



WINTER 2015/2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear NEURISA Members, former Board Members and Friends,



My name is Erin Jacque and I have been a Member of the NEURISA Board of Directors since January of 2013. As I celebrate the start of my third year on the NEURISA Board, I feel humbled and privileged to be serving as 2016 President. It is a great honor, and I have big shoes to fill. In the last few years I have met some amazing people through NEURISA, I have made some great friends and countless professional acquaintances. Serving as a Board Member has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my career thus far – and so for that, I thank you all for the great opportunity to serve. I consider our members to be the best GIS Professionals in New England. I look forward to continuing to work with an outstanding Board of Directors to “Educate, Advocate and Collaborate” with our members in 2016. We have an amazing group of members and volunteers who work exceptionally hard to meet our organizations mission and goals.

As we welcome 2016 and start the New Year, we also welcome many new faces to the NEURISA Board of Directors. We had a great pool of candidates that stepped up and offered to serve on the board this year. I would like to personally thank each of them for offering their support. For existing Members of the Board of Directors, the selection process was extremely difficult. We had a tremendously qualified group. For those who may be interested in serving or volunteering with NEURISA in the future, as a board member, or a volunteer we welcome your involvement. You are the future of NEURISA! If you have ideas for things to share with our member mailing list, if you have a presentation you would like to make, or training you would like to host, or any other ideas, the Board of Directors is all ears, and invites you to get involved!

Welcome 2016 Board of Directors:

Executive Members:



Chris Akin, Immediate Past President: Chris Akin is a certified GIS Professional (GISP) with 15 years of experience in the development and management of geospatial projects, strategies, and processes. His strategic and technical expertise allows him to seamlessly act as a liaison between clients, technical specialists, and senior management. Chris received a Bachelor's in Geography with a GIS emphasis degree from Texas A&M University and a Master's in GIS for Business and Service Planning from the University of Leeds,

England. Chris is the current Immediate Past-President of the New England Chapter of URISA (NEURISA) and is on the URISA Board of Directors Member as the Chair of the Chapter Advisory Board.



David DosReis, Events Coordinator: David is the GIS Manager for the City of Providence, Department of Planning and Development. In this role, David is responsible for designing and implementing the City's GIS strategic vision, managing the City's Enterprise GIS, and developing custom web applications for both internal and external parties. David has worked in the GIS field for 13 years providing decision makers with geospatial data, tools and strategies needed to address municipal, state and regional planning issues. He is a GISP and is also the co-chair of the Rhode Island Municipal GIS User Group and on the executive board of New England URISA (NEURISA).



Jodie Gosselin, Secretary: Jodie Gosselin is the GIS Manager at Dawood Engineering. This will be her second year serving as an Executive NEURISA Board member. Jodie has over 12 years of progressive experience in GIS Services across multiple disciplines in Dawood including Survey, Energy, Environmental, Municipal, Transportation and Geo-Technical. Jodie is a certified GIS Professional (GISP) and an ESRI Certified ArcGIS Desktop Professional.

Jeff Olson, Treasurer: Jeff Olson is a GIS Analyst with Unitil, a regional Gas & Electric Utility in Hampton, NH. Jeff has worked in the GIS field for over ten years in a variety of areas with the majority being in the Utility sector. At Unitil, Jeff works as part of a team of GIS Analysts overseeing the maintenance and integrity of company Enterprise GIS datasets. Additionally Jeff administers the company gas construction GPS database and has experience in the collection and correction of GPS data, data dictionary creation and geodatabase design. Through his past experience Jeff has gained a thorough knowledge of stormwater and sewer mapping, municipal tax mapping, environmental datasets mapping and military infrastructure mapping. Jeff has a BA in Geography with a specialization in GIS and cartography from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

At Large Members:



James Armstrong: After a long and successful career in the Carolinas, I 'retired' to the Boston area with my wife Kathryn and two children. While in North Carolina, I served as the GIS Director for Richmond County. It was also my pleasure to be associated with the Carolina Chapter of URISA and to even have the honor of being the Chapter President for the past two years. Since arriving in Boston, Kathryn and I have started a GIS consulting business - Spatial Relationships, LLC - and are enjoying becoming acquainted with the GIS community of New England. Areas that I am most interested include providing convenient education opportunities to maintain a strong and vital GIS community, and bringing GIS solutions to smaller organizations and jurisdictions.



Justin Bousquin: Justin Bousquin is an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) fellow in natural resource economics with the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development (EPA-ORD) lab in Narragansett RI. His research is at the intersection of economics and ecology, modeling how people benefit from nature and developing spatial tools that inform environmental decision making.



Kathryn Brewer: A few years ago, I moved to the Boston area from North Carolina to work as the GIS Project Manager for the Boston Water and Sewer Commission. The following year, my husband James and two kids joined me. James and I began a GIS consulting business - Spatial Relationships, LLC. While in North Carolina, I was involved in the GIS community, as well as the Carolina URISA chapter. In fact, I served as Chapter President for the 2011 and 2012 terms. Prior to that I served as Chapter Vice President from 2007 to 2008. During that time, the Chapter transitioned to focus more on workshops and other training opportunities. My main areas of interest include events and communications. I am looking forward to a great year for NEURISA.



Claire Brill: Claire has worked at the City of Worcester for 10 years, holding the position of GIS Manager since 2010. She received a MA in GIS for Development & Environment from Clark University. Her master's thesis on brownfields was published by The Journal of URISA. Claire also earned a MA in Teaching from Fairfield University and a BS in Atmospheric Science from Purdue University.



Jamie Carter: Jamie is a remote sensing analyst with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management and serves coastal communities primarily in the Northeast Region. He has over 10 years of experience developing and delivering geospatial decision support tools to strengthen coastal management and planning. Jamie's core areas of technical expertise include lidar data analysis and digital image processing for topographic mapping, land cover mapping, and inundation mapping applications. He coordinates geospatial activities for NOAA and the coastal management community to improve ecosystem and community resilience. Jamie is an active member with the Maine GeoLibrary Geospatial Data Committee and the Yarmouth Parks and Lands Committee, is a member of the NEURISA board, is a GISP, and holds a master's degree in Physical Geography from Oregon State University.



Patrick Cunningham: Patrick Cunningham offers nearly two decades of experience in software development, marketing, sales, consulting, and project management. Under his leadership Blue Marble has become the world leader in coordinate conversion software and now low cost GIS software with the 2011 acquisition of Global Mapper. Cunningham is Vice Chair of the Maine GIS Users Group, a state appointed member of the Maine GeoLibrary Board, a member of the NEURISA board, a GISP and holds a masters in sociology from UNH.



Mark Haberle: Mark Haberle has over 18 years of GIS systems design and deployment experience providing a deep understating of the GIS technology stack. Mark enjoys translating client concepts into real world solutions and has been fortunate to focus on spatial technologies. Recognizing spatially-aware solutions are critical for navigating our information rich world, Mark is interested in opportunities that are unique, forward thinking, relevant, and have a tangible impact at the local level. Mark is currently a Senior Project Manager at VHB in the Corporate Information Technologies Team as part of the Technology and Innovation Group focusing on innovative geospatial solutions. He is tasked with keeping current with emerging technologies and being a champion for the culture of innovation so as to improve the way VHB provides services. Duties include delivering full life-cycle project management services including opportunity identification and project process improvements.



Pam Ordnung: Pamela Ordnung recently started as the GIS Specialist for UMass Lowell. She is part of the Facilities Management team which combines mapping, building floor plans, space use, operations data, capital project information, and much more for the University. With a background in GIS for engineering/consulting firms, she is excited to start on this new venture and see how she can make a difference at UMass Lowell. Outside of work, Pamela loves to travel, read, and do yoga. She is also very excited to be getting married in January!



Raj Singh: *Raj is a Developer Advocate and Open Data Lead at IBM Cloud Data Services. He specializes in all things geospatial and hacks on analytics in R and Spark and iPython notebooks. He's currently driven to make CDS the best place to obtain and exploit comprehensive, curated open data sets for business. Raj pioneered Web mapping-as-a-service in the late 1990s with Syncline, a startup he co-founded. After that he finished his PhD at MIT, which explored the potential of web services to power urban information systems. Prior to joining IBM in 2014, Raj worked on geospatial data interoperability challenges for the Open Geospatial Consortium, an international standards body. He's a frequent speaker on interoperability and geo-location services.*

Thank you to all our new Board Members!

I would also like to thank the members of the board that are stepping down at the end of the year including Steve Sharp, Brian DuPont, Liz Crutcher, Shane Bradt, and Helen-Mary Hotz,. Your service to NEURISA has been invaluable and we thank you!

...My hopes for 2016

GIS Professionals in New England come from an array of professional backgrounds and apply their skills in a variety of areas. I believe that while a lot of what we do is firmly grounded in Geographic Information Systems technology, much of what we do requires an understanding of other interdisciplinary specialties. While NEURISA is the professional association for GIS Practitioners in New England, in 2016 I would like to extend an invitation into the organization to those who may do more than just GIS, or simply those with an interest in learning about GIS. I want to welcome the Town/City Planners that utilize GIS on a daily basis for planning and permitting, the Departments of Public Works staff that use GIS for Asset Management, Facilities Management or Inventories, the Surveyors and Engineers that may use CAD or other design programs and that want to use or better understand GIS in conjunction with other programs. I want to welcome Environmental Scientists, Natural Resource Professionals and Resiliency Planners; anyone who may use or want to use GIS to assess impacts to resources, or for modeling and mapping impacts to a changing planet. I want to invite IT Professionals and Developers who want to gain a better understanding of GIS for systems design, or application development, Tax Assessors who want to better integrate their CAMA systems with their Parcel information, and Utility professionals who want to better utilize GIS for inventory, permitting, and asset management. The list of professionals who use GIS, or would benefit from learning more about it goes on and on...

I also would like to extend an invitation to any students interested in GIS, student organizations, and academic institutions to join NEURISA and become involved with us. NEURISA is well known for providing networking opportunities at our events, including our regional "Mappy Hour" events. These are great places to meet people already working in the field, including professional mentors. Young Professionals have so much to gain by networking, learning about current GIS applications, displaying/presenting their work for others to see and also volunteering!

GIS is a tool that spans disciplines and supports many diverse industries. Our organization has the potential to reach many industries, cities and towns, government agencies and non-profit organizations. My hope in the



coming year is that in addition to GIS Practitioners we can attract more GIS users and students and offer a greater range of events and trainings to serve the wide-ranging interests, specialties and support services within the GIS community.

In 2016 NEURISA will be maintaining a Calendar of Events. We will do our best to add events to the calendar to keep our members informed of what work the board is doing, and sharing of GIS related events, and trainings in New England in 2016.

As a great way to start the year NEURISA is offering a **URISA Certified GIS Program Management Workshop on January 11th at UMass Boston**. Below you will find more details on the event. I would like to invite those interested to **register as soon as possible, as space is limited to the first 30 people, and registration is filling up fast!**

I am very excited about leading NEURISA in 2016, and I look forward to meeting all of you, or seeing you again soon!

Happy Holidays from All of Us at NEURISA,



Erin E. Jacque, GISP
2016 NEURISA President



Erin Jacque is a GIS Analyst at Tighe & Bond where she has provided GIS Services in the Pocasset, Worcester, Westfield, MA, and Middletown, CT Offices since 2014. Erin has over 10 years of GIS experience, holds a BA in Geography from the University of Massachusetts and is a Student at the Northeastern College of Professional Studies in the Geographic Information Technology Program. Erin has been a Certified GIS Professional since March 2014.

JANUARY 11, 2016

GIS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

URISA Certified Workshop

LOCATION: UMASS Boston Science Bldg., 3rd floor, Room 20

TIME: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

COST: \$100 per Person (includes URISA Workbook and Materials)

INSTRUCTED BY: Peter Crowell, PMP, GISP, President Crowell-Schulte IT Consultants

REGISTER HERE: <http://neurisa.org/GISManagement2016>

PARKING: Beacons Lot is closest; should be spaces; \$6.00 Public

Transportation: Red Line to JFK and then UMass Shuttle Bus to the Campus Center or Beacons Lot

DIRECTIONS: https://www.umb.edu/the_university/getting_here

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Anyone embarking upon a GIS program, involved with a less-than-successful GIS, or who is seeking ways to improve a successful implementation.

Today, most government organizations have some type of GIS programs in place. They vary from being in their early stages, to the rebuilding or tuning-up phase, to being completed changed as new technologies and applications emerge. This workshop is designed to provide guidelines for managing your GIS program. It will look at the various organizational and technical issues program managers must address in order to develop a successful GIS program.

The discussions will include managing all aspects of a GIS program from staffing and budgeting to procuring technology and working with vendors. A variety of real world examples will be presented showing a range of GIS programs and their implementations. This course presents an overview of successful and unsuccessful techniques for implementing GIS. Specific topics include:

- Program development
- Project management techniques
- Budgeting
- Staffing
- Sustaining program support
- And managing consultants and vendors

Gain important GIS
Program
Management Skills!

Improve the GIS
Program
Management
functions in your
organization!

*"I will highly recommend
this workshop to my
colleagues at SCAG and
throughout our region." -
Javier Aguilar, PTP,
Senior Regional Planner,
Southern California
Association of
Governments*

Set yourself apart!

Join Us!

NEURISA

New England Urban and
Regional Information
System Association

<http://www.neurisa.org/>





Highlights from 2015 Sponsored Events

Thank you to everyone who attended the six NEURISA GIS Day Mappy Hour Events Across New England! We had a total of 65 attendees!!!



Pictured above Steve Sharp, outgoing NEURISA 2015 Immediate Past President, and friends at the Vermont NEURISA Mappy Hour held at the Prohibition Pig, in Waterbury Vermont. Special thanks to [VHB](#) for sponsoring the first round of beer for the first 10 people through the door! Fun times had by all!





Picture left, attendees at the Maine Mappy Hour at the Nova Res Café, in Portland ME!

Thank you to our attendees in New Hampshire at the Thirsty Moose, Rhode Island, at Doherty's Ale House, in Connecticut, at the Willimantic Brewing Company (following the GIS Day event at Eastern Connecticut University), and in Massachusetts at Harvard University in conjunction with [AvidGeo](#).



2015 NEURISA Board of Directors at the 2015 NEURISA Day Conference: From left to right Jamie Carter, Erin Jacque, David DosReis, Jodie Gosselin, Steve Sharp, Jeff Olson, Chris Akin, Brian DuPont, Raj Singh, Helen-Mary Hotz, Liz Crutcher, and Shane Braddt. Not pictured Patrick Cunningham.





News & Information

December 2015 Job Postings:

The Intelligence Group has an immediate opening for a **GIS Technician** in our Syracuse, NY office. The job description is attached. Interested candidates should e-mail their resumes to resumes@intelligencegroup.com.

BETA Group, Inc. posted a position for a **GIS/Asset Management Specialist** in their Lincoln, RI and Hartford, CT Offices. Submit resume to jobs@beta-inc.com, referencing job code 15-GISAMS-01TG. BETA Group, Inc. does not sponsor Visas. Must be eligible for employment in the United States of America.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute is looking to hire a **GIS Analyst**. The position is based in Westborough, MA. See the job description here: <http://masstech.org/employment/employment-opportunities/gis-analyst-massachusetts-broadband-institute-2>

City of Portland, ME Police Department seeking **Crime Analyst**. Accepting applications/resumes 12/14/2015 through 1/6/2016. <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1107/Current-Job-Opportunities>

Strava Metro is seeking a **Customer Success Spatial Engineer** in Hanover, NH. <https://boards.greenhouse.io/strava/jobs/137857#.VnCEh0orLuo>



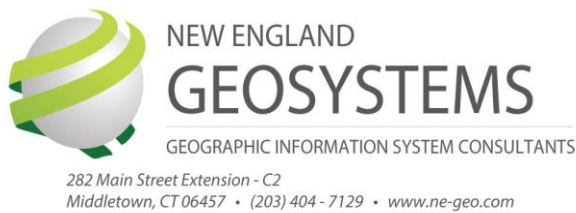
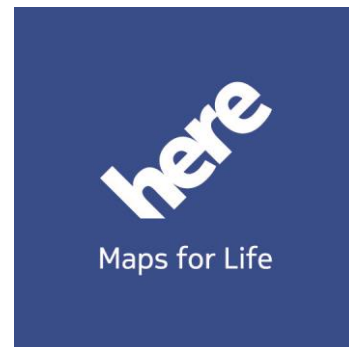
Submit future CALENDAR items, GIS News, and Ideas for GIS profiles/stories to NEURISA, Erin Jacque eejacque@tighebond.com. The preferred format for Calendar submissions includes the following items: *Conference Title; Brief description; Date; Time; Location; Sponsor(s); Contact: name & phone number; Website: if available*

New England Chapter of URISA (URISA)
NEURISA serves Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont.
NEURISA is a not-for-profit [501(c) (6)] professional organization incorporated in Massachusetts.



Sponsors

A Special Thanks to all of our 2015 Sponsors!



If you are interested in becoming a 2016 Sponsor, please contact Erin Jacque at eejacque@tighebond.com or neurisa@gmail.com