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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA
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spatial@ucsb INAUGURATED

UCSB goes spatial!

UCSB Executive Vice Chancellor **Gene Lucas** addressed a standing-room-only crowd of planners, educators, and researchers from across southern California who had gathered at Corwin Pavilion on Thursday, May 29 to celebrate the inauguration of a unique new center at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), **spatial@ucsb**.

With a theme of ***Connecting our Region through GIS and Geospatial Technologies***, the inauguration featured 59 posters from the departments of media arts and technology, computer science, environmental science, geography, and psychology on campus, and from various government agencies and consultants in the private sector displayed the use of spatial technologies to solve problems in their respective fields.

After an introduction by Lucas, **spatial@ucsb** director, **Michael Goodchild**, briefly described the program and its many resources and applications and introduced the featured speakers, who delivered thought provoking messages to the audience.

Shoreh Elhami, cofounder and chair of GISCorps, a program of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, opened the inaugural program with a description of how GISCorps coordinates volunteer GIS services to underprivileged communities worldwide to support humanitarian relief and community development in both emergency and non-emergency missions, providing local capacity building, health, and education.

Shoreh Elhami

Jack Dangermond, a pioneer in spatial analysis methods, one of the creators of GIS technology, and president of Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), spoke about civic responsibility and how we must all look beyond our immediate surroundings to contribute to the resolution of world problems. Dangermond opened his presentation with an ice-breaking exercise, requesting the audience to spend a few moments talking to a person they didn't already know, highlighting the town-gown connections that were fostered through spatial@ucsb. He concluded with a demonstration of ASketch as a potential spatial tool to link processes of landscape design in policy evaluations.

Jack Dangermond

Channel Islands Regional GIS (CIRGIS) took advantage of this opportunity to convene their quarterly meeting of the Ventura/Santa

This is the first issue of ***Vertices***, a quarterly report on the activities of the spatial studies center known as **spatial@ucsb**. Providing a forum for faculty and students to share the results of their spatially-focused research, the center is dedicated to fostering spatial literacy and the interdisciplinary applications of spatial reasoning and spatial technologies. The center's public lectures, brown-bag presentations, and short courses create an ever-widening spatial community of scientists and scholars. Its resources, outreach, and projects have been instrumental in consolidating the position of UCSB as a national and international leader in applications of spatial thinking.

The editor, Karen Doehner, welcomes contributions from the campus community of instructors, researchers, and students who wish to share information about applications of spatial thinking in their work.

Please submit to **kdoehner@spatial.ucsb.edu**.

Barbara ESRI ArcGIS Users Group at UCSB and then attend the inaugural ceremony. CIRGIS is a support group of GIS and planning professionals that meet regularly to share insights on geospatial solutions to local problems.

In tandem, the **Four Eyes Lab**, which pursues research on Imaging, Interaction, and Innovative Interfaces and is affiliated to spatial@ucsb, held its own open house where attendees were able to view demonstrations of ongoing research projects and tour the immersive environment of the **Allosphere** (for more details, see http://ilab.cs.ucsb.edu/press/openhouse/).

Marking the 120th Meridian

A mere 8 miles west of Goleta, California lies a monumental (and previously invisible) geospatial point of reference: 120 degrees west, or more simply put, 1/3 of the way around the earth. This longitudinal line is a major global point of reference for projection systems, serving as the dividing line between zones 10 and 11 in the Universal Transverse Mercator projection system. It also has the disadvantageous effect of being the dividing point between many local geospatial datasets. As such, this line has been a source of vexation for local GIS professionals and students who have had to spatially merge datasets divided by it. Rather than focus on the functional difficulties presented by the proximity to 120 degrees west, Dr. Michael Goodchild and the **spatial@ucsb** staff decided to locate, mark, and then celebrate this local geo-celebrity. Twenty robust revelers gathered on May 24, 2008 to permanently erect a plaque on the exact point that the 120th meridian crosses the south side of the historic Camino Real near US Highway 101 exit 116. The location, identified through a high-precision GPS survey done with the help of Dr. Douglas Burbank and doctoral candidate Brian Clarke (UCSB Earth Sciences), lies on **private land**; permission should be obtained before visiting this location. The spatial@ucsb research associates and staff thank Dr. Burbank, Brian Clark, Condor Precision Machining, and Santa Barbara Industrial Finishing for their help and support of this project.

UCSB Professor Keith Clarke

Recent Events

7/13–19	Advanced Spatial Analysis Workshop "Spatial Pattern Analysis" (sponsored by NIH)
7/16–18	Advanced Training Institute in GIS (sponsored by the American Psychological Association)
8/4–7	ESRI International User Conference San Diego Convention Center (http://www.esri.com/events/uc/index.html)

Upcoming Events

12/10–12	20th Anniversary of NCGIA, UCSB Symposium Upham Hotel, Santa Barbara
12/15–16	"Spatial Thinking in Science and Design" Specialist Meeting Upham Hotel, Santa Barbara