A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Dan Royall

Over the last several months, I’ve been watching the announcements for geomorphology sessions at the Washington DC AAG meeting roll in, and I know I’m preaching to the choir when I say it’s great to be a geomorphologist! Session topics as usual are quite diverse, marking a certain eclecticism and ready willingness to reach across disciplinary boundaries that seem to be typical of our Group. The content of GSG sponsored sessions (a list of those sessions occurs subsequently in this newsletter) in addition to running the gamut of core geomorphological issues, also includes mixes of ecosystem perspectives, environmental change and management from several different angles, the human component through diverse foci from geoarchaeology to land use, geomorphological pedagogy, and even perhaps a little methodological analysis. As an additional highlight, add in the annual Taylor-Francis / Routledge Distinguished Lecture on Geomorphology and Society, which has become a great tradition at the AAG meeting. This year the Lecture will be given by Dr. Stan Trimble from the University of California Los Angeles, speaking on “The Severity of Historical Soil Erosion and Hydrologic Disruption in the Eastern US; Some Agronomic, Economic, Sociological, and Hydroclimatological Considerations”. Many of you are probably aware that Stan’s classic Man-Induced Soil Erosion on the Southern Piedmont originally published in 1974 was offered anew as a second edition publication in 2008 from the Soil and Water Conservation Society, with a forward by Andrew Goudie. Stan’s lecture is sure to be just as classic and memorable, so get there early if you can. Traditionally the lecture has been around noon, but this year due to increasingly difficult conference scheduling issues, it had to be moved to 4:40 pm (Friday), so please make plans.

The mix of topically diverse, technologically innovative, theoretically insightful and societally relevant research that will be on display in DC is sure to provide that extra level of inspiration and energy that makes the annual AAG meeting a highlight in the geomorphological
addresses this problem in the column below, and I hope you will all take a close look at that. The GSG carries out a number of important functions in fulfilling its mission; having healthy student paper and proposal competitions that help fund student research and show off the rising talent in our Group, one way or another has to be given a very high priority among them.

Thanks again to the many members who have supported the GSG with their ideas, donations of money and time, voluntarism, good advice and representation over the last year. I’m grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as Chair, and I’m looking forward to seeing everyone who can make it to Washington DC and the interesting geomorphology sessions and other functions at the AAG meeting.

Very best regards,

Dan

A MESSAGE FROM THE AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

By Alice Turkington

The Geomorphology Specialty Group gives out a number of awards each year: the Mel Marcus Distinguished Career Award; the G.K. Gilbert Award for Excellence in Geomorphological Research; the Wolman Graduate Student Research Awards; and, the Graduate Student Paper Awards. These awards are administered by a committee of three, and while active members are usually informed on the progress of awards each year through attendance at the annual business meeting, many members may be surprised to learn that some awards may not be given due to lack of nominees or applicants. The reasons for this are not clear, and we hope that this message will stimulate discussion, perhaps leading to a reassessment of the awards procedures to better serve our members, especially the student members.

The Mel Marcus Award consistently attracts a number of nominations for excellent geomorphologists at the pinnacle of their career. It is not easy to choose one recipient among this stellar group of scientists, who have each been nominated by four of their peers, and, for that reason, nominations stay open for two years. The Grove Karl Gilbert Award is given to the author(s) of a significant contribution to the published research literature in geomorphology in the previous 3 years, and may be awarded for a paper, book or monograph. While the G.K. Gilbert Award remains competitive, the committee has noted a reduction in the number of nominees in recent years, and last year the award was not given due to a lack of nominations. This is an unfortunate, but rare, event, and in the upcoming years we hope to continue to see worthy recipients of the
In 2006, the Geomorphology Specialty Group named the student research awards as the Reds Wolman Awards, in honor of M. Gordon Wolman, who passed away this year. With the death of Reds Wolman, we have lost a cornerstone of the discipline of geomorphology, a member of that generation, which, as Anne Chin wrote in Geomorphorum in 2006, symbolized the excitement of new research in geomorphology, overturned paradigms and whose work inspired many of us to study geomorphology. In honor of the memory of Reds Wolman, the Geomorphology Specialty Group make annual awards to support graduate student research, based on short research proposals submitted by student applicants, accompanied by letters of support from advisors. The student research awards carry significant cash prizes for one recipient reading for a Masters degree, and one recipient at Doctorate level, to support their research needs. Student papers at the AAG annual meeting may also be entered into the competition for Graduate Student Paper Awards; two cash prizes are given to the most effective presentations from a Masters and a PhD student, evaluated by the Awards committee in special student paper sessions.

Students comprise a majority of the membership of the Geomorphology Specialty Group, and these awards reflect the consensus among members that nurturing students and supporting their research should be a high priority. At the upcoming meeting in Washington, however, no Reds Wolman Student Research Awards will be given, as there were no applicants for the award. There will be no student paper award at the Doctorate level, as no presentations were submitted; the student paper competition at Masters level will not feature special student paper sessions, as there are insufficient presentations to warrant special sessions. This surprising lack of involvement from students is part of a longer term trend in falling numbers of applicants in the research and paper competitions, but this year has seen a catastrophic drop and many of the awards will not be given. This raises many questions, such as: why students are not participating, whether the format of the competitions no longer serve students’ needs, how can we maintain the value of the awards?

In trying to revive the competitions that support and highlight student work, which are central to the mission of the Geomorphology Specialty Group, we should perhaps ask the students themselves, and their advisors, how we can better organize these competitions. First, are we advertising successfully? It would appear that our visible and informative web site, administered by Mike Urban, has many visitors, especially around the AAG registration dates and prior to the meeting. The student competitions are also announced on Geomorph-List, which most of our members subscribe to. While I doubt that we need to tweet about this, there may be other outlets for information we are overlooking. Second, are the requirements onerous? The Wolman awards require a short proposal and letters from advisors; since students are writing proposals for their committees, for professionalization classes, and for funding applications, it would seem appropriate to request an abbreviated version for this competition, but that may not be the case. In the case of the student papers, it has been suggested that students prefer to present in thematic sessions rather than in student paper sessions, where they feel there might be limited exposure. In past years, student sessions have been well attended, and some of our most prominent researchers are past recipients of student paper awards; however, today’s students in the job market may not consider this to be the most beneficial “exposure”, and would forgo the opportunity to receive the award in order to present in other sessions. Would students prefer the opportunity to present their papers twice? Third, are the deadlines appropriate? Apart from the student paper awards, the award applications and nominations are sent to the committee early in the year, usually at the end of winter break. This year, the awards committee deemed a January 1st deadline unappealing, and suggested a later date; this did not appear to affect the numbers of nominations. Fourth, are the awards valuable? The answer to this must surely be yes, the receipt of an award from the Geomorphology Specialty Group is of great benefit to a student looking for an academic position, and the monetary prize is substantial relative to similar competitions in other specialty groups. Yet, the competitions for the awards have dwindled to an all-time low, and if there is another configuration of these awards that might remedy this situation, we should consider it.

With best wishes for the meeting this year, Alice Turkington

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2010 AAG MEETING

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the AAG will be held in Washington D.C., April 14-18. Highlights include:

Geomorphology Specialty Group Business Meeting
Thurs. (4/15); 8:00 - 9:00 PM.

Taylor-Francis/Routledge Distinguished Lecture on Geomorphology and Society, Fri., (4/16); 4:40 - 5:40 PM

2010 Sessions sponsored by the GSG:

Wednesday 4/14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1228 Landscape Controls on Ecosystem Processes</td>
<td>10:00 - 11:40 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>1234 Geomorphology and Environmental Change on the Tibetan Plateau I</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:40 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>1434 Geomorphology and Environmental Change on the Tibetan Plateau II</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:20 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 4/15</strong></td>
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<td>2148 Fluvial Geomorphology: Progress and Challenges in River Meandering Research</td>
<td>8:00 – 9:40 AM</td>
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<td>2210 Environmental Systems of Small Lakes and Ponds in the Appalachian Region</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:40 AM</td>
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<td>2239 Abrupt Change, Scale, ‘Collapse’ 1: Narratives of Climate, Causation and Collapse</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:40 AM</td>
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<td>2439 Abrupt Change, Scale, ‘Collapse’ 2: Complexity and Hybridity in Human-Environmental Systems</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2248 Fluvial Geomorphology I</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:40 AM</td>
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<td>2448 Fluvial Geomorphology II</td>
<td>2:40 – 4:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2548 Fluvial Geomorphology III</td>
<td>2:40 – 4:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2648 Fluvial Geomorphology IV</td>
<td>4:40 – 6:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2565 Hurricanes IV: Geomorphic and Ecologic Impacts/Paleotempestology</td>
<td>2:40 – 4:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geomorphology Specialty Group Business Meeting</strong></td>
<td>(8:00 – 9:00 PM)</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 4/16</strong></td>
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<td>3146 Aeolian Geomorphology I</td>
<td>8:00 - 9:40 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3246 Aeolian Geomorphology II</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:40 AM</td>
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<td>3405 Environmental History and Geoarchaeology I: Papers in Honor of Karl Butzer’s 50 Years in Academia</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3505 Environmental History and Geoarchaeology II: Papers in Honor of Karl Butzer’s 50 Years in Academia</td>
<td>2:40 – 4:20 PM</td>
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<td>3236 Environmental Restoration Research</td>
<td>10:00 - 11:40 AM</td>
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<td>3451 Human Impacts on Watershed Processes 1 – Hydrological Processes</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:20 PM</td>
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<td>3551 Human Impacts on Watershed Processes 2 – Fluvial Geomorphic Processes</td>
<td>2:40 – 4:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3651 Human Impacts on Watershed Processes 3 – Ecological and Geochemical Processes</td>
<td>4:40 – 6:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3653 Taylor Francis/Routledge Distinguished Lecture on Geomorphology and Society</td>
<td>4:40 – 6:20 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday 4/17</strong></td>
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<td>4116 Coastal geomorphology and Management I</td>
<td>8:00 - 9:40 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4116 Coastal geomorphology and Management II</td>
<td>10:00 - 11:40 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4109 Elevation Modeling Applications at Global, Regional and Local Scales</td>
<td>8:00 – 9:40 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4641 State and Fate of Frozen Ground and Periglacial Environments</td>
<td>4:40 – 6:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4543 The Use of Photography and Rephotography in Geomorphological Research and Teaching – Session 1: Qualitative Approaches</td>
<td>2:40 – 4:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4543 The Use of Photography and Rephotography in Geomorphological Research and Teaching – Session 2: Quantitative Approaches</td>
<td>2:40 – 4:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4465 Thinking Beyond Climate: Biogeomorphology and Biotic Drivers of Landscape Evolution</td>
<td>12:40 – 2:20 PM</td>
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Full Program Schedule at http://aag.org/annualmeetings/2010/index.htm

**EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010**

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2010 will be held May 2-7 in Vienna, Austria. [http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2010/](http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2010/). Geomorphology Sessions as posted on the meeting website:

**GM1 – Geomorphology - General Sessions**

GM1.1 EGU/AGU Geomorphology Symposium - Quantifying
landscape response to climate change
GM1.2 One year after the Abruzzo 2009 earthquake
GM1.3 Planetary Geomorphology
GM1.4 Geoscience methods and techniques: multidisciplinary approaches to Geoaarchaeology

GM2 – Techniques and Methods in Geomorphology
GM2.1 High definition topography - data acquisition and analysis
GM2.2 Airborne and Terrestrial Laser Scanning and geomorphology: possibilities, problems, and solutions
GM2.3 Complex systems research in Geomorphology – Concepts, methods and application
GM2.4/SSP2.5 Advances in Quaternary Geochronology

GM3 – Rates, Dates and Fluxes in Geomorphology
GM3.1 Quantifying erosion and weathering rates across spatial and temporal scales
GM3.3 Sediment fluxes and sediment budgets across space and time
GM3.4/HS2.4 Sediment transfer and transit time across scales: tracing, budgetting and modelling (co-organized)
GM3.5/HS2.5 Measuring and modelling sediment transport in small and large streams
GM3.6/HS13.10 Stochastic sediment transport: from measurements to morphogenesis

GM4 – Climate and Climate Variability in Geomorphology
GM4.1 Geomorphic response to environmental change
GM4.3/SSS37 Erosion, land degradation and terrestrial carbon cycling
GM4.4/SSS43 Chemistry and physics of the Earth’s surface system: from reactive transport to monitoring of the ‘critical zone’
GM4.5/HS2.2 Impact of climate and land use change on erosion, sediment transport and sedimentation

GM5 – Landscape Dynamics
GM5.1 Long-term landscape evolution and interactions between tectonic and surface processes
G22/GD2.4/GM5.2/SM1.4 Coupling topography, surface erosion and tectonics
GM5.3 Interpreting the detrital record: advances, applications, and limitations
GM5.4 Late Quaternary morphodynamics in East Asia
Convener: Margot Boese
GM5.5/MPRG8/SSP1.5/TS4.3/CL1.1/GD2.5 Eurasian Climate and Tectonics
GM5.6/TS4.5 Geodynamics of the Alps - from deep-seated to surface processes
GM5.7/TS4.2 Topography Evolution of Europe: Uplift, Subsidence and Sea Level Change (Topo-Europe) (co-organized)

GM6 – Geomorphology and Ecology
GM6.1 Process geomorphology and ecosystems - disturbance regimes and interactions

GM7 – Geomorphology - Cold Regions
GM7.2 Cold regions geomorphology

GM8 – Geomorphology - Hillslopes and Soils
GM8.1 Geomorphic Processes in coupled hillslope-channel systems
GM8.3 The geomorphic significance of mass wasting processes
GM8.4 Hillslope processes in space and time
GM8.5/NH3.14 Rockfall I&II: Detachment, trajectory modelling, deposition and mitigation strategies
GM8.8/NH8.2 Geomorphology and Hazards in Karst Areas

GM9 – Geomorphology - Rivers
GM9.2/HS13.11 Sediment transport, erosion, and channel morphology

GM10 – Geomorphology - Sea
GM10.1/HS3.3 Coasts and estuaries
GM10.2 Coastal zone geomorphic interactions: natural versus human-induced driving factors
GM10.3 Dynamics of rocky coastlines
GM10.4/TS4.9 Seafloor expression of tectonic and geomorphic processes

21ST BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN QUATERNARY ASSOCIATION

The 21st Biennial Meeting of the American Quaternary Association (AMQUA) will take place August 13-15 (2010) and will be hosted by The University of Wyoming in Laramie. Plenary sessions will take place Friday 13 August through Sunday 15 August, with a half-day interlude on Saturday for entertainment and short hikes in the Vedauwoo Recreation Area of the Medicine Bow National Forest, a 20-minute drive from campus. Student AMQUA members who are presenting a poster or a paper at the 2010 AMQUA Biennial Meeting may apply for travel awards.
Information: http://quaternary.uwyo.edu/amqua10
- Rolfe Mandel, AMQUA President

BINGHAMTON GEOMORPHOLOGY SYMPOSIA, 2010-2012

2010 - Geospatial Technologies and Geomorphological Mapping
October, 15-17 - University of South Carolina - Columbia, SC
Hosted By: Dr. Allan James, Geography, University of South Carolina; Dr. Stephen Walsh, Geography, University of North Carolina; and Dr. Michael Bishop, Geography-Geology, University of Nebraska-Omaha. Supported in part by the NSF GSS program.
Details of the conference and a circular are available on the following web site:
http://people.cas.sc.edu/ajames/bing41/

2011 - Zoogeomorphology and Ecosystem Engineering
October, dates to be specified - University of South Alabama - Mobile, AL
Hosted By: Dr. David Butler, Geography, Texas State University-San Marcos, and Dr. Carol Sawyer, Earth Sciences, University of South Alabama.
For further information, contact David Butler at db25@txstate.edu

2012 - Isotopes in Geomorphology
October, dates to be specified - Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY
Hosted By: Dr. Paul Bierman, Geology and Natural Resources, University of Vermont; Dr. Arjun Heimsath, Earth Exploration, Arizona State University; Dr. Peter Knuepfer, Geology, Binghamton University (SUNY); and Dr. Kyle Nichols, Geology, Skidmore College.
For further information, contact Pete Knuepfer at knuepfr@binghamton.edu

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AEOLIAN RESEARCH VII (ICAR VII)

This is the second announcement of the Seventh International Conference on Aeolian Research to be held 5-9 July, 2010 at Santa Rosa, Argentina. Session topics will include:

- Mechanics of Aeolian Processes;
- Dust entrainment, transport and deposition;
- Dunes and dune systems;
- Coastal aeolian processes;
- Paleo aeolian systems;
- Anthropogenic interactions with aeolian systems;
- Modelling dust transport systems;
- Modelling sand transport systems;
- Extraterrestrial aeolian processes and landforms.

Other studies in wind erosion and aeolian processes are also welcome. Each session will include oral presentations, discussions and posters. Presentations are scheduled for publication in a special issue of Aeolian Research. A field trip to local aeolian features is planned. A Photo Contest on aeolian topics is also offered. Rules, deadlines and other details of this activity are posted on the ICARVII web site.

For more information please visit our web page at: http://rian.inta.gov.ar/icarvii/
or contact Convener Daniel Buschiazzo at buschiazzo@agro.unlpam.edu.ar

Important Deadlines
Submission of Abstracts and/or Full Papers: March 15, 2010
Fees payment at a reduced cost: May 31, 2010
Registration is now open at: http://rian.inta.gov.ar/icarvii/

Some Additional Details

This conference is sponsored by the International Society for Aeolian Research, the Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Agropecuaria, and the Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, Facultad de Agronomía UNLPam. This is the seventh meeting of the International Conference on Aeolian Research. Previous meetings have been held in Aarhus, Denmark (1985), Sandbjerg, Denmark (1990), Zyzxx, CA, USA (1994), Oxford, U.K. (1998), Lubbock, TX (2002), and Guelph, Ontario, Canada (2006). The ICAR conferences attract aeolian geomorphologists, physical scientists, soil scientists, and erosion specialists from around the world to discuss the latest challenges and discoveries of aeolian research.

ICAR VII Organizing Committee

OTHER NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing

Two special theme issues of internationally recognized journals, arising from the workshop in Inner Mongolia in September, 2007, co-sponsored by the International Association of Geomorphologists, were published earlier this year and last year, respectively.

The first issue is Geographical Research 47(1), March 2009, with the theme: ‘Land degradation and rehabilitation in ecologically fragile areas’, edited by the Guest Editors Xiaoping Yang and Arthur Conacher. For details of the papers please see: http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122220982/issue

The second issue is Quaternary Research 73(1), January 2010, with the theme: ‘Environmental changes in arid and semi-arid regions’ and Guest Editors: Xiaoping Yang and Louis A. Scuderi. For details of the papers please see: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00335894

Prof. Xiaoping Yang

From Northern Illinois University


Dr. Wei Luo

From the University of Kentucky

The geography department at the University of Kentucky continues to strengthen its focus in biogeomorphology,
focusing on mutual adjustments among landforms, surface processes and organisms; coevolution of landforms, soils, and ecosystems; ecological patterning in landforms; and geomorphic patterning in ecosystems. Daehyun Kim, who recently completed his PhD at Texas A&M, joined the department in 2009, specializing in biogeomorphology of coastal wetlands, landscape ecology, and spatial analysis and modeling of landscape dynamics. Songlin Fei, whose primary affiliation is the UK Department of Forestry, recently joined the department as a joint appointment. Fei’s expertise is in geospatial science and technology, landscape ecology, invasive species, and spatial modeling. Rosana Grafals-Soto, currently completing her PhD at Rutgers, will join the program as a Research Fellow in August, 2010. She specializes in coastal geomorphology and ecology.

These newcomers join full-time geomorphology faculty Alice Turkington (weathering, applied geomorphology, biotic effects on weathering and regolith evolution) and Jonathan Phillips (fluvial and soil geomorphology, pedology, earth surface systems, coevolution of landforms, soils, and ecosystems). The program also includes adjunct faculty Dan Marion (USDA Forest Service), who works on (among other things) vegetation-soil-landform interactions in forest environments, and W.A. (Drew) Andrews (Kentucky Geological Survey), a Quaternary geologist and head of KGS mapping programs.

Publications by the Biogeomorphology Group in biogeomorphology and closely related areas since 2008 include:


Prof. Jonathan Phillips
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. In doing so, we aim to create a resource that demonstrates new directions in a particular thematic area, by juxtaposing articles that might otherwise be read in isolation. The first one focused on Water Resources. The second is concerned with Aeolian Processes and Landforms and the third is on Landslides, Erosion and Landscape Evolution.

We are planning to compose two per year and in order to keep informed of the latest information we suggest that you sign up for Wiley’s Earth and Environmental mail alerting services by visiting [www.interscience.wiley.com](http://www.interscience.wiley.com) today.

- **WATER RESOURCES**
  - [www.interscience.wiley.com/espwater](http://www.interscience.wiley.com/espwater)
  - Watershed scale processes
  - River instability
  - Vegetation in rivers
  - Flooding and floodplain processes

- **AEOLOGIC PROCESSES AND LANDFORMS**
  - [www.interscience.wiley.com/esp-aeolian](http://www.interscience.wiley.com/esp-aeolian)
  - Aeolian sand transport
  - Depositional and erosional aeolian landform development
  - Wind erosion and dust deposition

- **LANDSLIDES, EROSION AND LANDSCAPE EVOLUTION**
  - [www.interscience.wiley.com/esp-nethazards](http://www.interscience.wiley.com/esp-nethazards)
  - Ten recent innovative, unconventional, or otherwise significant papers that advance research on linkages between landslides, hillslope erosion, and landscape evolution. The selection addresses this feedback within a temporal spectrum that ranges from the event to the millennial scale, thus underscoring the importance of detailed field observations, high-resolution digital topographic data and geochronological methods for increasing our capability of quantifying landslide processes and hillslope erosion

BACKFILES Now Available

In addition to the wealth of current content available, *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* backfiles are now available providing access to full web content from 1976 onwards. Why not recommend these to your librarian today?

Just click “Recommend to Your Librarian” on the journal homepage at [www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/espl](http://www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/espl)
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.