

**GIS STUDENT SCOTT SNIDER,
CLASS OF 2004
REFLECTS ON HIS YEAR AT THE VOINOVICH SCHOOL**

Scott Snider began as a Graduate Assistant (GA) in the GIS program through The Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development, or ILGARD, which was one of the precursors to what the Voinovich School is today, during the second quarter of his first year in Ohio University's Geography Master's program. He had taken a course in GIS as an undergraduate and knew it was something he wanted to pursue further.

"I wanted to pursue opportunities to further my understanding and abilities of GIS and ILGARD was a good fit for me to do so," Snider said.

During his time as a GA, Snider worked on developing the Athens County GIS, which entailed entering three years' worth of parcel splits into the system, as well as attending monthly meetings with GIS users throughout the county to coordinate GIS efforts.

Snider is now the GIS Supervisor for Knox County, Ohio, and is responsible for all of the GIS data in the county. As an example of the type of work he does there, Snider explained that they just finished up a Location Based Response System, which maps GPS data of every road in the county.

"This is an initiative from the State of Ohio where the end result is a 9-1-1 database of all addresses and a complete roadway inventory," Snider said. "As GIS Supervisor I was responsible for every aspect of this project and now we are in the Quality Assurance (QA) phase where we are checking the entire database for accuracy and completeness. The data has already been implemented in our 9-1-1 dispatch centers to provide the most up to date information for our first responders."

Snider credits his real-world experience through ILGARD for being able to effectively work as the GIS Supervisor in his county.

"Without the project experience I would have never been considered for my position with Knox County," Snider said. "I've applied a great deal of my experiences at ILGARD here. With a skeleton staff in the map department I have to coordinate projects and data distribution to all of the other GIS users in our community on a daily basis and on a shoestring budget."

Snider said that the communication skills he learned during his time as a GA were also crucial to his current success. "Having the thorough understanding of GIS that I developed at ILGARD really helped me to be able to explain the entire LBRS process to our elected officials who had to approve the project," he said. "Being as though none of our elected officials have any GIS experience or knowledge it was crucial that someone had the ability to explain the project in layman terms."