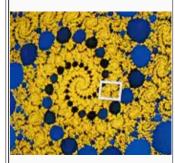- RSGIS 🏠
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Faculty

Dr. Nina Lam and other LSU faculty were awarded $1.5 million from the National Science Foundation to study the Coastal Vulnerability in Louisiana.

The project uses a coupled natural-human system approach to investigate the sustainability of coastal communities. Research will focus on the Lower Mississippi River Basin in Louisiana, one of the most vulnerable coastlines in the world. This project is supported by the NSF Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems, or CNH Program. The co-PIs include Drs. Kam-biu Liu, Victor Rivera-Monroy, Margaret Reams, Yi Jun Xu, Kelley Pace and David Dismukes. For more information, please visit the Recent Projects page of this site or the LSU website:
http://www.lsu.edu/ur/ocur/lsunews/MediaCenter/News/2012/10/item53322.html

Dr. Nina Lam was the sixth annual Borchert Lecture Speaker at the Department of Geography, University of Minnesota.

The Borchert Lecture honors the late John Borchert, University of Minnesota Regents Professor and member of the U.S. National Academy of Science. Dr. Lam's lecture, titled **"From Disease to Disaster: Geospatial Analysis for Environmental Decision Making"** was presented on November 16, 2012. For more information and lecture recording, please visit the University of Minnesota website: https://events.umn.edu/022537

Students

Congratulations to **Amit Kulkarni**, who graduated with his PhD in Geography in December 2012.

Accurate and rapid classification of impervious surfaces would help in emergency management after extreme events like flooding, earthquakes, fires, tsunami, and hurricanes, by providing quick estimates and updated maps for emergency response. Amit's dissertation, titled "An Object-Based Image Analysis(OBIA) Approach for Detecting Urban Impervious Surfaces", aimed to: (1) compare classification accuracy between pixel-based and OBIA methods, (2) examine whether the object-based image analysis (OBIA) could better detect urban impervious surfaces, and (3) develop an automated, generalized OBIA classification method for impervious surfaces.

Alumni

Alumni: we would like to hear from you. Please send your recent news and information to [Dr. Nina Lam](#).

Srinivas Vinnakota graduated with a PhD in Geography in December 2006. Dissertation title: Socioeconomic characteristics of cancer mortality in the United States of America: A spatial data mining approach. Srinivas is currently employed as a software engineer at ESRI, Redlands CA.

Guiyun Zhou graduated with a PhD in Geography in December 2006. Dissertation title: Detecting the socioeconomic conditions of urban neighborhoods through wavelet analysis of remotely sensed imagery. Guiyun is now working as an assistant professor in China.

[Esra Ozdenerol](#) , a PhD graduate in 2000, is currently an associate professor in Department of Geosiences, University of Memphis. She is also adjunct assistant professor with the School of Medicine, and is actively working on several research projects.

[Jane Read](#) , a PhD graduate in 1999, is currently an associate professor in Department of Geography at Syracuse University. Her work on hunger in cities has been featured in her university and a number of media. Among her other projects, Jane is working on an NSF funded project to examine the biodiversity dynamics and land-use changes in the Amazon.

[Soe W. Myint](#) , a PhD graduate in 2000, is currently an associate professor in the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University. Soe received his second NSF grant on "Modeling Tsunami effects on mangrove ecosystems and the role they play in saving lives and properties". He also recently received the award for Best Paper for Early Career Scholar Award from the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group during the 2007 AAG meeting San Francisco.

Old News

Dr. Nina Lam was a recipient of the 2006 LSU Distinguished Faculty Award. The citation from LSU Academic Affairs for her award was: "Nina Lam is an internationally recognized researcher in the field of geographic information science. She has published in journals and received research funding support in topics as wide ranging as spatial interpolation, cancer morality, fractals and scale, AIDS in America, land cover change detection via remote sensing, and uncertainties in environmental health studies. Her students are enthusiastic and persuasive in their support and appreciation of her excellence as a demanding but fair teacher, advisor, and mentor. Aside from her research and teaching, Nina is well respected among her peers for her huge impact through service to the department, the college and the university as she 'is proactive rather than reactive, confident without arrogance, generous with her knowledge,' and 'continually pushing' toward the goals of the flagship agenda."

Dr. Nina Lam received the 2004 Outstanding Contributions in Remote Sensing Award from the Association of American Geographers Remote Sensing Specialty Group for her "outstanding contributions to the field of remote sensing and to the geographic community through his/her remote sensing research, teaching, and outreach". She was presented with a medal at the 100th Association of American Geographers meeting in Philadelphia in March. [link](#)

Wenxue Ju was recommended for funding by NSF for his dissertation research, titled "A genetic Bayesian approach for texture-aide urban land use/cover classification." Amount: $11,816.

Guiyun Zhou received an NSF doctorial dissertation research improvement grant in March 2006 for his project titled "Detecting the socioeconomic conditions of urban

neighborhoods through wavelet analysis of remotely sensed imagery". Amount: $7,142.

Guiyun Zhou won the third-place award in the Student Paper Competition sponsored by the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group during the 2006 AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago.