New York City —
Before and After September 11, 2001

In the six months since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, New York City’s response has garnered national and international acclaim. Then Mayor Rudolph Giuliani led a Herculean effort to save lives and then began the daunting task of cleaning up after the most devastating attack in United States history. In the days and months after September 11, the rescue and recovery effort was managed to a large degree out of the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM) which itself was destroyed in the attack.

A temporary OEM nerve center was re-established on a nearby City pier, complete with all the hardware and software needed to access the data in New York’s existing GIS. In many ways, the fact that New York City had been developing its own Central GIS Utility laid the foundation for a successful transformation of its emergency operations from dealing with theoretical disasters such as hurricanes and heating emergencies to dealing with the reality of the largest terrorist attack in history. In order to get a better understanding of how this transition occurred and why New York successfully met the challenge, it will be useful to examine the background of GIS both before and after September 11.

New York in the Early Years
The City of New York has been creating and using spatial data since the 1970s when the Department of City Planning (DCP) began development of the GeoSupport system on the City’s IBM mainframe. But clearly, most cities that make a commitment to technology have a visionary leader, and New York is no exception. In this case, Al Leidner, the City’s head of GIS, was able in the early 1990s to sell his idea of a base map to which all others would be oriented. Al led the development of the City’s GIS Utility and related databases. It came as no surprise, therefore, that Al Leidner would become one of the key GIS operatives after the World Trade Center (WTC) attack on September 11.

Richard Goodden, one of PlanGraphics’ Vice Presidents and an ASPRS Certified Photogrammetrist, took the lead role in the technical design for the base map, which is now known as “NYCMAP,” providing both the data model and technical specifications. PlanGraphics assisted the City in selecting the aerial photography and mapping vendors that would be responsible for carrying out the production work. During production, the team worked with CUNY-Hunter College’s CARSI Laboratory to assist them in their Quality Assurance program, providing advisory services, as well as GIS applications and training designed specifically to support review of mapping products.

The “NYCMAP” project galvanized support for GIS throughout the City. As expectations grew, it became clear that the City needed a broader understanding of the overall GIS needs of City departments. PlanGraphics was tapped to provide the necessary analysis and conducted a citywide GIS needs assessment that gathered information from over 20 departments and divisions. This study was conducted in the Summer and Fall of 1999. A key recommendation was to create a central repository of commonly used GIS data, made available to all City departments via the Web and other means. The report was accepted in the Spring of 2000 and thus the Central GIS Utility was born.

New York City’s Central GIS Utility
Key aspects of the GIS Utility are:

- Open technology and data formats
- A single data server storing GIS in Oracle Spatial format
- Intranet access via Citynet
- Public access via the Internet
- Distribution of data using various media
- User applications to allow easy access and common query operations
- Coordination with the City’s e-government initiative.

A key concept of the Central GIS Utility is its focus on resource sharing and support for departmental GIS’s
Important URISA Dates to Remember

June 19–21, 2002
IT/GIS in Public Works
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

July 21-23, 2002
PGGIS: 1st Annual Public Participation GIS Conference
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

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

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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.
throughout the City. From the start, the Utility was designed to support those independent efforts, not to dictate them. Virtually all of the major GIS software products have been implemented in various City agencies, including ESRI, Intergraph, MapInfo, Autodesk, Bentley, and Smallworld. Abandoning any of these existing systems to “standardize” on a single vendor platform is not practical, so a primary goal of the Utility is to read and write data to all of these systems.

To support this requirement, the project team chose Oracle’s spatial technology to store the GIS data. This open data format allows for easy access to spatial and attribute data, either directly through Oracle or using any of the major GIS packages. The team created the Oracle data model and is currently testing and verifying the ability of the system to take in data from one platform and make it available in others without losing any quality.

Internet technology is also playing a major role in the project. The first application, EveryoneMap, is a Web-enabled GIS query and display application available to City employees via CityNet, which is New York’s intranet. Java was used as the primary development language. EveryoneMap currently allows users to view digital orthophotos, geocoded to a street centerline, and perform overlays and other queries against buildings, road edges, water lines, political boundaries, and other key data sets.

Emergency Applications for the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management

Working under the concept of a Central GIS Utility and an awareness of the value to the public of Web-based access, PlanGraphics, in partnership with ESRI, developed several ArcIMS applications that direct New Yorkers to emergency heating and cooling shelters. Also developed was an application that showed the location of hurricane shelters and evacuation routes. Dubbed the “Emergency Management On-Line Locator System” (EMOLS), the first “Cooling Center” application was rolled out by Mayor Giuliani at a press conference in August 2001, just a month before the WTC disaster. No one realized it at the time, but EMOLS would become a critical platform after September 11.

OEM and the WTC Attack

In the early morning hours of September 11, the most devastating terrorist attack in history leveled the twin towers of the World Trade Center, costing over 3,000 lives and leveling most buildings in a 16-acre area adjacent to Wall Street in downtown Manhattan. The OEM office itself was a casualty that day and had to be re-established eventually on Pier 92 in the Hudson River.

“PlanGraphics was the first company on the scene in those hectic hours when we were struggling to establish a GIS capability in the new location,” says Leidner. “Their personnel had been working with the City for a long time and bring significant expertise to the table. The suggestions they made and the assistance they provided were invaluable in helping the City respond to this emergency.”

Jim Hall, PlanGraphics’ on-site project manager and his staff, as well as those of other contractors, worked through the night to get the GIS up and running at the EOC. Rich Goodden worked with the FDNY “Phoenix Unit” to evaluate the usefulness of fixed wing photography. Eventually contacting the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), Goodden acted as a link between SEMO and FDNY throughout Wednesday afternoon and evening. Meanwhile, FDNY put a cameraman in an NYPD helicopter to take low-altitude pictures with a hand-held camera, a “low-tech solution that proved highly effective,” says Leidner.

One of the first jobs was to create an extension to EMOLS called the Interactive Map for Emergency Information (IMEM). An Emergency Mapping and Data Center (EMDC) located in the City’s Emergency Operations center began to constantly feed data to OEM which began producing status maps of “Ground Zero.” They contained information on pedestrian and vehicular access, subway service, water and utility outages, and other transportation information. Later maps identified the many destroyed or damaged buildings, as well as those that could potentially collapse. Eventually thermal image mapping identified hot spots at Ground Zero and were used by FDNY in search and rescue, and later, recovery operations.

As advisors to emergency managers, PlanGraphics recommended that the City use the base map to establish a search grid of Ground Zero. We were
Over the next few months I will visit a number of chapter meetings and conferences. By the time you read this I will have been to Seattle for the Washington Chapter Annual Conference; the California GIS Conference in Sacramento; and the Michigan Chapter meeting. On the schedule for the future are the Oregon URISA Chapter Conference, GIS in Action, April 1-3 in Portland; Louisiana URISA the 10th and 11th of April in Baton Rouge; and May 8-10 at the Florida URISA Conference in Jacksonville.

In addition, URISA will have a Headquarters presence at the GeoTec show in Toronto the week of April 8th, the Mid-America GIS Conference in Kansas City the week of April 15th and the IMAGIN Conference in Traverse City, Michigan, April 29 - May 1.

And of course, we will be at the Integrating GIS & CAMA Conference in Reno, April 7-10.

Certification Program Details

I would like to make sure that all of you go to our web page www.urisa.org to review the certification program we have posted online. Over the next few months, we will be developing a separate stand-alone association that will be the home to the certification program. The new organization is tentatively called the GIS Certification Institute.

Student Memberships

Kudos to Peirce Eichelberger, URISA president, for challenging the membership to sign up more student members! We have already signed up more than 80 new student members. If you recall, we lowered student membership dues to $20 this year.

Staff Promotions

Over the last few months we have made some staff changes at URISA. Chris Dionne was promoted from Manager of Conferences and Meetings to Director of Conferences and Meetings, and Scott Grams was promoted from Program Coordinator to Manager of Education and Certification. Both Chris and Scott are excellent, committed employees. Please congratulate them when you see them for me, they more than deserve it.

The Certification Committee has been busy reading, reacting to, and processing the hundreds of guestbook responses that have been generated ever since the program was unveiled early this year. Committee members and URISA staff have also been the featured speakers at a number of regional conferences from coast to coast. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions and offer the direct feedback that may be lost in a guestbook entry. In order to stay on task, the committee has been reformatting the program even as the responses continue to pour in. Weekly conference calls and daily email activity allow for this initiative to keep moving forward with a continued high level of interest.

Recently, much of the committee’s discussions have revolved around the essential goals of the program and if the current model is capable of meeting them. The committee has determined that the goal of this program, similar to any certification program, is to provide an endorsement of one’s expertise. It has been their difficult task to determine when, and at what level, this esteemed endorsement should come.

Also, the committee is examining what role Certification should play in career development. Although these issues are interrelated they are most certainly not the same thing. Individual companies and organizations already offer numerous and different opportunities for career advancement. Certification should complement these existing opportunities, not circumvent them. Numerous approaches are being carefully weighed and the committee is confident that ultimately a more evolved program will result. New and updated models will be available for public consumption and comment in late April.

While the overall approach is still being ironed out, the portfolio-based component has not changed. Certification sub-committees (triads) are putting the finishing touches on the point totals and levels for the program. It is reassuring to know that there is still another round of public discussion as well as the pilot program in which to fine tune the allocations.

The committee hopes that the discussion remains lively as these new avenues are explored. The public comments have proved to be invaluable. They have allowed for new insight that even the 40 person committee may have overlooked. Please visit the URISA website and let us know your thoughts on this important initiative.
President’s Column

Not So Miscellaneous Ramblings...9/11 and Local Government — Are We Ready for the Unthinkable?
by Peirce Eichelberger, URISA President, GIS Manager, Chester County, PA

Today is March 11, the six-month anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. In the days since, I have wondered if we are really ready to deal with the unthinkable, again — what is our role in government, how do our levels of government work together, what should we be doing to service our citizens? It could be very convenient to think “well it is bigger than us, what could we do without help anyway?”

The head of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently resigned due to fallout from the anthrax situation. Can we wait for someone to come from Atlanta to confirm; yes you have a problem here? Read *Plague Wars* (Mangold), *Biohazard* (Alibek—he was the Russian that ran the Soviet’s bioweapon development program) and *Legacy of Chernobyl* (Medvedev) for more details that might keep you awake at night.

A recent New York Times article described the electric power system as “vulnerable” and noted that the computers that “control the electric power system around the nation have been probed.” Another recent news story referred to nuclear plant vulnerability, Pennsylvania has the second most in the nation — eleven, after Illinois. The typical plant has about 75 employees assigned to security, divided by three shifts equals about 25 people at any one time...you finish the math.

Chester County has two nuclear plants to the north and south of the County. Due to these plants, Chester County had already prepared a GIS capability necessary to support evacuations, notifications, mapping, incident management, etc. in conjunction with our Department of Emergency Services. Initially, it was thought that a 10-mile radius/ buffer around the sites was all that we needed to worry about. At the time, I said, “let’s make this a Countywide application/solution.” I’m glad that we did. In the last three years, parts of the area have experienced three, 100-year floods, Hurricane/Tropical Storm Floyd (we had more deaths in SE PA then in the SE U.S.), tornadoes, a major ice/winter storm, an airplane crash and several, large toxic fire incidents.

If we had thought seriously about nuclear incidents due to accidents, and now throw terrorism into the mix; figure multiple things occurring at once, what is our response? What is the relationship to our State response and the Federal response? What is the interchangeability of our response to natural events, accidents or terrorism? What are the dissimilarities and the similarities among the events? For a while we were building GIS capabilities after the disaster, in record time. If it was so easy, we should have done the system before nature struck! Sorry, more questions than answers today...I have asked the URISA Board to sponsor a symposium that will lead to a “guidebook” for local officials to answer some of the above questions. We will try to have the guidebook available by the end of the year. Hopefully we can get some answers, and soon. I know many URISA members have had experiences with natural disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, ice storms and now, terrorism.

What should we be doing first, second and third? What should our GIS applications look like to help us handle some of these events? How are our experiences transferable: from place-to-place, or from incident-to-incident? Let me know if you would like to help out. Contact me at peichelberger@chesco.org or Bill Gentes at bgentes@urisa.org for more details.

Looking Back Moving Forward

URISA’s 40th Annual Conference
October 26-30, 2002
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ESRI Ad
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The design, creation and implementation of a comprehensive GIS is a professional service that requires a cooperative and coordinated effort between the GIS professional and local government decision makers. Sidwell is an established GIS and mapping services firm that has been providing a full range of services to local government for 75 years. Throughout the Midwest, Sidwell has a reputation for quality products, knowledge of local government needs and operations, and a commitment to client service.

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Approved Slate for URISA 2002 Election:

FOR PRESIDENT:
Daniel Parr, Dan Parr Associates, Takoma Park, MD

FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
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Allen Ibaugh, Space Imaging, Orlando, FL
Robert A. LaMacchia, US Census Bureau, Washington, DC
Kim H. McDonough, City of Nashville, Nashville, TN
Nigel Roberts, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
Mark J. Salling, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH

Watch your mail for the 2002 election ballot, with each candidate’s position statement and vision for URISA.

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the first to suggest that FDNY acquire helicopter photography over the site, as well as fixed-wing aerial photography. GIS technicians were dispatched from our Maryland office and nearby client sites to help support the map production effort, which ballooned into a 24 hours a day, seven days a week, high-volume operation.

The World Trade Center Attack, a Wealth of Lessons Learned

Speaking for the PlanGraphics employees in New York, Senior Vice President, Mike Kevany described it as “...an awesome experience for us all!”

Never have so many people with different backgrounds and experience pulled together so completely to help New York get back on its feet. Now, looking back from the viewpoint of the six-month anniversary date of September 11, the EOC has been deactivated and we can reflect on the many lessons learned during the months of Emergency Mapping and Data Center’s (EMDC) operations.

Within months of the WTC disaster, New York City was caught in another crisis with the discovery of anthrax in mail centers here and in New Jersey and Washington, D.C. Once again, the adaptability of EMOLS proved a useful tool as New York is in the process of identifying the best locations for distribution of antibiotics to combat anthrax. This application will eventually add another dimension to the City’s ability to manage biological emergencies. Web-based capabilities available to the public are essential.

The most significant lesson was that our ability to respond effectively to an emergency is directly related to our preparation before the emergency strikes. In the case of New York City, the GIS Utility had established a comprehensive database and a complement of GIS capabilities that were available for immediate use in the emergency.

The backup of data is an absolute necessity. Even through the EOC was destroyed early on, Al Leidner was able to employ versions that were quickly available from Hunter College and the DoITT office in Brooklyn.

We also learned that an emergency is not the time to try out or deploy new technologies. In a crisis, there is little time for training and there is strong resistance to trying out new things. New technologies need to be deployed as part of the preparation and incorporated into emergency operating plans prior to an emergency.

GIS and its use should be incorporated into the operating procedures of the emergency response organizations so they may be used effectively in an emergency. The value of GIS to emergency operations was proven in the widespread use of map products by all the agencies involved in the search, rescue, and recovery operations.

In the chaos of an emergency, the correct data must be easily selected and accessed, data must be updated from multiple sources and new data must be acquired and posted from emergency operations. If there is not a sound data structure and tight control, the database itself will become chaotic and lose its usefulness.

The mechanisms for distribution of information are significant to GIS success. Much of the information is required in the field, so paper maps are a primary distribution mechanism for the EMDC. Digital distribution, however, can be more efficient and, with the growing availability of a wide array of mobile computing technologies, a focus should be placed on incorporating these technologies into emergency operations.

For all local government jurisdictions facing the potential of a natural or terrorist emergency, it is important to understand the jurisdiction’s capability to respond. It is clearly necessary to understand what GIS is available and how it will be used effectively in an emergency situation. If that understanding is not clear, it is vitally important to conduct an assessment of the situation immediately. The findings of the assessment must be incorporated into improvements to the emergency plans.

GIS proved its usefulness and adaptability in a real emergency and has shown the potential to be an integral part of the larger task of preparing for Homeland Security throughout the country. New York City’s successful emergency response was founded on a GIS technology already in place and an unparalleled team effort focused on a single goal. For every contractor who put in long hours aiding the government and citizens of the City, New York will never be just another client.

Note: The following contributed to the production of this article: Rich Goodden, Mike Kevany, Jim Hall, and Rick Keister.
Industry News

Hitachi Software Global Technology, Ltd. (HSGT) announced the release of AnyGIS Version 2.0. AnyGIS supports access and updating privileges to data formats including Autodesk, ESRI, Intergraph, MapInfo, Oracle, and Smallworld formats.

Leica Geosystems’ GIS & Mapping Division announced Midwest Architects & Engineers Supply Inc., in Richardson, TX, as its newest GPS/GIS products dealer in the United States.

Kinetic Solutions recently joined ESRI’s Business Partner Program.

PCI Geomatics is celebrating its twentieth year in 2002. A series of special events are scheduled to commemorate the milestone.

Civil engineering and surveying firm, Taylor Wiseman & Taylor, has recently celebrated its 100-year anniversary.

Autodesk’s GIS technology is being used in Web Enforcer and FloorView, two homeland security applications helping law enforcement officials and emergency response teams to plan for and react to threats and emergencies.

Intergraph Mapping & GIS Solutions and the Intergraph GeoSpatial Users Community have announced the first annual international Awards for Cartographic Excellence program. All entries will be displayed at GeoSpatial World 2002, in Atlanta.

Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions is setting the pace for open data exchange with a “no boundaries” approach to data sharing on the Web. The new Intergraph OGC WMS Viewer (www.wmsviewer.com) demonstrates a new level of interoperability with Web sites around the world that are using the Web Map Server (WMS) interface standards defined by the Open GIS Consortium (OGC).

NovaLIS Technologies and The Sidwell Company have entered into a partnership to build the next generation of Parcel Editor software. The joint development effort will provide Parcel Editor 8.1 users with a complete toolkit that bridges Sidwell’s experience in linear editing and cartographic output capabilities to the spatial editing tools and modeling capabilities of NovaLIS’ Parcel Editor software.

A GIS education-in-schools program, a collaboration of Jamaica’s Ministries of Land and the Environment and Education, and the Land Information Council, and sponsored by a $1 million grant by Spatial Innovation and ESRI, was recently launched. Fitz Jackson, Minister of State for Education, stated there is an urgent need for GIS specialists in Jamaica. As part of the Government’s “commitment to develop the

informatics industry in Jamaica, GIS presents an opportunity to train Jamaicans in a discipline that has international demand.”

People News

Brian Soliday has joined RMSI as Vice President – Sales, Americas. Soliday will be responsible for developing and managing the company’s sales and business development organization and activities in the Americas. In support of these activities, RMSI has opened a new office in Boulder, CO.

George Volkman, P.E. has recently been named an Associate Partner of Sidney B. Bowne & Son, LLP.

Paul Baynham has recently joined PlanGraphics as a Senior Consultant at the company’s East Coast Operations in Silver Spring, MD.

Project Awards

The Town of Toro, NS has selected NovaLIS Technologies’ Land Development Office solution to automate its land permitting process.

ImageAmerica Inc. has completed collection of 6-inch high-resolution digital imagery, for approximately 240 square miles of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Production of new, map accurate orthoimagery from the project will begin shortly. ImageAmerica has also completed parish wide collection of new high-resolution digital imagery of West Baton Rouge Parish.

The Sidwell Company has been awarded several contracts recently, including: a contract for photogrammetric services for Buena Vista County, Iowa; the development of a countywide GIS for Dickinson County, Iowa; the creation and marketing of half-size lease books of the existing maps of Vermillion County, Illinois; and development of a countywide GIS for Buchanan County, Iowa.

BAE Systems ADR was contracted by the Arizona Department of Military Affairs to produce color ortho rectified imagery of two Arizona National Guard sites. Project specifications included 1’ pixel color ortho rectified mosaicked imagery of the two sites with a DEM suitable for 1’ contours in both compressed and uncompressed formats.

BAE Systems ADR has been awarded a $1 million contract with the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information Systems (CAGIS) for photogrammetric map updating services for the customer’s existing GIS. Services include the development of 2-foot contours, creation of digital orthophotography, and planimetric feature updating for a 416 square mile area in Hamilton County, Ohio.

HVJ Geospatial recently began their second contract to provide QA/QC consultation on countywide digital orthophotography production for the City of San Jose.

The First U.S. Army’s Warfighter Exercise Division has selected ERDAS IMAGINE image mapping and visualization software to produce gymnasium-sized terrain models (approximately 50 feet x 120 feet) to use during mission rehearsals for U.S. Army National Guard Division operations.

The City of Calgary, Alberta has gone “live” with phase one of its assessment project with the successful rollout of a residential assessment solution using NovaLIS Technologies’ Assessment Office. There is now complete integration between the City’s GIS, residential property appraisal, market regression analysis, and court scheduling information systems.

As an integral part of the U.S. Government’s research and development activities focused on the Global Carbon Cycle, NASA’s Earth Science Enterprise (ESE) has contracted with Earth Satellite Corporation for the production of 8,500 Landsat EMT+ orthorectified images covering the vast majority of the earth’s landmass. In partnership with NASA, the Landsat data are being provided by the USGS EROS Data Center, located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Exor Corporation announced that the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works (NSDTPW) has selected Exor Corporation and Geoplan Consultants Inc. of Fredericton, New Brunwick, Canada to provide several Highways by Exor software applications. NSDTPW is responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of over 3,900 bridges and 23,000 kilometers of provincial roads in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The Sidwell Company has been awarded separate contracts by Hamilton County, Cerro County, Madison County, and Clayton County, Iowa for development of comprehensive countywide GIS. Sidwell was also recently awarded a contract by the City of Ottawa, Illinois for photogrammetric services.

The State of New Jersey has awarded BAE SYSTEMS ADR an 18-month contract to implement the New Jersey Orthophoto Mapping Program. Services include the acquisition of new color infrared aerial photography, Airborne GPS, targetting, control/survey, scanning of original negative film, analytcs, DEM stereo compilation for orthorectification of CIR digital orthophotos, GIS processing of DEM data, and development of an Internet-based project tracking tool.
North to Alaska!
By Peirce Eichelberger, URISA President

Thanks to the URISA Alaska Chapter and President Stan Moll, for the invitation to come North and speak at the URISA luncheon during the Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference held in Anchorage, on February 15th. It was a special event that I will remember for a very long time. I had a chance to visit with about 30 URISA members and update them on the certification initiative. They were very interested; Alaska has a long tradition of GIS implementation at both the State and the Borough, government levels.

I had a chance to take in some of the sessions at the conference. One session talked about the use of GPS gear at -20 degrees F and the problems they had with the LCD display devices at that temperature! I thought to myself: I now have no sympathy for my staff in Pennsylvania working through a very mild winter, surveying all of our park properties.

I had a nice visit with Walter Robillard. Many of you probably have read his books. “Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location” is one of my favorites. I asked him to help us continue to educate GIS practitioners and surveyors about the need for more interaction. He was excited to be asked. I can see a URISA “Quick Study” about the synergy of surveyors and GIS staff working more closely together.

Well, beside the high point of meeting URISA members, I did have a chance to ride the Alaska railroad north to Fairbanks (only 175 miles from the Arctic Circle) on Saturday and return on Sunday. Mt. McKinley, the nation’s highest peak, was visible from the train. It was a 12-hour trip through the most incredible scenery. The train stopped frequently to off-load provisions along the route. It was great to meet so many Alaskans on their home turf. WOW, an incredible adventure, thanks Stan and Alaska URISA!

URISA Journal
Editorial Notes
Scott Grams, URISA Manager of Education and Certification

The URISA Journal “sets the bar” for the IT/GIS industry and we understand that our members/subscribers expect only the highest level of quality. Editorial and journal reputations are built on the fact that if an article does not meet the lofty requirements set forth by the editorial board, the article is not used. A rigorous review process guarantees that the quality of the printed articles in the URISA Journal is consistently exceptional.

The Journal’s Editorial Board and the URISA Board of Directors have recently changed its publishing policy from the previous quarterly format, to guaranteeing two (with a maximum of four) issues per year. This will ensure that the Journal continues to publish articles of the highest caliber. We trust that you understand our position and will look forward to our next issue with anticipation and with the confidence in knowing that the materials within have been written and reviewed by the very best.

Also, URISA has become one of the first publications to accept the Open Access License to GIScience Literature. This policy was borne out of the idea that research which is conducted for the betterment of the field should be freely available to all. Thousands of researchers, scientists, authors, and now, non-profits are supporting this license and the environment of idea and knowledge sharing it fosters. Therefore, the URISA Journal will always be on-line and available to the greater IT/GIS community. This will also include a portion of the Journal’s back issues as well. The URISA leadership and the Journal Editorial Board both feel that this License adheres to the mission of the Association and to the spirit of a profession built on improving lives through information dissemination.

If you have any questions about these new policies or would like to submit an article for possible publication in the URISA Journal please contact Journal Coordinator Scott Grams sgrams@urisa.org.

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Visit www.urisa.org for more information.
Applications due June 1.

If so, that achievement should be recognized and shared with your peers. Nominate your organization for a prestigious URISA Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG™) Award. Or convince a colleague to participate!
Welcome New Business Members

Eight companies have already joined URISA this year in the new Business Category of membership:
- Angus Geosolutions, Inc.
- Bluegrass GIS Inc.
- GIS Planning Inc.
- Geographic Mapping Inc.
- Hartmann & Associates
- Municipal GIS Partners, Inc.
- Spatial Focus, Inc.
- System Development/Integration, Inc.

Profiles for three of these companies are included here. Watch for information about the rest of these companies in the next issue of URISA News.

GIS Planning, Inc.
GIS Planning, Inc. is an award-winning company committed to developing value-added geographic information system Internet applications for municipalities, regional government agencies, businesses, and community organizations that foster enhanced community planning, economic development and e-commerce. GIS Planning combines state-of-the-art technical expertise with an understanding of city planning practice focused on city planning, economic development, and public works to create user-friendly GIS applications for the World Wide Web. GIS Planning provides the needed tools, products and training for organizations to effectively implement Web-based GIS applications. GIS Planning is an authorized ESRI Business Partner and Consultant.

For more information about GIS Planning Inc., contact:
**GIS Planning, Inc.**
Pablo Monzon
2220 Dwight Way, Ste. 302
Berkeley, CA 94704
Phone (888) 682-3583
Fax (415) 723-7801
info@gisplanning.com
www.gisplanning.com

SD•I
SD•I is a full-service Information Technology consulting firm that assists IT professionals in selecting, implementing, and integrating core business technologies within a robust infrastructure. Practicing the Art of Integration®, SD•I maximizes our client’s technology investment in GIS, financial, document, facility, fleet, work, and asset management systems. Visit our website at www.sdichicago.com.

For more information about SD•I, contact:
**SD•I (System Development.Integration)**
180 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601-2607
Office: (312) 580-7561
Fax: (312) 580-7600
abis@sdichicago.com
http://www.sdichicago.com

Remember to email your IT/GIS RFPs to wfrancis@urisa.org for FREE and FAST distribution to URISA’s Corporate and Business Members.

Bluegrass GIS
Founded in 1995 and headquartered in Frankfort, Kentucky, Bluegrass GIS is a leading provider of professional GIS implementation services, equipping clients with the necessary GIS technical resources to successfully analyze, design, implement, manage, and operate their GIS. We are proud to be an ESRI Authorized Business Partner and specialize in the implementation of ArcGIS solutions for clients. Our experienced team of GIS professionals have provided technical solutions for more than fifty (50) clients worldwide. We have the aptitude, experience, and commitment to ensure your GIS project will be successful.

For more information about Bluegrass GIS, contact:
David A. Riddle, President
Bluegrass GIS, Inc.
101 Mary Todd Drive
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8771
Phone: 502.695.9314
Fax: 502.695-9316
www.bluegrassgis.com
E-mail: driddle@bluegrassgis.com
 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

GIS planning solutions development
Geographic Technologies Group, Inc
1-800-757-4222 www.geotg.com

Fairview Industries
233 East Main Street - PO Box 100
Pendleton South Carolina 29670
Information Technology Design and Implementation
voice 803-440-2710 fax 803-440-2712
email: faview@fairviewindustries.com
URL www.fairview-industries.com

MSA Professional Services
Complete GIS Services
800-362-4505
E-mail: thavorn@msa-pe.com
Baraboo, Wisconsin

GeoAnalytics
1716 Founders Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53704
Phone: 608-257-0100
Fax: 608-257-1734
E-mail: info@geoanalytics.com http://www.geoanalytics.com
1-866-IT/GIS-421 Consulting & Software Development

Consultant Directory

Mark Your Calendar!

URISA 2002 Annual Conference
40th Anniversary
October 26-30, 2002
Chicago, IL
Hyatt Regency, Chicago on the Riverwalk

Contribute to URISA’s future: encourage a coworker or colleague to join URISA this month!

URISA
Urban & Regional Information Systems Association
1460 Renaissance Drive, Suite 305
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Exhibit Opportunities in 2002

IT/GIS in Public Works
June 19-21, 2002
Pittsburgh, PA
Audience: IT/GIS and Public Works Professionals

Street Smart & Address Savvy
August 11-13, 2002
Portland, OR
Audience: 911 & Emergency Management

URISA 2002 Annual Conference
October 26-30, 2002
Chicago, IL
Audience: IT & GIS Professionals in State & Local Government

For more information, contact Wendy Francis at URISA Headquarters, wfrancis@urisa.org

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To Wendy ........................................................... Company URISA

Date March 25, 2002 Job No. 02-059

Job Description URISA March/April Newsletter

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You are being sent the following:

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

Date Sent (JL Design) Date Returned (Client)

March 25 (PDF) 2p April 1 (fax)

April 2 (PDF) 11p April 3 (fax)

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