Greetings from the Executive Director's desk!! It is hard to believe that five months have passed since our amazing ISSRM in Charleston and less than seven months to go until Houghton. Many thanks to Tom and crew for a job well done in Charleston and to Richelle and Kathy for the hard work they are now doing on our behalf for what promises to be a great meeting in northern Michigan. Let me also remind folks that it is now renewal time for IASNR membership and that the proposals for organized sessions for the ISSRM in Houghton are due on November 23rd. I also want to mention that we have Council elections coming up and that candidate statements are currently being prepared by individuals who have been nominated and have agreed to run (You know who you are so please get those in to Tom Fish). I am also pleased to report that Jessica and Paulus have been hard at work updating our website and our systems for linking our data concerning membership etc.. between our central office and those of each year's local ISSRM organizers. Our website is now much more "smart phone friendly".

In more long term matters, Steve Daniels and Tom Fish are currently leading Council through a visioning process for the organization which builds on the assessment work that Courtney and others did earlier in the Council term and other discussions we have had both within the Council and with members and past officers around the fact that our organization is maturing. It also addresses the related fact that the needs of our membership are evolving and that the activities and structure of our organization need to keep pace. We hope to have one or more specific proposals to present to the membership in June coming from this process. As another reflection of our evolution as an organization, we also plan to present a proposed code of behavior to the membership. This is aimed, among other things, to give us a tool to sanction inappropriate behavior should such behavior occur at our meetings or in our organizational context.

Let me close by exhorting everyone to make plans to join us in Houghton, Michigan, June 22-26, 2016 for what promises to be a very engaging and exciting ISSRM!!
Submitted by Kathy Halvorsen

The ISSRM 2016 Executive and Planning Committees are hard at work planning a great conference hosted by Michigan Technological University in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula! The theme is *Transitioning toward Sustainable Relationships in a Changing World.*

Since Michigan Tech is surrounded by water, many of our keynotes and field trips feature lakes and rivers. Keynote speaker and community activist Chad Pregracke will talk about organizing to clean up the Mississippi River, and Nancy Langston will talk about the challenges of protecting Lake Superior, the largest lake in the world by surface area. Field trips include kayaking on Lake Superior, touring old growth white pines, and a trip on Michigan Tech’s research boat, the Agassiz, to learn about local lakes and mining legacies. Our banquet will take place on the shores of Lake Superior.

At ISSRM 2016 your dorm or hotel room will be next to Portage Lake, with beaches, kayaking, and walking and biking trails right outside your door. Bike and kayak rentals are available just a ten minute walk from the conference.

The area is a popular tourist destination with rich natural and historical amenities including state and national parks, mineral and copper mining history museums, and a great downtown that has diverse restaurants, brewpubs, gift shops, and outdoor stores. Learn more on the [ISSRM 2016 website.](#)

The conference is easy to get to – during the conference three flights a day will come into Hancock Airport, a short 15-minute conference van ride from ISSRM 2016, on United Airlines via O’Hare Airport in Chicago.

**Call for Organized Session Proposals:** Proposals for Panels, Paper Sessions, Book Review Sessions, and Workshops are invited now – the deadline for submission is November 23rd, 2015. Proposals from any area of societal relationships to environment and natural resources are welcome. Organized sessions are an opportunity to bring together a group of scholars around a particular topic. They can be a collection of 3-5 oral presentations with or without a discussant, a panel of experts on a given topic, a roundtable discussion, an author-meets-critics session, a workshop, or propose your own idea. Panels and paper sessions will last 75 minutes each. The organizer(s) should recruit participants. Organized sessions will be highlighted and given priority in the program.

Please submit your session proposal online by [clicking here](#). Please note: a login account is required before a session proposal can be submitted; you must also be logged into your account to submit a session proposal.

More information regarding individual oral presentation and poster presentation abstracts will be available December 1st. The deadline for individual paper presentations and posters will be January 15th, 2016.

Photo Credits: Chris Henderson; MTU UMC

Registration for ISSRM 2016 will open on the website in December, 2015. Don’t miss the early registration deadlines!
The Communications Committee has added a new member, welcome Kathy Halvorsen! We continue to work on improving communication: between members, between members and leadership, and between the Association and the public. In response to these efforts we have a few new mechanisms to share. First, IASNR now has a Twitter feed directly linked to our Facebook page. The primary goal here is to help share information about IASNR with the broader public and hopefully capture some new potential meeting attendees and future members. We continue to work with Paulus Mau and Jessica Burk on ways to improve the new website which has been greatly improved. However, we recognize that this is a work in progress and welcome any feedback you may have. Finally, we are implementing a new feature for the Newsletter and Facebook page to improve communication and showcase our amazing membership activities. Please see the discussion below for a more complete description and information on how you can participate! Any questions, comments or concerns can be directed to Joan Brehm, jmbrehm@ilstu.edu. Thank you!

Joan M. Brehm, Becky Schewe, Carla Koons Trentelman, Neelam Poudyal, Kathy Halvorsen, and Theresa Groth

NEW FEATURE:
IASNR Research, Policy, and Management Highlights

Submitted by Kathy Halvorsen

Attention International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) student, scientist, manager, and policymaker members!

We WANT your research project or policy/management issue that you are working on to feature on our website. Features will periodically appear on the IASNR Facebook page (please like us if you haven’t already) and the IASNR association webpage.

We particularly encourage IASNR student members to submit highlights – we’d love to share your research with other members!

If you would like to be featured, please write a highlight piece following the template that follows. We require both a related photo and short description of your project or issue.

REQUIRED TEMPLATE

- First and Last Name(s)
- Organizational Affiliation(s)
- Organizational Position(s)
- Required photo(s) Include 1-3 clear jpg photo(s) related to the project or issue
- URL If available, please include a URL to a site with more information
- Short Description of the Project or Issue, no more than 200 words

Attach the file the completed highlight information to:

Like IASNR on Facebook!
The site selection committee seeks host institutions for the annual meeting of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR) for 2018 and beyond. The annual meeting is called International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) and should be promoted as such.

The ISSRM conference cycle is typically held within North America for two consecutive years and at a non-North American location in the third year. This cycle is beginning again in 2018 (2015 in Charleston, SC, USA, 2016 in Houghton, MI, USA, 2017 in Umea, Sweden); however, the site selection committee will consider deviating from the cycle for particularly strong applications in non-North American locations.

Dates:
The meeting should be held during the month of June. Although specific meeting dates are open, the conference should extend across three to four days to accommodate a full program of paper sessions, poster sessions, plenary speakers, business sessions, and social events. Typical schedules are Monday – Thursday or Tuesday – Friday, with the student forum (1 day event) occurring the day preceding the opening session. Pre- or post-meeting workshops or organized tours may also be included as means of encouraging attendance.

Facilities:
We require a conference facility with an auditorium for plenary sessions that will seat at least 400-500 persons, 12-14 break-out rooms, several small conference rooms or classrooms, and space for at least 50 posters/exhibits. The host institution is responsible for facilitating accommodations for 400-600 people. The accommodations should include at least one inexpensive option (particularly for students) such as on campus student housing. Cafeteria food service is acceptable; on-site beer and wine service is desirable.

Accounting:
The registration fee will be set by the host institution in consultation with the site selection committee representatives and the IASNR Executive Director’s office. Registration fees must be commensurate with other professional societies’ registration costs. Between 300 and 600 persons are expected to attend the symposium. The tradition of low student registration fees must be adhered to so that student participation in the conference will remain affordable. Active pursuit of grants and sponsorships to raise funds in support of the annual meeting is important.

The IASNR Business Office will be responsible for collecting all registration fees, student scholarship funds, and other donations. The host institution will be responsible for maintaining appropriate accounts for grants and contracts obtained at their institution in support of the annual meeting. The IASNR and host institution will share the costs and profits for a given annual meeting. The IASNR will, if necessary, underwrite financial losses of a conference, but organizers are expected to exercise due diligence with respect to budget planning to avoid this outcome. In addition, the host institution must clear any significant changes to original approved budget with the IASNR Business Office. Fifty percent of net profit will be returned to IASNR Business Office. All costs for the meeting should be budgeted and accommodated within the registration fees, grants, contracts, scholarships, and in-kind donations.

The host institution may seek funds to support on-site hospitality and excursions. Due to currency exchange issues, the capability of charging registration fees, accommodations, and other fees to Visa and MasterCard is a requirement.
Social Events:
The costs of the opening reception and at least one group meal (e.g., a picnic, barbeque, or banquet), as well as daily refreshments during morning and afternoon breaks, are normally included in the registration fee. Other social activities, meals, and excursions may be billed separately as appropriate.

Mailings and Publications:
The host institution will assume responsibility for the following:
1. Preparation, printing, and distribution of the call for program ideas and call for papers and posters.
2. Preparation, printing, and distribution of the preliminary program and registration materials (to be available online in advance to potential registrants). Previous meeting mailing lists will be provided to host institutions for their use.
3. Preparation and printing of the final program (distributed on site). Note: listing of participants in the final program is normally contingent upon the completion of registration; all symposium participants are expected to be registered for the meeting.
4. Preparation and printing of the list of attendees (distributed on site).
Publication of paper and poster abstracts (distributed on site).

Other Notes:
1. The host institution, IASNR leadership and Council, and the program committee will be jointly responsible for raising funds for student scholarships and making decisions about allocation of registration fee waivers.
2. A spousal registration rate will be provided.
3. A one-day registration rate will be provided.
4. A named site chairperson as well as a proposed local steering committee must accompany the proposal.

Who to Contact:
If you have questions about the Symposium, the preparation of the proposal, or wish to express interest in preparing a proposal, please contact any member of the ISSRM Site Selection Committee:
Gene Theodori
gtheodori@shsu.edu
Erin Seekamp
elseekam@ncsu.edu
Jeffrey Jacquet
jeffrey.jacquet@sdstate.edu
Kate Sherren
kate.sherren@dal.ca
Kristin Hurst
kfhurst@vt.edu

Completed Proposal:
Please submit your completed proposal as an email attachment to Gene Theodori (gtheodori@shsu.edu) by January 15th, 2016.
Elections Committee

Submitted by Tom Fish

Election season is upon us! This year we will hold elections for five open Council positions and a new Student Representative-Elect to the Council. Thank you to those who have submitted nominations for an excellent group of candidates.

IASNR strives for the organizational leadership to be “broadly representative of the membership reflecting a balance of: (1) disciplinary orientations in the social sciences; (2) natural resource management fields; and (3) professional practice” (e.g., academic, agency, and NGO scientists; resource managers; domestic and international scholars; mid-career and seasoned professionals). Service on the IASNR Council affords members the opportunity to contribute substantially to current operations and future directions of the organization. For additional information about the IASNR Council, visit the “About IASNR” section of the IASNR website (www.iasnr.org).

Elections will take place in November. We are counting on all members to vote. Your participation is essential to the organization. Inquiries regarding nominations and elections should be directed to the IASNR Elections Committee, c/o Tom Fish (Tom_Fish@nps.gov).

Elections Committee
Tom Fish, Rose Verbos, Eick von Ruschkowski

Professional Development Committee

Submitted by Eick von Ruschkowski

The Professional Development Committee is currently short of a few members, we could need help from IASNR members. Nevertheless, the committee has identified a few agenda items we would like to focus on. Specifically, these are:

- improve the availability of teaching resources, preferably both on the IASNR web site and for the ISSRM conference;
- investigate into webinar offers and determine both technical prerequisites and desired contents;
- increase and improve mentoring, both virtual and for the ISSRM 2016, based on the results of the mentorship activity survey (see below); and
- the possibility of conduction a session or workshop on professional development during the ISSRM 2016.

To assess the current status and future needs of the IASNR mentoring activities, a survey was carried out among the 2015 ISSRM mentoring participants, both mentors and mentees. Out of 112 people contacted, we received 77 responses which is equivalent to a response rate of 69%. Out of the responses, roughly 40% were from mentors, and 60% were mentees.

The overall level of satisfaction with the mentoring program was at 77% with the mentors (response either "satisfied" or "very satisfied") and 94% with the mentees. Responses also suggested overall support for a future continuation of mentorship activities (85% of mentors and 77% of mentees). Several suggestions for improvements during the 2016 ISSRM were made and need to be discussed further among the committee and council members.
Congratulations to the Student Award Winners!

Best Paper Submitted by a Doctoral Student: **Dr. Hakon B. Stokland**
Norwegian University of Science & Technology

Best Paper Submitted by a Master’s Student: **Eric A. Stubbs**
University of Florida

Student Quiz Bowl Winner: **Team Penn State**

Over 600 abstracts were submitted for papers, panels, organized sessions and posters at ISSRM 2015.

The Silent Auction raised money for student scholarships for ISSRM 2016.

There were a total of 389 participants representing 50 countries at ISSRM 2015.

Everyone gathered to watch a spirited and entertaining Student Quiz Bowl Competition.
We look forward to seeing everyone at ISSRM 2016!

Photo Credits: Chris Henderson; MTU UMC