



# Compass Quarterly



Carolina URISA Newsletter

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Fall 2009

## Officer's Address

Dear CURISA members,

As my last year as an officer with the Carolina Chapter of URISA winds down, I am thankful to have the chance to talk about CURISA one last time and explain what a great opportunity it has afforded me over the years. For now I will spare the readers and I'll save the goodbye clichés for later.

My time with CURISA started as a member in 2000 and continued through 2003 when I became one of the first members of a newly created advisory board. Later I ran for office and held the Secretary position for two years before serving as Vice President for one year and ultimately President of CURISA for the last two years. When I think back, I have been involved with CURISA for over nine years from helping to run the organization to babysitting vendor exhibit booths at CURISA conferences to giving presentations for GISP certification credit. There have been golf tournaments, workshops, conference calls, and committee after committee after committee.

So what has almost a decade of participation in the CURISA organization gotten me? Foremost many wonderful friends, invaluable GIS and business experience, and pride in knowing that things might be a bit better now than they were before. CURISA's mission is to promote the GIS industry in the region and to advance our members' ideas and careers. I can say firsthand that these things have indeed happened.

I owe a lot to CURISA and the people with whom I have served. Specifically, Cathy Cole, who first accepted the idea of an official advisory board, as well as Andrew Shore and Ted Cisine who both traded officer positions here and there to keep things going when our day jobs became overly busy. Others include Amy Starnes, Jo Anne Manley and Cyndi Hendricks who have taken the role of Treasurer. It really is a group effort and we've had a great group over the years.

And now it is time for a new group to take over, so I am excited to announce that the chapter looks to be in great hands again. Katie Brewer has been elected as President and will be backed up by Tim Muhs as Vice President. Their supporting cast will be Cyndi Hendricks as Treasurer and James Armstrong as Secretary. In addition, they will be able to rely on an advisory board of Rachel Boone, Josh O'Conner, Daniel Madding and Kirby Whitley for sage advice and assistance (two South Carolina advisory board positions are still open).

This new cohort formally ushers in the new bylaws with two year terms and new ways of conducting chapter business. They'll build on a chapter that is stronger than ever with many tools at their disposal and continue CURISA's mission. Please reach out to them with any ideas you may have and be sure to make them welcome as new chapter leaders.

I am proud of all of the things we have been able to accomplish over the past years such as great conferences, GIS Day grants, GISP assistance, and fulfilling workshops. However, I am excited to see what the new folks are going to do. I be-

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### Chapter News:

- CURISA held officer and advisory board elections. The new officers and board are announced in this issue's Officer's Address. One application per position was received so there was no need for an election.
- GIS Day Grant applications are being accepted. Please visit [www.carolinaurisa.org](http://www.carolinaurisa.org) for more info
- CURISA workshop development has commenced and is progressing nicely.

## Calendar of Events



GIS DAY - November 18, 2009

2009 GIS in Transit Conference - November 16-18, 2009 - St. Petersburg, Florida

URISA Leadership Academy - December 7-11, 2009 - Seattle, WA

2010 GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference - March 8-11, 2010 - Little Rock, Arkansas

2010 ESRI Southeast Regional User Group Conference - April 26-28, 2010 - Charlotte, NC

ESRI User Conference - July 12-16, 2010 - San Diego, CA

URISA/NENA Addressing Conference - August 16-18, 2010 - Charlotte, NC

URISA 48th Annual Conference - September 28-October 1, 2010 - Orlando, Florida

## Chapter Contacts

Kristian Forslin, President	North Carolina Railroad Co.	<a href="mailto:kristianforslin@ncrr.com">mailto:kristianforslin@ncrr.com</a>
Andrew Shore, Vice President	City of Burlington, NC	<a href="mailto:ashore@ci.burlington.nc.us">mailto:ashore@ci.burlington.nc.us</a>
Cyndi Hendricks, Treasurer	Brunswick County, NC	<a href="mailto:chendricks@brunswick.net">mailto:chendricks@brunswick.net</a>
Tim Muhs, Secretary	NC Dept. of Agriculture	<a href="mailto:tim.muhs@ncagr.gov">mailto:tim.muhs@ncagr.gov</a>

### Advisory Board

Pat Bresnahan; Richland Co., SC  
 Julia Harrell; NC DENR  
 Cyndi Hendricks; Brunswick Co., NC  
 Katie Brewer; MSD of Buncombe Co., NC

### Advisory Board

Brian Ritter; Pickens Co., SC  
 Jo Anne Manley; City of Monroe, NC  
 Amy Durden; Elizabeth City, NC



## Member Spotlight



Una Freeman



Una works for Surry County, NC as the GIS Coordinator. She has a great perspective on the industry. Una has been a long time member of CURISA



We are looking for interesting subjects for our next interview!

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase someone's talents, learn from and about fellow members, and share with CURISA members.

If you know someone who you would like to see interviewed and hear what they have to say about CURISA, GIS, etc., please email the editor at: <mailto:kristianforstin@ncrr.com>

This quarter CURISA asks one of our members, Una Freeman of Surry County, NC a few questions...

Please tell the readers a little about your career.

I have been the GIS Coordinator in Surry County, NC for eight years.

How are GIS resources structured within your organization?

The GIS Department is located in the Tax Department. There are only two people, myself and a GIS analyst. Our mapping section consists of five people, of which two are GIS technicians that maintain the parcel layer. Our addresser maintains all addresses, centerlines and building footprints. We are responsible for all GIS within the county.

What GIS software does your organization use?

ESRI ArcInfo

What is a typical work day like?

Every day is different. Since there are only two of us, we are very busy assisting all departments with GIS needs, answering emails and phone calls. We are also responsible for maintaining and creating most of the GIS data.

What do you most enjoy about your present job?

I love working with all the different people in the county. Most people are amazed at all the different ways GIS can benefit each unique department.

What specific goals, including those related to your occupation, have you established for your life?

My major goal is receiving my GISP.

What is your educational background?

I graduated from Surry Central High School and Surry Community College with an associate's degree in computer programming.

How has your college experience prepared you for a career in GIS?

Learning to operate computers.

What influenced you to choose this career and at what point did you choose it?

I was seeking a career dealing with computers and applied for this job. I was very fortunate to be hired for this position. I attended lots of ESRI classes and learned a lot on my own.

What do you think it takes to be successful in this career?

Being able to handle change.

What has been the biggest change in GIS since you began your career?

Upgrading to sde/sql server.

What major projects are you working on now or have just completed?

Working on getting a list of patients from the new Hospice House in the county with the acuity levels and creating a GIS layer for EMS.

What professional GIS organizations are you a member of?

NCPMA, URISA, CURISA and NCAUG

What do you like most about CURISA?

I love the list serve.

In your opinion, what are some 'hot button' issues affecting the GIS industry right now?

Getting monies approved for travel so that people can attend conferences and workshops.

(Continued on page 4)



## Member Spotlight

What is your favorite movie of all time?

*A Message In A Bottle*

What would you like to be known for?

*My faithfulness*

What is your favorite hobby?

*Watching my son play ball*

What is the best thing about your life right now?

*My family*

What is the most important thing that your mother/father taught you?

*To trust in God*

Where do you live now? Tell us a little about the area. *I live in Surry County, between Elkin and Dobson. My home is on 10 acres of land, out in the middle of nowhere. There is a mama deer and 3 babies standing in my yard lots of mornings and afternoons. It is such a peaceful place to be.*

Thanks, Una!

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## Officer's Address...Cont'd

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lieve that we have set the bar pretty high, and our new chapter leaders are up to the challenge. I know that exciting groundwork has been laid for CURISA to develop 'home-grown' regional workshops that will no doubt be affordable solutions to shrinking training budgets. There may also be a focus on new ways to keep the membership connected more efficiently. And of course you may see an increased CURISA involvement in the NCGIS conference as well.

Again, I wanted to thank everyone I have served with and all of those I served for over my tenure with CURISA and I look forward to working with the new officers to help their transition.

And as for the clichés, well...the new group is bright eyed and bushy tailed and they have a lot of work cut out for them, but they can cross that bridge when they get there so give them a fair shake while they circle the wagons. I'm sure they'll find their groove, weather the storm and give 110%.

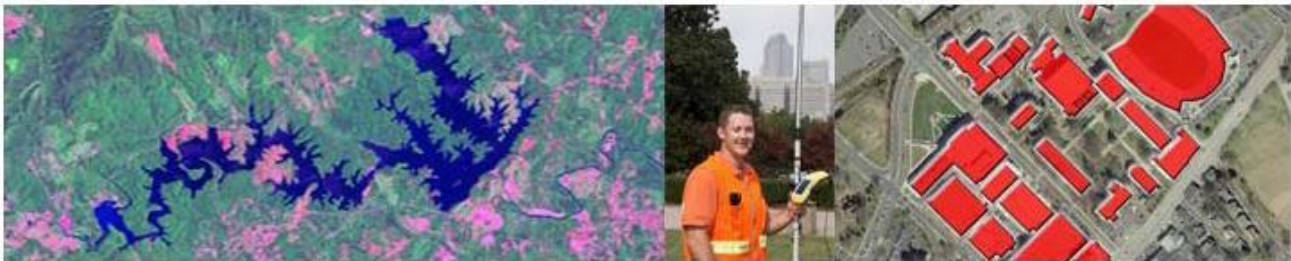
Success is a journey, not a destination. Good luck to all!

Kristian Forslin, President



### Geospatial Technology Center

#### Central Piedmont Community College



The Geospatial Technology Center at CPCC is offering the following courses through their Corporate and Continuing Education division this fall, 2009. For more information please visit us on the web at [www.cpcc.edu/gs](http://www.cpcc.edu/gs) or contact Matt Miller at [matt.miller@cpcc.edu](mailto:matt.miller@cpcc.edu) or (704) 330 - 6836

- "Creating GIS Web-Mapping Applications" August 12th-14th at CPCC's Levine campus  
**\$300.00**
- "Introduction to ArcPad and GPS Analyst" October 12th-13th at CPCC's Levine campus  
**\$400.00**
- "Building and Managing a Geodatabase in ArcGIS" November 19th-20th at CPCC's Levine Campus  
**\$350.00** (Books provided)
- "Introduction to ArcGIS 9.3" December 17th-18th at CPCC's Levine campus  
**\$300.00**

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## URISA and GISCI Corner



**26 New Certified GIS Professionals (GISPs) Announced on September 25, 2009.  
4,600 Total Number of GISPs World-wide. 293 in North Carolina & 80 in South Carolina for a total of 373.  
Congratulations to CURISA members who have recently gotten their GISP!**

### URISA 2009 Election Results Announced

August 12, 2009 (PARK RIDGE, IL) - URISA is pleased to announce the results of its 2009 Board of Directors Election. Cy Smith, GISP will become President-Elect of the association and Carl Anderson, GISP, David DiBiase, GISP and Twyla McDermott, GISP will begin their terms as members of the Board of Directors, at the close of URISA's 47th Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, September 29-October 2, 2009.

### Ten Geospatial Organizations Endorse IFTN

The leadership of ten geospatial organizations has jointly agreed to support a simple resolution in support of a national digital imagery program:

Be it resolved that the undersigned geospatial organizations support the funding and establishment of an operational program consistent with Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) within the US government with the responsibility for acquisition of high resolution digital imagery over the United States.

For more URISA or GISCI news visit their websites:

URISA – <http://www.urisa.org>

GIS Certification Institute – <http://www.gisci.org>

## Officer's Meeting Minutes (condensed)



Highlights from the most recent Carolina URISA meeting April 22, 2009 in Burlington, NC:

- Most of the time spent was discussing the new workshop program. Officers created a plan for developing new workshops including potential subjects, speakers and locations.
- CURISA decided that funds would be appropriated for an accountant to finalize all tax filings and details.
- New election proceedings were discussed at length. The application process, how it will be administered and any potential solicitations for future officers were discussed as well.
- All audio / visual equipment was transferred to Andrew Shore at the City of Burlington. This location was determined to be more central to our members.



## WANTED: ARTICLES

**Do you have an interesting project you are working on?**

**Do you want to 'toot your own horn'?**

**Need points for GISP certification or renewal?**

If you answered 'Yes!' to any of these questions, then get something written for the Compass Quarterly!

We need member-submitted articles for our (your) newsletter. Your fellow members want to hear what challenges you face and how you faced them. Anything goes, really. Short, one to two page articles on an interesting project, a unique experience, a networking success story or anything else that you think CURISA members would like to know about. You don't have to be Shakespeare!

CURISA's newsletter is an excellent outlet for members to 'get published' without writing a novel.



Your advertisement will reach over 200 members specifically targeted in the Carolinas. Members range from local and state government agencies to private companies who need your products and services.

We will accept 1/2, 1/4, and 1/8 page general business ads as well as submissions for any of our newsletter features, such as Featured Articles and the CURISA Toolbox.

Our rates are reasonable and we can accommodate most special requests. If interested please email <mailto:kristianforslin@ncrr.com> for a media kit.



### Contributors

#### Officers

Kristian Forslin—Editor

Kristian Forslin—Officer's Address

#### Members

Una Freeman—Member Spotlight

Andrew Shore—Calendar of Events