



The Information Science & Technology Center

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Colorado State University's  
Information Science and Technology Center (ISTeC)  
*presents two lectures by*



**Dr. Dawn Wright**  
Chief Scientist of the Environmental  
Systems Research Institute (Esri),  
Professor of Geography and Oceanography,  
Oregon State University

**ISTeC Distinguished Lecture  
in conjunction with the  
Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and  
Computer Science Department Seminar Series**

**"The Age of Science and 'Big Data'"**

Monday, September 24, 2012  
Reception: 10:30 a.m.  
Lecture: 11:00 – 12:00 noon  
Location: Lory Student Center room 228



**Geospatial Centroid Brown Bag Lunch**  
*Sponsored by ISTeC and the Geospatial Centroid at CSU*

**"A New Science Agenda at Esri"**

Tuesday, September 25, 2012  
Lecture: 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Forestry Building room 127

# ABSTRACTS

## “The Age of Science and ‘Big Data’”

There are a host of longstanding societal challenges (such as disaster response, adaptation and resilience to climate change, urban, rural, and ocean planning) that increasingly revolve around science and scientific data and in turn will drive scientific research for the next two decades. We are also in an era of regional- to global-scale observation and simulation of the Earth, the programs for which produce data that are too big, move too fast, and do not fit the structures and processing capacity of conventional database systems. The talk will discuss a geographic information science approach to gaining value from these data; hence a focus on integrative and innovative approaches to analyzing, modeling, and developing extensive spatial data from selected places on land and at sea.

## “A New Science Agenda at Esri”

An informal question/answer and discussion period will be held to learn about the latest activities at the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri), questions about the Esri site license, internships for students and careers at Esri.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

**Dawn Wright** (<http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/bio.txt>) was appointed Chief Scientist of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) in October 2011. She maintains her appointment as Professor of Geography and Oceanography in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University, as well as Director of the Davey Jones Locker Marine GIS/Seafloor Mapping Laboratory. Her current research interests include data modeling, benthic terrain and habitat characterization, and coastal/ocean informatics and cyber infrastructure. She serves on the US National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board, the NOAA Science Advisory Board, the Science Advisory Council of Conservation International, and many journal editorial boards. She is an AAAS Fellow, as well as a fellow of Stanford's Aldo Leopold Leadership Program. Dawn holds an Individual Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Physical Geography and Marine Geology from UCSB, an M.S. in Oceanography from Texas A&M, and a B.S. in Geology from Wheaton College (Illinois).

To arrange a meeting with the speaker, please contact Prof Melinda Laituri at [Melinda.Laituri@ColoState.EDU](mailto:Melinda.Laituri@ColoState.EDU) or (970)491-0292.

**ISTeC (Information Science and Technology Center)** is a university-wide organization for promoting, facilitating, and enhancing CSU's research, education, and outreach activities pertaining to the design and innovative application of computer, communication, and information systems. For more information please see [ISTeC.ColoState.edu](http://ISTeC.ColoState.edu).