URISA is pleased to announce the induction of a very deserving program into its GIS Hall of Fame. URISA’s GISCorps was officially recognized during GIS-Pro 2020, which was presented virtually.

There is no doubt that, in the minds of many, GISCorps clearly meets the criteria for membership in URISA’s GIS Hall of Fame. Since inception, GISCorps has given the GIS professional the opportunity to effectively make a difference – to make a better world through the use of one’s own special skills and expertise. Volunteer-guided by a Core Committee and implemented through its many volunteers, GISCorps continues to have an impact on the GIS field, the profession, and the social benefit of the volunteers’ efforts. It is an organization making significant and original contributions to the development and application of GIS concepts, and to the GIS profession and the careers of the individual volunteers. And as stated in one of the testimonials, URISA’s GISCorps exemplifies “...vision, leadership, perseverance, community-mindedness, professional involvement, and ethical behavior.”

The concept of GISCorps was born out of discussions at the 2001 URISA Annual Conference Board Meeting by members of the International Task Force. The discussions focused on serving the world by offering short-term volunteer GIS services to communities in need worldwide. GISCorps was formerly adopted by URISA as a Program in 2003 with just that mission. URISA members struck a Core Committee to develop a Strategic Plan and Operating Policies and Procedures. The Strategic Plan has evolved over the years as all Strategic Plans do, but the Operating Policies and Procedures remain largely intact and adhered to, having been updated to reflect changes in technology and to meet the requirements and increasing demand for volunteers. The Organizing Principles and Policies adhere to the GIS Code of Ethics and are pursuant to the objectives and principles of URISA.

GISCorps operations are overseen and run by a Core Committee. This Core Committee is comprised of volunteers with full time jobs, many of whom have been GISCorps volunteers on previous
missions. Recently, through a generous donation, GISCorps was able to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant to address some of the more administrative and time-consuming daily tasks. More recently, a volunteer Advisory Board was also formed. These individuals advise the Core Committee and are involved in some of the longer term administrative tasks, leaving the managing of missions and recruitment of volunteers to the active members of the Core Committee. GISCorps’ sole source of funding is donations from supporters. GISCorps is supported by individual donations, corporations, and other non-profit groups with similar goals. GISCorps does not rely on funding from URISA to support its mission, although URISA’s staff does assist with some administrative and marketing functions.

GISCorps services include finding qualified GIS volunteers for short term projects and establishing partnerships to create volunteer opportunities for the GIS community. Projects vary based on the partner agency’s need and may involve any and all aspects of GIS including analysis, cartography, application development, needs assessments, technical workshops, etc. Areas of service include humanitarian relief, disaster response, conservation, environmental quality, health and human services, GIS education, and expert crowdsourcing.

Agencies requesting volunteers are called Partner Agencies. GISCorps Partners reside all over the world. They are public entities, non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, and professional associations. Occasionally, they are organizations operating under a social business model or undertaking a project for humanitarian purposes rather than for profit. GISCorps has also formed partnerships with other like-minded groups, such as Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT). HOT is a global community of volunteers, community leaders, and professionals who work together to create open map data to support disaster response and sustainable development. When HOT launches urgent disaster response tasks that demand a quick response from experienced OpenStreetMap mappers and validators, they occasionally request support from GISCorps.

“URISA’s GISCorps volunteers have been involved in almost every disaster since 2003,” said Shoreh Elhami, GISCorps founder. “We have worked on Hurricane Katrina, the Asian tsunami, the cyclone in Burma, the Ebola epidemic, and much more. Many of our volunteers have said they learn more quickly from GISCorps experiences than from their day jobs. They get exposed to different projects that require different skills and tools, and that provides a valuable learning experience.” The number of volunteers deployed to disaster responses and non-disaster responses is almost equal.

In an effort to ensure more GISCorps volunteers were involved in missions, the Core Committee recently started participating in crowd-sourcing projects, the most recent of which is the mapping of COVID-19 Testing Locations in the United States, and the mapping of Lost Loved Ones due to COVID-19. The Core Committee also negotiated an agreement with Esri – the GIS Service Pledge – whereby GISCorps volunteers that wanted to apply their skills to support a non-profit they ‘love’ could get access to a one-year personal use license of Esri software. This initiative was launched in November of 2017 and, to date, 45 applications have been approved, 20 have been completed and 11 are currently active. Volunteers taking advantage of this program are required to prepare a final report; these can be found on the GISCorps website (www.giscorps.org).

URISA’s GISCorps has been recognized for its service over the years. The program was honored with the President’s Volunteer Service Award in 2012 on behalf of the President of the United States for ‘making a difference through volunteer service’. The Award is given to individuals, families, and groups that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation. At the same time, GISCorps also received the Daily Point of Light Award during National Volunteer Week – an award that recognizes individuals who change the world. GISCorps was also the recipient of the 2005 Esri Health Service Award, and an Esri SAG Award (Special Achievement in GIS) in 2015, along with NetHope, for supporting decision makers in West Africa Ebola Crisis with GIS with support from the GIS Volunteer Community.

Over the past seventeen years, URISA’s GISCorps volunteers have made significant contributions to the profession by supporting GIS professionals benefiting communities in need. And in doing so, the GISCorps volunteers have grown their professional skills and benefited from seeing the results of their volunteer efforts.

URISA’s Hall of Fame laureates include:

- 2006 Inductee: Gary Hunter
- 2007 Inductees: Don Cooke and Michael Goodchild
- 2009 Inductees: Will Craig and Carl Reed
- 2010 Inductee: C. Dana Tomlin
- 2011 Inductees: William Huxhold and Barry Wellar
- 2012 Inductees: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Natural Resources Canada, Statistics Canada, United States Census Bureau and United States Geological Survey
- 2014 Inductee: Charles Croner
- 2016 Inductees: Alex Miller, Mark Monmonier and Waldo Tobler
- 2018 Inductees: Peter Burrough and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Visit URISA’s GIS Hall of Fame to learn about the path-breaking accomplishments of all inductees.
Meet the Newest Members of the URISA Vanguard Cabinet

URISA is pleased to announce the newest members of its Vanguard Cabinet. The Vanguard Cabinet (VC) is a URISA initiative (which debuted in 2011) to engage young GIS practitioners, increase their numbers in the organization, and better understand the concerns facing these future leaders of the GIS community. The VC is an advisory board who represent the young membership of the organization. The Cabinet’s mission is to collaborate with URISA’s Board of Directors and Committees in creating and promoting programs and policies of benefit to young professionals.

Comprised entirely of passionate young members selected from different geospatial disciplines, the Cabinet aims to position URISA as the center of opportunities for ambitious young professionals who are committed to improving URISA and the geospatial profession via innovation, collaboration, networking, and professional development. Each will serve a three-year term.

2020-2023 URISA Vanguard Cabinet Members:

Catherine Boush, Data Analyst, Roanoke Parks and Recreation, Roanoke, Virginia: “I am looking forward to serving with other URISA Vanguard Cabinet members as we strive to increase young professional engagement and create lasting change within the organization and geospatial industry.”

Siddharth (Sid) Pandey, CSM, Associate - Geospatial & Technology Services, Dewberry Engineers Inc., Fairfax, Virginia: “I am so excited and honored to be accepted as a member of the 2020-2023 cohort of the Vanguard Cabinet! This is fantastic opportunity to learn from and work with other highly motivated and accomplished geospatial professionals and support the GIS community at large, and is an opportunity I am grateful for. I’m looking forward to bringing my passion for all things GIS and my background working with other Emerging Professionals groups to support the great work the VC is doing, and to find new and innovative ways to engage young professionals; providing them with more opportunities to develop their leadership and technical skills. I look forward to working with the other VC members to promote the geospatial industry and provide opportunities for emerging professionals to learn, grow and expand their networks!”

Kate Berg, MSc., Environmental GIS Consultant, Ramboll, Ann Arbor, Michigan: “As a new Vanguard member, I am most looking forward to making connections throughout the geospatial community and supporting my fellow mappy people as they navigate their GIS careers. I also can’t wait to share my enthusiasm for all things maptastic, while encouraging more participation and engagement.”

Hasmitha Rayasam, Research Assistant, Boston University: “I am very excited to be a part of this dynamic and passionate team, and fostering a sense of community among geospatial professionals. GIS is more accessible and visible today than it has ever been with everyone around the world looking at maps this year. I look forward to working with the geospatial community to promote and grow the profession and subsequently, our global impact.”

Michelle Field, GIS Analyst, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee: “I am extremely excited to be a part of URISA’s 2020-2023 Vanguard Cabinet cohort. A lot of people do not know about the power of GIS and all of the good it can bring. I would really like to see schools and universities providing information about URISA and GIS. The goal for my three year term is to bring the knowledge of GIS to more students and young professionals to help empower them. GIS can be used in so many, if not all, career fields, and I would like to spread the word.”

Cabinet members are selected through an application process, with a review by the URISA Leadership Development Committee. The application process for the next class of Vanguard Cabinet members will open during the Summer of 2021. Learn more about VC activities here: https://www.urisa.org/vanguardcabinet
URISA is very pleased to announce that both Alex Lopez-Rogina, GISP and Christina Brunsvold have been named URISA's 2020 Young Professionals of the Year in recognition of their outstanding contributions as part of URISA’s Vanguard Cabinet.

Alex Lopez-Rogina, GISP
Alex noted, “Serving on the Vanguard Cabinet has been an awesome experience. Working with driven Young Professionals that have such a vibrant passion for the GIS community is a constant reminder of how our industry is ever changing for the better. It was an honor being part of the first cohort to serve a three-year-term under the new Learn-Do-Teach model. The creativity and dedication of the first and second year members has been an inspiration even through the difficulties of 2020. I am grateful for the relationships I have made and the lessons I have learned on this whirlwind journey!”

Alex is the GIS Coordinator for Madison Utilities in Madison, AL. She is a one-woman GIS shop for the water and sanitary sewer Enterprise GIS. She recently completed her third year on the Vanguard Cabinet, currently serves on the URISA Marketing Committee, and is the President of the GIS Association of Alabama.

Christina Brunsvold
Christina shared, “URISA’s Vanguard Cabinet is an exciting and passionate committee within URISA. As a past third-year and GIS-Pro Subcommittee Chair, I am honored to win this award! Throughout my three-year term, I have strived to update and improve the Vanguard Cabinet with my follow cohort including extending the term from two to three years, aligning the term to match the URISA Board of Directors’ term, and provide a funnel system to increase the pathways to leadership within URISA. We have continued to foster excellence in GIS, expanding young professional leadership throughout URISA chapters by creating a Vanguard Cabinet subcommittee to partner with chapters to help grow these leaders. As I begin my chairmanship on the Chapter Development and Relations Council, I am looking forward to strengthening the relationship between chapters, the URISA Board, and increasing the opportunities for young professionals within URISA. The entire Vanguard Cabinet deserves praise for their hard work and dedication to the profession and their contributions within URISA.”

Christina is an Information Technology Specialist for the California Highway Patrol – CCSS, GIS Unit in Sacramento, California.

For more information about URISA’s Vanguard Cabinet, visit https://www.urisa.org/vanguardcabinet
Nearly 500 GIS professionals recently convened virtually for GIS-Pro 2020. A number of URISA leaders were recognized for their volunteer service during the conference. We also recognized Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG) Award winners who were announced in August.

We congratulate and thank all honorees for their amazing contributions to the community!

**Leadership Award:**
Presented to members who have demonstrated exemplary leadership to URISA, creativity, innovation, and dedicated support of URISA programs. The recipient should be a member of URISA for enough years to show a pattern of leadership. Typically the recipient will have been responsible for new programs or activities, or significantly enhanced an existing activity or program, so that it takes URISA in a new direction and/or enhances our standing in the professional community.

*2020 Recipient: Thomas Fisher, AICP, GISP (Cuyahoga County - Cleveland, Ohio)*

**Service Award:**
Presented to members who have demonstrated faithful service to URISA and participation in its program over a period of several years. This award is for specific service to URISA. It should require a significant number of years of (not necessarily consecutive) service in a number of programs or committees, and a willingness to take on challenges without regard to the potential for recognition.

**2020 Recipients:**
- URISA's Vanguard Cabinet
- Ashley Hitt, GISP (Connected Nation - Louisville, Kentucky)
- Bryan Townsend, GISP (York County - York, South Carolina)
- Matthew Gerike (Virginia Geographic Information Network - Richmond, Virginia)

**Barbara Hirsch Special Service Award:**
Presented to members or staff who have made special contributions to URISA. This award was created (in 2004) to honor URISA’s former Chief Financial Officer, Barbara Hirsch. Barb made her mark at URISA by being an exceptional professional who would always step forward when a point needed to be made, but never stepped to the front for recognition. It is in the spirit of this dedication that the Board of Directors has created an award for special service to URISA. This award will be given to individuals or committees who have shown a similar consummate level of service to URISA through an ongoing commitment to our success as an organization.

*2020 Recipient: Denise Freiberg (retiring URISA Accounting Manager)*

Review the distinguished history of URISA Award winners here: http://www.urisa.org/about-us/awards/.
URISA is pleased to announce that registration is open for the final virtual URISA GIS Leadership Academy of 2020, taking place the week of November 9-13. Academy faculty collaborated for several months to optimize delivery of instructor-led online GIS leadership training and delivered the inaugural virtual Academy during the week of August 3-7 to extremely positive reviews.

• Every respondent (100%) would recommend the virtual GLA to colleagues.
• When attendees were asked for their greatest takeaway:
  • Virtually everything. I am a Department Head for a brand new department. While an exciting opportunity, there is no training manual for taking on the task. The GLA has served as that training manual for me.
  • Especially for a first outing, all the speakers and staff did a great job of limiting technological pitfalls and kept the GLA running smoothly. I think the technology-savvy and often chatty GIS professionals are the perfect group for a virtual academy such as this. Please consider continuing with virtual GLAs in a Post-COVID world to make such a great learning opportunity available to a wider audience.
• The curriculum emphasizes best practices and skills-based training taught by GIS experts committed to preparing others for leadership in managing challenges and figuring ways to help groups and organizations achieve their goals. As with the in-person program, attendance at the GLA earns substantial GISP® Education Points.

The cost of attending the virtual GLA is 50% of the cost of attending the in-person event; just $600 for URISA members and $800 for nonmembers. The Virtual GLA requires Zoom meeting capabilities. Each day will have frequent scheduled breaks, a lunch hour and optional evening meet-ups at the ‘Virtual Lounge’. Because the interaction of each cohort is so important in the Academy, class size is limited to 40 individuals.

The URISA GIS Leadership Academy has enjoyed steady and enthusiastic participation since it was first presented in 2007. Since then, nearly 900 GIS professionals have attended the specialized five-day GIS leadership and management training program that focuses on:

• GIS leadership and management techniques
• GIS Strategic planning
• Successful team development
• Organizational capacity building and sustainability strategies (ROI, innovative funding ideas)
• Program investment and justification
• Change management
• Situation assessment and organizational performance evaluation
• Ethics and professional challenges
• Problem solving

The Academy is taught by GIS leaders (all are GISP®s and accomplished in the field). Each GLA includes numerous interactive exercises, team-building tools, and opportunities to delve into topics in a way you cannot do at a large conference. Attendance is limited to encourage such interaction and the virtual GLA is capped at 40 participants.

Three in-person programs were scheduled to occur in 2020, but all three were postponed to 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration is also open for each of these in-person events:

• Minneapolis, Minnesota - June 7-11, 2021
• Portland, Oregon - August 16-20, 2021
• St. Petersburg, Florida - November 8-12, 2021

The GLA has likely been on your GIS professional development wish list for some time. Take advantage of the opportunity and register today! Click here.
GIS-Pro 2020: A Virtual Success

Dozens of URISA volunteers, led by Ashley Hitt, GISP (Conference Chair), Judy Colby-George, GISP (Program Chair) and Randal Krejcarek, GISP, PE (Associate Program Chair), developed TWO conferences this year.

One was created in early March when the planning committee met in Baltimore ... and it was phenomenal. Truly! We even had social events detailed and a list of favorite restaurants to share. Before we could publicize the program and open registration, COVID-19 hit and it became clear that we wouldn’t be meeting in person in Baltimore this Fall. When it was decided that GIS-Pro 2020 would be presented virtually, the committee had both a challenge and an opportunity to update the content to include some presentations from the original program along with topics that everyone was talking about such as Public Health, Racial Equity, Social Justice, Community Resilience, and more.

Pivoting to a virtual format was a challenge and everyone so graciously adjusted and worked together to make it happen. Thank you to the GIS-Pro 2020 Conference Committee and to all of the presenters and instructors who are sharing their knowledge with us. Thank you to our sponsors and partners for their unwavering support. And thanks to all of our members and attendees, some of whom are with us for the first time, virtually.

Though we cannot assist with home schooling your children or checking in on your senior parents, we did stay true to our mission to provide professional education and training and a vibrant and connected community – albeit virtually.

Our keynote speakers were spectacular!

- Tuesday, September 29: Martin O’Malley, Former Governor of Maryland
- Wednesday, September 30: Chris Vaughan, Geographic Information Officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Friday, October 2: Juliana Blackwell, Director of the National Geodetic Survey

Featured panel discussions focused on Racial Equity & GIS, Contact Tracing, GIS Ethics, and Redistricting, and dozens of concurrent sessions were on the agenda with live Q&A. Sessions will be available on demand for GIS-Pro 2020 registrants after the conference, so you can catch up on the presentations you may have missed during the conference.

The workshop line-up was stellar and we sincerely thank all of the instructors who pivoted to live virtual instruction:

Wednesday, September 23
- Best Practices for GIS Project Planning and Management
- NG911 & the GIS Workflow
- GIS in Emergency Management
- Microsoft Project™ Software Tutorial

Thursday, September 24
- Experimental Learning Techniques to be More Effective
- Introduction to GIS for Equity and Social Justice

Tuesday, October 6
- Building Community Using Geospatial Tools
- Unpacking GIS Data for NG9-1-1
- Changes Afoot After 2022: State Plane and the Death of the U.S. Survey Foot

continued on page 8
Wednesday, October 7
- Preparing for GISP Certification
- Coordinate Systems and Projections

Virtual networking opportunities were abundant and we even had a poker run, exploring Baltimore attractions online, in teams. (Thanks to Cyclomedia for making the event so much fun!) And thank you to the URISA Vanguard Cabinet for all of the activities to welcome students and young professionals.

Our community has always been resilient and eager to help each other through a crisis. We were pleased that so many members, experts, and friends were able to join us at GIS-Pro 2020 to engage, ask questions, explore solutions, earn GISP points, and make the most of this opportunity.

We learned so much about the evolution and importance of the Johns Hopkins Dashboard from Esri’s Este Geraghty and Sean Breyer and the developer of the dashboard that went around the world, Ensheng (Frank) Dong, GISP, Louis M. Brown Engineering Fellow and Ph.D. Candidate, Johns Hopkins University. Truly inspiring!

FEMA’s GIO, Chris Vaughan, celebrates GISCorps’ importance in disaster response.
We can’t thank our sponsors and partners enough for their generosity and willingness to share insights and solutions with our participants.

Thanks to our Diamond Sponsor

esri

Thanks to our Gold Sponsors

NLT New Light Technologies, GeoComm, Nearmap

Thanks to our Silver Sponsors

HP, Connected Nation, DTS, Member of the DTS Alliance Group, ProWest & Associates, EOS

Thanks to our Bronze Sponsor

cyclomedia
GIS-Pro 2020: A Virtual Success continued from page 9

Another excellent workshop from Judy Colby-George discussing “Building Community Using Geospatial Tools”.

Of course, puppets were part of the Unpacking GIS Data for NG911 workshop!

GISP Practice Exam Questions
What statement is most true in regard to lossy and lossless compression.
A. The lossless compression is not permanent and can be undone.
B. A PDF file is a lossy compression because such images cannot be projected.
C. A JPEG is a lossless compression because it can be used as a background map.
D. The lossy compression creates very large images.

Tripp Corbin posing questions in the ‘Preparing for GIS Certification’ workshop.

Michael Dennis and his “Changes Afoot After 2022: State Plane and the Death of the U.S. Survey Foot” workshop.

Follow @plotboy for interesting perspectives and great doodles.
The Policy Advisory Committee invited participation and covered everything from the US Census and Ligado to GIS ethics.

Holly Torpey of URISA’s GISCorps had a good crowd of folks eager to learn about projects and opportunities to contribute.

A featured panel on “Racial Equity & GIS” was so engaging and well-attended that I forgot to grab a screenshot. Wait for the recording!

So many URISA Past Presidents participated in an informal virtual coffee one morning, including Ken Dueker, (1982-1983). It was a thrill to connect our young professional members with these legends!


The featured panel on “Racial Equity & GIS” was so engaging and well-attended that I forgot to grab a screenshot. Wait for the recording!

A featured panel on “Racial Equity & GIS” was so engaging and well-attended that I forgot to grab a screenshot. Wait for the recording!

Conclusion
- 64,000 to 84,000 Lead Service Line Replacements
- 4,000 replacements per year (as required by variance)
- 21,000 Filters distributed—replacement cartridges every 6 months
- Multiple Contractors — Management of Field Workers
  - Guide a lot of coordination
  - Program Database
- COVID-10 Issues
  - Less People per crew (social distancing)
  - Mask Wearing in people’s homes
  - Water Quality Sampling/Fielding: Intially
  - Inter-Departmental difficulties
Volunteering: Obligation or Opportunity?

One of the most important things that we can do as GIS professionals is volunteer our time. In this article I reflect on the importance of volunteers to URISA as well as the value that volunteering brings to us as individuals.

The restrictions imposed by COVID-19 over the last few months have introduced profound challenges that changed our personal and professional lives. For many, home and office now exist in the same building and conversations with colleagues and clients are more likely to occur in a virtual setting than in person. Many organizations, including URISA, have evolved in an astonishingly short period of time in order to succeed in a largely virtual environment. URISA has risen to this challenge and not only met, but I believe in many ways exceeded, expectations. Perhaps the best recent example of this success is evident in the just completed 2020 GIS-Pro conference. When it became clear that COVID-19 would make in person events impossible, our Conference Committee volunteers, in collaboration with our talented URISA headquarters staff, pulled together to design and implement our first ever virtual conference. As a result of their creative ideas and commitment to turning challenges into opportunities, we experienced an event that was filled with informative workshops, excellent presentations and numerous social events. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers we learned many valuable lessons about how to deliver virtual offerings from this experience that will continue to benefit our members over the coming months and beyond.

Was GIS Pro 2020 an anomaly in terms of volunteer support? Absolutely not! The volunteer spirit is what has allowed URISA to sustain and grow as an organization since its beginning. It is also vital for ensuring success into the future.

Why volunteer?

The title of this article presents the question ‘Volunteering: Obligation or Opportunity?’ The answer, in my opinion, is yes! It is both an obligation and an opportunity. Those who follow the GIS Code of Ethics acknowledge a responsibility to colleagues and the profession that includes a commitment to ‘volunteer time to professional educational and organizational efforts: local, national, or global.’ In most professional organizations, volunteers are a vital part of what makes it possible to deliver value to members. URISA volunteers develop and deliver educational workshops and webinars, create publications that provide guidance on a wide array of topics, plan conferences, engage in conversations about policies that impact the ability of GIS professionals to serve their communities, serve as mentors to young and early career professionals, and much more. Without volunteers, many of the things that URISA offers could not exist.

Volunteering is a responsibility, but I prefer to think of it more as an opportunity. Responsibilities can be considered burdens that we must perform, such as paying taxes. However, I believe that volunteering in a professional organization can and should be something that we want to do both for the benefit that it brings to others as well as the value that it brings to us. When I first began to volunteer, I viewed the purpose of volunteering as only being to complete a task. I soon came to discover that, while completing the task is always important, the real value to me and to the other volunteers with whom I served turned out to be much more than that. I learned that by serving with a group of individuals in pursuit of a common goal all of us learned from the experiences of the others in the group. Additionally, I discovered that most any task, when shared with others, often becomes far easier to complete. Perhaps my greatest discovery was that one of the benefits of volunteering did not end when the task was completed. When people work together on a task they often build relationships that last far beyond the task that brought them together. When I first became a URISA member I barely knew anyone in the organization. It was only when I began to engage in committees that I started to feel like I was truly part of the organization and that I was able to play an active role in ensuring its success.

While there are many reasons to volunteer, sometimes there are also good reasons to do otherwise. Among these, lack of time is among the most common. Many people have existing commitments to work, family and more. These are important and should not be neglected. For those who are time challenged there are still opportunities to volunteer – even if you can only spare a small amount of time. For example, URISA needs volunteers to review
workshop content, write articles for the GIS Professional, deliver webinars and more. None of these requires being a formal member of a committee, but all are important contributions.

Another reason that people sometimes hesitate to volunteer is a belief that they have nothing to contribute. If that is the hurdle that you feel you face, I encourage you to not let it stand in your way. Reach out, ask how you can serve, and you will likely be surprised at the new opportunities that appear.

How to volunteer in URISA

The majority of the volunteer work in URISA takes place within committees and workgroups. The current list of committees can be found on URISA’s website at https://www.urisa.org/volunteer. If you identify a committee that interests you, please reach out to the committee chair to offer your support. Current chairs are identified at https://www.urisa.org/board.

If you do not know which committee interests you or if you are simply willing to help out occasionally, but not yet ready to formally join a committee, please fill out the ‘Contact Us’ form at the bottom of the https://www.urisa.org/volunteer page and someone will reach out to help you get started on your volunteer adventure.

If you are currently volunteering in support of URISA or in any other capacity, I want to thank you for your contribution. If you have not yet started your journey as a volunteer, I encourage you take action now. Reach out. Get involved. Volunteers receive more than they give and they make a huge impact on our profession as well as the communities that we all serve. When it comes to volunteering we should all consider the words of Aristotle who said ‘What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.’
PROVIDE
Mapping for recovery, rescue operations and
development in underprivileged countries;
analysis, cartography, app development,
needs assessments, and technical workshops

RESPOND
Coordinating and mobilizing volunteer
services to provide humanitarian, recovery
and disaster relief assistance; hurricanes,
earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, cyclones

CARE
Over 1500 volunteers, completing
over 200 missions in 66 countries,
contributing over 60,000 hours

FUND
Travel costs for volunteers
Recruitment of volunteers
Technology, communication
and outreach
Emergency assistance fund

Your charitable donations today can help us
continue our mission to assist impoverished
communities and provide global disaster relief.
GISCorps, a 501c3 Charitable Organization,
is funded by donations and volunteers.
Donate online www.giscorps.org
Welcome New URISA Members

Fariss Agatone, GISP—Fairfax County Park Authority—Fairfax, VA
Elthron Anderson, GISP—Southgate Water & Sanitation Districts—Centennial, CO
Amber Bard —Portland State University—Portland, OR
Lindsay Barrios, GISP—US Army Corps of Engineers—Memphis, TN
Nayeli Basulto —University of California, Merced—Napa, CA
Alejandro Beltran Cortez —California State University Long Beach—Los Angeles, CA
Amanda Bentley, GISP—Connected Nation—Bowing Green, KY
Kareem Burch —Oklahoma County—Oklahoma City, OK
Donna Burger —Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission—Victoria, TX
Edgar Chacon —California State University—Paramount, CA
Tej Chaudha —CEPT University—anjar, Gujarat India
Timothy Conner —Oklahoma County—Norman, OK
Jeff Davidson —Oklahoma County—Oklahoma City, OK
Eleanor Dhuyvetter—El Paso, TX
Ensheng Dong, GISP—Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health—Baltimore, MD
Melinda Dubaj, GISP—NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic—Norfolk, VA
Blakeman Esselstyn, GISP, AICP—FrontWater, LLC—Asheville, NC
Jonathan Farmer —Prince William County Service Authority—Woodbridge, VA
Angel Fernandez Bou —University of California, Merced—Merced, CA
Thomas Francis —Clark University—Needham, MA
Nathaniel Gaytan —GIS Surveyors, Inc.—Upland, CA
Adam Gerstenfeld —National Alliance for Public Charter Schools—Washington, DC
Diana Giselaers —Cassadian Communications—Gainesville, FL
Owen Glogowski, GISP—Osmose Utilities Services, Inc.—Amherst, NY
Stephanie Halpin, GISP—California Earthquake Authority—Orangevale, CA
Joel Hanson —Douglas County—Castle Rock, CO
Garrett Harper—Kingston Springs, TN
Korey Hayes —Lindsay, ON Canada
Shane Hubbard —Space Science and Engineering Center—Madison, WI
Gary Johnson —Oklahoma County—Oklahoma City, OK
William Kiechle, GISP—Palmetto GBA—East Kingston, NH
Joy Christine Kimani —Jomo Kenyatta University—Embu, Kenya Kenya
Kimberly Korzyn—Bozeman, MT
Bradley Kruse —ISG Inc—Mankato, MN
Brett Lackey, GISP—City of Treasure Island—Treasure Island, FL
Kate Little—Lafayette, LA
John Makkouk —University of California, Merced—Merced, CA
Kelly Meehan —Bureau of Reclamation—Henderson, NV
Jason Miguel —University of California, Merced—Hayward, CA
Jay Mitchell —City of Dallas—Dallas, TX
Michael Morrison —Oklahoma County—Oklahoma City, OK
Julaiti Nilupaer —Penn State World Campus—Oxford, OH
David Normann—Mechanicsburg, PA
Jariath O’Neil-Dunne—Burlington, VT
Charles Osterman, GISP—Adams County—Brighton, CO
Sara Pantoja —University of California Merced—Merced, CA
Risa Patarasuk, GISP—Citrus County—Gainesville, FL
Sara Perez Vitae —University of California, Merced—San Jose, CA
Megan Pinkus —University of California, Merced—Merced, CA
Juliana Porraz —University of California, Merced—Merced, CA
Jennie Ramirez—Montebello, CA
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Since offering its first classes at area high schools in 1985, Collin College has expanded to serve more than 59,000 credit and continuing education students each year. Collin College is guided by its mission to be a student and community-centered institution committed to developing skills, strengthening character, and challenging the intellect.

The Geospatial Information Science (GIS) Associate of Applied Science and certificate program are designed to prepare students for careers in the growing fields of GIS. This includes positions in numerous industries such as business, utilities, natural resources, real estate, transportation, government, telecommunication, education, and public safety.

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THE GIS PROFESSIONAL
A publication of URISA

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