

GIS in a Liberal Arts Institution: Not Just for Geography

Andrew Pericak

GIS Technician

Department of Geography and the Environment

University of Richmond



Background about GIS at
University of Richmond

Small school,
yet big GIS

Closing the gaps



Small ...

- Small college
- Small geography department
- ~12 geography majors per class
- ~10 environmental studies majors per class
- Only 2 GIS classes
- Only 2 staff persons hired for GIS

... Large

- 25 - 40 GIS students per semester
- >26 academic and administrative departments
- Enterprise GIS, database server, web server, AGOL
- Spatial Analysis Lab



Academic Departments

More student experience with GIS,
even if not Geography majors



Work at the ground-level via the
students



Administrative Departments

Allow the University to make the best use of its GIS investment



Listen to and expand their needs to help make GIS less scary



Everybody Else

Create such a big GIS that new people
seek us out for assistance



Openly display enthusiasm and
focus on publicity



Grassroots
engage

Small school,
yet big GIS

For



Too much of a good thing?

Scale gradually

Big GIS = moving target

Slowly raise the bar

GIS changes quickly

Be receptive to new trends





Andrew Pericak '13

GIS Technician

Department of Geography and the Environment

andrew.pericak@richmond.edu

(804) 484-1545

Spatial Analysis Lab blog: <http://blog.richmond.edu/SAL>

Spatial Analysis Lab on Twitter @UR_SAL