GEOMORPHORUM

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

2008, Issue No. 1 **Scott Lecce, Editor**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIALTY GROUP OFFICERS 2008-09

Chair

Scott Lecce, East Carolina University
lecces@ecu.edu

Secretary-Treasurer and Awards Committee Chair

Dan Royall, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

Advisory Board

Jon Harbor, Purdue University
jharbor@purdue.edu

Anne Chin, Texas A&M University
chin@tamu.edu

Mike Slattery, Texas Christian University
m.slattery@tcu.edu

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Scott Lecce

This is quite an exciting time to be a member of the Geomorphology Specialty Group and I am honored to serve as the group's chair this year. I want to thank our past chair Jon Harbor for his effective service (highlighted by the shortest business meeting in recent memory!), as well as the leadership other past chairs of the GSG. Several of the issues I discuss below are the direct outgrowth of their efforts.

Special Sessions

One of the best features of the annual meeting of the AAG each year is the opportunity to present our research to the people that matter most to us, our fellow geomorphologists. This is best accomplished through the structure of special sessions organized by the GSG, and we have a long history of organizing high quality sessions. Clearly, it is to our benefit to give papers in GSG special sessions as opposed to those organized by the AAG's arrangements committee, however, the AAG currently lacks a centralized mechanism for listing special sessions sponsored by specialty groups on the meeting registration area of the AAG website. Therefore, it is up to us to communicate this information to our membership and others who might be interested in presenting in GSG-sponsored special sessions. In the past this has largely taken place by word of mouth and in announcements posted through GeomorphList. With the cooperation of our Web Master Mike Urban, this year we will also keep an up-to-date listing of GSG-sponsored special sessions and contact information for the session organizer(s) on the GSG home page at http://www.aag-gsg.org/, or go directly to the sponsored session page.

A second issue to think about concerning special sessions – as we all try to juggle our participation in multiple conferences in the light of increasingly scarce travel funds and rising travel costs, it is imperative that we minimize the length of our stays at these meetings. Where appropriate to the theme and content of the research, I would like to encourage session organizers

to at least consider using the 'Illustrated Paper" format. The Illustrated Paper format remains our best option for squeezing more presentations into a short period of time and limiting the total number of days occupied by GSG sessions. Finally, I want to remind session organizers that the AAG requires that all special sessions sponsored by specialty groups must be approved by the specialty group chair. So, please contact me with your GSG session proposal at lecces@ecu.edu.

30th Anniversary of the GSG

Although it hardly seems possible, this next year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Geomorphology Specialty Group. As part of the festivities, I am pleased announce that the advisory committee is developing plans to hold some kind of celebratory event at the 2009 meeting in Las Vegas. This will most certainly involve recognizing the people instrumental in the formation and development of the GSG. We also hope to incorporate a fundraising component that will have the goal of increasing the endowment funds that the GSG currently has in the Mel Marcus Fund to a level where the interest earned each year fully supports our student awards. If anyone is interested, please consider the possibility of organizing a special session that revisits the people and history of the group. If you are a former officer or award winner, I would like to invite you to the meeting so that we can recognize and thank those of you who helped develop and build the GSG. So, please keep this celebration in your plans and make every effort to attend next year's meeting in Las Vegas. Stay tuned to further developments as communicated through our web site or in the next issue of *Geomorphorum*.

Membership

Finally, we have significant financial commitments each year to support both the IAG and our student awards. In order to maintain this support, you will notice that *Geomorphorum* is for the first time running a paid advertisement. We must also maintain or expand our membership base, as it is our largest source of revenue. Even if you do not attend the annual meeting each year, I encourage you to continue your membership in the AAG and to remember to check the box for membership in the GSG. At just $10/yr, it remains a real bargain!

Cheers,
Scott

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2009 AAG Meeting

http://aag.org/annualmeetings/2009/index.htm

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held March 22-27, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The call for papers went out in July and abstracts can be submitted online until October 16, 2008.

Special Sessions

The Geomorphology Specialty Group (GSG) will sponsor a limited number of specialty sessions of interest to its members. Please note that the AAG requires that all special sessions sponsored by a specialty group be approved by the chair of the specialty group. To organize a GSG special session, please contact Scott Lecce (lecces@ecu.edu) with your session proposal.

Bus Trip to Death Valley National Park

Norman Meek (CSU San Bernardino) is organizing a one day trip of scenic Death Valley and nearby Tecopa basin. The trip will visit some of the most popular visitor locales, including Badwater, the Devil's Golf Course, Zabriskie Point and the Visitor's Center, as well as many lesser known sites. Please bring a coat, hat, field shoes and camera, and be prepared for both hot and cold weather. The trip price includes the entrance fee, a box lunch and soft drinks. Please eat breakfast before arriving for a prompt 0700 departure. The bus should arrive back at the hotel by dusk. This trip is sponsored by the Geomorphology Specialty Group as part of their 30th Anniversary celebration.

Graduate Student Paper Competition

The Awards Committee of the AAG's Geomorphology Specialty Group (GSG) invites students to participate in the Graduate Student Paper Competition at the annual meeting of the AAG in March 2009. Graduate students from all branches of geomorphology are encouraged to submit an application and present a paper. Separate awards are given for master's and PhD students. Applicants must be members of the AAG and the GSG to be eligible for the award.

Participants in the student paper competition will be placed into special sessions organized specifically for the competition. The GSG awards committee will evaluate the papers based on their research contribution to the field of geomorphology and on the effectiveness of the presentation. The award will be presented at the GSG business meeting and at the AAG awards banquet.

Student participants must be registered for the meeting and submit an abstract online at the AAG website. The call for papers is at www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2009/papers.htm. After receiving a participant identification number (PIN) from the AAG, mail (preferred) or E-mail your application package to Dan Royall, GSG Awards Committee Chair:

Dan Royall
Department of Geography
PO Box 26170
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Greensboro, NC 27402

E-mail: pdroyall@uncg.edu

Materials must reach Dr. Royall by Thursday October 9, 2008. Send any queries via E-mail. The application package must include:

1.) a simple cover letter indicating PIN and graduate degree status
2.) three copies of the standard 250 word abstract required by the AAG
3.) three copies of an 800-1000 word extended abstract

Other GSG Awards and Honors

In addition to the student paper award, the GSG presents three other awards and honors at the AAG meeting:

- Reds Wolman Graduate Student Research Award
- G. K. Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphic Research
- Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award

Visit the Geomorphology Specialty Group website at www.aag-gsg.org for further details regarding these awards. Please contact Dr. Dan Royall about nominations and proposals. The deadline for submission of relevant materials for these other three awards is January 1, 2009. (The deadline for the graduate student paper competition is aligned with the October conference registration deadline because participants must be registered for the annual meeting to present their research).

39th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium 2008
Fluvial Deposits and Environmental History
October 10-11, 2008
University of Texas at Austin

Fluvial deposits are widely recognized as a means to interpret environmental history across a range of temporal and spatial scales. Because fluvial deposits are linked to a variety of drainage basin processes, fluvial deposits represent critical archives for understanding how landscapes respond to environmental change, such as climatic, anthropogenic, or others. Geomorphologists analyze fluvial deposits using various sedimentologic and pedogenic approaches to characterize the extent and timing of environmental change, such as flooding, drought, or episodes of accelerated erosion and sedimentation. In many instances fluvial deposits include a human signal, providing insight into anthropogenic impacts on watershed processes spanning from headwaters to the lower reaches of large alluvial valleys.

The goal of the 2008 Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium is to bring together a diverse range of scholars that work with fluvial deposits to advance our understanding of geomorphology and environmental history in several key areas, particularly in paleohydrology, geoarchaeology, and in understanding fluvial adjustment to environmental change.

The symposium is being held on the University of Texas at Austin campus from October 10 - October 11, 2008. A pre-symposium field trip is scheduled for October 9, 2008, and will traverse a "source to sink" route from the Texas Hill Country to the Gulf of Mexico.

For more information please contact Paul Hudson (pfhudson@mail.utexas.edu), or see the symposium web site at:
https://webspace.utexas.edu/hudsonpf/binghamton.html

7th International Conference On Geomorphology
Melbourne, 6-11 July 2009
Ancient Landscapes - Modern Perspectives
www.geomorphology2009.com

The scientific program will accommodate all aspects of geomorphology, including:

- River Management
- Landscapes and geomorphic processes in drylands
- Ancient landforms and regolith
- Fire and geomorphology
- Global environmental change and geomorphology
- Landscape connectivity
- Applications of long-term chronometric methods, including cosmogenic isotopes
- Landscape and process modeling
- Coastal geomorphology
- Hillslopes and mass movement
- Applied and urban geomorphology
- Quaternary and glacial geomorphology and dating
- Karst geomorphology
- Geomorphology and archaeology
- Geomorphology and ecology
- Planetary geomorphology

A wide range of field trips will be offered for delegates to experience the diversity of Australian and New Zealand landforms. One-day mid-conference field trips will be offered, as well as longer pre- and post-conference trips.

Special Sessions and Pre-Conference Field Trip at the 7th International Conference on Geomorphology

The IAG's working group on Planetary Geomorphology will be hosting special sessions and a pre-conference field trip at the 7th International Conference on

Geomorphology (July 2009)
http://www.geomorphology2009.com/

Various systems of landforms and their generative processes can best be understood in a full planetary context. This session will consider the forms and processes for cosmogenic (impact-generated), endogenic (tectonic and volcanic), and endogenic (aeolian, hillslope/mass movement, fluvial, coastal/lacustrine, glacial and periglacial) landscapes of the solid-surface objects in the solar system, including those features of Earth that serve as the analogues for understanding their extraterrestrial counterparts. Relatively recent planetary mission discoveries include volcanic, tectonic, and aeolian landscapes on Venus; aeolian, fluvial, hillslope/mass movement, lacustrine, coastal, glacial and periglacial landscapes on Mars; active volcanism on Io; aeolian, lacustrine, and fluvial-dendritic landscapes on Titan: and cosmogenic landscapes on these and many more. All of these phenomena provide the opportunity to extend the methodology of geomorphological inquiry to make it a science of Earth-like planets, both in this solar system and in those currently being discovered.

Abstract submission will be open in the Fall.

Mary Bourke and Vic Baker

GSA Joint Meeting Sessions & Field Trip

The Archaeological Geology Division of the Geological Society of America is sponsoring several sessions of interest to geomorphologists and Quaternists at the 2008 Joint Meeting to be convened in Houston, TX from 5-9 October 2008. In addition, the division is sponsoring a field trip to look at mima mounds and the sandy mantle prior to the related topical session. Please consider joining us in Houston! Register online at http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/

The co-sponsored session "Human Influences on the Stratigraphic Record**"** will explore the topic of humans as agents of erosion, as well as sediment storage, and the potential impact on the present and future stratigraphic record. It will examine how natural sedimentation rates have been altered by the origin of traditional and industrial agriculture, urbanization, and dams. It will also provide a forum to discuss the effect and effectiveness of erosion control structures, and the role that dams and other human interventions may be playing on sediment delivery to the coasts. This session aims to bring together sedimentologists, geoarchaeologists, historians, soil scientists, and agronomists, as this meeting is being jointly held by the GSA, SSA, ASA, CSSA, GCAGS, and the HGS.

Owing to this wide sponsorship of the meeting, this year's Topical Sessions at GSA are sure to appeal to those of us who like dirt!! The Archaeological Division is sponsoring "Soils as Components of Archaeological Landscapes" (session 142); "The Origin of Mima Mounds and Similar Micro-Relief Features: Multidisciplinary Perspectives" (session 143); "Geochemical and Geoarchaeological Analysis of Shell Middens: Climate, Ecology, and Culture" (session 144); and "From Quaternary Geology and Physical Volcanology to Geoarchaeology and Paleoanthropology: A Memorial to Harold E. Malde" (session 145). Please note that **"**The Changing Role of Geoarchaeology in Environmental and Cultural Resource Management" (session 141) has been cancelled.

A one-day field trip on 10/4 "The Origin of the Sandy Mantle and Mima Mounds of the East Texas Gulf Coastal Plain: Geomorphological, Pedological, and Geoarchaeological Perspectives" is being co-sponsored by the GSA Archaeological Geology Division; GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; Pedology Division (S-5) of the Soil Science Society of America; Council on the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Soil Science. This trip is being led by Rolfe D. Mandel, Donald L. Johnson, and Charles D. Frederick. The fee to enroll is $96, and registration is online at https://www.acsmeetings.org/registrations/ This trip will examine the unconsolidated sands forming thick soil mantles on many uplands, Pleistocene terraces, and most Mima (pimple) mounds across East Texas, including the Gulf Coastal Plain and adjoining areas of Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. These sandy mantles are typically 0.5-2 m thick, and even thicker in some areas. The geomorphic processes responsible for the mantles, including those associated with Mima mounds, are widely debated and controversial. Some researchers advocate an eolian origin, others a pedological and/or biological origin (A-E horizon formation linked to weathering of underlying materials, with bioturbation), while still others invoke one or more of these processes plus slope-gravity processes (mass-transfers). Because cultural deposits often occur in the sandy mantles, processes of origin have attracted the interest of archaeologists. This field trip will focus on the controversies surrounding the formation of the sandy mantles, especially those of Mima-pimple mounds, in light of early and recent investigations and approaches. Stops will be made at mounds and oft-associated depressions (senna-bean ponds, bagols, etc.) on three Pleistocene Texas-Louisiana geologic formations: the younger Beaumont-Prairie surface, the older Lissie (Bentley-Montgomery) surface, and the still older Willis surface to examine sandy mantles, mounds, soils, and subjacent Pleistocene sediments.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting, or out in the field!

Dr Kathleen Nicoll
Vice-Chair, Archaeological Geology Division, GSA
University of Utah, Department of Geography

12th International Symposium on the Interactions between Sediments and Water

The International Association for Sediment Water Science is pleased to announce that the 12th International Symposium on the Interactions between Sediments and Water will be held in Dartington, England in 2011 (proposed dates: Sunday 19th June – Thursday 23rd June 2011).

The symposium will explore our current knowledge of process interactions from catchment to coast, examining how sediment and water interactions drive, influence and link many of the physical, chemical and biological processes at play within and between terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

To register an Expression of Interest and ensure you receive the 1st circular please email: IASWS@plymouth.ac.uk

The 1st Circular will also be posted on www.IASWS.org from September 31st.

LSU BOYD PROFESSOR JESSE WALKER RECIPIENT OF PRESTIGIOUS GEOGRAPHY AWARD*

BATON ROUGE – Sir Edmund Hillary. Queen Elizabeth II. Former U.S. Senator and NASA Astronaut John Glenn. Richard J. Russell, for whom LSU's Howe-Russell-Kniffen Geoscience Complex is partially named. What do these well-known people have in common? Believe it or not, it's LSU Boyd Professor H. Jesse Walker http://www.ga.lsu.edu/walker.htm, who has been a fixture on the LSU campus for the past 50 years.

Walker, Boyd Professor Emeritus in the LSU Department of Geography & Anthropology http://www.ga.lsu.edu/, is the 2008 recipient of the Royal Geographical Society's http://www.rgs.org/HomePage.htm Patron's Medal, which is one of the two most prestigious awards given by the society. Walker was awarded the gold medal "for the encouragement, development and promotion of coastal geomorphology."

"It is indeed an honor to receive a Royal Medal that has been awarded nearly every year since 1839, and one that is not only approved by the Queen, but also carries names of such previous recipients as Carl Ritter, Fridtjof Nansen, Robert E. Peary and the Prince of Monaco," Walker said.

Other notable winners include Robert McClure for his discovery of the Northwest Passage, Capt. Robert Scott for services as leader of the National Antarctic expedition and Sir Edmund Hillary for Himalayan exploration.

In 1831, King William IV gave 50 guineas to establish a Founder's Medal. This money was sufficient so that in 1839 it was decided to add another gold medal of equal importance; the two of them representing the Royal Geographical Society's highest honors. It became known as the Patron's Medal and has been awarded every year since then except for two years during World War II. These two awards are given for "the encouragement and promotion of geographical science and discovery" and are presented only after approval by "Her Majesty the Queen," Queen Elizabeth II.

"The award of this medal to Dr. Walker, who now joins such luminaries as Richard Leakey and many others, is a clear statement of his outstanding contributions to geographical studies, and the Department of Geography & Anthropology is incredibly honored to count Dr. Walker as one of our own," said Patrick Hesp http://www.ga.lsu.edu/hesp.html, R. J. Russell Professor and chair of the LSU Department of Geography & Anthropology.

Walker, born in Michigan in 1921, lived in Colorado for eight years and then moved with his family to Morro Bay, Calif., just before the stock market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression. After graduation from high school in San Luis Obispo, Calif., he attended the University of California, Berkeley. His undergraduate studies were soon interrupted by World War II.

Walker joined the Navy flight program at UC Berkeley as a member of the Flying Golden Bears. He received his wings and commission two weeks before John Glenn and, like him, transferred into the Marine Corps. Walker spent the war years flying transport planes with the U.S. Marine Corps around the South Pacific, mostly in the Solomon Islands.

After WWII, Walker returned to UC Berkeley, finished his undergraduate degree and then earned a master's degree. He taught at Georgia State University in Atlanta during the early 1950s, before coming to LSU in 1955. At LSU, he completed his Ph.D. in 1960, and other than a one-year leave before joining the faculty, he has been on the campus ever since.

"I had a year's leave of absence before I ever started teaching here to go to the office of Naval Research because Richard Russell, you may have heard his name … which is on the building, wanted me to get the experience," Walker said.

Walker served as the chair of the Department of Geography & Anthropology during the 1960s and rose through the ranks, becoming Boyd Professor in 1976.

Walker's research focus includes geomorphology, the Arctic and alluvial and coastal morphology. He received

the Patron's Medal for his work in the field of geomorphology.

"It pleases me to learn that this geographical award is presented for the contribution I may have made in the promotion of geomorphology, a subject that I began enjoying long before I even knew such a term existed," Walker said. "I have devoted most of my time to the study of shorelines, especially in the Arctic and those impacted by artificial structures, especially in Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea. The research in the Arctic began 52 years ago and continues to this day."

Walker, who has been retired from teaching for some 25 years, still travels to Alaska almost every year. He is also asked to present guest lectures at numerous conferences and universities around the world. In the past five years, he has given keynote addresses in Mexico, Taiwan and Spain and has traveled to other places around the globe such as Switzerland, Italy, Scotland, Japan, Palau, China and Antarctica.

Walker has been published in more than 150 books, monographs, research reports and articles. In 1986, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Uppsala in Sweden. In 2004, he received the Laureat d' honneur from the International Geographical Union. In 2006, he was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of American Geographers, and in 2005, the LSU Board of Supervisors approved the naming of the geomorphology laboratory in the Howe-Russell-Kniffen Geoscience Complex as the H. J. Walker Geomorphology Laboratory.

*From LSU Office of Public Affairs.

MINUTES OF THE 2008 GSG BUSINESS MEETING
Boston, April 16, 2008

Jon Harbor, Chair
Scott Lecce, Secretary-Treasurer

Jon Harbor called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

I General Announcements

First order of business was to congratulate Carol Harden for her election as Vice President of the AAG.

From the Specialty Group Chairs Meeting

The AAG now has more than 10,000 members with more than 7,000 registered for this years meeting. There are now 58 specialty groups in the AAG. The AAG now has a childcare reimbursement program available for conference participants.

The *Annals* is now doing occasional special issues, with one forthcoming on "Pease and Armed Conflict" and one in the planning stages on "Climate Change."

Pat McDowell reported for Anne Chin that two National Research Council studies are currently underway that geomorphologists should consider providing input on (web links for both are provided in the last issue of *Geomorphorum*). One is "Challenges and Opportunities in Earth Surface Processes" and the other is "Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences in the Next Decade."

The AAG has a new "Developing Countries" program that provides low cost membership to individuals in low income countries in an effort to enhance communication and collaboration. Membership is $20 per year and includes all benefits except hard copy materials. One of the main interests of these individuals is to get linked into some of our listserves. As this develops further the GSG may need to consider a membership fee structure that includes this group of individuals.

Wiley-Blackwell Lecture on Geomorphology and Society.
All were encouraged to attend this year's lecture given by Denise Reed of the University of New Orleans on "Managing the Mississippi Delta for the 21st Century: A Challenge to Science and Society."

Physical Geography Reception.
All were encouraged to attend the annual reception for Physical Geographers, sponsored by the GSG and other specialty groups.

II Specialty Group Reports

Approval of the Minutes
A motion to approve the minutes of the 2007 meeting as published in *Geomorphorum* was made, seconded, and passed by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report.
Since last year's meeting we have collected $1,831 in income from dues. Expenditures were $1,500 for student awards, $420 for the Honors Luncheon, and $500 to support the Physical Geography Reception for a total of $2,420. We transferred $8,000 to the Mel Marcus Fund so that the interest can be used annually to support student awards. Earnings (about 10% thus far) will be posted on August 31, 2008. As of March 31 our balance was $2,272 compared to $10,861 a year ago.

Web Site Report.
Mike Urban encouraged us to take a look at the web site at www.aag-gsg.org. Visitation of the web site is virtually unchanged during the past year. Most people are getting to the site through the use of bookmarks. Visits to the site average about 300-350 per month, but double after *Geomorphorum* is published. We have started

adding abstracts to past AAG meetings. Members are encouraged to check these abstracts for accuracy.

III Special Business

Physical Geography Reception. Dorothy Sack proposed that the responsibility for organizing the Physical Geography Reception be rotated among participating specialty groups. The reception was originally organized in 2004 at the centennial meeting to coincide with the "Celebrating a Century of Physical Geography" special sessions. Fritz Nelson has been organizing this every year since. It was agreed that the chair of the GSG will take the lead in organizing the reception for next year's meeting.

Plans for the 2009 Annual Meeting
The group was encouraged to seek permission from the chair of the GSG to organize special sessions and to submit them to the AAG by their deadline. The AAG would like some of the specialty group sessions to be organized around the theme of "Integrative Geography" where we have people coming together to give talks that integrate human and physical geography.

IV Announcements

Publications
Carol Harden encouraged us to publish in the *Annals* and the *Professional Geographer*. She reported that the *Annals* has a turnaround time of about three months and that articles are published online after they are accepted. Articles are searchable in indexes such as Google Scholar and the publisher (Rutledge) is encouraging authors to submit up to four pages of color for free.

Tony Orme encouraged submissions to *Physical Geography*. The journal has a new look and is accepting manuscripts electronically. Production is speeding up – the latest issue came out just six weeks after the last papers were submitted.

Dick Marston also encouraged submissions to *Geomorphology*. The journal is publishing over 4,000 pages per year and pdf downloads are now over 300,000 per year. The number of both regular issues and special issues continues to grow.

Jeff Lee reported that next year Elsevier will begin publishing a journal called *Aeolian Research*. Although the journal web site is not quite ready to accept manuscripts, they can be send to Jeff at Texas Tech.

Conference Announcements
Tim Beach announced that the Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium will be held this October at the University of Texas in Austin. The title is "Fluvial Deposits and Environmental History." Tim also reminded us of the 7th International Conference on Geomorphology which will be held in Melbourne Australia on July 7-12, 2009.

V Appointments

Awards Committee. Martin Doyle of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was appointed as the new member of the committee.

Secretary-Treasurer. Dan Royall of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro was nominated as the next Secretary-Treasurer of the GSG. The nomination was seconded and approved unanimously.

VI Awards

Reds Wolman Student Research Award (PhD Level)
Nira Salant, University of British Columbia. *'Sticky Business': The Influence of Surface Periphyton on Particle Deposition and Streambed Hydraulics.*

Graduate Student Paper Award (Masters Level)
Gwenda Schlomer, Missouri State University. *Sedimentological and Geochemical Indicators of the Presettlement Boundary in Overbank Floodplain Deposits of the Little Buffalo-Dutch Buffalo River System, North Carolina.*

Graduate Student Paper Award (PhD Level)
Nira Salant, University of British Columbia. *'Sticky Business': The Influence of Surface Periphyton on Particle Deposition and Streambed Hydraulics.*

Grove Carl Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphological Research
David Leigh, **Pradeep Srivastava** , and **George Brook**, University of Georgia. Late Pleistocene braided rivers of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, USA. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 2004, Vol. 23, p. 65–84.

Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award
William L. Graf, University of South Carolina.

GROVE KARL GILBERT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEOMORPHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The recipients of the 2008 G.K. Gilbert Award are **David Leigh** and his co-authors **Pradeep Srivastava** and **George Brook**. They are recognized for their paper "Late Pleistocene braided rivers of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, USA," published in 2004 in *Quaternary Science Reviews* v. 23, p. 65-84. The citation and David's acceptance remarks follow.

Citation
by Frank Magilligan

I am writing this letter to nominate David Leigh and his co-authors to be this year's recipients of the prestigious Gilbert Award by the GSG for their fantastic paper Leigh, D.S., Srivastava, P., Brook, G.A, 2004. Late Pleistocene braided rivers of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, USA. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 23, 65-84. Occasionally a paper comes to your attention that immediately fascinates you and impresses you with its scientific accomplishments. This paper did this for me. In this paper, David and his co-authors identify the larger regional fluvial impacts of Quaternary climate change in a region well outside the immediate effects of Pleistocene glaciation. Too often Quaternary scientists focus on regions immediately adjacent to the ice sheet and largely ignore broader extra-regional effects. Certainly the exception to this in the US has been the immensely important research in the southwestern US on pluvial lakes, but hardly anyone has interrogated the geomorphic response of late Pleistocene and early Holocene climates on fluvial systems beyond the glacial margins in general and certainly not in the southeastern US.

This paper is impressive on several grounds. It is profound in its demonstration of fluvial responses to climate changes at the transitional climates from the late Glacial Maximum (LGM) to the early Holocene. Moreover it is impressive methodologically through its combined use of remote sensing, extensive and intensive field sampling, and a broad array of geochronological dating methods. In this paper, David and his co-authors provide detailed morphological and chronological results for an array of river systems in the southeastern United States (the Oconee-Altamaha River valley in Georgia and the Pee Dee River valley in South Carolina) and demonstrate that channel braiding is the more common planform pattern for the late Quaternary in the southeastern United States. OSL and radiocarbon (14C) dates indicate distinct braiding at 17-30 ka (within oxygen isotope stage 2 (OIS 2)), and that braiding probably existed at least during parts of OIS 3 and possibly OIS 4 back to ~ 70 ka. These results suggest that this dominant planform pattern reflects the response of discharge and sediment yield to generally more cooler and drier paleoclimates, and that there may have been a different seasonal effect during the late Pleistocene on runoff. They further show that the time of braiding correlates very closely with the latest period of eolian dune sedimentation associated with rivers on the Coastal Plain in Georgia at 15-30 ka. Moreover, they suggest an important genetic linkage between the braided floodplain and eolian dune sedimentary systems whereby their combined evidence (remote sensing imagery, stratigraphic observations, and 14C and OSL dates) indicates that these extensive braid plains were an important source of eolian sand during the late Pleistocene.

This paper clearly merits consideration for the prestigious Gilbert Award from the GSG. It appeared in one of the premier scientific journals (Quaternary Science Reviews has an impact factor significantly higher than most geomorphology and Quaternary journals), and although it has only been out for three years, it has already been widely cited. More importantly, it exemplifies the level of scientific rigor and reason that G.K. Gilbert would find compelling. It is fundamentally interesting and important and will not only be of interest to fluvial geomorphologists but will be an important contribution to the larger paleo-climatic community.

This is a truly fantastic paper, and I hope that you vote favorably upon it.

Acceptance Remarks
by David Leigh

We are extremely delighted to receive the G.K. Gilbert Award. Gilbert's work is held in the highest regard, and receiving this award in his name is an outstanding honor. We would like to thank Frank Magilligan for the nomination, Mike Daniels, Paul Hudson, Mike Benedetti, Joe Mason, Allan James, Peter Jacobs, Bob Pavlowsky, and Dave May for supporting letters, and the Geomorphology Specialty Group as a whole. I personally would like to thank Ed Hajic for stimulating, and Jim Knox for nurturing and developing, my appreciation of paleo-fluvial-geomorphology. Finally, I thank my entire family for constantly being supportive of such obscure endeavors.

This research emerged from conversations with Andrew Ivester during his doctoral research in the late 1990s on riverine eolian dunes on the Georgia Coastal Plain. We thought in many cases that these Pleistocene dunes were deflated from braided river floodplains, but we had difficulty finding clear evidence to prove it. The problem was that too much "danged-old" vegetation got in the way and made remote sensing images of little use to see the ancient river patterns. Earlier in 1967, B.G. Thom had indicated the presence of braided patterns on terraces of the lower Pee Dee River valley in South Carolina, but he lacked good age control and it remained unclear whether this was a widespread regional phenomenon or not.

It was already the 21st century before a breakthrough for us was achieved using technologies that had emerged in the late 20th century. One was with the purchase of Landsat images for Georgia and the Carolinas that were selected to have been taken at the time of large overbank floods. These images greatly enhanced the low-lying wet areas of the braided channels in the infrared band, despite the pesky tree cover. Another

was the creation of the Luminescence Dating Laboratory by George Brook in UGA's Geography Department. George had hired Pradeep Srivastava as a postdoc to run the lab, and at that point all the key elements were firmly in place. So, one day I told George that I had found several places with the Landsat images that were "smoking guns" for the braided river patterns, and that all we had to do was obtain reliable OSL dates from the alluvium in those places to "nail-in" the chronology of braided rivers in the southeastern Coastal Plain. With Pradeep's expertise in OSL dating of fluvial sediments this quickly became a reality, and the rest is history.

When I was doing my dissertation research in the late 1980s I was very skeptical of the emerging technology of OSL dating. Now OSL dating is commonplace and it is revolutionizing geomorphology, as is LIDAR topographic imagery and other technological advances. Just imagine if G.K. Gilbert could see us now.

Thank you very much!

MELVIN G. MARCUS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

The 2008 Mel Marcus Award is given to **William L. Graf** of the University of South Carolina. Will is recognized for a lifetime of achievement in research, teaching, and service in geomorphology and geography. The citation follows; Will's acceptance remarks are posted in an audio file recording.

Citation
by Jeff Lee

I am happy to introduce Dr. William L. Graf, this year's winner of the Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award of the Geomorphology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. Assisting me in nominating Will for the award are Bruce Rhoads (University of Illinois), Ken Gregory (University of London) and Dick Marston (Kansas State University). In addition, Frank Magilligan (Dartmouth College), Martin Doyle (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and Mark Fonstad (Texas State University) wrote supporting letters. In fact, Mark was preparing to nominate Will when he learned that we already had done so.

This nomination is particularly satisfying for me because I learned much from both Will and Mel Marcus, as members of my dissertation committee, as professors in the classroom, and, most valuably, as fellow beer drinkers around Mel's backyard pool in Tempe.

Will Graf was born in Zanesville, Ohio in Appalachian coal country. His mother worked in retail, his father was a pharmacist and Will developed a love of the outdoors on hunting and fishing trips with them. He earned three degrees from the University of Wisconsin Madison (PhD in 1974) and served three years as an intelligence officer in the US Air Force (1971-74). His first academic position was at the University of Iowa (1974 to 1978), followed by Arizona State University (1978 to 2001), where he became Regent's Professor, and since 2001 he has been Foundation University Professor at the University of South Carolina and currently serves as chair of the department.

Will has had and continues to have a distinguished career in geography and geomorphology. He has about 160 publications listed on his vita. A few of the fourteen books are The Colorado River: Instability and Basin Management, Fluvial Processes in Dryland Rivers, Wilderness Preservation and the Sagebrush Rebellions, Plutonium and the Rio Grande, and he was editor of Geomorphic Systems of North America. Of eighty-three refereed articles in journals and books, most are single-authored and in top journals. His geomorphological research includes process studies, mathematical techniques, applied research, and analysis of governmental policy.

Will has been president of the Association of American Geographers as well as president of the AAG Geomorphology Specialty Group and the GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division. He has served on the editorial boards of many journals, including Annals of the AAG, Catena, GSA Bulletin, Geomorphology, and Journal of Arid Environments. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and chaired several committees for the National Research Council on geomorphologically-oriented topics.

Will has chaired fifteen PhD committees, with five more in progress.

To me, Will Graf's career is as distinguished as they come. Mel Marcus is looking down with a smile on his face and an appropriate wisecrack that he wishes he could share with us.

Acceptance Remarks
by Will Graf

Click HERE to listen to an audio file with Will's remarks.

Jon Harbor adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

EDITOR'S REPORT ON *GEOMORPHOLOGY*

The Elsevier journal *Geomorphology* continues to grow in size and exposure. Over 38,000 pages have been published in the journal since the inaugural issue in July 1987. 3988 pages were published in 2007 alone and that number has already been exceeded for 2008 through August. The 1 August 2008 issue marked Volume 100! Between July 2007-June 2008, over 300,000 full-text PDFs of articles from *Geomorphology*

were downloaded worldwide from Elsevier's Science Direct site. The Science Citation Impact factor was 1.85 for calendar year 2007, an all-time high for the journal.

Geomorphology publishes peer-reviewed works across the full spectrum of the discipline from fundamental theory and science to applied research of relevance to sustainable management of the environment. A new feature: we now welcome manuscripts that review the geomorphic literature on a given topic as well as short communications on new developments. Our journal's scope includes geomorphic themes of: tectonics and regional structure; glacial processes and landforms; fluvial sequences, Quaternary environmental change and dating; fluvial processes and landforms; mass movement, slopes and periglacial processes; hillslopes and soil erosion; weathering, karst and soils; aeolian processes and landforms, coastal dunes and arid environments; coastal and marine processes, estuaries and lakes; modeling, theoretical and quantitative geomorphology; DEM, GIS and remote sensing methods and applications; hazards, applied and planetary geomorphology; and volcanics.

In the July 2007-June 2008 reporting period, 12 special issues were published:

- *36th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium (2005): Geomorphology and Ecosystems* (guest editors M. Thoms, C. Renschler and M. Doyle), Vol. 89(1-2), 1 September 2007
- *Reduced-Complexity Geomorphological Modeling for Rivers and Catchment Management* (guest editors J. Brasington and K. Richards), Vol. 90(3-4), 15 October 2007
- *38th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium (2007): Complexity in Geomorphology* (guest editors A.B. Murray and M.A. Fonstad), Vol. 91(3-4), 1 November 2007
- *The Fluvial System: Past and Present Dynamics and Controls* (guest editors J. Herget, R. Dikau, K.J. Gregory and J. Vandenberghe), Vol. 92(3-4), 1 December 2007
- *Challenges in Geomorphological Methods and Techniques* (guest editors A Lang and T. Glade), Vol. 93(1-2), 1 January 2008
- *GIS Technology and Models for Assessing Landslide Hazards and Risks* (guest editors A. Carrara and R. Pike), Vol. 94(3-4), 15 February 2008
- *Paraglacial Geomorphology: Process and Paraglacial Context* (guest editors D. Mercier and S. Etienne), Vol. 95(1-2), 1 March 2008
- *Debris Flows initiated by Runoff, Erosion, and Sediment Entrainment in Western North America* (guest editors J. Coe, S. Cannon, and P. Panti), Vol. 96(3-4), 15 April 2008
- *Glacial Landscape Evolution: Implications for Glacial Processes, Patterns and Reconstructions* (guest editors A.P. Stroeven and D.A. Swift), Vol. 97(1-2), 1 May 2008
- *The Geomorphological and Paleohydrological Response of Fluvial Systems to Climatic, Human, and Tectonic Controls* (guest editors V.R. Thorndycraft, G. Benito and K.J. Gregory), Vol. 98(1-2), 1 June 2008
- *Human and Climatic Impacts on Fluvial and Hillslope Morphology* (guest editors J. Vandenberghe, V. Vanacker and D. Bridgland), Vol. 98(3-4), 15 June 2008
- *Fluvial Systems: Dynamics, Morphology and the Sedimentary Record—Special Issue in Honour of Adrian Harvey* *guest editors A.J. Plater and A. Lang), Vol. 100(1-2), 1 August 2008

The "Top 25 Hottest Articles" (most often downloaded) are listed on the journal's website and updated quarterly. In surveys of authors, *Geomorphology* ranks high in "refereeing speed and standards, production speed and services, physical quality, impact factor, and reputation."

Richard Marston, Co-Editor-in-Chief

UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

Harden is AAG Vice President

Following the venerable footsteps of Dick Marston and Will Graf, Carol Harden (University of Tennessee) became Vice President of the AAG on July 1, 2008. In this year as VP, she is listening to ideas and suggestions from all corners of the AAG (charden@utk.edu). She is especially interested in better connecting geomorphologists and other academic geographers with non-academics who need (or should recognize that they need) the results of our research, and in better integrating physical geography with human geography and other social sciences, and even regular people, to gain ground on environmental issues. She continues to study headwater streams and their watersheds in east Tennessee and ecosystem services provided by the black soils of high altitude Andean paramo grasslands.

In summer 2008, Carol Harden joined Tony Orme as Co-Editors-in-Chief of the journal *Physical Geography*. Tony Orme founded the journal and has edited it since Volume 1 in 1980; John Dixon (jcdixon@uark.edu) is the geomorphology editor. *Physical Geography* publishes six issues per year, now with a fully electronic submission process.

For those interested in pluvial lakes, the American West, and the history of geomorphology, **Antony Orme** (University of California, Los Angeles) offers three recently published research papers:

Orme, A.R., 2008. **Lake Thompson, Mojave Desert, California: The late Pleistocene lake system and its Holocene desiccation**. In: Reheis, M.C., Hershler, R., and Miller, D.M. (eds.), *Late Cenozoic Drainage History of the Southwestern Great Basin and Lower Colorado River Region: Geologic and Biotic Perspectives*. Geological Society of America Special Paper 439, p. 261-278. DOI:10.1130/2008.2439(11).

Orme, A.R. and Orme, A.J., 2008. **Late Pleistocene shorelines of Owens Lake, California, and their hydroclimatic and tectonic implications**. In the above title: Geological Society of America Special Paper 439, p. 207-225. DOI: 10.1130/2008.2439(09).

Orme, A.R., 2008. **Pleistocene pluvial lakes of the American West: A short history of research.** In: Grapes, R.H., Oldroyd, D., and Grigelis, A. (eds.), *History of Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 301, 51-78. DOI: 10.1144/SP301.4 0305-8719/08.

The volumes in which these papers appear contain much of interest to geomorphologists. *The Late Cenozoic Drainage History of the Southwestern Great Basin and Lower Colorado River Region* presents a range of recent research on the geology, geomorphology and biology of changing late Cenozoic landscapes. The *History of Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology* presents perspectives on these topics less familiar to North American scholars, mostly based on studies in central and eastern Europe, Asia and Australasia, but with papers by Victor Baker and Orme on North American themes.

The Quaternary Landscapes Research Group at Michigan State University

The Quaternary Landscapes Research Group (QLRG) at Michigan State University (MSU) is actively seeking applications for graduate students interested in working on research projects related to Quaternary Studies. We are an active group of researchers who study prehistoric and historic landscapes, primarily in the Great Lakes region. Our work centers on improving the understanding of past and recent landscapes, as well as their use and modification by humans.
Core QLRG faculty members include Drs. Randy Schaetzl, Alan Arbogast, and Catherine Yansa, all appointed in the Department of Geography at MSU (www.geo.msu.edu). The Department, housed within the recently renovated Geography Building, has over 30 faculty and nearly 70 graduate students in residence. Many other individuals from the Departments of Geography, Anthropology and Geological Sciences at MSU are affiliated QLRG members, and work closely with us and our students.

The QLRG is a field-oriented group; we value field research and enjoy working with students in field, classroom and laboratory settings. Within the field of Quaternary Studies, we are particularly well suited to advising thesis and other projects related to geomorphology (soils, eolian, fluvial, coastal and glacial), paleoecology (pollen and plant macrofossil analysis), plant geography, and other topics related to Quaternary landscape evolution. Additionally, climatology, GIS and remote sensing are particularly strong fields of study within the Geography Department, and many of our students use this to their advantage. Lab and field equipment are up to date and extensive enough to support a variety of research endeavors. Both Research and Teaching Assistantships from the Department are available, and are awarded competitively from among the admitted graduate student pool. For further information, check out the QLRG webpage: http://www.geo.msu.edu/qlrg/index.html, or contact one of us directly.

Randy Schaetzl

Geomorphology at Kansas State University, Department of Geography, from Dick Marston:

Dr. Melinda Daniels joined our faculty in Fall 2008, so we now have three geomorphologists in the Department of Geography (Chuck Martin, Melinda Daniels, Dick Marston). In addition, Jack Oviatt (Quaternary geomorphology) and Joel Spencer (OSL dating) are valued colleagues on campus. Dr. Kendra McLauchlan is in her second year, adding new expertise in paleoenvironment reconstruction using wood, sediment and pollen.

Recent publications:

Marston, R.A. 2008. Presidential Address: Land, life, and environmental change in mountains. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 98(3): 507-520.

Dauwalter, D.C., Splinter, D.K., Fisher, W.L. and Marston, R.A. 2008. Biogeography, ecoregions, and geomorphology affect fish species composition in streams of eastern Oklahoma, USA. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 82: 237-249.

Degenhardt, J.D., Giardino, J.R. and Marston, R.A.,

Pitty, A.F. 2007. Interpretation of a blockstream in Tom Mays Canyon, Franklin Mountains, Texas. *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* 51(3): 377-396.

Dauwalter, D.C., Splinter, D.S., Fisher, W.L. and Marston, R.A. 2007. Geomorphology and stream habitat relationships with smallmouth bass abundance at multiple spatial scales in eastern Oklahoma. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 64(8): 1116-1129.

Marston, R.A. and Halihan, T. 2007. Geomorphic Adjustment of the Washita River, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Oklahoma. Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/NRPC/WRD/NRTR—2007/070. USDI National Park Service, Natural Resource Program Center: Fort Collins, CO, 82 pp.

New International Society of Aeolian Research Founding Member Invitation

Aeolian research is a long-standing and rapidly growing area of geological study where scientists of many disciplines investigate the effects of wind on the surface of the Earth and other planetary bodies such as Mars and Titan. Fields of study in aeolian research cover a broad spectrum ranging from developing a basic scientific understanding of the fundamental physical processes of grain motion to the effects of soil erosion on landscape health and environmental sustainability. Aeolian research also includes studies of the effects of aeolian particles on global climate, air quality, and human health, coastal sand transport processes, land degradation, dune migration, the formation of sand seas, and much more. A new International Society of Aeolian Research (ISAR) that has been organized to bring together aeolian scientists, and scientists from related disciplines, from around the world. Until very recently, no scientific society specifically dealing with aeolian research has been available. The new society was created to promote contacts among researchers in aeolian processes and related subjects for discussion and comparison of research, to initiate conferences (such as the International Conference on Aeolian Research), to organize excursions, and support the publication of a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The International Society of Aeolian Research sponsors the new Elsevier journal *Aeolian Research* in support of these activities (http://www.aeolianresearch.org/journal.htm). The new journal will begin accepting papers by the end of August, 2008 or early September. We invite you to join us by becoming “Founding Members” of the International Society of Aeolian Research. Individual, student, and corporate memberships are currently available for the incredibly low price of $35.00 US, $10.00, and $110.00, respectively. Please visit www.aeolianresearch.org for further details about the society.

Nicholas Lancaster
President, International Society of Aeolian Research
Research Professor, Division for Earth and Ecosystem Sciences, Director: Center for Arid Lands Environmental Management Desert Research Institute, Reno Nevada

Ted M. Zobeck,
President-Elect, International Society of Aeolian Research
Lead Scientist -Soil Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems Research Team
Wind Erosion and Water Conservation Research Unit
USDA, Agricultural Research Service Lubbock, Texas

Image of the Month

Each Month the IAG's working group on Planetary geomorphology launches a new 'image of the month'. The topics vary from volcanoes to soils and from the asteroids to Mars.

The images and information are a free educational resource provided to encourage the inclusion of planetary geomorphology topics in curriculum. They are also intended to stimulate collaboration between geomorphologists studying Earth landforms and those who focus primarily on other planetary surfaces.

If you would like to contribute an image (Earth analogs are welcome) please contact mbourke@psi.edu

Past images are available at
http://www.psi.edu/pgwg/images/index.html

Mary Bourke
Coordinator of the IAG Working Group on Planetary Geomorphology

---

Soil Conservation in Europe Web Site

In Europe, many geomorphologists are involved in soil erosion and soil conservation research. With this in mind, I have started a website on "Soil conservation in Europe" that may also be of interest for geomorphologists in America. The information on the site is meant for the scientist as well as for the farmer. The purpose is to make results of conservation research easily available to the farmer. The URL of the site is: http://www.kwaad.net/SoilConservation.html

Frans Kwaad,
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Geomorphorum is issued twice a year by the Geomorphology Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. The purpose of this 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.