I’m glad that I decided to go to the CUGOS meeting. Although in my opinion it was highly technical, I did catch a few things that interested me and that I ended up googling afterwards.

The presenter that I loved hearing from the most was Jacob Lesser, who presented an online map he created that showed the amount of toxic air pollutants released from large industrial facilities throughout the United States. Since I was little, I have been an advocate of protecting the environment and seeing Mr. Lesser’s work further helped me realize that the skills I have been learning in class can be put into this type of work in the long run. In an R programming class, we learned how to render geographic data as maps which was exciting, so Mr. Lesser’s project helped me start to connect the dots for what I may want to do in the future.

There were also keywords throughout different presentations that I didn’t understand but had a hunch they were important, so I decided to note them down, one of them being “Amazon Web Services,” “apex code,” and “go code.” Without having gone to this meeting, I probably would not have heard these phrases until much later on and not learned about them on Google. I will definitely try to go to future meetings to deepen my understanding of this industry.