

We have a new look!

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Same great content, brand new look! One year after our first issue in June 2015, our GeoMentors newsletter is taking on a new look as we transition to a new platform to make sure our information reaches your inbox! If you missed any of our previous issues, check them out in our [online archive](#). If you have any resources or GeoMentor stories you'd like to share or suggest for future newsletters, email us at geomentors@aag.org.

Current GeoMentor Count: 1,124



Current School Count: 3,270



Monthly Mentor Challenge

As a GeoMentor, you may get asked first thing, why is GIS important in K-12 education? The question can be paralyzing, not because there isn't an answer, but because there are so many possible answers! This month, as a means of being prepared for GeoMentoring, we challenge each of you to:

Think how you would answer the question of "Why should we teach kids GIS?"

Don't try to find THE right answer, find the right answer for YOU. Why do you feel strongly about the importance of teaching youth about geospatial technology?

Tweet your answer to this month's challenge to @AAGGeoMentors and use #GeoMentorChallenge.

GeoMentor Spotlight

Nazgol Bagheri

Each month we feature a GeoMentor volunteer to showcase the wonderful talent available in our community to assist K-12 schools.

Name: Nazgol Bagheri

Position and Affiliation: I am an assistant professor of geography at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

What was your favorite class in K-12? Physics. I always saw myself as a nuclear physics scientist; but ended up in architecture and urban planning and finally founded peace in geography, the art and science of understanding spatial phenomena and their relations.



How did you first learn about and/or use GIS? My background is architecture and urban planning in which working with AutoCAD and GIS is a must. During the summer of 2004, I took a GIS workshop at the National University of Iran, Tehran. Since then, I have moved several times across the geographical boundaries so does my love to learn more about the GIS.

Why did you want to volunteer as a GeoMentor? I have been an active member of the Texas GIS Forum and the University of Texas GIS learning group. I have organized several GIS related events on and off campus in order to connect the academic dimensions of GIS to the professional ones. I have introduced GIS and the ESRI online resources to a diverse group of potential users such as middle school kids as well as neighborhood residents in San Antonio. A decade of teaching and practicing GIS has taught me that we learn the most by applying GIS concepts and tools to everyday life experiences. As a GeoMentor volunteer, I will continue promoting GIS usage to the public and non-specialists who can learn from and enjoy exploring the spatiality of our everyday life.

What kind of GeoMentor volunteer opportunity and experience are you looking for? I am very much interested in training non-geographer colleagues at UTSA and Texan teachers to take advantage of the ArcGIS resources online. Since there are few female GIS experts/professors, I also see myself as a role model to my students. In short, I see myself as an active GeoMentor promoting GIS and ESRI online resources to minorities and community activists who benefit from this powerful tool.

If someone asked you why they should learn about GIS and/or geography, how would you respond in one sentence? We live in a global world that geography matters more than any other time in history. The more mobile things are, the more important their locations become.

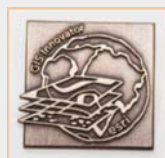
Email address: Nazgol.Bagheri@utsa.edu

Website(s): [UTSA Faculty Profile](#)

Read Nazgol's full spotlight and previous spotlights [here](#). Want to be featured? Information is available [online](#).

Earn a Free Pin

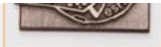
Share your GeoMentor experience as a [case study](#) and receive the Esri GIS Innovator pin!



Get Your Certificate

[Tell us](#) about your activities and receive an official [certificate of participation!](#)





Upcoming Events

Esri Conferences in San Diego

The [Esri Education GIS Conference](#) (June 25th – 28th) and [Esri User Conference](#) (June 27th – July 1st) are just around the corner! If you're heading to San Diego for either event, look for the AAG booth at both conferences.



Stop by to talk to the GeoMentors Program Coordinator and get your nifty GeoMentors ribbon! If you have friends attending who might be interested in being a GeoMentor, tell them to stop by!

The AAG and GeoMentors space can be found in booth E206 at the Education GIS Conference and booth #2427 at the User Conference.

Featured Resources

Geocaching

Summer is a great time to get outside to learn about geography and geospatial technology. A great way to do that is through geocaching! Tinia, one of our GeoMentors in Maine, has applied for and received a grant from the Maine GIS User Group to start a Geocaching club for students at her local elementary school! In honor of Tinia's exciting initiative, here are a few resources for geocaching activities with students:

- [It's About Time: STEM Education Blog](#)
- [The Science Spot](#)
- [Esri GIS Education Community Blog](#)



GeoMentors Flyer

Share this [flyer](#) with your geo-friends and colleagues to help grow our GeoMentors community!



Newsletter Archive

Check out previous issues in our [archive](#).

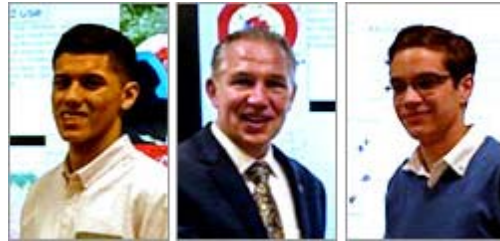


GeoMentor Reports from the Field

Arlington, Virginia

William (pictured middle), a GeoMentor in Virginia, partnered with two students to assist them with their projects for Ryan Miller's Geospatial Tools and Techniques in GIS high school class in Arlington, Virginia.

Elber (pictured left) studied land use around LAX; Nicholas (right) studied the relationship of airport traffic to local population density.



Questions? Contact program staff at geomentors@aag.org.

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