



THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

Central Region

www.rollanet.org/~asprs

1400 Independence Road
13

Rolla, Missouri 65401

October 2001

Volume

Number 4

CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS INSTALLED

ASPRS Central Region held a luncheon for the installation of officers on Wednesday June 27 from 11:30 to 12:30. Mr Michael P. Finn was installed as Region President; Ms Shelley Silch was installed as Region Vice-President; Mr Dan Canfield was installed as Secretary/Treasurer; and Mr Martin Hamann and Mr Chad Raymer were installed as Directors.

2001 APSRS CONFERENCE

The ASPRS held its 2001 Annual Conference held in St Louis 23-27 April. The conference was well attended with over 1800 registered participants. In addition to workshops, seminars, poster sessions, and the exhibit hall, there were several hundred technical presentations spread over more than one hundred concurrent sessions. The commercial, academic, and government sectors were all well represented. I think Dr Gary Higgs, Program Committee Chair, summed it up well:

“Hundreds of individuals from many countries worked for months to contribute to and assemble a program that represented the current state of thinking and interests in the collected sciences and technologies that unite our disciplines, professions, and societies.”

One highlight of the conference was the main evening social event held at the St Louis Science Center. Attendees had full run of the museum, including the IMAX theatre. A number of the live shows and demonstrations were also available. The experience was made more enjoyable by the tables of food and beverage scattered throughout the structure catered from local restaurants. Judging by the number of full stomachs and happy faces observed, the event was a great success. Here are a few pictures from the conference:



Central Region President Mike Finn (at right) Admires the Centerpiece at the Evening Social



Student Volunteer Coordinator Mike Starbuck at the Registration Booth

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION: HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGE APPLICATIONS

*Dr. Stefanie Tompkins, Senior Scientist
Science Applications International Corp.
(SAIC)*

Dr. Tompkins presented an overview of hyperspectral image applications including a brief introduction to the technology, a summary of Science Applications International Corporation's (SAIC) work on various hyperspectral programs, and some examples of analytical and software solutions to typical problems. SAIC strives to maintain a solid internal research foundation in imaging spectroscopy while delivering robust algorithms and tools in support of military, civil, and commercial applications. The strength of these products lies in unique combinations of automated processing and user-friendly interfaces that allow non-technical users to extract the information they need. This presentation was held on 9 August at the U.S. Geological Survey's Mid-Continent Mapping Center in Rolla, Missouri.

Dr Tompkins, who holds a Ph.D. in geology and geophysics from Brown University, is currently a Senior Staff Scientist at SAIC in Chantilly, Virginia, managing research and development projects for hyperspectral image

exploitation, and conducting independent research as a NASA Principal Investigator.

Her research efforts focus on reflectance spectroscopy as it applies to remote geochemical analysis of planetary surfaces, including the earth's Moon and, of course, the earth itself. Much of this research is also applicable to using spectroscopy for environmental monitoring, land use mapping, and other civil and commercial applications.

Most recent publications discuss work in mapping the subsurface composition of the Moon by remote analysis of rocks excavated by impact craters, and in algorithm development for modeling mixed pixels in spectral imagery.

LANDSAT FIVE TO CONTINUE OPERATING

*Satellite Complements Landsat 7's Earth
Science Research*

Landsat 5, an important but aging satellite that had been scheduled for decommissioning on June 30, 2001, will continue collecting earth science information, for at least several more months.

Landsat 5, launched in 1984, and Landsat 7, launched in 1999, cover the entire earth's surface in alternating cycles every eight days. Users of USGS earth satellite images were concerned over the loss of that once-every-eight days cycle and the end of Landsat 5 as a backup for the technologically advanced Landsat 7.

"Users like the eight-day cycle from two satellites because it gives them greater opportunities to obtain critical, cloud-free images of forest clear-cutting, forest and wildland fires, agricultural crops, floods, tornado damage swaths, urban change, coastal erosion and a host of other landscape changes," said USGS Landsat program manager, R. J. Thompson.

Several large orders for Landsat 5 data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NASA, other federal agencies, universities and private users were sufficient to enable the satellite to continue collecting images for several more months.

Because commercial marketing rights to current and historical Landsat data expired July 1, 2001, Landsat 5 data users will no longer have restrictions on the use or

redistribution of Landsat 5 products.

Landsat 5 has performed far beyond its two-year design lifetime, sending hundreds of thousands of 100-mile by 100-mile land-surface images to U.S. and international ground receiving stations. Landsat 5, using its several back-up subsystems, still provides high-quality image data to ground antennas.

More information on Landsat 5 and ordering satellite data from USGS can be found at: <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Measuring the Earth--Digital Elevation Technologies and Applications

October 31-November 2, 2001, ASPRS and the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS) are jointly hosting the this Specialty Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida.
<http://www.asprs.org/st.pete>

Remote Sensing & Resource Management in Nearshore and Inland Waters

October 22-24 Hosted by the AMRS Association in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada.
Contact: 902-491-2160; 902-491-2162 (fax);
errin@amrs.org; www.waterobserver.org

CARIS 2001 - Extending Your Boundaries: 6th International CARIS Users' Conference and Educational Sessions

October 30-November 2, 2001 Hosted by CARIS, in San Diego, CA.

Contact: 506-458-8533; 506-459-3849 (fax);
caris2001@caris.com; www.caris.com/caris2001.

Third International Conference on Geospatial Information in Agriculture and Forestry

November 5-7 in Denver, CO.
Contact: (734) 994-1200, ext. 3234; (734) 994-5123 (fax);
nancy.wallman@veridian.com.

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