



The Association of American Geographers Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group Newsletter

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FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings SAM members.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on upcoming SAM activities to be held at the 2008 AAG meeting in Boston.

SAM will be sponsoring several paper sessions at the 2008 meeting. Calls for papers have been posted to the SAM website on topics including geographic complexity, climate change, urban spatial structure, and time geography, among many others. Several sessions will be co-sponsored with other specialty groups. Please see the SAM website for full details on planned sessions to be held at the 2008 meeting (<http://www.fsu.edu/~geog/sam/>). Of course, there is still time to organize SAM-sponsored sessions. Please e-mail me at mhorner@fsu.edu if you would like to learn more about SAM sponsorship.



Once again, we will hold student paper competitions (graduate and undergraduate), as well as an emerging scholar competition. Full details of these contests are posted in this newsletter. I would encourage SAM members to disseminate information regarding these competitions to their respective institutions.

Lastly, at the SAM business meeting in Boston (2008), we will be electing two new board members. Steven Manson's term ends in 2008, as does Scott Bridwell's (student representative). I will ask for nominations after the AAG abstract deadline has passed. SAM folks (faculty and students) interested in becoming a board member should feel free to contact me to learn more about what these positions involve.

Best wishes,

Mark W. Horner
Department of Geography
Florida State University

NOTEWORTHY

Fahui Wang joins Louisiana State University as a professor in August 2007; his new email is fwang@lsu.edu.

Alan Murray and Tony Grubestic have published a new book: *Critical Infrastructure: Reliability and Vulnerability* (Berlin: Springer, 2007).

The AAG International Geographic Information Fund (IGIF) offers three types of awards: Student Travel Grants, Graduate Research Awards, and Student Paper Awards. These awards are intended to support full-time students who are currently registered in an undergraduate or graduate degree program at a duly accredited and recognized college, university, or other educational institution within the United States, and who are working in any area of spatial analysis or geographic information science or systems (SA/GISS). For complete information visit www.aag.org/Grantsawards/IGIF.cfm.

NEWS

The U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, on June 14 ruled against special interest groups seeking to strictly limit government contracting for mapping and GIS activities. In the matter of *MAPPS, et al., v. United States of America*, Judge T.S. Ellis III issued a summary judgment in favor of the government based on the MAPPS plaintiffs' failure to "establish that an injury in fact was suffered by the individual surveyors or their firms." The AAG has also established a Mapping and GIS Community Defense Fund to help defray the cost of legal fees and educational activities related to these issues (see www.aag.org).

SAM SG sessions at the AAG Meeting

In keeping with past successes at the annual meetings, SAM is sponsoring or cosponsoring sessions at the AAG Meetings, April 15-19, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts. The following are the session titles and organizers of sessions with official SAM sponsorship as of October 9, 2007. Others may join these over time.

Commuting, Land Use, and Spatial Structure.
Sponsored by the SAM and the Transportation.

Geography Specialty Groups. Mark W. Horner, Florida State University (mhorner@fsu.edu) and Ed Zolnik, George Mason University (ezolnik@gmu.edu)

Time Geography: Emerging Theoretical Developments, Implementations, and Applications. Cosponsored by the Transportation Geography, GIS, and the SAM Specialty Groups. Hongbo Yu, Oklahoma State University (hongbo.yu@okstate.edu); Shih-Lung Shaw, The University of Tennessee (sshaw@utk.edu).

Spatial Data Mining and Exploratory Data Analysis. Cosponsored by Geographic Information Science, Spatial Analysis and Modeling, and Cartography Specialty Groups. Jeremy Mennis, Temple University (jmennis@temple.edu); Diansheng Guo, University of South Carolina (guod@sc.edu).

Emergency Evacuation Experience and Planning. Sponsored by SAM Specialty Group. Ron Hagelman, Texas State University (rhagelman@txstate.edu).

Perspectives on Geographic Complexity. Cosponsored by SAM and GIS AAG Specialty Groups, and GIS Research group of the UK Royal Geographical Society. Li An, San Diego State University (lan@mail.sdsu.edu); Alison Heppenstall, University of Leeds (A.J.Heppenstall@leeds.ac.uk); Dawn Parker, George Mason University (dparker3@gmu.edu); Moira Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago (mzellner@uic.edu).

Urban growth and its impact on the environment. Sponsored by SAM. Chandana Mitra, University of Georgia (chandana@uga.edu).

Remote Sensing of Terrestrial Carbon Fluxes and Vegetation Biophysical Properties. Jingfeng Xiao, Purdue University.

Exploring "New" Geographies of Mobility and Accessibility: Theory, Modelling, and Policy Implications. Cosponsored by the Transport Geography and SAM Specialty Groups. Ron Buliung, University of Toronto at Mississauga (ron.buliung@utoronto.ca); Joe Weber, University of Alabama (jweber2@bama.ua.edu).

JOBS

ILLINOIS, DEKALB. Northern Illinois University, Department of Geography. The Department of Geography invites applications for a full-time tenure track faculty position at the rank of Associate or Assistant Professor starting August 2008. PhD in geography or related field required by time of appointment. We seek an analytical urban/economic geographer with research and teaching expertise from among: location analysis, transportation, economic geography, urban geography, and urban/regional analysis. Skills in modern spatial analysis required. A background in urban, regional, transportation or health planning is desired. Consideration will be given to candidates with the ability to contribute to regional/multicultural geography. The successful candidate is expected to seek external funding in support of scholarship. A substantial record of external grantsmanship and refereed publication is necessary for appointment at the advanced rank. The department has a robust student population and exceptional facilities to support research and learning in urban/economic geography, GIS and mapping science, spatial environmental science (biogeography, climatology, hydrology, soils), and applied atmospheric science. Preference will be given to persons who can demonstrate a willingness to collaborate on departmental initiatives in urban/economic systems, human impacts on the environment, environmental risk, climate change, and homeland security. Apply: Submit a letter of application identifying teaching and research interests; a curriculum vita; publications or examples of writing; evidence of grantsmanship; evidence of teaching quality; and arrange to have three letters of reference sent to: Search Committee, Department of Geography, Davis Hall 118, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, 60115-2854. <http://www.niu.edu/geog>. Complete applications must be received by November 15, 2007.

IOWA, IOWA CITY. The Department of Geography at The University of Iowa invites applications for a tenure track position beginning in August 2008 that will be filled at the Assistant Professor level with research and teaching interests in environmental geography. The department's focus is on human-environment relationships with a significant role for geographic information science. This hire will be the fourth in a series of faculty

additions in this area. We seek a person with research and teaching strengths in areas such as land use/land cover change, environmental economics, water quality, environmental health, environmental justice, and GIScience. A strong commitment to undergraduate and graduate education is expected, as are credible plans for establishing a record of productive research. A PhD in geography or a closely related field is required. Applicants should submit a letter describing their research and teaching interests, evidence of teaching effectiveness, and a current c.v. They should also arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent. Screening of applications will begin on October 15, 2007. The Department and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are strongly committed to diversity and maintain ties to programs on campus that provide a supportive environment for women and minorities, such as the Women in Science and Engineering program. The strategic plans of the University, College, and Department reflect this commitment to diversity. For additional information about the department see: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~geog/>. Apply: Professor George P. Malanson, Department of Geography, 316 Jessup Hall, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316. Telephone: 319/335-0540, Fax: 319/335-2725, email: george-malanson@uiowa.edu.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA. Temple University. The Department of Geography and Urban Studies invites applications for a tenure-track, Assistant Professor position in Spatial Analysis, with an emphasis on urban issues, for the 2008-2009 academic year. The specific subfield will be open but should fit generally within one of the following substantive urban foci of the Department: globalization, sustainability, or social justice. Teaching responsibilities will include undergraduate and graduate level courses in geographic information science, as well as in the successful candidate's research specialty. The expected teaching load for the position is two courses per semester. Strong quantitative skills in spatial statistics, geographic information systems, and/or computational modeling are required. The successful applicant must have a commitment to excellence in teaching and research, and should show promise of significant scholarship. Temple University provides ample opportunity for interdisciplinary and collaborative research in spatial analysis across the social and health sciences through affiliations with University research centers

and institutes. A PhD is required at the time of appointment. We will review completed applications beginning December 1, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. Apply: please forward a letter of application with research and teaching statements, CV, copies of selected reprints (no more than three), and full contact information for three referees to: Dr. Jeremy Mennis, Search Committee Chair, Department of Geography & Urban Studies, Temple University, 309 Gladfelter Hall, 1115 W. Berks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122. Temple University is an equal opportunity, equal access, affirmative action employer, committed to achieving a diverse community. For information visit the Department on the web at www.temple.edu/gus or email Dr. Mennis at jmennis@temple.edu.

SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA. University of South Carolina. The Department of Geography invites applications by specialists in GIScience for a tenure-track assistant professor position to begin August 16, 2008. Required characteristics of the successful applicant include a PhD in Geography (in hand at time of appointment) and demonstrated excellence in research and teaching in spatial analysis and modeling. We are particularly interested in applicants with expertise in spatial econometrics, network analysis (especially transportation), and/or location-allocation modeling. Demonstrated interests that complement and extend existing departmental strengths in environmental science, nature-society studies, and human geography are required. Preferred characteristics include the candidate's demonstrated success in both theoretical research and applications in cross-disciplinary settings, and experience in publication and grant acquisition. Successful candidates will join an 18-member department (expanding this year to 22 members) that offers bachelors, masters, and PhD programs in integrative geography. The department offers a full range of degree programs and enjoys excellent administrative support for its activities. The department has excellent, recently renovated facilities that house several specialized activities including the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, Center for GIS & Remote Sensing, and Geographic Alliance. For full consideration by the search committee, applications must be received by October 8, 2007. To apply, send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses (including e-mail addresses) of three references to the address below. We prefer E-mail applications.

Apply: Professor John R. Jensen, Chair of GIScience Search Committee, Department of Geography, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208; E-mail jrjensen@sc.edu. For additional information, visit our departmental web site at www.cas.sc.edu/geog. Voice 803-777-5234; fax 803-777-4972. The University of South Carolina is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

TEXAS, AUSTIN. The University of Texas at Austin. The Department of Geography and the Environment invites applicants for an Assistant Professor position in Health Geography to begin September 1, 2008. We seek candidates with one or more of the following interests: health-environment interactions, global health and infectious disease, GIS/spatial analysis of health/morbidity, and health and development. Ideally the successful candidate will interact at a substantive level with UT's Population Research Center (PRC). Applicants must hold a PhD at the time of appointment, have a proven research record and clearly defined research agenda, and present evidence or potential of teaching excellence. The selected candidate will be expected to teach at all levels of our curriculum, to direct dissertations, MA reports, and honors theses, to publish actively, and to offer service to the Department, the College, and the University. Salary commensurate with qualifications and/or expertise. A background check will be conducted before a candidate is hired. Review of applications will commence October 15, 2007. Send letters of application, curriculum vitae, statement of research and teaching interests, sample publications (no more than three), and three letters of reference to: Dr. Kelley Crews, Chair, Health Geography Search Committee, Department of Geography and the Environment, The University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station – A3100, Austin, TX 78712-1098. Fax: 512-471-5049. The University of Texas is committed to diversity and equality in education and employment. Members of underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

CANADA, BURNABY. Simon Fraser University, Department of Geography, Lecturer in Geography

(Geographic Information Science). The Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University invites applications for a Lecturership in Geography. This position is a continuing (permanent) teaching (non-research) appointment starting January 1, 2008 (or possibly later by negotiation). Applicants must have completed a PhD by the time of appointment and should be able to demonstrate excellence, or the clear promise of excellence, in teaching and an ability to teach a broad range of courses at all levels of the undergraduate program in SFU's Spatial Information Science Program (GIScience, spatial analysis and cartography). Apply: Applicants should forward a curriculum vitae and a statement of career goals to Dr. Ted Hickin, Chair, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6. They should also arrange for three confidential letters of reference to be sent to the Chair under separate cover. Review of applications will commence on October 22, 2007. For additional information please see www.sfu.ca/geography. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Simon Fraser University is committed to the principle of equity in employment and offers equal opportunities to qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities. The position is subject to final budgetary approval. Under the authority of the University Act, personal information that is required by the University for academic appointment competitions will be collected. For further details see: http://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/Faculty_Openings/Collection_Notice.html.

fundamentals of Geographic Information Science, submission of GIS application papers is discouraged. PUBLICATION: Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science. MODALITIES: Full papers and extended abstracts. DEADLINES: Workshop proposals due December 14, 2007, Workshop notification January 18, 2008, Full papers due February 29, 2008, Paper notification April 28, 2008, Abstracts due May 30, 2008, Abstract notification July 11, 2008.

The 16th International Conference on Geoinformatics & Joint Conference on GIS and Built Environment will be held in Guangzhou, China, June 28-29, 2008. Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit on or before December 15, 2007, a 1000 word abstract clearly explaining the problem, methodology, outcome of the paper. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by January 15, 2008 and sent paper organizational guidelines. Full papers are expected to be submitted by March 15, 2008. Visit <http://gp.sysu.edu.cn/geoinformatics2008> for more information.

54th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, 2007 will be held from November 7 to 10 in Savannah, Georgia (<http://www.narsc.org/conference.html>).

Transportation Research Board 87th Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., January 13-17, 2008.

CALLS AND MEETINGS

GIScience 2008 (<http://www.giscience.org/>). The 5th International Conference on Geographic Information Science, September 23-26, 2008. Park City, Utah. TOPICS: Emerging topics and basic research findings across all sectors of geographic information science. The conference attracts leading GIScience researchers from all fields to reflect the interdisciplinary breadth of GIScience, including cognitive science, computer science, engineering, geography, information science, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, social science, and statistics. As GIScience focuses on advances in the

COMPETITIONS

The Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers is sponsoring *THREE PAPER COMPETITIONS* at the 2008 AAG Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. Two competitions will be **STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS** (graduate and undergraduate) for any research conducted while a student is at an accredited university. The third will be an **EMERGING SCHOLAR PAPER COMPETITION** for anyone within six years of his/her Ph.D. degree award at the time of the 2008 AAG meeting. Competitions will have a total minimum of \$1000 in prizes. The winner(s) will also be invited to submit their manuscript(s) for publication in *Geographical Analysis*, subject to the standard review process of the Journal.

Papers may be of a theoretical or applied nature. Papers will be judged on the following criteria: i) potential contribution to the use of mathematical models, statistical techniques and other technological and computational approaches for analyzing spatial phenomena in any sub-field of geography; ii) appropriate and sound use of methodology; iii) originality; and, iv) organization and written composition of the paper.

Submission Procedures:

1a) **STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS:** For the graduate level competition, the paper must be a single-authored paper based on research primarily conducted while the student was at an accredited university. The entrant needs not be a student at the time of the AAG meeting. Graduate papers will be presented in traditional paper sessions. For the undergraduate level competition, the paper must also be based on research primarily conducted while the student was at an accredited university. Multiple authorship for undergraduate research entries is permitted, provided the submission is accompanied by a statement from a University faculty member attesting to the student's lead role in the research. Again, such entrants needs not be students at the time of the AAG meeting. The undergraduate-level competition will take the form of an illustrated paper/poster session.

1b) **EMERGING SCHOLAR COMPETITION:** The paper must be a single-authored paper whose

author is within six years of his/her Ph.D. being awarded from an accredited degree program at the time of the 2008 AAG meeting.

2) An entrant may only participate in one of the three competitions in a given year.

3) Entrants will present their papers in an AAG session sponsored or co-sponsored by the SAM specialty group. Persons wishing to enter either paper competition should notify either Chair Mark W. Horner (mhorner@fsu.edu) or Vice-Chair Ed Zolnik (ezolnik@gmu.edu) **before** the AAG's abstract deadline so that SAM officers can coordinate with the AAG and to place competition papers in appropriate sessions.

4) A panel of judges will review the papers before the AAG meeting. The winner(s), if any, will be announced at the SAM specialty group business meeting and at the AAG Awards Luncheon. Winners should make themselves available to attend the Luncheon. The judges' decision, including the possibility of not awarding a prize, is final.

5) The final version of the paper must be received by FEBRUARY 1, 2008. The cover-page of the paper should contain the name, current affiliation, mailing address, phone number, email and "level" (for student paper competition; e.g., undergraduate, graduate) or place and year of Ph.D. degree (for emerging scholar competition). A second page should repeat the title and contain an abstract. No identifying information should appear anywhere else in the paper, if possible.

6) Papers should be no longer than 35 double-spaced pages, including tables, figures and references.

7) All entries should be submitted in .doc or .pdf format to Ed Zolnik (ezolnik@gmu.edu).

Feel free to contact Ed Zolnik (ezolnik@gmu.edu) or Mark W. Horner (mhorner@fsu.edu) if you have any questions about either competition.

INFORMATION

Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM)

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, GIS, remote sensing, spatial statistical, mathematical and computational techniques for spatial analysis.

Membership Dues

Regular: \$3
Student: \$1

Submissions

This newsletter reaches a large number of readers and is therefore an excellent venue for getting the word out on community news, departmental happenings, research findings, media appearances, and the like. It is also a good place to post calls for proposals, awards, grants, fellowships, and jobs. We also invite you to submit commentaries or features of broad interest to specialty group members.

The newsletter relies on volunteers to submit articles, so please take a moment to send along relevant items.

Please send your submission by email to Ningchuan Xiao (xiao.37@osu.edu) in text or rich text format. Photos or other images, with captions in an attached text file, are also welcome (GIF, JPG, or PNG).

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