GeorgiaView’s activities are highlighted by two geospatial projects. The first project is the publication of Georgia Landcover Image Atlas (Volume III: Forest Change) to outreach regional offices with the atlas. It focuses on the change of forest lands over the last 20 years. A total of 191 maps were designed using the boundaries of 159 counties, 14 U.S. congressional districts, and 12 regional commissions. The atlas used Landsat imagery from the U.S. Geological Survey, air photos, the Cropland Data Layer (CDL) dataset from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the University of Maryland GLAD Lab Global Forest Change Data. The atlas was delivered to 83 local and regional offices in Georgia including the Georgia governor’s office, U.S. congressional offices, regional commissions, Georgia forest commission, counties, and county chief rangers. The atlas is freely available in the PDF eBook format at the GeorgiaView website, https://gaview.org.

The second project is the high-resolution orthophoto mapping of the University of West Georgia (UWG) campus using drone imaging. Dr. Seong and four undergraduate students took 3125 photos from seven drone flights in the spring of 2021 and then created a one-inch resolution orthophoto map. Students surveyed ground control points for a high accuracy rectification, and the final map product was delivered to the UWG Planning and Construction Department.
GeorgiaView has brought broad impacts to the State of Georgia by promoting geospatial technologies, educating science, and helping decision making about natural resources. The following are testimonials about the Georgia image atlas and student training.

“I want to reach out to say thank you for the Atlas you provided. It is very informative, and we will utilize the imaginary and information to help educate our communities of the impact that urbanization and farming has had to our forest lands. Hopefully our relationship can grow more, we would appreciate any new publications you have in the future. One of the main reasons I chose the profession that I am currently in, was to protect and conserve our woodlands as much as possible.” Rick Lane, Chief Ranger, Jenkins/Screven Unit.

“I would like to thank you for the copy of the atlas you sent to our office. Hurricane Michael in 2018 caused us a significant loss in both Decatur and Seminole Counties. I have often looked through google map images to see before and after photos. Many forest acres were being converted to agriculture prior to the hurricane. Since the hurricane many more have been converted to ag fields or orchards. This atlas is a great tool to see how much forest land has changed in the last few years.” Bryan Cottles, Chief Ranger, Decatur/Seminole Unit.

“As a new student to the project and field, this is one of my first projects working with the implementation of data using tools such as ArcMap. This project serves as a steppingstone into larger, more substantial careers of the cartographic sphere in which maps continue to serve the significant role as the main tool in geography.” Benjamin Shirley, UWG Undergraduate Student.

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