Summary of May & June 2008 Key Activities

During May and June 2008, RENCI@NCSU produced new web based visualization work for the Textiles Connect project in the NCSU College of Textiles and developed a new visualization for Dr. Gary Lackmann, Associate Professor in NCSU’s Department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, (College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences) and his team of a squall storm over the Midwestern part of the United States. Siddarth Thakur joined the RENCI@NCSU team as a Senior Research Visualization Software Developer on May 1st, 2008 and Chris Williams joined as the RENCI@NCSU student intern on June 1, 2008. High profile outreach sessions were held at the Partners 1 Suite 1500 and Engineering Building II Room 1235 facilities.

Web-based Visualization Work for Textiles Connect

As part of his first visualization project, Siddharth Thakur produced the visualization shown below for the Textiles Connect research activity lead by Dr. Nancy Cassill, Professor and Acting Dept. Head in the Department of Textile & Apparel Technology & Management and her Ph.D. student, Stacey Frederick in NCSU College of Textiles. Additional visualization work is also underway by RENCI@NCSU student intern, Chris Williams.
Visualization of a Squall for the Department of Marine, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences:

Working with Dr. Gary Lackman, Associate Professor in the NCSU Department of Marine, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, and Kelly Mahoney of his research team, Steve Chall developed the visualization and time series animation of a squall depicted below. Work is underway on a more polished video production of the time sequence.

RENCI@NCSU Outreach Activities: Supporting NCSU & RENCI Activities

The RENCI@NCSU Partners I Suite 1500 facility hosted several high profile outreach activities in May and June 2008. These include:

(1) May 9, 2008 visit by Dr. Patricia Sobero, Associate Vice Chancellor for NCSU Extension, Engagement & Economic Development who toured RENCI@NCSU and discussed potential collaborations.

(2) May 15, 2008 visit by Joyce Rudinsky (Associate Professor of Media Production in the UNC Chapel Hill Department of Communication Studies and RENCI Chief Domain Scientist for Arts and Humanities) and Pat Fitzgerald (Associate Professor of Art and Design in the NCSU College of Design) to discuss potential collaborations.

(3) May 30, 2008 meeting with Carolyn Argentati, Associate Vice Provost & Deputy Director of NCSU Libraries, and Roland Stephen, Assistant Director for Research and Policy of the NCSU Institute for Emerging Issues, to discuss concepts for a interactive data visualization resource in the proposed James B. Hunt Jr. Library and Leadership Center on NCSU Centennial Campus.

(4) June 11, 2008 meeting and access grid session, hosted by Ken Galluppi (Manager of RENCI Emergency Management projects), with RENCI@UNC Asheville and RENCI@UNC Charlotte to discuss new RENCI Emergency Management work underway on Risk Assessment. Faculty for the NCSU Department of Civil Engineering contributed to this session, at the Partners I Suite 1500 site, as did faculty from UNC Chapel Hill and Sarat Kocherlakota of the RENCI Collaborative Environments Group.

(5) June 26, 2008 Polycom based videoconference participation by Dr. Nancy Cassill, Professor and Acting Dept. Head in the Department of Textile & Apparel Technology & Management and her colleagues in the
NCSU College of Textiles to a session on “Market Opportunities in Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica)” hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s U.S. Export Assistance Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Jim Mahaney of the RENCI anchor site provided videoconference technical support for this activity.

On June 4, 2008, the RENCI@NCSU Engineering Building II Room 1235 facility hosted a demonstration to 30 international visitors from the University of Rostock and the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in Germany. This demonstration was conducted at the request of Dr. Robert St. Amant, Associate Professor in the NCSU Department of Computer Science and a host for the international visitors.

ACM SIGGRAPH 2008 Acceptance:

On May 1, 2008, Theresa-Marie received notification that her class proposal on Transportation Visualization was accepted for presentation at ACM SIGGRAPH 2008 on Friday, August 15, 2008. This proposal was submitted with Dr. Ron Hughes of the NCSU Institute for Transportation Research and Education and Michael Manore, Chair of the Transportation Research Board’s Committee on Visualization in Transportation. The team prepared class notes in May and June 2008.

On May 5, 2008, Theresa-Marie received notification that her panel proposal on “As the World Turns: Debating & Examining Online Digital Earth Technologies” was accepted for presentation at ACM SIGGRAPH 2008 on Tuesday, August 12, 2008. The panel was submitted with Dean Johnson of Western Michigan University and includes Michael Jones of Google Earth, Franz Leberl of Microsoft Virtual Earth, Patrick Hogan of NASA’s WorldWind Program, and Don Brutzman of Naval Postgraduate Scholl and the X3D Earth Working Group.

The RENCI@NCSU Team:

The RENCI@NCSU team is currently composed of Steve Chall, Senior Research Visualization Software Developer, Sidharth Thakur, Senior Visualization Software Developer, Chris Williams, RENCI@NCSU Student Intern and Theresa-Marie Rhyne, Director.