

## 2017 Annual Report

### Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Specialty Group

#### The American Association of Geographers

#### I. Mission Statement

Our mission is to foster and maintain interaction, cooperation and community among individuals interested in the analysis of geo-referenced data, modeling of spatio-temporal processes and the use of analytical and computational techniques in solving geographic problems. The specialty group promotes the scientific study of physical, environmental and socioeconomic geography and the development, use and teaching of analytical cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, spatial statistical, mathematical and computational techniques for spatial analysis.

#### II. Membership Dues

Regular: \$6, Student: \$1

#### III. Board

<i>Chair</i>	Heejun Chang, Portland State University, 2015-2018
<i>Vice-chair/treasurer</i>	Carson Farmer, University of Colorado, 2016-2019
<i>Board members</i>	Eric Delmelle, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2017-2020
	Debbie Ghosh, University of Connecticut, 2015-2018
	Daoqin Tong, Arizona State University, 2016-2019
Student representative	Alexander Hohl, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2017-2020

#### Board member responsibilities

Each SAM Board member takes the leadership of a particular aspect of SAM business. Among the current board members, Vice Chair and Treasurer Carson Farmer is responsible for coordinating work related to the SAM Outstanding Service Award. Student representative Alexander Hohl is responsible for overseeing elections and for maintaining the SAM website. Board member Daoqin Tong edits SAM Newsletters, Board member Eric Delmelle is in charge of organizing student paper competition, and Board member Debs Ghosh is responsible for coordinating student travel awards. SAM Chair Heejun Chang is responsible for coordinating work related selecting the 2017 SAM Plenary Lecture speaker and emerging scholars, reporting to AAG Council, organizing SAM meeting and SAM-sponsored sessions based on abstracts submitted to each AAG annual meeting, and other related issues.

#### **IV. Accomplishments, Activities, Future Plans and Directions**

##### *Activities Scheduled*

There were many SAM-related activities held at the recent 2017 AAG meeting in Boston. SAM was quite visible, sponsoring or co-sponsoring over 80 sessions. In conjunction with the journal of Geographical Analysis, SAM sponsored a plenary session and Professor Danial Griffith delivered the plenary lecture titled "Some Robust Assessments of Eigenvector Spatial Filtering". SAM has also successfully organized two student paper award sessions.

##### *Changes of SAM Business*

There were a few changes announced and decided at the SAM Specialty Group Business meeting in Boston. First, SAM has elected the following board members in 2017: Eric Delmelle as a new board member (to replace outgoing board member Enki Yoo), Alexander Hohl as student board member (to replace outgoing student board member Yolanda Mcdonald). SAM thanks Enki Yoo and Yolanda Mcdonald for their great service in their terms.

Second, SAM chair proposed to make changes to both chair and vice chair terms of appointments. To secure the smooth transition of the chairs, the vice Chair, after serving two years, will serve as a Chair of SAM. The new Chair then will serve for another two years. Motion was carried and was approved by the majority of the attendees of the business meeting. The new change will be effective when the current chair's term expires in Spring 2018.

##### *Student Paper Awards*

We decided to give three awards in 2017. The first prize of the SAM student paper competition went to Ashkan Gholamialam (University of Missouri; title: Modeling Alternative Routes for Bicyclists). The second prize went to Cody Schank (University of Texas at Austin; title: Using a Novel Model Approach to Assess the Distribution and Conservation Status of the Endangered Baird's Tapir). The third prize went to Wangshu Mu (University of Arizona, title: A Spatial-Knowledge Enhanced Heuristic for the p-Median Problem).

##### *Plans for the 2018 Annual Meeting in New Orleans*

We have received requests for SAM sponsorship for many paper sessions for the 2018 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. In conjunction with the Journal Geographical Analysis, SAM will again sponsor a plenary session. We plan to give an award to an emerging scholar. Additionally, we will feature a few sessions that feed the major theme of AAG on hazards and GIScience. SAM has devoted much effort in encouraging students to submit their work to SAM student paper competitions. We will keep our momentum and continue our effort to recruit both graduate and undergraduate students to participate in the competition.

##### *Future Plans and Directions*

SAM will continue to foster the development and application of spatial analytic methods per its mission statement, and reach out to other AAG specialty groups to develop cross-group thematic paper sessions. SAM will continue to encourage both graduate and undergraduate students to participate in AAG meetings, through various forms including student paper competitions and travel awards. Additionally, SAM will continue to encourage our members to nominate emerging scholar and service awards. SAM will also seek collaboration with other AAG specialty groups in organizing annual meeting events that are of mutual interest.

V. Membership and Participation

There has been a substantial increase in number of SAM members. As of October 2017, there are over 1000 SAM members, making SAM the 3rd largest AAG special group.

VI. Financial Information

Association of American Geographers  
Specialty Groups Financial Report  
August 31, 2017

Spatial Analysis and Modeling Specialty Group

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<i>8/31/15</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>			<b><i>\$5,687.44</i></b>
9/30/15	Dues Collected for Sept 2015	169.00		5,856.44
10/31/15	Dues Collected for Oct 2015	604.00		6,460.44
11/30/15	Dues collected for Nov. 2015	242.00		6,702.44
12/31/15	Dues collected for Dec. 2015	221.00		6,923.44
1/31/16	Dues collected for Jan. 2016	208.00		7,131.44
2/29/16	Dues collected for Feb. 2016	159.00		7,290.44
3/31/16	Chang - Reimbursement for SAM 2016 Meeting		(110.00)	7,180.44
3/31/16	Dues collected for March	204.00		7,384.44
4/1/16	AM16 Awards Luncheon		(110.00)	7,274.44
4/11/16	Fotheringham - Reimbursement of AM Reg		(295.00)	6,979.44
4/1/16	Blackmore - John Odland Award		(300.00)	6,679.44
4/1/16	Han - John Odland Award		(300.00)	6,379.44
4/7/16	Hohl - John Odland Award		(400.00)	5,979.44
4/7/16	Seidl - John Odland Award		(600.00)	5,379.44
4/30/16	Dues collected for April	95.00		5,474.44
5/31/16	Dues collected for May	181.00		5,655.44
6/30/16	Dues collected for June	91.00		5,746.44
7/31/16	Dues collected for July	118.00		5,864.44
8/31/16	Dues collected for Aug	152.00		6,016.44
<b>8/31/16</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b><u>6,016.44</u></b>
<i>8/31/16</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>			<b><i>\$6,016.44</i></b>

9/30/16	Dues collected for Sept 2016	176.00		6,192.44
10/31/16	Dues collected for Oct 2016	656.00		6,848.44
11/30/16	Dues collected for Nov 2016	361.00		7,209.44
12/31/16	Dues collected for Dec 2016	133.00		7,342.44
1/31/17	Dues collected for Jan 2017	236.00		7,578.44
2/28/17	Dues collected for Feb 2017	175.00		7,753.44
3/30/17	Branton - Travel Award		(250.00)	7,503.44
3/30/17	Zhang - Travel Award		(250.00)	7,253.44
3/30/17	Young-Long - Travel Award		(250.00)	7,003.44
3/30/17	Park - Travel Award		(250.00)	6,753.44
3/31/17	Dues collected for March 2017	154.00		6,907.44
4/5/17	Chang - Plaque reimbursement		(222.00)	6,685.44
4/17/17	Chang - AM17 board member breakfast reimbursement		(126.75)	6,558.69
4/17/17	Gholamialam - John Odland Award		(600.00)	5,958.69
4/18/17	Schank - John Odland Award		(500.00)	5,458.69
4/18/17	Mu - John Odland Award		(400.00)	5,058.69
4/4/17	Griffith -plenary speaker		(295.00)	4,763.69
4/30/17	Dues collected for April 2017	110.00		4,873.69
5/4/17	McDonald - reimbursement for website		(96.00)	4,777.69
5/31/17	Dues collected for May 2017	141.00		4,918.69
6/30/17	Dues collected for June 2017	80.00		4,998.69
7/31/17	Dues collected for JuLY 2017	99.00		5,097.69
8/31/17	Dues Collected for Aug 2017	145.00		5,242.69
<b>8/31/17</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b><u>5,242.69</u></b>

We believe SAM has maintained a healthy balance sheet and undertaken various tasks effectively under its mission. We thank all SAM members and AAG leadership for their support in the past years, and look forward to serving the SAM community joyfully in the years to come.

This report has been compiled using a template that was modified from the 2013/4 report. SAM board members and AAG officers/staff Patricia Solis, Michelle Ledoux, and Greg Osbur have provided relevant data. We thank all of them for the great help.

Respectfully submitted,

Heejun Chang  
Chair, SAMSG, AAG  
October 27, 2017