

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release:

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**TOWSON UNIVERSITY TO DEDICATE 2006 GIS CONFERENCE AND SCHOLARSHIP
IN HONOR OF FORMER PARK AND PLANNING EMPLOYEE**

TOWSON AND SILVER SPRING, MD – Towson University Department of Geography and Environmental Planning's Dr. Jay Morgan and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Chairman Derick P. Berlage announced today that the University's 2006 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference will be dedicated to Andrew "Drew" Dedrick, the late Chief of M-NCPPC's Research and Technology Center for Montgomery County. In addition, an annual \$100 TUGIS Conference scholarship for a deserving student or students will be named in honor of Drew Dedrick.

Throughout his lengthy illness and even after an early retirement, Dedrick remained an avid supporter and promoter of advanced technology, particularly in geographic information systems mapping, as an indispensable tool for sound, knowledge-based decision making by elected officials, government staffs and business leaders. His numerous accomplishments included the first digital, highly accurate and detailed GIS maps of Montgomery County displaying property boundaries, building outlines, parks, lakes, rivers, zoning, transportation networks and other infrastructure, and much more.

"We are pleased and humbled that Towson is honoring Drew Dedrick," said M-NCPPC's Berlage. "It's a fitting legacy for a man of vision and determination."

According to Dr. Morgan, "We are recognizing Drew because he played an important role in supporting and promoting our annual GIS conference. Drew was also a member of our conference advisory committee, a recipient of the Award for Contribution to GIS in Maryland and recipient of the first Lifetime GIS Achievement Award."

The 2006 GIS Conference will be held at Towson University, March 20-21, 2006. More information on the conference is available at <http://cgis.towson.edu/tugis2006>.

To fund additional conference scholarships for deserving students, tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Drew Dedrick TUGIS Conference scholarship fund, by forwarding a check in any amount to Towson University Foundation, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252-0001. Donors can make the check payable to the Towson University Foundation and on the memo line, indicate Drew Dedrick GIS scholarship fund (#35741).

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