



Winter 2004

# RMA

Resource Modeling Association

# Newsletter

[www.resourcemodeling.org](http://www.resourcemodeling.org)

## *From the President*

As I write this RMA Update, Fall Semester's classes have ended at Cornell and the exam period has started. The campus is quieter, with students holed up in their dorms, apartments, or the libraries, presumably studying. I hand out "take-home" exams on the last day of class for the two courses I teach during the Fall Semester. This allows me to ask "nasty" numerical questions which I couldn't ask, with a clear conscience, in a two-hour, in-class, final exam. The take-home exams are due December 17th, and this gives me a window of time to clean up my desk and do some research and writing.

Now is a good time to report on upcoming RMA conferences. First, dates for the 2004 RMA Meetings at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia have been set. The meetings will start with a Sunday evening cocktail "session" on December 12th. The more formal sessions will be held on Monday, December 13th and Tuesday, December 14th. For more information on these meetings visit the RMA Website at [www.resourcemodeling.org](http://www.resourcemodeling.org)

The 2005 RMA Meetings will be held at Humboldt State University, in Arcata,

California, where the first meetings were held in 1982. Rollie Lamberson has graciously agreed to host these meetings (as he did in 1982 and again in 1991). This area of northern California is spectacular, with towering forests of redwood and Douglas fir, and rugged stretches of coast, often accessible only to those willing to do some hiking.

Catherine Roberts had offered to host the 2005 RMA Meeting at a rustic facility on Cape Cod. Your RMA Board favored the Humboldt State site, but is hopeful that Catherine's offer might hold good for the 2007 meetings. We would like to hold the 2006 RMA Meetings outside of North America. If any of our non-north American members would like to host the 2006 RMA Meetings, please contact me [JMC16@cornell.edu](mailto:JMC16@cornell.edu).

While you are likely to be reading this in early 2004, I'm writing it in early December, 2003. So, best wishes for a productive and happy new year. If you have any suggestions for improving the RMA, send them to me or any RMA Board member.

—Jon Conrad

## **Dues are due!!**

For 2004, \$60.

For two years, \$110.

For three years, \$160.

Send your check to Ken Lyon

(address in the Board Box on p. 2)

or go to the website to pay on-line.

## 2003 Award Winner

**Xiang Xiaorong** from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, won our student award for her talk on “A Stochastic Simulation of Natural Organic Matter and Microbes in the Environment.”



She reports being a third year graduate student in department of Computer Science & Engineering. She finished her Masters thesis and defense in May. Her work involves modeling the behavior of Natural Organic Matter (NOM), building a scientific collaboratory to support the collaboration between scientists, and doing Java performance analysis for scientific applications. She is working on her Ph.D. Xiang Xiaorong was born in P.R. China and got her B.S. there. She is married with one 4-year-old son. She enjoys swimming, table tennis, and badminton, but prefers outdoor activities and traveling.

## Planning Ahead

The 2005 RMA conference will be hosted at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. Many of you have been on their very attractive campus. The inaugural meeting of the RMA in 1982 was held there, as was the 10th meeting in 1991. HSU is adjacent to redwood forest and about 3 miles from the ocean, but has ocean views. Arcata is about a one hour flight or 5 hour drive (through the wine country) north of San Francisco. On-campus housing will be an option. The tentative dates are Tuesday, June 14 through Friday June 17. There are lots of opportunities for pre and post conference outings: rafting, hiking, and, .... Mark your calendar. Rollie Lamberson will be the local chair for the meeting. (Contact information in the box above.)

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## ***Get Ready for the 2004 Conference***

Dates: Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 December, 2004. Welcome cocktails on Sunday night 12th. The venue, RMIT, is right in the centre of Melbourne. RMIT University is one of Australia's leading educational institutions. Formed in 1887, the university has grown to become one of the largest in the country and



has built a worldwide reputation for excellence in vocational and technical education and research. RMIT offers more than 200 educational programs across a broad range of fields, to 57,000 students. Many specialist programs are regarded as among the best of their type in Australia. Traditional strengths such as engineering, business and IT sit beside popular contemporary fields including life sciences, communications and fashion.

Remember that in December, Melbourne is ready to celebrate summer. Twilight Melbourne offers something for everyone, from alfresco dining, night markets, and nocturnal zoo visits to jazz and dance lessons in the park. Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne boasts great festivals and shopping, a passion for food and wine, and fabulous arts. Outside Melbourne, you'll

find a host of regional attractions from magnificent beaches to snow-capped mountain peaks, Victoria is home to diverse natural environments with abundant flora and fauna.

The state's compact size means its unique and varied landscapes are easily accessible – in under a day's drive you can experience natural attractions such as mountains, temperate



rainforests, rugged coastal scenery, volcanic plains, vineyards, lakes, and magnificent rivers.



Across Victoria's 13 regions, you'll find public gardens and more than 30 national parks, regarded as some of the best in the world, protecting the state's valuable natural assets. Victoria's fascinating native wildlife includes kangaroos, koalas, wombats, platypus, echidnas and lovable little penguins, which parade nightly along an island beach.

Its extensive coastline also provides plentiful opportunities to get up close to dolphins, seals and whales. What's more, the state's lush forests and parklands are havens for stunning varieties of native birds – the extraordinary mallee fowl, the elusive lyrebird, emus and reed warblers, to name a few.

Check out <http://www.visitvictoria.com/>

Additional information from:  
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