Spring 2013

MIUS News: Maps and Imagery User Services @ FIU Green Library: Vol. 4, Issue 2 Spring/Summer 2013

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MIUS Celebrates Launch of Newest NASA Satellite

On Feb. 11, MIUS and the broader FIU community celebrated the launch of NASA’s newest Earth-observation satellite, Landsat 8. Also known as the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM), Landsat 8 is especially important because it represents the next stage in the longest-running series of Earth-observation satellites in the history of remote sensing, the Landsat missions. Begun in 1972, the Landsat data series is specifically designed to observe global land-covers and associated human land-uses at moderate spatial resolution. The imagery data produced through Landsat are a critical resource for professionals in fields such as agriculture, education, forestry, geography, geology, land-use/land-cover change, and general mapping, among others.

GIS Day 2013 Focuses on the GeoHumanities

Annual GIS Day celebrations were held at both of FIU’s main campuses, Modesto Maidique Campus (MMC) and Biscayne Bay Campus (BBC). Experts from fields from across the intersection of the humanities and social sciences came to share their spatially-conscious research and explorations into the blossoming transdisciplinary field of geohumanities. Over 60 guests visited the Green Library to participate in several lecture sessions, workshops, spatially-puzzling games, a student poster competition, and, most importantly, to discuss the power of GIS across the geohumanities and beyond. For more information about FIU’s GIS Day, see: gis.fiu.edu/gisday or gis.fiu.edu/gisdaybbc for the GIS Day activities on BBC campus.

GIS Center Tests Ground-Based LiDAR at FIU Frost Museum’s Sculpture Park

Recognize the scene in the image below?

It depicts a 3D models of a couple in the image below? by what is called “point clouds” derived from LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) laser-scanning remote sensing technology. The 3D point clouds produced by LiDAR technology have a variety of applications, ranging from archaeology, geography, and agriculture to engineering, architecture, spaceflight, and beyond.

New Staff

Matthew Toro and Tiffany Selvidge.

Matthew is the GIS Center’s new MIUS Coordinator / Research Associate. He earned his Master of Arts degree in Geography from the University of Miami. He is also a proud alumnus of Florida International University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Geography and International Relations. He has worked on a wide, multi-disciplinary range of projects employing geospatial technologies and methodologies. Matthew’s MA thesis, for instance, looked at the relationship between land-use/land-cover change (socio-ecological dynamics) and informal flows of credit and their associated debt onage (socio-economic dynamics) driving the coffee industry of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). More recently, he has become heavily involved with developing geospatial methods for measuring urban form (the built environment) as it relates to walkability. In his capacity here at FIU, Matthew coordinates activities, programs, and research between the GIS Center and the broader FIU and outside communities.

Tiffany earned her MS degree in Biology and GIS Certificate from the University of North Texas, after which she moved to Florida to work at FIU as the Sciences and Health... (continued on page 2)
Googe Earth Pro Now Available at MIUS / GIS Teaching Lab
Check out the expanded functionality of Google Earth Pro in MIUS (GL 273) and the GIS Teaching Laboratory (GL 274), including the ability to easily import shapefiles; make movies; measure distances and areas, including of 3D features; and access parcel, demographic, and traffic data; among other enhancements to the standard Google Earth package. Google Earth Pro puts the world at your fingertips!

GIS Coordinator’s Sea Level Rise Maps Stir Community Discourse
Work by the FIU GIS Center’s very own Peter Harlem has been causing quite a stir in the local media. His on-going efforts to map sea level rise in the greater Miami / South Florida region have been highlighted in The Miami Herald, among other news sources. Here are just a couple examples of stories featuring Pete’s great work:

“Deep trouble: How sea-rise could cause havoc in South Florida” [Miami Herald article: 03/10/2013]

“Rising tide of concern” [Miami Herald conversion of Harlem’s maps into a single, interactive map: 03/07/2013]

For more information, contact Pete Harlem directly at: harlemp@fiu.edu

New GIS Center & Library Staff (continued from page 1)

Some New Geospatial Resources Acquired by MIUS and the GIS Center

- Tom Tom MultiNet, 2D city maps, 3D landmarks data

- WorldView-2 high resolution (2 meter) multi-spectral 8-band imagery [spatial extent depicted in the image to the right]

- LandScan 2000-2010 global population distribution data

- US National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (1:24k) in shapefile format

- Seamless Digital Chart of the World (SDCW) version 10 base map in shapefile format

- National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) (1:24k)

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Some New Geospatial Resources Acquired by MIUS and the GIS Center

New GIS Center & Library Staff (continued from page 1)

Sciences Librarian. Tiffany also provides assistance to GIS students by helping them with their GIS research. In addition to her primary role as a Librarian, Tiffany also develops geodatabases for the library and other departments and participates in a variety of fun-filled GIS projects usually involving the outdoors and nature. Tiffany is located at BBC.