

## **Annual Report for 4/01 – 5/02**

### **Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group The Association of American Geographers**

Our mission is to foster and maintain interaction, cooperation and community among individuals interested in the analysis of geo-referenced data, modeling of spatio-temporal processes and the use of analytical and computational techniques in solving geographic problems. The specialty group promotes the scientific study of physical, environmental and socioeconomic geography and the development, use and teaching of analytical cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, spatial statistical, mathematical and computational techniques for spatial analysis.

### **National Meeting**

The annual business meeting of the specialty group was held at the AAG in Los Angeles on March 20, 2002 at 7 pm. There were over 20 people in attendance. SAM was active and visible at the national meeting, sponsoring or co-sponsoring 11 sessions (42 papers). The third annual plenary talk was given by Art Getis titled “Invention as the Mother of Necessity: A Brief History of Quantitative Methods in Geography”. Following the plenary was a reception sponsored by *Geographical Analysis*. Both functions were well attended.

### **Membership Summary and Finances**

Treasurer Sweeney reported that group finances were as follows:

Current balance: <forthcoming>

Chair Murray reported that following membership numbers:

2002 – 177 (unofficial)  
2001 – 261  
2000 – 204  
1999 – 219  
1998 – 244  
1997 – 285  
1996 – 339  
1995 – 309

### **Elections**

Tom Cova (Univ. of Utah) was nominated and elected as Board member replacing David Lemberg. Jared Aldstadt (graduate student San Diego State Univ.) was nominated and elected as Student Representative member replacing Rachel Franklin. Congratulations to both Tom and Jared.

Chair – Alan Murray (term expires 2003)

Vice Chair/Treasurer – Stuart Sweeney (term expires 2004)

Board member – David Wong (term expires 2003)

Board member – Jonathan Comer (term expires 2004)

Board member – Tom Cova (term expires 2005)

Student representative - Jared Aldstadt (term expires 2005)

## **Student Paper Competition**

The SAM sponsored student paper competition was again held. The winner this year was Kai Chi Leung (graduate student in the Department of Geography at Clark University) for his paper titled “Incorporation of spatial configuration in land allocation: a threshold approach”.

## **AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honor**

Arthur Getis (San Diego State University), a long-time member of the SAM specialty group (formerly Mathematical Models and Quantitative Methods) and former Chair as well (perhaps other offices as well), was awarded an AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honor. This was long overdue recognition for his scholarship in spatial analysis and geographic information science. In particular, his work on spatial pattern analysis, developed statistics of spatial association, and directions for integration of spatial analytical methods in GIS have been fundamental to the evolution of geography. Congratulations Art!

## **AAG in New Orleans**

Next year’s annual meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA on March 4-8, 2003. Members should give some thought to suggestions for a plenary speaker and organized sessions. Suggestions should be passed along to Alan Murray (murray.308@osu.edu).

## **SAM Web Site**

Much of the above information is included on the SAM web page at [http://geog-www.sbs.ohio-state.edu/sam\\_aag/](http://geog-www.sbs.ohio-state.edu/sam_aag/).

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Murray  
July 30, 2002