Abstract. This presentation advances the proposition that UCSB is ready to take the lead nationally in developing a trans-disciplinary approach to advancing the art and science of spatial thinking in the undergraduate curriculum. With an emphasis on fundamental spatial concepts, this curriculum would enhance student competency in the practice of spatial reasoning and the application of spatial tools for problem solving in research and in the everyday lives of individuals and societies. The discussion will solicit views from participants about the depth and breadth of such a curriculum and about opportunities for implementation at UCSB.

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Donald Janelle, researcher and program director of spatial@ucsb, has for the past five years led an NSF-funded initiative on Spatial Perspectives for Analysis for Curriculum Enhancement (SPACE) as part of the program of the Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science (CSISS). Before joining UCSB, he served as Assistant Vice Provost and Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario. Don’s research has focused on space-time patterns of human spatial behavior and on the role of space-adjusting technologies (especially transportation and communications) in urban and regional development.

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The objectives of the ThinkSpatial brown-bag presentations are to exchange ideas about spatial perspectives in research and teaching, to broaden communication and cooperation across disciplines among faculty and graduate students, and to encourage the sharing of tools and concepts. Please contact Don Janelle (ext 5267, janelle@spatial.ucsb.edu) to review and schedule possible discussion topics or presentations that share your disciplinary interest in spatial thinking.