

Project Data

Project Id: 871

Discipline: Information Technology

Host Country: Ireland

Host Institution: Coastal & Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork,
cmrc.ucc.ie

Contact at Host Institution: Liz O'Dea GIS Specialist, l.odea@ucc.ie

Grant Data

Fiscal Year: 2004

Visit 1 in serial grant of 1 part

From Start Date: (mm/dd/yy) 10/8/2004

To End Date: (mm/dd/yy) 10/23/2004

Actual Number of Program Days: 16

Grantee Data

Dr. Dawn Jeannine Wright

Professor of Geography & Oceanography

E-mail: dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu

Phone: 5417371229

Home Institution: Oregon State University
Corvallis OR

1. Had you had any prior visits to the host country? No

2. Had you been in contact with the host institution before being invited as a Fulbright Senior Specialist? Yes

3. Did the short-term nature of the Senior Specialist Program influence your decision to apply? Yes, definitely

Grant Experience

4. What was the purpose of your grant?

The primary purpose of the grant was to share/exchange expertise and experience with the Coastal & Marine Resources Center (CMRC) at the University College Cork, and the broader marine/coastal geographic information systems (GISs), and seabed mapping communities throughout Ireland. Dr. Wright and the CMRC are both involved in similar projects in these areas, and will benefit greatly from continued opportunities to share their knowledge and experience between different parts of the world.

5. Activities engaged in:

- Present lectures at graduate and undergraduate levels
- Participate in or lead seminars or workshops at overseas academic institutions

- Conduct needs assessments, surveys, institutional or programmatic research
- Take part in specialized academic programs and conferences (GIS Ireland 2004 Plenary address)
- Other (please describe):

Meetings and discussions with students on common research projects and ideas for future research collaboration.

6. Besides your host institution, with what other groups or institutions did you interact?

- Irish Organisation for Geographic Information (IRLOGI, www.irlogi.ie)
- Geological Survey of Ireland (www.gsiseabed.ie)
- Marine Institute of Ireland (www.marine.ie)
- ESRI-Ireland (www.esri-ireland.ie/)
- Department of Geography, University College Cork (www.ucc.ie/ucc/depts/geography)
- Department of Geology, University College Cork (www.ucc.ie/ucc/depts/geology)
- Department of Earth & Ocean Sciences, National University of Ireland-Galway
- National Centre for Geocomputation, National University of Ireland-Maynooth

7. Did the inviting institution provide you with the necessary resources and logistical support that you envisioned? Yes

Comment:

The provisions of the CMRC were absolutely first-rate - everything was planned and executed to perfection.

8. Do you think the host institution's needs were met through this assignment? Yes

Briefly describe:

The host institution expressed a need to benefit from my expertise and experience and I hope that this was accomplished. There was ample opportunity for me to provide consultation for CMRC researchers on their current projects through review and discussion, and to provide some insight on potential future CMRC projects. I was certainly able to learn from them as well, for the benefit of my own projects (e.g., the Oregon Coastal Atlas and seabed mapping in American Samoa).

9. What was your most valuable contribution or accomplishment?

There were many different kinds of presentations that I was asked to give, but I was pleasantly surprised interest generated by the ArcGIS Marine Data Model (MDM), which was initially presented to and intended for a non-CMRC audience at the Marine Institute, but attracted great interest at the CMRC (when presented there almost as an afterthought), and UCC Geography. The MDM is an international effort that is developing a streamlined approach to collecting and handling complex multidimensional marine spatial data, using a "next generation" data structure in GIS.

10. Did you encounter any impediments? No

11. What did you learn through this experience?

Where to begin? Among so many things, I learned about the spatial data infrastructure

that is being built in Ireland, and the many challenges that they face because most of their geospatial data must be sold in commercial-like enterprises (so different from the U.S.). I was introduced to how the academic system works in Ireland (schedules, course loads, curricula, student advising). And so much was learned about Irish culture and history: e.g., the various effects of the “Celtic Tiger” (the Irish economic boom), the continuing importance of the local pub and local music to Irish culture and identity, the physical landscape in the southern half of the country, even a sense of the mythical Irish state of being. And this was just a 2-week visit!

12. Overall, how would you rate your experience as a Fulbright Senior Specialist?

Excellent

13. Would you recommend that other specialists work with this institution?

Yes, definitely

Future Plans

14. Have you made any arrangements to continue collaborating on the assignment you had as a Senior Specialist? Yes

Briefly summarize:

In terms of the lectures and workshops that I delivered during the Fulbright, I have left copies of these with my host institution and have made arrangements with them and other groups visited to continue sharing and exchanging materials, such as course syllabi, laboratory exercises, and published articles and reports.

15. Do you have plans to continue personal or professional contacts made in your host country? Yes

Briefly describe:

The CMRC and I have discussed writing joint proposals to continue our collaboration. In February 2005, we will be submitting a National Science Foundation International Programs grant at the \$60K level to obtain funding for joint workshops to be held in first in Cork, Ireland and then in Corvallis, Oregon so that we may further brainstorm on joint research and doctoral student exchanges that may be funded by larger pots of money. CMRC is investigating the possibility of potential matches from European Science Foundation or other EU sources. Ideas for collaborative research and activities **include:**

- ❖ comparing and contrasting the Oregon Coastal Atlas (OCA) with the Marine Irish Digital Atlas (MIDA) in terms of differences in data access policies in both countries, metadata protocols, how online tools in OCA may be used in an Irish context within MIDA (possible doctoral dissertation project).
- ❖ development of spatial ontologies between OCA and MIDA in the context of the global spatial data infrastructure (GSDI).
- ❖ development of tools for exchanging mutual ontology and thesaurus to help coastal resource managers communicate and share with each other.
- ❖ continued funding and exchange of doctoral students and researchers.

16. Has there been any planning aimed at linking your institution with the host institution? Yes

Briefly describe:

We have briefly discussed the possibility of entering into a memorandum of understanding to support further exchange of researchers and students, and collaborative research between the Oregon Coastal Atlas (www.coastalatlantlas.net) and the Marine Irish Digital Atlas (mida.ucc.ie), as well government initiatives between Oregon/broader U.S. and Ireland.

The Program

17. Do you have any suggestions for improving the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program?

My experience was near perfect. It was far and away the best professional experience that I have ever had. This was because I was linked to such an outstanding host institution. I will look forward to participating again. I guess my only suggestion would be that it would be nice to have some way to submit a large number of photographs, as well as documents, from a visit, if desired. Perhaps a web URL field could be added to this final report form.