

**GIS STUDENT EMILY WHITEHEAD,
CLASS OF 2003
REFLECTS ON HER YEAR AT THE VOINOVICH SCHOOL**

Emily Whitehead spent the majority of her time as an undergraduate in the Geography program working for the Voinovich School on a parcel mapping project for Athens County. Prior to the GIS project, Athens County had paper versions of property line maps, so any time someone bought or sold a portion of their land, the county had to redraw property lines by hand. Emily's project made it easier for the county to access and change the maps.

Whitehead currently works for a consulting company in Cincinnati, Ohio called Stantec. She recently led a project where parcels in 18 counties in Ohio were mapped in the same method the Athens County project used a number of years earlier.

She said many of the skills she learned at the Voinovich School were helpful when she entered the job market. "In school we were doing more analysis in the GIS software, whereas work was more real-world," Whitehead said. "Working at the Voinovich School prepared me more for a real job more than textbooks did.

"We were also learning a different part of the software suite at Voinovich School than in my classes. I would have never gotten exposure to it if not for my work at the Voinovich School. That was definitely a huge resume builder."

Whitehead also said that the leadership experience she got to have working on GIS projects with the Voinovich School was definitely an important learning experience that helped her get her current job.

"When I was hired here they basically told me that the reason I got the job is because of the work I did at the Voinovich School and because I got such a glowing recommendation," she said.