Meet the SPoRT Team

Dr. Robert Atkinson (USRA) has expertise in remote sensing and processing of this data using McIDAS. He currently works with reading and manipulating imagery from various instruments including MODIS, VIIRS, and GMI for product generation.

Tony Cole (UAHuntsville, graduate student) has expertise in GIS applications and disaster response. Mr. Cole is currently working to develop techniques for using VIIRS Day Night Band imagery for disaster response. He will be starting his thesis project this fall.

Jordan Bell (UAHuntsville, graduate student) has expertise in GIS applications and disaster response. Mr. Bell is currently working on his thesis project, which aims to identify hail damage swaths using satellite observations from MODIS.

Nicholas Elmer (UAHuntsville, graduate student) has expertise in remote sensing. Mr. Elmer is currently working on his thesis, which aims to perform limb corrections in MODIS RGB air mass imagery.

Dr. Clay Blankenship (USRA) has expertise in use of passive microwave observations and their assimilation into both atmospheric and land surface numerical models. He is currently working on developing techniques for assimilating satellite-based soil moisture observations into the NASA LIS.

Kevin Fuell (UAHuntsville) leads the TTA Group and is one of SPoRT's liaisons--responsible for dissemination of SPoRT products to its partners--with special expertise in development of training and assessment tools. He is also actively involved in SPoRT's GOES-R PG activities using RGB imagery.

Dr. Emily Berndt (NASA PostDoc) has expertise in use and assimilation of hyperspectral IR sounder data. She has developed ozone products from AIRS to aid forecasters in identifying stratospheric air intrusions and is developing products from SNPP. Dr. Berndt also works to assimilate AIRS and CrIS profile data.

Marcus Hustedde (UAHuntsville, graduate student) has expertise in lightning research and data processing. Mr. Hustedde is beginning his graduate degree this fall.

Jason Burks (NASA) has expertise in AWIPS II development, WMS, and code management. As leader of SPoRT's EPDT, he has developed new code for ingesting SPoRT products into AWIPS II. He has also worked with the Disasters Group to develop an effective WMS system to serve high-resolution imagery to end-users.

Dr. Gary Jedlovec (NASA) is the PI for the SPoRT program. He has expertise in techniques and applications of remotely sensed observations. His current work includes development of the SPoRT SST composite product, oversight in GOES-R PG and AWIPS II activities and overall management of the SPoRT program.

Jonathan Case (ENSCO, Inc.) has expertise in conducting land surface modeling and NWP experiments using NASA datasets. He is currently working to continue development of SPoRT's real-time, regional LIS software and WRF model to study the impact of improved initialization of land surface on models.

Frank LaFontaine (Raytheon) has expertise in remote sensing and processing of satellite data. He works with processing a variety satellite imagery, including MODIS, VIIRS, and passive microwave data. Mr. LaFontaine also works in development and evaluation of the SPoRT SST composite and MODIS NDVI product.

Anita Leroy (UAHuntsville) has expertise in cloud/precipitation properties and convective initiation (CI). She has worked as liaison for GOES-R CI and QPE evaluations. Currently, she is working to evaluate the impact of SPoRT datasets on convection, clouds, and precipitation in local modeling applications.

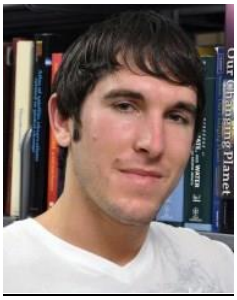
Matt Smith (UAHuntsville) leads the DSS Group and has expertise in code development for display software systems and manipulation of satellite imagery. He currently works on the GEO/LEO hybrid and AWIPS II development activities for SPoRT. Mr. Smith also coordinates data exchange with partners in Alaska.

Kevin McGrath (Jacobs) has expertise in data/image processing and use of display software. His current work includes RGB product development, generation and distribution of products for SPoRT partners, AWIPS II development, and disaster response activities. Mr. McGrath is also the curator of the SPoRT Website.

Jayanthi Srikishen (USRA) has experience in computer science. Her current activities include compilation and maintenance of all scientific modeling code used by the SPoRT team. She also assists researchers in code implementation and troubleshooting.

Dr. Andrew Molthan (NASA) leads the Disasters Group and has expertise in development of unique satellite products for damage track assessment and post-storm recovery and is currently working to transition this imagery to forecasters. Dr. Molthan also works to evaluate microphysics schemes in NWP models.

Dr. Geoffrey Stano (ENSCO, Inc.) leads the Products Group and is one of the SPoRT program liaisons responsible for dissemination of SPoRT products. He has expertise in lightning remote sensing and applications and is currently working transition and application of LMA and pseudo-GLM data in AWIPS II.



Dr. Aaron Naeger (UAHuntsville) has expertise in cloud and air quality properties. He is currently working to develop a satellite-based aerosol product to help investigate cloud/aerosol interactions in regional NWP models.

Kris White (NOAA/NASA) is the Applications Integration Meteorologist (AIM), the official interface between SPoRT and the Huntsville WFO. He works with the SPoRT liaisons to ensure successful transition and application of SPoRT products at the NWS and is an advocate for all SPoRT products.

Lori Schultz (UAHuntsville) has expertise in remote sensing and R2O. She currently works to support assessment of the RGB imagery at WFOs and National Centers and development of imagery from the VIIRS DNB to support Disasters Group activities.

Bradley Zavodsky (NASA) leads the M&DA Group has expertise in data assimilation (DA) and hyperspectral sounder remote sensing. His current work includes research into more effective methods of assimilating AIRS radiances, guiding LIS DA activities, and engaging new users of SPoRT LIS datasets.