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TERRY CROW, NCSU LIBRARIES.

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## Beyond the Boundaries: Partnerships in GIS Education at NC State

BY CAROLYN ARGENTATI, PUBLIC SERVICES



*University of North Carolina President Molly Broad [middle] and Dean of Natural Resources Larry Nielsen [right] view a student project.*



*Chancellor Marye Anne Fox [right] greets a teacher and student as they display their work with GIS.*

**O**n January 30, 2002, a large group of faculty, students, staff, and community partners involved in more than twenty-five projects using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) displayed their work for members of the UNC Board of Governors as part of a tour of NC State University. Chancellor Marye Anne Fox welcomed the attendees, and Hugh Devine, associate director of the Center for Earth Observation in the College of Natural Resources, offered an overview of the GIS technology being used and taught at NCSU and the diverse range of disciplines and activities that it supports.

Opportunities in GIS are attracting increasing numbers of students and lifelong learners, and the applications of spatial analysis and online mapping encompass virtually

all disciplines. North Carolina's state and local government agencies recognize the university as a key resource in GIS as they engage in dynamic partnerships with its faculty, students, and librarians. NC State's GIS initiatives also involve teachers and students in K-12 education, with exciting outcomes.

Rather than housing GIS education and research in a single department, this university has taken a fully multi-disciplinary approach. A collaborative group of GIS faculty from more than thirty departments has been formed, with the goal to ensure that every student who crosses NC State's threshold has opportunities to become skilled in both the display of spatial data and the spatial reasoning that underlies those maps. The NCSU Libraries provides an extensive collection of spatial data, along with

workshops and consultation in the use of GIS software.

In addition, NC State's Graduate School has led the way for the university to establish the first Graduate Certificate Program in GIS in the

UNC system. This program and its corresponding multi-disciplinary faculty (thirty-four departments represented) have proven enormously successful in attracting excellent students, research support, and extension opportunities. ❖

## Scenes from the Grand Opening of the Hill of Beans Coffee Bar, March 25, 2002



[Above] NC State Provost Stuart Cooper and Ms. Wuf draw the names of lucky winners for the Hill of Beans prize drawing.

[Top right]: Ms. Wuf helped to get the Hill of Beans grand opening off to a rousing start.



[Above, left to right] Provost Cooper, NC State alumna Beverly Stutts, Ms. Wuf, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan Nutter, and NC State Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Tom Stafford open the Hill of Beans.

## Howard Besser Speaks at I. T. Littleton Seminar

BY JENNIFER O'BRIEN ROPER, FORMERLY WITH CATALOGING

**O**n April 2, 2002, the North Carolina State University Librarians Association (NCSULA) hosted its third I. T. Littleton Seminar. The NCSULA Steering Committee, consisting of Jennifer O'Brien Roper, Josh Boyer, Rachel Kuhn, and Susan Wolf Neilson, planned the seminar and reception, which was free and open to the NC State community and library colleagues in North Carolina.

Guest speaker Howard Besser, an associate professor in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA, spoke on the social effects of information technologies. In his talk entitled "Commodification of Information and the Assault on Public Space," Besser discussed issues involving public spaces, copyright, and the erosion of the concept of community. After pointing to several historical examples of public spaces, such as the Greek's Agora and twentieth-century town squares, Besser noted that society today lacks places that provide exposure to different ideas and cultures. He suggested that public spaces have shifted during the late-twentieth century to places such as modern shopping malls where the primary focus is commerce rather than the exchange of ideas.

Although the digital environment has the potential for a virtual commons, Besser believes that the gradual shift from ideas as freely available to ideas as valuable commodities has created an environment that seeks to be exclusive rather than inclusive. For example, libraries previously paid a one-time fee to purchase information tools, which were then made freely available to the public. Now, however, many digital information tools must be repeatedly purchased through licenses and are only made available to a tightly defined group of authorized users.

In discussing the erosion of the concept of community, Besser focused on the issues sur-



*[Left to right] Howard Besser and I. T. Littleton.*

rounding copyright and the public domain. Originally, United States copyright law was intended to provide incentives to creators by guaranteeing to them the exclusive right to their works for a limited time. After the copyright expired, these works then entered the public domain, where they might spark the imagination of others. The United States Congress, in the latter half of the twentieth century, has changed copyright law by lengthening the period of copyright, which negates the concept of limited time for copyright protection. Besser argued that this benefits the few (the copyright holders) and weakens society as a whole by depleting the public domain of new ideas, inventions, and other creations.

Besser concluded by saying that all of these issues have led to public spaces becoming private, whether that space is defined as a physical or intellectual area. He encouraged the audience to become involved in the campaign to re-create public space and to revalue the community over the individual. In addressing the role libraries can play in this campaign, he asserted that they are the defenders of the public domain and should be on the frontlines of current discussions.

The I. T. Littleton Seminar Endowment, established in March 1987 to mark the retire-

ment of I. T. Littleton as library director at NC State, provided funding for the seminar. The seminar series addresses major issues that affect libraries across the nation and explores diverse perspectives. Individuals interested in making a contribution to the Littleton endowment should write a check to the "Friends of the Library" and specify the endowment name. Send contributions to Friends of the Library, NCSU Libraries, Campus Box 7111, Raleigh, NC 27695-7111. ❖

## The Term of Copyright: It Keeps Going and Going and Going . . .

BY PEGGY HOON, SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION CENTER



*Dennis Karjala spoke about the copyright extension act at a special NCSU Libraries program.*

**T**he United States established its first copyright statute in 1790, which limited an author's copyright monopoly to fourteen years. This limited monopoly was deemed sufficient incentive for authors to create and thereby accomplish the cardinal purpose of copyright as set forth in the Constitution: "to promote the progress of science and the useful arts."

Since then, the United States Congress has extended copyright terms eleven times in the

past forty years. The most recent extension was the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act (CTEA). The 1998 act extended copyright protection from fifty to seventy years after an author's death. The CTEA also extended the protection of works-for-hire made by corporations to ninety-five years from publication or 120 years from creation, whichever is shorter. In fact, the act's extended protection applied to all works for which the copyright had not expired, meaning that no published works will enter the public domain for the next twenty years.

In 1999 a lawsuit was filed challenging the constitutionality of the CTEA. A group of plaintiffs led by Eric Eldred, who republishes public domain literary works on the Web, contends that Congress exceeded its constitutional authority by extending copyright terms, particularly retrospectively. The United States Supreme Court agreed this past spring to hear the case. Oral argument is scheduled for October 9, 2002.

Because of the precedential nature of this case, the NCSU Libraries hosted a talk by Dennis Karjala, professor of law and the Willard Pedrick Distinguished Research Scholar at Arizona State University. Karjala, a copyright expert, spoke to a standing-room-only audience of faculty, staff, librarians, and students on April 12, 2002. His talk, "Is Forever (Minus One Day) a 'Limited Time'? *Eldred v. Ashcroft* and the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act of 1998," proved lively and informative.

Karjala, an opponent of term extension, analyzed the constitutional challenge to the CTEA

and the significance of the Supreme Court's decision in what is arguably the "most important copyright case that has ever come before [the court]." As Karjala noted, the CTEA cannot provide any incentive to create for authors of works already in existence—works whose "limited time" of protection should be the copyright term available at the time the work was made. Therefore, should the Supreme Court invalidate CTEA with respect to its extended protection of existing works, it is unlikely that anyone would push term extension legislation restricted to future works.

For those who could not attend and would like to hear Karjala's presentation, the library videotaped the talk, and the tape may be checked out for individual viewing. Additionally, the Libraries may be offering a public viewing this fall. Please check the Libraries' Scholarly Communication Center Web site at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/scc/> later this fall for specific times and dates and for updates about this important case. ❖



*Focus*, a newsletter published three times a year, seeks to promote the services, activities, needs, and interests of the NCSU Libraries to the university, the Friends of the Library, and beyond.

Editor: Terrell Armistead Crow.

NCSU Libraries Homepage: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>