Congratulations to the 2006 USGIF Award and Scholarship Winners

Awards

Geospatial Achievement Award – Government

5th Engineer Detachment (Planning and Control), 29th Engineer Battalion, 8th Theater Sustainment Command
5th Engineer Detachment developed and maintains the U.S. Army Pacific Command's Theater Geospatial Database, which bridges the gap between the geospatial stewards at the national and tactical levels. The creators developed the multi-tiered ArcSDE database and mapping tables to enable conflation of myriad disparate datasets into one highly tailored schema. This database serves the joint and interagency communities with standard and non-standard geospatial information products for use in wartime, stability and support, and disaster relief missions.

Geospatial Achievement Award – Military

Buckeye Team, U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center
The Buckeye team has contributed greatly to the geospatial capability of coalition forces in the Global War on Terrorism by producing a system that provides high-resolution imagery for use in detecting ground changes, creating detailed maps, and obtaining intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance information. Born out of the need for a field-expedient change-detection system, Buckeye provides warfighters with exceptional situational awareness and aids in mission planning, rehearsal, and execution.

Geospatial Achievement Award – Industry

Mr. Wes Hildebrandt, SPADAC
Mr. Hildebrandt developed a route estimating system known as AntFarm—a unique analytical method modeled after the biological paradigm of a colony of ants. AntFarm has provided a truly innovative geospatial information technique that interweaves analyst's intelligence with geospatial technology to provide unique analysis capabilities, expediting threat assessment, and proactive planning.

Academic Research Award

Mr. Scott Tabor, University of Redlands Master's of Science in GIS Program
In his thesis, "Wind Energy Development Impact on Military Airspace," Mr. Tabor effectively predicts the amount of wind energy related encroachment that could occur within the eleven western states. It also identifies the most likely encroachment points around the Fallon Range Training Complex perimeter, where encroachment will most likely occur and from what azimuth it will likely come. Tabor's analysis effectively demonstrates fundamental GIS problem solving concepts, bringing to bear all relevant factors, demonstrating the power and advantage of GIS. The analysis presented in his thesis does not limit wind development from occurring, but identifies the threat of encroachment as well as where wind energy developers should focus and where they should limit exploration.

Academic Achievement Award

To Be Announced

Lifetime Achievement Award

To Be Announced
Last year's award winner was the late William R. Allder Jr., recognized for his 33-year career that helped transform imagery and mapping from the paper world to the digital age.

Scholarships

Mr. Seth Anderson
Mr. Anderson is currently pursuing his master's in Geographic Information Science at the University of Akron. His future plans are to become a part of a government organization.

Mr. Brandon Barbour
Mr. Barbour is pursuing his bachelor's degree in geography, geospatial intelligence with an Asian Studies minor at Brigham Young University. He would like to work for the U.S. government in the area of imagery analysis or human intelligence.

Mr. Austin Haller
Mr. Haller is a recent graduate of Sand Creek High School, Colorado Springs, Colo., and is currently pursuing his bachelor's in geological engineering at the Colorado School of Mines. He has been very active in the Boy Scouts of America, obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Haller has utilized GIS systems to visually display data important for cultural and demographic analysis.

Mr. Daniel Hosmer
Mr. Hosmer is pursuing his bachelor's of science in aerospace engineering at the Pennsylvania State University. His future goals are to complete his college education and join one of the major companies within the geospatial intelligence field.

Mr. Keir Keightley
Mr. Keightley is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in geography at the University of California at Davis. He received his undergraduate degree from UC Santa Barbara and two master's degrees. Keightley's future plans are for a career as a college-level teacher with special emphasis on environmental optics and digital imagery processing.

Ms. Michelle Kinzel
Ms. Kinzel is currently pursuing her master's in geography at Oregon State University. Her undergraduate degree in biology is from San Diego State University. Kinzel has been the recipient of multiple scholarships including the McNair Scholars Program, the Oregon State Laurels Scholarship, and three Society for Conservation GIS Scholarships.

Ms. Lei Lei
Ms. Lei is currently pursuing her master's in forestry and environmental studies at Yale University. She plans to complete studies leading to a Ph.D. degree in geospatial science and to work for a company such as ESRI.

Mr. John David Parkes
Mr. Parkes is a recent graduate of Lima Christian School, Lima, N.Y. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's of science in imaging science at Rochester Institute of Technology. Parkes works for Geospatial Systems Inc. and is a member of Air Force ROTC.

Mr. Edward "Heath" Robinson
Mr. Robinson is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in geographic information sciences at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He received the award of excellence by the National Council for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers in 2004. Robinson has been accepted into NGA's Student Temporary Employment Program.

Ms. Dena Shulz
Ms. Schulz is currently pursuing her master's in Geographic Information Systems at the Pennsylvania State University World Campus. She plans to finish her degree and seek employment in the public sector in the geospatial intelligence field.

Ms. Katherine Schulz
Ms. Schulz recently graduated from Archbishop Hannan High School in Meraux, La., and is currently pursuing her bachelor's in geography at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge. She was the 2002 Louisiana State Champion in the National Geographic Bee and 2003, 2004, and 2005 State Champion for Louisiana at the AAA Travel Challenge.

Mr. Matthew Vitale
Mr. Vitale is pursuing his bachelor's of science dual majors in geographic information systems and geology at the State University of New York at Cortland. He was his high school's valedictorian in 2005. Vitale is looking into graduate schools and the Peace Corps as options upon graduation.