

**CGMA**  
**Council for Geospatial Modeling and Analysis**

✓	Bevilacqua		Davis	✓	Felleman	✓	M. Hall		Halligan
✓	Herrington	✓	McNulty	✓	Mountrakis		Porter	✓	Quackenbush
✓	Stiteler	✓	Stribley	✓	Storrings	✓	Szemkow		Toland
✓	John Stella								

**Notes**  
**24 January 2007**

Introduction

Need to refresh CGMA objectives

People invited to this CGMA meeting: John Stella (FNRM – riparian ecologist); Jacqui Frair (EFB – wildlife biologist)

Other people to invite to future CGMA meetings: Mark Lomolino suggested

Provide LJQ with additional ideas to include on e-mail notifications

1. *Introductory GIT course*

a. *Status*

Second page of agenda (last page of this document) provides a short summary of the proposed GIT course. This brief overview is intended to provide the “short version” of the justification for the course. Details e.g. about resource needs are provided in the outline document previously circulated (last edited 27 Nov 06).

b. *Future plans*

At this point, individuals in CGMA should discuss this proposed course with their own faculty. This should be done prior to the next CGMA meeting (7 Feb 07), so that any comments can be incorporated before the course gets presented by as a discussion item at the 8 Feb 07 meeting. The goal will be to get the course proposal (draft prepared by Eddie) to the COI in early March.

2. *GIS Certificate*

a. *Status*

Somewhat undefined current status. Proposals for certificates submitted to Graduate Office previously, but currently no certificate is recognized. In any case, the courses required under the certificate program have changed significantly, and would require updates.

b. *Matriculated vs. nonmatriculated*

Certificate for nonmatriculated students requires SUNY approval. CGMA could create certificate for internal distribution, but it would have significantly less benefit e.g. compared to a certificate that appears on a student’s transcript.

c. Follow up

Need to define who desired audience is i.e. current students or an external audience. Both would appear to benefit from such a certificate, the former would be easier to develop (does not require SUNY review).

LJQ will follow up with Graduate Office in an attempt to determine current status of either certificate. Also inquire about the availability of Graduate Minors.

3. *Other ideas*

a. *Web page*

Very seriously out of date. Need to update e.g. people and courses as minimum. Suggestion to use format requirements for UCGIS to facilitate membership in the future should we decide to go that route. In any case the UCGIS web pages appear to include most items that would be included. Desire to establish web page so that updates would not be required more than ~ each semester. Need to add in research and publication pages → primarily provide links to individual faculty member pages that would be updated more frequently (in theory). The research page could feed into the desire that Provost Bongarten has presented regarding facilitation for collaboration.

b. *Seminars*

Could CGMA offer a GIS seminar? Could have each CGMA member responsible for one presentation (i.e. make it yourself or recruit someone to present). Could tie into Mapping Science listserv (includes SU faculty/staff/students). Again, tie back into Bongarten desire to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and recognition of GIS as one vehicle for doing so.

c. *Other thoughts*

GIT Research Times

Could there be a version of the Research Times customized for CGMA distribution? LJQ will contact Linda Galloway to see if this is possible. All CGMA members should suggest potential keywords for searching.

Conversations in the Discipline

Need to define if there is interest in such a program i.e. why would we do this? Requires significant time investment to prepare proposal, potentially could seek out College support to ensure delivery is possible. Possible themes: Issues in NYS and applications of GIT to these issues; Focus on education.

Conversations implies SUNY involvement, with College support could broaden to include e.g. industry/government. Need to define goals, and review current mechanisms for delivery e.g. via NYS GIS Conference.

## **Introductory GIT course**

### Rationale

- Geospatial information technologies are a part of almost any environmental discipline and an awareness of such technologies is rapidly becoming a requirement for most students

### Current status

- In recognition of the impact of GIT, students in many programs on campus are required to take a GIT course, others have GIS/GIT as a directed elective
- We currently do not have an introductory level course in GIT suitable for sophomore or junior students
- Many students are channeled into an inappropriate course: reducing their understanding of the fundamentals of GIT and also reducing the potential for higher level instruction

### Intent

- The class is intended to provide an introduction to geospatial technologies to sophomores and juniors in all program areas at ESF
- The course will provide an overview of geographic information systems and the associated technologies utilized for data collection
- One of the course intents is to demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of GIT focused heavily on applications of the technology
- The course would provide appropriate prerequisite knowledge for advanced courses in the mapping sciences and for course that utilize spatial information