

UF Geomatics @ Fort Lauderdale Newsletter

December 2020

Program News

2020 has certainly been a year like no other. We hope this newsletter finds you in good health. While the [Covid-19 pandemic has modified our operations](#), we are fortunate to report that 2020 was another productive year for the [University of Florida Geomatics Program @ Fort Lauderdale REC!](#) We are grateful for the continued support of our program stakeholders for their involvement in ensuring UF Geomatics students have a first-class educational experience.

Like many others, we transitioned from being active in local in-person events (e.g., [presenting at UAS Symposia](#), [hosting professional society meetings](#)) at the beginning of the year to abruptly [converting participation to remote methods](#). Furthermore, we were able to successfully convert some of our traditional face to face classes (e.g., [UAS Practicum](#), [Marine Geomatics](#)) to fully online as we adapted to university and CDC guidelines during the pandemic. We are looking forward to reconvening face to face in 2021!

Angela Schirck-Matthews, a FLREC Geomatics PhD candidate, was the [recipient of a 2020 Marshall Plan Foundation scholarship](#). This funding provided her with the opportunity for a three-month research exchange visit in spring 2020 at the [Carinthia University of Applied Sciences](#) (CUAS) in Austria to advance her dissertation research in an international research environment. The Geomatics program at FLREC, in turn, [hosted CUAS M.S. student and 2020 Marshall Plan Foundation scholarship recipient Mahmoud Abusalim](#) to conduct research for his MS thesis project. Congratulations to [both recipients!](#)



Henry Hochmair and Adam Benjamin shown with our new hybrid VTOL UAS and multispectral Altum sensor acquired with funding from a 2020 UF/IFAS Equipment & Infrastructure Award

For 2021, we are excited about continuing to grow our UAS mapping program through integration of our [new UAS equipment](#) in projects with our expanding team of internal and external collaborators. As a program within the UF/IFAS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, we welcome opportunities to partner on interdisciplinary research.

Lastly, congratulations to our newest graduates: Mariano Mijares (BS), Javier Sahagun (BS), [Heidi Keller](#) (MS), and [Adam Benjamin](#) (PhD)!

We look forward to connecting with you again in 2021! Happy Holidays!

Registration for [Spring 2021 courses](#) is now available.
[Contact us today](#) for an advising appointment!

Important 2021 Dates

- Jan. 11: Spring classes begin
- Feb. 1: Undergrad. admission app. [deadline \(Sum. C\)](#)
- Apr. 15: Undergrad. admission app. [deadline \(Fall\)](#)
- May 1-2: Spring commencement
- May 10: Sum. A/C classes begin
- Aug 23: Fall classes begin

Selected Geomatics Publications

- Benjamin et al.: [Improving Data Acquisition Efficiency: Systematic Accuracy Evaluation of GNSS-Assisted Aerial Triangulation in UAS Operations](#)
- Hochmair et al.: [Evaluating the data quality of iNaturalist termite records](#)
- Juhász, Hochmair et al.: [Cartographic Vandalism in the Era of Location-Based Games – The Case of OpenStreetMap and Pokémon GO](#)

New Geomatics Projects

- Mapping Miami-Dade Urban Tree Canopy funded by American Forests
- Transportation Outreach Planner (with Florida International University), funded by Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization

Recent Accomplishments

- [UF/IFAS Equipment & Infrastructure Award](#) recipients for purchase of new UAS equipment & sensors
- [UF/IFAS Distance Education Minigrant](#) recipients for enhancing the GIS4121/6116 GIS Analysis course to earn compliance with UF + QM Standards for Teaching in Online and Blended courses

This newsletter couldn't possibly cover it all, so we encourage everyone to visit:

<https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/geomatics/>

A Message to Prospective Undergrad Students

The University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale Research & Education Center (FLREC) offers a 4-year, ABET accredited degree, the [Bachelor of Science in Geomatics](#), which fully prepares graduates for professional licensure in the state of Florida and beyond. We are located 1 mile off Interstate 595 in the NW corner of the South Florida Education Center ([Directions](#)).

Our program is designed for both full-time and working students. Students registered at our campus can participate in live lectures either on site or from the home/office via video conferencing technology. Further, lectures are recorded so students can watch them from any personal computer with basic broadband internet service. Our lab courses, which typically occur in the evenings or on Saturdays, have been adjusted to be flexible with student work schedules.

We recommend that students:

1. Obtain an Associate of Arts degree (AA) from a Florida college to complete all UF general education requirements
2. Satisfy their AA with the prerequisite courses required for admission to the Geomatics Program (listed on the right.) By taking these courses while earning their AA, students can be admitted faster into the Geomatics Program.

Geomatics courses can be taken in non-degree seeking status prior to admittance but some limitations apply. Please contact us to find out if the non-degree seeking status will work for you.

Each semester students have the opportunity to apply for various college scholarships and internships. We encourage all students to apply for our local scholarships as well as those at the regional and national levels (e.g. FSMS, ASPRS, & NSPS scholarships). So, what are you waiting for? Contact us today to see how we can change your future!



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UF GEM @ FLREC Benefits

- UF degree (BS, MS, PhD) without going to Gainesville
- Numerous scholarships & internships
- Modern equipment & software
- Flexible scheduling
- Reduced fees
- Ability to take distance education courses from the comfort of home
- Well connected to local industry

Undergrad Geomatics Admission Prerequisites

1. SPC2608 – Public Speaking
2. PHY2053/PHY2053L – Gen. Physics 1 + Lab (or PHY2048/PHY2048L)
3. PHY2054/PHY2054L – Gen. Physics 2 + Lab (or PHY2049/PHY2049L)
4. STA2023 – Statistics
5. MAC 2311 – Calculus I (or MAC1114 + MAC2233 – Trigonometry + Business Calculus)
6. ECO2013 – Macroeconomics (or ECO2023 – Microeconomics)
7. COP#### – Advisor Approved Programming Course (Python, C++, Visual Basic, Java, etc.)

Areas of Study

- Professional Surveying
- Geospatial Analysis
- Photogrammetry & LIDAR
- Unmanned Aerial Systems
- GIS & Remote Sensing
- Cartography
- Cadastral Science
- Spatial Analysis
- Land Development
- Geospatial Intelligence

