

## **Marshal Plan Fellowship Field Report**

By

**Garland McNew**

It was a great privilege to have been awarded and participate in the Marshal Plan Fellowship in collaboration with Carinthia University of Applied Science, Villach. My experience abroad has significantly expanded and enriched my perspective on geospatial related research that is being conducted throughout Austria and many other regions in Europe. Additionally, this experience has opened many doors I would not have anticipated. Through the relationships I built during my stay, I've had the opportunity to learn and engage with many different related fields in both academia and private industry. Due to the overwhelmingly positive experience I had during my time in Austria and collaboration with CUAS, I will be seriously considering the possibility of entering a PhD program at the University of Salzburg in the near future.

As for my specific research and interaction with CUAS I have nothing but the highest praise and regard for the University and those I had the pleasure to meet and work with. CUAS offers a progressive, collaborative, forward thinking research and teaching environment. Since the research completed for the Marshall Plan Fellowship at CUAS is an instrumental section of my master thesis, I am extremely grateful for the exchange of thoughts and ideas from varying perspectives and experiences at CUAS which will shape the final work. Throughout the entirety of my stay I felt respected, welcome and involved in the university. Dr. Gernot Paulus provided excellent guidance, support and feedback throughout the project. Christoph Erlacher was also incredibly helpful and knowledgeable in providing critical assistance with data translation and access. Additionally, Verena Kaipel and Aleksandra Jama in the international relations office

were instrumental in providing assistance and a host of resources which allowed for a very smooth and trouble-free stay for my family all the way from arrival to departure. Having spoken to multiple previous recipients of the fellowship who have conducted research at CUAS, experience comes as little surprise. CUAS has a well-deserved reputation for high quality research and education.

Regarding recommendations for future fellows; Timothy Schempp is a current Geographic Information Sciences master's student at San Diego State University. He has been my student in previous classes and exhibits a high degree of integrity and innovation in his work. I believe Timothy would be an excellent candidate for consideration.

On a more personal level, the time abroad has left my entire family with a great love of Austria and the people we have been privileged to meet during our visit. Although it was a short stay, we have left with life-long friendships and experiences that will shape our family for many years to come.

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