GEOMORPHORUM

Newsletter of the Geomorphology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers

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MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR

Changing of the Times

by Anne Chin

A generation is passing before us. With the death of Luna Leopold in February, we have lost one of the pillars of our discipline -- the pillars of a generation that symbolizes the excitement of geomorphology, that overturned paradigms and began talking about b, f, and m's, and that inspired many of us to study geomorphology. We cannot help but want to hang on to that foundational period in the history of our discipline. We do so by keeping the legacies of our forefathers alive, by recognizing their continuing influences in our work, and by honoring them through named special journal issues, paper sessions, and awards. This March in Chicago, at the Business Meeting of the Geomorphology Specialty Group (GSG) of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), we honored M. Gordon Wolman by naming our student research award the *Reds Wolman Student Research Award.* This column also honors them all.

At the same time, we celebrate change. We celebrate the continuing evolution of our discipline, new ideas, and new colleagues. As we look at the work being conducted around us today, we see an increasingly different geomorphology than one pursued four or five decades ago. Certainly, we still work to understand the mechanics of specific geomorphological processes, especially in places and regions that had been less-well explored, but the geomorphology that we practice today is increasingly interdisciplinary, increasingly complex, and, perhaps, increasingly applied. This might be expected given that geomorphological theory has advanced to such a stage wherein practitioners are now called to ask larger questions concerning *interrelationships* among components of earth systems, to demonstrate the relevance of geomorphological work to society, and to apply geomorphological knowledge in

problem solving. These trends are evidenced in funding opportunities, for example in the cross-cutting programs of the National Science Foundation, that call for collaborative teams to tackle complex environmental systems from multiple perspectives. The increasingly applied nature of our work corresponds in part to the demands for geomorphological expertise in environmental management and consultancy, as landscape restoration slowly but surely creeps into the consciousness of the general public.

These changes in our discipline bring many opportunities for geomorphologists, but they also present some challenges. The opportunities come with greater awareness of, and appreciation for, geomorphology by our colleagues in other disciplines. Thus, we are invited to participate in large-scale research projects led by ecologists, foresters, and landscape architects, and our graduate seminars fill with students from other disciplines across campus. The challenges are simply that we must play ball in this context and seize the opportunities that are before us. The challenges are not particularly difficult to meet, but unless we are fully cognizant of them, we could be in danger of missing the boat. Below I offer some thoughts for meeting such challenges.

First and foremost, we must not be shy. We must step up to the plate when a geomorphologist is called to participate in large-scale interdisciplinary projects. If we do not, someone else (not formally trained in the discipline) will, because such is the need for geomorphological observations and analyses in large landscape studies.

Second, we must not be insular. Because answering larger and more complex questions requires potentially more advanced tools and input from multiple perspectives, we must seek collaborations and build teams that have just the right mix of expertise and strengths, and that can work well together. To this end, we must engage in dialogue with colleagues beyond the GSG, beginning with our geological and geophysical geomorphology colleagues and extending to those in allied fields. In short, we must think beyond the box.

Third, along the same lines, as the world gets "smaller" with technological advances in communication, we must think bigger and develop international collaborations to address larger, global-scale issues. To this end, the International Association of Geomorphologists provides a ready-made structure for increasing international interactions (see additional comments on p.8).

Fourth, we must be cognizant to nurture the next generation. Students comprise a majority of the membership of the GSG (currently 316 out of 533 members). The world that they live in and the problems that they will end up tackling will be even more complex than those we confront. We must ensure that they are positioned to work within an interdisciplinary context and that, at the same time, they maintain a healthy knowledge and respect for the history and evolution of our discipline.

I am extremely pleased to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of the GSG this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with ideas, information, or issues at any time over the course of the year. I look forward to nurturing and extending for the GSG what we have collectively worked hard to accomplish over the years.

MINUTES OF THE 2006 BUSINESS MEETING
Chicago, Illinois
8 March 2006

Mike Slattery, Chair
Anne Chin, Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Slattery called the meeting to order at 8:08 pm.

Announcements from the Chair

1) From specialty group Chair's meeting

Some specialty groups had issues with special sessions organized but not approved by specialty groups. Members were reminded that all special sessions sponsored by the GSG need to be approved by the Chair in advance.

2) Events in Chicago

The physical geography reception will be held 8pm-12am Friday; it is co-sponsored by the GSG.

Specialty Group Reports

1) The minutes from the 2005 business meeting in Denver (as posted in the Fall 2005 GSG newsletter) were approved.

2) Treasurer's Report (Chin)

Anne Chin reported that the GSG financial status is healthy. The balance has increased steadily in recent years. As of 1/31/06, the balance was $11,475.32. Including $525 from sales of CDs not yet deposited brings the total balance to ~$12,000.

In the past year, the GSG income was derived primarily from membership dues ($1700), sales of CDs ($525), and a donation ($257). Disbursements were for student awards (total $1100), contribution to the physical geography reception ($300), and sponsorship of a GSG table at the awards luncheon ($380).

The GSG received a reminder to pay dues to the IAG recently and is in the process of determining when we last paid and how much. The dues are $1000, normally split with GSA. The AGU is not represented in the IAG.

3) Web Editor (James)

After many years of serving as editor of the GSG website, Allan James has requested that we seek a new web editor. Following discussion, a suggestion was made that a student could be paid to assist a faculty member to do this. The sentiment of the membership was that the level of support should be no more than $1000 per year, to be administered by the web editor. A motion was made and approved that GSG officers identify a faculty member and negotiate with them to do this. The GSG thanks Allan for his many years of service in this role.

4) IAG (Slattery)

Mike Slattery reported that the IAG meeting at Zaragoza was not well attended by American geomorphologists and that we need a stronger showing at IAG meetings. As the IAG Publications Officer (replacing Carol Harden), Mike will now write the IAG newsletters and will suggest electronic versions so that the news will be more current when released.

5) Other (Slattery)

A World Heritage book will be published that will include "geomorphology". Mike Slattery as head of publications for the IAG will be working with Andrew Goudie and the committee to develop proposals for world heritage site consideration.

The BGRG is encouraging memberships from U.S. geomorphologists. Dues for GSG members have been discounted to only 50 pounds for five years! http://www.bgrg.org/pages/membership The BGRG hosted a cordial social gathering for overseas (non-British) members at the IAG that was well attended.

Special Business

1) Investment decision with regard to CD-ROM proceeds

Mike Slattery has consulted with Doug Richardson and Dick Marston and discussed with GSG officers over the past year regarding what to do with the proceeds from the sales of the CDs. Richardson and Marston suggested that a special portfolio could be created in the Mel Marcus Physical Geography Research Fund of the AAG for investing the proceeds from the CDs. Mike suggested that we take $8000 from the GSG account and put into this portfolio created, thus leaving a cushion remaining in the GSG account. A motion was made and seconded to do this and was approved enthusiastically.

2) Naming of student awards

From last year's meeting, GSG officers were charged to discuss this issue and bring forward a proposal to the membership. Discussions included whether we name awards after someone living or not, gender issues, etc (summarized in the Fall GSG newsletter). The officers agreed that four named awards are too many (two for the research awards and two for the paper presentation awards), but no complete consensus was reached. Mike suggested that the membership consider just one name at this time for the research award: *Reds Wolman*. This suggestion was followed by favorable and supportive comments from members during discussion. A motion was approved to name the student research award as the *Reds Wolman Student Research Award* (one each at the master's and Ph.D. levels). The student paper presentation award remains unnamed at this time.

Publications and conferences

1) Announcements related to journals

Don Friend alerted members to *Journal of Mountain Science* (Chinese Academy of Sciences).
Carol Harden mentioned that turnaround time at the *Annals* is now quite reasonable.
Scott Lecce is editor of the *Southeastern Geographer*; turnaround time is 4-6 weeks.
Jon Harbor reminded members that *Earth Science Reviews* is a good outlet for review papers.
Physical Geography has gone electronic and is an option for a discounted AAG price.

2) Announcements about conferences

Allan James and Andrew Marcus are organizing the 37th International Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium in 2006 honoring the 50th anniversary of *Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*, to be held in Columbia, South Carolina in October. Travel grants will be

available to students. The call for posters will be coming out soon. See the flyer for details, the lineup of speakers, and future announcements: http://geography.uoregon.edu/amarcus/Binghamton2006

Mark Fonstad and Brad Murray are organizing the 38th Binghamton symposium, to be held at Duke University in 2007. The topic is *Complexity in Geomorphology*.

Jean Paul Bravard announced that he is organizing an IAG Large Rivers Meeting field trip down the Rhone River in France in June 2007 (June 24-July 1). Topics of interest include fluvial geomorphology, hydraulics, and hydro-power. For further details, please contact Professor Bravard at jean.paul.bravard@univ-lyon2.fr.

Chris Renschler noted that the 36th International Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium at Buffalo last fall was vibrant, stimulating, and well attended. The proceedings volume should be out soon.

Appointments

Awards Committee – Dan Royall (UNC-Greensboro) was appointed by Mike Slattery.
Secretary/Treasurer – Jon Harbor (Purdue University) was nominated and unanimously approved.

Other Business

Lisa Boulton and Martin Lafrenz organized the first interactive short paper session which was a great success. This practice of holding an interactive short paper session on geomorphic topics will continue next year.

The GSG observed a moment of silence to honor the late Luna Leopold.

Allan James announced a two or 2½-day field trip that he is organizing with Mike Singer (USGS, Menlo Park) to leave from the AAG meetings in San Francisco next year. The topic is on *hydraulic mining sediment in the Sierra Foothills and Sacrameto Valley*, and will include visits to some classic sites described by Gilbert (1917).

Awards

Student Paper Awards

MA/MS: Jonathan Dinkin, Towson University
"The effect of imperviousness on the channel morphology of perennial streams in the Piedmont region of central Maryland"

PhD: Jennifer Horwath, University of Washington
"Associations of soil organic carbon with non-sorted striped patterned ground in northwest Greenland"

Student paper award winners will receive $200 each.

Research Awards

MA/MS proposal:
Kimberly Meitzen, University of South Carolina (William L. Graf, advisor)
"Development, disturbance, and maintenance: Process pattern relationships in riparian environments, Congaree River, Congaree National Park, South Carolina"

PhD proposal:
Inci Güneralp, University of Illinois (Bruce L. Rhoads, advisor)
"Curvature - migration relations and the planform dynamics of meandering rivers"

Students will receive research awards of $400 and $600 for MS and PhD proposals, respectively.

Gilbert Award

William H. Renwick (with Smith, Bartley, and Buddemeier), for the 2005 paper, "The role of impoundments in the sediment budget of the conterminous United States," *Geomorphology*, 71:99-111. Citation by Andrew Marcus and Jonathan Phillips, read by Andrew Marcus; accepted by Bill Renwick.

Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award

Stanley W. Trimble
Citation by Andy Ward, read by Bruce Rhoads; accepted by Stan Trimble.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

GROVE KARL GILBERT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEOMORPHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The recipients of the 2006 G.K. Gilbert Award are **Bill Renwick** and his co-authors **S.V. Smith**, **J.D. Bartley**, and **R.W. Buddmeier**. They are recognized for their paper "The role of impoundments in the sediment budget of the conterminous United States," published in 2005 in *Geomorphology*, v. 71, p. 99-111. The citation and Bill's acceptance remarks follow.

Citation

by W. Andrew Marcus and Jonathan Phillips

The winners of the 2006 Geomorphology Specialty Group's Grove Karl Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphic Research are Dr. William (Bill) Renwick and his collaborators S.V. Smith, J.D. Bartley, and R.W. Buddemeier. They are receiving this award for their work on "The role of impoundments in the sediment budget of the conterminous United States," published in 2005 in volume 71 of *Geomorphology*.

There are many reasons that this research is noteworthy. First and foremost is that the article represents a major new discovery in geomorphology; that small impoundments ("cow ponds") play a giant role in controlling local scale to continental scale sediment fluxes, and that much of the sediment previously thought to be in subaerial deposits is actually in subaqueous pond environments. This discovery is all the more remarkable because geomorphologists have been studying sediment sources and sinks in various forms ever since G.K. Gilbert's early work on sediment production from mining in the Sierra Nevada. Most work prior to the 1980s treated rivers as steady state conveyor belts, moving eroded soil directly to the sea. A number of key articles in the 1970s and 1980s, however, revealed the then surprising conclusion that the majority of sediment from accelerated erosion was not reaching river mouths, but rather was deposited in colluvial and alluvial settings or in large reservoirs. Bill Renwick himself played a role in this work; his 1984 article with Gail Ashley on the Raritan River was one of the important articles that applied the non-steady state concepts to the fluvial-estuarine transition zone.

Most of us accepted this non-steady state model during the 1980s and 90s, at which point we became relatively complacent with regard to the issue. To the degree that we did worry about the "missing sediment,", we focused on colluvial storage, field-edge and fenceline deposition, soil loss by aeolian processes and other phenomena to explain the discrepancy We assumed that we had documented the major sinks for sediments from accelerated erosion, those being: delta and estuarine environments, alluvium, colluvium, and large dam impoundments. And why did we assume this? Because it seemed obvious. After all, where else could the sediment go?

Renwick et al.'s conclusion that 21% of the conterminous United States drains into small impoundments and that these impoundments trap 25% of all sheet and rill erosion is thus a shocking new observation that forces us to reconsider: sediment budgets, how carbon and nutrient fluxes function at catchment scales, the nature of linkages between upland and lowland environments, toxin sinks and sources, and a range of hypotheses related to landscape evolution in areas of human occupance. Renwick et al. asked a simple and profoundly geographic question - "Where do the sediments go?" – and came up with an unexpected answer.

Until Renwick and Smith began this body of work, the cumulative impacts of numerous small water bodies had never been seriously addressed, although pond sediments have been used for paleoenvironmental reconstruction and estimates of local sediment yields. We both have watched Renwick et al.'s work over the years, and we both have had the embarrassing epiphany that despite our own work in reconstructing sediment sources and sinks, and despite our examination of thousands of aerial photos, topographic quadrangles, and satellite images with their many irrigation ponds, fish ponds, and stock tanks – we (along with many others) had failed to connect the dots. Any drive along the two-lane blacktops will show the same thing; that cow ponds are everywhere. The cumulative impacts of these small, local alterations to topography and material fluxes should have demanded investigation by all of us; Renwick, Smith, and company are to be congratulated for being the first to recognize the importance of these features. They have unveiled a mystery that was hidden in plain sight.

The strength of the article's surprising findings is enhanced by the authors' use of multiple methodologies, clear explanation of assumptions, and refreshing modesty about the results. For example, Renwick et al. use imagery to derive an estimate of the number of small ponds in the conterminous U.S. (2.6 million) and a sample of U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps to derive a much higher estimate (8 to 9 million). This is a huge range, but the investigators embrace the uncertainty and extrapolate results to provide the reader with a range of outcomes – there is no attempt to massage the numbers or push us to a certain outcome. Similarly, broad assumptions have to be made to derive continental scale estimates of deposition in ponds, but the article clearly articulates these assumptions, reports correlation values (even relatively low ones), and provides honest discussion of how the assumptions might alter the results. The reader is thus provided with transparent explanations, creating confidence that the amount of sediment storage in small ponds is huge, regardless of which approach or assumptions are invoked.

The transparency of the article is also helped by the clear writing. The context for the article and its findings are

well articulated. The explanation of results and findings is presented with simple language that is easy to follow and free of unnecessary jargon. The open, honest approach and the clarity of the presentation make this a model for good scientific writing.

Moreover, the authors do not merely report the methodologies and results, they also provide a powerful discussion that examines: (1) the factors that might make estimates artificially high or low; (2) reasons why all previous geomorphologists have missed this giant sediment sink – a discussion that is presented with a decidedly diplomatic voice; and (3) implications of the findings for understanding sediment fluxes. In their typically open and honest fashion, the authors conclude the article with the statement that (Renwick et al., 2005, p. 109):

> It is likely that some of these hypotheses may be valid in some regions but not others, and in a particular setting, the sediment budget is likely to be substantially different. Regardless of which of these alternatives may prove to be the most significant in any given setting, it is clear that a much larger portion of total sedimentation is now taking place in subaqueous rather than subaerial environments, with the result that sediment is likely to be stored for much longer time periods than would be imagined if it were deposited in active transport zones on slopes or along streams.

Although modest in its language, the implications of these statements are huge. The decoupling of upland environments from downstream regions raises a host of questions about the future evolution of these systems and management activities within them. How much sediment is available for transport? Will most rivers soon serve primarily as sediment sources rather than sinks and, if so, what are the implications for downstream estuarine environments, stream restoration, releases of toxins from storage floodplain sediments, and a host of other questions? Like the best of science, this article raises far more questions than it answers. It is an article we will send our students to as a source for testable hypotheses.

Finally, this article represents the culmination of many years of research by Renwick and his colleagues. Bill Renwick has been publishing on issues of sediment sources, storages, and sinks in fluvial systems for nearly 25 years. He has also played a key behind-the-scenes role in encouraging, critiquing, and feeding ideas to others working on fluvial sediment systems and budgets. We have watched over the years as Bill and his colleagues first discovered through field work that small ponds in a limited number of watersheds were holding a great deal of sediment. From this germ of an idea, he and his collaborators have systematically grown their thinking, their exploration, and their methods to include much of North America. This article is thus a wonderful example of how careful field observations coupled with deep geomorphic knowledge and a willingness to use new technologies can lead to fundamentally new discoveries in an area where we thought the big truths were already known.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the AAG's Geomorphology Specialty Group, we present this year's Grove Karl Gilbert Award to Bill Renwick, S.V. Smith, J.D. Bartley, and R.W. Buddemeier.

Acceptance Remarks
by Bill Renwick

This is a great honor for me—more than I would ever have dreamed. The most significant thing about it is that it comes from a group of people for whom I have the deepest respect and admiration, and specifically from two truly outstanding geomorphologists whose work I have followed over the years. Thank you very much.

I would like to say a few words about three groups of people on whose ideas our paper is based.

I'll start with my co-authors, because many of you may not know them and none of them were able to attend this evening. About 5 years ago I got an email from Steve Smith, now of Center for Higher Education and Scientific Research in Ensenada, Mexico. Steve is an oceanographer and biogeochemist who is interested in the cumulative impact of human land use on biogeochemical cycles. Steve is a big-picture person who has an amazing ability to conceptualize complex systems and material fluxes. That email was the beginning of a collaboration that has been the most fun, and the most productive, of any project I have ever worked on. Steve introduced me to Bob Buddemeier, of the University of Kansas. Bob is a hydrologist and biogeochemist who, like Steve, is a whole-system thinker with a keen sense of effective ways to analyze environmental processes. Jeremy Bartley, also of the University of Kansas, understands geographic data and ways to manipulate them in ways that I can only imagine. Chris Crossland, Rich Sleezer, Dave Young, and Steve Egbert also provided encouragement and insights. This paper is as much theirs as mine; I am only listed as first author because I happened to write the first

draft.

Second, a note about those who collected the data. Our paper is based on secondary data collected and made accessible by various US and State government agencies, primarily the Department of Agriculture and the Geological Survey but many others also. It was made possible because these data are freely available, from public sources, much of it over the internet. Literally thousands of unnamed scientists and technicians did the basic field work and analyses, going back to the 19th century. Without their work this paper would not have been possible.

Finally, we share this honor with a number of superb field geomorphologists-- people like John Costa, Stan Trimble, Jim Knox, Jonathan Phillips, and many others, who have made the observations and developed the models that give our data meaning. Without their pioneering studies of the impacts of land use on sediment budgets our study would be just a bunch of numbers--very big numbers, but not particularly meaningful ones without their ideas.

So it is with enormous pride that I accept this award on behalf of the many dedicated geomorphologists who generated the data and models that went into our paper. Without them it would not have happened.

Thank you all very much.

MELVIN G. MARCUS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

The 2006 Mel Marcus Distinguished Career Award is given to **Stanley W. Trimble** of the University of California, Los Angeles. Stan is recognized for a lifetime of achievement in research and teaching in the areas of soil erosion, sediment budgets, and historical fluvial geomorphology. The citation follows; Stan's acceptance remarks will be posted in a future issue of Geomorphorum.

Citation
by Andy Ward

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Stanley W. Trimble for the Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award. It is perhaps appropriate that this nomination is being made by an Agricultural Engineer. In an article in the *Environmental Review* (January, 2000), Stan stated *"I had intended to be an engineer, but the school I attended did not have an engineering program so I just finished in chemistry."* His interest in agriculture is illustrated by the fortitude he shows in commuting between his farm in Tennessee and UCLA! In my discipline one important measure of achievement is impact. Stan's classic sediment budget research on Coon Creek is having an important impact on how scientists and engineers address spatial and temporal scale issues as we strive to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. In particular, his work is influencing how watershed TMDLs are determined and the effectiveness and benefits of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs). Almost as important in terms of impact is his work on soil erosion and reservoir sedimentation. In particular, his article *"U.S. Soil Erosion Rates—Myth and Reality"* (*Science*, 2000), where he shows the limitations of the USLE and WEE prediction models, has had a major impact on the community of scientists and engineers interested in agricultural non-point pollution issues.

I do not use the term "classic" lightly when describing Stan's Coon Creek work. In his book *Fluvial Forms and Processes A New Perspective* (Arnold Press, 1998), David Knighton refers to *"The classic work of Trimble (1983) ...."* Bruce Rhoads in his letter of support for this nomination states *"His paper on this research in the American Journal of Science is one of the most important articles published in geomorphology over the past 50 years. It has the status of "classic" and was rightly honored as such by the journal Progress in Physical Geography in 2001.*"

In 1963, Stan received a B.S. in chemistry from the University of North Alabama. He then spent two years as an Intelligence Research Officer and served with the 101st Airborne Division. After a year teaching in Europe, he earned the M.A. (1970) and Ph.D. (1973) in Geography at the University of Georgia. Stan then spent 11 years as a research hydrologist with the US Geological Survey. In 1975, he joined the faculty in the Department of Geography at UCLA. On various occasions he has been a visiting professor at the Universities of Chicago, Vienna, Oxford, London, and Durham.

Stan has published many refereed articles including several in *Science*. A review of his citation record shows that it compares well with many of the previous recipients of this prestigious award. He has made more than 70 invited presentations during the past 25 years. He has taught courses in environmental geology/hydrology for the US Army Corps of Engineers and he is a hydrologic/geomorphologic consultant for several agencies. Since 1995, Stan has been the joint editor-in-chief for *CATENA*. He is currently the editor for the Dekker *Encyclopedia of Water Science*.

I will not dwell on Stan's achievements as they speak for themselves and the merit of his work to the geography community is best described in the letters from his colleagues that accompany this nomination. I would like to close by stating that my motivation for nominating Stan is not based on a lifelong friendship. Stan and I recently completed writing the textbook *Environmental Hydrology* (CRC Press, 2004) and did not meet face-to-face until after the book was submitted to the publisher! Much of our communication was via e-mail during the wee hours of the night. This was a wonderfully harmonious and interesting experience that culminated in a book that is now being used by more than 30 institutions in the United States. Since completing the book we have visited each other on a few occasions and I and my students have had the pleasure of hearing Stan speak at two conferences. His classic work, these talks, interesting visits we have made to rural parts of Ohio and California, the warmth he shows to people, and the impact his work is having will make him a worthy recipient of the Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award. The gist of what many folk have said to me is *"It was worth the registration fee just to hear Stan Trimble's talk!"*

Stan Trimble (left) and Bill Renwick (right) accepting the Marcus and Gilbert awards, respectively, 8 March 2006, Chicago.

GEOMORPHOLOGY SPECIALTY GROUP WEBSITE

As of Summer 2006, the website of the Geomorphology Specialty Group is being transferred from Allan James to **Mike Urban** at the University of Missouri. The web home of the specialty group will have a new and durable URL address (www.aag-gsg.org), which will remain constant even with subsequent changes in web editors. Suggestions for improving the website are welcomed and should be directed to Mike Urban (urbanm@missouri.edu or webmaster@aag-gsg.org).

The GSG website is a primary clearinghouse for information concerning the geomorphology discipline, as well as a first point of contact for many students and the general public. Thus, the goals of the web editor are to keep the site clean and simple and to maximize the content relevant to the geomorphology community. Although the look and feel of the site will remain the same through the transition, some changes are being planned to make the site more useful to professional geomorphologists. These include a new calendar of events noting functions, deadlines, and opportunities (coming soon!) as well as a mechanism to gather usage statistics to help better understand who our users are, where they go once they are in the site, and how we can better serve the geomorphology community. We invite members and colleagues to check out the new site!

BLACKWELL LECTURE ON GEOMORPHOLOGY AND SOCIETY

The Blackwell lecture series on Geomorphology and Society continues in the next annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco (17-21 April 2007). Blackwell Publishing, Inc. (Terri Teleen, Associate Publisher, Journals) has committed to continue supporting the lecture series through provision of a generous book grant. Next year, the Blackwell speaker will be **G. Mathias Kondolf** of the University of California, Berkeley. The topic of the lecture is river restoration and environmental management. The Blackwell series on Geomorphology and Society began in 2001 with a lecture by Andrew Goudie in the annual AAG meetings held in New York City. Subsequent Blackwell speakers were Tom Dunne, Dick Kesel, Fritz Nelson, and Peter Birkeland. Please note your calendars for the Blackwell lecture next April and support the featured session of the Geomorphology Specialty Group!

LINKAGES TO INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS

The GSG encourages members and colleagues to participate in meetings and working groups of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG), of which GSG is a member. The website of the IAG/AIG contains a full description of the mission and activities of the group: http://www.geomorph.org. A sampling of upcoming events, brought to our attention by our international colleagues, is described below.

The **III Argentine Congress on Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology** will take place in the city of Córdoba during 10-13 October 2006. Held every three

years, the congress is Argentina's most important academic event in the field of geomorphology. Interested colleagues are invited to visit the Congress web page: www.suelos.org.ar/cuaternario%20SEGUNDA%20CIRCULAR%202006.doc or contact **Jorge Sanabria** (jorgesanab@yahoo.com.ar).

The **IV Field Course on the Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology of Tierra del Fuego** (Argentina) will be held on 12-14 November 2006. The international, bilingual (Spanish and English) graduate course is partially supported by the IAG with two scholarships for young, Latin American geomorphologists. The course has been held since 2003, with 67 students from 18 countries having participated. The success of the course and overwhelming interest has motivated the instructors to offer it again this year. Participants will study landforms and sedimentary accumulations with their genetic conditions and spatial distribution, as well as the Quaternary chronology, palaeoenvironments, and palaeoclimates of Southernmost South America. Glacial, periglacial, coastal, fluvial, and Aeolian landforms will be analyzed, along with those formed by mass-movement processes. For more information, please contact **Jorge Rabassa** (jrabassa@infovia.com.ar).

The **IAG Large Rivers Meeting** will take place 24 June – 1 July 2007 in Lyon, France. The meeting will feature a field trip along the Rhone River to view dams and discuss river diversion, hydro-development schemes, flood management, river rehabilitation and restoration, sediment fluxes, and floodplain processes. Professor Jean-Paul Bravard and invited speakers will provide commentary. Scientific paper sessions on large rivers of the world (including the Rhone River and other European rivers) are scheduled in Lyon on June 27-28, in between the first part of the field trip to the Upper Rhone and the second part to the lower downstream portions. For further details and expression of interest, please contact **J.P. Bravard** (jean.paul.bravard@univ-lyon2.fr) or **Avijit Gupta** (avijit@foxhill.demon.co.uk).

The IAG working group on arid lands, IGU (International Geographical Union) commission COMLAND (land degradation and desertification), and IGCP500 are jointly organizing an international workshop titled **Environmental changes and sustainable development in arid and semi-arid regions in the 21st century**. The workshop is scheduled for 10-17 September 2007 in Alashan Left Banner of Inner Mongolia, China. It includes (a) three days of papers and one day of field trip, followed by (b) an optional four or five-day field trip to the Badain Jaran Desert. Alashan Left Banner (Bayinhaote) is easily accessible by bus or taxi (one-hour) from Yinchuan (capital of Ningxia Autonomous Region) and by air and train from many Chinese cities. Further details will be available later this year on the websites of the organizations mentioned above or from Professor **Xiaoping Yang** of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (xpyang@263.net.cn).

SPECIALTY GROUP AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS FOR 2007

The GSG Awards Committee invites students to participate in the Graduate Student Paper Competition at the 2007 annual meeting of the AAG (17-21 April). Graduate students from all branches of geomorphology are encouraged to participate; separate monetary awards may be given for Masters and Ph.D. students. Applicants will be placed into special sessions organized specifically for the competition. The committee will evaluate papers based on their contributions to geomorphology and on the effectiveness of the presentations. Awards will be presented at the GSG business meeting and at the AAG awards luncheon. Students must be members of the AAG and GSG to be eligible for the award.

Student participants must register for the meeting and submit an abstract online at the AAG website: www.aag.org/annualmeetings. After receiving a presenter identification number (PIN) from the AAG, please send application packages by mail (preferred) or e-mail to **Dr. Michael Craghan** (GSG Awards Committee Chair) at: *Middle Atlantic Center for Geography and Environmental Studies, P.O. Box 20, Manasquan, NJ 08736*; mcraghan@macges.org. An application package consists of: (1) a cover letter indicating PIN and graduate degree status; (2) three copies of the standard abstract required by the AAG; (3) three copies of an 800–1000 word extended abstract. The deadline for receipt of the package is **24 October 2006**.

The GSG awards three additional honors at the AAG annual meeting: (a) Reds Wolman Graduate Student Research Award; (b) G.K. Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphological Research; (c) Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award. The deadline for submission of relevant materials for these awards is **1 February 2007**. Further details about the nomination and submission procedures are forthcoming on the GSG website (www.aag-gsg.org) and from Michael Craghan through the Geomorphlist listing service.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **37th International Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium** on "The Human Role in Changing Fluvial Systems" will be held at the University of South Carolina on 20-22 October 2006. The symposium will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*. Sixteen papers by leading scholars are in press, so that the proceedings volume will be available at the conference. Poster submissions are being accepted until **20 September 2006**. Grants of $200 and $400 are available to assist students attending the conference, to be awarded beginning **1 September 2006**. The conference begins with a half-day field trip led by Will Graf to the Congaree River in Columbia, followed by one and a half days of papers on topics ranging from regional syntheses to specific processes and drivers of change, including dam construction, mining, land-use conversion, and grazing. Speakers include Ken Gregory, Des Walling, Ellen Wohl, Carol Harden, LeRoy Poff, Jim Knox, Janet Hooke, Will Graf, Andrew Simon, Andrew Brooks, Mark Macklin, David Butler, Anne Chin, Richard Marston, and Patricia McDowell, in addition to Allan James and Andrew Marcus, the organizers of the symposium. M. Gordon Wolman is scheduled to give opening remarks; Andrew Goudie will deliver the keynote address. For a full description of the program and application details of student funding, visit the conference website (geography.uoregon.edu/amarcus/Binghamton2006) or contact **L. Allan James** or **Andrew Marcus**.

Members and colleagues are invited to organize special sessions for the **2007 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers**, to be held 17-21 April 2007 in San Francisco. Over 5,000 geographers and related professionals from the U.S., Canada, and abroad are expected to attend the meeting. The Call for Papers is posted on the AAG website: www.aag.org; deadline for submission of papers and posters is **26 October 2006**. Please submit proposals for special sessions sponsored by the GSG to **Anne Chin** at *chin@tamu.edu*.

A 2½-day field trip is being organized by **L. Allan James** and **Michael Singer** to study hydraulic mining sediment in the Sierra Foothills and Sacramento Valley. The trip will leave from San Francisco before the AAG Annual Meeting in April 2007. The field trip will visit areas of mining sediment, including some described in the classic work of G.K. Gilbert (1917), and highlight the links between episodic erosion of mining tailings in the Sierra piedmont and deposition in the bypasses. Issues of flooding and dam removal will also be discussed. Please check the AAG website for registration information or contact the organizers.

Geomorphorum is issued twice a year by the Geomorphology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. The purpose of the newsletter is to exchange ideas and news about geomorphology, and to foster improved communication within our community of scholars. The editor of Geomorphorum welcomes news, comments, and suggestions from all members of the geomorphological community. Issues of Geomorphorum are posted on the website of the GSG; new issues are announced through the Geomorphlist listing service currently maintained by David Wilkins at Boise State University.