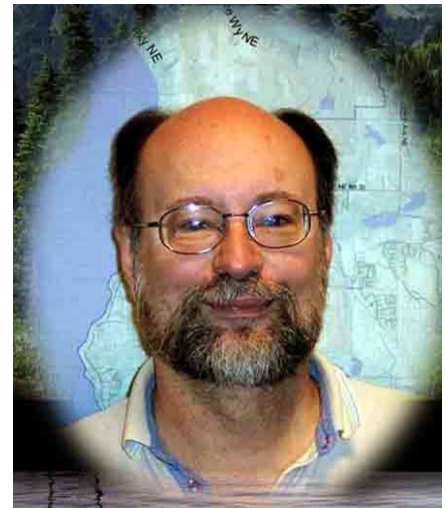




**The 4th Annual
Richard "Dick" Thomas
Memorial Student
Presentation
Competition & Award
at the
2010 Washington GIS
Conference: April 21,
Greater Tacoma
Convention & Trade
Center**



1947 – 2006

WAURISA, the **Washington State Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association**, announces the 4th annual **Dick Thomas Memorial Student Presentation Competition & Award**. This award was established in 2006 to honor Washington State GIS pioneer and mentor **Richard 'Dick' Thomas**. The intent of this award is to honor Dick by continuing his work of encouraging students to excel in their studies and transition successfully into careers in the field of GIS. **WAURISA's** objective is to inspire students to present their original work related to GIS, geography, or geographic research at the annual **Washington GIS Conference**. For more information about the **Conference**, please visit: www.waurisa.org.

Prizes

First Place

- Dick Thomas Award Plaque
- \$1000 cash
- One year membership in **WAURISA**
- Free registration to the **2011 Washington GIS Conference**
- Publication of paper in *The Summit* (Washington GIS Newsletter)
- Plus, possible additional prizes

Second Place

- Dick Thomas Second Place Award Certificate
- \$300 cash
- One year membership in **WAURISA**
- Free registration to the **2011 Washington GIS Conference**
- Plus, possible additional prizes

Third Place

- Dick Thomas Third Place Award Certificate
- \$200 cash
- One year membership in **WAURISA**
- Plus, possible additional prizes

New this year: the student advisor or professor of the first place winner will also be awarded a cash prize of \$500.

The **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** will screen all abstracts, select papers to be presented and judge the presentations during the **Conference**. All **Committee** decisions are final. The **Competition** winners will be announced during the ending session of the **Conference**.

In the case of an award going to a presentation with multiple authors, the award will be given to the contact author, who will be responsible for distributing the prize equitably among the other authors. **WAURISA will not involve itself in the distribution of awards among groups of student presenters.**

GISCI Points

Student presenters will earn 1 GISCI Contribution Point for Conference Presentation in addition to points earned for attending the **2010 Conference**.

About the Competition

The competition has two parts:

- selection of at least four (4) abstracts by the **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** for papers to be
- presented and judged during the Student Presentation Session at the **2010 Conference**
- The **Committee** retains the prerogative to choose more than 4 abstracts to be presented at the **2010 Conference**.

Who can enter?

The competition is limited to:

- current students enrolled at least 6 hours in a relevant curriculum at a Washington State secondary school, community college, technical school, or university program
- current students enrolled at least 6 hours in a relevant curriculum of an on-line GIS program

What to enter

Entries must be:

- the original work by the student(s)
- conducted as a school project or under the supervision of a student advisor or professor
- while enrolled in a GIS, geography, technology, or related academic program
- papers should relate to geography, GIS, or allied technologies
- as applied to a social, natural resource, business, government, or a similar subject

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Recreation
- Remote sensing
- Public health/Social services
- Stormwater
- Public safety
- Transportation
- Environmental/natural resource issues
- Archaeology
- Surprise us!

Submittal Guidelines

All submitted entries must include:

1. An abstract of the project that describes the proposed presentation with a **maximum of 300 words**;
2. **And**, after an invitation to present at the 2010 Conference is tendered, a letter from the students' professor or faculty advisor verifying student status and hours of enrollment on institutional letterhead (a fax is fine) is required
3. On the day of the presentation, a CD with a PDF of the presentation slides must be given to Amanda Taub, Dick Thomas Award Coordinator, to be included on WAURISA's web site.

The submitted abstract shall have the following format:

- It should be left justified or aligned to the left margin.
- Author(s) name(s): Clearly identify contact author
- Student advisor or professor's name:
- School name:
- Department name:
- Mailing address:
- E-mail address of contact author:
- Phone number:
- Type of Presentation: Dick Thomas Competition
- Presentation Audience Type: New, Intermediate, Advanced
- Presentation Title:

- Abstract: **no more than 300 words**. A succinct & descriptive abstract answering Why, What, Where, How, Who.
- If there is more than one author, then the contact author must be clearly identified. The contact author is the individual with whom the **Competition Committee** will correspond and to whom any prizes will be awarded. Multiple named authors are welcome to present.
- Submit entries to: abstracts@waurisa.org. Include "**Dick Thomas Award – Contact Author Name**" in the email subject field.

Deadline to submit abstracts:

~~Wednesday, March 24, 2010~~ **Extended to: Wednesday, March 31, 2010!**

The **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** will review submitted abstracts after **March 31st**, and will notify the presenters chosen to present at the **Conference** by **Friday, April 9th**.

The contact author from each selected paper will receive full registration to the **2010 Washington GIS Conference**. Multiple authors will be given free one-day conference registration. We are continuing at this year's conference the popular offer of allowing all accepted presenters the option to register for the full-day Monday workshop for only \$10 in addition to their free conference registration.

Presentation of Selected Papers:

Wednesday April 21, 2010

Papers will be presented at the **Conference** in at least 1-90 min session for the final judging. The **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** will provide final presentation details, but authors should plan on a presentation and question times of 15-20 minutes duration. A laptop with a PC Projector will be available. Internet access in the presentation room may be available, but is not guaranteed.

Judging Criteria

Abstracts and presentations will be judged on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of expertise and understanding of geographic concepts
- Demonstration of expertise and understanding of GIS, related technology, and its application
- Explanation of how the work presented relates to the topic and contributes to greater understanding or knowledge of the topic and GIS
- Demonstration of an innovative approach and/or critical thinking
- Quality of written abstract
- Quality of public presentation