

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**FACULTY PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**  
**“THE GEOTREE CENTER – GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**  
**TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES”**

**Action Requested:** Receive the presentation.

**Executive Summary:** UNI’s GeoTREE Center (GeoInformatics Training, Research, Education, and Extension Center) is an outreach arm of the Department of Geography. GeoInformatics or geospatial technology is the third fastest growing job area in the United States and there is high demand for preparation of individuals in geoinformatics. GeoTREE was designed to provide assistance to government agencies in the use and applications of geospatial tools and techniques. GeoTREE has been funded by federal appropriations through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Individuals are taught how to use NASA supported satellite data and images to solve problems and conduct research. Examples of project applications include analysis of West Nile Virus habits, heat loss detection, agrobioterrorism, and water quality monitoring. The use of these tools has also been integrated with UNI’s undergraduate and graduate academic programs.

Dr. Ramanathan Sugumaran is an associate professor of Geography and director of the GeoTREE Center at the University of Northern Iowa. He has been actively involved in the applications of geospatial technologies for natural resources, environmental planning, and public health areas for more than 15 years. Professor Sugumaran has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than \$5 million of research grants funded by federal, state, and private agencies, including NASA, Raytheon, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Department of Transportation, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. He is currently writing a book on “Spatial Decision Support Systems.”