

2011 Annual Report

Spatial Analysis and Modeling (SAM) Specialty Group The Association of American 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 (effective August 2011)
Student: \$1

III. Board

<i>Chair</i>	Ningchuan Xiao, The Ohio State University, 2009-2012
<i>Vice-chair/treasurer</i>	Fang Qiu, University of Texas at Dallas, 2010-2013
<i>Board members</i>	Eric Delmelle, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, 2009-2012 Changjoo Kim, University of Cincinnati, 2010-2013 Joni Downs, University of South Florida, 2011-2014
<i>Student representative</i>	Dan Runfola, Clark University, 2011-2014

Board member responsibilities

Each SAM Board member will take the leadership of a particular aspect of SAM business. Among the current board members, Vice Chair and Treasurer Fang Qiu is mainly responsible for organizing student paper competition. Board member Eric Delmelle edits SAM Newsletter, Board members Changjoo Kim and Dan Runfola oversee the elections, and Board member Joni Downs is in charge of organizing SAM sponsored special sessions based on submitted abstracts to each AAG annual meeting.

IV. Accomplishments, Activities, Future Plans and Directions

Activities Scheduled

There were several SAM-related activities held at the recent 2011 AAG meeting in Seattle, WA. SAM was quite visible, sponsoring or co-sponsoring 37 sessions. In conjunction with the journal of *Geographical Analysis*, SAM sponsored a plenary session and Geoffrey Jacquez delivered the plenary talk on “Key problems and some solutions in geospatial health analysis.”

SAM has also successfully organized three student paper sessions, two of which were for the purpose of student paper competition.

Changes of SAM Business Model

SAM has made several changes to its business model in 2011. First, SAM Board voted to adopt electronic voting for future board member elections as a strategy to increase representativeness of elected board members and encourage wider participation from members in SAM business. In August 2010, SAM Board unanimously passed a proposal drafted by board members Changjoo Kim and Michael Widener (see SAM Newsletter, Summer 2010).

The first electronic election for two SAM positions was conducted in April 2010. Joni Downs (University of South Florida) was elected to replace outgoing Board member Robert Gilmore Pontius (Clark University). Dan Runfola (Clark University) was elected as Student Representative, replacing outgoing Michael Widener (SUNY, Buffalo). SAM thanks Gil and Michael for their service in the past three years.

A second change is the number of issues of SAM Newsletter. In the past SAM has used a model of three issues per year. However, it has occurred to SAM Board that the three-issue model does not sync well with the annual cycle of AAG meetings and academic dynamics. A two-issue model (Pre- and Post-AAG issues) was discussed in the SAM business meeting in Seattle. Following the discussion, attendants to the meeting passed the motion with 11 for and 3 against. All newsletters can be found at <http://www.geography.osu.edu/sam/>.

A third change is the SAM Specialty Group due structure. Ningchuan Xiao (SAM Chair) initiated the discussion within SAM Board in 2010 (see SAM Newsletter, Winter 2010-2011). Following discussions among Board members via email exchanges, the SAM Board proposed to increase the regular due from \$3 to \$6 and maintain student due to \$1. We believed this change will increase SAM's visibility in the AAG and improve our support to student activities. Members attending the SAM business meeting in Seattle passed the motion by unanimously voted for the regular due increase. In a second round of voting, 13 attendants voted to increase the regular due to \$6 and 1 attendant voted to increase to \$1. The majority vote was adopted. The new regular due took effect in August 2011.

Student Paper Awards

In the 2011 AAG Annual Meeting in Seattle, The first prize of SAM student paper competition was awarded to Li Zhou (University of Cincinnati; paper title: Investigating Gasoline Zone Pricing in Cincinnati by General Linear Modeling). Yujia Zhang from Clark University won the second prize (title: Characterizing Land Changes over Several Points in Time) and Michael J. Widener of University at Buffalo won the third prize (title: Developing a Parallel Computational Implementation of AMOEBA for Large Spatial Datasets).

Plans for the 2012 Annual Meeting in New York

Many session developments have been under way for the Annual Meeting in New York. In conjunction with the journal of *Geographical Analysis*, SAM will again sponsor a plenary session delivered by Robert Haining (Cambridge University).

SAM has devoted much effort in encouraging students to submit their work to SAM student paper competitions. We will continue our effort to recruit students (graduate and undergraduate) to participate in the competition.

Future Plans and Directions

SAM will continue to foster the development and application of spatial analytic methodologies per its mission statement, which includes reaching out to other specialty groups to develop cross-cutting thematic paper sessions. SAM will continue to encourage graduate (and undergraduate) students to participate in AAG meetings, through various forms including student paper competitions. SAM will also seek collaboration with other AAG specialty groups in organizing annual meeting events.

V. Membership and Participation

Membership numbers:

Year	Number of members			Access Date	Source
	Total	Students	Non-students		
2011	987	459	528	Nov. 3	AAG SG Website
2010	869	381	488	Apr. 13	AAG SG Website
2009	804	350	454	Oct. 15	AAG SG Website
2008	722	327	395	Apr. 8	AAG SG Website
2007	708	327	381	Mar. 1	AAG SG Website
2006	750	413	337	Feb. 28	AAG SG Website
2005	716				AAG mailing list
2004	200				
2003	427				Unofficial
2002	366				
2001	261				
2000	204				
1999	219				
1998	244				
1997	285				
1996	339				
1995	309				

VI. Financial Information

Date	Description	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
<i>8/31/09</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>			<i>\$ 3,378.45</i>
9/30/09	Dues collected for September 2009	124.00		3,502.45
10/31/09	Dues collected for October 2009	386.00		3,888.45
11/30/09	Dues collected for November 2009	141.00		4,029.45
12/31/09	Dues collected for December 2009	104.00		4,133.45
1/31/10	Dues collected for January 2010	93.00		4,226.45
2/28/10	Dues collected for February 2010	89.99		4,316.44
3/26/10	Griffith - reimb reg plenary speaker AM10		(390.00)	3,926.44
3/31/10	Dues collected for March 2010	142.00		4,068.44
4/18/10	Cao, Lina - AM 2010 Conf Reg		(55.00)	4,013.44
4/16/10	Cao - grad stu paper		(400.00)	3,613.44
4/30/10	Dues collected for April 2010	93.00		3,706.44
5/11/10	Jang - Co-Best Grad Student Paper Award		(150.00)	3,556.44
5/11/10	Johnson- Best Undergraduate Student Paper 2010		(300.00)	3,256.44
5/11/10	Liu - Co-Award Best Grad Student Paper Award		(150.00)	3,106.44
5/31/10	Dues collected for May 2010	40.00		3,146.44
6/30/10	Dues collected for June 2010	45.00		3,191.44
7/31/10	Dues collected for July 2010	44.00		3,235.44
8/31/10	Dues collected for August 2010	79.00		3,314.44
8/31/10	Balance			<u>\$ 3,314.44</u>
<i>8/31/10</i>	<i>Balance forward</i>			<i>\$ 3,314.44</i>
9/30/10	Dues collected for September 2010	100.00		3,414.44
10/31/10	Jaquez - AM 2011 Registration		(265.00)	3,149.44
10/31/10	Dues collected for October 2010	329.00		3,478.44
11/30/10	Dues collected for November 2010	164.00		3,642.44
12/31/10	Dues collected for December 2010	83.00		3,725.44
1/31/11	Dues collected for January 2011	155.00		3,880.44
2/11/11	Void Ck#12570 Liu - reissue	150.00		4,030.44
2/11/11	Liu - reissue student paper award check		(150.00)	3,880.44
2/9/11	Transfer to support Space-Time Symposium		(500.00)	3,380.44
2/28/11	Dues collected for February 2011	54.00		3,434.44
3/31/11	Dues collected for March 2011	97.00		3,531.44
4/15/11	Zhang - Student paper competition		(300.00)	3,231.44
4/15/11	Zhou - Student Paper Competition		(500.00)	2,731.44
4/16/11	Widener - 3rd Pl. Student paper Award		(200.00)	2,531.44
4/16/11	AM 2011 Awards Luncheon Tickets		(110.00)	2,421.44
4/30/11	Dues collected for April 2011	119.00		2,540.44
5/31/11	Dues collected for May 2011	52.00		2,592.44
6/30/11	Dues collected for June 2011	63.00		2,655.44
7/31/11	Dues collected for July 2011	93.00		2,748.44
8/31/11	Dues collected for August 2011	164.00		2,912.44
8/31/11	Balance			<u>\$ 2,912.44</u>

8/31/11	<i>Balance forward</i>		\$ 2,912.44
9/30/11	Haining - AM 2012 Conf. Reg.		(420.00) 2,492.44
9/30/11	Dues collected for Sept. 2011	347.00	2,839.44
9/30/11	Balance		2,839.44

We believe SAM has maintained a healthy balance sheet. Increasing the regular due to \$6 will strengthen our financial shape, especially under today's economic uncertainties.

Respectfully submitted,

Ningchuan Xiao
Chair, SAMSG, AAG
November 3, 2011