Addressing Issues — What is URISA’s Role? (continued from previous page)

years in the making, we can’t wait that long for another one.

URISA is already planning the 2nd Annual Street Smart and Address Savvy Conference to be held next Fall. The event will be bigger and better, and the program will be developed from a Call For Presentations, scheduled for distribution in February. Several attendees pointed out the need to speak with vendors during the conference, and many asked for directions to the exhibit hall (there wasn’t one). So, the next event will include an exhibit hall, too.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more information as the program develops. And if you have suggestions, or wish to be involved in next year’s event, please send a note to info@urisa.org or call URISA today!

URISA is introducing a new Video Workshop, Address Issues and IS/GIS Implementation, for those who need to “brush up” on the topic before next year’s Street Smart and Address Savvy Conference. Also, soon available will be a compendium of papers from the San Antonio conference along with some related articles.

Boys Better At Spatial Relationships

University of Chicago researchers say boys are better than girls at perceiving spatial relationships early in childhood. Earlier research indicated the ability to read maps and technical drawings became sharper in males during adolescence. "These findings should put to rest claims that adolescence marks the onset of sex differences in spatial skills," said Susan Levine, professor of psychology and lead author of “Early Sex Differences in Spatial Skill,” published in the current issue of Developmental Psychology. Nora Newcomb of Temple University said the findings disprove "previous theories that these differences are brought on by biological factors such as hormonal changes at the onset of adolescence."

URISA will distribute your RFP’s for FREE!

In order to assist municipal, county and state governments find solutions to their urban and regional challenges, URISA is pleased to announce a new RFP Distribution Service. This service, available to government agencies at NO COST, is designed to facilitate the connection between agencies and the companies that can provide the IT products and services needed to improve our urban and regional environments.

Here’s how it works:

- Send URISA an electronic file (send to wfrancis@urisa.org) of your jurisdiction’s information technology project requirements, deadlines, etc.
- URISA will immediately distribute your RFP to corporate members via e-mail

Take advantage of this service often — and let other departments know that there is an easy way to distribute RFPs!

URISA Corporate Member Listing

ADR Inc.
Altek Corporation
Analytical Surveys, Inc
Apex Data Services, Inc.
Autodesk
Autodesk Canada (formerly VISION* Solutions)
Ayres Associates, Inc.
Bowne Management Systems, Inc.
Camber Corporation
CBT Systems USA, Ltd.
Convergent Group
ER Mapper
ESRI
Federal Geographic Data Committee
Geographic Data Technology
GEOSPAN Corporation
Hewlett Packard
HJW & Associates, Inc.
Intergraph Corporation
Intermap Technologies, Ltd
Kinetic Solutions, LLC
Kucera International, Inc.
Landata Geo Services
LizardTech, Inc.
Merrick & Company
Michael Baker Corporation
ORBIMAGE
Schneider Corporation
SDS, Inc.
Smallworld Systems, Inc.
In Orange County, Florida, $650,000 in new revenue for the government was generated from one cell phone franchise agreement following a geographic information system (GIS) related address-matching project.

In Lynchburg, Virginia, a GIS application in stormwater control includes disconnecting downspouts, which will eliminate 18 percent of sewer system overflow, thus reducing the number of gallons going into the wastewater treatment plant.

In Fort Wayne, Indiana, a GIS application by the Fort Wayne Public Utilities Department yielded tangible cost cuts and, one of those intangibles - increased customer service.

Anecdotal evidence of GIS benefits is on the increase. URISA literature has a growing number of articles on the benefits of GIS; however, not all of them are anecdotal, some indicate hard-number economic benefits. The effort to develop methods for measuring benefits of GIS use is coming into prominence. Some in the field have been working on methodology problems in measuring GIS benefits for more than two decades.

Stephen R. Gillespie, of the U.S.G.S., in an article accepted for an upcoming issue of the URISA Journal writes: “The lack of reliable benefits estimates can have a real cost. Failure to adequately quantify potential benefits can lead to undervaluing GIS technology in costs/benefits studies designed to justify its implementation or expansion. Too conservative an estimate of net benefits can cause the delay or cancellation of investment in a technology that might be seen as highly cost effective if benefits were measured more thoroughly.” The full text of Gillespie’s article “An Empirical Approach to Estimating GIS Benefits” may be found on the URISA website.

The growing list of articles on the benefits of GIS and assessing those benefits is now of sufficient number to gather into an anthology. URISA will publish this anthology in the spring of next year. The articles will be gleaned from annual conference proceedings and from archived issues of the URISA Journal. The title for the book is “GIS Benefits: An Anthology”.

Among the benefits being reported are reductions in costs, in time and/or expense, for updating maps. For example, a municipality once had to wait several months for updated zoning maps. Now, with a GIS program, updated zoning maps may be available the day after the zone change is approved by the governing body.

Another benefit is security of records. The easily reproducible form of digital files provides security against loss of records from fire or other disaster. Protecting legacy data is crucial for controlling costs in database development, which is a large part of GIS development. The GIS database development process will not simply create a digital version of current data sources but will improve the quality and augment the detail of information on those current sources.

Among the intangible benefits of GIS, its contribution to saving lives when applied to emergency response programs.

Senior administrators/managers are faced with a challenging project at work or when you are looking for vendor recommendations. Your fellow URISA members will be anxious to help you out. Watch for more information.
To: Wendy
Company: URISA

Date: November 11, 1999
Job No.: jl99-077

Job Description: URISA Nov/Dec News

No. of Pages (Including Cover Sheet): _______

Comments:

You are being sent the following:

- First draft
- Draft No. 2 with revisions
- Draft No. 3 with revisions
- Draft No. 4 with revisions
- Draft No. 5 with revisions
- Draft No. 6 with revisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Sent (JL Design)</th>
<th>Date Returned (Client)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11 (PDF) 2p</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 17 (PDF) 8:30 p</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 19 (PDF) 10:15a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 22 (PDF) 3p</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 23 (PDF) 12:30p</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If this is a final proof of your job, carefully review and sign off. NOTE: You should re-review all copy before approving—not just last round of revisions.

- Please make the following noted revisions before approval. (Do not sign below if changes need to be made.)
- Proof is OK—please go to print.
  *I have examined this proof for spelling, color breaks, photos, and all other elements I requested. I understand that any errors found at a later time are my responsibility.*

For Approved Final Proofs

I have reviewed the final proof of my job and approve it.

Signed: _____________________________________ Date: __________