



# INSIGHT:

## Work of the Strom Thurmond Institute

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## Coupling Technologies that Inform Decisions

*The Institute is Fashioning an Internet-Delivered Census Map System*

The Strom Thurmond Institute is developing an internet-delivered system called FastMap that will make available detailed maps of Southeastern cities and counties complete with pertinent census data.

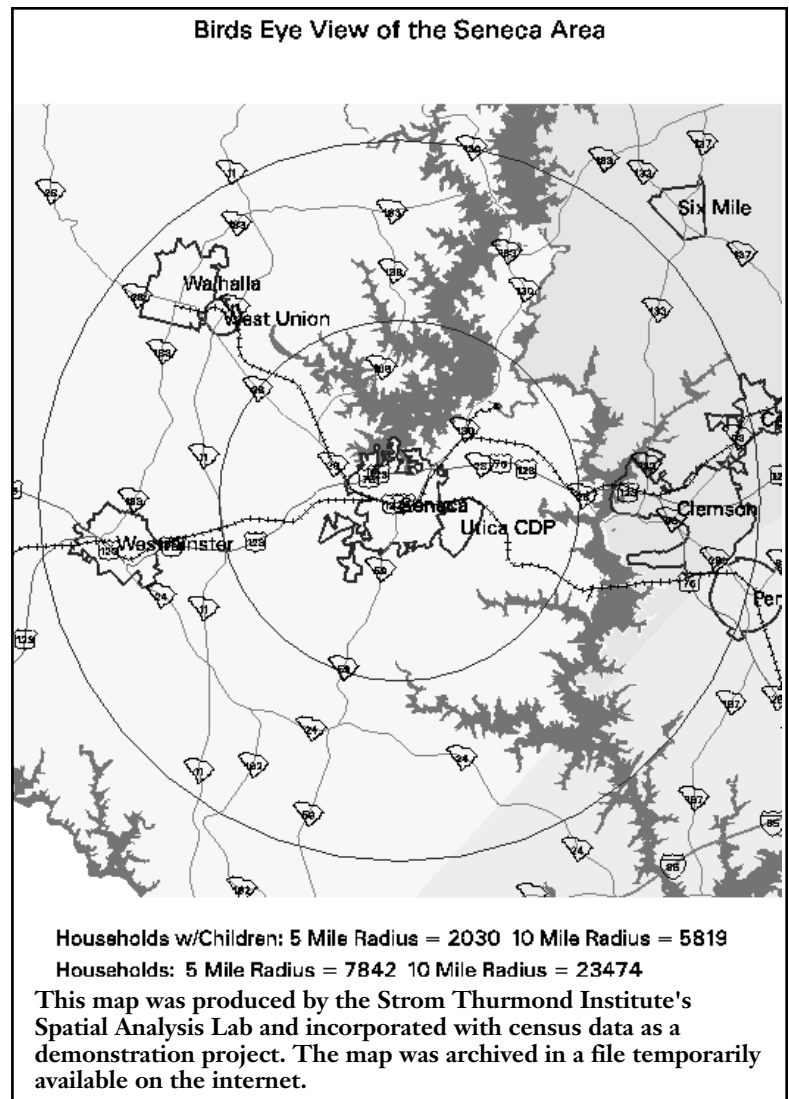
The work in the Institute's Spatial Analysis Lab is in response to needs expressed by local government units. Some in need of the service have Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and some do not, according to STI's Research Coordinator Jeff Allen.

"The first on the list are those smaller counties and cities that definitely could use the information we'll be able to deliver to enhance their economic development efforts and for other uses," Allen said. "They are definitely at a disadvantage when competing against more sophisticated governments with GIS capability.

"Even those organizations with GIS have expressed a strong desire to obtain the kind of service we propose. A friend of mine on the coast is the GIS expert for three counties. He gets frequent requests from counties and municipalities for detailed maps, but he often has to put them aside while he works on requests for maps needed to inform a large industrial prospect about possible sites. That takes precedence, and that is the capability that smaller, less wealthy counties do not enjoy at all.

"When I described the service we propose to him, he was ecstatic. He could see where he could meet the demands of all governmental units quickly because a staff member in support capacity in his office could easily be trained to request and download FastMap products which would meet most of the requests he gets."

The focal points of the developing system are U.S. Census Bureau's Topographically Integrated Reference Files (TIGER), created from maps and data from the U.S. Geological Survey (Allen calls



TIGER "a true break through for geographers"), the on-line database of the U.S. Census Bureau and Netscape, the internet

navigation program used by the Institute.

TIGER offers digital data that represents roads, rivers and streams in the United States. The maps are labeled with indicators of railroads, power lines, census tract boundaries, military installations, prisons, hospitals, religious institutions, airports and cemeteries. Census Bureau data can be tagged to these digital maps.

"TIGER," Allen said, "offers the baseline for areas anywhere in the United States. After you get that information, you add the layers that meet your needs."

Socio-demographic layers are extracted largely from Census Bureau data which includes complete demographic information by census tract. "In combination," Allen said, "these maps provide the information that governmental units need for a wide variety of reasons."

The problem being solved now centers on getting two computer systems on speaking terms. The geographic information is on a UNIX-based system that runs the key program, Arc/Info. Netscape, the delivery mechanism, is on a web server. "We are trying to get the two to communicate with each other," Allen said.

When the first phase of the interconnecting program is built, STI will be able to offer three services. FastMap will be the centerpiece, and there will be a program called QuickMarket which offers cities detailed maps and census data relating to an area of up to 100 miles from the municipality's center. The third service will be an archive containing maps already created and delivered.

An unusual service for an organization titled The Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs? "Not at all," said Dr. Robert Becker, STI director. "Our mission calls on us to conduct applied research and service in public policy areas. Economic development is an extremely important policy area. We service the public sector through our Community and Economic Development and Decisions Technology teams, and if fast access to maps and census data is a need in that area, then we're ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work

on it."

### **'Developing Naturally' Leader Joins Institute**

The Strom Thurmond Institute Fellows have elected Dr. Thomas D. Potts, associate professor of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University, as an Associate of the Institute. He was welcomed recently at a reception at STI.

Dr. Potts has taken a leadership role in Clemson nature-based tourism and low-impact, regional development activities. He recently directed a workshop entitled Developing Naturally for STI and Clemson's Agricultural Extension Service. The event drew more than 70 participants and drew "high praise," according to STI's director, Dr. Robert Becker.

### **Program That Binds Young With the Elderly Spreading**

Three years ago, the Strom Thurmond Institute's Retirement and Intergenerational Studies Team and Clemson University's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department (PRTM) created an intergenerational entrepreneurship model at the John de la Howe School in McCormick, S.C. The project brought in older adult volunteers from the local community and the new Savannah Lakes Village retirement community to work with the disadvantaged students at de la Howe. Together, old and young created products, practiced business and marketing skills, and sold their wares in their own country market at a renovated dairy barn on the school's campus. The model continues to operate and is now funded by the John de la Howe School.

Now the experience gained through that ongoing project is in demand elsewhere. Five South Carolina communities were selected through a competitive process to take part in another intergenerational project called LINC (Linking Intergenerational Networks in Communities). STI staff members and others from Clemson University are in the process of mentoring those communities. PRTM and STI have also been working on a proposal which would gain backing from corporate and private sponsors to

extend the entrepreneurial model into other communities and the public school system.

In addition, STI staffers have met with officials of Mars Hill College who are interested in initiating inter-generational projects that would be based on Appalachian cultural heritage. South Carolina Electric and Gas has discussed with the Institute the possibility of initiating intergenerational projects in the communities it serves.

### **Environmental Program Undergoes Name Change**

Clemson University's Environmental Science Program, located at The Strom Thurmond Institute, has recently changed its name and broadened its focus to the Environmental Science and Policy Program. The program is a university curriculum with a course catalog abbreviation of ENSP.

Graduate and undergraduate courses are being offered under this interdisciplinary program. The policy committee which oversees the program has recently revised the requirements for the undergraduate minor in environmental science.

The office of the program coordinator, Dr. Alan Elzerman, professor of Environmental Systems Engineering, assisted by graduate student Elizabeth Kennedy, is housed on the second floor of The Strom Thurmond Institute. The office is open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Teaching and resource materials are available to faculty and students working in the interdisciplinary areas of environmental science and policy.

### **Regional Development Enters Intense Conflict**

The following quotes from two letters from Florida commercial fishermen summarize the treacherous currents into which The Strom Thurmond Institute's Regional Development Team is stepping:

"As a fisherman for many years, I have watched the marine fisheries try to solve the problem of the shortage of fish . . . They are constantly trying to blame commercial fisherman . . . There has to be a better way . . . The sport

fishermen and commercial fishermen have to work together before any of these problems can be corrected, but each one seems to be headed in a different direction. . . .”

“Never in all of my life have I held so much hate for a group of people as I do for the recreational fishing industry . . . .”

Commercial fishermen lost a big battle when a Florida referendum banned fishing with nets off the coast, and the reverberations are resounding in Georgia and the Carolinas.

The Regional Development Team entered the conflict under a grant from the Marine Fisheries Incentive Program (MARFIN). The study focused on a socio-demographic assessment of commercial fishing in the South Atlantic in an effort to determine the social and occupational climate of commercial fishing, past, present and future. The project is in the final stages of data analysis and report writing.

Meanwhile, the team has submitted an application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for a grant that would assess conflict between commercial and recreational fishermen and fisheries managers to develop a co-management model. The project would bring together representatives from the embattled groups in workshops which will utilize the negotiation techniques of facilitation and mediation. The objective: Create an atmosphere of shared problem-solving to bring peace to the coastal regions.

### **‘State of Cities 1996’ Completed by Institute**

The Community and Economic Development Team has completed its second annual report on municipal finances for the Municipal Association of South Carolina. The report, “State of the Cities 1996,” provides elected officials and city staffs with information on trends and conditions in municipal finance helpful in budget planning and evaluating city performance.

The report focuses on revenues, expenditures, and employment in fiscal year 1993-94, but also considers comparative data from earlier years. For comparative purposes, the report also contains averaged financial data on cities in six population categories: Tinytown

(1,000 or less), Smallville (1,001 to 5,000), Middletown (5,001 to 10,000), Grandville (10,001 to 20,000), Central City (20,001 to 40,000) and Metropolis (over 40,000). By using these six financial profiles, officials around the state can compare their city’s 1993-94 revenue, spending, and employment profiles to those of the average city in their size class.

For example, officials in the town of Abbeville can use these profiles to see that their per capita property taxes are lower than the Middletown average, partly because they have a local option sales tax. Abbeville devoted a larger share of expenditures to transportation and recreation and culture in 1993-94 than the average city in their size class, and a slightly smaller share to public safety and environment and housing. Abbeville also gets slightly more per capita in state grants but less in federal grants than other cities of similar size.

The Municipal Association has distributed the report to all 270 South Carolina cities. For a copy of the report, please contact: Ms. Mary M. Brantner, Communications Manager, Municipal Association of South Carolina, 803/799-9574, ext. 1206.

### **Scholarly Publications Going on Home Page**

The Strom Thurmond Institute is starting a new category on its internet home page ([HTTP://www.strom.clemson.edu](http://www.strom.clemson.edu)) for papers written by fellows and staff members.

The first papers were authored by Dr. Clinton H. Whitehurst, Jr., retired Clemson University professor of management and economics and a Senior Fellow at the Institute, and Dr. Bruce Ransom, associate professor of political science at Clemson and an Institute Associate.

Dr. Whitehurst’s paper is entitled, “Alliances, the Balance of Power, and American National Interests.” The first paragraph:

“It has been a good and successful partnership—but it’s now time for the United States to leave NATO. The Cold War is over. There is now only one military and economic superpower—the United States, a nation with global interests. The security and economic vi-

ability of Western Europe is one of those interests—but only one.”

Professor Whitehurst is an adjunct scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

Dr. Ransom’s paper is entitled, “Planning for Development in Rural Areas: An Assessment of the Strategic Plans for South Carolina’s Enterprise and Champion Communities.” It was presented at the Heartland Center for Leadership Development’s conference on Cultivating Community Success, which was held in June in Lincoln, Nebraska.

His paper analyzes the strategic plans of nine of South Carolina’s impoverished rural communities seeking designation by the federal Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Programs as rural Enterprise Communities.

### **Water Research Group and Institute Join Forces**

The South Carolina Water Resources Research Institute has merged with The Strom Thurmond Institute to form a stronger statewide program. The WRRI will become the SC Water Resources Center within STI and will focus its expertise in reservoir studies and upper watershed management.

“The wealth of reservoirs in the region give us the potential of developing a center of quality focus on reservoir management, water allocation and water quality issues,” said Dr. Robert H. Becker, STI director. “The merger also allows us to bring a critical mass of expertise and experience to issues associated with water resources research. Our GIS facility is an asset that should aid in attracting more resources and partners to the Water Resources Center team.

“Over the Summer we will be forming a program advisory panel made up of state and federal agencies, public utilities and local interest groups to begin establishing priorities for future Water Resources Center initiatives. We believe a tightly focused program will attract the partnerships needed for a long-term research and service initiative.”

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\*Original group of collaborating faculty at the Institute.

