THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

Central Region

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CENTRAL REGION OFFICER ELECTIONS

The election of officers this year offers a new twist. Due to the resignation of our Vice-President, the Central Region will be electing both a President and Vice-President this year.

We have received the following nominations. In addition to the ballot, we have included biographic sketches of each nominee. The nominees are as follows:

PRESIDENT

This election will select the President for the coming year. The person elected to this office will serve one year as Past President following their year as President.

Michael P. Finn

Mr. Michael P. Finn is a Computer Programmer/ Analyst and project leader in the Software Engineering Section (SES), Research, Technology, and Applications Branch, Mid-Continent Mapping Center, US Geological Survey, Rolla, MO. In this position, he is responsible for proving programming support for geographic and cartographic research projects, and developing unique solutions and one-of-a-kind and proof-of-concept systems for this research. Before assuming his current duties, he served as the Team Leader of the Programming Support Unit in SES.

Mike earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography (emphasizing Environmental and Natural Resources) with a minor in Cartography and Map Technology from Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, MO in 1982. He earned a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering (specializing in Geodetic Engineering) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA in 1991.

Mike entered civil service in November 1982 with the US Defense Mapping Agency at the agency's Aerospace Center in St. Louis. He worked as a Photogrammetric Cartographer producing digital spatial data for Department of Defense terrain models in support of weapon systems, such as the cruise missile. He was competitively selected to the center's in-house Computer Programming Development Program in the Applications Programming Branch of the Terrain/ Feature Division in October 1985.

In July 1987, Mike transferred with the agency to the Hydrographic/ Topographic Center in Washington, DC. DMA then reassigned him to their Systems Center, also in Washington, when it was established. At both these centers, he worked as a Systems Analyst for the Pooled Analytical Stereoplotter System, managing, developing, and maintaining the systems and real-time applications software.

Mike transferred to the Air Force with the Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick Air Force Base, FL as a Physical Science Technician in October 1989. He was in charge of planning and coordinating the testing of electro-optical and radio frequency remote sensing systems being developed for the detection of electromagnetic pulses.

In December 1990, Mike was selected for a promotion as a Computer Specialist and as the first Chief of the Small Computer Customer Support Branch, 45th Communications Squadron, Patrick AFB. He was charged with establishing a new support section to provide technical maintenance, installation, configuration, troubleshooting, and advice services, and training for hardware, software, and peripherals to users of over 4,000 microcomputers at Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral Air Station. He selected and developed a staff of military microcomputer technicians, and established and managed three contracts to provide all the requisite services. In addition, as a voluntary additional duty, Mike served as the technical project manager on the development of a Geographic Information System for base telecommunications and information systems.

Mike accepted a promotion as a Program Analyst and Chief of the Requirements Branch, Detachment 41, Air Intelligence Agency at Patrick AFB in May 1995. In this position, he was responsible for providing requirements management support to the Director of Plans and Programs. He managed national Measurement and Signatures Intelligence (MASINT) Requirements, the MASINT Requirements Database, Air Force Modernization Planning requirements and deficiencies, and acquisition-related requirements documents such Mission Needs Statements, Operational Requirement Documents, and Program Management Directives. Mike assumed his present position in July 1999.

Mike is a member of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) and has been since 1982. He has served as a Director of the Central Region of ASPRS since June 2000 and Acting Vice President of the Central Region since November 2000. He received the Air Force Space Command Civilian Command, Control, Communications, and Computers Systems Professionalism Award in 1993 and again in 1994. Mike received the 45th Communications Squadron's Mid-Level Civilian of the Year Award in 1994. He received US Department of the Interior Special Thanks for Achieving Results Awards in August 2000 and in September 2000.

Mike is married to the former Carol A. Kmiecik of Chicago, IL, a Supervisory Physical Scientist and Assistant Chief of the Productions Operations Branch, Mid-Continent Mapping Center.

VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice President office is a three year commitment. The incumbent spends one year as Vice President, another as President, and a third year as Past President.

Shelley Silch

Shelley Silch is a Physical Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Mid-Continent Mapping Center (MCMC), located in Rolla, Missouri. She began her federal career in 1976 as a Cartographic Aide in the Branch of Cartometrics, and has served as a Cartographic Technician in the Cartography Branch, and in map compilation in the Branch of Geometronics, Photogrammetric Operations. In 1998 Shelley completed training in a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Development Program and is a Project Leader in the Enhancing Data for Geographic Exploration (EDGE) unit of the Branch of Production Operations. In this role she oversees the production, maintenance, and dissemination of GIS applications and special projects, and provides presentations and technical demonstrations of USGS products and capabilities to a wide audience of professionals, academicians, and lay people. Shelley has continued her schooling and was selected in 2000 to enter a professional development program that allowed for her conversion from a senior Cartographic Technician to the position of Physical Scientist. She is attending the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) in the field of Geological Engineering, and is a member of the Sigma Gamma Epsilon Honor Fraternity. Shelley has been an active member of the Central Region ASPRS since 1997 and has served a three-year term as a Director on the Central Region ASPRS Board. Most recently she served as the User Group Chairperson for the 2001 ASPRS Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri.

SECRETARY/ TREASURER

The Secretary/Treasurer serves a one year term as the Region's chief financial officer. Principal duties include maintaining accounting records of region funds and writing

checks to cover Region expenses.

Dan Canfield

Dan Canfield began his career with the Mid-Continent Mapping Center in August of 1970 after graduating from the University of Missouri at Rolla with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering. He was assigned to the Branch of Photogrammetry following completion of the Engineering Training Program. His first supervisory position was as the Chief of the Orthophoto Unit. He has served in several management positions including the Chief of the Technology Office, Section Chief positions in the Branch of Production Operations, Assistant Chief in the Branch of Production Operations, and is now the Assistant Chief of Research Technology and Applications. He has served in several special assignments to USGS headquarters including an assignment to work on the development of the first digitally operated orthophoto equipment in the National Mapping Discipline, as the manager of the Jeddah, Saudi Arabia mapping project, as a member of the original Mark II team, manager of the SAST DEM efforts, and Data Theme Coordinator for Vector data. Dan has been a member of ASPRS since 1974 and has served as a member of the Board of Directors, Vice-President, and President.

DIRECTORS

Directors serve a three year term as a voting member of the board as well as some committee responsibilities. Committee work focuses on activities such as special programs, newsletter, outreach, etc.

Chad Raymer

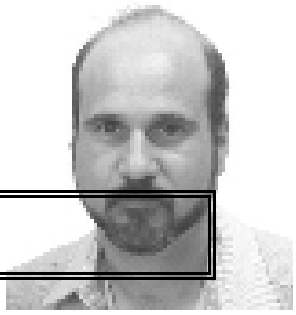
Chad is originally from Fortville, IN. He graduated high school in 1993 and enrolled at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana, the following fall semester. He later earned a B.S. degree specializing in Remote Sensing and GIS soon after presenting his thesis over satellite imagery's perspective on the Mt. St. Helens pre and post eruption and recovery. This research was funded from a grant by NASA.

Immediately after college, he was hired by Manatron, Inc. as a GIS Manager in Carmel, IN. Manatron develops software solutions and consults local governments. He was responsible for demos for potential buyers and for integrating Manatron software into clients' existing packages/databases. He also installed and troubleshooted the ESRI packages as well as consultation for clients regarding short and long term strategic goals with geospatial software, data, and their complimentary roles.

In December 1998, Chad made a career move to the remote sensing realm at the world's foremost authority on commercial satellite data, Space Imaging EOSAT (SI). He served as an Image Acquisition Specialist in there Lanham, Maryland office. Chad dealt with technical inquiries as well as intensive training on all aspects of commercial imagery acquisition, LANDSAT program, satellite capabilities and specifications, and SI's business partnerships.

Chad subsequently accepted an offer from Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) as a Remote Sensing Specialist contractor. He relocated to Rolla, Missouri's Mid-Continent Mapping Center and served as a GIS Specialist aiding in the development of the Central United States Atlas until his security clearance was approved. Upon the issuance of his security clearance, Chad moved to work in MCMC's secure facility where he is currently working.

Martin Hamman



Martin is a GIS Developer with SAIC contracted to the USGS Mid-Continent Mapping Center in Rolla Missouri. He has a BA in Geography from SUNY Albany and attended graduate school at the Geography Department of the Penn State University from 1996 to 1998. Since then he has worked as a surveyor/drafter for Walter Milde, a Landscape Architecture firm in Pennsylvania, and more recently as a GIS Developer at MCMC. His work at

MCMC is tied to the development of an ESRI GIS toolkit for creating the National Hydrography Dataset. He has conducted independent research on the impacts of large scale mining development on subsistence land use in the Peruvian Andes and has provided GIS/RS consulting services to mining companies in that region. Martin also has an Associates Degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. He has ten years of experience evenly divided between the electrical generation industry where he performed spectral signature analysis on rotating machinery, and the installation and maintenance of medical imaging/radiotheraphy systems.

COMPLETED BALLOTS DUE BY JUNE 20th, 2001

How To Vote

Completed ballots can be mailed or brought to:

Philip Rufe
USGS-MCMC MS 706
1400 Independence Road
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LANDSAT 5 TO BE DECOMMISSIONED

Recent decisions by the US Geological Survey have placed the current configuration of Landsat satellites in jeopardy. The Department of the Interior, through the USGS, has quietly announced that it intends to decommission (i.e. terminate) the Landsat 5 satellite (see http://www.usgs.gov/public/press/public_affairs/press_releases/pr1455m.html)

In order to allow further time for both public and private organizations to express concerns and possibly justify the need for continuation of the Landsat 5 satellite, an immediate delay in the termination of this satellite would be necessary.

Many (perhaps most) users of Landsat 5 may still be unaware of its imminent termination, which according to the latest information will likely be early June. Space News has also recently posted an article on the subject (http://www.space.com/spacenews/remotesensing/landsats_decommissioned_010516. html).

Landsat 5's extraordinary long life of nearly 17 years has allowed a continuing program of earth observation, from its launch through the period of the loss of Landsat 6 to the successful launch of Landsat 7 in 1999. Landsat 5 imaging appears to be at very near the level of Landsat 7. The cost of maintaining the continued full operation of Landsat 5 is between two and three million dollars per year (estimated to be less than 1% of the cost of a new satellite). The cost of at least maintaining its capability as an on-orbit backup would likely be even less.

One recognized advantage of having two operational (US) Landsat satellites is to allow timely tracking of land surface change, particularly vegetation change world wide, whereas a one-satellite configuration is less reliable because of cloud cover. Clearly there are many other advantages of maintaining both Landsat 5 and 7 in complementary orbits, if not reserving Landsat 5 on-orbit as a spare.

If the maintenance of Landsat 5 capability is important to your operations, or may be important to future data applications, you are encouraged to voice your concerns on this issue to the USGS contact, Ray Byrnes, at mailto:rbyrnes@usgs.gov.