

1-2015

# Center for Geospatial Studies Newsletter. 2015 no.1 (January)

Minnesota State University Moorhead, Center for Geospatial Studies

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## **MSUM GIS**

Welcome to the [Msum\\_gis@lists.mnstate.edu](mailto:Msum_gis@lists.mnstate.edu) mailing list and greetings on behalf of the MSUM Center for Geospatial Studies! We have created this listserv to stay connected with regional geospatial users. Our plan is to periodically send posts on our activities that might be of interest to the larger group and we invite you to do the same. Mailing list instructions are provided at the end of this message.

### **MSUM Center for Geospatial Studies Hosts Community Breakfast**

The MSUM Center for Geospatial Studies hosted public and private sector GIS users at a community breakfast on November 21, 2014. President Anne Blackhurst's opening remarks were followed by an introduction to the Center for Geospatial Studies, one of three centers which recently emerged from a competitive process on the MSUM campus. The Center for Geospatial Studies seeks to advance the Red River Valley and the lives of its citizens by: educating students to think spatially and perform technically, providing training in spatial technologies, and customizing data and conducting spatial analyses to inform regional decision-making. The breakfast also featured an announcement that a Geographic Information Science certificate at MSUM was recently approved by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. The event concluded with conversation between public and private sector GIS users and faculty members involved with the Center for Geospatial Studies. These conversations focused on collaborative partnership opportunities.

### **GIS Day**

On November 19, 2014, MSUM joined the worldwide GIS Day celebration "Discovering the World through GIS" (<http://www.gisday.com/about.html>). Information on GIS careers and GIS courses and certificate at MSUM, an interactive GIS computer kiosk, ESRI notebooks and wristbands, and even a GIS Day cake with edible campus map was available at the MSUM Library porch. In the Library auditorium, community experts and former students talked about the importance of GIS in their work and provided advice on how to prepare for careers in GIS. Many thanks to our excellent community speakers Rob Bigelow (KLJ) and Brad Anderson (City of Moorhead), MSUM alums Spencer McGrew (Red River Basin Commission) and Lynsee Langsdon (Metcalf Archaeological Consultants), and current MSUM Sustainability major Gary George. We look forward to hosting annual celebrations and would love to coordinate our efforts with others in the region planning GIS Day events.



### **Spring Steering Committee Meetings**

The following dates have been set for Center for Geospatial Studies Steering Committee meetings during spring semester:

1/22/2015 3 pm Maclean 268 President Blackhurst and the MSUM Playbook  
2/26/2015 3 pm Maclean 268  
3/26/2015 3 pm Maclean 268  
4/9/2015 3 pm Maclean 268  
4/23/2015 3 pm Maclean 268 Last meeting until Fall 2015

All meetings are open. Convenient metered parking can be found directly south and west in lots M1-3. (<http://www.mnstate.edu/uploadedFiles/Content/Parking/Parking%20Map.pdf>)

### MSUM Course Offerings

MSUM offers a number of geospatial courses including a 4-course GIS certificate consisting of GEOS 205 - Thinking Spatially (3 credits), GEOS 207 - GPS Field Techniques (3 credits), GEOS 210 - Cartography (3 credits), and GEOS 307 - Introduction to GIS (3 credits).

Current semester offerings are:

| <b>Spring 2015 Schedule</b>                                   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>GEOS 205</b><br><b>Thinking Spatially</b><br>W 5:00-7:00pm | <b>GEOS 210</b><br><b>Cartography</b><br>MWF 9:00-9:50am | <b>GEOS 307</b><br><b>Intro to GIS</b><br>T 4:30-7:00pm | <b>GEOS 407</b><br><b>Spatial Analysis</b><br>T 7:15-9:45pm |

Geos 407 is for users who wish to gain proficiency with advanced GIS techniques.

Planned for Fall 2015 are GEOS 205 - Thinking Spatially and GEOS 207 - GPS Field Techniques (dates and times tbd). The remaining two certificate courses will be offered Spring 2016, allowing users to complete the certificate within 2 semesters.

### Spotlight on Interns

The Center for Geospatial Studies looks forward to developing internships that benefit your organizations as well as MSUM students. With this in mind, internship invitations have been sent to partners who have expressed an interest in hosting an intern. An editable form allows partners to indicate their preference for the GIS skills desired in an intern, the times when an intern would be most helpful, and other details. Thanks to those of you that have returned these forms. If you have not received an invitation and have a current need for an intern or anticipate a future need within your organization, please e-mail Rinita Dalan ([dalanri@mnstate.edu](mailto:dalanri@mnstate.edu)).

### MN Department of Agriculture Grant Funded

During fall semester, the Center for Geospatial Studies partnered with Northland Community and Technical College (NCTC), Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers, Minnesota Turf Council, Titan Machinery, and Evergreen Implement on a grant entitled *Digital Imagery – Precision Agriculture* that was submitted to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. We just received news that the 3-year, \$249,480 grant was funded! MSUM's Dr. Kirk Stueve will conduct satellite imagery analyses of crop yield productivity on select fields in the vicinity of northwestern Minnesota for our partners at NCTC (the lead agency). Select MSUM students

enrolled in the GIS certificate will be recruited to participate in the analyses. We look forward to working on this and other projects with our colleagues at NCTC.

### **Questions?**

For questions regarding the Geographic Information Science certificate, Steering Committee meetings, or partnerships with the Center for Geospatial Studies, please contact Dr. Rinita Dalan, Chair, Anthropology & Earth Science at 218.477.5900 or [dalanri@mnstate.edu](mailto:dalanri@mnstate.edu).

### **Mailing List Instructions**

To post to this list, send your email to:

[msum\\_gis@lists.mnstate.edu](mailto:msum_gis@lists.mnstate.edu)

General information about the mailing list and how to subscribe/unsubscribe is available at:

[http://lists.mnstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/msum\\_gis](http://lists.mnstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/msum_gis)

To change your options via email send a message to:

[Msum\\_gis-request@lists.mnstate.edu](mailto:Msum_gis-request@lists.mnstate.edu)

with the word 'help' in the subject or body (don't include the quotes), and you will get a message with instructions.