



**SDSU**  
presents  
a thesis defense for  
Master of Science  
degree in  
Computer Science

Thursday,  
August 22, 2013

1:00pm  
GMCS 405

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*Interactive World Map: Natural Disasters*

## Abstract

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With the changing culture, one of the biggest challenges faced by teachers is keeping students interested in reading books and keeping them mentally engaged in the subject. Teaching students in the current culture is more difficult, since that culture is now rooted in the web and they are used to multimedia interfaces. Making lessons more interactive and animated can help teachers motivate and interest current students.

The initiative behind the development of this tool is to have a software application that provides high school teachers an easy and interactive way to represent the natural disasters of the last century. It can be used for describing data in a graphical fashion on a map, by linking the data to various geographical features. This tool will motivate students to learn information about the disasters. It includes data in the form of text, pictures, and links to various related web information as well. It also incorporates games to provide students an opportunity to exercise what they have learned in a fun way. For self-analysis, there are some practice quizzes. It also has the capability to create new practice/graded quizzes. The tool is easy to deploy, easy to use and can be configured manually by making changes to a configuration file.

## Thesis Committee

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Carl Eckberg, Thesis Chair, Department of Computer Science  
William Root, Department of Computer Science  
Gary Girty, Department of Geological Sciences