

May 2019

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May 2019 Newsletter

Hello NYS GIS Association Member!

- New GIS Certificate program at Buffalo State
- Meet Christopher Badurek, NYS GIS Association Board Member.
- NYGeoCon 2019 - Save the Date!

Read on and enjoy,

The NYS GIS Association Communications Committee

Buffalo State adds a GIS Certificate Program

The Department of Geography and Planning at Buffalo State added a GIS Certificate program to its offerings this Spring 2019 semester. It is an option for matriculating and non-matriculating undergraduates. They have already had three students complete the requirements for the certificate this month. For more information, click on the link below.

<https://geography.buffalostate.edu/new-gis-certificate>



Meet Christopher Badurek, NYS GIS Association Board Member

1. What made you interested in taking up GIS/geospatial technology as a career and how did you end up in the field of GIS? What is your educational background?

I've always loved maps. I had a Bachelors in Biology and wanted to do more in environmental science and go to graduate school. To gain skills for graduate school while working, I took an Intro

Information Science at University at Buffalo, SUNY, and then started working in academia.



2. Will you please explain your job and what you do there?

I am an Associate Professor of Geography at SUNY Cortland. We have the first BS in GIS in the SUNY system, and our majors have had success entering the workforce as GIS specialists. I primarily teach our technical GIS courses, including GIS Programming, Web GIS, Environmental Remote Sensing, and GPS Technology, which includes significant training in drone technology. I am also Director of Research for our newly formed Institute of Geospatial and Drone Technology. It was funded by a grant from NYS and geared towards bridging the university with local government, business, and educational institutions.

3. How did you get involved in the NYS GIS Association board? How long have you been a part of the committee?

I've been on the NYSGISA Board one year, and it has been a great experience, particularly meeting other GIS professionals from across the state. I also am the Chair of the Education Committee as well as Co-Chair of the NYSGeoCon. I am thrilled it's nearby in Syracuse and looking forward to a great conference experience. I invite our fellow GISers to submit an abstract for a talk or poster to share the GIS work you are doing with our community.

4. What's the most interesting project that you have worked on and why?

I enjoy working on team-based projects with multiple collaborators. For example, I led a university-funded project to gain input from regional and local government and conservation organizations to better develop GIS modeling/simulation to forecast land cover change in the Appalachian Mountains. I highly value the knowledge shared by government GIS and planning professionals working on the frontlines of sustainable land use.

5. What is your favorite memory from NYGeoCon or the GeoSpatial Summit?

My colleague, Scott Anderson, and I nominated long-time GIS champion Bob Brauer for a New York State GIS Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. In addition to his passion for GIS, Bob was an active member of the Auburn area music scene. Unfortunately, Bob passed away a few months before the 2018 Geospatial Summit after a battle with illness, so his wife, Gilda, received the award on his behalf. Scott and Gilda performed one of Bob's songs in his memory. It was a unique and memorable tribute.

6. What do you like most about mapping?

work time working with GIS data in a variety of ways ranging from database development to writing scripts. I have found a new appreciation for the data science aspects of GIS and the power of using data and maps to answer questions, simple or complex.

7. If you could visit any one place in the world, where would it be and why?

I've been fortunate to travel to many places in the US and abroad related to my academic career, but there are quite a few more places I'd like to visit. Right now, I am working on developing a GIS and land cover change project in Belize. For vacation, Machu Picchu in the Peruvian Andes is next on my list.

8. Do you have any specific advice or philosophies from working in the GIS world?

I just recently started teaching a course to help undergraduates transition to the workforce, and it was a great way to think about what students should know aside from the technical aspects of GIS. In class, we discussed the importance of lifelong learning, trying new approaches and technologies, and not working with a fear of failure. I also promote becoming active in the GIS professional community, supporting the GISP credential effort, lending a hand to new GISers coming into the field, and enjoying the fun and challenging aspects of a career in GIS.

NYGeoCon 2019 - Save the Date!

What: 2019 NYGeoCon

When: September 23-25, 2019

Where: Marriott Syracuse Downtown, Syracuse NY

How to Register: Registration will open Summer 2019

Presentation Proposal Deadline: 12 July 2019

More Information: Click on the link below.

<https://www.nysgis.net/nygeocon2019/>

