

UCGIS Research Committee Report

UCGIS Symposium 2012

Kathleen Stewart, Chair, Research Committee

Report Topics

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1. Research Committee at 2011 Summer Assembly

The 2011 Summer Assembly was held at NCAR in Boulder, CO on June 22nd - June 23rd on the theme of *GIScience for the Changing Human Environment*. Two plenary talks by Mohan Ramamurthy, Unidata, UCAR, and Olga Wilhelmi from NCAR were given on the first day. Additional sessions included updates on how UCGIS institutions are emphasizing new possible opportunities for members, recent NSF Cyberinfrastructure-related research, NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Programs (with a focus on the “R” in IGERT), the UCGIS National Network of Regional GIS Nodes Survey, and the planned Geospatial Extension Program involving both UCGIS and DHS. This Symposium offered delegates an IdeaSpace session where direct participation in setting future UCGIS research agendas on topics of most interest to delegates was encouraged. Graduate students gave five research presentations from member institutions. A final session offered an overview of NCAR programs, their directions, new developments, and opportunities for UCGIS faculty/students to collaborate with NCAR researchers on topics that included for example, space-time modeling, uncertainty, and data mining of large data sets among others.

2. Research Committee Assistance with UCGIS 2012 Symposium Program

The Call for the 2012 Symposium was circulated via the UCGIS Listserv. Chaowei Yang, vice-chair of the Research Committee created and managed the EasyChair website for paper and poster submissions and chaired the reviewing and selections of submissions for this year’s Symposium. There was much interest in the theme of GIScience 2.0 and Ling Bian and Jeremy Mennis worked with Chaowei to select student and junior faculty papers and posters for presentation. Thanks to their efforts, as well as the efforts of Steve Prager, this year’s Symposium will have research-based lightning talks, graduate student research presentations, presentations by untenured faculty, GIScience 2.0 research presentations, and a poster session. Two plenary talks kick off the Symposium on Day 1. IdeaSpace sessions are continuing with this Symposium, this time using lightning talks to encourage participation from delegates on GIScience 2.0 ideas. Additionally, a USGS-sponsored workshop will be held on May 29, prior to the start of the Symposium, on geospatial ontologies and the semantic web.

A Call for 2012 UCGIS Research Award was distributed in January 2012. Kathleen Stewart organized the selection committee for this award. Michael Goodchild chaired this committee, and Profs. Nina Lam, Ling Bian, Daniel Brown and Francis Harvey served as members. Prof. Michael Batty was selected as the 2012 UCGIS Research Award winner. Prof. Batty will receive his award on May 31st, and will give a plenary talk on Day 2 of the Symposium.

Many thanks to Jack Sanders and the UCGIS Executive and Board for additional support for the Symposium planning and preparation.

3. Additional Research Activity

A panel at the AAG in New York in April 2012 on Spatiotemporal Thinking, Computing, and Applications was organized by Chaowei Yang. Panel members included UCGIS President May Yuan and Research Committee Chair Kathleen Stewart as well as additional UCGIS members. This activity fits in well with the interest in space-time GIS topics, one of the topics suggested for a UCGIS working group initiative.

Tim Nyerges and Sean Ahearn have been active in the months since the 2011 Summer Assembly on the Geospatial Extension Program (GEP) that involves the creation of a UCGIS national network to support workplace development and geospatial extension specialists in the area of geographic information science and to foster research on the role of geographic knowledge for improved community resilience. This program, with the support of the US Department of Homeland Security, held two workshops during Fall 2011. UCGIS executive officers, board members, and delegates from member institutions attended these workshops to set in place the foundation for possible future activities and build links between Federal agencies and the US GIScience community. Outcomes discussed at the first workshop and extended at the second workshop included ideas for a possible UCGIS Student Fellows Program, a clearinghouse of federal internship opportunities, the formation of a Research Coordination Network to support communities and their geospatial practice and policy-making needs among others. The possibilities for the Research Committee include possible proposal submissions on topics ranging from watersheds and resilience, spatiotemporal topics, and geospatial platform/infrastructure. Chaowei Yang with Tim Nyerges are continuing to investigate further possible activities through this program with, for example, FGDC at the 2012 Symposium.

4. Research Committee News

In January 2012, Kathleen Stewart notified the UCGIS Executive Committee and Board that she would step down as Chair of the Research Committee at the Annual Symposium. Chaowei Yang, current vice-chair will take over the responsibilities of Research Committee Chair at the Symposium.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Stewart
Chair, UCGIS Research Committee
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