USNC-ICA Conference Phone Call
September 10, 2002

Participants: Judy Olson, (Chair); Amy Lobben, Gail Ludwig, Bill Thompson, Tanya Allison, Scott Seeley (USNC members). Francis Harvey (US National Report Editor).

News from ICA and ACSM/CaGIS
- Allan Brown, of ITC and a long-time participant in ICA meetings, passed away in August after a long illness.  
  <http://www.itc.nl/news%5Fevents/latest%5FNews/default.asp>
- If approved by members, ACSM will undergo a structural change in 2003. The member organizations, such as CaGIS, will become independent entities which contract for ACSM's services. ACSM will no longer have individual members, only organizations as members. This change will protect each organization from financial problems in the other organizations or in ACSM. USNC-ICA is to be under the Cartography and Geographic Information Society.

Committee for Ranking Abstracts for Travel Support
- As abstracts from U.S. authors for the Durban conference come in, we need a committee to rank them on deserving of funds for travel. Last time this was done by a committee of three members, who gave each abstract a score of 1 to 5. Papers were ranked by the average of the three scores; standard deviations of the scores broke ties. Bill Thompson agreed to chair the committee for Durban, and Amy will assist as needed. Bill will choose two other committee members, coordinate the review process, and tabulate the rankings, which will be forwarded to Judy Olson.
- Abstracts are due by October 30 and the rankings should be done before the Durban LOC (Local Organizing Committee) announces the accepted papers on January 31. Last time the paper submitters notified Judy when the conference organizers accepted their papers.
- Judy has received one abstract so far for Durban. Most papers will arrive in the week or two before the deadline.

Travel Fund Progress for Durban
- ESRI has contributed $5,000.
- CaGIS (Society) has reserved $5,000.
- CaGIS issues are being offered with marginal costs going to the travel fund.
- Amy sent the proposal to National Science Foundation in June.
- Judy will be contacting other organizations on the list for contributions.

Durban Report
- Francis attended the IGU Conference in Durban recently. He reported that the area is beautiful but there are security problems. Several conference attendees were attacked. When leaving the convention center, attendees should be safe if they stay in groups and go during daytime, but they should never go alone or at night. Taxi cabs are safe. Public transportation is not recommended. The USNC
will include security alerts in communications to ICA travelers. We will encourage people to use this opportunity to go to Durban, encouraging full use of cartographic friends and suitable vigilance to assure safety while there.

U.S. National Report

- Francis sent a call for contributions in June
- He has received several responses from state government and academics—nothing from the federal government yet. A couple of private organizations have expressed interest. Francis will soon make another round of contacts. He hopes to have 3 to 5 10,000-word manuscripts come in around the 15th. Next May is the deadline for submitting everything to ACSM for publication.

Petchenik Competition Plans

- Gail has set up a web site announcing the competition. Judy will add a link to it from the USNC site. Gail will soon communicate with the Geographic Alliance people and others.
- Gail has obtained some prizes (Microsoft Encarta and American Heritage Dictionary) to give to winners or to teachers/schools and is looking for more. Tanya will contact a person at National Geographic who may be able to donate some prizes. ESRI, Intergraph, and Delorme are also possible prize donors.
- Gail would like to obtain funds from USNC for postage costs and to buy lunch for the contest judges (about $150). The committee OK'd this.

Exhibits

- Tanya is now typing in names to prepare mailing labels. The disk she has won't work.
- Tanya has a web site up announcing Durban and will send Judy the link. She displayed a poster at ESRI with limited response.
- Letters will be sent and announcements made in several newsletters this month.
- She hopes to have all materials by end of March, but April 15 is more realistic.

Continuation of Conference Call

- “Part II” of this conference call will be at 1pm, Tuesday, Sept. 17, to pick up input from members not able to participate today.

Next Meeting

- At AAG New Orleans March 4-8.