

2010 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, Fang Qiu, University of Texas at Dallas, term expires 2013

Board members

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

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

Changjoo Kim, University of Cincinnati, term expires 2013

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 Washington, D.C. 2010. SAM was quite visible, sponsoring or co-sponsoring 58 sessions, which is significantly higher than the previous numbers. In conjunction with the journal of *Geographical Analysis*, SAM sponsored a plenary session and Peter Nijkamp delivered the plenary talk on “Behaviour of humans and behaviour of models: a cognitive perspective.”

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 in AAG annual meetings. SAM will continue to encourage graduate (and undergraduate) students to participate in AAG meetings, through various forms including student paper competitions. SAM also will update the web page to

include more student-oriented information such as past winners of student paper competitions and an FAQ for future student paper competitions.

Business Meeting at the AAG Conference in Las Vegas

Two board members were elected at the SAM business meeting in Washington. Fang Qiu (University of Texas at Dallas) was elected as the vice chair, replacing Ed Zolnik, and Changjoo Kim (University of Cincinnati) was elected as a regular board member, replacing Joni Downs. SAM thanks both Ed and Joni for their services.

Student Paper Awards

The SAM Board, particularly under the leadership of former vice chair Ed Zolnik, organized a student paper competition session that was scheduled on Thursday, April 15, 2010. Six student papers entered the competition and the SAM Board decided to award Lina Cao (University of Utah) the first prize, and Xingjian Liu (Texas State University - San Marcos) and Woo Jang (University of Georgia) the second prize of graduate student awards. For the first time, SAM awarded a first place undergraduate student prize to Katherine Johnson (Stanford University).

To honor John Odland, the first chair of the Mathematical Modeling & Quantitative Methods Specialty Group (the predecessor of today's SAM), we voted in the business meeting to name the first place of future student paper competitions the John Odland Student Paper Award. This will take effect in the 2011 student paper competition.

Newsletter information

SAM continues to publish a newsletter highlighting its activities. The current frequency is three issues a year, and the three issues are typically published in summer (a post-AAG issue), fall (a back-to-school issue), and Winter/Spring (a pre-AAG issue). All newsletters can be found at <http://www.geography.osu.edu/sam/>.

SAM thanks Fang Qiu (University of Texas at Dallas) and Eric Delmelle (University of North Carolina at Charlotte) for their hard work in editing the newsletter.

Plans for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.

Many session developments will be under way for the Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. In conjunction with the journal of *Geographical Analysis*, SAM will again sponsor a plenary session. The call for nominations will be circulated in summer and the selection will be made in late summer or early autumn.

SAM has devoted much effort in encouraging students to submit their work to SAM student paper competitions. We will continue our effort to recruit students (graduate and undergraduate) to participate in the competition.

V. Membership and Participation

SAM currently (as of April 13, 2010) has 869 members, among which 381 are student members and 488 are non-student members. Appendix A includes detailed information regarding the trend of SAM membership since 1995.

VI. Financial Information

On 8/31/2010, SAM has a balance of \$3,314.44, which is comparable to a \$3,378.45 balance about this time last year (8/31/2009). It should be noted this balance includes July and August dues (income) and the spent on the 2010 student paper competition awards and the registration fee for the SAM plenary speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Ningchuan Xiao
October 15, 2010

Appendix A. SAM Membership in Recent Years

Year	Number of members			Access Date	Source
	Total	Students	Non-students		
2010	869	381	488	April 13	AAG SG Website
2009	804	350	454	October 15	AAG SG Website
2008	722	327	395	April 8	AAG SG Website
2007	708	327	381	March 1	AAG SG Website
2006	750	413	337	February 28	AAG SG Website
2005	716				AAG mailing list
2004	200				
2003	427				Unofficial
2002	366				
2001	261				
2000	204				
1999	219				
1998	244				
1997	285				
1996	339				
1995	309				