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Center for Geospatial Studies Newsletter. 2015 no.6 (October)

Minnesota State University Moorhead, Center for Geospatial Studies

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Welcome New Steering Committee Members!

This fall, one new student member and three new faculty members have joined the Center for Geospatial Studies Steering Committee. Senator Chris Bergman was appointed to one of two student positions by the Student Senate. Faculty members were appointed by the Faculty Senate. Sara Anderson occupies one of two positions from the Biosciences Department and is also part of the Regional Science Center prairie restoration and monitoring team (see below). Alex Fogarty, School of Media Arts and Design, occupies the at-large position on the committee. Alex is also an active member of the Campus Map working group. Geri Hendrix-Sloan, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, is the representative from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. We would like to extend our thanks to outgoing steering committee members Ellen Brisch, Dan McEwen, and Margaret Sankey who stepped down due to sabbaticals or leaves. Their efforts in getting the center up and running are much appreciated.

GIS Day, November 18, 2015

Plans are underway for the second annual GIS Day celebration at MSUM on November 18. The day will include informational tables and displays as well as a panel of speakers who will talk about the importance of GIS in their work and provide advice on how to prepare for GIS careers. Information on the GIS certificate and courses at MSUM, the prairie restoration and monitoring project at the Regional Science Center, the Campus Map Initiative, the Fargo Project, and other topics will be on display from 10:30am -1:30pm in the Library Porch. A library resources table will also host a faculty book drive to improve the library's GIS collections. The panel of speakers will present from 11am-1pm in the Library Auditorium (Li 103). On our panel this year are Brad Anderson (City of Moorhead GIS), Blaine Booher (Clifton Labs), Matt Mecklenburg (The Nature Conservancy), Alex Gwaltney (HERE intern), Kay Anderson (Cass County GIS), Mike Detloff (Moorhead Police), and Brian Carroll (HERE). Each talk, including questions, will last approximately 15 minutes. We hope that you will join us for cupcakes and some or all of these activities. Parking for the public will be available in Lots G-1 and M-5.

(<http://www.mnstate.edu/uploadedFiles/Content/Parking/Parking%20Map.pdf>)

Midwest Aerial Technologies Flight

Midwest Aerial Technologies collected nearly 22,000 acres of high-resolution aerial photography over MSUM's Regional Science Center on June 28, 2015. MSUM Assistant Professor Kirk Stueve and student Gary George have received the imagery and incorporated it into the GIS database for the Regional Science Center (see below). High-resolution aerial photography for the main MSUM campus will be delivered soon. We would like to thank Midwest Aerial Technologies for this courtesy acquisition of imagery as it will offer MSUM faculty and students unique opportunities to view the main campus and Regional Science Center landscape from the air!



Figure 1: False color composite of high-resolution imagery capturing the facilities at the Regional Science Center, Buffalo River, and adjoining riparian forest (data provided by Midwest Aerial Technologies).

GIS at the MSUM Regional Science Center

MSUM Assistant Professor Kirk Stueve and student Gary George are nearly finished building the GIS database for the Regional Science Center. Key elements of the database include high-resolution aerial photography from Midwest Aerial Technologies (see above) and other vendors, high-resolution topography data from LiDAR flights, property boundaries, soil types, land cover, and landscape fragmentation metrics. This effort is part of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) project for the restoration and monitoring of 160 acres of prairie and riparian habitat at the Regional Science Center. The GIS database is being used to develop restoration and monitoring strategies and to build interactive maps and capabilities using mobile apps for monitoring and data sharing. Gary is also working on a map of the Regional Science Center for a large display on the MSUM campus.

25th Annual Conference and Workshops of the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium

Rinita Dalan, Center for Geospatial Studies Steering Committee Chair, was among the more than 600 participants in attendance at the 25th Annual Conference and Workshops of the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium from October 7-9 in Duluth, Minnesota. She attended a full day of workshops on Esri's Collector app, and will use this knowledge to build interactive web maps for post-restoration monitoring and data collection at the Regional Science Center in conjunction with the grant mentioned above and to train faculty and students in using the Collector app. Conference attendees were treated to an opening Keynote by Jack Dangermond (President of Esri), two days of highly engaging sessions, presentations, posters, and exhibits, and lots of opportunities for networking. MSUM students Gary George and Chitrasen Parbhunath, though unable to attend, were recognized at the awards luncheon as 2015 student scholars. It was wonderful to see our community partners from the Fargo-Moorhead area and the fantastic work that they are doing. Rinita enjoyed reconnecting with MSUM alumna Kari Granberg who is a new GIS Specialist in the IT Department at Cass County. Another very useful event was a meeting of the Higher Education Special Interest group. Even with this full schedule, Rinita was able to find time to work in a session on using ArcGIS for Server in the Esri Hands-On Learning Lab. The 2015 Conference Committee did a great job and we plan to take a larger contingent from MSUM next fall when the conference returns to Duluth. We hope to see you there. For additional information, visit the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium website (www.mngislis.org).

Campus Map Initiative

On September 30, President Blackhurst hosted a reception in the Library porch to thank the Fargo HERE team and 6 MSUM summer HERE interns for their work on the Campus Map Initiative. After remarks by the President, Brian Carroll from HERE and his team gave a brief overview of the project for the President's cabinet. Included in the presentation was a video showing the 3D campus map and a look at the indoor maps of campus buildings using the library as an example. Brian Carroll and Alycia Gabel returned to campus on October 16, as part of the Academic Showcase for the Alumni Foundation Board of Directors. They were joined by summer intern Dayna Meshefski in highlighting the Campus Map Initiative. HERE has been an exemplary partner for the Center and we cannot thank them enough for all they have done to ensure the ongoing success of this project.

One Steering Committee Meeting Remaining for Fall 2015

November 12, 3-4 pm, MacLean 268

All meetings are open and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Convenient metered parking can be found directly south and west in lots M1-3.

(<http://www.mnstate.edu/uploadedFiles/Content/Parking/Parking%20Map.pdf>)

Spring MSUM GIS Courses

GEOS 210 Cartography T&H 10:30-11:45am Dr. Paul Sando	GEOS 307 Introduction to GIS H 4:30-7:00pm Dr. Kirk Stueve	GEOS 407 Spatial Analysis H 7:15-9:45 pm Dr. Kirk Stueve
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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.

MSUM GIS

Msum_gis is a mailing list for those with an interest in geospatial applications.

To post to this list, send your email to:

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