To all URISA members, members of allied organizations, and the geospatial technology industry as a whole:

Last month (Oct 25), the URISA Board unanimously approved the URISA Certification Committee’s proposed schedule for public discussion, testing, evaluating, and implementation of a proposed certification program for GIS professionals. The URISA Certification Committee members spent over three hours debating the details of this proposal at the Long Beach conference. This followed three years of honest and professional debate about the pros and cons of GIS Certification. Background information is available in other locations at the URISA web site.

The schedule covers two years: a six-month period for public debate, a one-year pilot period for testing, and time for evaluating and revising the system prior to a final approval scheduled for the URISA Annual Conference in October, 2003.

The URISA Board of Directors strongly encourages all GIS professionals to study the proposal and enter into the discussion that will follow over the next six months.

The Certification Proposal
The proposed GIS Certification Program consists of a point-based system that is self-documented and calculated by the individual seeking certification. The proposal does not include an examination. One year of prior experience is required before an individual can submit a portfolio, and a confirmation signature of the individual’s employer (or certified colleague if there is no employer) is also required. All certification applications are reviewed and either accepted or rejected by a GIS Certification Board whose composition and membership are yet to be determined.

Minimum levels of achievement points are set for each of three categories of achievement:
- Educational Achievement
- Experience on the Job
- Contributions to the profession

In addition, a certification renewal program sets minimum point requirements for continued certification every three years to encourage GIS professionals to maintain currency in geospatial technologies.

Models for Certifying GIS Professionals
Two options (models, if you will) have been proposed – both based upon the above achievement point system:

The first option (Model 1) provides for certification of professionals in three different Professional Roles: GIS Technician, GIS Analyst, and GIS Manager, AND three different Competency Levels within each professional role: Novice, Master, and Expert.

The second option (Model 2) provides for certification of GIS professionals in one common role: GIS Professional, but allows for five different levels of competency: Beginner, Novice, Experienced, Master, and Expert.

Achievement Point Schedule
Educational achievement points are assigned within three groups: highest formal degree, professional development courses, and self-directed study. Additional points are assigned for formal degrees that include a GIS specialization as well as professional development GIS certificate programs. Certification requires a minimum of 40 to 140 Educational Achievement points, depending upon the competency level being certified.

Points for Experience on the Job are assigned based upon the number of years in any of five categories of employment: a GIS position, a position in a related field, an IT position, a non-IT or non-GIS position in a related field, and supervisory or management position in any field. Certification requires a minimum of 20 to 260 Experience points, again depending upon the competency level being certified.

Points for Contributions to the Profession are assigned to activities that assist in the further development of the GIS profession: publications, instruct-
Important URISA Dates to Remember

April 7-10, 2002
Integrating GIS & CAMA Conference
Reno, Nevada

June, 2002
Technology in Public Works Conference

August 11-13, 2002
Street Smart & Address Savvy Conference
Portland, Oregon

October 26-30, 2002
URISA’s 40th Annual Conference
Chicago, Illinois

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

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.
"I am here!" — the words of our student Horwood prize winner, Liou Cao (from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), very nicely define URISA 2001. After the events of 9/11, we were indeed fortunate to be able to come together and share the URISA experience. Even though our attendance was down about 30%, it really was a gentler, kinder URISA. Like the old days, you really could just about "bump into and meet" (especially at the Tuesday Night Social) all of your fellow attendees. Our supporting vendors were with us all along, and very much understood the affects of recent events. All were very supportive of getting together.

For the first time, the conference program included “Best Of” sessions which consisted of papers presented at two of URISA’s specialty conferences, Integrating GIS & CAMA and Street Smart and Address Savvy. Those sessions were very well attended and helped reinforce the connection between the URISA annual conference and its popular specialty conferences. During the Opening Ceremony, I asked the audience if they had attended one or more of URISA’s specialty conferences during the past year and I was impressed that so many had attended at least one of them. A few weeks ago, I received an email from a member who was concerned about the lower attendance in Long Beach (not mentioning recent events as a possible real impact?) and it got me thinking. If we add up all of our conference attendance throughout the year, i.e. specialty and annual, we are holding our own, which is saying something given declining attendance at many professional association conferences.

This was the first time in 20 years that I did not instruct a URISA workshop during the annual conference. URISA’s workshops have always been our “crown jewel” and they help keep us relevant and in touch with our members. Granted, I had Board activities and the Addressing workshop was not held this year, but I missed this important connection. It was nice to focus on the Board functions. The Board accepted the schedule from the Certification Committee to move ahead with a URISA-sponsored certification process for GIS professionals (see article in this issue). The Committee has worked for four years to move this idea ahead. Many thanks for their hard work and a good working model of how certification can be applied. If this can put $3-5K in the pockets of our members each year, URISA’s role will be assured.

Congrats to Ed Crane for receiving the Horwood Award this year in Long Beach, recognizing his contributions to both URISA and the industry. Ed brightens any room he enters, as he has brightened URISA with his enduring energy. Thanks Ed!

Mark Your Calendar
GIS-T 2002
March 25-27, 2002
Sheraton Atlanta Hotel — Atlanta, Georgia
A forum for transportation officials from State, Province, Federal, and Municipal agencies to discuss GIS and transportation issues. Visit www.gis-t.org for more information.

GIS in Georgia
The Georgia URISA Chapter sponsors the Georgia GIS Conference every other year. This year’s conference, which took place in Athens in early September, drew more than 325 registrants. (That is an increase of 35% over the attendance numbers in 1999, the last URISA Chapter-sponsored event.) The event featured an exhibit hall with twenty participating exhibitors. Bryan Townsend, a humorist/motivational speaker, kicked off the conference with an amusing keynote address.

Cherise Smith, from Fulton County’s Utility Division, applauded the work of Pam Cote and the rest of the Conference Committee. “I think the Conference explored the leading edge of spatial information technologies. There were opportunities to learn how data captures, map & database design, systems applications, and system development combined to influence and support personal and educational growth. The formal educational sessions, casual luncheons, and informal networking opportunities were splendid for the personal enrichment of the GIS world. No matter what your professional background or level of experience was, there were concepts, products, approaches, systems, and sessions, that motivated and inspired you to ponder, innovate, and undertake new and exciting initiatives.”

Bill Gentes, URISA’s Executive Director, was the featured speaker during the lunch session. He spoke of URISA’s future direction and chapter relations.

Important sessions on GASB 34, selling GIS data, public safety and health, and a statewide base map provided valuable educational opportunities for all.
I have just gotten back from my first URISA annual conference (my first, but URISA’s 39th) and although attendance was down owing to the events of 9-11, the conference was a resounding success. More than 700 attendees participated and 50 different companies demonstrated their technology solutions on the show floor. The Board and Committees accomplished much during meetings in Long Beach.

New Membership Classifications
Besides approving the Certification Committee’s proposal, the board also approved bylaw changes, regarding a new membership classification for small business membership, recognizing the needs of companies with fewer than 10 employees. In addition, the board lowered student membership dues. The goal here is to increase our exposure and our membership amongst students of GIS who after all are the future of the GIS industry. (See page 11 for more information.)

New Makeup of the Board of Directors
The URISA Board of Directors has a new leadership team as well. The new President is Peirce Eichelberger of Chester County GIS in Pennsylvania; the new Past-President is Lyna Wiggins of Rutgers University; and the new President-Elect is Martha Lombard of Spatial Focus in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition, the board has some new faces: Anne Payne of Wake County GIS in Raleigh, North Carolina; Hilary Perkins of Sverdrup Civil, Inc. in St. Louis, Missouri; and Susan Johnson of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina who was appointed to the board to fill a vacancy two years ago has also started her official elected term. In addition, Dianne Haley of the City of Calgary, Alberta has assumed the additional responsibilities of Secretary for the Board. Cindy Domenico, the Boulder County (CO) Assessor, is continuing as our Treasurer.

URISA’s 40th Anniversary Conference
It’s not too early to start planning for the URISA Annual Conference to be held next year in Chicago, October 26-30, 2002. The event will have quite a few 40th anniversary items both on and off the program, and of course it will have the great content and programming you come to expect from a URISA Annual Conference.
President’s Column

Not So Miscellaneous Ramblings — GIS/911 Integration

by Peirce Eichelberger, GIS Manager, Chester County, PA; peichelberger@chesco.org

Thanks for the opportunity to be your URISA President! After 25 years of my involvement with URISA, many of you now deem me worthy of helping to lead the organization that has taken a very important place in my professional life. I was told that I can write anything...anything at all. I will try to share something useful and perhaps only occasionally, something completely useless.

Last August, URISA held its third, highly successful “Street Smart and Address Savvy” Conference in Milwaukee. I would like to share some very important observations with you about the need for improved GIS and 911 integration. Simply put, the GIS folks have the tools, yet the 911 people have the addresses. We must now bring together the best of both possible worlds. These issues are important:

- There are critical economies of scale, yet a needed division of labor
- Accurate, up-to-date addresses are at the core of any successful GIS implementation, and
- Recent events will dictate that GIS is prepared and ready to support local government “in the thick of things”.

It’s time to rethink data redundancy; let’s start with redundant street files and geofiles. We should be able to agree on a standard list of street names with proper types and directions by jurisdiction and 911 should show the way. Just think if addresses are good for 7x24, E-911—then they should be able to power all other addressing requirements. Nothing can bring GIS out of the back office as supporting 911, yet GIS staff, if they work with address assignments and geofile building, will need to be sensitive to the timeliness issues.

With accurate and always up-to-date address ranges, and with exact situ (location) addresses fitting into the proper ranges, all tied to the GIS base map, then the “hooks or links” to all map features by addresses are assured. This supports the first step in being able to link virtually any other address-based file to the GIS map polygon or single line, street map. With a rich address database, virtually anything becomes more easily mappable and, thus “GIS enabled”.

If GIS better supports 911 efforts, then the GIS readily becomes the ad-hoc query builder for virtually all emergency preparedness based requirements. The events of 9/11 prove that we must be better prepared, for on that day the unknown or unimaginable became reality.

For more information, email me at peichelberger@chesco.org and I’ll send you a copy of the “Street Smart and Address Savvy” paper titled, “The Benefits of GIS/911 Integration—An Approach Worth Emulating” or visit the URISA website, www.urisa.org, to view the paper online.

The next Street Smart conference is going to be held in Portland, Oregon, August 11-13, 2002. The Oregon URISA Chapter has been lobbying for a conference and we are excited and pleased that one of our specialty conferences will take place in Portland! To submit an abstract for possible presentation at this year’s conference, visit www.urisa.org.

Analytical Surveys, Inc
Apex Data Services, Inc.
ATCI Solutions
Atlantic Technologies
Autodesk
Ayres Associates, Inc.
BAE Systems ADR
Bowne Management Systems, Inc.
Camber Corporation
DeLorme
DigitalGlobe (formerly known as EarthWatch Inc.)
ESRI
Federal Geographic Data Committee
Genesys International Corporation
Geographic Data Technology
HJW GeoSpatial, Inc
InfoTech Enterprises Ltd.
Intergraph Mapping & GIS Solutions
Intermap Technologies
IT Spatial, LLC
Kinetic Solutions, LLC
Korea geoSpatial Info & Comm Co., LTD
Kucera International, Inc.
Landata Geo Services
LizardTech, Inc.
Merrick & Company
MVH Americas Inc.
Nova Scotia Community College, Center for Geographic Sciences
PlanGraphics
RAMTeCH Corporation
Rolta
RTSE (USA), Inc.
The Sanborn Map Company
Schneider Corporation
SDS
Space Imaging
Speck Systems
Surdex Corporation
Taylor Wiseman & Taylor
Tidemark Solutions
UCLID Software
URS Corporation
Wiser & Company
ESRI Ad

pick up from Sept issue, “Delivering a new world of GIS
Snapshots of URISA 2001

ESIG Award winners from the Cities of Alberta and Tucson, Mecklenburg County, and Victoria, Australia.

Oregon - Chapter of the Year.

Ed Crane receives the Horwood Distinguished Service Award.

Mike Kevany and Jim Hall of PlanGraphics shared their experiences working for New York City before, during, and after 9/11.

The exhibition provided technology solutions.
Nearly 300 people attended URISA’s First Caribbean GIS Conference, September 9-12, in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The Wyndham Rose Hall, an exceptional conference facility, was located about 15 minutes from the airport and downtown Montego Bay.

Attendees came to the conference from across the Caribbean region and around the world. Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Netherland Antilles, Panama, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, the continental United States, United Kingdom, and the Virgin Islands were all well-represented.

Two URISA Certified Workshops were offered on the Sunday preceding the conference. Dan Parr taught Introduction to GIS and Gerald Boyd taught the Cartography and Map Design workshop. An Opening Reception in the busy exhibit hall capped off the successful first day of the event.

On Monday morning, conference attendees gathered for the opening session. Cecille Blake, the Conference Chair and National GIS Coordinator of Jamaica, introduced Hon. Fitz Jackson, Minister of Local Government, who welcomed everyone to the conference. He introduced the Keynote Speaker, Jacqueline daCosta, Director General of the Ministry of Land and Environment, who shared her views on collaboration in the region. It was indeed an honor to have the involvement of such high-level government officials in this URISA event. The Government of Jamaica supported this conference completely, and besides supporting the attendance of dozens of their staff members, Minister Jackson and Mrs. daCosta participated fully in the conference activities.

A full slate of educational sessions, networking opportunities and exhibit hall activities were on schedule for the next couple of days.

The Tuesday night social event, of course, took place outside on the beach, where attendees enjoyed tropical breezes mixed in with some reggae music, great Jamaican food and drink and amazing conversations.

Jack Dangermond capped off the conference by discussing the GIS community during the Closing Keynote Address on Wednesday morning.

A special thanks goes to all of the track leaders, exhibitors, and sponsors of this important event. Because of their involvement, the Caribbean GIS community was able to come together to learn and share ideas. The networking continues online via URISA’s Caribbean discussion group. For more information, visit http://

www.urisa.org/2001CARIBBEAN/caribbeangis.htm

Preliminary planning has begun for URISA’s 2nd Caribbean GIS Conference, which will take place in 2003.

Author’s Note: You may have noticed that the dates of the conference included September 11. The URISA staff was at the conference registration desk when one of the attendees walked by with a panicked look on her face, mentioning “another one flew into the second tower.” Since we were working during that time we had no idea of the disaster occurring back in the States. We were brought up-to-date via CNN, like the rest of the world. Of course, there were tears and phone calls home, and also something very heartwarming. The level of sympathy, concern and support that the non-American conference attendees expressed was amazing. We truly live in a “global community.”
State of Certification (continued from front page)

ing in workshops, participation in professional associations, participation in GIS-related conferences, and volunteer events and organizations related to the technology. Certification requires a minimum of 0 to 80 Contribution points, depending upon the competency level being certified. (No contribution points are required of beginners in the profession because it is felt that some experience is required before a professional can make a contribution to the profession.)

The certification renewal program requires the certified professional to earn a minimum of six achievement points in the three-year period since last certified. The six points must include three Education points and three Contribution points.

A detailed schedule of minimum required points within the three achievement categories for the different roles and competency levels of each option (Model 1 and Model 2) are provided in the URISA Web Site, www.urisa.org. The site also lists all of the achievement opportunities and their individual point values.

Code of Ethics

In order to become certified, the individual must also certify that he or she has read and agrees to conduct professional activities in conformance with the professional Code of Ethics. While at this time, no Code of Ethics has yet been adopted, URISA’s Code of Ethics Committee plans to submit a proposal for Board approval prior to final implementation of the Certification program. Thus, conducting professional activities in an ethical manner is part and parcel of the GIS Certification Program.

Certification Board

The GIS Certification Program will be administered by a Certification Board that, hopefully, will consist of GIS professionals from all interested organizations and professional societies. The program is not intended solely for URISA members, and therefore does not require membership in URISA for aspiring GIS certified professionals.

That is why public review by all GIS professionals – not just URISA members – is essential at this time.

The Process

URISA’s “Certification Guestbook” at its web site is one avenue being developed for public discussion of this proposal. Other avenues such as articles in periodicals and ejournals will also be developed. We will attempt to gain as wide an audience for review and comment as possible.

After three months of public comment, revisions will be incorporated into this proposal and the Revised Certification Program will again go out for public comment sometime in February 2002. By May 2002 we should have a Final Draft of the Certification Program. This Final Draft will then be submitted to the Board at its June 2002 meeting for final approval.

If it meets Board approval in June 2002, an Interim Review Board will be established to implement a pilot program to begin in August, 2002. During the Certification Pilot Program, volunteers (possibly through our chapters) will be solicited to participate in a test of the certification process.

By the time of next year’s annual URISA conference in Chicago, we will have had three month’s experience with the Pilot Program and be in an early position to evaluate, review, and revise it at the Conference.

The Pilot Project will end in August 2003, and a complete evaluation of the one-year pilot project and revision of the program as needed will be completed just in time for the 2003 annual conference. Final Board decisions on Certification and possible approval for final implementation is expected at the URISA conference in October 2003.

New Chapter Forms in Michigan

Under the leadership of Sherman Payne, City of Detroit IT Department, a new URISA chapter has formed.

The Michigan URISA Chapter covers the entire State of Michigan. One of the first chapter activities took place on November 14, as the chapter promoted GIS Day.

For more information, contact Sherman Payne at shepay@itsd.ci.detroit.mi.us, phone (313) 224-3078, fax (313) 224-9431.

Call For Presentations — GeoAlberta 2002

June 12 - 14, 2002
Shaw Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Presented by the following organizations:
URISA Alberta, City of Edmonton’s GBIS, Alberta Geomatics Group (AGG), GITA Alberta

Abstract and Biography Submissions Due, March 1st, 2002
For more information, visit http://www.urisab.org

GIS in Action 2002
Double Tree Hotel, Portland, Oregon
April 1 - 3, 2002
Oregon URISA Chapter

Contact: Cy Smith, 503/378-6066
Cy.Smith@state.or.us
www.orurisa.org

40th Anniversary
URISA
October 26-30, 2002 • Chicago, Illinois
Westvaco Corporation recently unveiled Questerra, a new wholly owned subsidiary, to provide the first online business decision support services that combine enterprise-wide computing, GIS data, imagery and applications.

Kinetic Solutions announced an exclusive partnership with ORACON Corporation. Based in Canada, ORACON provides full cycle conversion services into an Oracle environment. Through this partnership, Kinetic will add Management Information Systems (MIS) to its services.

DeLorme purchased the SPOT USA Select nationwide satellite image mosaic under an exclusive mapping channel agreement with SPOT Image Corporation. DeLorme will produce and sell mapping products based on the 10-meter resolution true color mosaic, created from current SPOT satellite imagery. The imagery will be integrated with DeLorme vector street, place name, and land-use, land-cover data.

DeLorme also announced the availability of Xmap PhotoFlight, a software tool for aerial photographers, photogrammetrists, and surveyors, which automatically lays out accurate aerial photography flight plans in minutes including flight lines, trigger points, and altitude. PhotoFlight uses a corrected USGS DEM to accurately position flight lines and optimal photo trigger points to ensure the desired photo overlap will be achieved.

ESRI has announced preparations for its 2nd annual Education User Conference in San Diego, July 5-7, 2002.

On GIS Day, the Huntington County (Indiana) GIS public access application was made available on the Internet (www.huntington.in.us). The release of this application concludes four years of development of the countywide GIS. The Schneider Group was hired as project consultant in 1998 and created the base layer information. While the GIS was completed in early 2001, the application that enables the public to view the information via the Internet was recently completed.

ASPRS has published Digital Elevation Model Technologies and Applications: The DEM Users Manual. With over a dozen chapters, 500 pages and numerous color images, the book's authors agreed that this manual should be written for the benefit of DEM users, not the producers of DEMs. For more information, visit www.asprs.org

Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions recently launched teamgeomedia.com, an online communication channel for the Team GeoMedia program. The website includes a secure member area with sales support, technical information, and technology updates. Further, Intergraph recently announced 54 new partners in the Team GeoMedia Registered Solutions Provider (RSP) program. The RSP provides a partnership framework for independent businesses to develop, sell, market and support a broad range of geospatial industry solutions and services based on Intergraph's GeoMedia technology.

Kodak and LizardTech have announced native support for LizardTech’s MrSID format for image data compression inside Kodak’s new releases of IDL and ENV1. This integration will allow users of IDL and ENV1 to easily and quickly read native MrSID image files.

Autodesk released MapGuide 6, the latest version of the company’s web distribution solution designed to help local governments, utilities, and communications firms leverage their legacy investment in mapping, GIS, and design data into new and innovative uses. With Autodesk MapGuide software, these organizations can increase the value of this data by delivering specialized web-based applications to distribute critical information in real time to non-technical users, helping improve customer service and streamline operations.

Space Imaging announced they have signed an agreement with Navigation Technologies Corporation (NTC) where Space Imaging is a master reseller of NAVTECH® NAVSTREETS™ data, and Navigation Technologies is a reseller of Space Imaging data products.

DigitalGlobe announced the successful launch and deployment of the QuickBird high-resolution remote sensing satellite on October 18. The satellite was launched at approximately 1:00 p.m. PDT on a Delta II launch vehicle from Vandenberg AFB in California, USA. The QuickBird satellite is currently orbiting at an altitude of 450-km, in a 98-degree, sun-synchronous inclination. The spacecraft is in optimal health and will begin imaging upon completion of a period of verification and calibration.

Autodesk has recently increased the platform support of LizardTech’s industry-leading MrSID file format. Announced Friday November 3rd, the latest version of Autodesk’s Internet mapping solution, MapGuide 6 includes native viewing support for MrSID imagery. Integration of MrSID in MapGuide offers users increased efficiency in using high-resolution imagery for Internet-based mapping applications.

People News

Joseph Francica has joined the staff of Directions Magazine as Editor.

Matthew O’Connell was recently named Acting President and CEO of Orbital Imaging Corporation. Armand Mancini was promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Merrick & Company is pleased to announce the addition of Mr. Chris Ogier as a Technical Account Manager serving the Eastern United States. Chris will work from the firm’s Atlanta, GA office.

Robert Britton has recently been named director of Kinetic Solutions’ Engineering Services Group.

Project Awards

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles in conjunction with the New York Department of Transportation and the New York State Office for Technology recently signed a $5.3 million, three-year contract with ESRI. ESRI will team with Geographic Data Technology, Applied GIS, Bowne Management Services, Oracle Corporation, and Dell Computer Corporation to provide software, application and data development, hardware, and training for the implementation of a geographic accident location information system.

The Cities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Coronado, Chula Vista, and Oceanside, California have selected Merrick & Company for photogrammetric mapping services. Additionally, the City of Arlington Heights, Illinois, has retained Merrick to generate planimetric mapping at a scale of 1” = 100” over the city limits.

M.J. Harden Associates has negotiated a Consultant Professional Services Agreement for topographic mapping services with the Missouri Department of Transportation. The new contract spans 3 years with an optional 4th year renewal.

PlanGraphics was awarded a contract with Maryland’s Anne Arundel County to analyze and reengineer the land use business processes of the Departments of Planning and Zoning and Inspections and permits. Based on the reengineering, PlanGraphics will prepare a set of requirements that will be used to purchase a new and integrated information technology management system. The new system will be fully integrated with GIS for mapping and spatial analysis capabilities.

Pitt County, North Carolina has selected Tidemark Solution’s activity management software system, to enhance the functionality and tracking capabilities in the Building, Planning, Environmental Health and Fire departments. The main system will be accompanied by Tidemark’s fee tracking and reporting application, and two-way GIS extension.

The Direccio General de Carreteres (DGC) in Barcelona, Spain has chosen Intergraph’s GeoMedia technology as the platform for its new corporate GIS. Project implementation will be a joint venture between Intergraph Spain and SYSIGSA, a local engineering company and a TeamGeoMedia Registered Solutions Provider partner.
In an effort to better serve a growing segment of the URISA membership, the Membership Committee recently recommended a new membership category to the URISA Board of Directors, which has subsequently been approved by the Board.

**New Membership Category — Small Business**

Beginning with the 2002 dues year, the Small Business category of membership will be available as an option for companies (or the GIS unit of a larger corporation) consisting of 10 people or fewer. Many consultant firms and start-up GIS or IT companies will be able to take advantage of the following benefits for annual dues of $500:

- Professional membership benefits for two individual employees (URISA News, Marketplace and Journal subscriptions, registration discounts, etc.)
- Discounts on booth space at URISA conferences and/or special consultant area of the exhibit hall with lower exhibit fees
- Discounts on advertising
- Profile in URISA News
- Profile in website directory
- Access to RFP distribution

Specific details will be included with your 2002 dues renewal mailing. For more information, contact Wendy Francis at URISA Headquarters (847/824-6300, wfrancis@urisa.org).

**URISA Announces New Student Initiative —And A Challenge!**

*By Peirce Eichelberger*

Many URISA members joined the association when they were students and have mentioned URISA membership as a contributing factor in their professional growth. The Membership Committee recently recommended to the Board that the annual dues rate for students be reduced, to encourage more student involvement in URISA.

The URISA Board agreed and approved a new, lower membership rate for student members. The new annual student membership fee is $30 (compared to $68) and includes all regular member benefits including the Journal, this newsletter, new publications at the discounted member rate, Marketplace, conference member rate, trade publication subscriptions, etc.

The new student member rate (for full-time students) should allow for more new students to join URISA and begin their professional journey.

It is also hoped that more student members will support URISA’s chapters and our closely associated academic programs. This should also encourage our members to help establish student internship programs. Internships are good to help attract qualified, entry-level staff into either government or consultant/vendor positions. The Publications Committee has been asked to sponsor a “Quick Study” book on the mechanics of instituting an internship. Let Nancy Von Meyer (nancy@fairview-industries.com) know if you are interested in helping with the publication.

Now to the challenge! This is very important — students are our future — to that end I am sponsoring our five student interns at Chester County (mostly GIS students presently) as the first five, new URISA student members (at the new student membership rate).

I challenge all other URISA members to sponsor their interns as URISA student members in the next 90 days. Let’s attract 50 new URISA student members. Take the challenge!

**Do You Currently Have an Internship Program?**

Along with URISA’s new student membership initiative, we are also requesting information on the initiation, guidelines and development of student internship programs. URISA will compile and make this information available on our website and will develop a “Quick Study” publication.

Internships are very valuable for many reasons:

- Strengthens the relationship between governmental departments and nearby academic programs
- Makes for more qualified students due to practical experiences gained
- Develops a “pool” of qualified, entry level students interested in G/IS positions
- Supports collective efforts with certification and improved salary levels
- Helps existing staff develop their management skills as they work with and direct student interns, and most importantly;
- Provides valuable resources to accomplish necessary tasks for G/IS implementation.

Specific information requested includes guidelines, salary/grade requirements, scheduling, typical duties, supervisory requirements and college/university liaison.

Please send materials to Scott Grams at URISA HQ, email sgrams@urisa.org.
Consultant Directory

CONSULTANTS!
Your business card advertisement can be seen here for $50 per issue.

URISA
1460 Renaissance Dr., Suite 305
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone: (847) 824-6300
Fax: (847) 824-6363
info@urisa.org, www.urisa.org

James W. Sewall Company
147 Center Street, PO Box 43,
Old Town, ME 04468
207 827 4454 • fax 207 827 5441 • info@jws.com

GIS Management Consultants
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Implementation Assistance
GIS Education
3157 Bahshaw Court, Fairfax, Virginia 22031
Phone: 703 294 0433 • FAX: 703 294 2017

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