote sensing e-mail lists that provide a forum for exchanging ideas, posting of questions (and hopefully receiving answers), and alerting subscribers to new issues about the technology. To the right are several lists that can be joined via the WWW. (Editor's Note: NASA's EO list is a pretty good one for students new to remote sensing and geospatial technologies.)

**RSSG List:** <https://calmit.unl.edu/mailman/listinfo/rssg>

**NASA's Earth Observatory:** <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/subscribe.php3>

**JPL News:** <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/signup/index.cfm>

**Leica's ERDAS Imagine List:** <http://support.erdas.com/lists/lists.html>

**ERMAPPER List:** <http://www.ermapper.com/technicl/ermapperl/index2.htm>

**ESRI Lists:** <http://support.esri.com/index.cfm?fa=forums.gateway>

## Member in the Spotlight: Dr. Chor Pang Lo

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was translated into Indonesian for use at universities in Indonesia.

His most recent book is *Concepts and Techniques of Geographic Information Systems* (co-authored with Dr. Albert Yeung), published by Prentice Hall in 2003. It has already been adopted by many universities in the United States

and Canada as a text for GIS courses.

In recognition of his research, Dr. Lo was awarded the William Owen Creative Research Award in the Social Sciences by the University of Georgia Research Foundation in 2001. In the same year, he was awarded the Outstanding Contributions Award and Medal from the RSSG. In 2002, he

was given the Research Honors Award by the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers.

Dr. Lo can be contacted at:

Department of Geography  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-2502  
E-mail: [chpanglo@uga.edu](mailto:chpanglo@uga.edu)

## OrbView-3 Achieves Its Orbit

### June 26, 2003

Orbital Imaging Corporation of Dulles, Virginia and St. Louis, MO announced that their OrbView-3 high-resolution earth imaging satellite was successfully launched into space onboard a Pegasus rocket provided by Orbital Sciences Corporation from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

Approximately 10 minutes after the rocket ignition, the OrbView-3 satellite separated as planned from the Pegasus rocket into its sun-synchronous, near-polar, circular orbit. Initial communications with the satellite were established from Orbital Imaging's ground terminal in Point Barrow, Alaska approximately 1 hour after

separation, with initial data indicating that the satellite's main systems are operating nominally as expected.

"This is an extraordinary day for ORBIMAGE," said Matt O'Connell, Orbital Imaging's CEO. "We now have a lot of work ahead of us, but the successful launch today of OrbView-3 marks the single most important milestone for the company over the past 18 months. Once the check out is completed and imagery starts flowing, we will begin fulfilling the large backlog we have secured with our U.S. customers and international partners."

The satellite's final orbit will be 470

km at an inclination of 97.29 degrees. OrbView-3's high-resolution camera will acquire one-meter resolution panchromatic (black and white) and four-meter resolution multispectral (color) imagery. With the ability to image virtually anywhere in the world within three days, Orbital Imaging has established a global network of distributor partners to produce and deliver basic imagery as well as high-resolution value-added products.

For More Information Contact:

Lisa Andrews

Orbital Imaging Corporation

Phone: (703) 480-7502

E-mail: [andrews.lisa@orbimage.com](mailto:andrews.lisa@orbimage.com)

## Digital Geography Laboratory

### Salem State College

*(Continued from page 4)*

of public and private agencies on both a paid and non-paid basis.

The DGL is recognized by the Fulbright Institution as a center for advanced study in the field of geo-computing for foreign scholars.

Additionally, scholars from our Federal Government and from industry study specific problems using the DGL.

For more information about the DGL, please contact:

Kym Pappathanasi  
DGL Systems Manager  
Salem State College  
Salem, MA 01970

Phone: (978) 542-6235

Fax: (978) 542-7113

E-mail: [kym@salemstate.edu](mailto:kym@salemstate.edu)



## Asteroids Dedicated to Columbia Crew

### NASA News Release

The final crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia was memorialized in the cosmos as seven asteroids orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter were named in their honor.

The Space Shuttle Columbia crew - Commander Rick Husband; pilot

William McCool; Mission Specialists Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark; and Israeli payload specialist Ilan Ramon, will have celestial memorials, easily found from Earth.

NASA News Release: 2003-108



# Call for RSSG Sponsored Papers & Sessions @ AAG-Philadelphia, 2004

Call for Participation in the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group Sessions  
100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the AAG  
March 14-19, 2004, Philadelphia, PA

## ***DEADLINES***

Abstracts and organized sessions: October 6, 2003  
Posters and illustrated posters: October 6, 2003

## ***GENERAL GUIDELINES***

Guidelines for new submission procedures can be found in the June 2003 AAG newsletter, or at the AAG website (<http://www.aag.org> & click on Annual Meeting-2004 Centennial Meeting-Call for Papers).

## ***SUBMISSION PROCEDURES***

The AAG has an on-line method of submitting abstracts. Simply register on-line at <http://www.aag.org>, by selecting Annual Meeting-2004 Centennial Meeting-Call for Papers, and follow the on-line instructions for the presentation type "Paper." After you have submitted your abstract, please email the RSSG Program Chair Jerry Griffith ([griffith@usm.edu](mailto:griffith@usm.edu)) your PIN (Presenter Identification Number) and abstract. The DEADLINE for submission of your PIN to the RSSG Program Chair is OCTOBER 6, 2003. Note that this is 3 days earlier than the date given on the conference web page – this allows adequate time for papers to be organized into appropriately themed sessions (if not already done so). Pay your registration fees directly to the AAG or through the online registration.

## ***STUDENT PAPER AND ILLUSTRATED PAPER COMPETITION***

Students interested in the Honors Competitions should follow the instructions given on the RSSG website: <http://www.aagrsg.org/studstff.html>. Note the deadline for entry into the student competitions is September 30, 2003.

## ***SESSION ORGANIZERS***

Registration of organized paper and illustrated paper sessions will also be conducted electronically at the AAG web site. Session organizers should navigate to Annual Meeting-2004 Centennial Meeting-Call for Papers, and then click on "Organized Sessions" for guidelines. Organizers are requested to e-mail a copy of the session title and participants list to Jerry Griffith ([griffith@usm.edu](mailto:griffith@usm.edu)).

## ***2004 PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON***

Jerry Griffith  
Department of Geography  
University of Southern Mississippi  
Box 5051  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5051  
Phone 601-266-5350  
E-mail [griffith@usm.edu](mailto:griffith@usm.edu)

# Proposed RSSG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG-Philadelphia, 2004

## Environmental Applications of High Resolution Remote Sensing

This session will focus on high resolution remote sensing, incorporating data from sensors such as IKONOS and QuickBird, as well as other high resolution satellite and airborne sensors. Papers focusing on environmental applications are invited.

If you are interested in participating in this session, please email Jane Read as soon as possible providing a tentative title and brief description of your paper. Participants will need to register online at the AAG Meeting web page, and send their Presenter Identification Number (PIN), title, and abstract to Jane no later than September 30, 2003.

Contact:  
Dr. Jane M. Read  
Department of Geography  
Syracuse University  
144 Eggers Hall  
Syracuse, NY 13244  
Phone: (315) 443-4279  
Fax: (315) 443-4227  
E-mail: jaread@maxwell.syr.edu

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## Remote Sensing and GIS For Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystem Analysis Under EPA EAGLE Research Programs

This session will serve as a forum for EAGLE researchers to communicate their current developments regarding the use and applications of remote sensing and GIS to develop environmental indicators for assessment of the estuarine and coastal ecosystems, particularly at landscape level. Aspects considered will include (but not limited to):

- Characterization, analysis, and modeling of changing estuarine landscape structure and patterns;

- Coastal wetland mapping and change detection;
- Pollutant load modeling and prediction at coastal watershed level;
- Remote sensing of coastal water bio-optical properties (chlorophyll, turbidity, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen...);
- Mapping of seagrass, littoral aquatic vegetation, and benthic habitats; and
- Linking conditions in upstream watersheds to downstream estuaries for integrated assessment of the estuarine ecosystems.

If you are interested in participating in this session, please email Xiaojun Yang or Luoheng Han as soon as possible providing a tentative title and brief description of your paper. Participants will need to register online at the AAG Meeting web page, and send their Presenter Identification Number (PIN), title, and abstract to Xiaojun or Luoheng no later than September 30, 2003.

Contact:  
Dr. Xiaojun Yang  
Department of Geography  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2190  
Phone: (850) 644-1796  
Fax: (850) 644-5913  
E-mail: yang12337@itc.nl

or

Dr. Luoheng Han  
Department of Geography  
University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0322  
Phone: (205) 348-4981  
Fax: (205) 348-2278  
E-mail: lhan@bama.ua.edu

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## Geovisualization Applications in Remote Sensing

One of the consequences of technological change is the capability to create realistic representations of the earth's natural and built environments. We are no longer limited to abstractions, such as symbols, color or texture, when representing data extracted from remotely sensed data or a GIS. The notions of visual realism certainly challenges the traditional thoughts about data presentation and exploration. This session will showcase the variety of ways and applications in which the users of remotely sensed data and GIS have begun to utilize geovisualization techniques in their work.

If you are interested in participating in this session, please email Matt Dunbar or Monika Moskal as soon as possible providing a tentative title and brief description of your paper. Participants will need to register online at the AAG Meeting web page, and send their Presenter Identification Number (PIN), title, and abstract to Matt or Monika no later than September 30, 2003.

Contact:  
Matt D. Dunbar  
Department of Geography/KARS  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas 66047  
Phone: (785) 864-1518  
E-mail: mdunbar@ku.edu

or

L. Monika Moskal  
Department of Geography, Geology  
and Planning  
Southwest Missouri State University  
Springfield, Missouri 65804  
Phone: (417) 836-4273  
E-mail: monikamoskal@smsu.edu

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# Proposed RSSG Sponsored Sessions @ AAG-Philadelphia, 2004

(Continued from page 7)

## Developing Remote Sensing and GIS Applications for Coastal Research

This session will look at how researchers are using geospatial technologies to study events and features occurring in the coastal zone. Topics to be considered, but not limited to, include:

- mapping of wetlands loss;
- simulation of tidal flushing;
- effect of tides on wetland mapping; and
- use of historical imagery data sets in understanding long-term conditions in our estuaries.

If you are interested in participating in this session, please email Tom Allen or John Althausen as soon as possible providing a tentative title and brief description of your paper. Participants will need to register online at the AAG Meeting web page, and send their Presenter Identification Number (PIN), title, and abstract to Tom or John no later than September 30, 2003.

Contact:

Dr. Thomas R. Allen  
Department of Pol. Sci. & Geography  
Old Dominion University  
Norfolk, VA 23529-0088  
Phone: (757) 683-3846  
E-mail: tallen@odu.edu

or

Dr. John D. Althausen, Jr.  
Department of Geography  
Salem State College  
Salem, MA 01970  
Phone: (978) 542-6487  
E-mail: jalthaus@salemstate.edu

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## Remote Sensing and GIS for Urban Analysis

Remote sensing and GIS, given their cost-effectiveness and technological soundness, are increasingly being used for development of useful sources of information and for decision making in support of a wide array of urban applications. This session will serve as a forum for researchers to communicate their current development regarding the use of remote sensing and GIS for urban analyses. Aspects considered will include, but not be limited to:

- Remotely sensed data requirements for urban landscape characterization;
- Digital image processing procedures for deriving accurate and consistent information on urban attributes from remotely sensed data;
- Analytical techniques and methodologies for deriving indicators of social and economic conditions that prevail within urban landscape;
- Urban landscape change monitoring and mapping case studies;
- Impacts of urbanization upon ecological and social environment;
- Urban landscape simulation and predictive modeling based on remotely sensed data; and
- Interface between remote sensing/GIS and urban geography.

If you are interested in participating in this session, please email Xiaojun Yang or Changshan Wu as soon as possible providing a tentative title and brief description of your paper. Participants will need to register online at the AAG Meeting web page, and send their Presenter Identification Number (PIN), title, and abstract to Xiaojun or Changshan no later than September 30, 2003.

Contact:

Dr. Xiaojun Yang  
Department of Geography  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA  
Phone: (850) 644-1796  
Fax: (850) 644-5913  
E-mail: yang12337@itc.nl

or

Dr. Changshan Wu  
Department of Geography  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee  
P.O. Box 413  
Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA  
Phone: (414) 229-4860  
Fax: (414) 229-3981  
E-mail: cswu@uwm.edu

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## General AAG Submission Guidelines

The Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers attracts more than 4,000 geographers and related professionals from the United States, Canada, and abroad. The Annual Meeting forum stimulates discussion about research, education, accomplishments, and developments in geography.

If you are interested in submitting a presentation please read the following guidelines carefully. To submit an abstract you must first register for the meeting. You may register online by logging it at <http://www.aag.org/AnnualMeetings/>, if you do not wish to register online you may fill out a printable form and mail it to the AAG. Once the AAG has received your form and it is processed, you will be able to submit your abstract online. No abstracts will be accepted that are not submitted online. If you have any questions about the AAG guidelines please direct them to Oscar Larson at [olarson@aag.org](mailto:olarson@aag.org).



# 2004 Student Honors Paper Competition

## Call for Papers

The Remote Sensing Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers is pleased to announce the 2004 Honors Competition for Student Papers on remote sensing topics to be presented at the Centennial Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

### Rules for Submission

Papers must be based upon original work relevant to the field of remote sensing and current remote sensing research. Papers must be based upon research completed as an undergraduate or graduate student, and must have been completed within the past academic year. Topics may include work derived from theses or dissertations, provided the paper has not been published or presented elsewhere, as well as other research projects. Papers must be written entirely by the applicant. However, thesis and dissertation advisors can be co-authors on the papers. Applicants must submit the usual short abstract and annual meeting participation fee as required by the AAG. Please refer to the AAG submission guidelines in the June 2003 AAG Newsletter for additional submission information. In order to be considered for the competition, applicants must provide an electronic copy of the submitted abstract and "Presenter Identification Number (PIN)" generated during online registration to the RSSG-Student Director via email by September 30, 2003. Students who are selected as finalists by the competition committee will be placed in a special AAG-RSSG Student Honors Paper Competition session(s) at the national meeting.

### Eligibility

The competition is open to students at all academic levels.

### Awards

A \$500 prize will be awarded to the first place paper. A \$250 prize will be awarded to the second place paper, and a \$100 prize will be awarded to the third

place paper. The Annual Banquet fee will be covered for all winners.

### Disbursement

Check, disbursed at the Awards Banquet at the AAG Annual Meeting, or via mail if the winner can not attend the Awards Banquet.

### Judging

Judging will take into account the academic level of the entrants. Both the written and the oral version of the papers will be judged by a committee including the current Academic and Student Director of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group.

### Guidelines for Papers

1. Five (5) hard copies of the completed paper must be submitted and received by the RSSG-Student Director by January 31, 2004 (digital copies will not be accepted).
2. Papers must not exceed 10 double-spaced typed or printed pages, exclusive of graphs, maps, tables, references, abstract, and title page. Please use only 12 point type.
3. The paper must begin with a title page giving the title, author's name, academic level of the author, date research was completed, and a complete mailing address.
4. A short abstract should appear on page 2. The abstract should define the problem, the methodology, and the results of the study in 500 words or less.
5. The body of the paper should begin on page 3. The paper as a whole should not exceed 24 pages.
6. The listing of references cited should immediately follow the text. List all references alphabetically using the following format:  
Jensen, J. R. 1996. Introductory digital image processing: a remote sensing perspective. 2nd Edition, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle River, New

Jersey.

7. Within the text, use a standard format for citation that includes the author's last name, the date of publication, and the page referenced, if applicable. For example:  
Jensen (1996) or (Jensen, 1996)
8. Figures and tables must be referenced in the text and should appear in order immediately following the references section. Both figures and tables must have captions appearing on them. For example:  
Figure 1. Maps used as referents.

### Submission of Abstracts and Papers

Deadline for Competition Abstracts is September 30, 2003. Note that this is 10 days earlier than the meeting-wide deadline. Abstracts are to be submitted through the AAG website (<http://www.aag.org>). Once you have submitted the abstract, send an electronic copy of the abstract, title, and "Presenter Identification Number (PIN)" to the RSSG-Student Director at: [tburcsu@indiana.edu](mailto:tburcsu@indiana.edu). Please indicate, in the subject line, that these materials are being submitted for the AAG-RSSG Student Honors Paper Competition. You will not be considered for the competition without submitting this information to the RSSG-Student Director - no late submissions, no exceptions.

### Contact:

Theresa Burcsu  
AAG-RSSG Student Director  
Ph.D. Program in Environmental Science  
1315 E. Tenth Street  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405  
Phone: (812) 855-2230  
Email: [tburcsu@indiana.edu](mailto:tburcsu@indiana.edu)

## 2003 Student Award Winners

### AAG-New Orleans

#### RSSG Student Honors Paper

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, "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 sixty 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."

## 2004 Illustrated Paper Student Competition

### Call for Papers

The Cartography, GIS, and Remote Sensing Specialty Groups are pleased to announce the 2004 Illustrated Paper Student Competition. The purpose of this award is to promote the presentation of illustrated papers by students at the AAG Annual Meeting. An illustrated paper is a poster accompanied by a short (3-5 minute) oral summary of the research problem, data, methods, and findings outlined in the poster.

Illustrated papers that advance any aspect of cartography, GIS, or remote sensing may be submitted. Illustrated papers must be based upon original work completed as an undergraduate or graduate student. Illustrated papers must be based upon research that has been completed within the past academic year and has not been published or presented elsewhere. Illustrated papers must be completed entirely by the applicant, however, thesis/dissertation advisors can be co-

authors on the papers. Students who are selected as finalists will be placed in a special illustrated paper session at the annual meeting.

All oral summaries will be given at the beginning of the illustrated paper session, before participants disperse to the poster boards around the room. Posters and oral summaries will be judged on potential contribution to any of the sponsoring fields of cartography, GIS, and remote sensing, originality, appropriate use of methodology, organization and composition, clarity, and appropriate use of graphics. Judging will take into account the academic level of the entrants.

#### Eligibility

The competition is open to students at all academic levels. Applicants must be a current member of at least one of the three sponsoring AAG specialty groups.

#### Awards

A \$500 prize will be awarded to the first place poster. A \$250 prize will be awarded to the second place poster. A \$100 prize will be awarded to the third place poster. Additionally, the committee may choose an outstanding undergraduate winner and award a prize of \$100. Admission to the Annual Banquet will be provided for all winners.

#### Disbursement

Check, disbursed at the Awards Banquet at the AAG Annual Meeting, or through mail if the winner can not attend the Awards Banquet.

#### Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the usual short abstract and annual meeting participation

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## 2004 Illustrated Paper Student Competition Call for Papers

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fee as required by the AAG. Please refer to the AAG submission guidelines in the June 2003 AAG Newsletter for additional submission information. In order to be considered for the competition, applicants must provide an electronic copy of the submitted abstract and "Presenter Identification Number (PIN)" generated during online registration to the RSSG-Student Director via email by September 30, 2003.

Please indicate in your e-mail subject line that submitted materials are for the AAG CSG/GIS/RSSG Student Illustrated Paper Competition. Applicants will not be considered for the competition without submitting this

information to the RSSG-Student Director, no late submissions, no exceptions. Students selected as finalists by the competition committee will be placed in a special AAG CSG/GISSG/RSSG Student Illustrated Paper Competition session(s) at the national meeting.

### Guidelines for Posters

You will have 10 minutes prior to the poster session to put up your poster on the display boards. Your name will be placed on the appropriate board, please use the board that's assigned to you. You may only use one board per poster. The maximum display area

available to you is 8 feet wide by 4 feet tall. Smaller posters or individual graphics are also acceptable. There will not be provisions for computer displays or other materials. You may want to make your business cards and handouts of your poster available. Thumb-tacks will be provided, but you can always bring your own just in case.

Contact:

Theresa Burcsu  
AAG-RSSG Student Director  
Ph.D. Program in Environmental Science  
1315 E. Tenth Street  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana 47405  
Phone: (812) 855-2230  
Email: [tburcsu@indiana.edu](mailto:tburcsu@indiana.edu)

## Remote Sensing Session at WGLD/EGLD Meeting RS of Coastal Waters and its Management

A session on "Remote Sensing of Coastal Waters and its Management" is planned to be held at the joint meeting of the Western Great Lakes/Eastern Great Lakes Divisions of the AAG at Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, Michigan) from October 16th to 18th, 2003. The session is being organized and chaired by Shivaji Prasad of Frostburg State University. There are five papers in

this session from the USGS and several University research organizations.

Due to growing interests on coastal resources and vital roles played by remote sensing technology in addressing management issues, I'm inviting interested researchers and educators to contribute their papers on the topic for the upcoming AAG

conference in Philadelphia. If I receive the names of 4-5 willing contributors, I will go ahead and plan for this session.

Contact:

Shivaji Prasad  
Department of Geography  
Frostburg State University  
Frostburg, Maryland 21532-1099  
Phone: (301) 687-4412  
E-mail: [spasad@frostburg.edu](mailto:spasad@frostburg.edu)

### Text in the Spotlight:

**Beyond Expectations-Building an American National Reconnaissance Capability: Recollections of the Pioneers and Founders of National Reconnaissance** by Robert A, McDonald

Published by ASPRS in cooperation with the Center for the Study of National Reconnaissance Office of Policy National Reconnaissance Office, this book includes recollections of 46 pioneers whose collective, professional contributions represent the very foundation for the discipline of remote

sensing and national reconnaissance. With the Cold War, the founders and pioneers were confronting threats and uncertainties that their generation was finding frightful and initially baffling. Many of the systems and strategies in use today derive from this important period.

Order your copy at <http://www.asprs.org> while supplies last. Click on ASPRS e-serve, then on List Products.

ASPRS Members \$35 (List Price: \$50)  
Stock #4567  
366 pp. Hardcover. 2002.  
ISBN 1-57083-065-7

## 2004 Outstanding Contributions Award Call for Nominations

The Honors Committee of the RSSG requests nominations from its members for the 2004 Outstanding Contributions Award in Remote Sensing. Sponsored by the RSSG since 1992, the Award seeks to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of remote sensing and to the geographic community through their remote sensing research, teaching, and/or outreach.

Announced at the RSSG Business Meeting and at the AAG Honors Luncheon in Philadelphia, the recipient(s) will be awarded a cast medal designed by the RSSG and inscribed as "Outstanding

Contributions" in Remote Sensing.

### Nominations should be sent to:

Stephen J. Walsh, Chairperson  
RSSG Honors Committee  
Department of Geography  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3220  
Phone: (919) 962-3867  
Fax: (919) 966-3014  
E-mail: swalsh@email.unc.edu

Nominations must include a letter that includes the name, affiliation, and contact information of the nominee, and describes his/her outstanding contributions in remote sensing research, teaching, and/or outreach. A

professional vita of the nominee also must be included. Nominations will be accepted through November 1, 2003. Nominations can be made only by a member of the RSSG of the Association of American Geographers, but nominees can come from the broader remote sensing community.

### RSSG Honors Committee

- Stephen Walsh, Chairperson, Univ. of N. Carolina
- Ling Bian, SUNY-Buffalo
- Daniel Brown, Univ. of Michigan
- Kelley Crews-Meyer, Univ. of Texas
- Dale Quattrochi, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

## Remembering Bob Aangeenbrug "Early Pioneer in the Use of Technology in Geography"



Bob Aangeenbrug, an early pioneer in the use of technology in Geography, a noted geographic scholar, and a long-time leader in the Association of American Geographers (AAG), died

May 15th 2003, in Lawrence, KS, his beloved "adopted" home.

Bob was born in Sassenheim, The Netherlands, October 9th 1935, and came to the United States as a child. He earned his B.S. from Central Connecticut State College in 1958, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin in 1963 and 1965.

Beginning his stellar academic career as a lecturer at Harvard Laboratory for Computer Graphics in the mid 1960s, Bob later became Assistant Professor at Boston University. In 1966, he made the move that helped shape the rest of his academic career, when he became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Kansas.

Kansas was the perfect fit for Bob, and he matured as a scholar of distinction, being promoted to Associate Professor

in 1970 and Professor in 1979.

Bob had an eclectic and productive career, publishing widely in professional journals, technological outlets and the popular presses in spite of his heavy service commitments. In his early years, he studied population geography, regional issues, and transportation, first locally in Kansas, and then in Latin America, an area that became one of his major research interests. Early in his career, he recognized the potential of information systems and graphic representations to the discipline, and by the mid 1970s he had established his reputation as a scholar in population dynamics and the use of the growing digital media. At the same time, his interests in health care were evolving, again incorporating the innovative use of geographic information systems.

Always an active promoter of the

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Remembering Bob Aangeenbrug “Early Pioneer in the Use of Technology in Geography”

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discipline of Geography, in 1984 Bob took over as Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers, serving until 1989. Building on the foundations of his predecessors, he took AAG into the digital world, emphasizing the exciting possibilities of technological advances.

From the AAG, Bob took on a new challenge as Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of South Florida, where it is no exaggeration to say he single-handedly saved the department. Although staffed by excellent faculty, the department was at a low point in productivity - a dangerous situation with administrators looking to save money in tight budget times. He tackled the task with enthusiasm, and gradually built a department of distinction, bringing in new young scholars while continuing to push the

development of GIS. He stepped down as chair in 1996, but remained a sounding board and source of knowledge for his successors.

Among Bob's outstanding professional and service contributions, most notable were his commitment to the development and use of information systems, and his dedication to developments in epidemiological and health research. He was an academic traditionalist, insisting on the highest standards from students, staff and faculty. He put in long hours and expected others to the same. He insisted that students understand the basics of geography before advancing to higher levels, and maintained an unfashionable concern for regional geography. As an applied geographer, he cared deeply about the relevance of the discipline, constantly seeking ways to better society with his research.

Bob Aangeenbrug was a complex and multi-faceted personality, and often a very private man. He set high standards for himself and others, and he rewarded those who responded. At the same time, he had a compassionate and caring side that was sometimes overlooked by those with whom he worked.

Bob retired from the University of South Florida in January 2002, and enjoyed his time in the company of his beloved wife, Mimi, and his family. He also remained very active within the Department of Geography, spending many hours a day at his computer or in discussions with colleagues and friends. Tragically, his much-deserved retirement was cut short; his Geography family will surely miss him.

*Excerpts appear from a submission by Graham A. Tobin (University of South Florida) to the AAG Newsletter.*

## Get Your “Free” to “Low-Cost” Landsat Data! Sites that you might find helpful...

**Arizona Regional Image Archive** - <http://aria.arizona.edu>

**Chesapeake Bay and Mid-Atlantic From Space** - <http://chesapeake.towson.edu/data/download/>

**EarthExplorer** - <http://edcns17.cr.usgs.gov/EarthExplorer/>

**Earth Science Applications Directorate (MrSID Image Server)** - <https://zulu.ssc.nasa.gov/mrsid/>

**EOS-Webster** - <http://eos-webster.sr.unh.edu/home.jsp>

**GeoGratis** - <http://geogratias.cgdi.gc.ca/clf/en>

**Global Land Cover Facility** - <http://glcf.umiacs.umd.edu/index.shtml>

**Landmap Project** - <http://landmap.ac.uk/index.html>

**Landsat 7 Data Sets** - <http://landsat.gsfc.nasa.gov/education/17downloads/>

**Landsat 7 Sample Data** - <http://edcdaac.usgs.gov/samples/samples.jsp>

**Landsat Project Web Site** - <http://landsat7.usgs.gov/index.php>

**Landsat4U, LLC.** - <http://www.landsat4u.com/Merchant/index.html>

**Landsat.Org** - <http://www.landsat.org/>

**Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium** - <http://www.epa.gov/mrlc/>

**OhioView** - <http://www.ohioview.org>

**Pan-American Center for Earth and Environmental Studies** - [http://paces.geo.utep.edu/remote\\_sensing.shtml](http://paces.geo.utep.edu/remote_sensing.shtml)

**Texas View** - <http://www.texasview.org>

**Tropical Rain Forest Information Center** - <http://www.bsrsi.msu.edu/trfic/>

**W. M. Keck Earth Sciences and Mining Research Information Center** - <http://keck.library.unr.edu/data/landsat/TM7.htm>

**West Virginia View** - <http://www.wvview.org>

Salem State College  
Department of Geography  
352 Lafayette Street, MH 326F  
Salem, MA 01970



*We're on the Web*

*<http://www.aagrssg.org>*

## It's Your Newsletter!

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. If possible please submit contributions by e-mail in MS Word or RTF format.

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