Join Us at URISA’s 42nd Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada November 7–10, 2004
By Allen Ibaugh, 2004 Conference Chair

G/IS professionals in all state/provincial, regional and local government agencies are encouraged to join us at URISA’s 42nd Annual Conference in Reno. Learn how other governmental agencies are empowering their workforce through GIS and IT initiatives that represent the state-of-the-art in application deployment and policy planning which address the latest regulations, environmental conditions, transportation/land use issues, and several others. Bring away products, techniques, and practices to enhance your own program. Share your experiences and network with your counterparts across government, industry, and academia.

This year’s conference program is packed full of new and innovative workshops, sessions, and exhibits.

Keynotes
URISA is excited to have two keynote speakers on the program this year. Kicking off the sessions this year will be Mr. Jim Geringer, former Governor of Wyoming. Geringer has been an outspoken advocate for technology and its benefits of enhanced service, integrated service delivery, and enterprise-wide solutions. Mr. Geringer will be discussing the topic of “How To Get Elected Officials More Engaged With Technology”.

Also, in an ever-growing time of terrorist activity and political unrest throughout the world, URISA is proud to bring a second keynote address from Dr. Jeffery Hunker of the School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Hunker will discuss “GIS and the Future of Counterterrorism,” focused on new approaches of GIS application to conduct predictive analyses and create powerful new tools to fight terrorism.

Pre-Conference Workshops
URISA has placed a vital significance on updating past workshops and introducing several new workshops this year. With the fast-paced changes in information technology occurring as quickly as on an annual basis, it is important to offer new workshops to provide the membership and conference attendees with diverse training opportunities that can be applied to their everyday jobs. Eight new workshops this year include:

- Field Automation Options for Local Government: deals with leveraging new technology that places GIS data in the hands of field crews;
- Best Practices for Developing Geographic Information Models: involves real world examples of building on existing data and skills to take advantage of the latest generation of GIS tools and practices for database design;
- Asset Management: Planning, Strategy, and Implementation: includes several aspects of developing an asset management system that could help improve performance, reduce long-term costs, and maximize return on investment in infrastructure assets;
- Introduction to Digital Imagery and Remote Sensing: includes defining and choosing the right imagery for your application, methods and approaches to remote sensing, and applications of these datasets;
- GIS Program Management: provides guidelines for managing your GIS program;
- GIS Enterprise Architecture and System Integration; and
- Putting Geospatial Metadata to Work For You. (presented by the FGDC)

Returning (and significantly updated) workshops include:

- eGovernment: The New Reality;
- Cartography and Map Design;
- Addresses and IS/GIS Implementation: Key to GIS Success; and
- Internet GIS: State of the Art

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Important URISA Dates to Remember

November 7–10, 2004
URISA's 42nd Annual Conference
Reno, Nevada

January 1, 2005
URISA 2005 Membership Renewals due

February 15–18, 2005
Integrating GIS & CAMA Conference
Savannah, Georgia

August 14–17, 2005
GIS in Addressing: Street Smart & Address Savvy Conference
Austin, Texas

October 9–12, 2005
URISA's 43rd Annual Conference
Kansas City, Missouri

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Article submissions, calendar items and industry news should be sent to the attention of Wendy Francis.
Program Tracks
URISA offers the most diverse educational program tracks of any conference targeted to G/IS professionals working in state/provincial, regional, and local governments. Over 10 program tracks focus on diverse issues from community and economic development to tax assessment and transportation planning. This year’s program tracks include:
- e-Government
- Enterprise Operations
- Beyond Maps
- Public Works and Asset Management
- Public Health and Safety
- Data Integration: Data Standards, Policy Issues, and Software Considerations
- US Federal Programs and Federal-Local Partnerships
- Transportation Systems and
- Other Current and Hot Topics

URISA has structured the programs to optimize the learning opportunities for each attendee by limiting the number of overlapping concurrent sessions based on subject matter. For instance, Transportation professionals will be able to follow a specific track from the start of a day to the end without having to worry about missing sessions of interest that could generally overlap. Yet, the opportunities remain abundant as there are over 60 total sessions and 134 educational presentations to choose from allowing attendees to mix and match their schedules to the topics of most interest to them.

Project Showcase and Exhibits
The Project Showcase is a display area for maps and posters that highlight some of the most successful G/IS programs in state, regional, and local government. The Showcase is displayed in the Exhibit Hall with specific times given for when the presenters will be present to discuss their programs and answer questions from attendees. The Exhibit Hall will include booths from over 50 companies dedicated to providing software products and services to support various aspects of the G/IS industry. Here, attendees will be able to see what’s new, collect information to make wise purchasing decisions, compare products and services, participate in hands-on demonstrations, and get answers to questions.

I’ve attended the past five annual conferences and have never been disappointed – URISA always delivers! The educational sessions provide the latest information on a wide range of innovative initiatives, procedures, and analysis techniques. And the opportunity to exchange ideas with knowledgeable colleagues makes the URISA Annual Conference an event I look forward to every year.

Mark Sievers
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Maitland, Florida

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Conference Committee and URISA staff for their diligence and dedication to putting together an outstanding program this year.

I, along with dedicated URISA staff and officers, look forward to seeing you in Reno this November!

Allen Ibaugh, AICP
Principal, VP Operations,
Data Transfer Solutions, Inc.,
Orlando, FL
Conference Chair

New URISA Publications—Clear off some space on your bookshelf now!

At the annual conference in Reno, three new URISA publications will be unveiled:
- Going Mobile: Mobile Technologies and GIS
- LiDAR Concepts, Project Design, and Practical Applications
- GIS Program Revenue Generation and Legal Issues in Public Sector Organizations

All URISA publications will be available for purchase at the conference. Save on shipping costs!
Welcome New URISA Members

Malcolm Adkins, IES Geospatial, Walnut Creek, CA
Dhyan Appachu, Secon Surveys, Dunedin, FL
Scott Barnwell, Patrick Engineering Inc, Madison, WI
Sarah Beatty, Brock University, St Catherine’s, ON, Canada
Matthew Brown, San Diego County, San Diego, CA
Cody Buhrmeister, Western Air Maps Inc, Overland Park, KS
Pat Byrne, AutoDesk, Ottawa, ON, Canada
Micah Callough, GIS - Land Resources, Greer, SC
Richard Carn, Arkansas CAMA Technology, Inc, Valley View, TX
Min-Dong Chang, URS Corporation, Chicago, IL
Janet Cheney, Bonneville County, Idaho Falls, ID
Preston Cleaton, Salisbury-Rowan Utilities, Salisbury, NC
Gregory Cutrera, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
Sid Daughtrey, City of Suffolk, Suffolk, VA
Deborah Dennison, Tampa, FL
Christopher Donohue, Sacramento, CA
Kristina Evanoff, Sound Transit, Seattle, WA
Brianne Ferry, Earth Tech, Concord, MA
Ian Fitzgerald, Truckee Donner Public Utility District, Truckee, CA
Douglas Greenfield, Newton, MA
Kim Grout, District of Pitt Meadows, Pitt Meadows, BC, Canada
Calisle Haworth, UNCG, Greensboro, NC
Alvin Horhn, City of Detroit, Detroit, MI
Sabah Jabbour, Covington, WA
Heather Kwiatkowski, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
Jami Liebsch, ResDev, Celebration, FL
Gregory Marshall, Spectra Informatics LLC, Washington, DC
Edward Melcher, Port Elgin, ON, Canada
J Wayne Moore, Springfield, OH
Scott Phelps, ARCADIS G&M of NC Inc, Raleigh, NC
Kristin Preston, Pinellas County, Largo, FL
Andrew Schumpert, UNCC, Matthews, NC
Aaron Shaw, The Schneider Corporation, Indianapolis, IN
James Simpson, Spatial Data Research Inc, Lawrence, KS
Lauri Sohl, City of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, SD
Steph Stanfield, Farallon Geographics Inc, San Francisco, CA
Andrew Stauffer, The City of Dublin, Dublin, OH
Bello Temitope, Richardson, TX
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Jon Tullis, Bonneville County, Idaho Falls, ID
Jerilee Wilkinson, Bonneville County, Idaho Falls, ID

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Bentley Systems, Incorporated, provides software for the lifecycle of the world’s infrastructure. The company’s comprehensive portfolio for the building, plant, civil, and geospatial vertical markets spans architecture, engineering, construction (AEC) and operations. With 2003 revenues reaching $260 million, Bentley is the leading provider of AEC software to the Engineering News-Record Design 500 and major owner-operators.
President’s Column

Thanks for a Great Year—Let’s talk about it in Reno
By Dan Parr, URISA President 2003-2004

For more than forty years, URISA has found a way to stay vital and influential in an industry that mirrors the world’s transition to an information age.

We are now positioned to do the same as the world learns to turn information into knowledge—weather data into models that help save lives, health and housing data into a better quality of life for everyone, land use data into a cleaner environment, facilities and transportation data into greater security and peace of mind.

URISA members have been working on these kinds of programs for decades. We have always seen technology as a means to an end. As the technology has improved, URISAns have helped to apply the technology in ways that make a difference.

Every Annual Conference serves as a measure of how far we have come and a map of where we are going in the near and distant future. Whether it is Reno, Ottawa, Chicago or Atlanta, our Annual Conference is an excellent gauge of the industry and of ourselves.

Reno, like every one of the past 41 conferences, will help each of the attendees put our work in perspective. We will be free of phone calls (even emails if we are lucky), surrounded by professionals from every part of the industry. We will share conversation with people doing the same things and asking the same questions—with a real opportunity to hear the answer from someone who has already done it.

Reno will for the 42nd time connect the thinkers and the doers, beginners and experts, planners and implementers, techies and users. We will meet, talk, learn and enjoy ourselves until we should be exhausted. We will, however, leave with more energy and myriad ideas for how we can do things better.

Reno will revitalize us all—again.
I am very grateful that URISA is here to do this. I thank everyone who has made it possible for 42 years. I thank you for the opportunity to participate and the privilege to serve as President of URISA.

Bob Gore, former Informatics Director, City of Ottawa, and a long-time member of URISA, died suddenly on August 4, 2004. Bob was especially active in URISA in the 1970s and 1980s. In addition to participating in numerous national and regional IS/IT conferences, Bob initiated and supported a variety of Special Interest Group (SIG) projects, and played a leading role in establishing URISA’s credentials in the data processing (DP) communities in Canada, the United States and Europe.

Bob Gore enjoyed DP, IT and URISA, and URISA benefited immeasurably from his enthusiastic commitment to the cause of better information for better decisions. Our sympathy goes out to Norma, his wife of many years, who frequently accompanied Bob to URISA functions.

Barry Wellar
URISA Past President (1978)

GISP’s Top 400
The number of Certified GIS Professionals continues to grow. More than 400 individuals have successfully completed the certification process and the interest level does not appear to be diminishing at all.

At URISA’s Annual Conference this November, a special “how to get certified” workshop will be held. Many URISA chapters have appointed a “Certification Expert/Liaison” to assist local members with the certification process. These individuals, all GISPs, will be the local GISCi experts.

Visit www.gisci.org to view the current list of GISPs and learn more about the program.
When Hurricane Charley made landfall August 13, 2004, on the southwest coast of Florida, it delivered a seven-foot storm surge and winds estimated at 145 miles per hour. As the storm continued to track northeast across the state toward the Atlantic Ocean, threatening to bring its high winds and flash flooding to the East Coast, officials in the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SC-DOT) paid attention. Charley was a powerful storm, and they understood its potential to regenerate its strength over the Atlantic. As the storm approached, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency and ordered residents and vacationers in two coastal counties to evacuate.

South Carolina has often faced the possibility of destructive weather. With its miles of exposed coastline, the state needed a program that would put rapidly changing traffic and weather information at the fingertips of emergency evacuation managers. Realizing that preparedness is the best defense, officials developed the Hurricane Evacuation Decision Support Solution for the state several years ago.

Hurricane warnings and the forced evacuation of thousands of coastal residents could quickly lead to chaos if not managed efficiently. Roadways heading away from the coast have limited capacity, residents need up-to-the-minute information to determine which route is best, and, on top of all that, there’s not a minute to lose. South Carolinians rely on the DOT to analyze conditions quickly and accurately and help them move to safety.

Hurricane Floyd provided test case
The state selected Intergraph’s GeoMedia WebMap to develop the Hurricane Evacuation Decision Support Solution – a system for integrating multiple data sources and distributing geospatial information and other digital data on the Web. Beginning with Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the SCDOT staff could survey evacuation routes, vehicle counts, road closures, and weather conditions simultaneously.

In advance of predictions for an unusually destructive hurricane season in 2004, the evacuation system has been enhanced with Web solutions that incorporate Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG). The new World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) standard for Web-based vector graphics, SVG was recently incorporated into GeoMedia WebMap. SVG is used in many applications, including Web graphics, user interfaces, graphics interchange, print and hardcopy output, animation, mobile applications, and high-quality design.

Based on Extensible Mark-up Language (XML), SVG provides dynamic segmentation capabilities that make an integrated environment of maps and charts more interactive. Combining rich graphics features and smooth handling of very large amounts of data, SVG saves time for users performing data analysis. SVG’s powerful scripting and event-support capabilities complement the Open GIS Consortium’s GML format, which can easily be converted for high-quality online display. SVG offers numerous benefits, including compatibility with open standards; superior rendering functionality; virtual desktop capabilities; compression to small file size; and graphs, tables, charts, and maps that can interact with the map that is being used for analysis.

With the enhancements to the SCDOT Hurricane Evacuation Decision Support Solution, decision makers can access near real-time information in the form of graphs, maps, and spreadsheets for analyzing road conditions. They can compare current traffic trends with normal loads, look for traffic blockages, and determine what action to take. Officials have rapid access to traffic volumes, speed data, evacuation route and detour maps, traffic cameras, current weather data, and other pertinent traffic information to help them analyze conditions in real time and communicate with highway managers and the general public using the Web and the news media.

The readings from automatic...
traffic recorders (ATRs) can be compiled immediately, displaying current data as it compares with an hour before, the last six hours, or the last 14 days. The ATR reports provide such critical information as speed of the traffic, number of vehicles per hour, and percent of capacity reached. If a road has reached its capacity and the traffic is starting to slow down, officials can use the reports to determine the next step. If necessary, they can close the road to coast-bound traffic and use all lanes for evacuation. Or they can re-route some of the traffic to alternate roads. Enhancements provide timely decision support
Just a few years ago, transportation planners had to put these reports together from spreadsheets. By the time the information was organized and analyzed, traffic conditions had changed. Donald McElveen, manager of GIS and Mapping, SCDOT, noted how the enhancements helped officials manage the Hurricane Charley evacuation. "Previously, when monitoring traffic for a hurricane, we pulled reports hourly and only in one set format. With the new system, we can pull our standard reports instantly and then also provide additional data or generate reports based on customized requests, thus allowing us to look at things differently and be more responsive during the emergency situation."

A language for describing two-dimensional graphics in XML, SVG allows three types of graphic objects – vector graphic shapes, images, and text. Graphic objects can be grouped, styled, transformed, and composited into previously rendered objects. Text can be in any XML namespace suitable to the application, enhancing the searchability and accessibility of SVG graphics.

The timely enhancements to South Carolina’s Hurricane Evacuation Decision Support Solution are helping SCDOT officials meet the challenges of the 2004 hurricane season. With the additional functionality provided by SVG, decision makers can access all the information they need to evacuate coastal residents and visitors when weather emergencies occur. Near real-time data access, high-quality online display, and virtual desktop capabilities enable planners to feel confident even with an unusually active hurricane season predicted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). And the threat will not be over until the official end of hurricane season, November 31 – when coastal residents can breathe a sigh of relief.
The Schneider Corporation has released GeoGear, a suite of Land Records Management solutions for Local Governments. Through an agreement with PMC, ProMap Corporation, Schneider has updated the popular Land Records software PMCgis to work within ArcGIS 9.0. Under this agreement, Schneider and PMC will both retain individual rights to develop, market, and sell the products independently or cooperatively. Schneider acquired the name of GeoGear. A future joint release is planned before each company pursues individual development and marketing.

GeoGear, LLC, developer of mobile Field Information Systems™ and Tripod Data Systems™ (TDS), developer of mobile computing products, today announced a strategic partnership that will provide integrated, mobile hardware and software technologies to help customers improve field crew operations and productivity.

NovalIS Technologies is pleased to welcome Woolpert LLP to its Business Partner Program. "Woolpert has an outstanding reputation in service delivery to its customers," says NovalIS President/CEO Gary Waters. "We are confident that they will provide the same professional commitment to our customers when implementing our land records management solutions."

ORBIMAGE Inc. announced that its OrbView-2 satellite recently passed its seventh successful year in operation with an unprecedented availability rate of over 98%. ORBIMAGE expects OrbView-2 to continue providing service for at least another 3 to 5 years. Since its launch on August 11th, 1997, OrbView-2 has traveled over 1.6 billion kilometers (1 billion miles), made over 37,000 orbits around the Earth, and collected over 500 billion square kilometers of multispectral (color) imagery as it images the entire earth every day.

ESRI announces its support of the Mesoamerican and Caribbean Geospatial Alliance (MACGA), a program implemented by the USGS/EROS Data Center in cooperation with several partner organizations. ESRI is providing free GIS training, documentation, and software grants to assist the alliance.

Adoption of the "ASPRS Lidar Guidelines – Vertical Accuracy Reporting for Lidar Data V1.0" was approved by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Board of Directors in May 2004. This is the first in a series of guidelines to be published by ASPRS covering the emerging technology of lidar and its use in the mapping sciences. Created by the ASPRS Lidar Committee’s Working Group on lidar guidelines and standards, the guidelines have undergone a public review process and represent the best practices and reporting methods endorsed by ASPRS when working with lidar-derived elevation data.

Intergraph Mapping and Geospatial Solutions has awarded an Intergraph Education Grant with a total commercial value of more than $773,000 (U.S.) in software and services to the Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training (PCATT) at Honolulu Community College. The goal of the program is to provide valuable education and training for the rapidly expanding GIS technology market in Hawaii.

The Sidwell Company is pleased to announce the release of ParcelBuilder™. The Parcel Builder software suite is a product developed by The Sidwell Company, and provides users with a comprehensive set of tools for use in ArcMap™ 9.0 by ESRI®. Parcel Builder consists of three modules:

- Parcel Builder-Administrator™. Tools for PIN management and CAMA integration
- Parcel Builder-MapEditor™. Tools for cadastral map creation and maintenance productivity
- Parcel Builder-MapPlotter™. Tools to create high-quality cadastral map output

AirPhotoUSA and Intermap Technologies are working together to provide advanced, off-the-shelf, ortho imagery products that offer affordable acquisition and employment of high-resolution, highly accurate, seamless aerial imagery, combined with detailed Digital Elevation Models of one-meter vertical accuracy from 5 meter posting. The first countywide project has been completed for Ventura County CA and Kings County CA is in production. Both counties were scheduled PhotoMapper updates for AirPhotoUSA and will mix countywide one-foot and two-foot pixel resolution imagery with six-inch imagery for city areas. The updates provide a visually enhanced and integrated comprehensive view, along with a higher level of spatial accuracy and greater functionality with the increased capability for applications in 3-D visualization, emergency response, flood control and much more.

People News

Accela, Inc. announced that Terry Van Valkenburgh has joined the company as Senior Vice President of Engineering. Mr. Van Valkenburgh rounds out a seasoned management team, bringing over two decades of experience managing and implementing technology for both private and public companies.

The Schneider Corporation has announced that Brian R. Berdanier has joined the company as Senior GIS Project Manager. Berdanier brings rich background to the company, from both the public and private GIS market. Recently the Director of REGIS (Regional Geographic Information Systems) in Grand Rapids, MI, Berdanier has managed complex GIS projects and programs that have proven to be national leaders. His professional experience spans more than 20 years, with an emphasis on local government solutions.

Project Awards

Autodesk announced three government agencies that have successfully implemented the complete Autodesk® Emergency Response Suite. Working with these agencies, Autodesk provided technologies and services that help emergency response teams access, display, and analyze critical data so they can respond to emergencies quickly and confidently. The cities of Sheboygan, Wisconsin and Grand Forks, North Dakota, and the State of Florida have implemented the complete Autodesk solution this year.

Accela, Inc. announced that the city of Petaluma has launched Accela Wireless™. The Building and Planning Divisions of the City’s Community Development Department will be utilizing the mobile technology to streamline their work and process inspections more efficiently. Accela, Inc. also announced that the Macomb County, Michigan, has selected Accela Automation™ to be implemented as the County’s new Web-based Soil Erosion Management System. The City of Santa Rosa is utilizing Accela VelocityHall®, a public access portal that enables citizens and businesses to access many government services on-line. The Community Development Department now offers plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and simple re-roofing permits on-line.

The California Department of Forestry (CDF) has purchased AirPhotoUSA’s extensive California archive of high resolution, seamless aerial imagery. Thirty-one external hard drives each containing 80,000 square miles of current 2’ pixel resolution imagery are available at CDF for deployment to the state Emergency Operations Units. The imagery provides the crucial base map for on-site mapping applications during emergencies such as wildfires, floods and earthquakes. The imagery will also be used in the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) to help assess risk and identify resource issues.

GeoAnalytics, Inc. has been retained by Oakland County, Michigan, to provide an Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) web-based GIS Solution. The project involves implementing and integrating GeoAnalytics’ tracServe solution with the County’s existing CompassCom FDE Server AVL environment, developing custom vehicle status reports, and making presentation enhancements to meet County website standards.

Municipal Software Corporation is proud to announce that the City of Miami, FL has purchased City/View to automate their Land Use Compliance and Code Enforcement business processes. According to Peter Korinis, CIO of the City of Miami, “This new automation will provide numerous improvements to zoning, code enforcement, permitting, inspections, licenses and certifications, and urban planning activities.”

Intergraph Mapping and Geospatial Solutions announced the city of Huntsville has added new Web mapping functionality based on Intergraph solutions to its Web site. The new feature, called Interactive Maps, is now online and gives citizens, businesses and Internet users immediate access to location-specific information about the city.

Colorado CustomWare, Inc. (CCI) announced that they have signed a multi-million dollar contract with The State of Wyoming Department of Revenue to provide Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) software and hardware. The system will include web based GIS tools that will enable all counties to utilize the benefits that GIS brings through a web-based environment. The project
will include installing, training, and supporting all 23 counties in the State of Wyoming, while providing customizations to meet specific needs and requirements.

Surdex Corporation announced it has been awarded a $3.4 million contract by the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency, Aerial Photography Field Office for the 2004 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). The project entails the acquisition of 1:40,000 scale color aerial photography for the entire states of Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas and the partial states of Indiana and Wisconsin during the summer of 2004. Surdex will produce nearly 25,500 2-meter resolution digital orthophotos for the 340,000 square miles of coverage.

Merrick & Company announced a contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates. Merrick will provide LIDAR data (Las acquisition, 1-foot pixel resolution digital color orthophotography (TIFFs), and 1-foot contours (ArcInfo coverages) for Jones Edmunds’ clients in northeast Florida. The aerial data acquisition will cover areas in Flagler and Volusia Counties including the Saint Johns River Water Management District, Flagler County, and the Cities of Palm Coast, Deltona, Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, and Ormond Beach.

GeoAnalytics®, Inc. is assisting Dane County, Wisconsin, with the migration of its current GIS/LIS data and technology environment to an enterprise system.

Varion Systems, the software development and value-added reseller division of GeoAnalytics, Inc, has been chosen by Pottawattamie County, Iowa, to implement Government Software’s land management software suite, which includes integration with Varion’s web-GIS portal product PV.Web™. The County will leverage Government for Windows to manage property and address assignment as well as permitting. Varion Systems will provide full implementation services including design and prototype development, property control data conversion from the County’s tax system, user training, and coaching.

Merrick & Company announced a contract to produce one-quarter foot pixel resolution color digital orthophotography, an update of a 1999 project, for the Town of Amherst, Massachusetts. Merrick will also provide one-foot contours in four transportation project areas and three-quarter foot pixel resolution color digital orthophotography at the University of Massachusetts Deerfield Farm located north of the Town of Amherst.

Merrick & Company also announced the completion of a contract for the City of Grants Pass, Oregon. Merrick provided one-foot pixel resolution digital color orthophotography, LIDAR, and one-foot contours over the 28 square miles urban growth boundary. Merrick has provided aerial photography for Grants Pass every three years since 1995. The digital imagery was captured using Merrick’s Digital Airborne Camera System (DACSTM) that is co-mounted with the LIDAR sensor.

ESRI announced that its Dutch distributor, ESRI Nederland B.V., has been awarded a contract to provide the Dutch National Mapping Agency (Topografische Dienst Kadaster) with a new, ArcGIS based production environment. The system will be used to produce a new 1:10,000 scale topographic database (TOP10NL), which is the object-oriented successor to TOP10vector, the current database. TOP10NL will be used in the development of various GIS applications and paper map production.

Pictometry International Corp. announced that it has delivered software and a county-wide image database to the Galveston Central Appraisal District. As part of the company’s two-year agreement with the Appraisal District, the company has also provided training to over 40 of the Appraisal District’s personnel who will be using the imaging and measurement software to conduct visual inspections of county properties as part of their appraisal efforts. The Galveston Central Appraisal District is the eighth largest in the State of Texas in number of parcels, with appraisal responsibilities for over 200,000 properties that have an estimated combined market value of over 26 billion dollars. Ken Wright, chief appraiser for the Appraisal District, notes that the software and imagery provides a better understanding of land uses and other existing neighborhood characteristics.

URISA Board Election Results

URISA is pleased to announce the results of its 2004 Board of Directors Election. Cindy Domenico will become President-Elect of the association and Eric Bohard, Shoreh Elhami, and Allen Ibaugh will begin their three-year terms as members of the Board of Directors, at the close of URISA's 42nd Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada this November.

Cindy Domenico has served as the Assessor of Boulder County, Colorado since 1997, and has been a member of the Assessor’s Office appraisal staff for twenty years. The development of Boulder County’s GIS and implementations of the technology for appraisal analysis have been a focus of her work. The National Association of Counties, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, and the International Association of Assessing Officers have recognized Cindy and her staff as innovators in GIS and exemplary systems in local government.

She has been an active URISA member since 1993. She served on the Board of Directors from 2000-2003 and was the Treasurer during this time. Among many other volunteer activities, Cindy has been a frequent presenter and moderator at URISA conferences and has been particularly instrumental in the success of the Integrating GIS & CAMA Conference, the annual event jointly sponsored by the IAAO.

Three new directors were elected by the URISA membership to serve a three-year term on the URISA Board, also beginning in November. The three new Board members are:

- Eric Bohard, GIS Manager, Clackamas County, Oregon
- Shoreh Elhami, GIS Director, Delaware County Auditors Office, Ohio
- Allen Ibaugh, AICP, Principal, VP Operations, Data Transfer Solutions, Inc., Orlando, FL

At the close of URISA 2004 in Reno, the terms of service for these Board members will conclude:

- Martha Lombard, Past-President, Spatial Focus, Birmingham, Alabama
- Susan Johnson, Key Business Executive, City of Charlotte, North Carolina
- Anne Payne, GISP, GIS Database Administrator, Wake County, North Carolina
- Hilary Perkins, GISP, AICP, Project Manager, Jacobs Civil Inc, St. Louis, Missouri

We thank them, in advance, for their dedication and service to URISA and anticipate many more years of continued involvement.
URISA’s ESIG™ Committee had quite a review process to manage this year. Fourteen applications were submitted in the Single Process category and twenty-seven were submitted in the Enterprise Systems category.

The awards recognize exceptional achievements in the application of information technology that have improved the delivery and quality of government services. This year, for the first time, more than one winner will be recognized in each category to acknowledge all exemplary systems.

SINGLE PROCESS WINNERS

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

South Florida Water Management District—The Lake Okeechobee Stage-Area-Capacity Lookup Application

Submitted by: Frank Chang, Ph.D., Senior Geographer, South Florida Water Management District

The Lake Okeechobee Stage-Area-Capacity Lookup Application is exemplary because it takes a formerly very complex and difficult process that involved compiling information from various sources and creates a powerful user-friendly system to deliver the content to a wide variety of users. As a result, the South Florida Water Management District is able to provide water managers and the general public important resource information that would otherwise take several days to acquire.

Maryland Department of the Environment—Maryland Online Tier II Reporting System

Submitted by: Santha Kurian, Database Manager, Maryland Department of the Environment

Maryland Online Tier II Reporting System is exemplary because it is an outstanding example of how state agencies can automate reporting requirements to make more efficient government as well as improve access to vital information that is critical for local government use (i.e., first responders).

ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS WINNERS

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

Victoria, AU—Vicmap Topographic 1:30 000

Submitted by: George Mifsud, Mapping/GIS Analyst, Land Information Group

Vicmap Topographic 1:30 000 was deemed exemplary because it has the big benefit of producing maps on demand for customers at very low cost, no matter where they reside, and who may be confident in the knowledge that the data being delivered is always the most up-to-date information available.

Sacramento County WebGIS

Submitted by: Roger Exline, GIS Manager, Sacramento County

Sacramento County WebGIS is exemplary because it created an enterprise GIS system to allow data sharing, system integration and regional collaboration. The System has improved work efficiency for county employees, and allowed for better decision-making and improved customer service for the residents.

ESIG™ Honorable Mentions

A number of submissions have been recognized by the ESIG™ Review Committee as honorable mentions. These include:

Single Process Systems Honorable Mentions:
• Washoe County, NV—Washoe County Map Warehouse
  Submitted by: Thomas Lo, Ph.D., GIS Manager, Reno, NV

• District of Columbia—Emergency Information Center
  Submitted by: Vicki DeFries, GIS Director, Washington, DC

• District of Columbia—DC Guide
  Submitted by: Vicki DeFries, GIS Director, Washington, DC

Enterprise Systems Honorable Mentions:
• City of Fitchburg, WI—Staff Analyst
  Submitted by: Felipe Avila, City of Fitchburg (WI), Public Works

• Jackson County, OR—Front Counter Application
  Submitted by: Keith Massie, GIS Manager, Jackson County (OR) GIS Services

A number of these projects will be presented at the Reno conference. Congratulations to all who participated!
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