University-Level Interdisciplinary Research Centers

Opportunities and answers to complex challenges lie at the intersections of traditional disciplines. These university-level interdisciplinary research centers have been a resource for researchers and students at the university and partners beyond the university.

Center for Geospatial Information Technology

established 2003

www.cgit.vt.edu/

Peter Sforza, research scientist based in Blacksburg, and Kathleen Hancock, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering based in the National Capital Region, are co-directors.

The center’s mission is to provide technical expertise in geographic information systems, global positioning systems, and computer-aided design, and to integrate spatial awareness in intelligent data collection methods, field analysis, modeling and simulation, decision support, visualization, and other techniques in a wide variety of domains.

Center for Gerontology

established 1977

www.gerontology.vt.edu/

Karen Roberto, professor of adult development and aging, is director. Roberto also directs the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment.

The center’s primary mission is to foster and facilitate multidisciplinary research that enhances the quality of life of older adults. The center focuses primarily on three streams of coordinated research: family gerontology, health and aging, and elder rights. The center is the administrative unit for the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology, a Program of Merit as designated by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

Center for Human-Computer Interaction

established 1995

www.hci.vt.edu/index.php

Andrea L. Kavanaugh, senior research scientist in computer science, is director.

Based at the intersection between information technology and the social and behavioral sciences, the center provides a challenging test domain for developing social theory and creating information systems.

Center for Survey Research

established 1990

www.csr.vt.edu/

Susan Willis-Walton, director

The center provides research design consultation, proposal development, survey instrument design, sampling recommendations and development, and full data collection, analyses, and reporting. As part of its data collection services, the center conducts web surveys, telephone surveys (via an in-house call center), mail surveys, secondary analyses, data collection tool programming, public forums, and focus groups. Clients include civic, local, and regional governmental organizations; state agencies, in and outside of Virginia; federally funded programs and agencies; non-governmental and private sector organizations; and university faculty members and administrators.
During FY 2011, university-level research centers began to be placed administratively within the colleges, departments, or institutes with which they were most closely aligned. Thus the Virginia Center for Housing Research is in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. The remaining university centers will be transitioned during FY 2012.