



Geographic Distribution of Furman Faculty

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Furman University EES 24 - GIS, Spring 2004



Introduction

One of the main reasons for choosing a home is its location in regards to one's workplace. With this theory in mind, this project hypothesizes that majority of the Furman professors will live close to the University.

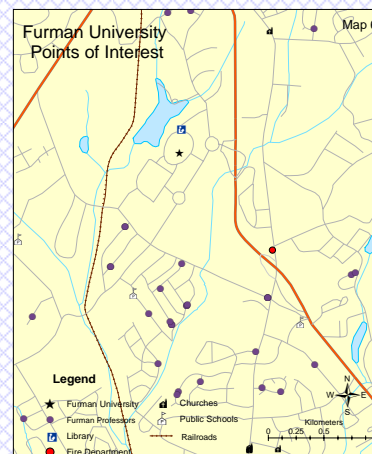
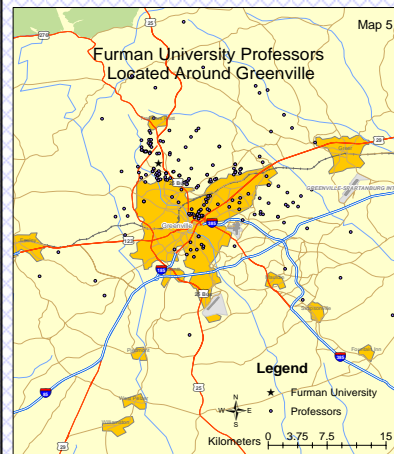
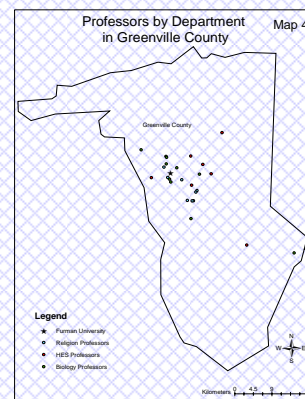
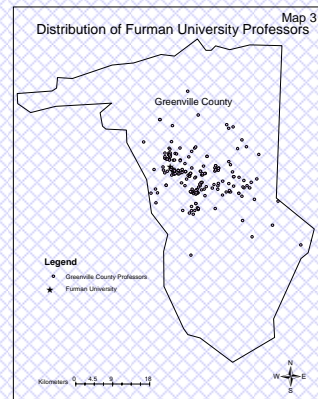
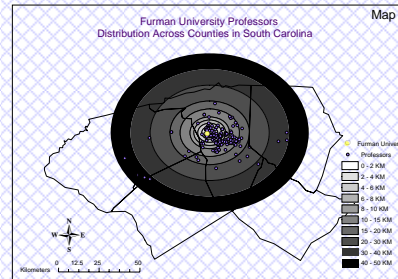
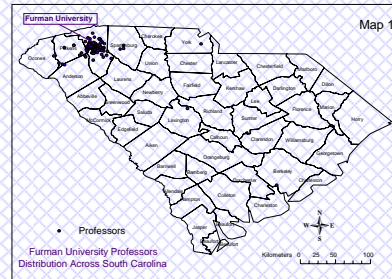
Materials and Methods

My work was done in ArcMap 8.3 – the ArcView client. I used ESRI's StreetMap USA layer as my base layer. I obtained from Furman University a list of professors, sorted by department and address. I formatted the table of addresses in Comma Separated File form through Microsoft Excel. Then, I used ArcMap's tool of geocoding addresses to geocode the addresses of Furman professors. Out of the 247 professors in my table, 222 addresses matched. I turned off the Street Map layer and added county data, looking at all the counties of South Carolina (Map 1).

I then analyzed the distance of professors by looking at the buffer zones up to 50 miles away (Map 2). This was done by creating a buffer for a certain distance from Furman University. Then I selected by location all the professor points within that buffer to see how many professors lived 2 miles, 4 miles, 15 miles, etc.

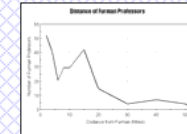
Since 228 professors lived within Greenville County, I looked specifically at this county. I created a map of all of the professors in the county (Map 3) and then looked specifically at various departments. I selected at random 3 departments to represent in Map 4.

Finally, I turned off the county layer and turned back on the StreetMap USA layer to zoom in to the Greenville City area (Map 5). I added the SCDept of Commerce Quality of Life data layers from the USC website to create a map (6) of places of interest specifically around Furman.



Discussion

All of the maps show that Furman Professors choose to live relatively close to the campus. 143 out of 222 professors, roughly 65% percent, live within 10 miles of the campus. Only 18 professors live outside of 30 miles from campus. This shows a strong correlation between the location of work and location of residence among professors at Furman University. This prompted me to ask - Why so close?



Furman University is located in the northwest quadrant of Greenville County, South Carolina, situated at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Furman University is approximately 5 miles outside the city limits of Greenville city. Greenville is easily accessible from 3 major Interstate highways and 4 main U.S. highways

and is centrally located between Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC. According to the 2000 census, Greenville city's population was 56,002, with an average household income of \$52,039. Greenville's cost of living is relatively lower compared with metropolitan areas of its size. Greenville's public school system is the largest in the state along with nine colleges and universities located in close proximity. Greenville boasts home to The Greenville Hospital System, the state's most comprehensive health care provider and a leader in medical facilities. Greenville is also the cultural and entertainment heart for the Upstate region, with various focal points such as an award winning downtown, a major performing arts center, a 17,000 seat arena, a large exhibition center, a nationally renowned museum, and 39 parks, playgrounds and recreation centers.

Professors seem to stay nearby to take advantage of Greenville's location and amenities and their close proximity to work. 203 professors live inside of Greenville County – 91 percent of the faculty. The choice of residency by professors is geographically distributed in a cluster around Furman University, mostly within the County – near Greenville city.

Conclusions

The geographic distribution of Furman professors' residences shows a clustering pattern around Furman and within Greenville county. Through this study, Professors have been clearly shown to locate in regards to their work. Future research could include a study of commuting times of professors in terms of their residence and distance to work.

This research hints at the possibility of further reasons for locating near Furman University or within Greenville county. The amenities that Greenville city offer seem to be also an attracting force. Furman University or Greenville City could take on the goal of examining further what makes the Upstate attractive to professors, since there are 9 colleges nearby.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Furman University, Dr. Suresh Muthurkishnan, Dr. Ken Peterson, University of South Carolina, S.C. Department of Commerce, and Greenville city.