2018 Chapter Leadership

Chris Akin, GISP – President

President Chris Akin manages Dunaway Associates' GIS division and has almost 2 decades 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 degree in Geography with a GIS emphasis from Texas A&M University and a Master's in GIS for Business and Service Planning from the University of Leeds, England. Chris is a certified GIS Professional (GISP), served on the URISA Board of Directors as the Chair of the Chapter Advisory Board in 2016, and served on the New England URISA Board of Directors for 8 years, including 2 years as NEURISA President.

Sumant Mallavaram, GISP – Vice President

Vice President Sumant Mallavaram, GISP, has a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering and a background in water resources planning. As an Account Manager within the Natural Resources team at Esri focusing on the energy (O&G) sector, Mr. Mallavaram is based out of San Antonio. He is actively engaged with energy companies in developing strategies to leverage geospatial technology as an enterprise location and analytics platform towards enabling the entire business life cycle of well drilling and production operations. Mr. Mallavaram is a member of URISA and American Water Resources Association (AWRA).

Olesya Powers, GISP – Secretary

Secretary Oly Powers discovered the world of GIS in 2008 and received her Honours Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto in 2011. She went on to work with World Wildlife Fund – Canada as part of the team that developed the foundation's freshwater health assessment report. In 2013 she received her Graduate Certificate from the Geomatics Institute at Fleming College in GIS – Cartographic Specialist. Oly accepted a position with CCCMaps (formerly Rand McNally Canada) as a cartographer and was involved in the publication of several road atlases. She is currently a GIS Analyst for the City of Mesquite, TX. She is also a member of the Texas Emergency GIS Response Team (TxEGRT) and has worked events such as the Dec 2015 Tornado response.

Tina Rust, GISP, RPA – Treasurer

Treasurer and Chapter Advisory Board Representative Tina Rust moved into GIS in 2003 from a background in cultural resource management. For over 15 years, she conducted archaeological excavations for the National Park Service and private consulting firms throughout the southeastern US. Over the last 13 years, she has specialized in GIS for county and regional government planning, E-911 emergency management, and environmental planning. She is currently employed at HNTB Corporation, an architecture, civil engineering, and construction management firm in Plano, TX. As the chapter advisory board representative for URISA Texas, she is involved in supporting over 25 chapters across the US which are active in providing professional GIS education and training on a regional and statewide basis.

Brian King, GISP, RPA, CFM – Member-at-Large

Past President 2012-2015 and current Member-at-Large Brian King, has been involved in geospatial science since 1999. He has a master's degree Geographic Information Systems and a Graduate Certificate of Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT), from the Pennsylvania State University and the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF). Mr. King is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), having 15 years of experience in the field of archeology, and a Certified Floodplain Manager. He earned a BA in Anthropology from the University of Kentucky in 1997 and an Associates of Architecture from the Lexington Community College in 1993. Mr. King is currently employed by Freese and Nichols, Inc. since 2011 and has worked for other engineering and cultural resource management firms since 1999. Over the years he has gained experience in drafting and design tasks in areas of floodplain modeling and mapping, remote sensing, Lidar processing, land development, hydrology and hydraulics, residential sites, and highway projects in the state of Texas. Other areas of expertise include ModelBuilder, Mobile GIS applications, Amazon EC2 web mapping, ArcSDE, and engineering and archaeological reporting writing. He is one of the original members involved to form the statewide Texas URISA Chapter. Mr. King is a member of the international Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI), and Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA).

Patrick Young, GISP – Member-at-Large

Member-at-Large Patrick Young, GISP, has over 13 years of experience working with geospatial technologies. After obtaining his Master's degree in GIS from the University of Texas at Dallas, he got his feet wet working in local government at the county and later the city level. The last 10 years, however, have been spent in the consulting world where he's utilized his skills in support of projects in environmental permitting, transit planning, cultural resources studies, remediation, electric transmission line routing, and mining reclamation. His current role is GIS Manager for AECOM in the Dallas office. Mr. Young has also been an active member of URISA's GISCorps where he served as a project manager on the multi-year DPRK basemap project.

Tina Hansen, GISP – Member-at-large

Member-at-Large Tina Hansen, came to GIS in 1995 from a background in computer application development and software quality assurance, having worked for EFA Technologies, Inc., and then for the State of California Department of Corrections (DOC), Information Services Branch. Her work at EFA and the central I.T. branch of the California DOC provided experience in application design - with a focus on needs assessment and requirements analysis, application development, and contract/proposal review, development, and coordination. With GIS, she combined her interest in geography and maps with her technical background in computer applications. She received a Graduate Certificate in GIS from the University of Texas, Dallas, and was awarded a GISP certification in 2009. The last eighteen years she has worked in local government, specializing in city government spatial data development, integration, and management needs. She is currently a GIS Analyst for the city of North Richland Hills, TX. Tina has been involved in the Dallas/Fort Worth GIS community since 2000. Having served on the executive committee in several capacities for the North Central Texas Chapter of GITA (Geospatial Information and Technology Association), she is now among those working to build a strong URISA Texas Chapter.

Daniel Haverlah – Member-at-Large

Member-at-Large Danny Haverlah has been in the geospatial professional realm for over twelve years with experience in Oracle databases, SQL Server, Maximo geospatial integration, web mapping applications, GIS solution based work flow design, ArcSDE database management, ArcGIS Online application architecture design, mobile data collection, and leading GIS technical teams. He has been employed as an IT Geospatial Analyst with the City of Austin in the Public Works Department for the last five years and continues to be a member of Austin's Geospatial Information Management Operations Board. Danny is the head organizer of the Austin GIS User Group, a member of The Austin Python Meetup, Maptime ATX, and sits on the CenTex GIS Committee. He holds a Bachelor degree in Geography from the University of North Texas and has a strong passion for being involved in the local and regional GIS Community.

Dr. Dan Goldberg – Member-at-Large

Member-at-Large Dr. Daniel W. Goldberg received his PhD in Computer Science from USC in 2010. He joined the Department of Geography at TAMU as an Assistant Professor in 2012 and was jointly appointed (courtesy appointment) in the TAMU Department of Computer Science & Engineering. Dr. Goldberg teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Geographic Information Science & Technology (GIST), with a particular focus on its computational aspects. He has developed three TAMU courses, and assisted with the creation of a new GIST major and an online MS Geoscience degree focusing on GIST for the Oil & Gas industry. Dr. Goldberg's research focuses on CyberHealthGIS. His research has generated ~$3m in grant, contract, and service center revenue since joining TAMU from federal sources including NSF, NIH, DoD, commercial and not-for-profit organizations, and TAMU Intramural programs. Dr. Goldberg is co/author of 29 peer-reviewed journal articles, one book, and six book chapters. He has been a Director of UCGIS, was selected as a CyberGIS Fellow, and has been selected for the Summer at the US Census program. He has chaired four PhD committees, one MS committee, and served on 17 others. Dr. Goldberg is the founding Director of the TAMU GeoInnovation Service Center.