Geographers have long recognized the fundamental distinction between space and place, but GIS has remained firmly grounded in space and its scientific approach to representation of the geographic world. Recently the ground has shifted, however, as GIS has become more human-centered in what is sometimes termed neogeography. After pointing out that no technology can encompass all aspects of place, I sketch the potential for a platial approach and identify the research questions that it would pose.

Faculty / Student News

Patrick Bitterman is a member of a research team recently awarded a grant from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) at the University of Maryland under the theme Cities in Sustainable Resource Management. The team, comprised of graduate students from six institutions, will travel to Annapolis, MD to collaborate on their research project “Fire on the Fringe.” The project will model human-fire dynamics in the San Diego-Cleveland National Forest wildland-urban interface (WUI) to explore the potential effects of urban fringe development on vegetation and fire patterns. Congratulations, Patrick!! ☺

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Cristina Muñoz has been awarded the Obermann Graduate Fellowship and will be participating in the 2015 Obermann Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy. Muñoz will participate in the Institute for a week during mid-January where she will be trained and take part in discussions on issues and opportunities of academic scholarship and community engagement. The Institute also provides a small grant and guidance for Muñoz to start her own academic/engagement effort which she will lead this summer in Los Angeles, California. Congratulations, Cristina!! ☺
Reminder: Please email any recently received awards, notable presentations or exciting news to angela-bellew@uiowa.edu by Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. to be included in the weekly newsletter.