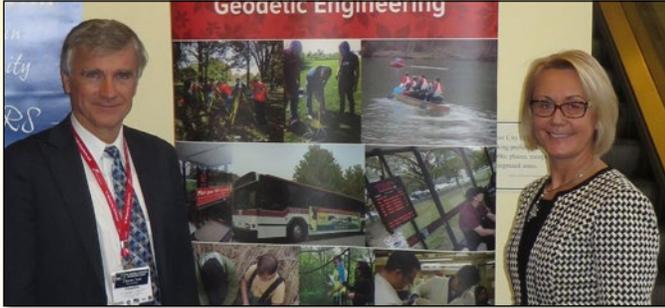


CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 USGIF AWARD WINNERS!

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Professor Dorota A. Grejner-Brzezinska & Dr. Charles Toth, Ohio State University



In the past 15 years, professors Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska and Charles Toth of the Ohio State University have significantly influenced the future of geospatial intelligence by advancing state-of-the-art geospatial data acquisition and processing technologies. Their most significant achievements include pioneering work on high-accuracy, direct sensor georeferencing algorithms and methodology; developing state-of-the-art sensor error models; developing novel compression technology for LiDAR data; and introducing an innovative and automated waveform processing method to support better point cloud generation and land-cover classification. This is the second time the duo has received a USGIF award—the first being the 2005 Academic Research Award for research on a personal navigator relevant to national security.

ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT

Donna L. Pelle, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency



As the executive officer for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Support Team (NST) to the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, Pelle plays a significant behind-the-scenes role in advancing the relationship between the two organizations and demonstrating the importance of GEOINT. Pelle consistently takes action to achieve outcomes and results that are superior in quality, quantity, and have an impact on the NST. She handles worldwide travel, regulatory file planning, security, calendar administration for senior executives, and is responsible for more than 200 taskers a year.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

George Stanley Bosarge, University of South Alabama



George “Stan” Bosarge is senior research laboratory manager for the Fisheries Ecology Lab of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, as well as the benthic habitat assessment program manager for the University of South Alabama’s Department of Marine Sciences. Bosarge’s research is centered on a large-scale and long-term fisheries assessment project called the Fisheries Independent Ecosystem Survey. It’s designed to assess post-oil spill red snapper population recovery and the spatial relationships of red snapper to artificial and natural reef habitat off coastal Alabama. In 2016, he will join the Northeastern University faculty to teach a class on free and open-source GIS desktop applications in the university’s geographic information technology program.

INTELLIGENCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - GOVERNMENT

U.S. Army Geospatial Center



In late 2012, months of drought left water levels along a 180-mile stretch of the Mississippi River as much as 20 feet below normal, exposing rock pinnacles in the navigation channel and restricting barge traffic from St. Louis, Mo., to Cairo, Ill.—essentially halting commerce along the Mississippi River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is charged with keeping the river safe and navigable, and in this case needed to provide frequent updates to the White House on the progress of removing the pinnacles to restore navigation. The majority of geospatial products produced, although very accurate, were too complex for executive-level briefings. In a short timeframe, a team of Army Geospatial Center personnel synthesized the information gathered by the Corps and created geospatial products that enabled the President to quickly understand the problem and how it was being remedied.

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INTELLIGENCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - MILITARY

AF/A2I SIRIS Team, U.S. Air Force



SIRIS is a government-owned, high performance web-based capability that enables open observation, lightweight visualization, and game-changing collaboration for dynamic mission planning and execution across multiple networks. SIRIS collaboration is conducted via a real-time, integrated display of correlated and fused data from National Reconnaissance Office joint collaboration cells, allowing tactical operators to create a tailored, user-defined operational picture. SIRIS reduces fratricide, protects noncombatants and increases combat capability, and saved valuable fire-fighting time during the California rim wildfire. SIRIS is managed by A2 Innovations Director James “Snake” Clark and was created by Chris McDonald and Tim Petronello.

INTELLIGENCE ACHIEVEMENT - INDUSTRY

George “Guy” Thomas, C-SIGMA, LLC



George “Guy” Thomas is a former U.S. science and technology advisor for maritime domain awareness and father of space-based automated identification systems (AIS). He also founded the Collaboration in Space for International Global Maritime Awareness (C-SIGMA) organization. Space-based AIS is changing how the maritime world operates by adding global transparency to operations. C-SIGMA works to increase safety and security in the maritime domain, and protect the maritime environment and resources worldwide. Thomas’ 40-year career in surveillance includes positions with the U.S. Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, as well as with industry and Johns Hopkins University’s Applied Physics Laboratory. He led the introduction of both the Navy’s EP-3E and the Air Force’s RC-135W—the first reconnaissance aircraft with mission-system computers.