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The Center for Geospatial Studies - Starting Year 3!

As faculty returned to campus on August 16 we officially started our third academic year as the interdisciplinary Center for Geospatial Studies. Though Center activities continued over the summer (you may read about summer activities and Center accomplishments over the past academic year in our Annual Report – for instructions on how to access this report see below), the formal part of our structure has now resumed, including Steering Committee meetings (see “Fall 2016 Steering Committee Meetings” below) and periodic posting to this mailing list. We encourage you to stay connected with the Center and look forward to another productive year working together. Sincerely, Rinita Dalan and T.J. Hansen

Our Annual Report Has a New Look

This year, we made the decision to use geospatial technology to prepare our annual report. The result is a story map prepared by the four steering team members (Andrew Chen, Rinita Dalan, Alex Fogarty, and T.J. Hansen) who attended the Esri Education and User Conferences in San Diego this summer. This draft report, hosted on the MSUM ArcGIS Online Organization, is not yet shared publicly, but we wanted you, our partners, to have access. To view the Center for Geospatial Studies 2015-2016 annual report follow this link <http://arcg.is/29HfC9o>. To sign in you will use the following generic username and password that allows you to view the story map application

Username: msumgisuser_msum

Password: msumgisuser_1

We welcome all comments. If you would like to partner on any of our initiatives, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

New GIS Hire & Message from Dave Kramar

One item in the annual report that might surprise you is the addition of Dave Kramar to our faculty at MSUM. Many of you worked with Kirk Stueve who will continue to collaborate with the Center but is focusing his efforts at present on his consulting business. Dave has hit the ground running this fall, teaching the GIS classes and working on many Center initiatives. I know that he has connected with some of you already, but we are anxious for you all to meet him. We are planning a meet and greet event in conjunction with GIS Day (see below). In the meantime, here is a message from Dave.

First and foremost, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Dalan and the faculty in the Dept. of Anthropology and Earth Science. The faculty and staff have made the transition from my previous institution to MSUM incredibly easy and enjoyable. Secondly, I would like to commend everyone that has been involved in the development of the Center for Geospatial Studies over the last few years. The development and growth of a new center is certainly not an easy task, and I am amazed at the level of interest and support both within the University, as well as within the region. My wife and I have, in short time, felt very welcomed and comfortable in the Fargo/Moorhead area (of course – we haven't hit winter yet.....). With that being said, let me tell you a bit about myself:

I received my undergraduate degree from Appalachian State in Boone, NC with a concentration in Geographic Information Systems. This was before ArcGIS existed, and ArcInfo was still a DOS interface and command line (not to date myself). I later completed my master's and doctoral degrees at Virginia Tech, with my Ph.D. in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work in both the public and private sectors, as well as in non-profit, and academia. My research over the years has spanned everything from municipal applications of GIS, to wildlife and toxicology applications of GIS. More recently I have become interested in using geospatial technologies to address social justice issues such as food security, as well as continuing my doctoral work with eagles. In the private sector I have worked as a Geospatial project manager, in the public sector as a GIS Administrator/Zoning Administrator, and in the non-profit area as a research scientist. I believe that my background and experience will help grow the Center for Geospatial Studies, both internally for the University, and externally for the community.

As we move forward I hope to see the addition of new geospatial courses that focus on more advanced topics such as Programming in the ArcGIS Javascript API, Spatial Ecology, and Remote Sensing (to name a few). I look forward to meeting everyone, building collaborations, and solving problems – one geospatial project at a time.

Regards,
Dave Kramar, Ph.D.

Dr. Valquiria Quirino

In addition to the arrival of Dr. Kramar, the Center for Geospatial Studies would also like to welcome Dr. Valquiria Quirino. Dr. Quirino will be teaching the Quantitative Biology class in the spring. She brings expertise in forest biometry, forest ecology, quantitative analysis, and GIS/remote sensing. Please welcome Dr. Quirino to MSUM and to the Fargo/Moorhead region. She is thrilled to be here and looks forward to getting involved at the University and with the Center for Geospatial Studies.

Year 3 Initiatives

An important part of our annual reporting cycle is setting goals for the coming year. Proposed initiatives for the 2016-2017 academic year are presented on panel 10 of our annual report (to access this report see “Our Annual Report Has a New Look” above). These initiatives fall under 5 broad areas (Marketing, Infrastructure, Teaching and Advising, Research and Outreach, and Student Growth and Development). We are especially interested in your feedback on how these initiatives dovetail with your activities and needs.

GIS Day – November 16, 2016 – Would you like to Collaborate?

A GIS Day subcommittee is busy planning our 3rd annual GIS Day celebration at MSUM. If you plan to celebrate GIS Day and would like to coordinate or collaborate, please let us know (contact Rinita Dalan at dalanri@mnstate.edu or 218-477-5900). We will provide more information in an upcoming posting to this mailing list, but plans include a range of speakers and exhibits. We are also pleased to announce that MSUM Alumnus Al Derosier, Deputy Director of Operations at Esri, has agreed to give a keynote lecture (tentatively scheduled at 3:30 pm). We plan to host a reception for Al to meet with Center associates and community members, and for all to meet Dave Kramar; this reception will follow the keynote talk (starting at approximately 4:30). All events will take place in the Comstock Memorial Union.

26th Annual MN GIS/LIS Fall Conference & Workshops

The 26th Annual Conference and Workshops of the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium will take place October 26-28 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. For further information go to http://www.mngislis.org/?page=26_annual_conference. Attending from MSUM and representing the Center for Geospatial Studies are Paul Sando and Dave Kramar (Geography Faculty) and Kelli Moe (MN GIS/LIS Student Scholar). If you are attending, we hope that you will get a chance to connect with Paul and Dave. We also encourage you to support Kelli by attending the undergraduate student scholar competition (session 45) on Thursday at 3:30-5:00 pm in the St. Louis River Room.

Fall 2016 Steering Committee Meetings

Center for Geospatial Studies Steering Team meetings scheduled for fall 2016 are:

- September 8 3-4 pm MacLean 268
- September 29 3-4 pm MacLean 268
- October 20 3-4 pm MacLean 268
- November 10 3-4 pm MacLean 268
- December 1 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>)

Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 GIS Courses

MSUM offers a number of geospatial courses including a 4-course GIS certificate

Fall 2016 GIS Courses (In Progress):

GEOS 205 - Thinking Spatially (3 credits)

GEOS 207 - GPS Field Techniques (3 credits)

GEOS 307 - Introduction to GIS (3 credits)

Upcoming		
Spring 2017 GIS Course Schedule		
GEOS 205 Thinking Spatially	GEOS 210 Cartography	GEOS 307 Intro to GIS
T Th 10:30-11:45 am	Th 12:00-1:15	M W 1:30-2:45 pm

Another course that might be of interest is **MART (Media Arts) 290: Photographic Applications for Field Studies**. This special topics course, offered by Don Clark of the School of Media Arts and Design, will cover field photography basics as well as geospatial technologies such as drone mapping, story maps, and geotagging. In addition, basic Photoshop skills will be taught. We appreciate very much Dr. Clark's willingness to develop this course as it provides a great opportunity for our students to enhance their field to reporting capabilities. The course is 4 credits and meets Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:00pm - 5:50pm.

Questions?

For questions or feedback regarding the GIS certificate, Steering Committee, or partnerships with the Center, 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 in our regional community with an interest in geospatial applications.

We encourage all of you to utilize the MSUM GIS mailing list to post items of interest to our GIS community. To post to this list, send your email to: msum_gis@lists.mnstate.edu