

GEOMORPHORUM

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of the Association of American Geographers

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G. Pope, editor

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Greg Pope

It's a couple weeks before the Denver meeting and most GSG members are either embroiled in classes, fretting over work, or finalizing the PowerPoint slides for the AAG presentation. There probably isn't much time to read an editorial from the specialty group chair. Fortunately, I have nothing much other than to ask you to take a moment to peruse this newsletter, familiarize yourself with the scheduled paper and poster sessions, panel discussions, guest speakers, and issues that will come up at the business meeting. You will find the information interesting,

whether you are attending the conference or not. I find it impressive that we have over 40 paper, poster, and panel sessions pertaining to geomorphology during the week. In addition to our normal array of interests, it appears that Denver has had a particular attraction for organized sessions in mountains, cryosphere, geoarchaeology, and wildfires. We hope this attracts many non-AAG members to take part in our week of scientific schmoozing.

A trip to Denver is an excuse to visit one of geomorphology's "promised lands". My guess is that a good number of GSG members have some ties to the Colorado Rockies, either by schooling, fieldwork, field trips, job, or collaborative research with colleagues at the important regional institutions. This chair can claim all of those, as well as home stomping grounds as a kid. It's exciting to return, and fun to watch newcomers take in the landscape. Not that I recommend missing any of the week's agenda, still, try to find time to get out and appreciate the Pleistocene terraces, the Platte River, the Front Range escarpment, or the scalloped cirques of the Continental Divide. Whether in downtown Denver or perhaps elsewhere out in the Colorado landscape, I hope to see you there!

GEOMORPHOLOGY SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING DENVER AAG MEETING

April 5-9, Denver, Colorado, Adam's Mark Hotel

(Unless specified, rooms to be announced. Please check <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/index.cfm> or your paper program for final updates.)

Geomorphology Specialty Group Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 6, 8:00-9:00 PM.

Send any agenda items to Greg Pope or Mike Slattery.

AAG Physical Geography Reception

Friday, April 8, 8:00-11:00 PM, Majestic Ballroom (Adam's mark)

A Physical Geography Reception will be held from 8-11 PM on Friday April 8, in the Majestic Ballroom of the Adam's Mark Hotel. The reception will feature remarks by AAG Vice-President Dick Marston, displays by several publishing houses, and complementary food and drinks. All AAG members specializing in an aspect of physical

geography (and a guest) are welcome at the event. There is no admission charge.

The reception, sponsored by the AAG's Cryosphere, Geomorphology, Climate, Mountain Geography, Biogeography, and Water Resources Specialty Groups, is being organized by Fritz Nelson. In addition to donations by the sponsoring specialty groups, generous financial support has been provided by co-sponsors Blackwell Publishing Inc., John Wiley & Sons Ltd., Elsevier Science Ltd., and Bellwether Publishing Ltd. A representative from each of these firms will be present, and books, journals, and other materials will be on display.

The reception will have two continuous slide shows running, similar to the one last year in the "Celebrating a Century of Physical Geography" reception at the Philadelphia meeting. We request that physical geographers each send Fritz ONE power point slide containing (a) one or more images showing their current research, and (b) a one-paragraph annotation or description. Please keep the size of individual slides to 6 Mb or less. Send slides to Fritz Nelson at recep@geog.udel.edu by March 21. Please ensure that slides are in final presentation format—no editing will be done on them.

Blackwell Lecture on Geomorphology & Society

Thursday, April 7, 11:50-12:50. Peter W. Birkeland, invited speaker.

"Life as a Soils Geomorphologist = f (people, places, circumstances, and factors yet to be determined)."

Professor Birkeland is internationally known in geomorphology circles. We are happy that he's taking a break from his duties as professor emeritus at University of Colorado and frequent sampler of Front Range skiing conditions to provide us this insight into his illustrious career.

Awards

Geomorphology Specialty Group business meeting: G.K. Gilbert, Melvin Marcus, and Graduate Student Research awards will be presented at the business meeting Wednesday evening.

AAG Awards Luncheon, will present the GSG Graduate Student Paper Award, as well as acknowledging the other GSG award winners, Saturday, April 9, 11:40-2:00.

Panel Discussions

Wednesday, April 6, 1:00-2:40pm

"US Operational Global Land Remote Sensing USGS Workshop Outcome"

Chaired by Samuel N. Goward (U. Maryland), panelists Nina Lam (Louisiana St. U.), Richard A. Marston (Oklahoma St. U.), Douglas Richardson (Association of American Geographers), John A. Kelmelis (USGS), John Townshend (U. Maryland), David Lewis Skole (Michigan St. U.), and Darrel Williams; discussants Charles G. Groat, Director, USGS) and Jay W. Peuguay (USGS)

Wednesday, April 6, 3:00-4:40pm.

"A Science Strategy for the USGS Geography Discipline, 2005-2015"

Chaired by Gerard McMahon, panelists Barbara Ryan (USGS), Karen Siderelis (USGS), Gerard McMahon, Nathan Wood (USGS), William L. Graf (U. South Carolina), Thomas Loveland (USGS), Susan L. Cutter (U. South Carolina), and Richard A. Marston (Oklahoma State U.).

Thursday, April 4, 3:00- 4:40pm

"Geography and the South Asian Tsunami", chaired by Richard A. Marston, panelists Susan L. Cutter (U. South Carolina), Nathan Wood (USGS), David Lewis Skole (Michigan State U.), Robert S. Chen (CIESIN/Columbia U.), and Bimal Kanti Paul (Kansas State U.).

GSG Student Paper Competition

support our students!

Wednesday, 4/6/05, 3:00-4:40 PM

Maya Hirsch - Southwest Missouri State University. Sources and transport of sediment-bound phosphorus in agricultural streams, Des Moines Lobe, Iowa.

Jordan Clayton - University of Colorado. The influence of surface sorting on particle mobility in gravel-bed river meanders.

Dale K. Splinter - Oklahoma State University. Variation between Ecosystems in Substrate, Channel Morphology, and Large Woody Debris of Eastern Oklahoma Streams.

Heather Volker. Relative Relief: A Morphometric Signature of Alluvial Fan Type in Eastern Death Valley, CA, USA.

Also, note that Lynn Resler (Virginia Tech) is one of the competitors for the Nystrom Award with her paper, "The Role of Surface Geomorphic

Features in Linking Scale at Alpine Treeline". (Nystrom Paper session II, Friday, 10:00-11:40.)

Topical Sessions

These include sessions sponsored and co-sponsored by GSG, as well as a few relevant sessions sponsored by allied specialty groups.

Tuesday, April 5

- Aeolian Geomorphology, 2:00-3:40pm.
- Coastal Geomorphology. 4:00-5:40pm.

Wednesday, April 6

- Linking Geomorphology and Ecology. 3:00-4:40pm

Thursday, April 7

- Soils. 8:00-9:40.
- Geoarchaeology and Geomorphology I: Soils, Sediments, and the Maya, 10:00-11:40am.
- Geoarchaeology and Geomorphology II: Soils, Sediments, and the Middle East. 1:00-2:40pm.
- Geoarchaeology and Geomorphology III: Soils, Sediments, and the World. 3:00-4:40pm
- Geoarchaeology and Geomorphology IV: Soils, Sediments, and North America. 5:00-6:40pm.
- In Honor of Donald R. Currey, session I: Donald R. Currey, Scientist, Scholar, Mentor. 1:00-2:40.
- In Honor of Donald R. Currey, session II: Mountains, Deserts, Coasts, and Soils. 3:00-4:40.
- In Honor of Donald R. Currey, session III: Lacustrine Geomorphology and Chronology. 5:00-6:40.
- Coastal and Marine I, 1:00-2:40pm.
- Coastal and Marine II, 3:00-4:40pm.
- Coastal and Marine III, 5:00-6:40pm.
- Paleobiogeography II: Paleo Records of Climate, Geomorphic, and Vegetation Change from the American and African Tropics. 3:00-4:40.
- Dendrogeomorphology. 5:00-6:40pm.

Friday, April 8

- Fluvial Geomorphology I. Friday, April 8, 8:00-9:40AM
- Fluvial Geomorphology II. Friday, April 8, 10:00-11:40AM

- Fluvial Geomorphology III. Friday, April 8, 12:00-1:40PM
- Geosystems, Ecosystems, and Wildfires 1: Geomorphic Hazards. 8:00-9:40am.
- Geosystems, Ecosystems, and Wildfires 2: Soil Factors and Time. 10:00-11:40am.
- Geosystems, Ecosystems, and Wildfires 3: Remote Sensing Applications to Fire Hazard and Effects Assessment. 12:00-1:40pm.
- Geosystems, Ecosystems, and Wildfires 4: Geomorphic Hazards, Biotic Effects and Responses. 2:00-3:40pm.
- Geosystems, Ecosystems, and Wildfires 5: Management Issues. 4:00-5:40pm.
- Climate and Cryosphere I: Climate and Frozen Ground. Friday, April 8, 10:00-11:40AM
- Climate and Cryosphere II: Ice on Land and Sea. Friday, April 8, 12:00-1:40PM
- Marine/Coastal GIS & Acoustic Remote Sensing. 10:00-11:40am.
- Prehistory, Geoarchaeology, and Paleobiogeography: Prospects for Engagement and Synthesis. 2:00-3:40.
- Human Impacts in Geomorphology I. 2:00-3:40pm
- Human Impacts in Geomorphology II. 4:00-5:40pm

Saturday, April 9

- Mountain Rivers I: Watershed Dynamics and Regional Relationships. 8:00-9:40am.
- Mountain Rivers II: Hydraulics and Sediment Transport. 10:00-11:40am.
- Mountain Rivers III: Channel Dynamic and Adjustment. 2:00-3:40pm.
- Mountain Geography: The Physical Dimension. 10:00-11:40am.
- Paleobiogeography III: Paleoeological Evidence of Prehistoric Human Activity in the Circum-Caribbean Region. 8:00-9:40am.
- Paleobiogeography IV: Late Quaternary Climate and Vegetation Change in Temperate North America. 10:00-11:40am.
- SIO's Sense of Snow: Sam Outcalt and Cold-Regions Physical Geography I. 2:00-3:40
- SIO's Sense of Snow: Sam Outcalt and Cold-Regions Physical Geography II. 4:00-5:40.
- Mountain Environments and Processes, 4:00-5:40.

Poster Sessions

- Geomorphology and Agriculture. Wednesday, April 6, 3:00-4:40pm.
- Water Resources and Hydrology, Thursday April 7, 3:00-4:40.

Field Trips

(For informational purposes only. Check with AAG for availability.)

Thursday, April 7:

- Rocky Mountain National Park, 7am – 6pm
- USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, National Ice Core Lab, Rock Core Research Center, Denver Federal Center, 8am – 1pm.

Friday, April 8:

- Fire and Forest Management in the Colorado Front Range, 8am – 6:30pm.
- Terrestrial Paleoenvironments of the Front Range Near Denver, Colorado, 9am – 5pm.

Saturday, April 9:

- The Geology and Physical Geography of the Garden of the Gods – Colorado Springs, 9am – 5pm.

NEW BUSINESS

For consideration at the GSG Business Meeting, Wednesday April 6.

GSG Business

1. Student Award names

Currently, two GSG awards have been “named”, the G.K. Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphic Work, and the Melvin Marcus Distinguished Career Award. Bob Pavlovsky, current Awards Committee chair, has suggested that the Graduate Student Research Awards and the Graduate Student Paper Awards also be named for a notable geomorphologist. Quoting Bob:

“At present, the GSG offers four awards annually: (1) Melvin Marcus Award for long-term contributions to the field, (2) G.K. Gilbert Award for recent scholarly contribution to the field, (3) Student research proposal awards for MS and PhD, and (4) Student oral paper awards for MS and PhD. The first two awards are dedicated to individuals that have contributed greatly to geomorphology in the United States and beyond. We would like to “name” the

student awards in a similar manner. The GSG officers request nominations for the names of geomorphologists for which to dedicate the two student awards. Please send the name, brief rationale, and the award type (research or oral paper) to Bob Pavlowsky, chair, Awards Committee at rtp138f@smsu.edu by March 23."

2. Changes to GSG Website (from Allan James).

"As web editor of our Geomorphology website I'd like to announce a change in the web address and explain why it has been made. As you may have already found out, the URL for our web site has changed recently to:

<http://www.cas.sc.edu/geog/gsgdocs/>

You should be redirected to this new address automatically if you use the old address, but please update your hotlinks accordingly. If you are not redirected to the new address when using the old address, please let me know so I can inform our technical folks here."

"I'm happy to say that the reason for the new address is that this year the University of South Carolina has joined the College of Liberal Arts (wherein Geography had resided for many years) with the College of Science and Math to form the new College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)."

3. Need for a new Web Editor for GSG web site.

Allan James, long-time editor for the GSG's web page, suggests that it might be time to locate a new editor, if only to spread the wealth and garner fresh ideas. This can be discussed further at the GSG's business meeting. Allan has these suggestions:

"First, it's probably wise to seek out someone tenured who is likely to stay in one place for a while. This is to minimize changes in the URL. Second (this trumps the first), we could consider purchasing a permanent domain name (web address). I understand that for a fee of between ~10 or \$40 per year a domain name can be purchased. Others probably know much more about this than I. The obvious advantages are twofold: (1) permanent URL even if the site roams; (2) outsiders will turn up the site in Google searches."

4. GSG Endowment.

As encouraged by input from our last GSG meeting, Greg Pope has been speaking with Paul Abel (AAG financial assistant) and Doug

Richardson (AAG Executive Director) about setting up an interest-earning account or endowment with some of our GSG finances, possibly to fund one or more of our awards. Members may recall that this has been discussed for several years, and our finances have grown well. This will of course be up for discussion, and no moves will take place without discussion. We'll have more details at the coming business meeting.

Calls for Papers

In addition to the ongoing calls for papers from *AAG Annals*, *Professional Geographer*, *Physical Geography*, *Geomorphology*, and other journals, there are two calls for papers pertaining to sessions at the Denver AAG meeting:

1. (From Tim Beach) Tim Beach, Nick Dunning, and Martin Doyle are editing and organizing a special issue of the journal *Geomorphology* that will focus on Geoarchaeology in Geomorphology. The topics can be any geomorphic process or landform that uses archaeological evidence and has findings that add to our knowledge of archaeology and earth surface processes and landforms. The initial questions may start as purely geomorphological or purely archaeological, but should use information and techniques from both fields and have conclusions that concern both geomorphology and archaeology. Examples include landform formation using archaeological evidence, recurrence intervals (e.g., earthquakes, landslides, floods) based on site excavations, dating and quantifying past erosion episodes, formation of anthropogenic landforms, impacts of anthropogenic landforms on geomorphic change, and geophysical or geochemical methods of analyzing anthropogenic and natural features that illuminate formation processes. We encourage research from all regions that have discernible archaeological roles in geomorphology from areas with millennia of human impacts like Mesoamerica and Mesopotamia to those with short but important human imprints like Iceland or Easter Island. We also encourage work from all types of geomorphic research: eolian, coastal, fluvial, karst, soils, weathering, and glacial.

We intend to base this issue on four special AAG sessions (Thursday, 7 April 05) of *Geomorphology* and *Geoarchaeology*. We do,

however, invite other submissions that show the utility of combining geomorphological and archaeological methods for understanding landscape development.

Submitted manuscripts should be no more than 14 pages and we will proceed on the following time frame: 1. E-mail a title and summary to Tim Beach soon, if you are interested in submitting a manuscript:

beacht@georgetown.edu. Submitting a title and summary does not commit you to submitting a ms, but we would like to get an idea of the interest and potential for this volume. Paper submissions by 30 June 2005, review by 30 September 2005, and revisions of the accepted papers by 30 December 2005.

1. (From Greg Pope) John Kupfer, Steve Yool and Greg Pope have assembled five special sessions of the physical geography of wildfires for the Denver meeting (“Geosystems, Ecosystems, and Wildfire”, sessions I-V, Friday, April 8). Two of the five sessions specifically focus on geomorphic issues, and we’ve been offered an opportunity for a special issue of *Geomorphology*. While the special issue will be based on the AAG sessions, I would like to invite other submissions pertaining to geomorphic impacts on and from fires. Given the number of additional special sessions concerning fires, there may be others who wish to contribute. Due dates will be determined, but we are shooting for late Spring/early Summer to begin reviews. Contact me if interested (popeg@mail.montclair.edu).

Other items

From Mike Craghan

“I’d be delighted to communicate with geomorphologists and others about how physical scientists study human-environmental interactions. I’m particularly interested in models, theory, frameworks, and the like for conducting research. I can be reached at mcraghan@macqes.org, or in person at the Denver AAG meeting.”

[ed. note: Mike authored “The Study of Human Action in the Physical Environment”, found in *Physical Geography*, Vol. 25, pp. 251-268]