Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup

October 13, 2022

via Zoom and in Rivera Library, Room 140

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;
Via Zoom: Andrew Haglund, Bart Kats, Chandra Reynolds, Devan Velji, Edward Helderop, Emir Abdelsattar, Gerald Winkel, Jonahid Chakder, Lynda Vernia, Rich Yueh, Shanjana Senthilkumar, Shengxiao Li
In Person: Mike Cohen, Shanon Langlie

<u>Announcements</u>

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The passcode to view is i5ga#Psf

Janet **welcomed** all who are new to the meetups and to UCR, and explained the format of the meetups. Much of the information shared at the meetups, and more, can be found in the [Geospatial/GIS Quarterly](#).

The **Inland Empire GIS User Group** ([IEGIS](#)) is meeting Thursday, October 20 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. at Temecula City Hall.

Beginning on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 26, [Planet Labs](#) is offering a series of workshops at UCR titled **Introduction to Planet, Satellite Imagery, and Platforms**. The hybrid workshops on October 26 will provide an introduction to Planet and some use cases. Workshops on October 27, which will be in person and for UCR affiliates only, will cover using Planet in QGIS (morning) and Planet's API's (afternoon). Space is limited.

There will be an in-person [workshop](#) on **Google Earth Engine** on October 28 in Boulder, CO.

The **[SIGSPATIAL](#)** conference returns to being held in person, November 1 - 4, in Seattle.

The next Esri [GIS in Higher Education chat](#), on Tuesday November 1 at 9:00 am PDT, will help attendees "**Understand Esri Demographics and Uncover New Opportunities in Education**."

Esri will be providing a webinar on **[Spatial Data Science and Geovisual Analytics in Education](#)** on November 3 at 10:00 am PDT.

Esri is hosting the **[Ocean, Weather, and Climate GIS Forum](#)** at their headquarters in Redlands, CA on November 9-10.

Andrew shared links to two more Esri events:
- a [Young Professionals Network](#) webinar on **[Finding Your Career Path](#)**, to be held at 11:00 am PDT on October 26.

- The **Esri Pacific User Conference** for GIS users in California, Nevada and Hawaii, November 15 - 16 in Sacramento, CA.

UC GIS Week is returning as a virtual event from November 15 through November 17. Registration is now open to attend presentations, lightning talks, and panels.

"The **2022 Tribal ArcGIS StoryMaps Challenge**, hosted by Esri, encourages US tribal nations and tribe members and college students to tell place-based stories about tribal heritage and sustainability." The submission deadline is November 18.

First-time Attendees

Devan Velji is a first year statistics major, interested in 3D visualizations of data.

Edward Helderop is the new Associate Director of the Center for Geospatial Sciences at UCR.

Lynda Vernia is in the History PhD program and is working on an ArcGIS project related to Britain's involvement in the slave trade.

Sanjana Senthilkumar is a first-year Computer Science graduate student interested in geospatial sciences.

Shengxiao (Alex) Li is an urban planning researcher and a postdoctoral researcher in the School of Public Policy.

Emir Abdelsattar and **Jonahid Chakder** also joined us for the first time.

Welcome all, and we hope to see you again!

Presentation

Rich Yueh, Assistant Professor of Teaching in UCR's School of Business, gave a presentation on "Initial steps for launching an online UC-wide GIS course," or "Design once, teach anywhere."

The idea for an online geospatial course that would reach students with non-technical majors came about from an ITLI (Innovative Teaching and Learning Initiative) grant. The 10-week introductory GIS course was designed in 2020, but due to the pandemic it couldn't be run the way it had been envisioned (one day in person, one day online). Instead, it has been offered all online during Winter Quarter, up to now.

Rich had not been familiar with GIS prior to designing the course, and most of the students in Business have never heard of GIS. Because the course is rooted in the School of Business, it would be cross-listed at other UC campuses as a Business course. The instructor would record lectures which the students would watch, then complete an activity on their own. There's variation among campuses as to whether teaching assistants (TAs) are available to assist students with the course.

Some of the logistics challenges include: making sure students at all UC campuses have access to ArcGIS Online; knowing who the GIS managers are at each campus, as a point of contact if technical difficulties arise; and how to reconcile the difference between 10-week quarters (most UC campuses) vs. 16-week semesters (UC Berkeley and UC Merced) in terms of course catalogs and credits earned. The latter challenge has yet to be resolved.

Rich requested that attendees suggest simple topics/activities for an introductory student to work on in ArcGIS Online. He cited a few examples already used in the class: purchasing a parcel of land for a start-up business, and the logistics of driving a food truck across the country.

- Mike offered to share the curriculum from the San Bernardino Valley College GIS certificate program.
- Lynda suggested a time progression layering map (from a history perspective).
- Janet mentioned maps for emergency preparedness.
- Mike suggested an activity for transferring information from printed maps into a GIS.
- Rich mentioned the hydration station map of campus being created by a recent UCR grad for the [Healthy Beverage Initiative](#).
  - Janet said there have been proposals for mapping shady paths, fruit trees, or outdoor seating on campus.
    - Mike brought up using imagery collected from drones; information mapped from it could help in campus management.
- Shanon also mentioned a historian who has used GIS to study military movements throughout history in Hong Kong.

Feel free to contact Rich at richyueh@ucr.edu with any questions or additional ideas.

Discussion

Janet mentioned the dormant R'Geospatial Club; it could be revived informally this year, and possibly restored as an official club next year.

Shared Links

Explore Challenger Deep
https://mappingthedeep-story.hub.arcgis.com/pages/explore-challenger-deep

Maps playlist: https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0bxmwAcfbNFkObagu8zJ5y

Transit equity playlist:
https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0lwy2Q5S4t1bOu1u6lYaEt?si=155e10846d974124&nd=1