

2009 Annual Report

Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Specialty Group

The Association of American Geographers

I. Mission Statement

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.

II. Membership Dues

Regular: \$3

Student: \$1

III. Board

Chair, Ningchuan Xiao, The Ohio State University, term expires 2012

Vice-chair/treasurer, Ed Zolnik, George Mason University, term expires 2010

Board members

Joni Downs, University of South Florida, term expires 2010

Robert Gilmore Pontius Jr., Clark University, term expires 2011

Eric Delmelle, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, term expires 2012

Student representative

Michael Widener, State University of New York at Buffalo, term expires 2011

IV. Accomplishments, Activities, Future Plans and Directions

Activities Scheduled

There were several SAM-related activities held at the recent AAG meeting in Las Vegas, NV, 2009. SAM was quite visible, sponsoring or co-sponsoring over twenty-two sessions. In conjunction with the journal, *Geographical Analysis*, SAM sponsored a plenary session and Denise Pumain delivered the plenary talk.

Future Plans and Directions

SAM will continue to foster the development and application of spatial analytic methodologies per its mission statement, which includes reaching out to other specialty groups to develop cross-cutting thematic paper sessions. SAM will continue to encourage graduate (and undergraduate) students to participate in AAG meetings, through various forms including student paper competitions. SAM will also seek collaboration with other AAG specialty groups in organizing annual meeting events.

Business Meeting at the AAG Conference in Las Vegas

Three board members were elected at the SAM business meeting. Ningchuan Xiao (The Ohio State University) was elected as the chair, replacing Mark Horner (Florida State University). SAM welcomes Eric Delmelle (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), who replaces outgoing board member Darla Munroe (The Ohio State University). SAM also welcomes Joni Downs (University of South Florida), who will fill the seat vacated by the election of Ningchuan Xiao as the chair. SAM thanks all departing board members for their service.

Student Paper Awards

SAM made the effort to organize student paper competition for the 2009 AAG annual meeting in Las Vegas. Two graduate students and one undergraduate student submitted their papers and the board decided to give travel awards to the three participants.

Newsletter information

SAM continues to publish a newsletter highlighting its activities. Newsletters can be found at <http://www.geography.osu.edu/sam/>.

SAM thanks Fang Qiu (University of Texas at Dallas) for his work in compiling the newsletter.

Plans for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Session development is under way for the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. In conjunction with the journal, *Geographical Analysis*, SAM will again sponsor a plenary session. Peter Nijkamp (Free University, the Netherlands) has accepted our invitation to give the plenary talk.

SAM has devoted much effort in encouraging students to submit their work to SAM student paper competitions. For the 2010 annual meeting, we have received five submissions that will form a full session. SAM is currently working on a panel of judges who will review the papers and observe the presentations.

V. Membership and Participation

Membership numbers:

2009 – 804 (Oct. 15, AAG SG Website, 350 student members, 454 non-student members)
2008 – 722 (Apr. 8 AAG SG Website: 327 student members, 395 non-student members)
2007 – 708 (Mar. 1, AAG SG Website: 327 student members, 381 non-student members)
2006 – 750 (Feb 28, AAG SG Website: 413 student members, 337 non-student members)
2005 – 716 (according to the AAG mailing list)
2004 – 200
2003 – 427 (unofficial)
2002 – 366
2001 – 261
2000 – 204
1999 – 219
1998 – 244
1997 – 285

1996 – 339
1995 – 309

VI. Financial Information

Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
8/31/08	<i>Balance forward</i>			<i>\$ 2,926.45</i>
9/30/08	Dues collected for September 2008	122.00		3,048.45
10/31/08	Dues collected for October 2008	272.00		3,320.45
11/30/08	Dues collected for November 2008	157.00		3,477.45
12/31/08	Dues collected for December 2008	107.00		3,584.45
1/31/09	Dues collected for January 2009	125.00		3,709.45
2/28/09	Dues collected for February 2009	164.00		3,873.45
3/31/09	Dues collected for March 2009	111.00		3,984.45
4/30/09	Dues collected for April 2009	50.00		4,034.45
5/27/09	Robinson - Travel Award		(300.00)	3,734.45
5/27/09	Alpern - travel Award		(300.00)	3,434.45
5/27/09	Jiang - Travel Award		(300.00)	3,134.45
5/31/09	Dues collected for May 2009	55.00		3,189.45
6/30/09	Dues collected for June 2009	103.00		3,292.45
7/31/09	Dues collected for July 2009	36.00		3,328.45
8/31/09	Dues collected for August 2009	50.00		3,378.45
8/31/09	Balance			<u>\$ 3,378.45</u>

Note: The balance on 8/31/2009 is \$3,378.45 that compares favorably to a \$2,926.45 balance about this time last year (8/31/2008).

VII. Suggestions for Council

SAM would strongly encourage the council to shorten length of the identifier automatically inserted at the beginning of email subject lines sent from AAG's community communication tool. Currently, each email begins with an identifier such as "Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group Discussion - " that makes the real part of the subject line often invisible in many email clients such as Thunderbird or Outlook Express. A shorter version of this (e.g., [AAG-SAM]) will greatly increase the effectiveness of our email communications.

Respectfully submitted,

Ningchuan Xiao
October 15, 2009