

UCGIS Research Committee Meeting
Monday, June 23, 2008
4:45-6:15 p.m.
Hubert Humphrey Center Auditorium
University of Minnesota

Attending:

Dawn Wright, Oregon State, dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu, presiding as chair
 Marc Armstrong, U. of Iowa, marc-armstrong@uiowa.edu
 Sarah Battersby, U. of South Carolina, battersby@sc.edu
 Eric Bernard, Kansas State, ebernard@ksu.edu
 Aileen Buckley, ESRI, abuckley@esri.com
 Greg Easson, U of Mississippi, geasson@olemiss.edu
 Rob Edsall, Arizona State, RobEdsall@asu.edu
 Francis Harvey, U. of Minnesota, fharvey@umn.edu
 Nina Lam, LSU, nlam@lsu.edu
 Yongmei Lu, Texas State U., YL10@txstate.edu
 Bob McMaster, U. of Minnesota, mcmaster@umn.edu
 Carolyn Merry, Ohio State, merry.1@osu.edu
 Steve Prager, U. of Wyoming, sdprager@uwyo.edu
 Kathleen Stewart, U. of Iowa, kathleen-stewart@uiowa.edu
 Zaria Tatalovich, University of Southern California, tatalovi@email.usc.edu
 Shashi Shekhar, U. of Minnesota, shekhar@cs.umn.edu
 Mike Worboys, U. of Maine, worboys@spatial.maine.edu
 (Apologies for any attendees who were missed – please advise Dawn if your name is not listed above.)

1. Welcome

Attendees were given a copy of the Research Chair's report to the Board, which included the minutes of the Winter 2008 Research Committee meeting

Old Business

2. Approval of Minutes of Winter '08 Meeting

Mike Worboys moved, 2nded by Marc Armstrong
 Minutes approved unanimously

3. Handling of Old Action Items

GIScience fellows (Wtr 2006)
 Exec summaries of UCGIS Research Agenda book chapters (Wtr 2007)
 Applications of GIS booklet (Wtr 2007)
 UCGIS GIScience expertise directory (Wtr 2007)

Dawn proposes to fold these issues into the new GIScience Knowledge Web (KW), as there has been no progress on them to date

Bob: Continue update of chapters instead of exec summaries. John Wilson proposed GIScience fellows.

Dawn: Update and focus on projects in each area

Bob: Focus 9 years ago was on applications, these were converted to articles for URISA Journal. Time for discussion again of an applications focus

Dawn: Perhaps for 2009 summer assembly? There is also interest in a special publication on transportation; also, expertise directory, idea was to tie to domains and publications and workshops

Aileen: Moves to put exec summaries, application booklet, and expertise directory under KW; Sarah 2nds

Marc: asks for clarification, group discusses

Motion passes by unanimous vote

ACTION: Dawn will contact John Wilson to verify his position on GIScience fellows program and related issues to see if it can be revived [[email sent to John 6/30/08](#)]

New Business

4. Clarification of Student Call for Papers

Background: We currently offer 3 categories of awards to graduate students at our summer assemblies:

(1) travel awards to the summer assembly from UCGIS (\$800) and free software from ESRI, based on the quality of papers submitted. Papers are judged according to *creativity* (i.e. the degree of innovation of the research), *rigor* (the skill/knowledge level/sophistication of the research), and *written presentation* (i.e. quality of writing, graphics, organization, etc.).

(2) two oral presentation awards from UCGIS (cash for 1st and 2nd place) based on the quality of the oral presentations at the assembly and determined by the votes of the audience.

(3) two publication awards, one each by *CAGIS* and *Transactions in GIS*, consisting of a cash prize, a certificate, and the fast-tracking of the paper into the peer-reviewed process of that journal. Awards are based both on the quality of the written paper and the oral presentation.

It is somewhat ironic that two outstanding papers in the 2008 competition were not awarded because they were submitted by applicants who had been awarded in the past, and it was decided to give other students an opportunity (and hence to prevent one student from dominating the competition on his/her campus year after year). It was suggested that the committee consider a re-wording of next year's call for papers in order to clarify this. Also, in 2007 there was a suggestion to clarify the wording to include that for the publication award, the journals reserves the right to **not** make an award. There was also a reminder that we need to post the papers on the UCGIS web site by the date promised in the original call, or adjust that wording accordingly. So in summary, should the call be revised to state that:

- ❖ only students who have not received an award in the past will be considered? [*This would be in addition to the current restriction of no more than one student from any UCGIS institution to receive an award.*]
- ❖ the journal award committee may choose to recommend that no award be given in a particular year? (from summer 2007 request)

Aileen: The journals would like the best student papers to be in the mix regardless of whether students have been awarded in the past. Suggests no limits for previous winners.

Sarah: Excellent papers of previous winners should be submitted as long as the student submits completely new research each time.

Bob: All things being equal, students can submit twice, but students submitting for second/third year receive lower ranking; this applies only to travel award. Priority given to first year?

Aileen: Would like to see lots of people submitting. See if IJGIS could provide funds to bring additional students?

Francis: Suggest two processes, one that distinguishes prev. submissions.

Mike W: Issue of fairness for students who have submitted in the past. Should not prevent them from participating again if they are doing good work.

Dawn: Takes straw vote from committee about taking papers into publication regardless of previous participation in the competition. Finds majority consensus that previous applicants can submit in later years.

Dawn: Motivate excellent authors to submit again

Sarah: Emphasize that it must contain new research

Sarah: Moves to add clarification that previous winners can apply with new research

Greg: Seconds

Motion passes

ACTION: Dawn as research chair and Jeremy Mennis as student competition chair will work with Aileen and Sarah to revise wording of call. Dawn will pass a version on to the research committee. UCGIS will also change posting date of student manuscripts to the web. [Draft sent to this working group by email on 7/1/08. Initial response from Sarah on 7/2/08. Working group now includes Rob Edsall, replacing Aileen.]

5. Research Workshops Initiative

Background: In December 2007 Wright elicited interest in UCGIS co-hosted workshop topics. UCGIS representatives interested in cyberinfrastructure and spatio-temporal modeling responded, and proposals from those groups, led by Dawn Wright and May Yuan respectively, were accepted by the GIScience 2008 Program Committee. Workshops entitled “Cyberinfrastructure for GIScience” and “Temporal GIS: The Past 20 Years and the Next 20 Years” will be presented at GIScience 2008, September 23, 2008, Park City, Utah.

- ❖ The Research Committee acknowledges the recent publication of two new books based on the 2006 UCGIS workshop:
Yuan, M. and K. Stewart Hornsby. 2007. *Computation and Visualization for the Understanding of Dynamics in Geographic Domains: A Research Agenda*. CRC/Taylor and Francis.
Stewart Hornsby K. and M. Yuan (eds.). 2008. *Understanding Dynamics in Geographic Domains*. CRC/Taylor and Francis.
Kudos to May Yuan and Kathleen Stewart!
- ❖ UCGIS-related workshops at GIScience 2008
- ❖ How to tie workshops into new **UCGIS Knowledge Web** initiative?
- ❖ Other discussion of Knowledge Web?

[Obtain UCGIS Knowledge Web documents at:
http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/UCGIS/UCGIS_Knowledge_Web.pdf]

Kathleen: What workshops from last summer didn't go to GIScience 2008?

Dawn: Geographic Communication and Health/Hazards/Mobility/Environment. In general, workshops need energy and people to push them forward, with a champion to cajole and inspire colleagues to take action.

Steve: Concerned that research successes are communicated in future.

ACTION: Dawn will ensure that Communications Committee includes 2 recent UCGIS books in next E-Alert. [email sent to Jeremy Mennis, 7/2/08]

Kathleen: What is the process for proposing workshop ideas?

Dawn: Idea for cyberinfrastructure workshop started with circulation of research committee meeting notes to members of cyberinfrastructure breakout group from summer 2007 until workshop idea developed

Dawn: Workshops can be started in three ways; (1) Contact Research Comm. chair who can help move ideas forward, especially for a UCGIS assembly; (2) individuals can work on their own and even write a small NSF workshop grant to hold a workshop; or (3) UCGIS can offer workshops as part of another event such as GIScience 2008 or COSIT.

Kathleen: UCGIS gets benefits from other kinds of workshops; workshop can start with external interest

6. Transportation Thrust

- ❖ Focus on transportation at 2009 winter assembly to coincide with reauthorization of transportation bill in Congress.
- ❖ Creation of a powerful set of 10-12 summaries on transportation GIS as the first of a series of "UCGIS Thematic Research Summaries" on a different topic each year? "UCGIS Summary of Research on Transportation" to include papers from IJGIS, Transactions in GIS, with suggestions from Shashi Shekar (U of MN), Harvey Miller (Utah), K. Goulias (UCSB), Carolyn Merry (Ohio State) and others.

Dawn: many activities could be funneled into KW.

Greg: motivation is to get people from Capitol Hill to the winter assembly; wants 10-12 non-technical project summaries for distribution before the meeting; "this is what members of UCGIS can do"; policy, research, agency people should be involved. Text should be simple.

Bob: editors of journals (Transactions and IJGIS) have responded; thinks we're halfway to list of papers to digest and simplify for the winter assembly

Dawn: people need to continue to work on this with Policy & Legislation committee

Greg: Who will write the summaries? Ask original authors. More discussion to take place in Policy & Legislation committee meeting tomorrow.

Carolyn: People from UCGIS should talk to staffers about what will be proposed in research section of bill.

Greg: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) put out research agenda last April; probably best start

7. **Grand Challenge Focus**

- ❖ Digital Earth as a UCGIS grand challenge that many UCGIS institutions could work on (also follows on from Cyberinfrastructure theme of 2008 Winter Meeting)?
 - M.F. Goodchild (2008) [Geographic information science: the grand challenges](#). In J.P. Wilson and A.S. Fotheringham, editors, *The Handbook of Geographic Information Science*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 596–608.

Keep this in mind and continue to think of ways to move this forward. This might be a possible thrust at the 2009 Summer Assembly.

8. **Building Bridges with Related Conferences/Organizations**

- 8.1 GIScience.org (UCGIS should be a co-organizer of GIScience 2010)
- 8.2 ACM GIS 2008 and beyond (acmgis08.cs.umn.edu/) and ACM SIGSPATIAL
- 8.3 Vespucci (www.geospatialpartners.com/vespucci/school.html)
- 8.4 AGILE (www.agile-online.org/)
- 8.5 GSDI (www.gsdi.org/)
- 8.6 GEOIDE (in Canada)
- 8.7 COSIT 2009 (will be in Brittany)
- 8.8 CAGIS will host AutoCarto with ISPS in fall 2010, somewhere on east coast; UCGIS could co-sponsor, co-organize

The UCGIS Board will be pursuing this as well and Dawn will keep Research Committee apprised, delegate liaison people as necessary. The UCGIS Summer 2006 newsletter noted that at that time AGILE expressed a desire to collaborate with UCGIS in

advancing the GIS&T BoK, and both AGILE and GEOIDE wanted to work with UCGIS to “promote a regular program of faculty and student exchanges across the various conferences, workshops, and short courses offered by these groups.”

ACTION: Dawn sent an email to the SIGSPATIAL ACM GIS 2008 program committee, 7/1/08], will be in touch with GSDI also. Kathleen is on program committee of COSIT 2009 and a likely link to GEOIDE, Aileen for AutoCarto, and likely Martin Raubul for AGILE and Vespucci.

[Received very response from SIGSPATIAL on 7/2/08.]

9. **CONGRATULATIONS to 2008 UCGIS Research Awardee**

Mike Worboys, U. of Maine

[Citation now mirrored at http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/ucgis/research_award08.html]

10. **Other business?**

Motion to adjourn 6:15 PM by Greg Easson, seconded by Sarah Battersby

Thank you to Francis Harvey for taking minutes.

Last edits to this document, 7/2/08, DJW