USNC-ICA Conference Call  
June 23, 2003  1-3 pm  

Participants: Judy Olson (Chair), John Kelmelis, Ann Johnson, Bill Thompson, Tanya Allison, Cindy Brewer, Amy Lobben, Scott Seeley, Aileen Buckley, Bob McMaster (ICA V.P.), Francis Harvey (editor of U.S. National Report)

ICA Executive Committee Meeting in Budapest (McMaster)

- All commission chairs attended to give updates on the status of commissions.
- Russia is now the leading contender to host the conference in 2007. Korea has withdrawn. The site of the conference in Russia would be Moscow instead of St. Petersburg.
- Motions will be made at Durban to change the name of ICA. The two options under consideration are to modify the name to "International Cartographic Association: The International Society for Cartography and Geographic Information Science", or to change it to "The International Association for Cartography and Geographic Information Science". The committee expressed some concern that if the name were made into an acronym with "GIS" that it could be mistaken for "Geographic Information Systems" rather than "Geographic Information Science". It probably should be abbreviated as GISci to eliminate confusion, though we recognize that the association with the “S” varies and is shifting toward “Science” as opposed to “Systems.”
- The three leading journals, CaGIS, Cartographica, and The Cartographic Journal, are now proposed as official journals of the ICA. Authors would be able to submit papers to an ICA publication committee who would evaluate them and in turn submit them to the official journal which fits best. The papers will then undergo the usual review process for the journal chosen. As these journals become electronic, the plan is to make links to the published papers from the ICA web site. Some concern was expressed for the possibility of extra delays when a paper goes through both processes and for the standing of a paper going through ICA vs not going through ICA. A potentially very positive role for the ICA committee would be the encouragement of people (from all over the world) with good materials to submit their papers.
- It is also under consideration whether to allow one of the Vice Presidents to be a part of the publications committee. Bob thinks it makes sense and others felt, too, that mandated separation was questionable, at least for ex officio status.
- Seven commissions have book projects under way. These commissions are: Spatial Data Standards, Theoretical Cartography, Visualization and Virtual Environments, Maps and the Internet, Map Generalization, Mapping from Satellite Imagery, and Incremental Updating and Versioning. Also, the Mountain Cartography commission recently had a special issue of Cartographica.

Brief Report on U.S. Participation/Funding

- At latest count there are 44 travelers from U.S. planning to go to Durban. There have been some withdrawals since the papers were submitted. There are few
from U.S. government attending due to recent advisories and restrictions on
government travel abroad. The economy is also a factor.

- Funding levels from USNC grants: about $2100 apiece for young scholars, about
  $1250 for mid-level scholars, about $750 for senior scholars, and about $1000
  retired scholar.
- Air fares to Durban are running in the $1000-$1800 range, much better than
  expected. Judy got hers for under $1800, which includes round trip from Lansing
  and 3-legged internal travel in South Africa.

U.S. National Report (Harvey)
- The U.S. National Report is now at the printer. It consists of 220 pages.
- We are looking at having 400 copies shipped from Philadelphia to Durban for
  about $500. Funds are available for this. We will need a courier to take them
  from the printer at Hanover, PA, to Philadelphia and Francis Harvey is taking care
  of it.

Other Durban Issues
- Presidential election: The two candidates are Milan Konecny and Bengt Rystedt.
  USNC discussed leanings and issues and will make final decision after arriving at
  Durban and evaluating discussion and input there.
- Election of Vice Presidents: There is a proposal to reduce the number of Vice
  Presidents to three. Several opinions were voiced that this would be too few to do
  the work required. The committee discussed the Vice Presidential nominees and
  their backgrounds. Again the final decision on which ones to vote for will take
  place during the conference so new information can be considered. In the
  meantime, anyone who has opinions or relevant information on the candidates is
  invited to send them to Judy.
- Cindy Brewer agreed to be the alternate delegate for the U.S. at the General
  Assembly. Judy Olson, as chair of USNC-ICA, will be the primary delegate.

Exhibits (Allison)
- 55 items were sent to South Africa and they were picked up from our embassy by
  Magda Roos. There were more digital exhibits this year and no globes.
- Tanya will not be traveling to Durban. Aileen Buckley agreed to substitute for
  her at Durban. Aileen will check to make sure the exhibits are properly set up,
  record the information on any U.S. exhibits receiving awards, and accept any
  awards on behalf of U.S. exhibitors who are not present at Durban.

Next Meeting
- At Durban, August 10-16 (open meeting; all U.S. attendees invited).