

July 7, 2014

Dear GIST Students:

The summer semester in the GIST Graduate Programs is just as productive and busy for our faculty, students, and staff as are the fall and spring semesters, so I have more good news to share with you from the Spatial Sciences Institute.

At Commencement in May, we celebrated the accomplishments of this year's graduates. We also recognized this year's thesis prize winners at the Institute Commencement reception. Congratulations go to these thesis prize students, their faculty advisors, and committee members:

**First Place – Jeffrey Schroeder**

*Surface Representations of Rainfall at Small Extents: A Study of Rainfall Mapping Based on Volunteered Geographic Information in Kona, Hawaii*

Advisor: Dr. Karen Kemp | Committee Members: Dr. Kirk Oda and Dr. Darren Ruddell

**Second Place – Trang VoPham**

*Integrating Landsat and California Pesticide Exposure Estimation at Aggregated Analysis Scales: Accuracy Assessment of Rurality*

Advisor: Dr. John Wilson | Committee Members: Dr. Tarek Rashed and Dr. Darren Ruddell

**Third Place – Nancy Milholland**

*Exploring San Francisco's Treasures: Mashing Up Public Art, Social Media, and Volunteered Geographic Information to Create a Dynamic Guide*

Advisor: Dr. Edward Pultar | Committee Members: Dr. Karen Kemp and Dr. Jennifer Swift

With great pleasure I share with you that in the future, Geospatial Applied Research Experts House (GSAREH) will sponsor the thesis prizes. In recognition of this generous support, the prizes will be named "The USC Graduate Program in Geographic Information Science and Technology GSAREH Thesis Prizes." This sponsorship is particularly meaningful, as GSAREH's chief scientist and president is Dr. Tarek Rashed of our faculty. We warmly thank him for his many contributions to our program.

GIST students and faculty continue to represent the Institute at international conferences. Kudos to Megan Oyarzun, who presented her paper co-authored with Dr. Jordan Hastings on "Predicting Archaeological Sites in Northeastern California's High Desert" at the Nevada Anthropological Conference in Minden, Nevada on May 10. Ryan Reeves, another student of Dr. Hastings, presented a poster of their work "Geologic Traverse Generator" at the Digital Mapping Techniques 2014 Workshop at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware from June 1-4.



July 7, 2014

Page Two

Dr. Karen Kemp and I spoke about “Geospatial Education Online” at the 2014 conference of the Harvard University Center for Geographic Analysis in Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 1-2. I also conducted the “Body of Knowledge 2.0” session at the University of Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) 2014 Symposium in Pasadena on May 20 and presented the keynote address “The Case for an Enduring Spatial Science” at the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Geographic Information Science by the Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe (AGILE) on June 4 in Castellón, Spain.

A number of our faculty, students, and staff will be presenting at the [Esri Education GIS Conference](#) from July 12-15 at the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina and at the [Esri International User Conference](#) from July 14-18 at the San Diego Convention Center. An invitation to our reception on Tuesday, July 15 at Roy’s Hawaiian Fusion, from 6-10 p.m. is attached. Please come to our booth in the Exhibit Hall, the sessions with an SSI presenter, and especially the reception. Any student may attend the conference for one day at no charge by presenting student ID to the on-site Esri registration staff.

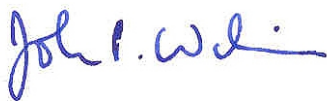
We were privileged to host Dr. Werner Kuhn on campus as the Institute Spring Colloquium speaker on April 24. Dr. Kuhn, Professor of Geography, recently assumed the directorship of the Center for Spatial Studies and the Laura and Jack Dangermond Endowed Chair at the University of California, Santa Barbara. You can [watch](#) his talk “Organizing Knowledge Around Spatio-temporal Questions.”

Looking ahead, the Institute’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Geospatial Summit will be on Friday, February 28, 2015, returning to the Japanese American National Museum in LA’s Little Tokyo. The Institute will again be providing travel support for qualified students, so please save the date.

Last, but not least, I am pleased to announce that we have expanded our GIST Graduate Programs to now include new graduate certificates in Geospatial Leadership and Geospatial Intelligence. The Institute also has become a member of the US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF). [Learn more](#) about our new graduate certificates on the Institute website.

Best wishes for this summer semester, and hope to see you in San Diego or at one of our upcoming events.

With kind regards,



John P. Wilson  
Director and Professor