URISA Unveils New Initiatives

By Scott Grams, URISA Program Coordinator

The Year 2000 is moving at breakneck speed for URISA. Four new initiatives have developed over the past few months to tackle a wide range of issues central to URISA’s membership (predominantly IT/GIS professionals in state, regional and local governments). The URISA Board, its respective committees, and the input from an active membership have focused the Association’s collective attention on these important areas.

Address Issues
URISA has taken the lead in this increasingly important area. Representatives from the United States Postal Service, the United States Census Bureau, the National Emergency Number Association, representatives from a number of states and municipalities, as well as a number of other individuals, have volunteered their time to serve on the URISA Addressing Guidelines Task Force.

“Correct addressing is becoming more and more of an issue as the population grows and sprawls further across the American landscape” said Peirce Eichelberger, Chairman of this special task force. “As cities and towns grow upward and outward, simple postal addressing is beginning to show its limitations. This task force has been formed to examine the other types of addressing that are becoming more prevalent in states and municipalities.” Peirce went on to explain that Global Positioning, GIS, and Internet technologies are presenting us with the opportunity for more accurate and precise addresses. However, many officials in government, and the constituents they represent, are still unaware of the complexity of this multi-faceted issue. This task force has begun its work by collecting all of the current, but different addressing standards and guidelines. From there, it will develop a comprehensive guideline for use by URISA members in their daily operations. “Our primary purpose is education. Developing a guideline will provide our members with a resource to assist them in understanding and implementing good addressing policies and procedures” said Peirce. The task force will continue to meet throughout the year, and plans an expanded work session on this subject at URISA’s Street Smart and Address Savvy specialty conference, October 25-27 in Baltimore.

Data Privacy
URISA, along with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), have teamed up as data privacy issues are of expressed interest to both organizations. This interest has led to the development of a joint initiative to develop data privacy guidelines. To that end, URISA has assembled a panel of knowledgeable recognized experts in the field to serve on this important task force.

The task force is currently in the process of reviewing proposals for a special contractor who will undertake most of the research, information gathering, and project development needed for this project. The first tangible outcome from the task force will be a special data privacy workshop that will be held three times during 2001. Out of these workshops, draft guidelines will be developed to help URISA members understand all of the complex issues involved in data privacy. “While there are many specific federal, state and local laws regarding data privacy, many do not address the specific questions our members have,” said David Martin, URISA Executive Director. “The task force is therefore working to develop a publication that will help our members to locate and understand legal regulations, while at the same time helping them to handle day-to-day issues not specifically addressed in legislation. The overall goal of this initiative is to supply the URISA membership with guidelines and education on how to handle privacy issues related to the public data they maintain.” The task force plans to continue to have regular meetings to carry out the URISA Board’s directive and plans to complete the project by the Spring of 2002.

Metadata
URISA, again in partnership with the FGDC, is also collaborating on a project to assess the applicability of Internet and telecommunications technologies to support knowledge management tools. This exciting project has involved all URISA members, who have assisted the effort by participating in a detailed survey on this subject. The purpose of the project is to learn how National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) builders and users around the nation discover and share their knowledge of metadata development, maintenance and utilization, and how this process may be facilitated and improved.

Certification
URISA continues its work in the GIS certification area. The URISA Committee has greatly expanded during the past seven months, and Committee Chair, continued on page 3
Important URISA Dates to Remember

August 19-23, 2000
URISA’s 37th Annual Conference
Orlando, FL

September 5, 2000
Due date for submissions for
September/October URISA News

October 2, 2000
Due date for abstract submissions,
Technology in Public Works Conference

October 25-27, 2000
2nd Annual Street Smart & Address
Savvy Conference
Baltimore, MD

April 1-4, 2001
Integrating GIS & CAMA Conference
Baltimore, MD

New Specialty Conference Added!
May 6-8, 2001
Technology — Making Public Works
WORK BETTER
Rosemont, IL

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Article submissions, calendar items
and industry news should be sent to
the attention of the Editor.

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About URISA

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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And the Winners Are...
2000 ESIG™ Award Winners Announced

Nearly FOUR times the number of submissions were received this year compared to 1999 for URISA’s Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG™) Awards!

This impressive response, combined with the extremely high quality of applications received, made for a very difficult selection process for the ESIG™ Award Committee. The ESIG™ applicants submitted their systems in one of these two categories: Single Process Systems or Enterprise Systems.

Single Process Systems
Systems in this category are outstanding and working examples of applying information systems technology to automate a specific SINGLE process or operation involving one department or sub-unit of an agency. The system application results in extended and/or improved government services that are more efficient and/or save money.

Enterprise Systems
Systems in this category are outstanding and working examples of using information systems technology in a multi-department environment as part of an integrated process. These systems exemplify effective use of technology yielding widespread improvements in the process(es) and/or service(s) involved and/or cost savings to the organization.

The following organizations joined the exclusive list of ESIG™ Award winners, by successfully improving the way in which government operates, through the use of information technology.

Single Process Systems –
ESIG Winner: Georgia GIS Clearinghouse
Key Contact: Tom Mettille, Manager of the Georgia GIS Data Clearinghouse, Atlanta, GA
This system is an excellent example of a system designed to fulfill an overwhelming need for data for planning, management, and operation purposes, as well as for better access to government records. The Clearinghouse exemplifies what many are striving for by making data more accessible, reducing redundant data development efforts, and fostering cooperation among both public and private sector users of spatial data and technology.

Enterprise Systems —
ESIG Winner: Pierce County (Washington) Responder System
Key Contact: Ed Reed, Manager Emergency Operations, Pierce County, Tacoma, WA
An easy-to-use multi-media information resource available to a diverse user group at a low cost. The ESIG™ Committee was particularly impressed by the system’s accessibility using wireless communication, as well as its ease of use, low cost, and potential utility for other jurisdictions. This system is an excellent example of the value of how integrating different kinds of data (maps, tabular information and raster imagery) can significantly improve how people work.

Honorable Mention:
Colorado Springs Utilities Facilities Information Management System
Key Contact: Kelly Means, Director, Business Information Services Department, Colorado Springs, CO

Honorable Mention:
Lane Council of Governments
Key Contact: Eric Brandt, Regional GIS Coordinator, Lane Council of Governments, Eugene, OR

Award recipients will be honored during the URISA 2000 Conference Awards Ceremony on Monday, August 21, and have been asked to present their systems in Project Showcase. Congratulations to all award winners and to all who participated in this process. The Committee was extremely impressed with this exceptional group of candidates. Congratulations!

URISA Unveils New Initiatives (continued from cover)

Nancy Obermeyer has taken the Committee to a new level by inviting representatives from many related organizations to participate in this important effort. “URISA has developed a partnership with the University Consortium of Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and we are now working together to achieve our mutual goals,” said Nancy. “We’re also pleased to have the participation of other professional organizations who also have an interest in certification, such as ASPRS, GITA, IAAO, and AAG.”

Over the course of the last two years, the Committee has surveyed URISA members and non-members, studied related certification programs, and participated in numerous sessions and focus groups on this subject. “This topic appeals to a large cross section of both our membership and the GIS community,” said Nancy. We’re looking forward to continuing our work in this important area and have planned a number of Committee meetings and educational sessions at the URISA Annual Conference on this subject.”

The URISA Certification Committee has begun meeting regularly and is currently working on the development of a model professional curriculum and a body of knowledge that could provide the basis for professional GIS certification.

Get Involved!
Each one of these committees will be meeting during the URISA 2000. If you are interested in working in one of these areas, be sure to attend! Your involvement is welcome.
It’s not about what you know, but knowing where to find it that counts!

By David J. Martin, Executive Director

I grew up in a world where being “smart” was measured by how much stuff you could remember. If your school was anything like mine, it was largely based on memorizing lots of facts that made you a good candidate for Jeopardy or today’s “Who Wants to Be A Millionaire.” I memorized the state capitals, the Presidents and their years in office, and the periodic table. I could recite a handful of important quotes each year, but I largely didn’t understand them out of the context in which they had been originally presented. It was those bits of trivia you knew that made you one of the “smart” kids. But, as we move to a world where information is more readily available than ever before, the definition of a smart person may be different. The smart person in today’s world won’t be the one who knows everything. They will be the people who know where to go to find what they need and how to use it once they have it.

In order to find anything in the vast amount of information that is available today, both from online resources and more traditional sources of professional information, the smart person will also need to be very self-directed and focused.

I bet I’m not the only one who has started an online search for one thing, and found myself an hour later looking at information that is completely unrelated to my original query. Despite the fact that there are many conferences, publications and online search engines to help us find what we need professionally, my guess is it will still be up to good old human intelligence to find the answers we’re really looking for. It’s likely that the smartest people will be the best navigators of information because they keep on course and know where to go to find the most accurate and timely information with the smallest amount of effort.

If you’re reading this newsletter today, you are likely one of the “smart ones” in today’s information economy. You know the value of your URISA membership and that literally hundreds of your colleagues work tirelessly to sort out the important information and to organize it in a way that is most useful to your professional life.

Take for example, the upcoming URISA Annual Conference (August 19-23, in Orlando). From hundreds of possible presentations, the Program Committee selected the top 150 that will likely be most useful to you. (They know this, because they have the same needs you do!) Then, they organized them into coordinated sessions and tracks to make your navigation through the program an optimal learning experience. They limited the presentation length so you could know enough about the subject to determine if you needed the complete details, and if you wanted more information they provided you with an easily searchable CD-ROM containing the complete conference papers that detail each presentation. Yes, there are larger conferences, but do you really take away as much valuable information? We think not!

Danger: Information Overload!

Smart people will also need to understand the dangers of living in an all-connected, all-the-time world. For now, if we avoid our PCs and our cellphones, we can avoid being connected. But in the future it is likely that data and information will be continuously streaming to you from your television, Internet-connected cars, hand-held devices and a myriad of other information appliances. You can already access the Internet from airplanes and kiosks at the airport, from malls and gyms, and in hotels and amusement parks. Managing all of this information (and the resulting faster lifestyle) is a skill that truly smart people will develop.

Wait and Wade

Smart people will also learn to cope with the frustrations of waiting and wading in a world where the expectation is to go faster and to collect more useful information more quickly. According to author James Gleick (see page 6), we spend an average of nine minutes per day waiting for Web pages to download. After they’ve downloaded, we must wade through unrelated or useless information trying to find the needle in the haystack that is really useful to us. The speed at which we demand communication via fax and e-mail continues to accelerate. And this makes us even more impatient to have to wait for anything, let alone for the important things we need.

Of course, in addition to the URISA Annual Conference, you know that URISA has a wide-range of other resources to help you with this problem. Fortunately, your fellow members have already taken the time to sort out the fact from the fiction, to organize it in a way most useful to you. Take for

continued on page 6
The email from headquarters reminding me that this column was due, mentioned that it was to be my \textit{LAST} (as URISA President, anyway)! Geez! Where (or when) did this year go? What is this inverse relationship (that seems to come with age) that as one thinks one may actually be getting wiser, one has absolutely no time to do anything about it?

So here I stand at another edge, the end of my term, and what better opportunity to assess, right? What an overwhelming year, even just keeping up with the new vocabulary requires a significant investment of time – all these new words being created (or old words with new meanings) – chaordic, geodatabase, portal, etc. And behind the words are technology or concepts that seem to take inordinate amounts of time to implement or connect with other knowledge. Perhaps we’ve become victims of our own success?

A lot has transpired and changed within this last year, but (bringing in a bit of URISA history) some things never change. I often reread Ed Horwood’s (URISA’s founder for you young folks) \textit{Short Laws} (see the Vol. 4, #2, Fall 1992 URISA Journal article by Steve Kinzy) to remind me that this data stuff we think we’re finally getting a handle on just keeps going around and around. Ed’s Laws are as follows:

1. Good data is the data you already have.
2. Bad data drives out good.
3. The data you have for the present crisis was collected to relate to the previous one.
4. The respectability of existing data grows with elapsed time and distance from the data source to the investigator.

5. Data can be moved from one office to another but it cannot be created or destroyed.
6. If you have the right data you have the wrong problem; and vice versa.
7. The important thing is not what you do, but how you measure it.
8. In complex systems there is no relationship between information gathered and the decision made.
9. Acquisition of knowledge from experience is an exception.
10. Knowledge grows at half the rate at which academic courses proliferate.

Yes, Ed’s sense of humor and wisdom survive, but one thing that’s different this past year, is that an article such as Steve’s, that told us about Ed and his laws, would no longer be acceptable in the URISA Journal. We’ve upgraded our standards. While I’m supportive of our efforts to make the Journal a top-notch refereed publication, hopefully, as an association, we won’t let standards stand in the way of sharing our collective wisdom (and history).

Another dominant URISA topic this year (as last) has been certification. This is hotly debated, with some people strongly believing that URISA should provide leadership in establishing a certification process. I believe we should consider a code of ethics among geo-professionals, but, personally, do not support certification. The Board has committed to fostering the debate and exposing the various advantages and disadvantages. Hopefully, models such as the Code of Ethics of the Society of American Foresters can be considered as closely as investigations this year into programs such as the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Finally, I’ve noticed changes in many of us in this past year. Yes, we’re all older and some of us are grayer, but more importantly, many of us seem to be taking what limited time we have to ask questions such as “what’s it for?” “why are we running so hard to keep up with technology?” “how do we make the tools work for us rather than us working for them?” The vendor community is continually improving technology, and it’s up to the users to continually ask whether technology is the solution and how to optimally use it. Increasing emphasis on “what’s the work we really need to be doing?” is a healthy trend.

It’s been a busy, interesting, and productive year. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as URISA President. Together we can continue to make URISA one of the most relevant and exciting associations to which one can belong. Happy Trails.
example, URISA’s new Quick Study series of publications. These short (20-30 page) books give you the How-To information you need to bring you quickly up to speed on a subject. They give you the tips and tricks to achieve success and provide you with just as much important information as you need to get the job done without having to wade through volumes of related, but non-critical, information.

So who’s smart in a world where what you know is not as important as knowing where to find what you don’t know? They are the people who are focused, the people who know how to reduce the stress of the information flow, and people who know how to avoid waiting, then wading through piles of information. In short, they are likely to be people like you, who know the true value of URISA membership.

P.S. Consider picking up one of the following books for an interesting and often belly-laughing look at information, data, knowledge and how people are reacting to the changes brought about by the information technology revolution.

Faster: The Acceleration of Just About Everything, James Gleick
InfoSense: Turning Information into Knowledge, Keith J. Devlin
The Social Life of Information; John Seely Brown, Paul Duguid
The Cluetrain Manifesto: The End of Business As Usual; Christopher Locke, et al

Bannister Runs for Office
Wayne Bannister, URISA President 1995-96 and former Board member, is running for Los Angeles County Assessor in this year’s election. For more than twenty years, Bannister has worked for the County, as Manager of Urban Research for the Chief Administrative Office. Good luck to one of our own! For more information, visit http://www.bannister4assessor.com/

The North Carolina Chapter of URISA recently presented their Excellence in GIS Award to Matthew Crisp for his work in developing the School Partnerships Resource Locator for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The Locator allows the Community Involvement and Partnerships staff to quickly and easily locate potential resources and partnerships for the schools. This innovative approach to local government infuses new resources into the school system without increasing taxes and closes the gap between needs and solutions. The Locator uses GIS technology to identify all businesses within the immediate vicinity of a school. The school can then attempt to establish neighborhood partnerships between the businesses and the school. Congratulations Matthew!

A very special thank you to GREG JOHNSON of SDI Chicago for helping out in the URISA member booth at the recent ESRI Conference in San Diego. It was extremely busy and your help was greatly appreciated!

Thanks again Greg!

Largest URISA Addressing Issues Workshop Held in Utah

Over 100 people attended the one day URISA Addressing Workshop held in Salt Lake City on May 10, 2000. The workshop was a kick-off to a day and a half program jointly sponsored by Utah Association of Counties, the Utah Geographic Information Council, Utah Geographic Reference Center, the Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council, and Questar.

All of Utah’s 29 counties were represented, as were several Idaho Counties. Peirce Eichelberger, URISA’s President-Elect, presented the certified URISA workshop. Attendees represented GIS programs, 911 agencies, public safety, fire, police, building, planning and recorder/auditor staff. Several elected officials were also in attendance.

Many attendees perform the addressing functions in their local government. Workshop topics included: a better understanding of the larger context of addresses, addressing systems and address assignments, address data models, implementing an address program, address ordinances, etc.

Many positives comments were received: “best workshop I have ever attended”, “thank goodness, we now have some resource materials to help do a difficult job”, “the procedure documentation in the appendix was worth attending just to get it”, “thanks for helping stress the public safety aspects of addressing”, and “thanks for stressing some of the issues we have been trying to convince others to better understand”. In some cases several key staff were from the same jurisdiction and that helped everyone to better understand the other’s perspective.

Peirce was very pleased with the response from the attendees and thought that Utah’s efforts to help coordinate at the state level was a “perfect role” for state agencies. According to Peirce, “Utah’s example should be followed by other states.” He continued, “the role of the state to help educate and highlight key issues of mutual concern demonstrates an effective partnership, so often missing among local and state participants.” Peirce also described “the workshop as the perfect role for URISA to help state and local agencies.” The workshop helped kick-off sessions to identify next steps of state and local coordination.

Contact URISA Headquarters for information about holding a URISA Workshop in your area!
Welcome New Corporate Members

Welcome back PlanGraphics!

PlanGraphics, Inc., is a systems integration and implementation company that provides a broad range of professional services in the design and implementation of spatial information technology, geographic information systems (GIS), automated mapping/facilities management (AM/FM) systems, land information systems (LIS), and related information technology (IT) applications such as work management, customer information, and asset management systems.

From initial consultation on strategy, through the hands-on work of system implementation, integration, and operation, PlanGraphics offers the skills and experience needed to save time and money, and minimize client risks, in implementing the most appropriate spatial information technology. PlanGraphics serves as both a system “architect” and as an overseer or active participant in the development of spatial information systems that meet the highest standards of performance.

We ensure that client needs and functional requirements are the decisive factors in determining the appropriate hardware and software; and we guarantee that our advice and actions will be objective, ethical, and in our client’s best interest. Furthermore, regardless of the solution, PlanGraphics has the technical resources to support the implementation.

PlanGraphics was founded in 1979. Company headquarters are in Frankfort, Kentucky. Regional offices are in Silver Spring, Maryland; Newport Beach, California; and Chandler, Arizona. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Integrated Spatial Information Solutions, Inc. (OTCBB: ISSS).

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Genesys International Corporation was founded in 1995 as a single-source global provider of photogrammetry, AM/FM/GIS Mapping, and IT consulting services. Genesys is headquartered in White Plains, NY, with offices in Philadelphia, PA; Toronto, ON, Canada, and Denver, CO. Our international production facilities and software development sites are located in Bangalore and Mumbai (Bombay), India.

Genesys International partners with progressive global enterprises to assist in expanding their business through the power of information and technology. We work with federal, state, and local government agencies; telecommunications firms; utilities; energy companies; agriculture and environmental companies; engineering firms; transportation authorities, as well as insurance, financial, and e-commerce companies.

Our Geospatial Team is comprised of over 200 professionals delivering in-depth experience in the areas of photogrammetry; remote sensing; AM/FM/GIS data capture, conversion, and implementation; customized GIS application development; training; data migration and system integration. Genesys provides its digital data in ESRI, Bentley MicroStation, AutoCAD, MapInfo, as well as custom formats. Combining quality personnel with leading edge technology processes and software enables us to undertake each project with the assurance that it will be successfully completed based upon our clients’ specific project scope, timeframe, and budget.

Genesys International’s Photogrammetry/Remote Sensing, AM/FM/GIS Mapping, and IT teams work together to provide services in the following areas of expertise:

Photogrammetry
- Aerial Photography
- GPS Survey Control
- Aerial Triangulation & Adjustment
- Stereo Triangulation & Adjustment
- DEM Compilation (planimetric & topographic)
- DTM and Breakline Capture
- Contour Generation
- Cross-section and Lateral-section Generation
- Digital Orthophoto Rectification

AM/FM/GIS Mapping
- Paper Records Conversion
- Digital Data Migration
- Raster-to-Vector Conversion
- Data Management & Maintenance
- Parcel/Tax Mapping
- Georeferencing and Digitizing
- 3D CAD Drawings

Professional Services
- Project Consulting
- Custom Application Development
- Training

We take pride in responding rapidly to our clients’ needs and
providing affordable, customized solutions. Every team member is committed to meeting our clients’ expectations and project requirements.

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Cognos Public Sector Group provides Cognos enterprise business intelligence software solutions and service exclusively to support Federal, state, and local government organizations.

Cognos Public Sector Group is a division of Cognos, Inc., (Nasdaq: COGN; TSE: CGN), the world’s largest and most successful business intelligence company. Founded in 1969, Cognos has corporate headquarters in Ottawa, Canada and US headquarters in Burlington, Massachusetts.

Cognos’ Web-based business intelligence software delivers the breadth and flexibility that federal, state, and local government agencies need to make information easily accessible to everyone in the organization, including customers, suppliers and partners. Cognos software creates a collaborative, information-sharing environment. It allows end users within and outside the organization to access, analyze, and report high-impact information via a secure Web browser. The end-result is faster, better decision-making which lowers costs and improves productivity and operating efficiency. Government agencies are able to offer a better level of service to private citizens.

Using the Web-based Cognos Enterprise Reporting Solution reduces operating costs and provides an improved level of service through faster, more informed decision-making. Cognos customers in the public sector use Cognos to evaluate budget alternatives, identify public health welfare trends, or analyze and report on criminal justice statistics.

Cognos operates more than 60 offices in 18 countries around the world. This April, Cognos was awarded the WebStar Service Award for delivering superior online web site services to its customers. For more information, visit the Cognos website at www.cognos.com.

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Thank you to the hundreds of URISA members who sent in their $15 voluntary contribution upon receipt of the 1999 CD Resource! With the funding you provided, URISA has been able to launch several new initiatives discussed in this URISA News.

URISA Corporate Members

Analytical Surveys, Inc
Apex Data Services, Inc.
Autodesk
Autodesk Canada
Ayres Associates, Inc.
BAE Systems ADR
Bowne Management Systems, Inc.
Camber Corporation
Cartica Corporation
CBT Systems USA, Ltd.
Centre of Geographic Sciences, Nova Scotia Community College
Cognos
Convergent Group
EarthWatch Inc.
ESRI
Federal Geographic Data Committee
Genesys International Corporation
Geographic Data Technology
HJW
Intergraph Corporation
Intermap Technologies, Ltd
Kinetic Solutions, LLC
Kucera International, Inc.
Landata Geo Services
LizardTech, Inc.
Merrick & Company
Michael Baker Corp./Baker GeoResearch
ORBIMAGE
PlanGraphics/ISIS
Schneider Corporation
SDS Inc.
Smallworld Systems, Inc.
Space Imaging
Speck Systems Limited, India
Surdex Corporation
Taylor Wiseman & Taylor
TerraPoint, LLC
Tidemark Computer Systems, Inc
UCLID Software

12th Annual GIS in the Rockies Conference

Applications for the 21st Century
Co-sponsored by the URISA Rocky Mountain Chapter
September 25-27, 2000
Denver, CO
www.GISintheRockies.org
ESRI has launched the Geography Network, a collaborative and multi-participant system for publishing, sharing, and using digital geographic information on the Internet. Visit www.GeographyNetwork.com to learn more. ESRI also introduced GIS.com, which is an educational site and jumping station for those interested in mapping and GIS technology.

ORBIMAGE is participating as a charter partner in ESRI’s Geography Network (www.geographynetwork.com). They will offer OrbView Cities high-resolution digital imagery through the site.

Autodesk announced the immediate worldwide availability of Autodesk OnSite, the first enterprise solution for bringing design and location-based information to the point of work via mobile devices. Autodesk OnSite utilizes the Palm OS platform, Oracle8i Lite and the Microsoft mobile computing operating system.

ERDAS has announced that MapSheets Express 1.3, the latest version of their free geo-browser for imagery and map data, is now available online at www.erdas.com/msx. Key enhancements in version 1.3 feature the inclusion of LizardTech’s MrSID imaging technology and improved file handling.

PCI Geomatics has announced the signing of an agreement with the University of Arkansas Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies (CAST) for joint cooperation in the areas of remote sensing and geomatics.

Geographic Data Technology (GDT) and ORBIMAGE have agreed to pursue joint development opportunities, to include the marketing of each other’s products.

Intergraph has announced a new free GeoMedia 4.0 Seminar Series, which began on June 20 and continues through the fall in major cities worldwide. Register online, www.intergraph.com/gis/4seminars.

Earth Resource Mapping announced the latest release of the free ECW ActiveX Software Development Kit, which demonstrates the integration of ECW compressed imagery with ESRI’s MapObjects and MapObjects LT applications. Developers can download the free SDK from the ER Mapper website (www.ermapper.com). Earth Resource Mapping also announced that Spot Image has chosen ER Mapper for their image map processing unit.

David Nellis and Johnell Geddes have joined the Denver office of Idea Integration as GIS Consultants. Idea Integration is the e-business solutions unit of Mods Inc.

Photo Science, Inc. has named R. Michael White its Manager of GIS.

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Photo Science, Inc. has named R. Michael White its Manager of GIS.

PCI Geomatics has provided image analysis software and expertise to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to assist the Walkerton Information Response Team. The team has been assembled to study what has been called the worst E. coli outbreak in Canadian History.

The Government/Utilities Division of M.J. Harden Associates announced a number of new projects including technical consulting and support services for Caldwell County and Cole County, Missouri and street centerline and address database for the Lenexa, Kansas Police Department.

EI Technologies has been hired by the Town of Parker, Colorado, to develop a new geospatial database. The project is a cost-sharing effort between the Town and the Parker Water & Sanitation District.

ACTEW, a leading electric utility based in Australia, has selected ESRI software for a modern, enterprise GIS to better operate and serve its customers. ACTEW supplies energy, water, sewerage and environmental services to more than 100,000 customers.

The Maine Department of Transportation has contracted with Photo Science for photogrammetric mapping services.

NEW Public Works & Technology Conference in Chicago

Technology-Making Public Works Work Better will be the theme for this exciting conference scheduled for May 6-8 of 2001. The Conference is the result of a joint effort between URISA and Public Works Journal Corporation, publishers of Public Works magazine. The new specialty conference will focus on the effective application of information technology in public works departments. The two-day educational program will provide a wealth of information to Public Works officials, consultants, and the IT/GIS professional community as a whole. There will be guest speakers, educational sessions, pre-conference workshops, and an exhibit hall. Mark your calendars today and check out the URISA web site at www.urisa.org for more details. The Call for Presentations has recently been distributed. The deadline date for submissions is October 2, 2000!
ESRI Hosts 20th Annual User Conference

Setting the tone for the Twentieth Annual ESRI User Conference, ESRI President Jack Dangermond opened the week’s activities by welcoming over 9,000 GIS professionals to beautiful San Diego, California. He also announced the launch of the Geography Network at www.geographynetwork.com, a new forum for standardized geographic data over the Internet. Along with this new development, Dangermond shared ESRI’s product direction with the presentation of ArcGIS, a new vision for the company’s software family that includes standardizing the user interface on ESRI’s desktop clients, ArcView GIS 8.1, ArcInfo Editor, and ArcInfo 8.1.

The convention offered many exciting activities, lectures, workshops, map displays, and presentations. The week’s many highlights included the keynote address by USGS Director Charles Groat, who emphasized the importance of worldwide data standards and cooperation between different scientific disciplines. Additionally, the opening of the map gallery, a celebration of GIS achievements in the ESRI user community, showcased beautiful and informative maps representing many varied industries. Among these other happenings, children of all ages explored the world of mapping in the GIS Kids Camp and large vendor and demonstration areas showcased new technological products and services.

The conference also served as a GIS Awards forum including the presentation of prestigious awards from Vice President Al Gore’s National Partnership for Reinventing Government (NPR). Pamela Johnson, Deputy Director of the NPR, presented the organization’s Hammer awards to ESRI and six teams from National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Community Demonstration Project. Jack Dangermond presented the Lifetime Achievement in GIS Award to landscape architect Phillip Lewis.

URISA’s Annual Conference Dates Switch to Fall

Don’t Miss The Boat!

Beginning with the 2001 Annual Conference, URISA members will gather to share their IT solutions to urban and regional challenges during the Fall months of October or November. (Previously, the conference was held in July/August.)

A majority of conference attendees surveyed indicated a preference for the annual event to take place in the Fall. This should also allow more of our academic members and students to participate as it will no longer conflict with the beginning of the school year.

So, mark your calendar now!

Invitation to Participate in the Survey on Client-Driven Applied Geography Projects

The survey on client-driven applied geography projects was launched in 1998 under the auspices of the Applied Geography Specialty Group (AGSG), Association of American Geographers (AAG). In late 1999, as a result of discussions at the Applied Geography Conference in Charlotte, the target population was extended to include the participation of URISA members engaged in client-driven applied geography projects. We recently completed several system changes, and are now ready to expand the database of respondents. The purpose of the survey is to document the nature and extent of involvement by geographers in client-driven applied geography projects. A major product of the survey will be an open database on project topics, investigators, clients, funding, research approaches, publications, etc. For details about the survey, and several illustrative responses to the survey form, please consult the following: http://aix1.uottawa.ca/~wellarb

Questions or comments on the survey may be directed to Prof. Barry Wellar, Department of Geography, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1N 6N5. He can also be contacted as follows: e-mail (wellarb@uottawa.ca); fax: (613) 562-5145; tel: (613) 562-5800 ext 1065.
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August 19–23, 2000, Orlando, Florida

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