Perils of Pedestrians
By Dan Parr, URISA News Editor, Dan Parr Associates, Takoma Park, MD

Dr. Barry Wellar is a URISA Past President (1978), and Horwood Award winner (1985) who has a very distinguished research career. His current major project involves the Walking Security Index (WSI) that Professor Wellar designed, and is now putting through a pilot study for the City of Ottawa.

Dan Parr spoke with Professor Wellar about the WSI research and its connections with URISA.

Parr: What are the origins of the Walking Security Index project?
Wellar: In the 1990s, the Region of Ottawa-Carleton invited research proposals as part of its Transportation Environment Action Plan. I proposed the Walking Security Index (WSI) project. The research goal was to design indexes to use in evaluating intersection design and performance features in terms of how well they serve and promote pedestrians’ security. The Region funded the study in 1996, and it was completed in 2000.

Parr: Why the term “Security”?
Wellar: Most of the prior research involving pedestrians was limited to safety. I took a page from the Highway Capacity Manual and put pedestrians on the same footing as motorists. That was done by designating safety, comfort and convenience as the principal components of security. The Region of Ottawa-Carleton accepted the idea in both the design study and the pilot study.

Parr: What is the connection between the design study and the pilot study?
Wellar: The design study involved specifying the index formulations, and publishing them for review by three groups of experts: elected officials, professional staff, and citizens. Ten indexes were formulated, and about a dozen reports and articles were published. The design work was very favourably received by the experts, so a pilot study was then submitted, and funding was approved by Regional Council. The goal of the pilot study is to test the three macro indexes for operationality.

Parr: What is the status of the pilot study?
Wellar: The Intersection Volume and Design Index (IVDI) was tested for 33 signalized intersections, and it was found to be fully operational. The second macro index is the Quality of Intersection Condition Index (QICI) at the 33 pilot study intersections is also complete, and it too was found to be fully operational. The third macro index is the Driver Behaviour Index (DBI). The DBI involves concepts, variables, and data recording and analysis procedures which appear to be breaking new ground. As a result, we are at the early rather than the late phase in regard to demonstrating operationality for the DBI Index.

However, we have not yet encountered any methodological or technical reason to reject the DBI. As a result, we are encouraged that we are on the right track towards achieving a powerful means of dealing with motorists who run the red, run the amber, or commit fail-to-yield infractions at intersections.

Parr: Can you describe the reception that is being given to the WSI project?
Wellar: The project was well-received through the design phase, and through to the approval of the pilot study by Ottawa Council. Now that the pilot study reports are coming out, I expect the “niceness” will end and the sharp sticks will come into play.

Parr: Why the sharp sticks?
Wellar: In order to serve and promote the safety, comfort and convenience of pedestrians, some things...
Important URISA Dates to Remember

July 6, 2001
Board of Director Ballots due at URISA HQ

July 16, 2001
Early registration discount deadline for Street Smart Conference

August 12-14, 2001
Street Smart & Address Savvy Conference
Milwaukee, WI

September 9-12, 2001
URISA Caribbean GIS Conference
Montego Bay, Jamaica

October 20-24, 2001
URISA’s 39th Annual Conference
Long Beach, CA

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Have you visited the URISA Website lately?
www.urisa.org

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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have to change in the easy ride
given to motorists for the past 40
years. Therefore, motorists, compa-
nies that sell and service vehicles,
and organizations which thrive on
more vehicles traveling more miles,
will not take kindly to indexes
which serve the interests of pedes-
trians.

Parr: What about WSI publications for
readers wanting to look into your
research?

Wellar: There are a number of design
and pilot study reports. A current
list can be obtained by contacting
me, preferably by e-mail at:
wellarb@uottawa.ca. I will send out
the publications list, as well as in-
formation about pilot study reports
which the City of Ottawa is respon-
sible for posting on the Web.

Parr: In a different vein, what is the
story on your starring role in an
episode of Perils of Pedestrians?

Wellar: John Wetmore, who is the pro-
ducer of Perils, asked me to do an
interview after my presentation on
the WSI at the 2001 Transportation
Research Board Meetings in Wash-
ington. We were in the midst of the
Driver Behaviour Index component
at the time, so it was an opportu-
nity to publicly report on that
macro index. Details about the Per-
ils Series and my interview are
available at: www.pedestrians.org

Parr: Have you been asked why a ge-
ographer, and not an engineer, is
doing the WSI research?

Wellar: Yes I have, and the answer is
simple. Engineers had 40 years to
factor pedestrians into the urban
transportation equation, and
largely failed to do so. Indeed, the
revised Highway Capacity Manual
still seems to me to be
“tokenesque” in its regard for pe-
destrians.

In my case, it had been clear
for years that many development
proposals in Ottawa and elsewhere
had too little regard for pedestrians
as users of intersections. Worse,
there seemed to be great looseness
in how the concept of “Level of
Service” was called on to justify
road widenings. Given the spatial
dimensions of individual intersec-
tions, and especially networks of
intersections, it seems eminently
logical for geographers to be en-
gaged in this kind of applied re-
search.

Parr: You have presented your WSI
work at URISA on several occasions.
Are there any further messages
about the WSI and IS/GIS connec-
tion?

Wellar: As discussed at the TRB 2001
and AAG 2001 meetings, it appears
that an IS/GIS capability is required
to implement any of the macro in-
dexes in cities with more than 100
or so signalized intersections. And,
an IS/GIS capability with a variety
of functions seems essential if two
or three of the macro indexes are
to be implemented.

However, there are a number
of strategic, tactical and opera-
tional considerations to bear in
mind when developing the WSI da-
tabases, and they are specified in
detail in the pilot study reports. If
current plans work out, I will be
discussing the WSI and IS/GIS con-
nexion at URISA 2001 in Long
Beach.

Parr: One final question. What about
behaviour indexes for pedestrians
and cyclists? Any plans for them?

Wellar: We have an extensive
“behavioural” file on pedestrians
and cyclists, including letters, e-
-mails and telephone calls, about
the sometimes aberrant behaviour
of peds and cyclists. However, since
this is a client-driven project with
emphasis on the behaviour of ve-
hicle operators, the ped and cyclist
formulations are “on hold”.

Perils of Pedestrians (continued from front page)

The 14th Annual GIS in the
Rockies Conference will meet
September 18-20, 2001 at Plaza
at the Mart, Denver, Colorado.
Sponsored by URISA, ACSM,
ASPRS, GITA, and PLSC, this
meeting will feature one day of
workshops and two days of
exhibits and concurrent technical
sessions on the theme
“Convergence of Information &
Geography for Everyone.” Target
audience: GIS professionals in the
Rocky Mountain region. Web:
Contact the chair by e-mail at
Chair@GISintheRockies.org.

Lunchtime Surfers

Art Source International — http://
www.MapsandPrints.com

This website sells original antique
maps. You may be particularly in-
terested in their original Govern-
ment Survey Maps from the
1800’s. Simply type “survey” into
the database of maps at the top
of any page.
As the new executive director of URISA, I have spent my first few weeks on the job talking – on the phone, at meetings and in the office. Something that I have heard repeatedly to me in many variations from the various members I have spoken with is – relevance. How can we make URISA more relevant in the future? How can we maintain URISA’s current relevance in the face of many challenges?

As some of you know, I have a broad range of association experience. I have worked for associations in the cement industry, automotive aftermarket industry and the paper industry for the last 12 years. In addition I am the mayor of my hometown, Round Lake, Illinois, I also served for five years as chairman of our local zoning and planning commission. My skills as an association executive blend together with my interest in local issues, and to be honest, I think I have found a perfect fit here at URISA.

I understand the value of association membership and the importance of reminding members of that relevance. I have seen some corporations allow their employees to be active members of their association to the benefit of everyone. This degree of participation enables an association to thrive and flourish. I have also seen the other side of the coin – corporations who do not encourage employee participation in associations. This hands-off attitude diminishes the value of the association.

As I review my notes from all my conversations with URISA members, I find several major issues. Among them are exploring and developing a certification program for GIS professionals, improving URISA headquarters services to our chapters, developing more publications and services to address needs of our members, attracting more volunteers to URISA committees and to our leadership positions, and exploring a leadership role in web-based government for future growth. The common thread is relevance. Relevance to their jobs, their employees and to the field.

The URISA board of directors, as your voice, is going to challenge me as the Executive Director to make these issues the focus of new and expanded services to URISA membership. My challenge is to take the questions and the issues listed above to the entire membership and make them relevant to your daily job.

Individually, these important issues add member value to our association. Collectively, they can make URISA the worldwide leader in GIS. It pleases me to say that as I look around the GIS industry, I see lots of room for relevance for URISA. I am really looking forward to the challenge of leadership.

From my previous association experience, I know many of these issues are ones shared by other associations. Through my contacts with other association professionals and through my membership in the American Society of Association Executives, I believe I can network and discover what others are doing to address these issues.

I call on you – the URISA membership – to add your voice and contribute your ideas. This is your association and you play an integral part in its success. If you have ideas or concerns, please call me. I want to hear what you believe is relevant.

Bill Gentes can be reached at (847) 824-6300, bgentes@urisa.org

**NSDI Communications Toolkit**

The NSDI Communications Toolkit - “Using Geography to Advance the Business of Government” answers the question of how to convince management of the power of geospatial information and GIS technology.

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) announce the availability of a set of three interrelated briefing materials that describe the power of geospatial information and technology, and the value of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) as the spatial foundation for facilitating data creation and sharing.

The Toolkit includes these “power” tools: “Using Geography to Advance the Business of Government” CD-ROM and leave-behind brochure, and “The Power of Place to Support Decision Making” – a 15-minute video tape, produced by ESRI and provided to support this project. It highlights policy makers from several states who are effectively using geospatial data and GIS to support decisions in their daily government business.

To receive a free complete NSDI Communications Toolkit or download some briefing materials, visit the FGDC website at: http://www fgdc.gov
Am I Alone in This?
By Lyna Wiggins, URISA President, Rutgers University

As a conscientious urban planner I know that I’m supposed to eschew my car for public transit for my daily commute. Or at the very least, I should carpool. Well, here’s a dirty little secret - I actually enjoy my time alone in the car each day before and after the pressures of work. It’s certainly not something I admit to my transportation planning colleagues, although I guess I could always blame it on having grown up in Los Angeles. Besides the pleasant alone time, I like to listen to a variety of music on the radio during the commute, and although I get irritated by chronic channel switchers when sharing television viewing, I do a lot of station switching in my own car. Why listen to commercials (especially those obnoxious car dealer ads) when you can switch to another station or your own tape/CD?

Anyway, a few weeks ago I was listening to a local business report on the radio in my car. The theme of the report was the failure of the dot coms, with a focus on their problem with advertising income. That most of us do not click on the ads on web pages is certainly not a surprise. Give me a break - even with all of the blinking, scrolling, animating and attention getting of the flash graphics on today’s web pages, I don’t click on them unless it is for something I am actively interested in getting information about at the time. I find the automatic pop-up pages that you have to take a second to close the window are particularly irritating, and I make it a point to NOT look at those as I click them closed. How about you? Am I alone in this?

But thinking a minute about this, it’s only on the web that the advertisers can measure so rich in these actual statistics. The advertisers don’t know that I change my radio stations rather than listen to them, or channel switch my television or go to the bathroom during commercial breaks. In fact, I rarely watch TV in real time, so usually my commercial viewing is strictly via the fast forward on my VCR. I never listen to a word of it and it appears as a blur (and unless it’s subliminal, it makes no impression on me). The advertisers don’t know that I always immediately put my Sunday paper ad sections directly into my recycling bin. In fact, the only time I may purposely look at ads on paper is in the air on a flight when I’ve run out of reading material. Am I alone in this?

I know when I do use the web for product selection. It’s when I really need to buy something or travel somewhere and want to do research before I choose. That’s when I appreciate well-designed web pages with easy to find product information. And for comparison shopping, there’s nothing like sites like expedia.com and travelocity.com. Of course, the developers of those sites probably aren’t aware that I use them to find my flight, then call in my choices to our institutional travel agent. Bet they would love knowing about that kind of usage! But then, I surmise that many of us have also used amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com to find information about a book, and then actually bought it elsewhere.

In a long-winded way, this brings me to location-based services, a new technology that everyone in GIS circles is increasingly aware. How wonderful for an urban planner or environmental professional out in the field to be able to query the enterprise GIS, and upload data collected in the field. And after a hard morning in the field, how cool to get locational information you want about the closest pizza parlor if you actually WANT that information at the moment. But what about unsolicited ads about things around us? If we don’t want to know about car dealers in your vicinity (I certainly don’t - I have to be dragged kicking and screaming to get a car when my current one finally dies), we certainly won’t voluntarily access it. Will this type of advertising pay the freight for the development of location-based services technology, or will it be another case of the advertising problems exhibited by dot coms this year?
ESRI Ad

pick up from March issue, headline: Delivering a World of GIS to your Desktop
Unlike floods, thunderstorms and other natural hazards which can be predicted in advance, tornadoes rarely give more than a few minutes notice before striking. For this reason, outdoor sirens serve as the primary early warning system to alert the public of a funnel cloud sighting or approaching twister.

In Polk County, Iowa, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) recently used a combination of GIS mapping and Internet access technology to fine tune our network of tornado warning sirens and eliminate gaps in the audible coverage areas. All communities benefited, and the city of Des Moines completely reconfigured and upgraded its warning system as a result of the siren location map published on our web site.

Each city and town in Iowa is responsible for maintaining its own sirens. Smaller towns may have only one or two, but cities like Des Moines have complex layouts of up to 30 sirens. These multi-unit layouts strive for maximum coverage with minimal overlap.

In 1991, the county Auditor’s Office spearheaded development of a GIS using Intergraph’s MGE software. With funding from the Assessor’s Office, the Polk County Geographic Information Management System (GIMS) was developed and populated with digital parcel maps and related records useful in performing property tax assessments. Two years ago, the Auditor’s Office upgraded GIMS by adding online capabilities.

Other county agencies access a variety of GIMS applications through a county-wide intranet, while the public views and compares tax assessment documents via the Internet.

With emergency preparedness one of our primary objectives at EMA, we saw GIMS as an opportunity to make valuable information about the tornado warning systems available to the public and our municipalities. We obtained precise location coordinates for each siren and supplied this data to GIMS technicians along with other performance details such as signal strength and direction.

The technicians pinpointed siren locations on the county GIS map and shaded in the coverage areas for each. We then invited emergency personnel in individual communities as well as citizens to view the map by logging onto our web site. Coverage maps could be queried either by entering the name of a community or by keying in a specific property address. For individuals, it is impractical to expect the warning tone to reach every household, especially in rural areas. Therefore, members of the public were encouraged to learn if their homes were outside the sirens’ range, so they would know to turn to another warning sources, such as NOAA weather alert radios, when adverse weather conditions arise.

Cities, however, examined the maps and made changes in attempts to include as many houses, schools and office buildings as possible within the audible range of a siren. The Des Moines Fire Department made the most wide-spread changes of any public entity.

The GIMS map revealed that large overlaps existed in the city’s downtown, while other populated areas had no coverage at all. Another problem that came to light graphically was the lack of consistency in audible zones around many sirens. Some were 40 years old and had been built to different specifications than newer sirens.

Ultimately, Des Moines replaced all 30 sirens with new ones having identical performance characteristics. The siren vendor worked closely with GIMS technicians and the GIS maps to select and then test the ideal locations for placement of the new units. Potential coverage areas were mapped under various siren layouts until Des Moines achieved a nearly 100 percent warning signal coverage from its new sirens.

About the Author – AJ Mumm is the Hazard Mitigation Planner in the Polk County, Iowa, Emergency Management Agency.
Third Annual Street Smart Conference Heading to Milwaukee in August

By Michael Kevany, PlanGraphics, 2001 Conference Chair

It is estimated that 80% of governmental activities make use of addresses and a similar volume of use is made in the private sector. Addresses therefore are critical to our economy. While the use of addresses is universal, the assignment and maintenance of addresses is almost exclusively the responsibility of local governments. Three years ago, URISA recognized the vital nature of addressing as a part of local government information management and established this specialty conference on addressing.

The Street Smart & Address Savvy Conference provides a forum for those who are responsible for creating, maintaining and using addresses and address data to share knowledge and experiences. The sessions are practical, highlighting actual experiences and discussing the real issues confronting the address professional. The Conference has a strong 911, public safety, and emergency services focus but also deals with a wide range of other issues of interest to planners, IT professionals and others in local government and the private sector.

This year is very significant in the 911 world, as the year in which the location of cell phone calls is to be provided. There are many challenges in this, not only in how the location will be provided but also how the non-address location will be dealt with. Closely related is the use of wireless technology in general and the emergence of the Location Based Services (LBS) business area. These and other hot topics will be discussed at the conference, along with basic information on the creation and maintenance of address systems and advanced topics regarding addressing issues.

While this is the third annual conference it has been carefully planned to include new topics and perspectives to be of continuing interest to those who have attended in prior years. See you in Milwaukee — August 12–14!

Call for Street Signs
Boo-Boo DR, Happy Hour LN, 4 Wheel DR, the intersection of This ST and That ST. What do these street names have in common? They were several of the street sign submissions at last year’s conference. Share your examples with us. Digital pictures, photographs, or actual street signs will be accepted as entries in this category. Winners will be selected from 2 categories; (1) Most unusual/original, and (2) Most humorous street sign. The overall winner will receive a free conference registration for next year. Along with each sign please indicate: the individual and organization submitting the sign, where the sign is located (cross streets and/or GPS coordinates), and the category of entry. Send pictures to Scott Grams (sgrams@urisa.org) between now and mid-July.

URISA is Heading to Sunny Southern California!

Watch your mail for the URISA 2001 Conference Program and registration form. The program will mail in June.

See Technology!
After the 1999 inaugural conference, attendees were asked how the conference could be improved in future years. Many requested the opportunity to meet with companies who could help them with their addressing needs. So, last year’s conference included an exhibit hall where attendees took advantage of ample networking and product demonstrations. These companies participated in 2000:

- Autodesk
- Digital Data Technologies, Inc.
- ESRI
- Geographic Data Technology
- MapLogic Corporation
- Mobile Video Services, Inc.
- MSAG Data Consultants, Inc.
- PlanGraphics
- Plant Equipment, Inc.

Attention Vendors: If you are interested in exhibiting at this event, contact Wendy Francis at URISA for details (847/824-6300, wfrancis@urisa.org).
Nearly 300 people (from all over the United States, Canada, and overseas) attended URISA's newest specialty conference, Technology — Making Public Works Work Better. The event took place May 6-8 at the Holiday Inn O'Hare International in Rosemont, Illinois. The inaugural conference, jointly presented by URISA and the Public Works Journal Corporation (publishers of Public Works magazine) featured pre-conference workshops, forty speakers, and an exhibit hall.

Doug Fuller (Aero-Metric Inc.) and David Zenk (Minnesota Office of Land Management) taught URISA's Introduction to GPS Pre-Conference Workshop and Nancy Lerner (EMA Services) taught AM/FM/GIS for Public Works: A Manager's Perspective, to begin the conference.

In The Loop
Thom Johnson, Assistant Commissioner, Internet Project Manager, and Media Relations Advisor with the Chicago Department of Transportation, and Kauser Razvi, the Assistant Chief Information Officer and GIS Director in the Department of Business and Information Services for the City of Chicago, delivered the keynote address for the conference. They discussed “In the Loop,” a breaking news website (www.cityofchicago.org/intheloop) that can be updated wirelessly from the field. Under the direction of the CDOT Commissioner, the site includes expressway travel times, weather bulletins, power outages, flight delays, and other major impact stories that affect millions of downtown residents. The presentation certainly caught the attention of conference-goers!

The educational program followed three tracks: Management Issues, Applications, and IT Systems Implementation & Maintenance. Sessions were well-attended and some of the individual presentations that were highly-reviewed were:

- Public Works, e-Government and Customer Service
  Steve Carter, Suncoast Scientific, Division of Motorola
- Water/Wastewater Data Development and Asset Management at the City of Escondido
  Lisa Lubeley, City of Escondido, CA
- GIS An Emerging Tool for Public Works Construction Management
  Bill White, Lakeshore Asset Management, Huntsville, AL
- Turnkey GIS for Local Government: A Case Study from Southwest Louisiana
  Jay Arnold, 3001, Inc., Gainesville, FL
- Using Mobile Computing to Improve Maintenance Operations
  Clay Kline, CSI Maximus, Wayne, PA
- Enterprise Solutions for Public Works Management
  David D. Holmes, Intergraph Corporation, Huntsville, AL

Attendees enthusiastically took part in the Roundtable Luncheon, where topics such as these were discussed:

- Wireless communication with field operations.
- GPS and Palm computing in Public Works for permit inspections
- Problems and pitfalls of integrating utility and municipal GIS/CADD systems
- Mobile asset collection (water meters, signs, handicap curb ramps, trees)

GASB 34 — What Does It Mean For Us?
Perhaps the session that garnered the most attention was the Closing Session, GASB 34 — What Does It Mean For Us? This panel discussion centered on the General Accounting Standards Board’s Statement 34 (GASB-34). GASB-34, which was issued and updated recently, was established to make financial reporting easier and more accurate for local governments. The Conference Committee assembled an expert panel to discuss this new standard and how it applies to both the private and public sectors. Since this topic is of utmost importance to local governments, there will be a feature article in an upcoming issue of URISA News to help members sort it out.

Technology in the Exhibit Hall
With all the talk about technology, attendees were anxious to see demonstrations of technology at work in the exhibit hall. The exhibiting companies at this year’s event included:

- Aero-Metric, Inc.
- Autodesk Government
- CarteGraph Systems
- Carter & Burgess
- ESRI
- Exor Corporation
- Farragut Systems
- GBA Master Series, Inc.
- GeoAnalytics
- GEOSPAN
- Hansen Information Technologies
- Intergraph Corporation
- Magellan
- Orbital IMS
- Robinson Engineering, Ltd.
- RouteSmart Technologies, Inc.
- Suncoast Scientific, A Motorola Company
- Trimble Navigation
- UCLID Software LLC

Thanks to all who participated, presented, attended, and exhibited at the 2001 Conference. With the first conference being hailed a success, plans have already begun for the 2nd annual conference in 2002!
Industry News

Synciline, Inc. announced the addition of high-resolution printing capabilities, as well as other enhancements, to MapCiti, the company’s fully automated Web-based mapping service for cities, towns and government agencies.

Houston TranStar recently turned to Applied Technological Services, Inc. (ATS) and Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions for a Web-based GIS solution to help ease transportation problems, over growing concerns about traffic congestion and inadequate agency coordination resulting from area construction projects. TranStar assists in coordinating transportation-related activities of its member agencies which consists of Harris County, the City of Houston, Texas Department of Transportation, and the Metropolitan Transit Authority. These agencies are responsible for the planning, design, operations, and maintenance of more than 15,000 miles of roadways within the Greater Houston Area.

Caliper Corporation has released MapTitude for the Web, which combines the features of a GIS and a web application server.

Accela recently announced the pending acquisition of Tidemark Solutions, Inc. The acquisition will offer Accela and Tidemark clients a broader base of products and services to meet the e-permitting needs of government agencies.

Magellan Corporation announced the release of Ashtech Survey Control II, an advanced data collection software that increases productivity by enabling additional modes of GPS data collection not accessible through the on-board user-interface of Ashtech GPS receivers for precision applications.

A rigorous satellite testing/qualification period has begun for SPOT 5, and will continue until the actual launch scheduled for the first quarter of 2002. SPOT 5 will produce three different suites of imagery and image-based products: local/regional scale imagery; global scale imagery; and global terrain elevation.

ESRI is now shipping ArcGIS 8.1. ArcGIS 8.1 made its prime-time television debut on CBS’s The District on April 21. The episode entitled “The Agony and the Ecstasy” used ArcGIS-generated maps depicting ecstasy (MDMA) use among 12th grade students, U.S. Customs seizures of MDMA in the top 20 U.S. cities, and known urban areas that have the drug readily available. The District also depicts a GIS model that illustrates how ecstasy abuse is likely to spread across the United States in the next few years.

Surdex Corporation received ESRI’s “New Partner of the Year” award for the St. Louis Region, during ESRI’s recent Worldwide Business Partner Conference.

Applied Analysis Inc. has recently become an ESRI Business Partner and will offer consulting services focused on developing custom applications that use ArcIMS to deliver geospatial imagery.

RADARSAT and Agri ImaGIS (of Maddock, ND) announced they have signed a commercial agreement to provide the North American agricultural industry with a web-based, crop vigor mapping service derived from LANDSAT-7 earth observation satellite data.

Convergent Group was recognized by ESRI’s regional office as its 2001 Foundation Partner of the Year.

Nearly 100 delegates from 65 countries attended ERDAS, Inc.’s recent International Sales Meeting in Atlanta. ERDAS also recently announced the immediate merger between the company and Leica Geosystems. ERDAS’ technology will be used to help form Leica Geosystem’s new GIS and Mapping Division.

ESRI’s Virtual Campus was the recent recipient of the California Geographic Information Association Excellence in Education Award.

ESRI and The Associated Press have developed an online mapping service, called MapShop, that will provide numerous ways for graphics personnel, database editors, and journalists to generate maps.

People News

HJV GeoSpatial has named Mark Safran as President and Chief Executive Officer. Most recently the firm’s Chief Operating Officer, Safran succeeds Axel Hoffman who stepped down from the position earlier this month.

Ed Wells, URISA Board member, recently joined Gannett Fleming as the regional GIS Manager for the firm’s Pittsburgh office. Wells is responsible for marketing and developing GIS/IT services in the region for GeoDecisions, a division of Gannett Fleming.

GIS Day 2001
November 14, 2001
Mark Your Calendar!

Scott Bechler recently joined Datria Systems as Vice President of Sales & Marketing.

Project Awards

Benchmark GIS has been awarded a contract to provide digital terrain models and county-wide orthophotography to Bayfield County, WI.

Surdex Corporation was awarded a contract by Coles County, Illinois for a 514 square mile digital mapping and orthophotography project. Also, Ogle County, Illinois awarded the company a contract for 764 square miles of black and white digital orthophotography basemapping. Further, Surdex was awarded a contract by the US Department of Agriculture, FSA-Aerial Photography Field Office, to map Primary Sample Unit (PSU) sites in the states of Missouri and Arkansas. The project is a part of the USDA’s 2001 National Resource Inventory Project. Services include color aerial photography and digital film scanning of up to 3,525 PSU sites.

ImageAmerica, Inc has been awarded a contract to provide TerraSource Update Orthophotography for Crawford County, Ohio.

Exor Corporation and Geoplan Consultants were selected by the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Highways to supply and implement an $896,000 Road Inventory and Maintenance System by March 31, 2002.

Merrick & Company recently completed an Internet Mapping Solution for Weld County, Colorado (http://maps.merrick.com) The application was built utilizing ArcIMS and was created for the GIS and Assessors Office in the County. The application provides the user with detailed information regarding all taxable accounts associated with a parcel; including building, mineral, oil and land data. Merrick is also providing hosting services. The San Diego County Water Authority has entered into a contract with Merrick for corridor mapping of 160 linear miles of aqueduct.

No Hanging Chads!

All URISA members were mailed the 2001-2002 Board of Directors Ballot, along with the copy of the May issue of Marketplace. Contribute to URISA’s future direction by voting. All ballots must be postmarked by July 6 to be counted.
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Uses Internet GIS

The power and flexibility of GIS is widely known by the many and varied users of the technology such as governments, utilities, private sector firms, etc. However, a newcomer, the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, has embraced the technology in what is perhaps the first of its kind for a large non-profit agency. UWMD is a locally incorporated, non-profit organization that raises and distributes charitable contributions to support health and human services over a six county area in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex in North Texas. Their GIS effort began approximately 2 years ago with a Needs Assessment and the subsequent implementation of ArcView. More and more users in both the downtown Dallas headquarters and the numerous field offices began requesting access to the GIS in order to better 1) analyze the services being provided, 2) determine where additional services are needed, and 3) evaluate the market share of existing service locations. To meet this growing demand, UWMD moved into Phase 2 of their GIS deployment (web-based access) and contacted Landata Geo Services, Inc. of San Antonio, Texas who, in partnership with Eagle Mapping, Inc. of Houston, Texas developed a very unique and very robust Internet-based GIS solution using ESRI’s ArcIMS software.

This application was developed using existing data sources from various local government agencies, including municipalities, the rapid transit authority, and council of governments, in conjunction with existing internal databases containing agency and volunteer information.

The resultant product is providing both a graphic and a tabular analysis tool to the people responsible for coordinating agency activities, developing funding campaigns, and expanding the services being provided. For the first time, census demographics, service locations, addresses, bus stops, and many UWMD proprietary data elements are being used simultaneously to effectively deploy assistance into the Dallas/Fort Worth community for numerous activities aimed at kids, families, seniors, health and crisis relief. This application is available for use by the internal customers of UWMD only at this time, however, a public access roll-out of the site will occur in late 2001 or early 2002. A sneak preview of the site will be available via the ESRI web page beginning June 1st as part of the Geography Challenge.

Spatial Data Privacy Workshops

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and URISA have collaborated to present a workshop to address privacy issues which have arisen because of rapid advancements in technology. The purpose of this full-day workshop, Spatial Data Privacy: Issues and Implications, is to help IT and GIS professionals to:

1. Identify privacy concerns in geographic information in regard to collection of information, maintenance, new applications of the information, and publication or access to the information;
2. Formulate a guide to help identify existing common standards in protecting information in different data processes; and
3. Develop a tool or checklist of questions which can be used by Federal, State, and local professionals to ensure that privacy issues will be considered when dealing with the private sector.

The workshop is the culmination of several months of research by the URISA/FGDC privacy initiative independent contractor.

There are only two more opportunities to participate in this important workshop:
- June 25, 2001 — Washington, DC
- October 21, 2001 — Long Beach, CA, at URISA’s 39th Annual Conference (Note: registration for this workshop will be available in July, when the conference program is distributed)

Attendance at each workshop is extremely limited. Register as soon as possible to be sure that you will be able to attend this important course.

To register, or for more information, visit http://www.urisa.org/Privacy%20initiative/data_privacy.htm or contact URISA at 847/824-6300.
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URISA Exhibit
Opportunities in 2001

August 12-14, 2001
Street Smart & Address Savvy,
Milwaukee, WI
Target audience: 911 professionals

September 9-12, 2001
Caribbean GIS Conference,
Montego Bay, Jamaica
Target audience: English-speaking
Caribbean government agencies

October 20-24, 2001
URISA 2001 Annual Conference,
Long Beach, CA
Target audience: IT/GIS/Planning/
Management professionals within
state & local government

Visit www.urisa.org for details or contact Wendy Francis at URISA
Headquarters
(wfrancis@urisa.org)

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