



# POTOMAC PERSPECTIVES

## ASPRS - Potomac Region Newsletter

---

### Message from the President

Dear ASPRS Potomac Region Members:

I'm honored to serve as this year's ASPRS Potomac Region President and to be able to report on the exciting happenings within the Region. Following a very active year in 2010, Potomac Region is off to a fast start again in 2011. The ASPRS student forums recently founded at University of West Virginia, Penn State University, and Virginia Tech are now up and running. As described in the article by Katarina Doctor, George Mason University (GMU) has been especially active, forming the Frederick Doyle Student Chapter and Forum, with monthly meetings, tours, and seminars.

The newly-elected Board of Directors reflects the wealth of government, academia, and private sector expertise in remote sensing and photogrammetry that exists within the Potomac Region. The Board is currently planning events for 2011, including new technical tours (potential venues discussed to date include GeoEye, Fugro, and USGS). After a successful GeoTech at GMU (see summary article in this newsletter), the conference will be returning to the NOAA Science Center and Auditorium on October 12-13, 2011 with new featured speakers and workshops. Please look for upcoming announcements of these events on the Region's website (<http://www.asprspotomac.org>) and plan to attend!

Best Regards,

Chris Parrish

---

#### ***The 2011 PR Board of Directors***

President: Dr. Chris Parrish, NOAA/NGS, NOAA-UNH Joint Hydrographic Center (JHC)/Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping (CCOM)

Vice President: Mr. John Manzer, GeoEye Inc.

Sec/Treasurer: Dr. Allan Falconer, George Mason University (GMU)

Past President: Dr. Peter Doucette, Integrity Applications Incorporated

Region Directors: Dr. Tony Stefanidis, George Mason University (GMU)

Dr. Yong Wang, East Carolina University

Mr. Josh Sisskind, ITT Geospatial Systems

Historian: Mr. Yogendra Singh, CP, PLS

National Director: Dr. Barbara Eckstein, McClendon LLC

NC Chapter President: Mr. Luiz Cortes, Sanborn Inc.

Spring 2011 Newsletter edited by: P Doucette, Past President for Potomac Region

---

## GeoTech 2010 Conference

By P Doucette

This past year's GeoTech conference was held for the first time at George Mason University on September 27-28, in cooperation with the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science. The more than 130 in attendances were treated with exceptional speakers and workshop instructors that spanned a broad spectrum of disciplines. Keynote speakers *Dr. Kevin Slocum* and *Dr. Edward Mikhail* received high marks from attendees for their perspectives on LIDAR and Photogrammetry respectively.

A tribute to *Dr. Fredrick Doyle* was presented on the second day of the conference to christen the new Fred Doyle ASPRS Student Chapter & Forum at George Mason University (see full story on new student chapter in this issue). Dr. Doyle's family and friends were present to witness the poignant ceremony that symbolized a passing of the torch from one generation to another.

We would also like to express special thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors, *ASPRS, ITT Visual Information Solutions, Tuck Mapping Solutions, Inc., Integrity Applications Incorporated, Northrop Grumman, L-1 Identity Solutions / McClendon Engineering & Analytical Solutions, and Fugro*. We hope that we can count on them again for our GeoTech 2011 conference to be held at NOAA, in Silver Spring MD (October 12-13). As past attendees are aware, GeoTech was originally hosted by NOAA for over 10 consecutive years, with whom the region continues to enjoy a strong partnership. The long-term hope is that the GeoTech conference venue can be hosted by a good mix of organizations around the region to increase outreach to new members, as well as providing existing membership with a broader spectrum of venues to experience.



GeoTech Conference Chair and MC Dr. Peter Doucette introducing speaker Dr. John Irvine of Draper Labs.

### A New ASPRS Student Chapter and Forum in the Potomac Region

By Katarina Doctor

The ASPRS Student Chapter and Forum in honor of Dr. Frederick Doyle at George Mason University (GMU) was officially recognized by the university in December 2010. Northern Virginia and the broader Washington D.C. area is a locus of advances in remote sensing and geospatial sciences in the United States, and we at GMU are fortunate that there are many nearby government, corporate and academic institutions which are active in this field. We, the students of the Geography and Geoinformation Science Department at George Mason University, felt that it would be appropriate to establish an ASPRS student chapter at our university so that we may be more active participants in this exciting field.

The process of establishing the chapter/forum began in fall 2009 and by the start of fall 2010 all the necessary paperwork was ready for the new organization. We are grateful for the support and assistance we received from our faculty Dr. Anthony Stefanidis, Dr. Allen Falconer, Dr. Richard Gomez and the board of directors of the ASPRS Potomac Region.

Although we were officially recognized by the university in December, we had already begun our activities in September. We have held monthly meetings, and helped promote student attendance at the GeoTech conference organized by the ASPRS Potomac Region. We participated in the 2010 GIS Day at George Mason University with a booth promoting our organization, and we had several students sign up as new members. Currently, there are more than fifty student members in our Chapter/Forum.

Our plans for future activities include monthly meetings, research seminars, technical tours, maintaining a wiki website, technical workshops, and networking with students and faculty from outside of our department and university who share the same interests. We are planning research seminars where graduate students and/or those who have already graduated may present their research, dissertation or thesis topic whether it is finished, in progress or in the idea stage. In addition to participating in the technical tours organized by the Potomac Region ASPRS, we plan to organize technical tours to nearby industries and government agencies. Technical tours are an exceptionally valuable opportunity for students to gain knowledge about their field of interest and to network with potential employers. We have created a wiki website where all our members can add valuable information about research interests, activities, data sources, and information that helps us all succeed in research and academia. Since many of the GMU students are employed full-time and commute to classes after their workday has ended, a wiki website is a valuable option for student and faculty to communicate with one another and share their common interests in research, academia and industry. We are in the beginning stages of creating this wiki site therefore all constructive ideas and information are welcome and highly appreciated. We always encourage new ideas that will enhance our organization.

## Potomac Region's 2011 Annual Meeting & Dinner

By P Doucette

The Potomac Region's Annual Meeting & Dinner was held the evening of Feb 1st, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Chantilly, Virginia. Even with the threat of bad weather, there was a strong showing this year with over 40 attendees from academia, government, and industry.

The keynote address was provided by **Mr. Todd Johanesen** of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). As the Senior Scientist for Photogrammetry at NGA, Todd spoke about the importance of recognizing that photogrammetry remains a "core" science in the production and exploitation of geospatial information. He pointed out that with the advent of the digital automation, photogrammetry had evolved into a "push button" science, where underlying processes had become less visible and understood. With the proliferation of sensors and data of all types, understanding the rigorous photogrammetry needed for R&D, geopositioning accuracy, data registration, and error propagation has become more relevant than ever.

The evening concluded with the traditional recognition of new and continuing board members and officers for 2011, which were officially made effective to commence forthwith for 2011. The new officers are Dr. Chris Parrish (president), and Mr. John Manzer (vice-president), Dr. Allan Falconer (secretary/treasurer). Dr. Peter Doucette was recognized as outgoing president for 2010, and assumes the advisory role of past president for the board for 2011. Existing and continuing board members include Josh Sisskind (region director), Dr. Tony Stefanidis (region director), Dr. Barbara Eckstein (liaison to National), Dr. Chris McGlone (technical advisor), Dr. Yong Wong (liaison to NC Chapter), Mr. Yogendra Singh (historian) and Mr. Luiz Cortes (NC Chapter president). This year, the PR board gave special recognition to Dr. Chris Parrish by selecting him as the 2010 "member of the year" for the Potomac Region. Chris is well known for going beyond the call of duty in donating his time and energy toward promoting and participating in ASPRS and Potomac Region events.



PR board members for 2011 (left to right) Peter Doucette, Robbie Black, John Manzer, Chris Parrish, Yogendra Singh, and Josh Sisskind. Not shown: Chris McGlone, Allan Falconer, Barbara Eckstein, Tony Stefanidis, Luiz Cortes, and Yong Wang.

## Tech Tour at Army Geospatial Center (AGC)

By Josh Sisskind

Potomac Region organized another popular tour of the Army Geospatial Center (AGC) in Alexandria, VA on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The tour opened with an overview presentation by **Jamal Beck**, a Public Affairs Officer who also coordinated the tour with ASPRS. The AGC concept was born out of a two-year evaluation of the Topographic Engineering Center (TEC). It was recommended that the TEC be charted as the "lead element of an Army Geospatial implementing agency", and in February 2009 the AGC concept was approved.

The group was then given a presentation on Buckeye: Color Imagery and LIDAR Elevation Data Collection, Processing, and Dissemination. The Buckeye mission is to rapidly collect, process, and distribute unclassified high resolution and high accuracy color imagery and elevation data for change detection, ISR, and urban mapping. The presentation touched on the technical specifications of the cameras and LIDAR components that make up the Buckeye system, as well as the data and products created from

collections. The group was shown product examples including 3D Shaded Relief and LIDAR-based feature extraction. Of note, as of August 2010, 50,000km<sup>2</sup> of Afghanistan land area and 80,000km<sup>2</sup> (11%) of Iraq land area (including every major urban area) has been collected with a Buckeye system.

Another presentation introduced the group to the AGC GeoGlobe. Similar to Google Earth, the GeoGlobe allows those with access to display layers, snapshot maps to a clipboard, jump to coordinates and do analysis, including line of sight, threat domain and measurements. GeoGlobe can also display 3D data. Another software tool that was briefed was TIVET, a streamlined toolset that enables a user with minimal training to easily view and exploit imagery and elevation data with 2D and 3D viewing environments. The TIVET toolset contains three main components: Buckeye 2D viewer, Free-D Stereo Viewer and Free-D Workstation.

Be on the lookout for our next Tech Tour!



**ASPRS - Potomac Region**  
**5410 Grosvenor Lane**  
**Suite 210**  
**Bethesda, MD 20814-2160**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MERRIFIELD, VA  
PERMIT #6221

## ***Potomac Perspectives Spring 2011***

### ***ASPRS-Potomac Region Newsletter***

#### **In This Issue:**

- GeoTech 2010 Conference
- AGC Technical Tour
- New Student Chapter at GMU
- PR 2011 Annual Meeting & Dinner

Do you have news to share with the ASPRS-Potomac Region on upcoming events? Would you like to host a tour of your Geospatial workplace? Any ideas for an appropriate outing for your fellow ASPRS members? Do you have a short technical note of interest to the region? We would love to hear your ideas and we share your work interest. Visit our website <http://www.asprspotomac.org> and send us an email.

**Save the Date for GeoTech 2011 (October 12-13, 2011 at NOAA, Silver Spring, MD)**

**For more information visit <http://www.asprspotomac.org>**