

RSSG Newsletter, July 1987

From the Chair:

JOHN JENSEN NAMED PRINCIPAL AUTHOR FOR
RSSG CONTRIBUTION TO Geography in America

I am pleased to report that Dr. John R. Jensen (University of South Carolina) has agreed to serve as principal author for the RSSG chapter in the forthcoming book, Geography in America. As noted in the last issue of the RSSG Newsletter, this book will be comprised of chapters prepared by each AAG specialty group. The chapters will describe and evaluate the state-of-the-art in each group's subdisciplinary area. Manuscripts will be presented in plenary sessions at the 1988 AAG Annual Meeting. The anthology is to be published in August 1988.

I would like to thank John, on behalf of the officers and membership, for consenting to take on this responsibility. I urge you to provide him with your suggestions and assistance.

On other matters . . . Thanks are extended to Vince Ambrosia (NASA/Ames Research Center) for his efforts in organizing RSSG activities in Portland. Our events were extraordinarily successful.

Finally, Landsat and EOSAT remain in political jeopardy. It is not too late to alert your congressional representatives about your concerns. Copies of correspondence should be mailed to Senator Ernest Hollings, Senator Warren Rudman, Rep. Neal Smith, Rep. Ralph Regula, James Miller (Director, OMB), Malcolm Baldrige (Secretary of Commerce), and Debra Williams (EOSAT).

PHOENIX

Vince Ambrosia (NASA/Ames Research Center) has agreed to serve, again, as RSSG Program Chair for the 1988 Phoenix meetings. Persons interested in presenting papers, organizing sessions, or assisting in other ways should contact Vince (NASA/Ames Research Center, MS 424-4, Moffett Field, CA 94035; 415-694-6184). Remember, all RSSG materials must be submitted to AAG by September 25, 1987, and therefore should be sent to Vince about the first week of September so he can meet the deadline.

The distinguished guest policy will apply for the 1988 meeting in Phoenix. Each Specialty Group in good standing will be permitted to invite three distinguished guests to the Phoenix meeting for a nominal registration fee of \$15 each. These guests must be non-U.S., non-Canadian Geographers or non-geographers. Names and affiliations of these guests must be submitted to the AAG Office by September 16. We will then be able to provide the Phoenix Program Chair, Leland R. Pederson (Geography, Harvill Box 2, U/Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721) a list of Specialty Group guests who will be permitted to register for \$15.

The Group Participation form appears in the May AAG Newsletter. If you need more forms, write to Rose Roberts at the AAG Office, 1710 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

If you are organizing a workshop, you also need a Workshop Organization Form.

Kam Lulla (Indiana State University) will organize the RSSG-sponsored poster session. Send your abstract, prepared according to instructions in the May 1987 AAG Newsletter, to Kam Lulla, Department of Geography and Geology, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809, by the first week of September.

C.P. Lo (University of Georgia) and John Watkins (University of Kentucky) are organizing a special session on "Applications of Remote Sensing to Population Studies" for the 84th Annual Meeting of the AAG in Phoenix in 1988. It is proposed that this should be a joint meeting between the Remote Sensing and Population Geography Specialty Groups. Members who are interested in presenting a paper in this session are welcome and should contact C.P. Lo, Department of Geography, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30692, telephone (404) 542-2330.

Duane Nellis (Kansas State University) and Ray Lougeay (SUNY-Geneseo) are organizing at least two sessions on teaching remote sensing. They welcome contributions for either paper or poster presentations. They plan to focus the paper session(s) on how people incorporate their research findings in their teaching, and the poster session(s) on strategies for teaching remote sensing. In front of each poster, there will be a table where example exercises and workbooks could be displayed. Contact either Duane or Ray; abstracts should be sent to them by 15 September at the latest:

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

Ray Lougeay
Dept. of Geography
State University College
Geneseo, NY 14454
(716) 245-5238

AWARDS FOR THE 1988 PHOENIX ANNUAL MEETING

* * * STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION * * *

The Remote Sensing Specialty Group of the AAG announces a competitive paper session for students at next year's Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. All geography students are invited to submit manuscripts dealing with some aspect of remote sensing. Authors of the four best papers, as selected by the Awards Committee of the RSSG, will be invited to present their work at the RSSG Special Session for student competition at the national meeting. The author of the best paper presentation will receive an engraved plaque in recognition of his/her accomplishment. The Awards Committee is also attempting to arrange for a cash award to accompany this prize.

To be eligible for the RSSG student competition, submit completed, typed manuscripts to Jay Tullos, 16109 Penn Manor Land, Bowie, MD 20716 before September 15, 1987, following the guidelines below. Also, to be eligible for AAG paper session participation students MUST send Vince Ambrosia the appropriate materials detailed in the CALL FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, AAG NEWSLETTER, MAY, 1987 before September 15.

GUIDELINES: Manuscripts must be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of 8.5 x 11 inch white bond paper. Pages must be numbered consecutively and should have 1.5 inch margins. Every manuscript must have a title page containing the manuscript title, author's name and mailing address. Three clear copies of the manuscript should be supplied. These will not be returned. Each manuscript must be accompanied by a copy of the abstract sent to Vince Ambrosia.

*** * * POSTER COMPETITION * * ***

The RSSG of the AAG announces a competitive poster session for the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. All members are eligible to prepare posters addressing some aspect of remote sensing. Posters will be judged by the Awards Committee of the RSSG, and the winner will receive an engraved plaque in recognition of his/her accomplishment.

To be eligible for this competition, three copies of an abstract summarizing your poster presentation must be submitted before September 15, 1987 to Jay Tullos, 16109 Penn Manor Land, Bowie, MD 20716. Also, to be eligible for AAG poster session participation, individuals MUST send Kam Lulla the appropriate material detailed in the CALL FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, AAG NEWSLETTER, MAY 1987, the first week of September. Please inform Kam Lulla if you are entering the poster competition.

******THE AWARDS COMMITTEE OF THE RSSG NEEDS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS****
****INTERESTED? PLEASE CONTACT JAY TULLOS OR JIM MERCHANT******

NACIS ANNUAL MEETING 1987

The North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) will hold its seventh annual meeting at the Radisson Inn and Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia, October 28-31, 1987. The theme of this year's meeting is "New Dimensions in Cartography." The program will include such topics as cartographic activities in Latin America, legal aspects (copyright and liabilities), cartographic education, cartographic laboratories, historical cartography, microcomputer mapping programs, children's mapping, geographic information systems, navigation systems, atlases, and map library technology. There will be a mixture of contributed papers, keynote speakers, invited papers, panel discussions, poster displays, exhibits, workshops, and field trips. The deadline for early conference registration was July 1, 1987. For program and registration information contact John D. Sutherland, Map Collection, Science Library, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, phone (404) 542-0690.

NOTICE: SABBATICAL LEAVE TEACHING/RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

The Remote Sensing Laboratory of the Asian Institute of Technology is inviting expressions of interest in one or more four- to eight-month teaching/research positions open for January 1988 and September 1988.

The research facilities of the RSL include a digital analysis laboratory with two workstations for the IBM mainframe 3083 using DIMAPS software, two workstations for a GOULD 32/6780 mini using ATLAS software, two workstations for ERDAS (version 7.2 software) and a MICRO-VIPS system. All systems have image processing/GIS capability, and are supported by scanning, tape drive, disk drive, digitizing, and keyboard input devices. Outputs are to screen, ink-jet plotters, Versatek printers and other hard copy devices, as well as to an Optronics Colorwrite. The digital analysis laboratory is complemented by a complete visual analysis laboratory and an photographic processing laboratory capable of producing 30" x 40" color prints. Applicants should be able to teach some, but not necessarily all, of the following subject areas: EM radiation physics, sensor systems (aerial and space platforms), visual analysis (including photo-interpretation), digital image processing, geographic information systems, data collection project design and management, and applications in the assessment and monitoring of natural resources, engineering, environmental protection, and regional planning projects.

Round-trip air travel and related expenses will be paid for by AIT, in addition to free accommodation at the AIT Center Hotel.

Interested persons should submit a C.V., a brief description of the research they wish to carry out, and the period of availability. Further details about AIT, the academic programs, and the research facilities will be supplied upon request. Please write to:

Dr. John E. Lukens, Manager
Remote Sensing Laboratory
Asian Institute of Technology
G.P.O. Box 2754, Bangkok 10501
THAILAND

Telephone: Bangkok 529-0100, ext. 2758
Telex: 84276 TH
Cable: AIT-BANGKOK
Facsimile: (66-2) 529-0374

NOTICE OF POSSIBLE POSITION

What: Research Scientist, Space Shuttle Earth Observation Project
Level: Ph.D., GS-11/13, (\$27,172 - 50,346/yr) negotiable
When: October 1987
US CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED

The Space Shuttle Earth Observations Project (SSEOP) is primarily engaged in directing the acquisition of Earth photography using the Space Shuttle as a platform. During the first 24 Space Shuttle missions (1981-86) approximately 35,000 Earth photographs were taken.

SSEOP scientists select photography sites for missions; train astronauts; select cameras/films/lenses/etc.; maintain Earth observations communications through Mission Control during the missions; brief/debrief crews; perform cataloging & indexing of mission films; maintain scientific communications with

scientific networks (academic, Smithsonian, DOD, NASA, and NOAA) and other SSEOP Science Investigators (Geology, Volcanology, Oceanography, Meteorology, and Environment); and conduct scientific research on the meaning of the photography and ancillary remotely sensed data taken during missions.

Future SSEOP interests and goals are in cross-sensor and cross-platform data correlations (MSS, TM, SPOT, SIR-x, AVHRR, etc.); designing new spaceborne instrument packages for Earth remote sensing; establishment of baseline mapping; digitization-rectification of analog & digital photography; GIS overlaying; and growth and guidance of Shuttle and Space Station remote-sensing payloads.

Appropriate computer, image-processing, and photographic support are in place at NASA-JSC to support these scientific functions. Future ancillary data will be received via a MIDDs-2 station (McIDAS), and both analog & digital data are routinely taken from GOES, GMS, METEOSAT, and NOAA-n AVHRR during missions.

Candidates are expected to conduct both directed and independent scientific research in their particular discipline. A past publications record will be beneficial. Computer literacy is expected. An appreciation for the complexities of manned spaceflight mission planning is beneficial. Teaching experience is beneficial in implementing astronaut training sequences and mission/site-specific briefings.

Disciplinary areas of current scientists in and associated with SSEOP include surficial geology, geomorphology, volcanology, physical oceanography, meteorology, climatology, environmental affairs & trends, and various areas of physical geography.

Resumes may be sent to

Dr. Charles A. Wood, Project Manager
SSEOP, Code SN4
NASA-JSC
Houston, Texas 77058

RSSG 1987 BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The annual business meeting of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group (RSSG) was held April 22, 1987 in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by James Merchant (University of Kansas). Proceedings of the meeting are summarized below:

1986 - 1987 Accomplishments

The annual report of the RSSG was submitted to the Executive Director of the AAG in May 1986, and the RSSG subsequently received a rebate from the AAG. The RSSG currently has 384 registered members, although our mailing list stood at approximately 700 persons in late May 1987.

The RSSG sponsored six activities at the 1987 Portland meetings. Vincent Ambrosia (NASA/Ames Research Center) served as Program Chair. There were three paper sessions, one poster session, and two workshops sponsored by the RSSG.

Fifteen papers were presented in three paper sessions: 1) Biophysical Remote Sensing I, organized by Samuel N. Goward (University of Maryland-College Park) and Vince Ambrosia (TGS

Technology, Inc. and NASA-Ames Research Center) and chaired by Samuel N. Goward; 2) Biophysical Remote Sensing II, organized by Vince Ambrosia and Samuel N. Goward, and chaired by Vince Ambrosia; and 3) Digital Image Processing, Classification Algorithms, and GIS Developments, organized by Jeff Wasrud (Rutgers University) and Vince Ambrosia and chaired by Benjamin F. Richason, Jr. (Carroll College).

Duane Nellis (Kansas State University) organized and chaired a poster session on Environmental Remote Sensing in which ten poster papers were presented.

Tina Cary, Rutgers University, presented a 1 1/2 day workshop on "Digital Processing of Remotely Sensed Data," assisted by Shamim Naim (University of Wisconsin-Waukesha), Shelby Jessup (Rutgers University) and James Merchant (University of Kansas). Eight persons enrolled for the course. ERDAS, Inc., Atlanta, GA, provided equipment and software for the workshop.

Lee Williams (University of Oklahoma) presented a 1 1/2 day workshop on "Signal Analysis and Advanced Digital Image Processing," designed to provide advanced training in digital data processing for remote sensing specialists. A capacity attendance of fifteen persons enrolled in the workshop.

Future Plans and Directions

Decisions were made during the 1987 Portland business meeting about the 1988 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, the 1989 meeting in Baltimore, Awards, Publications, Teaching Materials, and the RSSG contribution to the anthology Geography in America.

Phoenix meeting: Vince Ambrosia (NASA/Ames Research Center) will be the RSSG Program Chair. Activities proposed include three workshops (repeat of both workshops from Portland, see above, and a one-day workshop on Field Radiometry), and seven paper sessions -- 1) Teaching Remote Sensing; 2) Student Awards Session; 3) Remote Sensing Applications in Population Studies; 4) Remote Sensing of Arid Environments; 5) Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems; 6) Special Session on the SPOT Satellite; 7) Biogeographic Applications of Remote Sensing.

Baltimore meeting: The RSSG Chair will initiate planning for the 1989 Annual Meeting and will attempt to organize a planning committee and identify a program chair. Volunteers are invited to contact James Merchant, University of Kansas.

Awards: RSSG will re-institute best student paper and best poster (student or non-student) awards at the Phoenix AAG Annual Meeting. Earl J. Tullos will provide leadership. Mr. Tullos will also be investigating the possibility of future corporate-sponsored cash awards. The RSSG Awards Committee will explore possible additional awards (including an award for Meritorious Contributions to Remote Sensing) during the coming year. A proposal will be presented at the 1988 RSSG business meeting. Consideration is also being given to an RSSG-sponsored nomination of a geographer for the 1989 William T. Pecora award.

Publications: "The Guide to Remote Sensing in Geography Departments," compiled and edited by Student Directors, Steven Dicks (1983-84) and Kevin Turcotte (1984-85) is being updated in 1987. It will provide a comprehensive guide to remote sensing within geography departments. The guide will be offered in both

paper copy and on microfiche. John W. Jones (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) is coordinating the current survey. Approximately 24 departments have responded.

The RSSG Newsletter will continue to be published 3-4 times per year, by the faculty and staff of the Cook College Remote Sensing Center, Rutgers University. RSSG will seek corporate sponsorship of the Newsletter in order to help offset publication costs. All articles, mailing list changes and other correspondence should be sent to

Dr. Tina K. Cary
Department of Environmental Resources
Cook College
P.O. Box 231
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
telephone: 201 932-9634
bitnet: 2059007@RUTVM1

The RSSG, during 1986-87 began to investigate the possibility of initiating an annual refereed publication. This matter was proposed during the RSSG 1986 business meeting by Donald Rundquist (University of Nebraska-Lincoln). The proposal was discussed at the Portland business meeting, but no action was taken. It was decided to request that a committee chaired by Donald Rundquist (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) draft a proposal and guidelines for discussion at the Phoenix annual RSSG business meeting. If endorsed by the membership, a publication could be initiated at the Baltimore 1989 annual meeting.

Teaching Materials: The high cost of digital remotely sensed data has been an issue of concern to RSSG members for over a decade. This issue is of particular concern to those who teach remote sensing. The suggestion was made during the Twin Cities meeting that the two commercial operators of earth observing satellites (EOSAT and SPOT Image Corporation) might entertain a proposal from RSSG to develop teaching modules. James Merchant, University of Kansas, RSSG Chair, explored this potential project with EOSAT during Fall 1986 and received favorable reaction. EOSAT has, however, been experiencing financial difficulty and will not proceed until such difficulties are resolved. Initial, more recent, contacts with SPOT have also been promising. RSSG will pursue these proposals during the coming year.

RSSG contribution to the anthology Geography in America: The RSSG has been asked to contribute a chapter to a proposed AAG-sponsored anthology to be compiled and edited by G. L. Gaile (University of Colorado) and C. J. Willmott (University of Delaware). The decision was that the RSSG Officers will solicit nominations from the membership for a chapter editor, will then select an editor, and will subsequently request the editor to identify co-authors.

Financial Report

Lennis Berlin (U.S. Geological Survey), RSSG Treasurer, submitted the 1986-87 Financial Statement. Because of other obligations, Dr. Berlin will be unable to complete his term of office. Therefore, in accordance with RSSG by-Laws, the RSSG officers have asked M. Duane Nellis (Kansas State University) to assume the office of RSSG Treasurer until May 1988.

AAG REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP
FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the period 6/19/86 - 3/22/87

	Debit	Credit
Previous Balance		\$ 644.64
Newsletter Publishing	\$59.00	
Digital Processing Workshop 1986 (AAG Rebate)		200.40
Dues Received as of 3/22/86		50.00
Service Charge for Member's Returned Check	5.00	
Member's Payment to Offset Service Charge		5.00
AAG Rebate for 1987		221.25
Interest on Savings Account, 1986		18.76
Totals	\$64.00	\$1,140.05
Balance		\$1,076.05

Signed and Submitted by G. Lennis Berlin, Treasurer

***Note from the Newsletter editor: Since 22 March, expenses of \$750 incurred in publishing the newsletter have been reimbursed, so that the balance is approximately \$300; a minimum of \$500 is required for the account to avoid service charges. Also, of course, additional funds are needed to continue the newsletter.

Officers

<p>Chairperson(May 86-April 88) James W. Merchant Department of Geography University of Kansas Lawrence, KS 66045 (913) 864-5143</p>	<p>Vice Chairperson (May86-April 88) Kamlesh P. Lulla Dept. of Geography & Geology Indiana State University Terre Haute, IN 47809 (812) 237-2252</p>
<p>Sec'y-Treas (May 87-Apr 88) M. Duane Nellis Department of Geography Dickens Hall Kansas State University Manhattan, KS 66506 (913) 532-6727</p>	<p>Director (May 86-April 88) Tina K. Cary Dept of Env Resources Cook College P.O. Box 231 New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (201) 932-9634</p>
<p>Director (June 87-Apr 89) Vacant</p>	<p>Student Director (June 87-Apr 88) Vacant</p>

Elections are currently being held to fill vacant offices. See ballot elsewhere in this newsletter.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks to C.P. Lo, Ellen White, Duane Nellis, Jay Tullos, and Jim Merchant for their contributions of items for this newsletter.

RSSG ELECTIONS

Nominations for the offices of Director and Student Director were solicited from the RSSG membership in March. The names of the nominees are listed on the accompanying ballot. Please record your choice for each office, sign your name, and return the ballot by September 21, 1987 to James W. Merchant, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, 213 Lindley Hall, Lawrence, KS 66045-2121.

Note that only current members of RSSG, as identified by the red dot on the address label, are eligible to vote. Election results will be announced in the next RSSG Newsletter.

--BALLOT--

AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group

DIRECTOR (vote for one)

_____ Thomas R. Loveland, EROS Data Center

_____ Michael R. Helfert, NASA/Johnson Space Center

_____ (write-in)

STUDENT DIRECTOR (vote for one)

_____ Lloyd P. Queen, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

_____ (write-in)

Your signature: _____

IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?
SUPPORT RSSG

The present mailing list has 800 names, of which approximately 1/2 are members in good standing who will continue to receive the newsletter. IF your address label has a red quarter-inch dot stamped on it, you are OK for the rest of this year. If not, your name will be deleted from the mailing list unless you send in RSSG membership dues.

Please support our specialty group by sending your \$5.00 membership dues now. Make check payable to the RSSG, and send to
M. Duane Nellis, RSSG Treasurer
Department of Geography - Dickens Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

\$ _____ 1987 membership dues

\$ _____ Donation to the RSSG

Total \$ _____

Thank You for Your Support.

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