

AAG REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP

Issue Number 4

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I. Nominations of 1982-1983 Remote Sensing Specialty Group Officers

According to the by-laws of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group, the membership at large has the opportunity to nominate and vote on the Remote Sensing Specialty Group officers. Gary Johnson, Ph.D., Manager of the Applications Services group at the EROS Data Center will preside as the Chairperson of the Specialty Group for the 1982-83 year. The following offices become vacant at the National Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in April, 1982.

***Vice Chairperson:** This person is elected to a two year term. The first year is served as a director and the second as the Chairman of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group.

***Director/Treasurer:** This person is elected to a two year term. Responsibilities include compiling minutes of all relevant RSSG meetings, financial bookkeeping, assisting in the publication of the Newsletter, and correspondence with AAG headquarters.

***Non-Student Director:** This person is elected to a two year term. One of the two non-student director offices will be vacant. This person supervises several committees and provides counsel to the chairman.

***Student Director:** This is a one year position and should be filled by a graduate student specializing in some aspect of remote sensing of the environment.

Please take the time to nominate one person for each of the positions and mail your recommendations by February 12, 1982, to:

Stephen J. Walsh, Ph.D.
Chairman, Nominations Committee
Department of Geography
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74708

Nominations: Vice Chairperson _____
Director/Treasurer _____
Non-Student Director _____
Student Director _____

The Nominations Committee will review the qualifications of the persons nominated and prepare a slate of qualified persons for each of the vacant positions. This slate will be published in the March, 1982, RSSG Newsletter. The membership at large will then vote on those nominated. The results of the voting will be presented at the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Business Meeting held in April, 1982, at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers.

II. Call for Proposals:

Based on conversations with Pat McWethy of the Association of American Geographers, Barry Moriarty of the National Science Foundation, and Barry Bishop of the National Geographic Society, it appears that there is substantial interest in collecting a number of proposals to be funded by either NSF or NGS. The National Science Foundation has approximately \$750,000, for geographic research to be allocated prior to June, 1982. The National Geographic Society also has resources for geographers conducting remote sensing research.

The Remote Sensing Specialty Group, therefore, solicits remote sensing research proposals from geographers. These proposals will be sent directly to Pat McWethy, Executive Director of the Association of American Geographers, who will then forward all the proposals to both the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society.

Care must be exercised in the development of the proposals. They should not be sent through the normal Contracts and Grants Office of the University. Rather, the proposal should reflect the cost of faculty and students acting as consultants who will be funded as consultants through the Association of American Geographers. The proposals should try to stay under \$25,000 and should request very little equipment. The proposal should summarize all the direct costs necessary to successfully conduct the research. The Association of American Geographers will then levy a 33 percent overhead to administer the grant. In the event it is necessary to hire students where university fringe benefits are involved, the AAG will be in touch with the business office of the University to make special budgetary arrangements.

The proposals should be sent to John R. Jensen, Department of Geography, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208, by March 15, 1982. NSF has a maximum limit of 15 pages per proposal, so please contact Dr. Jensen to acquire the necessary format and forms. All proposals will be sent to Pat McWethy on March 20, 1982 for final packaging and submission to the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society.

III. Activities of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, April, 1982, San Antonio, Texas

A. Remote Sensing Field Trip in the San Antonio Region

A full day field trip will be jointly sponsored by the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) and the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group. The field trip will begin Tuesday, April 27 at 8:00 am in front of the convention hotel and return approximately 4:00 pm. The group will journey through the Texas Hill Country northwest of San Antonio and return home via the Coastal Plain/Black land prairie. Numerous stops will be made to examine and correlate TNRIS maps and remote sensing imagery of physical and cultural features. The event promises to be of special interest to remote sensing specialists who enjoy field work. The hosts of the field trip will be Charles Palmer, a remote sensing specialist with the TNRIS and Raymond Neck, a biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The cost for the all day field trip is \$24.00. Be sure to enroll using the preregistration material provided in the January, 1982 issue of the AAG Newsletter.

B. Remote Sensing Digital Image Processing Workshop

A workshop on digital image processing will be held on Saturday and Sunday, the 24 and 25 of April from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. An informal evening session will also be held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Saturday evening. The fundamentals of digital image processing will be introduced in a four hour lecture session on Saturday. Hands-on digital image processing by participants will then be conducted during the afternoon and evening hours on Saturday and during the entire day on Sunday. Dwight Egbert of Egbert Scientific Software will conduct the short course using the IMPAC image processing system. Workshop handouts, computer resources, and other materials will be provided. A maximum of 25 persons may enroll at \$35.00 per person. Be sure to enroll using the preregistration material presented in the January, 1982, AAG Newsletter. The workshop is sponsored by the Remote Sensing Specialty Group.

C. Paper Session

The Remote Sensing Specialty Group is sponsoring a special paper session at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers. The session is titled "Remote Sensing of Earth Resources" with the following papers to be presented:

*Leslie A. Morrissey, Technicolor Graphic Services, "Forest Resource Discrimination from Landsat MSS and Topographic Data."

*John L. Place, U.S. Geological Survey, "Detecting Forested Wetlands Using Synthetic Aperture Radar."

*Leonard Gaydos, U.S. Geological Survey, "Mapping Arctic Alaska with Landsat Digital Data."

*John R. Jensen, University of South Carolina, "Analysis of Improved Spectral and Spatial Resolution Data for Urban Applications."

*James W. Merchant, University of Kansas, "Spatial Complexity in Computer Classified Landsat MSS Data."

The session is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 26, from 1:00 to 2:40 pm. Other remote sensing papers will also be presented at the meeting. This session is the result of the call for papers which went out to the membership in the August, 1981, issue of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter.

IV. Remote Sensing Specialty Group Committees

In the August, 1981, issue of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter, the membership of several steering committees was reported. These committees are identifying guidelines so that the RSSG will be a viable entity which speaks for and represents geographer remote sensing specialists. The following sections identify initial efforts by the committees.

A. Nominations Committee

This committee chaired by Steven Walsh of Oklahoma State University will evaluate the results of the nomination procedure (see section I of this newsletter). Effective leadership is a necessity, consequently, this committee's role is significant to the continued health of the specialty group.

B. Goals Committee

Neil Webber of Murray State University, Sam Goward of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, and Vince Ambrosia of Technicolor Graphics provided the following objectives which the Specialty Group should pursue. Obviously, your critique of these objectives is important. Please send suggestions to Neil Webber, Mid-Atlantic Remote Sensing Center, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

1. To encourage and promote remote sensing as an academic area of study within geography --
 - a. provide assistance, guidance, curricula, etc. to departments, developing or expanding remote sensing programs;
 - b. assist in the recruitment and placement of remote sensing oriented geographers;
 - c. produce a resource paper assessing the role and scope of remote sensing in geographic education;
 - d. support, organize, and conduct workshops, seminars, etc. promoting the continuing education of professional geographers in remote sensing; and
 - e. circulate a regularly scheduled newsletter keeping interested persons abreast of trends in departments promoting remote sensing education.

2. To serve as a support group for remote sensing researchers and the larger "user" community
 - a. assist in the review and screening of professional papers and articles dealing with remote sensing;
 - b. promote multiple (high quality) paper sessions at national and regional meetings dealing with remote sensing;
 - c. promote the establishment of specialty group members on editorial boards of all relevant professional publication outlets in the field, e.g. the Annals;
 - d. promote the establishment of specialty group members on appropriate granting and funding agency review panels;
 - e. communicate grant/contract opportunities to appropriate people in the discipline;
 - f. communicate unique experience/capability of specialty group members and cooperating institutions to appropriate individuals within the "user" community; and
 - g. circulate a regularly scheduled newsletter keeping interested individuals abreast of current trends in remote sensing research and development.

3. To assist the central administration of the A.A.G. in taking aggressive and positive action in support of the remote sensing contingency in the A.A.G.
 - a. establish remote sensing special interest steering committees in each of the A.A.G. Regions;
 - b. promote the election/appointment of specialty group members to key administrative positions at the National and Regional level of the A.A.G.;
 - c. provide a highly visible point of contact among the central administration of the A.A.G., the Regional administration of the A.A.G., the Specialty Group, and government agencies, business, and industry;
 - d. to establish remote sensing panel discussions, forums, etc. at all national and regional meetings of the A.A.G.; and
 - e. circulate a regularly scheduled newsletter keeping interested individuals abreast of activities, events, and current trends in remote sensing in Geography.

C. Honors Committee

Ray Lougeay of the State University College and Norman Thrower of UCLA drafted initial guidelines for Remote Sensing Specialty Group awards. The directors of the specialty group endorse this effort and hope that the membership will actively nominate geographers who have made meritorious contributions to the field of remote sensing. Note that all our nominations must be reviewed by the AAG Council. Please send nominations to Ray Lougeay, State University College, Genesco, New York, 14454.

1. It should be standard procedure for the Honors Committee to solicit nominations from the membership via appeal in the AAG Newsletter or Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter.
2. Eligibility for Honors:
 - a. Among remote sensing specialists resident in the United States, only AAG members should be eligible for consideration.
 - b. Remote Sensing Specialists resident outside of the United States shall be eligible for consideration.
 - c. In rare cases, persons from other disciplines or professions --who have made singular contributions to the furtherance of remote sensing and geography goals--shall be eligible for consideration.
 - d. Posthumous awards should be given only in the instance when a nominee dies subsequent to the official nomination.
 - e. Recipients of previous honors shall be eligible for a second award, but the second award should be given for achievements since the first award.
 - f. The Honors Committee should maintain maximum freedom and flexibility in the selection of nominees vis-a-vis age, sex, type of contribution, etc.
3. The Honors Committee will be expected to present to the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Directors

- a. Nominee's name.
 - b. The Honors Citation.
 - c. Nominee's vita.
 - d. A few paragraphs providing the rationale for the award.
4. The following sequence of Honors Committee activities is recommended in order to assure careful deliberations and maximum participation by all committee members.
- a. First Year. Honors Committee appointed by AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group Directors.
 - b. Automatic invitation for nominations to appear in AAG Newsletter or the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter.
 - c. Receipt of nominations. Request for and receipt of additional materials on nominees.
 - d. Second Year. Honors Committee of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group meets during Annual AAG Meetings. Awardees will be selected at this time. Assignments will be made within the committee for the development of each nominee's "packet" (i.e., citation, vita, etc.) which is to be presented to Council. These materials should be developed as soon as possible.
 - e. Presentation of nominees to the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Directors.
 - f. April, end of third year. Presentation of Honors at Annual Meeting.
5. In the event that it becomes early apparent that a member of the Honors Committee is not going to perform his or her duties, the Chairperson should request that a person resign from the Committee--allowing the appointment of the next person on the voting ladder.
6. The Honors citations, awards, and prizes presented by the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group shall, in some cases, be made without financial supplement. When awards are made, the funds for these awards will come from the sale of Remote Sensing Specialty Group Publications, or monies donated by corporations or private individuals.

D. Publications Committee

This committee is pursuing topics related to (1) improving the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter, and (2) the development of Remote Sensing Specialty Group sponsored publications. Please send your suggestions to M. Leonard Bryan, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 4800 Oak Grove Drive (Mail #183-701), Pasadena, California. This topic will be addressed at the annual business meeting in San Antonio.