



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Spring Conference

April 30, 2008

at the

University of Massachusetts, Boston

*Building a Geo-savvy Workforce:
How to Bring New Faces & New Skills
into Your Organization*

2008 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Tom Janes
Intergraph

PRESIDENT – ELECT

Eileen Ormond
KeySpan Energy

PAST PRESIDENT

Helenmary Hotz
*University of
Massachusetts, Boston*

SECRETARY

Tim White
Penobscot Bay Media

TREASURER

Richard Adase
Intergraph

AT-LARGE

Mike Doyle
Fuss & O'Neill

Andrew Featherstone
Northeast Engineers

Richard Gosselin
Northeast Engineers

Kevin Kirk
ESRI

Jody Morrissette
Unitil

Robert Page
Aquarion Water

Beth Picardi
Unitil

Clarence Young
James Sewall Company

ASSOCIATES

Richard Cohane
*ControlPoint
Technologies*

Peter Duggan
KeySpan Energy

Joan Gardner
Gardner Associates

Lindsey Hayes
Boston University

Buzz Hiller
Gatekeeper Systems

Scott Troppy
*Massachusetts
Department of Public
Health*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the New England Chapter of GITA's 2008 Spring Conference. The GIS marketplace has been brimming with advances in technology, emergence of new players, and convergence technologies. How do these activities impact the way you do business, the technologies you procure, and the talent pool you need to drive your business?

Our Conference theme this Spring is "*Building a Geo-Savvy Workforce: How to Bring New Faces & New Skills into Your Organization*".

- How are colleges & universities preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow's workplace?
- What is the US Government doing to ensure that US businesses have the technologies, people, and resources to compete in a global economy?
- How can you influence the process to ensure that the skills sets you need will be made readily available?
- And finally, how are these news skills and technologies being applied today and what have we learned?

Our prestigious panel of guest speakers will answer these questions and more. Additionally, we encourage your questions and participation to help steer the future of the government and educational programs covered today.

Through our educational conferences and corporate/vendor sponsorships we fund the NEGITA Scholarship Program. Over the years, with your support, NEGITA has awarded scholarships and internships to students with a demonstrated passion for GIS and the desire to contribute to the body of knowledge of GITA. **We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you in April.**

Sincerely,
Tom Janes
INTERGRAPH



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

8:00 – 8:30

Registration and Breakfast

*Sponsored by
Intergraph*

8:30 – 8:40

Welcome and President's remarks

8:40 – 9:20

David Nero

Director of Enterprise Applications, MIS Department, City of Boston, MA

Building a GIS Workforce for a City-wide GIS Implementation

As the City of Boston deploys a city-wide Enterprise GIS Implementation, the evolution from departmental to Enterprise necessitates the building of a GIS workforce. These new positions will require different levels of GIS proficiency across various applications. It is anticipated that area GIS programs produce candidates with varying sets of skills to fill these positions. The City of Boston's planning and migration efforts will be greatly facilitated with the infusion of such a trained workforce.

9:20 – 10:20

Bob Samborski

Executive Director, GITA

Defining & Communicating Geospatial Industry Workforce Demand

In late 2005, the Geospatial Information and Technology Association received a \$700,000 grant from the US Department of Labor's Employment Training Administration. The grant was part of the federal government's High Growth Job Training Initiative, established to ensure that an adequate workforce is available for sectors deemed critical to the nation's economy, one of which was Geospatial Technology. This presentation outlines the approach that was taken by GITA and key partners including the American Association of Geographers to: 1) develop a consensus for standard industry definitions, 2) develop content for an online workforce information clearinghouse on industry, jobs, education facilities, and program information, 3) create a national image and outreach campaign, and 3) work with community colleges, employers, and workforce development organizations in a selected region to test the use of the Geospatial Industry Workforce Information System, a network to help local One-Stops and educators meet local geospatial industry needs. A summary of accomplishments and potential follow-on activities proposed since the grant was completed will also be provided.

10:20 – 10:40

Break
Sponsored by
National Grid

10:40 – 11:20

Keith Ratner
Director Graduate GIS Program, Salem State College

Graduate GIS Programs:

Skills Required for Jobs in the Geo-spatial Marketplace

Dr. Keith A. Ratner specializes in land use and transportation planning, and GIS project implementation and development. Dr. Ratner will present the details of GIS graduate programs at Salem State and discuss the skills he sees as most important to obtaining a job in the geo-spatial marketplace. Dr. Ratner will also discuss GIS projects he and his students have been involved with, the importance of internships, and the best methods/locations to find job opportunities.

11:20 – 12:00

Kristin Uiterwyk & Dan Hellin
Research Associates, Urban Harbors Institute

Using GIS for Coastal and Harbor Management

The Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) of the University of Massachusetts Boston works with federal, state and local agencies to address coastal and harbor management issues. UHI uses GIS technology on projects needing real-world solutions, such as developing a mooring plan for Green Harbor in Marshfield, MA, identifying boating facilities throughout the state of Florida, and creating a regional open space plan in southeastern Massachusetts. UHI provides assistantship opportunities for graduate students from environmental and policy programs at the university, enabling them to use their GIS skills outside the research area.

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch
Sponsored by
J. W. Sewall

1:00 – 1:40

David Merwin
Director of GIS, Framingham State College

Challenges in GIS Education:

Preparing Students for the Constantly Evolving World of Geo-Spatial Technologies

As the field of geo-spatial information technologies shifts from stand-alone platforms to web-based systems (such as Google Earth and Google Maps), GIS educators must consider what GIS-related skills their students will be expected to possess for future employment. With GIS becoming more integrated in everyday society and more widely adopted by industries that have not traditionally used GIS-related technologies, GIS curriculums must reflect such changes. This presentation will address how educators are preparing GIS students for future needs in “real world”.

1:40 – 2:00

Break
Sponsored by
NSTAR

2:00 – 3:00

Joyce Malyn-Smith, Ed.D.
Director Strategic Initiatives Workforce & Human Development Education,
Employment and Community Programs, EDC

Building a Pipeline of Technology Talent

What does it take to build a pipeline of technology talent? How do we work with educators to understand the importance of GIS/GPS technology and actively promote related careers? This session will identify issues and challenges in education that constrain pipeline development and provide examples of National Science Foundation and Department of Education projects funded to address some of these issues. Participants will review models and products developed in EDC’s Workforce and Human Development Group including the *IT Pathway Pipeline Model*, the *Cross Cultural Primer*, IT in Action Statements and Problem scenarios. The session will close with suggestions on specific ways business and industry can build awareness of GIS/GPS within the education community, connect to what is important to educators and provide value in public/private partnerships that make a difference to the GIS/GPS community.

Registration for the Conference

Register on line at:

[http://www.gita.org/forms/forms/Default/
New_England_Chapter_Spring_2008_Conference.aspx](http://www.gita.org/forms/forms/Default/New_England_Chapter_Spring_2008_Conference.aspx)

Please have your GITA membership number ready to include in the registration form.

GITA & URISA members	\$75.00	(\$85.00 at the door)
Non-members	\$90.00	(\$100.00 at the door)
Students	\$25.00	(same price at the door)

Hotel Information

Doubletree Club Hotel Boston-Bayside

240 Mt. Vernon Street Boston, MA 02125

Tel: +1-617-822-3600 Fax: +1-617-822-2865

Mention UMass Boston to receive UMass rate of \$109.00 based on availability.

http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/BOSCHDT-Doubletree-Club-Hotel-Boston-Bayside-Massachusetts/index.do

Directions to UMass-Boston

The conference will be held in the Healey Library on the 11th Floor; signs will be posted to direct you to the conference. For more information about parking and transportation, see the UMass-Boston website:

http://www.umb.edu/parking_transport/

Public Transportation

Subway: Take the Red Line to JFK/UMass Station. A free shuttle bus will carry you to the campus.

Commuter Rail: Take the commuter rail to the JFK/UMass station from the South Shore on the Middleboro and Plymouth lines.

Bus:

Kenmore Square stop (service all day): the Number 8 bus

Forest Hills stop (rush hour only): the Number 16.

By car

** * * Note that there will be a parking fee of \$6 per vehicle. * * **

From the north:

Take Interstate 93 South through Boston to Exit 15 (Columbia Road/JFK Library).

Take a left at the end of the ramp onto Columbia Road, and then take your first right in the rotary. Follow the University of Massachusetts signs along Columbia Road and Morrissey Boulevard to the campus.

From the south:

Take Interstate 93 North to exit 14 (Morrissey Boulevard/JFK Library) and follow Morrissey Boulevard north to the campus.

From the west:

Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) east to Interstate 93. Take I-93 South one mile to Exit 15 (JFK Library/South Boston/Dorchester). Take a left at the end of the ramp onto Columbia Road, and then take your first right in the rotary. Follow the University of Massachusetts signs along Columbia Road and Morrissey Boulevard to the campus.

Thank You to Our Corporate Chapter Sponsors:



Additional Thanks to Our Conference Sponsors:

