

April 4, 2014

Dear GIST Students:

Many exciting things have been happening in the Spatial Sciences Institute and in the GIST graduate programs, in particular, and I'm pleased to share highlights from this spring with you.

On February 21st, the Institute presented the fourth annual Los Angeles Geospatial Summit, a one-day conference designed to give students with GIS-related programs in the greater Los Angeles area the opportunity to present papers and network with industry professionals. Congratulations to Robert Franssen, Jared Hyneman, Nancy Milholland, Yonatan Rosen, Frederico Tallis, and Nicholas Tapia who were selected to present their papers and posters representing our USC GIST programs. Please plan now to attend next year's Summit on Friday, February 27, 2015 at LA's Japanese American National Museum. Institute-provided travel support again will be available for qualifying students.

More hearty congratulations are in order to:

- Haynes Bunn, Brian Dean, Patricia Jula, and Luke Wenschhof on their presentations at the Esri International Developer Summit in Palm Springs from March 10 – 13, 2014;
- David Staffel, who was selected to present next week at The Infrastructure Partnership Conference in Colorado Springs;
- Diego Vasquez for winning the Best Design Award in the Chevron-USC Engineering Week Student Design Competition; and
- Chris Weidemann, winner of the 2014 Esri Development Center Student of the Year award.

We are most proud that our students are doing high-impact work that is being recognized in industry as well as in the academy.

A number of you already have successfully defended theses this semester and many more are working hard to complete them before this semester ends. Please join the Institute faculty, staff, and the entire USC community in celebrating all graduates in this academic year at the USC Commencement on Friday, May 16th. After the main and satellite ceremonies, the Institute hosts a reception for all graduates, their family members, and friends. For more information on Commencement-related activities and to RSVP, please email [Melissa Salido](mailto:Melissa.Salido@usc.edu), Institute program coordinator.

The Institute is coordinating the local arrangements for the [2014 University Consortium for Geographic Information Science \(UCGIS\)](#) from May 19 – 21st at the Pasadena Hilton in Pasadena, California. This conference represents a great opportunity to meet leaders in GIS research and education. I also will be conducting sessions to update the 2006 UCGIS "Body of Knowledge." Student registrations are available.



For those of you attending the [Esri International User Conference](#) from July 14-18, 2014 at the San Diego Convention Center, please come by our booth in the Exhibit Hall, look for our faculty, alumni, and students making presentations, and be sure to come to our reception on Tuesday, July 15th, at Roy's Hawaiian Fusion, starting at 5:30 p.m. Any student may attend the conference for one day at no charge by presenting your student ID to the on-site Esri registration staff.

And, by the way – you might find it useful at these upcoming events to have your GIST student business card. Our holiday offer to each of you to have a USC GIST student business card still stands. If you have not yet taken advantage of this and are interested in having a card printed, please email [Susan Kamei](#), Institute associate director, with your current contact information, and we would be pleased to have your card printed and shipped to you.

And last, but not least, please take a look at the just-relaunched Spatial Sciences Institute website: spatial.usc.edu. We welcome your updates and ideas for the new website, and invite your input to [Susan Kamei](#).

The Spatial Sciences Institute faculty, staff, and I wish you well for the remainder of this semester, and hope to see you one of our upcoming events.

With kind regards,



John P. Wilson
Director and Professor