

GEOMORPHORUM

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

2009 / 2010, Issue No. 1

Alice Turkington, Editor

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SPECIALTY GROUP OFFICERS 2008-09

Chair

Dan Royall, University of North Carolina-Greensboro
pdroyall@uncg.edu

Secretary-Treasurer and Awards Committee Chair

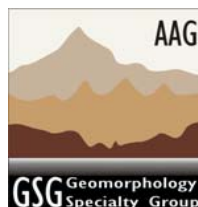
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Scott Lecce, East Carolina University
lecces@ecu.edu

Jon Harbor, Purdue University
jharbor@purdue.edu

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chin@tamu.edu



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Dan Royall

There's an old Las Vegas stand-up joke that goes something like this: "I just flew in from Vegas, and boy are my arms tired!" Maybe you've heard it before? Actually, for those attending the Las Vegas AAG meeting last March, the condition of your *feet* could have been a more important concern, considering the distance to the convention center session rooms from the hotel. In addition to the invigorating exercise, participants were treated to a great meeting featuring many enjoyable sessions, special events and opportunities for professional growth. Among the noteworthy events were several related to the GSG's 30th anniversary. These included a field trip to Death Valley National Park, a panel session on the GSG's history, and an anniversary reception; all part of a great celebration and chance to reflect on what we have accomplished since those early days so interestingly described by the panelists. Amidst the rapid proliferation of AAG specialty groups over the last two decades, accounts of the relative ambivalence towards the new geomorphology group seem incongruous. Thanks to the vision and hard work of the early membership and all the subsequent attentiveness to growth of geomorphology within the AAG community, the GSG today numbers 400 members.

Having now had the honor and privilege of serving the GSG on the Awards Committee, as Secretary/Treasurer and currently as Chair, I've come to appreciate even more the great effort and accomplishments of the Group's members, past officers and others who have brought us to this point. Although the list of GSG members to whom I am grateful for providing assistance just since April is already too long to print here, I'd like to give special thanks to last year's chair Scott Lecce, who, in addition to managing all the other affairs of the group, also organized the GSG 30th Anniversary Reception, the Physical Geographers Reception, and fielded (and continues to field) a barrage

of questions from me. That so many proactively contribute to the various GSG activities year after year is a testament to the Group's vitality.

Thanks also to those who have made financial contributions to the Group over the years. Last year was a tough one financially for both the GSG and many of its members individually as a result of the recession. Travel funds for a great number of members were reduced or even eliminated last year, and unfortunately many of us continue to grapple with this problem. Despite the economic hardship, the GSG received numerous donations in support of the 30th Anniversary Reception and other Group activities. In addition, Jon Harbor's great efforts on behalf of the GSG 30th Anniversary Campaign raised the remarkable sum of \$6,675 to be added to the Group's endowment. Once we get back to earning interest off the endowment (last year's was nil), the Group will be well-positioned for further enhancing the quality of services to the AAG's geomorphological community. One financial concern in recent months has been sustainable dues payment for U.S. membership in the International Association of Geomorphologists, which convened this past summer in Melbourne, Australia. Although the GSG met its part of the dues commitment (50%; the other half comes from GSA) for voting membership at the meeting, obtaining the necessary funds was not easy. With any luck, that will resolve in the coming year.

A key and vital part of the geomorphology community consists of students. Currently, about 43% of GSG members are identified as students. While this percentage is quite substantial, I hope you will all take the opportunity to further promote GSG membership to students both in geomorphology and related disciplines. Considering the large number of specialty group choices within the AAG, students new to the field or involved in cross-disciplinary work may be uncertain how best to identify themselves. At one of the GSG functions in Las Vegas, it was suggested that attendees not be too shy about encouraging students whose work is geomorphically-inclined to identify as geomorphologists. I'll second that.

The GSG 30th Anniversary Reception was a good time to enjoy the company of colleagues and friends, reflect on the Group's past and also to begin anew to think about the group's future, what we wish to accomplish, what would empower us to achieve these goals, and where changes can be made in our organization in the near term that would facilitate progress. Moving forward will depend on the combined thought and action of the entire membership. Please don't hesitate to offer opinions, ideas, or constructive criticism over the next several months that might advance the Group and in so doing, the discipline to which it is devoted.

Best regards,
Dan

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2010 AAG MEETING

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the AAG will be held in Washington, DC, on April 14– 18.

The AAG has issued a call for papers, and the abstract deadline is October 28, 2009.

Organized Special Sessions at the 2010 Annual Meeting

Registration and abstract submission are underway for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in Washington D.C., April 14-18, and will continue through October 28.

To those geomorphologists planning to attend, please consider organizing special sessions for this meeting. Organizing special sessions is easier than ever with the tools now provided at the AAG web site, and having these sessions on the program is beneficial for meeting participants as well as the discipline.

For those currently organizing or planning to organize special sessions, please make sure to designate these as sessions sponsored by the Geomorphology Specialty Group (GSG), and also notify the GSG Chair about the sessions so that scheduling can be optimized.

Looking forward to a great meeting!

Dan Royall, GSG Chair
(pdroyall@uncg.edu)

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 April 2010. 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/2010/papers.htm.

After receiving a participant identification number (PIN) from the AAG, mail (preferred) or E-mail your application package to Alice Turkington, GSG Awards Committee Chair:

Alice Turkington
Department of Geography
University of Kentucky
1457 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506-0027
E-mail: alicet@uky.edu

Materials must reach Dr. Turkington by Wednesday, October 21 (2009). 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

GSG Awards and Honors: call for awards nominations

The GSG Awards Committee invites nominations for the G.K. Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphological Research and the Mel Marcus Distinguished Career Award. These awards will be distributed at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Washington, D.C., April, 2010.

The Grove Karl Gilbert Award is presented to the author(s) of a single significant contribution to the published research literature in geomorphology during the past three years. Only books, refereed journal articles, or monographs will be considered with an emphasis on refereed research articles. Nominations for the Grove Karl Gilbert Award remain active for two years. The nomination package should include: a copy of the relevant publication; a statement as to why the publication deserves the award, and (optional) supporting letters from colleagues. To be considered for the 2010 award, the Awards Committee must receive these materials and any supporting documentation by January 15, 2010.

The Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to geomorphology over his/her career. Nominations for the Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award remain active for two years. The nomination package should include: a brief description of the candidate's contribution to geomorphology; a brief biographic sketch; a select bibliography, and three letters of support from colleagues. To be considered for

the 2010 award, the Awards Committee must receive these materials and any supporting documentation by January 15, 2010.

Please submit materials to:

Dr. Alice Turkington, Awards Committee Chair,
Department of Geography, University of Kentucky,
Lexington KY 40506. Tel: 01 859 257 9682
(alicet@uky.edu)

40th ANNUAL BINGHAMTON GEOMORPHOLOGY SYMPOSIUM, 2009

Geomorphology and Vegetation: Interactions, Dependencies, and Feedback Loops

October 2 to 4, 2009, hosted by Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

Hosted By: Dr. W. Cully Hession & Dr. Tess M. Wynn, Biological Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech, Dr. Joanna C. Curran, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Virginia, and Dr. Lynn M. Resler, Geography, Virginia Tech

Friday, October 2nd

8:00 Fieldtrip: Geomorphology of the Valley & Ridge, Blue Ridge, and Piedmont Provinces: A Transect in a Day
5:00 Icebreaker and Registration (Torgerson Museum)

Saturday, October 3rd

Session I: Geomorphic Processes and Vegetation

9:00	Keynote: Richard Marston	Linkages among Hillslope Features, Processes, and Vegetation
9:50	Mary Ann Madej	Redwoods, Restoration, and Implications for Carbon Budgets
10:15	Erkan Istanbuluoglu	The Implications of Geology, Soils, and Vegetation on Landscape Morphology: Inferences from Semiarid Basins with Complex Vegetation Patterns in Central New Mexico, USA
11:00	Sujith Ravi	Land Degradation in Drylands: On Incorporating Overlooked Interactions among Hydrologic-aeolian Erosion and Vegetation Dynamic Processes
11:25	Francisco Perez	Biogeomorphological Relationships between Slope Processes, Climate, and Globular Grimmia Mosses in

11:50 Jake Bendix Haleakala's Crater (Maui, Hawaii)
Fire, Floods and Woody Debris: Interactions between Biotic and Geomorphic Processes

Session II: Floodplain Vegetation, Hydraulics, and Erosion/Sedimentation (Moderator: Joanna Curran)

2:00 Keynote: Cliff Hupp Fluvial Processes and Vegetation (Floodplains) - Glimpses of the Past, Present, and Perhaps the Future

2:50 Panos Diplas Hydrodynamics of Flow through Double Layer Vegetation Drivers of Structural Complexity of Vegetation in a Fragmented Floodplain Ecosystem

3:15 Martin Thoms Flow and Deposition in and around a Finite Patch of Vegetation

4:00 Heidi Nepf

4:25 Jim Pizzuto (Presented by: Stephanie Stotts & Katie Skalak) On the Retreat of Forested, Cohesive Riverbanks

4:50 Natasha Pollen-Bankhead Hydrologic and Hydraulic effects of Riparian Root Networks on Streambank Stability: Is Mechanical Root-Reinforcement the Whole Story?

Sunday, October 4th

Session III: Riparian Vegetation, Channel Morphology, and In-stream Processes (Moderator: Tess Wynn)

9:00 Keynote: Waite Osterkamp Fluvial Processes and Vegetation (Channels) - Glimpses of the Past, Present, and Perhaps the Future

9:50 David Sear Logjam Controls on Channel: Floodplain Interactions in Wooded Catchments and the Formation of Multi-channel Patterns

10:15 Maeve McBride Riparian Reforestation and Channel Change: How Long Does it Take?

11:00 Leslie Hopkinson Interactions Between Riparian Vegetation Form and Headwater Channel Morphology

11:25 Joanna Curran Mobility of Large Woody Debris (LWD) Jams in a Low Gradient Channel

11:50 Karen Prestegard Geomorphic Framework for the Measurement and Prediction of Nitrogen Loss in Tidal Wetlands

Symposium website
<http://twosweet.bse.vt.edu/bing2009/index.htm>

5TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GULLY EROSION

"Human Impact on Gully Erosion", April 20-25, 2010, Lublin, Poland

Organized by the Institute of Earth Sciences, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, the Association of Polish Geomorphologists and the Polish Geographical Society

Hosted by Maria Curie-Skłodowska University

Scope and objectives

Formation and development of gullies is one of the most important geomorphological processes influencing the landscapes of agricultural areas all over the world. Human impact plays major role in gully erosion. This phenomenon causes several important on-site and off-site consequences at the same time.

Good recognition of factors influencing the intensity gully erosion constitutes not only a scientific problem but also an applicative one - in many regions it could be treated as a basis for sustainable development of agricultural areas. That is why the number of the scientific meetings related to the problem increases.

The first symposium on gully erosion was held in Leuven (Belgium) in 2000, there were also meetings in Chengdu, China (2002), Oxford, USA (2004) and in Pamplona, Spain (2007). The present symposium, planned for April 2010 in Lublin (Poland), will focus on human and gully erosion interactions.

Several topics will be discussed:

- historical gully erosion all over the world
- present day intensity of gully erosion processes
- human impact on gully erosion (role of land use)
- prevention and restoration of gullies

Symposium website:
<http://gullyerosion.org/>

**MINUTES OF THE 2009 GSG BUSINESS MEETING
Las Vegas, NV; March 24, 2009**

Scott Lecce, Chair
Dan Royall, Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Lecce called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

General Announcements

From the Specialty Group Chairs Meeting

Attendance for the 2009 annual meeting was 6,148, about 12% less than the previous year. Executive Director Doug Richardson commented on the tremendous difficulty of getting specialty group sponsored organized special sessions scheduled all in mid-week slots, and asked the groups to be more flexible with their requests to conference director Oscar Larson in that regard.

A review of the AAG Developing Regions Membership Program was given. This program provides low-cost membership (\$20) to individuals in low income countries. The specialty groups were asked to consider offering free membership to individuals in this category. Later at the GSG business meeting, the Chair opened the floor for debate on this proposal.

Taylor-Francis / Routledge Distinguished Lecture on Geomorphology and Society

All were encouraged to attend this year's lecture, newly sponsored by Taylor-Francis / Routledge, and given by Jim Knox of the University of Wisconsin, Madison on "Flood Geomorphology in the Upper Mississippi Valley".

GSG 30th Anniversary Reception

All were encouraged to attend the special GSG 30th Anniversary Reception commemorating the inception and subsequent history of the GSG, immediately following the business meeting. A slide show illustrating the Group's history would be presented by GSG Historian Dave Butler as the reception backdrop.

Physical Geography Reception

All were encouraged to attend the annual reception for Physical Geographers, co-sponsored, and this year organized by the Geomorphology Specialty Group.

Specialty Group Reports

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2008 meeting as published in *Geomorphorum* was made, seconded, and passed by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report

Since last year's meeting we have collected \$1,883 in income from dues, and received \$250 for advertisements in *Geomorphorum*, for a total of \$2,133. Expenditures were \$1,100 for student awards, \$225 for the AAG Annual Awards Luncheon, \$500 to support the physical geography reception, and \$250 to support the GSG web site, for a total of \$2,075. The resulting balance at the time of meeting was \$2,330. Interest earnings from the Mel Marcus Fund were net \$0 for last

year, as of the 2009 business meeting. The total value of the endowment will increase substantially with the addition of the \$6,675 contributed through the GSG 30th anniversary campaign. Several individuals made contributions in support of the 30th anniversary reception to fully offset its cost.

Web Site Report

Mike Urban reports continued improvements in the GSG web site, and states his intention to add more in the way of creative work and possibly dynamic web offerings in the future.

Publications

GSG member Mark Fonstad will become the new Environmental Sciences Associate Editor of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, in January 2010.

Carol Harden, Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Physical Geography*, reports that the journal is doing well, and submission is fully electronic now. Carol encouraged submissions by members of the GSG.

Jeff Lee announced the 2009 launching of the new journal *Aeolian Research*, and encouraged submissions by GSG members. Jeff is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal.

Basil Gomez informed GSG members regarding the relatively new journal from Blackwell, *Geography Compass*. Basil serves as Editor-in-Chief for physical geography for the journal, which specializes in survey articles.

Don Friend informed GSG members regarding the *Journal of Mountain Science*, published by Springer. Don is an Associate Editor-in-Chief for the journal.

Appointments

Awards Committee. Melinda Daniels of Kansas State University was appointed as the new member of the committee.

Secretary-Treasurer. Alice Turkington of the University of Kentucky was nominated as the next Secretary-Treasurer of the GSG. The nomination was seconded and approved unanimously.

Awards

Reds Wolman Graduate Student Research Award (PhD Level)

G. Burch Fisher, University of California Santa Barbara. *Spatial and Temporal Quantification of Climate-Erosion Linkages in the Himalaya*.

Graduate Student Paper Award (Masters Level)

Benjamin Meade, Kansas State University. *Spatial Extent, Timing, and Causes of Channel Incision, Black Vermillion Watershed, Northeastern Kansas.*

Graduate Student Paper Award (PhD Level)

Ryan Perroy, University of California Santa Barbara. *Quantifying geomorphic processes in a disturbed landscape, southwestern Santa Cruz Island, CA*

Melvin G. Marcus Distinguished Career Award

Karl Butzer, University of Texas.

MELVIN G MARCUS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

The 2009 Mel Marcus Award is given to Karl Butzer of the University of Texas. The nomination was made jointly by Tim Beach and Paul Hudson. At the GSG business meeting, Tim read the citation and Paul read the acceptance remarks written and given to him by Karl, who could not attend.

Citation

by Tim Beach

There are still giants among us.

The winner of the 2009 Mel Marcus Lifetime Achievement Award is one of those giants, and it is fitting that he receives this award on this momentous 30th Anniversary of the Geomorphology Specialty Group.

Any winner of a lifetime achievement award should have three essential elements: recognized quality of research, recognized quantity of research, and recognized impact in geomorphology.

As for quality, Karl Butzer was the first to name and one of the most important figures in the development of geoarchaeology, a field that increasingly draws in geomorphologists and has become part of geomorphology. Without a doubt, more and more geomorphologists are working in geoarchaeology, either directly or indirectly, and we all owe Karl our thanks.

From Karl Butzer's first publication in 1958 there has been a contagious fascination on this field that he later named, fusing his own interests in geomorphology, history, and archaeology together, and improving each field in the process. His roles were equally in organization and research. He was the Founding President for Society for Archeological Science, and has been one of the main editors of the Journal of Archaeological Science since its inception. And, his research has won so many awards I cannot relate them all here, but include the G. K. Gilbert Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and election to both the National Academy of Sciences and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also delivered

the most prestigious lectures in geography and archaeology around the world.

As for quantity, Dr. Butzer has written more than 260 peer-reviewed articles and chapters, 16 book and monographs, 120 book reviews, and chaired 26 PhD dissertations in geography and archaeology.

He has been the first or sole author in such journals as *Science*, *Nature*, *American Scientist*, *Quaternary Research*, *the Annals*, *Journal of Geology*, *Soil Science*, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie*, *Catena*, *Journal of Field Archaeology*, *Geoarchaeology*, *Geomorphology*, and many others.

As for lasting impacts, many of his writings are simply the key statements in the burgeoning field of geoarchaeology and among the most widely read and cited works:

- *Environment and Archeology: An Introduction to Pleistocene Geography*
- *Early Hydraulic Civilization in Egypt*
- *Archaeology as Human Ecology*

Many of us, including myself, were introduced to Butzer's work by his *Geomorphology from the Earth* text, which uniquely explored geomorphology with historical and archaeological insight, thus providing an appealing context to geoscience. I further came to know him while working with him on two volumes of *Geomorphology*, in which I reviewed several of his pieces including:

Geoarchaeological approaches to the environmental history of Cyprus: Explication and critical evaluation (with Sarah Harris), in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* in 2007, and

Soil-geomorphology and 'wet' cycles in the Holocene record of North-Central Mexico. (with J. Abbott, C.D. Frederick, P. H. Lehman, C.E. Cordova, and J.F. Oswald). In a volume of *Geomorphology* we co-edited with Karl for the 2008 Binghamton Meetings this last Fall in Austin.

In short after 51 years of research, these recent pieces show a still hungry mind for critical geomorphology at broad spatial scales that integrates a wide array of proxies and resolutions. I recommend them to all who have not yet read them.

In closing, Karl Butzer came to geography and geomorphology from mathematics and meteorology at McGill and earned a doctorate from the University of Bonn, when he was 23 years old, in Physical Geography and Ancient History. He taught at Wisconsin, Chicago, Zurich, and now for many years at Texas. His half century of geomorphological and archaeological research, his mentoring of faculty, his advising of scores

of graduate students, his award-winning teaching, his helpful but often very critical reviews, and in essence, his life's work has elevated and expanded geography and geomorphology. For all this, we are grateful and look forward to even more from one of the true giants of geomorphology.

Acceptance Remarks

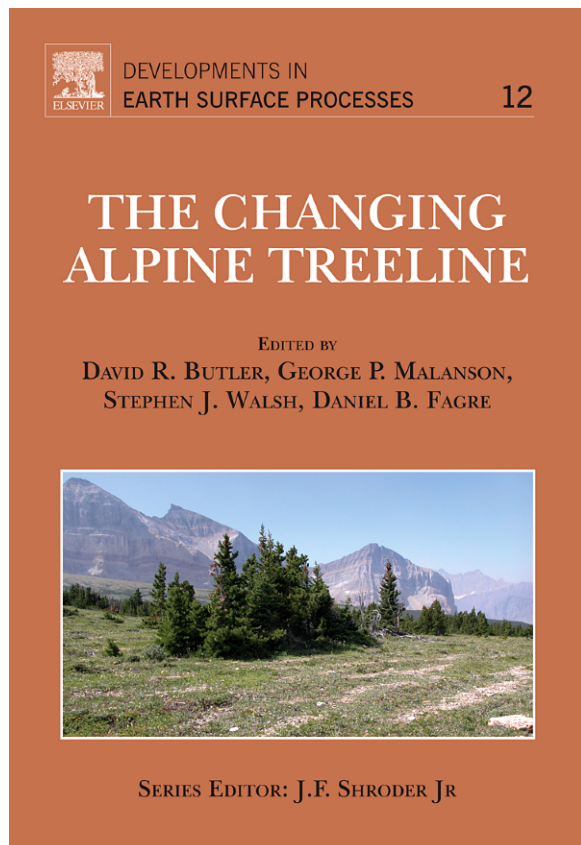
by Karl Butzer

I am deeply moved by receipt of the prestigious Mel Marcus Award, and grateful for the recognition it implies. Unfortunately I could not be here, because of a prior commitment at the University of Munich.

From my perspective, receipt of the award highlights "geo-archaeology". I firmly believe that this "intersection" -- between geomorphology, environmental history, and archaeology-- offers promising access to issues of global change, monitored in the past, and applied to understanding systemic processes of today. Geoarchaeology is a challenging and exciting avenue of cross-disciplinary research for professionals to pursue. At the same time it will appeal to undergrad and grad students, as well as academic institutions, as a fresh window for an innovative curriculum, one that addresses big issues of the past, present, and tomorrow.

Thank you very much for your confidence.

NEW BOOKS



The Changing Alpine Treeline - The Example of Glacier National Park, Montana, USA.,

2009. Edited by David R. Butler, George P. Malanson, Stephen J. Walsh, and Daniel B. Fagre, Elsevier, The Netherlands, xxii and 199 pp. Image attached. For more information, see:

http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/bookdescription.cws_home/718523/description#description

Erosion Prediction in Ungauged Basins (PUBs): Integrating Methods and Techniques

edited by Dirk H. de Boer, Wojciech Froehlich, Takahisa Mizuyama & Alain Pietroniro
IAHS Publication 279 (December 2003), ISBN 1-901502-22-8; 250 + xii pp.

Human impact on runoff and erosion is increasing worldwide because of growing pressure to develop land and water resources. However, in many parts of the world runoff and erosion rates are not monitored, precluding an accurate assessment of human impact and sustainable practices. The objective of IAHS Symposium held at Sapporo, Japan, in July 2003, was to review recent developments in a wide range of methods and techniques that can be used to characterize runoff and erosion in ungauged basins, and to evaluate how to integrate the information obtained using remote sensing, GIS, modelling and other methods into a coherent view of the ungauged basin. This collection of 28 contributions thus provides an up-to-date overview of work worldwide in this field.

Now freely available for download at IAHS - www.iahs.info/redbooks/279.htm

OTHER NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Texas State University-San Marcos

Geography Compass is an online journal of peer-reviewed survey articles from across the discipline. Each paper is invited by a section editor. Recent papers in the Geomorphology Section can be viewed at:

http://www.blackwell-compass.com/subject/geography/section_home?section=geco-geomorphology

Dave Butler is the Geomorphology Section Editor, and welcomes suggestions for review articles from potential authors. Dave can be contacted at db25@txstate.edu.

Recent Publications by Dave Butler:

- **The Changing Alpine Treeline - The Example of Glacier National Park, Montana, USA.,** 2009. Edited by David R. Butler, George P. Malanson, Stephen J. Walsh, and Daniel B. Fagre, Elsevier, The

Netherlands, xxii and 199 pp. Image attached. For more information, see:
http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/bookdescription.cws_home/718523/description#description

- Ostling, Johanna L., David R. Butler, and Richard W. Dixon, 2009. The biogeomorphology of mangroves and their role in natural hazards mitigation. *Geography Compass* 4, DOI: 10.1111/j.1749-8198.2009.00265.x
- Akiwumi, Fenda A., and David R. Butler, 2008. Mining and environmental change in Sierra Leone, west Africa: a remote sensing and hydrogeomorphological study. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 142, 309-318.
- Butler, David R., and Carol F. Sawyer, 2008. Dendrogeomorphology and high-magnitude snow avalanches: a review and case study. *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences* 8, 303-309.
- Cerney, Dawna L., J. Ronald Eyton, and David R. Butler, 2008. Assessing landscape change in Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada, using multitemporal composites constructed from terrestrial repeat photographs. *Geocarto International* 23(5), 347-371.

From the University of Tennessee

Tennessee has a new geomorphologist on the faculty: Yingkui (Phillip) Li moved to Knoxville in August and promptly fit in a quick trip related to his Tibetan Plateau research before classes began (bodes well, his colleagues think). His research interests are in glacial geomorphology and cosmogenic nuclides, GIS and spatial analysis, and soil erosion.

Carol Harden is into her official year (July to June) as AAG president, following the very large, recent geomorphological footsteps of Dick Marston and Will Graf. She is making a special effort this year to help geographers of all stripes get geographic research more into the public domain. In this vein, she invites you to contact her (charden@utk.edu) if you have a success story about getting either your research or science you teach into some type of public media (that doesn't include people who stop and ask questions when you are standing in the stream or shout things when they drive by you in a roadcut). Also, send her your thoughts/suggestions about the AAG.

Carol has two additional requests for geomorphologists:

1. She is preparing a survey chapter on impacts of vegetation clearance on channel change (more historical than process-oriented) for the Treatise on Geomorphology (for Volume 13, Geomorphology of Human Disturbances, Hazards, and Climate Change, edited by A. James, J. Clague, and C. Harden), and welcomes your self-promoting citations to work you have

done, as well as suggested citations for your other favorite references on the topic.

2. With John Schwartz (UTK Civil and Environmental Engineering), she is finalizing a contract with TDEC (Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation) that will fund a graduate student in Geography and one in CEE to work on a field-based project that relates turbidity to suspended sediment in a set of East Tennessee streams. She is looking for a new graduate student (PhD or MS) to work on this project. The start date is likely to be summer of 2010, but could be as early as January. Contact Harden for more information.

From United States Geological Survey

Multiple origins of linear dunes on Earth and Titan *Nature Geoscience*

The linear dunes that stretch across the surface of China's Qaidam Basin are composed of sand and some salt and silt. The latter two elements make the dunes cohesive (or sticky), and, according to a study published online 16th august in *Nature Geoscience* by David Rubin and Patrick Hesp, this leads to a complete change in dune form from transverse dunes to linear dunes, even though the wind speed and direction does not change. Typically transverse dunes are formed by winds from a narrow (or unimodal) directional range while longitudinal or linear dunes are formed by winds from two obliquely opposing (or bimodal) directions. These findings offer an alternative interpretation of similar dunes formed on the surface of Titan, Saturn's largest moon.

Rubin and Hesp suggest that if the giant linear dunes found on the surface of Titan are also formed from cohesive sediment, they could be an indication of single-direction winds there. This is in sharp contrast to earlier studies, which assumed that the sediments were loose, and interpreted the dune shape as evidence of winds coming from alternating directions. The alternative hypothesis, that Titan's linear dunes are formed in cohesive sediment, has significant implications for studies on Titan; if Rubin and Hesp are correct, new hypotheses regarding Titan's sediment (composition, origin, evolution, grain size, cohesiveness, quantity, global transport patterns and suitability for wind transport), winds (velocities, directions and seasonal patterns), and surface wetness will all have to be completely reassessed.

Authors contacts:

David Rubin (United States Geological Survey, Santa Cruz, CA, USA)

Tel: +1 831 427 4736; E-mail: drubin@usgs.gov

Patrick Hesp (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA)

Tel: + 1 225 205 6317; E-mail: pahesp@lsu.edu

From the National Academy of Sciences

2010 G.K. Warren Prize.

The [G.K. Warren Prize](#) is awarded for noteworthy and distinguished accomplishment in fluvial geology and closely related aspects of the geological sciences. The award comes with a prize of \$10,000.

Nominations may be submitted according to the guidelines found at the website:
<http://www.nasonline.org>

Inquiries may be directed to:
Jon Speshock
Membership Assistant
Membership Office National Academy of Sciences
500 Fifth Street NW - NAS285
Washington, DC 20001
Email: kspeshock@nas.edu
Telephone: (202) 334-1271

From the Geomorphology Research Group at East Carolina University

The Geomorphology Research Group at East Carolina University (ECU) currently has five individuals (Paul Gares, Scott Lecce, Thomas Allen, Thad Wasklewicz, and Jennifer Arrigo) actively researching a variety of topics described below. We are currently accepting Masters students to the Department of Geography and Ph.D. students in the Coastal Resources Management program at ECU. Funding opportunities will be provided from graduate assistantships or research assistantships. Our major focus areas include coastal and aeolian geomorphology (Gares and Allen), fluvial and hydrology (Lecce, Wasklewicz, and Arrigo), hillslope-channel coupling in recently burned watersheds (Wasklewicz). Our research actively incorporates a variety of data gathering and analysis tools, including airborne and terrestrial laser scanning, remote sensing, digital terrain modeling, and geographical information science. The department has state-of-the-art equipment and software to support such research, including RTK-GPS, laser scanners, spectroradiometers, access to some of the best airborne LiDAR elevation data in the nation, and close contacts with field sites and related research organizations within North Carolina. Recent and active projects include:

Gares has recently completed a project for NC Sea Grant that used airborne LIDAR to examine a decade of changes to North Carolina beach/dune systems with a focus on a comparison of developed and undeveloped sites.

Wasklewicz is currently working with the USGS Landslide Hazards Program to examine hydrologic and sedimentologic connectivity in recently burned watersheds in Southern California.

Allen has been working on geospatial modeling of coastal hazards such as overwash, storm surge, and coastal erosion change analysis.

Lecce is working on the dispersal of mercury in channel and floodplain deposits associated with gold mining in the Piedmont of North Carolina, and lead contamination in the Big River watershed, part of the Old Lead Belt in southeastern Missouri.

Arrigo is part of a multi-university working group looking at 500 years of coupled human-hydrologic changes over the Northeast Corridor of the United States. Projects as part of this include assessing residence time and soil moisture changes in the system due to impoundments, land use change, and natural climate variability using GIS and USGS water balance models.

Our students have completed masters theses on a variety of topics related to these areas; they have published and presented the results of their work in variety of outlets including peer reviewed journals, regional and national meetings. Student successes include: receiving best student paper awards in regional AAG meetings; acceptance into interdisciplinary programs such as a graduate summer research institute in Hydrologic Synthesis; admission to PhD programs. Graduates of the program are also now working for agencies such as the NOAA Coast and Geodetic Survey, US Army Corps of Engineers, GIS environmental consulting firms, and State and local government.

REPORT FOR THE JOURNAL GEOMORPHOLOGY

The 2008 impact factor for GEOMORPHOLOGY (covering the two-year period 2006-08) reached the highest level ever = 2.339. This is a big jump from our impact factor of 1.85 in 2007, which was the previous high for the journal. In Earth Sciences, an impact factor > 2 translates as "excellent." Our journal is ranked...

5th of 42 journals in the category of Geology journals;
9th of 31 journals in Geography-Physical; and
26th of 143 journals in Geosciences-Multidisciplinary.

By comparison, the impact factors of our competitors are:

1.874 for CATENA;
1.716 for ESPL; and
0.614 for ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR
GEOMORPHOLOGIE

The total citations increased 29.3% from 4,306 in 2007 to 5,566 in 2008.

The total number of full-text PDFs of articles being downloaded worldwide from *Geomorphology* through Elsevier's Science Direct exceeded 400,000 in 2008 and is on a pace to perhaps exceed 500,000 in 2009.

109 volumes and 42,663 pages have been published of GEOMORPHOLOGY since the journal started in July 1987. Between 2005-2008, an average of 4330 pages has been published each year. It is appropriate that Volume 100 (1 August 2008) of *Geomorphology* was a special issue organized by Andy Plater and Andreas Lang in honor of longtime editor Adrian Harvey. Jack Vitek was honored with a dedication of the 32nd Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, published in 2003 as Vol. 55(1-4). Adrian and co-editor Jack Vitek continue to serve the journal as Senior Editors for Special Issues.

86 special issues (through 1 October 2009) have been published, including 12 of the last 13 Binghamton Geomorphology Symposia (1995, 1997-2008).

In 2008, 219 articles were published in regular issues of the journal, and 157 articles were published in special issues, for a total of 376.

In 2008, Andy, Takashi and I received a total of 330 new manuscripts submitted for regular issues of *Geomorphology*. The rejection rate is approximately 40%. We are receiving manuscripts in 2009 at about the same rate.

Geomorphology publishes manuscripts by an international array of authors...from 33 different countries in 2008.

The "Top 25 Hottest Articles" (most often downloaded) continue to be listed on the journal's website and updated quarterly.

In surveys of authors conducted by Elsevier, *Geomorphology* ranks high in "refereeing speed and standards, production speed and services, physical quality, impact factor, and reputation."

We very much appreciate the contributions from our Editorial Board. Here is a list of time-of-service on the Board (note that Vic Baker and Nel Caine have been members of the Board since the journal's inception in 1987):

Frank Ahnert, Heidelberg, Germany (1992)
David Alexander, Firenze, Italy (2002)
Andreas Baas, London, UK (2007)
Vic Baker, Tucson, Arizona, USA (1987)
Bernie Bauer, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada (1999)

Michael Bishop, Omaha, Nebraska, USA (2004)
Geraldo Bocco, Mexico (2008)
G.A. Bothia, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (2008)
Jean-Paul Bravard, Lyon, France (1998)
Joanna Bullard, Leicestershire, UK (2004)
David Butler (Book Review Editor), San Marcos, Texas, USA (1996)
Nel Caine, Boulder, Colorado, USA (1987)
Zhongyuan Chen, Shanghai, China (2001)
Melinda Daniels, Manhattan, Kansas (2008)
Michael Daniels, Denver, Colorado, USA (2005)
Zhibao Dong, Lanzhou, China (2008)
Carolyn Eyles, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (1996)
Amos Frumkin, Jerusalem, Israel (2003)
Michael Fullen, Wolverhampton, UK (2001)
Rick Giardino, College Station, Texas (1995)
Dirk Goossens, Leuven, Belgium (2002)
Avi Gupta, Leeds, UK (1995)
Francisco Gutierrez, Zaragoza, Spain (2003)
Fausto Guzzetti, Perugia, Italy (2007)
Janet Hooke, Liverpool, UK (2003)
Kazuaki Hori, Nagoya, Japan (2003)
Allen James, Columbia, South Carolina, USA (2004)
Vishwas Kale, Poona-Pune, India (1992)
Jan Kalvoda, Prague, Czech Republic (2003)
Ed Keller, Santa Barbara, California, USA (1992)
Oliver Korup, Davos Dorf, Switzerland (2005)
Nick Lancaster, Reno, Nevada, USA (1992)
Edgardo Lautrubesse, Austin, Texas (2008)
Frank Lehmkuhl, Aachen, Germany (2008)
Mark Macklin, Aberystwyth, UK (1999)
Andrew Marcus, Eugene, Oregon, USA (2001)
Anne Mather, Plymouth, UK (1995)
Futoshi Nakamura, Sapporo, Japan (1999)
Gerald Nanson, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia (2001)
Julian Orford, Belfast, Ireland (2003)
Greg Pasternack, Davis, California, USA (2009)
Jon Pelletier, Tucson, Arizona, USA (2006)
Jonathan Phillips, Lexington, Kentucky, USA (2002)
Herve Piegay, Lyon, France (2001)
Dorothy Sack, Athens, Ohio, USA (2003)
Lothar Schrott, Salzburg, Austria (2001)
Jack Shroder, Omaha, Nebraska, USA (1995)
Pablo Silva, Avila, Spain (1998)
Mauro Soldati, Modena, Italy (1999)
Martin Stokes, Plymouth, UK (2003)
David Thomas, Oxford, UK (2003)
Martin Thoms, Belconnen, ACT, Australia (2004)
Colin Thorne, Nottingham, UK (1992)
Martin Thorp, Dublin, Ireland (2001)
Jef Vandenberghe, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2008)
Brian Whalley, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK (1995)
Rich Whittecar, Norfolk, Virginia, USA (2002)
Ellen Wohl, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA (1996)

Editors

Marie Morisawa, 1987-1994
Jack Vitek, 1994-1998

Adrian Harvey, 1994-2005
Dick Marston, 1999-present
Takashi Oguchi, 2003 to present
Andy Plater, 2006 to present

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Marston, Andy Plater, Takashi Oguchi

Earth Surface Processes and Landforms

VIRTUAL SPECIAL ISSUES

Collections of Papers compiled into an online special issue

Virtual Themed Issues are a new initiative that groups together recent papers published in a number of different issues of *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* into a single online resource.

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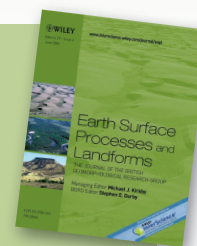
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In recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Geomorphology Specialty Group, please accept the following contribution towards the Geomorphology Specialty Group account within the Mel Marcus Fund.

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Association of American Geographers

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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 Chris Houser at Texas A&M University.

