

PAMAGIC MATTERS

DECEMBER 2012

Newsletter contributors wanted! If you or your organization would like to submit a story to appear in PAMAGIC Matters, please email nlernst@hacc.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Geography and Christmas 2

URISA "U" is for Urban 2

Census Bureau Industry 3

U.S. Census Update 3

Got Gas? 4

GIS Day Recap

GIS Day 2012 was held on Wednesday, November 14 at sites all over the world. While GIS Day was officially on November 14, events were held on other days during National Geography Week.

Central PA GIS Day

Central PA GIS Day is sponsored by the Commonwealth of PA and Harrisburg Area Community College and is held at HACC's Midtown Campus. This year there were approximately 20 sessions for both high school students and GIS professionals, an exhibit hall featuring approximately 30 exhibitors, and two map galleries. Additionally, PA-MAPPS held their quarterly meeting prior to the afternoon sessions and PAMAGIC hosted a Coordi-

nation Council meeting.

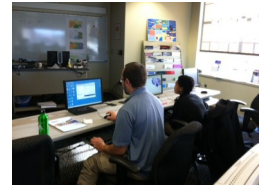
Penn GIS Day

The University of Pennsylvania held their GIS Day on November 14 and featured a keynote from Michael Jones from Google as well as other half hour presentations on topics such as careers in GIS, Supermarket Access, and GIS resources at Penn.

Lancaster County GIS Day

Lancaster County GIS Day was held on Friday November 16 and featured talks on the state of GIS in Lancaster County, Mobile GIS, Managing Preserved Farms with GIS, and MS4 Outfall Mapping.

Photo 1: Justin Bradley (York Water) and Kenita Honesty (PennDOT) during the map competition
Photo 2: View of the Exhibit Hall
Photo 3: James Spayd and Maurie Kelly, PASDA
Photo 4: Nicole Ernst (HACC) and Noel Strattan (PHMC)—co-chairs for Central PA GIS Day
Photo 5: Eric Jespersen conducting the Coordination Council Meeting



Bucknell GIS Conference

On November 16-18, Bucknell University hosted a conference for *GIS and Spatial Thinking in the Undergraduate Curriculum*. The goal of the conference was to bring faculty from various disciplines together to share tools, methods, and resources for integrating GIS and spatial analysis into their work and for GIS/IT staff to learn about discipline specific needs and goals of faculty. There were several notable guest speakers such as Anne

Knowles, author of *Past Time, Past Place: GIS for History* and *Placing History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS Are Changing Historical Scholarship*, Jeremy Crampton, author of *Mapping: A Critical Introduction to Cartography and GIS*, *The Political Mapping of Cyberspace*, and *Space, Knowledge, and Power: Foucault and Geography*, and Diana Sinton, author of *Understanding Place: GIS and Mapping across the Curriculum*. Additionally there were three sessions

that featured panels of speakers. The three sessions were: 1) Mapping Human Activity— Qualitative Analysis GIS, 2) GIS in Pedagogy, and 3) GIS in Higher Ed Community Outreach/Service Learning.

On the last day of the conference, there was a planning session intended to bring together GIS specialists, instructional designers, GIS/IT staff members, and others to discuss best practices.

Geography of Christmas

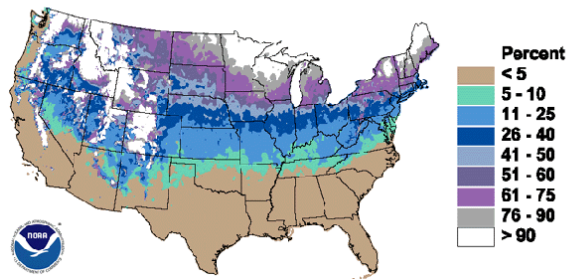
For some Christmas mapping fun, check out [NORAD's Santa tracking!](#)

According to U.S. Census 2010 statistics, place names associated with the holiday season include North Pole, Alaska (population 2,117); Santa Claus, Ind. (2,481); Santa Claus, Ga. (165); Noel, Mo. (1,832); and — if you know about reindeer — the village of Rudolph, Wis. (439) and Dasher, Ga. (912). There is Snowflake, Ariz. (5,590) and a dozen places named Holly, including Holly Springs, Miss. (7,699) and Mount Holly, N.C. (13,656). This Google Maps project by Virender Ajmani maps out all the locations with Christmas themed names (Christmas, Noel, Santa Clause, etc.) for the United States.

in 2001) from NOAA maps out the likelihood of areas around the United States having snow on Christmas based on information from the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). More maps and tables about predicted snow level conditions are here.

Story from: <http://gislounge.com/christmas-and-gis/>

Probability of a White Christmas



So what's the probability of a white Christmas? This map (created back

Calendar of Events

Esri MUG 2012 Annual Conference—December 11-12

PA GIS Conference—June 3-5—Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

Central PA GIS Day 2013—November 20—HACC Midtown

If you have an event that you would like to share with the PA GIS community, email it to our [news-letter editor](#).

URISA “U” is for Urban

As part of URISA's 50th anniversary conference in Portland, OR the Past Presidents did a short session on the meaning of URISA. I did “U” for Urban. This description covers my two minute session at URISA 2012 with some of the Past URISA Presidents.

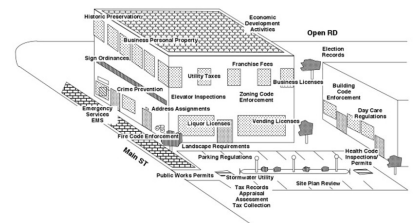
This year (2012) saw over half's of the world's population now living in cities so Urban is where it's at! Our closer proximity to each other means that our problems get experienced by more people that much faster. It may also mean that solutions to those problems can be shared just as fast maybe? URISA has always been a group of great thinkers (and sharers). URISA is a dialogue not a monologue. We come up with entirely new ideas as a collision from other good ideas. I have always said that storm-water knows no jurisdictional bounds nor does traffic, disease, homelessness or poverty.

The geography of our problems and our opportunities often gives us solutions and alternatives. Geography is truly a horizontal information strategy as indicated in the above graphic. Geography cuts across everything we do. The geography brings organizations (that solve problems) and people (that may cause problems) together.

Think addresses and why they are so important. The horizontal coupling can be simple things like a shared address or common 2-D, parcel identifiers. One thing for sure we are going to have to get much more definitive about our urban setting within our information system context, so get ready for the “Rise of the Subparcels and Occupancies” as we fully implement a 3-D view of our urban world (see following graphic). Yes, we should have a complete inventory of all housing units in our community (and in our GIS)

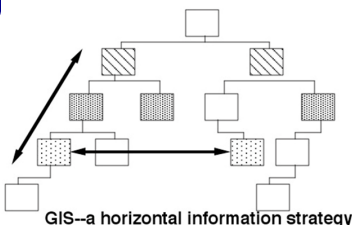
including all rental units, not just owner occupied housing. This means that we will have records for all apartments, suites and room numbers where there is public access!

3-D View of Land Records



URISA has always been a well-spring of solutions and good ideas, as we pay attention to lessons and experiences of the past we are more capable of dealing with new problems that confound us in the future. URISA will be where it happens I am sure and urban settings will be the first to experience the problems and the solutions.

G—What Government Has



GIS—a horizontal information strategy

Census Bureau Inducted into URISA's GIS Hall of Fame

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) inducted the U.S. Census Bureau into the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Hall of Fame in a ceremony yesterday in Portland, Ore.

The Census Bureau was chosen because of its substantial contributions to the GIS community and profession. The URISA Board of Directors and the GIS Hall of Fame Nomination Committee unanimously approved its inauguration into the hall of fame.

"The U.S. Census Bureau is honored to be inducted into the URISA GIS Hall of Fame, which recognizes the achievements of Census Bureau staff for technological innovations in

making GIS data available to the nation," said Thomas Mesenbourg, the Census Bureau's acting director.

The Census Bureau's geographic work allows for a more effective collection, tabulation and dissemination of census and survey statistics. For example, the Census Bureau established TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing), a database that defines the location and spatial relationships of various census geographic areas to one another and to other map features such as streets, rivers, railroads and other geographic features. This database became the cornerstone for the Geographic Information System Industry in

the 1990s, and it helps police and emergency responders develop their 911 systems and aids transportation officials in planning. The Census Bureau has also created a national housing address list, which is the basis for collecting census and survey data. In looking to the future, the Census Bureau is undertaking an initiative to improve address coverage, to update spatial features continuously and to enhance quality assessment and measurement.



Get the U.S. Census Bureau's free app: America's Economy!

U.S. Census Update

New Data/Report Releases

American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates: 2007-2011

The only statistics on a wealth of demographic and socioeconomic measures for all geographic areas down to the block level. These measures include education, occupation and language, to name just a few. The Census Bureau issues new sets of these five-year estimates every year; they are ideal for tracking trends over time for areas with populations of less than 20,000, which are not covered in any other round of estimates. (A technical webinar is scheduled for Dec. 3; media embargo begins Dec. 4; public release Dec. 6.)

U.S. Population Projections: 2012-2060

What will our nation look like 50 years down the road? The answer will be revealed by these projections of the nation's population by age, race, and Hispanic origin. The first set of Census Bureau population projections based on the 2010 Census, they go to the year 2060. (Scheduled for release in mid-December.)

By Noemi Mendez Eliason
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Noemi Mendez Eliason is always available to come to your organization to teach you how can use Census Data to further your goals. Classes include Using American Fact Finder, Census Bureau geography and Census Bureau 101. Please email at noemi.mendez@census.gov or call 215-717-1834.

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Got Gas?

Just participated in MACURISA at Atlantic City just days before Sandy hit. Great conference, Kudos to the folks who put on an incredible conference. In my Borough in Pennsylvania I could not get gas, nor batteries, the Sunday before the storm hit (Tuesday 10/30). Gasoline rationing is still going on in New York (11/23). Immediately after the storm gas rationing was put into effect in both NY and NJ using even/odd license plates. There was further discussion about license plates that ended in zero or an alpha character OK, GISer's could you produce a list, and a map, of all gasoline stations in your County in less than 30 minutes, if asked?

Some of the mega gas stations nearby have 10 pumps and get tanker truck refills three times a day. Just imagine how far the gas would go if there were a mandatory evacuation? We are in the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) for the Limerick nuclear power plant too. Just

think about all those Katrina lessons that were learned, maybe never shared or just forgotten? Sandy was New York/New Jersey's Katrina. Why didn't we start gasoline rationing before the storm? People would have gotten used to the routine and maybe enough gas was available to go around for most everyone? I can't help but think about the Mitigation and Preparedness stages of Emergency Management and how critical GIS are to all four stages. Response and Recovery round out the four stages.



An incredible picture from the Sandy aftermath above. We usually see flooded school buses instead of taxis, but when many people do not have access to automobiles, buses of all kinds, and taxis, will play a critical role. Enterprise GIS thinking is sorely needed now for Emergency Management. Those things we do before an incident (Mitigation) are now more important than ever. Are we going to rebuild the flooded houses near the sand dunes? Does our zoning allow us to (re)build in the floodplain?

OK, what are we going to do about this?

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to:peirceeichelberger1@mac.com](mailto:peirceeichelberger1@mac.com)

Email me and I will send you a copy of "Background to the Four Stages of Emergency Management--A GIS White Paper" International too.