

University to Inaugurate spatial@ucsb

Spatial thinkers will converge on UCSB to celebrate the launch of a unique new university center devoted to the use of spatial reasoning and spatial technologies in planning, research, and teaching. The event, *Connecting our Region through GIS and Geospatial Technologies*, will be free of charge and open to the public at the Corwin Pavilion from 2:00–6:00 p.m. on 29 May. Planners, researchers, and educators from southern California, and researchers and students from UCSB, will share information about their uses of geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial thinking. This is an opportunity for the UCSB community to learn how spatial technologies can enhance academic activity and serve society. It is also an opportunity to learn about spatial@ucsb and what it offers.

Featured events will include displays of more than 40 posters, each demonstrating applications of spatial technology and spatial thinking in different fields. These will include UCSB academic contributions in the arts, computer science, environmental science, geography, and psychology. Planners from various government agencies and consultants for private organizations will also participate with displays of how they use spatial technologies to solve problems in their respective fields. Speakers will include UCSB Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas, spatial@ucsb Director Michael Goodchild, and featured speakers—Shoreh Elhami and Jack Dangermond. A reception follows, providing an opportunity for the community to meet with speakers, poster presenters, and other visitors.



Elhami's presentation is sponsored by the Department of Geography as its annual *Dangermond Lecturer*. She is the co-founder and chair of GISCorps, a program of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association. GISCorps coordinates the deployment of volunteer GIS professionals to underserved communities, providing spatial information essential for meeting the needs of emergency and non-emergency response missions throughout the world. The presentation will include information about several GISCorps' implemented missions and, in particular, the role of its volunteers in disaster response missions. Elhami is also the director of Ohio's Delaware County GIS, a

member of the National Research Council's Mapping Science Committee, and an Adjunct Instructor of Geographic Information Systems in Professional Planning Practice at Ohio State University.



Dangermond, President of Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), is recognized as a pioneer in spatial analysis methods and one of the creators of GIS technology. He and his wife, Laura, founded ESRI in 1969. ESRI has since become the world's leading producer of GIS and spatial analysis software, with more than a million clients in more than 100 countries.

Dangermond has delivered keynote addresses at scores of international conferences and has published hundreds of papers on GIS. In recognition of his exceptional support for geospatial research, he has received honorary degrees and lectureships. His numerous medals and awards include the Cullum Geographical Medal of the American Geographical Society, the Anderson Medal of the Association of American Geographers, and the John Wesley Powell Award of the U.S. Geological Survey. He is a member of many professional organizations and has served on advisory committees for such U.S. agencies as NASA, EPA, and the National Academy of Sciences.



Led by geographer Michael Goodchild, spatial@ucsb was established by Chancellor Henry Yang to help consolidate the position of the university as a national and international leader in applications of spatial thinking. UCSB has played a key role in developing GIS and applying spatial thinking across the disciplines. The university teaches and uses spatial thinking in many venues, including virtual immersive environments, brain imaging studies, information visualization, quantitative methods and spatial statistics, simulation of space-time interactions, satellite imagery and remote sensing, and spatial relationships in the creative arts.

Located in 3512 Phelps Hall, spatial@ucsb seeks to enhance the university's position as a leader in spatial knowledge by focusing on new innovations and applications of spatial thinking in all areas of scientific, social, and artistic investigation. The Center provides a forum for faculty and students at UCSB (and beyond) to share the results of their spatially-focused work and to engage in collaborative research and teaching. The center's public lectures, brown-bag presentations, and short courses act to create an ever-widening spatial community of scientists and scholars. To learn about the center's offerings, visit its website at www.spatial.ucsb.edu.