

URISA Summit Promotes Collaboration and Communication Between all Levels of Government

By Paul Tolme, ptolme@aol.com

WASHINGTON _ With numerous federal agencies working on geospatial initiatives dealing with everything from homeland security to easier access and the next Census, there has never been more action—but also confusion—among users and producers of spatial data, according to speakers and participants in URISA's national summit.

The event, held May 21 in Washington, D.C., was convened to inform local, state and federal officials, as well as the private sector, about five federal initiatives and how all concerned parties can collaborate to minimize redundancy, maximize scarce dollars and produce results that serve all levels of government. The five programs, projects and strategies scrutinized include:

- The National Map, a program overseen by the U.S. Geological Survey to provide continually updated geographic data;
- Geospatial One-Stop, an E-government effort undertaken by the Office of Management and Budget and the Interior Department to provide fast and cheap access to information through a Web portal;
- The Homeland Security Infrastructure Program, a combined civilian and military mapping initiative undertaken by USGS and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency to provide geospatial data for federal homeland security efforts;
- The Interagency Geospatial Preparedness Team in the

Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency, whose mission is to develop a plan to improve emergency preparedness and response through a coordinated effort at all levels of government;

- And the TIGER Accuracy Improvement Project, a U.S. Census Bureau effort to collect improved geospatial data in support of the 2010 Census.

With so many efforts, some overlapping, and so many individuals involved, it is imperative that all members of the geospatial data community cooperate. "Let's get serious about how we do these things," Martha Lombard, URISA president, said in her opening remarks.

The need to get serious was illustrated throughout the day, as summit participants expressed their frustrations over budgetary and manpower constraints, nonexistent national standards and the need for better communication between federal, state and local officials. The federal programs must be viewed as an "Amish barn building," said Bill Shinar, Virginia's GIS coordinator. "Everybody's got to work on it."

To begin this work, representatives from five federal agencies were convened during a panel discussion designed to clarify the intent of their programs and to stimulate dialogue and interaction between local, regional and state officials and federal

agencies, and also to foster "fed-to-fed" cooperation. Some participants were surprised to learn that federal officials, like locals in GIS offices across the nation, are also in the dark about the work of their colleagues in other buildings across Washington. A major hurdle to better interaction is the confusion over whom to contact in the federal government to find answers.

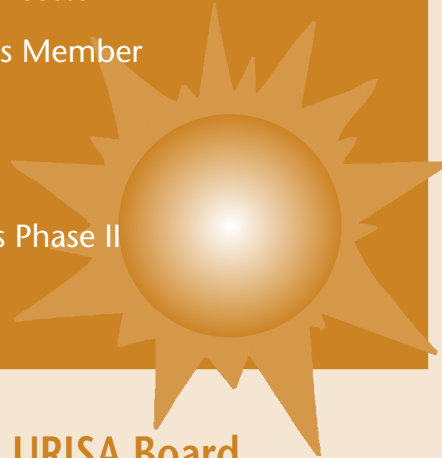
During the federal panel, Michael Domaratz of the USGS said his agency hopes to develop a continual relationship with locals in the development of the National Map, and that his agency wants to coordinate its data collection through state GIS specialists. At the moment, such coordination is "rough" at best, he said.

Bob LaMacchia of the Census Bureau explained his agency's quest to obtain national street centerline data from local governments. For the first time, enumerators of the 2010 Census will carry hand-held GIS devices to obtain accurate geospatial data from all communities. All centerline data must be obtained from communities by 2008, or the corporation contracted by the Census Bureau will have to do its own, costly data gathering.

NIMA, whose mission to obtain an "urban data inventory" of 133 cities, is the federal geospatial data gatherer most shrouded in secrecy because of the agency's role as an intelligence tool for the federal government. While representative Rexford Tugwell said his

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Important URISA Dates to Remember

June 27, 2003

Date that Board of Directors ballots must be received at URISA HQ.

July 20-23, 2003

Public Participation GIS Conference
Portland State (OR) University

August 2-3, 2003

URISA Board of Directors Meeting
Chicago, IL

August 17-20, 2003

Street Smart and Address Savvy
Conference
Providence, RI

October 11-15, 2003

URISA 2003 Annual Conference
Atlanta, GA

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About



The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) is the premier professional association for those involved in improving our urban and regional environments through the effective use of information technology. Professionals in planning, economic development, information systems, emergency services, natural resources, public works, transportation, and other departments within state and local government have depended on URISA for professional development and educational needs since 1963. Through its international, national and local chapter operations, URISA serves nearly 8,000 professionals.

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mission is to obtain geospatial data from locals, some audience members questioned whether NIMA, with its vast resources and satellites, already has high-resolution imagery that could be provided to cash-strapped locals, rather than vice-versa.

With its first portal to come online in June, Geospatial One-Stop is the federal initiative with the most short-term impact. "Geospatial One-Stop is our chance to get some things done," said Hank Garie of OMB and the Federal Geographic Data Committee. Because of its political visibility, the initiative will fill a "vital niche" as the point source for GIS data when it comes online. Meantime, Barry Napier of FEMA's Interagency Geospatial Preparedness Team, which is using existing information for its preparedness effort, expressed the need for "more strategic thinking" rather than piecemeal data collection.

Toward the end of the panel session, one questioner summed up the confusion between federal and local officials as a "culture clash." While locals have multiple data users and widely varying needs, federal agencies have "mission-based" objectives that sometimes do not take cooperation into account.

In light of the varying federal initiatives and the confusion surrounding them, various speakers throughout the day noted it may be time for local and state governments to take a new approach: Regional cooperation. Tom Conry, GIS manager for Fairfax County, Va., explained how GIS officials from across northern Virginia have begun to meet regularly to develop a regional street centerline standard with state transportation authorities. Shinar, Virginia GIS coordinator, explained how his state has been divided into 14 areas whose managers meet every two months with the objective of establishing a better statewide network for data sharing and one-stop information access.

But it was keynote speaker William Dodge, former Executive Director of the National Association of Regional Councils

who gave the strongest pitch for regional cooperation. Disasters and health issues do not respect borders, and growth cannot be controlled or comprehensively planned without cooperation among neighbors, he said. "Regions have become the level at which we have to deal with tough challenges."

Of course, regional thinking will not come easily, noted Dodge, who drew laughs when he described regional cooperation as an "unnatural act" involving "unconsenting parties." Nevertheless, security concerns have "upped the ante" for regional cooperation, which in the past was largely promoted as a way to improve quality of life or economic development, he said. Of course, regions change depending on the challenge and sometimes cut across not only local or state boundaries, but also national borders, while in other cases regions have no geographical connection.

Dodge cited Portland, Ore., which reached out to a million people in its growth planning, as a good model for how to engage the public in regional thinking. Portland, he joked, "is the only place in the country where you can have a breakfast conversation about regional cooperation." So how should others move toward better regional thinking and cooperation? Dodge urged URISA members to think of themselves as "regional citizens" and to declare their citizenship, to form networks and regional compacts with the teeth to deal with tough issues such as growth, and to most importantly build regional GIS centers linked to a national information clearinghouse that will share successes.

To motivate action and generate ideas for better collaboration, the summit's 100 participants were divided into small working groups, each with its own topic of discussion. Participants in the "point-of-contact" group said there must be many points of contact in various agencies, lest one person become overwhelmed by requests. The Geospatial One-Stop portal should identify all these proposed federal points of contact, some said.

Individuals who discussed "financing" mentioned options for raising money for geospatial data through taxes, fees or private entities, or for "opportunistic" financing—embedding GIS costs into an infrastructure or transportation project, for instance. If FEMA maps cause insurance rates to decline, that frees money for more geospatial initiatives.

Multiple groups across the conference room at the Jury's Washington Hotel on Dupont Circle tackled the topic of "fed-to-fed cooperation." The FGDC should make cross-agency communication a primary mission, some suggested, while others advocated the creation of a joint programs office to force cooperation and eliminate redundancy.

A "benefits and motivations" group suggested linking the maintenance of geospatial data to funding sources such as gas taxes, and said cost savings from regional partnerships and economies of scale should motivate such initiatives. Most importantly, GIS specialists should promote success stories to win support from elected officials. The "standards" discussion groups suggested tying funding to compliance with standards derived from the input and review of all stakeholders.

In concluding remarks, various participants highlighted what they felt were the most salient talking points derived from the summit, and also offered their take-home messages. "We should never forget that outside this room, there isn't the same enthusiasm," noted Zorica Nedovic-Budic of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. With that in mind, educating decision-makers and legislators is crucial. "Cooperation is key," added Ivan DeLoatch of the FGDC. Now, he said, it's time to "develop some action plans."

When URISA convenes its annual conference in Atlanta from October 11-15, all hope such action plans for improving federal, state, local and regional cooperation will be on the drafting table.

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President's Column

Summit...Addresses...and More

by Martha Lombard, URISA President, Spatial Focus, Inc., Birmingham, AL, mlombard@spatialfocus.com

I've just returned from our first Federal-Local Give and Take Summit last week in Washington DC. I'm pleased to report that over 120 URISAns attended the Summit, and that there was a lot of excellent discussion of the many new programs that we continue to hear about, but seem to have a difficult time getting enough real information about. It's important for URISA to provide a forum for this information, and for honest dialogue between our members, and those who work with geospatial data at all levels of government and in the private sector. Our URISA Board was well represented with 7 of its 12 members attending, along with 3 past Board members, and two of our six candidates for the Board. As we move towards our Street Smart and Address Savvy conference in August (Providence, RI), and our annual conference in Atlanta in October, we will expand on the knowledge we gained during the Summit and develop ways to continue these important dialogues. Kudos to everyone who worked on the Summit, especially Zorica Nedovic-Budic, who chaired the committee, all of the Committee members, Peirce Eichelberger who represented the URISA Board, and our tireless and overworked staff at HQ.

I have also received the latest draft of the FGDC standards for Address Data (read the specifics in the textbox on this page), which are open for public review and comment until July 31, 2003. These are very critical documents that affect the ways in which our members are able to share data among themselves, and with local, state and federal agencies, and it is extremely important that our membership review and comment on these draft standards, so that they become "real" standards, that we can all use in our daily work.

Our certification pilot in Georgia



Martha Lombard

continues to go very well. We are expecting to honor our first certified GIS Professionals at our annual conference, and to provide working sessions at the conference to assist members in assembling the necessary documents and information to begin their own certification processes. We are also noting that employers are beginning to indicate that certification is a requirement (within a future time period) which indicates that they believe there is significant value to GIS Professional Certification.

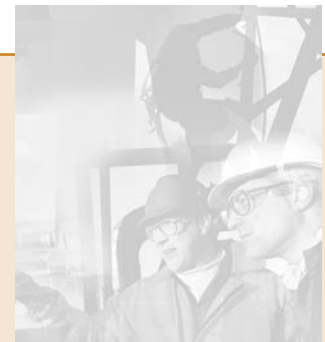
During the last several months, I've taught URISA workshops at a

number of Chapter and specialty conferences, and we continue to get great responses to the content and value of the workshops. Our Workshop Development Committee, led by Bill Mumbleau, is diligently working to update and revise many of our workshops between now and the annual conference. They are looking for help, and for peer review of these updated workbooks. If you have an interest in being part of this educational effort, please contact Scott Grams at URISA HQ, and let him know which topics you'd like to help out with. Every one of our workbooks was originally developed by a group of experts, and they are strengthened and improved by a collective effort. As we move further into continuing education and certification, it is critical that we maintain the high quality and currency of our workshops, and this is an excellent opportunity to become involved.

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) invites comments from all interested parties on the draft Address Data Content Standard. The public review period is May 1, 2003 through July 31, 2003. This standard facilitates the exchange of postal, physical, and geographic address information by providing a method for documenting information content. For more information on participating in the review of the draft Address Data Content Standard, go to www.fgdc.gov.

Just in...

URISA's 3rd Annual IT/GIS in Public Works Conference will take place February 25-27, 2004 in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Homeland Security Study Raises Questions about Data Access

By PAUL TOLME, ptolme@aol.com

A federal study commissioned in the wake of Sept. 11 and to be completed this summer could have a profound influence for all users and producers of geospatial data.

The study, undertaken by the Rand Corp., will attempt to answer one overarching question, said Michael Domaratz of the U.S. Geological Survey, who attended the URISA Summit on May 21 in Washington, D.C.: "Does publicly available geospatial information positively or negatively impact the vulnerability of the country?"

The report's findings, which could influence future federal policy regarding the public availability of geospatial data, is being conducted for the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. The U.S. Geological Survey is a partner in the study. Rand conducted research last year and presented a draft to the agencies, which wrote comments that are now being addressed by Rand as it completes the final report.

It remains unclear whether the report's findings will be made available to URISA members. "It's expected the study will be for official use only," Domaratz said, adding that there is a discussion in the agencies about whether some information not deemed a threat to security might be released more widely.

The study is assessing publicly available geospatial data to "identify information that is sensitive and could aid terrorists," according to a short fact sheet that lists seven objectives:

- Characterize public data from federal and non-federal sources;
- Assess vulnerabilities of potential terrorist targets;
- Identify data that affect these potential targets;
- Identify criteria for evaluating the risks posed by publicly available data;
- Describe the consequences, to the government and economy, of

changing practices regarding data availability and access;

- Identify actions that could reduce vulnerability;
- Make specific recommendations to NIMA and USGS, and general recommendations for federal, state and local governments, and the private sector, for use in evaluating geospatial data.

Domaratz did not know the precise date this summer when the report would be completed, and Rand officials did not immediately return telephone calls seeking comment before this article went to print. The fact a report that could guide federal policy may not be available for scrutiny by URISA members raised concern for advocates of open access. Bruce Joffe, who heads the GeoData Alliance's Open Data Consortium, which is formulating its own recommendations to help local governments decide what information to make available to the public, questioned whether "such an important issue" should be discussed behind closed doors. "I'd like to know more about the study," said Joffe.

At the same time, Joffe noted that homeland security concerns are a valid reason to restrict certain geospatial information to select users. Fears of terrorism have caused tremendous insecurity, he said during an interview, noting that one unidentified California city yanked GIS data from its Web site after getting an inordinate number of hits from Saudi Arabia. "Municipalities are clamoring for guidance on what to make available," Joffe said.

While questions remain about the Rand study and its implications for URISA members, it is clear from discussions at the Washington summit that no issue poses a greater opportunity, or a greater threat, to geospatial data users and producers than homeland security. The National

Map, the Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) and the Interagency Geospatial Preparedness Team are all initiatives begun following Sept. 11. At the same time, the Department of Transportation was among many federal, state and local agencies to pull information from their Web sites after Sept. 11.

Bill Shinar, Virginia's GIS coordinator, was among the many summit participants who noted the need for better data for reasons of emergency preparedness. In Virginia alone, he said, there have been more than a million emergency responses since Sept. 11 where authorities needed geospatial data. "When our firemen run into a building, we want them to know if there are hazardous materials in there."

Geospatial preparedness is the "foundation" for security preparedness and reliable spatial information if "ever more important," said Barry Napier of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Interagency Geospatial Preparedness Team. "Disasters do not honor boundaries."

During a question-and-answer session with a panel of federal officials, Joffe claimed that federal officials, despite their denials, have obtained high-resolution imagery of the United States as part of their security studies. "Can't some of this imagery, not essential to national security, be shared with localities struggling to afford such data?" he asked. Rexford Tugwell of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, which is conducting a "133 urban areas" initiative in support of federal homeland security efforts, replied that his agency does not have such imagery. "We can't spy on you," he said. "We are an intelligence agency."

Another audience member pointed out that some localities do not want to post information on the Internet in fear of helping terrorists, but at the

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Homeland *continued from page 6*

same time imagery work is being sub-contracted out to corporations in other nations, where it could fall into the wrong hands.

Others expressed their concern that homeland security concerns will result in less public access in the future. "If you think about it, the kind of information we are putting online is so available in other sources that you have to question whether making it public makes any difference," Susan Johnson, a URISA board member who works for Charlotte, N.C., said during a break. The biggest barrier to public access is people's perceptions, she said. Widely available data "erodes some people's sense of security."

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URISA Annual Conference Workshops in Atlanta

William L. Mumbleau, Workshop Development Committee Chair

For over forty years, URISA has been the center for information exchange amongst professionals dealing urban and regional issues. The 41st annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia this October will be the continuum of this tradition. URISA is known for high quality educational products. The annual conference workshops have been and are considered some of the best real world and practical learning experience for attendees.

This year, under direction of the Board, the Workshop Development Committee (WDC) embarked on a task to enhance 12 of the URISA Workshops. As technology marches on, so is the need to keep pace with the transfer of knowledge. These workshops will reflect this effort. A joint effort from the authors, instructors and the WDC focused on the quality of the content and the technology relationship between the subject matter and current trends in the industry.

Information is URISA's middle name and these workshops are the frontrunner to a great conference. We encourage you to come to Atlanta on Saturday and Sunday of the conference. Attend one or two of these timely and practical workshops. We grant you that the information you will receive with truly help you in your day-to-day challenges.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta! Make plans now to attend a workshop (included in your full conference registration fee!)

Chapter News

Be sure to visit <http://www.urisa.org/chapters/chapternews.htm> for frequent chapter announcements.

Ontario Chapter Election Results

Catherine Baldelli was recently elected as the new Ontario Chapter President. Congratulations!

URISA-Central Appalachian Chapter (CAC) held its elections in March. The new president is Deb Beiber; Vice-president is Dave Plowman; and Secretary/Treasurer is Kristie Wilkeson.

North Carolina Chapter Election Results & Summer Conference

The NC Chapter recently held its election for officers for the 2003-2004 Membership Year. Elected officers include:

Cathy Cole, Cabarrus County GIS Manager: President

Andrew Shore, Cabarrus County: Vice President

Ted Cisine, Robeson County: Secretary

Amy Starnes, Mecklenburg County: Treasurer

NC URISA is holding its 2003 Summer Conference, August 20-22, at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel, in Wilmington, NC. The program will cover the following topics: Grant Writing; Field Data Collection Practices; USGS on Rain Data; Round table Discussion on Federal Standards & Implications to Local Governments; Public vs. Private — The Law and the Controversy; and Wireless — The New Frontier. Visit www.ncurisa.org for more information.

CalGIS Conference a Success

This year's California State GIS Conference (CalGIS 2003) was a successful and exciting event. There were approximately 350 attendees, 60 sponsors/exhibitors, and 70 presentations. The keynote speakers Pat Henry and Larry Smarr were particularly well received. We had over 100 submissions for presentations, a new record for CalGIS. The sessions were well attended with most participants staying for the entire conference.

In terms of networking, there were numerous opportunities during and after the conference sessions. The Thursday night soiree was well attended with a little twist, a game of Family Feud between SoCal URISA and BAAMA, MC'd by the conference chair Dan Henderson. Over \$25,000 in prizes was given away by vendors including free software, equipment, and apparel. Other details from the conference are available at the website www.calgis.org.

SoCal URISA has created a number of new Board positions to help it carry out its ambitious goals, a result of their successful reorganization from multiple Section Boards to one consolidated Chapter Board. New positions include:

Programs Chair: LA/Orange: Dr. David Gadish, California State University Los Angeles

Programs Chair: Riverside/San Diego: Dan Henderson, University of CA San Diego

Newsletter Editor: Suzann Leininger, City of Escondido

Membership Chair: Scott Shepard, Telesis Corporation

Database Chair: Tobias Wolf, AMEC

Advisory members: Blanca Quintero-Aguilar,

Sweetwater Authority; Miriam Cope, California State Polytechnic University; Adrienne Perry, San Diego County Water Authority

The Southern California Chapter is also debuting a new URISA Certified Workshop in June. Dan Henderson will teach "Advanced 3-D Visualization and Spatial Modeling for Raster and Vector GIS". This Workshop will also be presented in Atlanta in October.

Northern Rockies URISA held their elections early this spring at the Intermountain GIS Users' Conference. Outgoing President is Keith T. Weber. Incoming President is Anne Kawalec and the incoming Vice-President is Dr. Nancy Glenn.

RM-URISA is pleased to announce the recipients of the GeoTech conference scholarship. Ten cash awards will go to educators attending the conference. The GeoTech 2003 conference, June 22-23 at Copper Mountain, Colorado, is a two-day conference for K-12 teachers to explore the power and potential of geographic information systems (GIS) and other spatial technologies. Visit <http://www.rm-urisa.org/Activities.htm> for the full list of recipients and more information. Congratulations Teachers!

The **URISA Alberta Chapter** just concluded their GeoAlberta Conference. This year's theme - *Stretching the Limits* - speaks to the integration of geomatics as an enabling technology into a host of areas. Whether it's resource development, management of infrastructure, defining and assessing the state of the environment or assisting in planning vacations, geomatics plays a major role in helping individuals relate to our physical environment.

This year's conference was put on by our Alberta Chapter of URISA, the Alberta Chapter of GITA, the Alberta Geomatics Group (AGG) and the City of Edmonton's Geographic Base Information System Office (GBIS). This conference replaced these associations' individual annual conferences where typical attendance at all Alberta events reaches between 400 - 600 delegates. Please visit <http://www.urisab.org/geoalberta/geoalta.htm> for more information.

FLURISA will have a 2003 Joint Mapping and GIS Conference in Fort Lauderdale, June 18-20. Florida Chapter of URISA, Florida Association of Cadastral Mappers (FACM), Florida Surveying and Mapping Society (FSMS) and Florida ASPRS sponsor this statewide conference. The theme for this year's conference is "New Technology Migration For Local Government Solutions." More information about the 2003 Joint Mapping and GIS Conference is available at: <http://www.flurisa.org/events.html>

FLURISA's new Executive Board will start a 2-year term from the June 2003 Joint Conference. FLURISA's out-going President is Trevor Feagin. The following are the officers of the incoming Executive Board of FLURISA: Sanjiv Gandhi,

President; Trevor Feagin, Past-President; Penny Anderson, Vice-President; Mike Lovett, Secretary; Will Walter, Treasurer; Lee Hartsfield, North Region Executive; Brian Garvey, Central Region Executive; and Kelly Ratchinsky, South Region Executive.

Georgia URISA is Still On a Roll

Bruce Taylor reported some news from Georgia URISA:

Georgia URISA has had a busy five months since our new board took office. In January we kicked off the Pilot Certification Project, and assisted the GISCI by gathering volunteers, and helping them complete their application materials. In February we completed rebuilding our membership database, which has enabled us to streamline our membership and marketing efforts. Georgia URISA just wrapped up our biannual one-day workshop, where we offered URISA International certified classes. We enjoyed rave reviews from the participants, some of whom drove eight hours to attend (they said it was worth every mile!). In about a week we are going to deploy our new web site, which allows people to both view the events calendar and register for events — including our monthly luncheon series — in one easy process.

Georgia URISA is looking forward to the URISA International Conference in the fall. The Georgia URISA board and other volunteers have been assisting with the local organizing. We look forward to seeing everyone here in Hotlanta (actually the weather is very nice here in October).

URISA Ontario Chapter

Be Spatial 2003 Conference Reveals Issues That Sizzle Be Spatial '03 was an outstanding event for URISA OC members, and for the development of the GIS profession. From any perspective — attendance, program, business activity, organizational quality — the annual conference of URISA OC on May 6 was more than successful. Attendance at the Toronto Congress Centre was a record 225. Networking at the breaks and during lunch was non-stop, and the 16 booths in the exhibit hall were crowded.

Delegates gave high praise to the program compiled by Sandra Crutcher, executive director of URISA OC. The program was, in fact, a bellwether for the industry, revealing how GIS is having the most impact on Ontario municipalities. Presentations tended to show that GIS initiatives receive the most recognition and support when they help promote economic development and emergency management/disease control programs.

GIS Day at the Franklin Institute

On the evening of Wednesday, November 19th, 2003, the **Mid-Atlantic Chapter** of URISA will host a GIS Day Capstone Event at the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Anyone interested in participating in the planning or coordination for this event is asked to contact Jim VanOstenbridge (j.vanostenbridge@comcast.net). Please check the MAC URISA website (<http://www-gis.wcupa.edu/macurisa>) periodically for conference details.

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Industry News

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) has been awarded a 2003 St. Louis Technology Award for its SafeCity™ website. Developed and hosted by **Kinetic Solutions**, SafeCity™ is a publicly accessible crime analysis geographic information system.

Mobile Video Services, Inc. has a new address: 1601 Iron Street, Suite 101, North Kansas City, Missouri 64116.

BAE SYSTEMS and **eSpatial** announced a strategic partnership to develop and supply four-dimensional secure imagery solutions based on eSpatial's commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) technologies

Intergraph Mapping and Geospatial Solutions will begin reselling **Safe Software's** Feature Manipulation Engine (FME)(R) products. The FME Suite provides Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL) tools for spatial data and supports more than 100 formats, including several Geography Markup Language (GML) 2 dialects.

Kucera International Inc. recently capped off a record-breaking winter-spring 2003 flight season, completing aerial photography flyovers of 27 different countywide areas in 11 different states, as well as the coastline of Texas and the entire state of Rhode Island. The photography was performed from Kucera's twin-engine aircraft using Z/I RMK TOP aerial cameras interfaced with Applanix airborne GPS/IMU systems. The photography will be used for the creation of digital orthophotography, digital terrain models, planimetric/topographic mapping, and other geospatial datasets.

GenaWare is hosting its Annual User Symposium place on June 25th and 26th in Raleigh/Durham, NC.

GRW Aerial Surveys, Inc. has added LiDAR to its cache of in-house services. The firm is utilizing an Optech ALTM 33khz laser system.

Accela, Inc will host the 2003 CXO Summit, Monday, July 28th at the Rio Pavilion Convention Center in Las Vegas. The event is targeted at C-level executives (CAO, CIO, CTO, City Managers, etc.) from state, county, and city government to network and share knowledge about deploying enterprise solutions.

People News

Alex Hepp was recently hired by **Mobile Video Services (MVS)** as their Vice President of Sales and Marketing. An industry veteran, Alex has worked on assessment/imaging projects all across North America. He has also gained valuable knowledge through vast experience working with the Public Safety/E911 industry.

Lizardtech Software announced the appointment of **Karen Morley** as Vice President, Geospatial Imaging. Morley will lead the product and market strategy for Lizardtech's geospatial imaging solutions.

Contract Awards

Kinetic Solutions has been awarded a contract to develop and implement a web-based GIS for mapping the location of parolees and probationers in the city of St. Louis and surrounding bi-state area.

ESRI China (Beijing) Ltd., ESRI's software distributor in mainland China, has been selected to provide the GIS component for the Beijing Cadastral Investigation and Land Registration Office's cadastral information management system.

Merrick & Company is pleased to announce a new \$500,000 contract to update Henrico County, Virginia's 1998 GIS basemap data.

Bowne Management Systems, Inc. (BMS) has been awarded a contract by New York University's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy and the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) to design, develop and implement the New York City Housing and Neighborhood Information System (NYCHANIS), an online information system based upon the data presented in the Center's State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods annual reports. NYCHANIS will be an online, searchable database that will offer a wide range of data services, from borough-level overviews of basic housing and neighborhood indicators to in depth statistical analyses of these indicators at the census tract level.

Merrick & Company is pleased to announce a new \$1.4 million contract for Cook County, Illinois. Merrick acquired new 1"=660' black and white aerial photography to be used to produce 1"=100' digital orthophotography with a pixel resolution of .5'. In dense urban areas, photography will be flown with a 12" focal length and additional spot photography will be acquired on 50 buildings to minimize the building lean in the imagery. A total of 4489 digital orthophotography tiles (2500' X 2500') will be delivered on DVDs beginning this summer. New LiDAR data is currently being collected and will be used to generate a digital terrain model (DTM) of the entire county that will support 2' contour creation, as needed. Merrick will also deliver MARS(tm) (Merrick Advanced Remote Sensing) software to be used by county personnel to view and validate LiDAR datasets. Project completion is anticipated for November 2004.

Accela, Inc. announced that the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has selected Accela software to automate and

track the land acquisition activities involved with managing and maintaining the water supply for 16 central and southern Florida counties.

Municipal Software Corporation has welcomed the Village of Arlington Heights, Illinois (population approx. 76,000) as their 7th client in the state. The village plans to use CityView 8.NET Enterprise for all major daily business including Building and Zoning, Planning, Engineering, Public Works and Health, including service requests, work orders and engineering in order to develop a comprehensive asset management system.

The Photogrammetry Division of **M.J. Harden Associates, Inc** has been awarded a number of new contracts, including: new aerial photography for all of Johnson County, Kansas; ABGPS, color aerial photography, analytical aerotriangulation, and digital orthophotos for Jefferson County, Missouri; and aerial photography, DEM update, and digital orthophotos for Leavenworth County, Kansas.

Sanborn has been contracted to perform update mapping services for New York City's GIS land-base, referred to as "NYCMap." The company was also contracted to provide high-resolution digital orthophoto imagery of the World Trade Center site, and was hired to perform precision surveying to support two NYC tunneling projects.

Sanborn was also selected for a digital orthophoto imagery project in Riverside, California. Sanborn will provide new 4-inch pixel resolution color and multiple resolution black-and-white digital orthophoto imagery for the 172 square miles that make up Riverside.

Intergraph announced that the City of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Public Works Department, has chosen Intergraph's Geospatial Resource Management solutions to improve delivery of public services to residents in conjunction with the recent merger of seven municipalities - now called the City of Hamilton. Prior to the merger, the city's existing spatial and asset management systems operated independently, resulting in duplication of data and effort, and overall operating inefficiencies. With the merger, the public works, transportation, environment, and operations departments will now provide service to an expanded population of more than half a million.

El Technologies won a contract to develop a GIS Plan for Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Merrick & Company has won a new \$1.1 million contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates (Jones Edmunds) (Gainesville, Florida). "We are using our ALS40 LiDAR sensor to generate a Digital Surface Model (DSM) to support one-foot contour mapping," according to Gary Outlaw, Vice President GIS Business Development.

GIS Certification Enters Phase II

By Scott Grams, URISA Education Manager

The GISCI Certification Pilot Program has now entered its second phase and is proceeding on schedule. The Pilot Program is designed to test the legitimacy and accuracy of the GISCI Certification Program for GIS professionals. 100 professionals took part in the Pilot and over 60% submitted complete applications. These participants were primarily from the State of Georgia and came from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines.

In addition to submitting applications, participants were also asked to fill out a questionnaire that was intended to capture their experiences concerning the submission process. In total, 85% found the application process to be "clear and straightforward" and about one-half indicated that it took less than 2 weeks to gather and organize their materials.

It should be noted that even candidates who fell below the

minimums for any of the categories were still encouraged to submit. GISCI felt that unsuccessful applications would also provide valuable information as the final program is constructed.

The second phase of the program is intended to test the point assignments and the review process. GISCI staff has already completed a cursory, quantitative review. All of the applications were then shipped off to two teams of reviewers who will spend a month looking at the qualitative characteristics of the points. These reviewers are representatives from the URISA Certification Committee as well as some outside volunteers. This combination will ensure that the Program receives a fair assessment from both those who were close to and far-removed from its development. When this process concludes, the applicants will be notified of their

"mock" acceptance or rejection. The summer months will be reserved for restructuring the point assignments and to build comprehensive lists of what will and will not count for points when certification is activated in late 2003. All successful candidates of the pilot program will need to resubmit considering that the lessons learned from the Pilot will alter the final program.

GISCI certification continues to move towards reality. Even skeptical Pilot participants applauded the URISA Certification Committee for the obvious hard work that went into the program's development. This work is far from over and the committee is looking forward to a long summer of discussion and reexamination. The program is scheduled to roll out at the URISA 2003 Annual Conference in Atlanta. For further information please visit www.urisa.org or www.gisci.org.



In Memoriam

Robert T. Aangeenbrug, 1935-2003

Memorial services were recently held for Robert T. Aangeenbrug, who died Thursday, May 15, 2003, in Lawrence, Kansas. He was in Lawrence to visit friends and attend the Distinguished Service Citation ceremony at Kansas University.

He was born Oct. 9, 1935, in Sassenheim, Netherlands, the son of Willem and Arina (vanGinhoven) Aangeenbrug. He received his bachelor's degree in social science at Central Connecticut State College and his master's and doctoral degrees in geography at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Mr. Aangeenbrug was an assistant professor at Boston University, professor in the department of geography-meteorology at Kansas University from 1965 to 1985, executive director of the Association of American Geographers from 1984 to 1989, and professor and former chairman of the geography department at University of Southern Florida.

Bob was President of URISA from 1976 to 1977 and he received the Edgar Horwood Award for Outstanding Service to the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association in 1980; a Presidential Citation for Exceptional Service, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping in 1980; and Geographers on Films award from the Association of American Geographers. He became an honorary life member of URISA in 1994 and published articles and attended speaking functions on his field of study.

He married Mary Hay on June 18, 1960, in Tuxedo Park, N.Y. She survives. Other survivors include three daughters, Mary Aangeenbrug, Cos Cob, Conn., Elizabeth Aangeenbrug, Boulder, Colo., and Christina Lantz, New Castle, Colo.; a brother, Frans vanVoorst, Glen Carbon, Ill.; four sisters, Cathy Hunter, Farmington, Conn., Mieke Helms, Leamington, Ontario, Canada, Connie Kluit, Bellingham, Mass., and Willy Zessoules, Fort Myers, Fla.; and five grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to Habitat for Humanity or Annie Sullivan Enterprises Inc., sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary. *Watch for more tributes to Bob Aangeenbrug in the next issue of URISA News.*

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