

Second Circular
Invitation & Call for Posters:
The Human Role
in Changing Fluvial Systems

**37th International Binghamton
Geomorphology Symposium (BGS)**
October 20-22, 2006, Columbia, South Carolina
Organizers:

L. Allan James, University of South Carolina
W. Andrew Marcus, University of Oregon

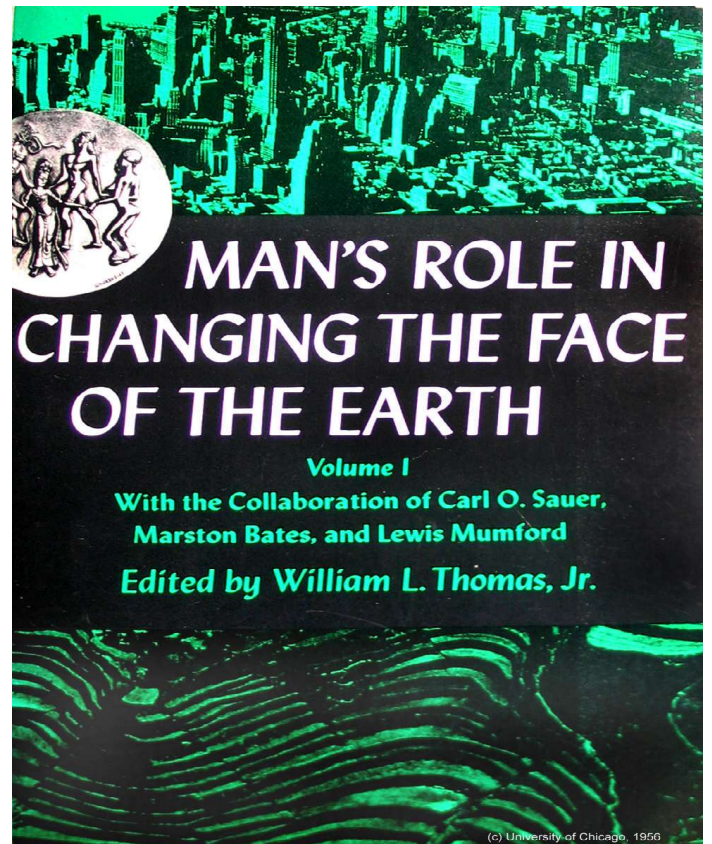
BGS 2006 Web Page:

<http://geography.uoregon.edu/amarcus/Binghamton2006/>

Interest in human impacts has grown substantially in the past half century for many good reasons. At the same time, the awareness of humans as geomorphic agents has also grown through the production of many rigorous studies. This Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium will commemorate *Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth*, an International Symposium held at Princeton University in 1955 and the subsequent set of papers published the next year (Thomas, 1956). The proceedings volume, dedicated to George P. Marsh, is a milestone in scholarship that raised the awareness of the pervasive nature of anthropogenic alterations. The breadth of topics in those volumes, together with the list of prestigious intellectuals participating, ensured that it would make a lasting imprint. Many of us cut our teeth on papers in that collection covering soil erosion, deforestation, climate, hydrology, water quality, and a host of other anthropogenic changes.

Objectives. The goal of *The Human Role in Changing Fluvial Systems* symposium is to emulate the scholarly synthesis of knowledge through a convocation of leading environmental scientists with a focus on anthropogenic changes to fluvial systems. This area of geomorphic research has been particularly active over the past half century, and we hope to generate a synergy and a broad new synthesis.

Fluvial systems are interpreted broadly here and include hydrology, channel morphologic adjustments, aquatic ecosystems, sediment, and upland land use (fire, grazing, urbanization, etc.) that drive these changes.



Just as Marsh's (1864) *Man and Nature* marked a departure from the prevailing preoccupation with physiography as a completely natural phenomenon, so this symposium will highlight the integration of social and physical factors in explanations and management of geomorphic features associated with the work of fresh water. This topic is timely because it marks a time of increasing interest in human interactions with fluvial systems at the watershed scale.

Venue. Binghamton goes down south to the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia, SC. This location is well located for participants coming from North America and Europe. The fall months in Columbia are temperate and there are abundant options for lodging close to campus. Watch for announcements for special arrangements for hotels in subsequent announcements and on the BGS web page.

The conference will be held in the newly renovated Callcott Building, home of the geography department. The university cafeteria is next door to Callcott Building in the Russell House student center, so the logistics of breakfasts and lunches can be easily managed on an individual basis. The banquet and keynote address will be on campus Saturday night. Large parking garages are adjacent to the Callcott building so parking is generally not difficult on non-football weekends such as this.

Program Structure. The topics to be covered include an opening retrospective to outline the history and present status of knowledge, trends, and anticipated needs and developments in anthropo-geomorphology (Table 1). A second set of papers will develop the context of anthropogenic change by examining the scales and locations of various impacts. A final set of papers will examine specific processes and causes of change in erosion, sediment delivery, and channel morphology such as fire, grazing, dams, mining, and urbanization.

Speakers. A diverse group of experts has contributed papers including several scholars from abroad. The authors represent a varied cross-section of viewpoints, areas of concern, and regions of study (Table 1). Most authors are geomorphologists but other viewpoints are included. Andrew Goudie will present the keynote speech at the banquet and Will Graf will moderate the proceedings.

Call for Posters. We encourage the submission of abstracts for posters related to the Symposium theme. Details of poster formats and instructions are listed on the BGS web site:

<http://geography.uoregon.edu/amarcus/Binghamton2006/>

Friday Field Trip. A five-hour field trip is being organized by Will Graf and several students to take a 'River Walk' along the Congaree River in Columbia on Friday from approximately 12:30 to 5:30 pm. As a 'fall-line' city, Columbia has a history of early cotton processing and textile manufacturing based on water power. Up-river from Columbia, the Piedmont endured some of the most intense soil erosion and gullying in the nation during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This fascinating history is recorded in the cultural and geomorphic landscapes along the river. The river walk field trip will leave from the conference site on the USC campus via vans that will shuttle participants to and from the river. Details of the field trip sites are posted on the '06 BGS web site.

Symposium Proceedings. Dick Marston has arranged with Elsevier to publish reviewed papers both as a proceedings volume prior to the meeting and in a special issue of *Geomorphology*. Sixteen papers have been reviewed and revised, and will be published in time to be distributed at the conference in Oct., 2006.

In the past, this publication series has produced numerous important volumes while providing incentives to senior scholars to produce quality papers.

The *maroon book series* has become a cornerstone for serious geomorphic research and we are working to maintain the rigorous level of scholarship that has marked this collection.

Student Travel Grants. We have received a small grant that will allow us to award approximately 25 graduate student travel grants up to \$200 each.

Instructions and criteria are on the BGS web site:

<http://geography.uoregon.edu/amarcus/Binghamton2006/>

- AJ & WAM

References Cited

- Thomas, W.L., Jr. (Ed.) 1956. Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Marsh, G. P. 1864. Man and Nature; or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action. New York: Charles Scribner. Reprinted 1965, D. Lowenthal (Ed.), Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press. 472 pp.

Table 1. Program Structure

Keynote Speaker: Andrew Goudie

Introduction: M. Gordon "Reds" Wolman

Retrospect & Prospects: Allan James & Andrew Marcus

Context: Scales and Locales of Impact.

Speakers: Andrew Brooks, Ken Gregory, Carol Harden, Janet Hooke, Jim Knox, LeRoy Poff, Des Walling, Ellen Wohl

Processes of Change, Resultant Distributions and Persistence of Change.

Hydrologic, ecological, and geomorphic changes due to agriculture, mining, fire, urbanization, channelization, etc.

Speakers: Dave Butler, Anne Chin, Will Graf, Mark Macklin, Dick Marston, Pat McDowell, Andrew Simon

Paper titles and links to authors' web sites can be accessed at the BGS 2006 web site (see URL at top of this flyer).

May 12, 2006

We look forward to seeing you in Cola in 2006 !!!