



THE SUMMIT

News From and For the Washington GIS Community

WAURISA President's Message

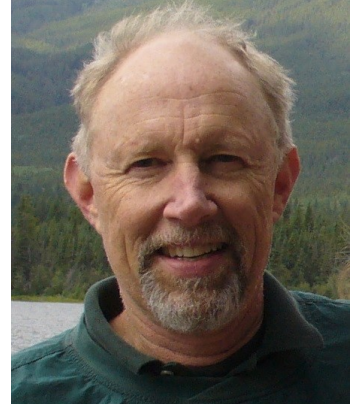
By: Ian Von Essen, Spokane County GIS Manager,
WAURISA President

Happy 2018. Another year is already upon us. As I write this on a frosty mid-winter's weekend morning from my desk at home, I feel honored to be able to serve as President for WAURISA. We all work in the stimulating and exhilarating field of GIS that continues to grow, expand, and provide all of us new opportunities as GIS technology itself adapts to the latest IT innovations and advancements. One of the main goals of WAURISA as an organization is to follow the trends of our GIS industry and continue to provide educational opportunities to stay abreast of these changes for you through our annual conferences and various seminars throughout the year. I would especially like to thank Josh Greenberg, now our Past President, for his two great years of service as President of the Board. He certainly is a great role model to follow, and I hope to the

lead the group with as much enthusiasm, passion and energy as he did.

I hope many of you had the opportunity to attend last year's WAURISA 2017 conference in Tacoma, WA.

It was a great conference, well attended, and offered many great sessions as well as pre-conference educational seminars which we will be offering again at this year's conference in Olympia, WA. I would especially like to thank last year's keynote speaker, Monica Stephens, Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo (SUNY) on her thought-provoking keynote presentation, "Layers of Social Change: Gender and Geographic Information." It was an eye-opening view into how our maps used in everyday



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Join us in Olympia for the Annual WAURISA Conference
Artwork by Jane Wingfield www.olyksketcher.com

A “Portable Homeland” - Mapping as Art & Seattle’s Inscape Gallery

By Jacob Tully, Editor-in-Chief & WAURISA Board Member



A portion of Karey Kessler’s “Portable Homeland” - Photo Credit: www.corvophoto.com

There are many types of maps. Maps that show us the way forward, maps that lead us home, maps that show us places we may never visit, and best of all, maps that you can get lost in. Karey Kessler is a Seattle based artist who specializes in the latter. Set amidst the backdrop of a booming Seattle skyline and a raging national debate over immigration policies, I met up with her to talk about her most recent work, “Portable Homeland” at the Inscape Gallery in Seattle’s International District. Kessler is a visual artist who finds her work expressed in maps, or maplike paintings. However to call her work strictly a map is to over simplify. In her own words, her most recent work “use[s] the imagery of a map, unscrolled on a

table, to explore my inscape, or internal landscape of time, place, and spirituality. A place “beginningless and boundless”; a time “between what was and what will be”; a “mysterious unknown.”

Before I get to the work itself, a bit about the Inscape Gallery that served as inspiration for “Portable Homeland.” The building is some 80,000 square feet of brick that, once housed Seattle’s Immigration and Naturalization Service, and stands in stark contrast to the glass walled condos sprouting elsewhere in the city. A sign emblazoned across the top of the building still reads “UNITED STATES IMMIGRANT STATION AND ASSAY OFFICE,” and is bordered on both sides

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President’s Message

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life simultaneously maintain and reproduce race, class, and gender biases. A very relevant and important topic in today’s world. Her presentation challenged us as a community of GIS professionals to offer solutions to ameliorate these issues, like having open, online, publicly accessible spatial data that can be used to support democratic processes within our own communities. Access to spatial information can support processes for change that can ultimately lessen if not remove these inherent biases. I also would like to thank last year’s WAURISA conference committee for all their hard work in pulling off yet another excellent WAURISA conference, because without their dedication and commitment, we would not have the opportunity to meet, learn, grow and network as professional peers though WAURISA events.

I look forward to serving as President for the next two years. And if you are not currently involved with WAURISA, I encourage you to become involved. You are always welcome to attend our monthly call-in meetings, which are on the 2nd Wednesday at noon of every month. Please contact me if you want to call in. We have been hard at work on next year’s

conference, and we are always looking for new, energetic individuals to join our numerous committees. If you are already involved, please spend some time to reflect on what WAURISA provides for you and how you could make WAURISA better. To have a thriving, relevant professional organization, we need to continually re-evaluate ourselves and make sure we are doing the best job we can. Your involvement, no matter how small, will insure our continued relevancy and success.

I hope you all had a relaxing set of holidays and are finding some time to get outside and enjoy this wonderful northwest winter.

-Ian

UPCOMING SUMMIT DEADLINES

Submit articles to *The Summit* for publication by:

	Early Spring	Late Spring
First Draft (optional)	3/16/2018	4/13/2018
Final Draft	3/22/2018	4/20/2018



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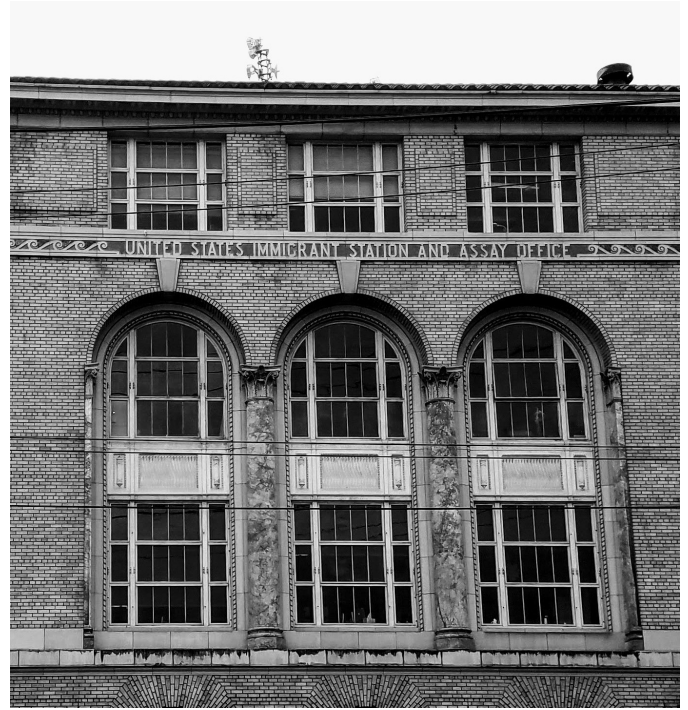
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Portable Homeland

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by a line of gold, blue-backed waves crashing inwards. No doubt a tribute to the journeys of generations of immigrants who passed through this portal to discover America.

Inside, the former detention & administrative center has been reformatted to house “upwards of 125 tenants” making it “the largest arts and culture enclave in Seattle.” A walk through its halls offers visitors glimpses into the many working studios, as well as numerous historical plaques detailing the buildings history and profiles of people who’d spent time there. There are many creative works on display in the building, but perhaps the most haunting of all is the graffiti of former detainees in the 3rd story courtyards. A quick glance reveals references places like Guatemala, Pakistan, Honduras, Russia & Mexico surrounded by phrases, dates, initials & names. Seattle’s stadiums occupying much of the view to the south & west, the courtyard experience is at once hopeful and eerie, and



Entrance to Seattle's Inscape Gallery

worth a visit all on its own.

Back inside, Kessler’s exhibit “Portable Homeland” sits well lit in an otherwise dark room. It’s a map, or something resembling a map of watercolor on a long roll of heavy weight paper, the spool of excess still rolled on one end. The paper warped and wavy from

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Graffiti adorning the Seattle's former U.S. Immigrant Station and Assay Office, now the Inscape Gallery

The Gene Hoerauf Scholarship

By Chris Behee, GIS Analyst at City of Bellingham Planning & Community Development Department

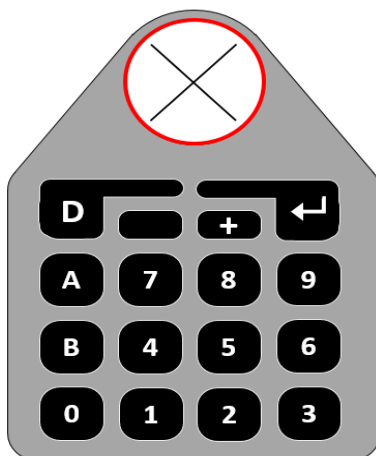
How many of you remember spending long hours digitizing points, lines, and polygons in the basement of Arntzen Hall at Western Washington University? Or working on a 286 PC with SPSS Graphics attempting to get your choropleth map patterns to work with your labels? Or if you were there in the early years, struggling with a sheet of mylar, a bottle of India ink, and a Leroy Lettering Set (and of course, an electric eraser), labeling a map of Africa, or a Sinusoidal Projection of the Earth. Can you remember how to calculate your root mean square error? Can you explain the difference between precision and accuracy? How about large scale versus small scale maps? If you answered “yes” to any of these, then you also remember the patient, cheerful, and encouraging, presence of Gene Hoerauf. Prior to his retirement in 2005 Gene spent 35 years at Western selflessly dedicating his life to helping students, faculty, and members of the community through his teaching, technical assistance, and mentoring. Gene's passion has always been cartography and the art and science of making beautiful maps. Many of us

can remember those early mornings, long days, and late nights in the basement of Arntzen Hall performing spatial analysis, and creating maps for undergraduate, graduate, or faculty projects. Gene was always there to offer support, and guidance, and to generously share his many years of cartographic wisdom and know-how.

To honor Gene and his years of service a scholarship in his name has been put in place with the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG). This scholarship will assist students focusing on Cartography and GIS to attend annual APCG conferences. These conferences provide great opportunities for students to network and interact with professionals working in the wide variety of fields that make use of the geographic sciences.

To help make this happen, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the goal of raising \$25,000 this year. The first scholarship(s) will be awarded in Fall 2017. We feel it is important to express our thanks and appreciation to Gene now. And we sincerely hope you will join

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*Bonus Points on GISP Exam if
you know what this is*

