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On the Cover

Choice. It is the spark that flames free will. The more choices we have in life the more freedom and opportunity we have stretched out in front of us. A college or university graduate in the field of geoscience now has a number of options presented to them upon commencement. The old standard of graduates cutting their teeth in large organizations, with all-inclusive GIS systems is being supplanted with the idea that the GIS post-graduate now may enter the workforce through a small, contracted, private sector firm. This “Big GIS” vs. “Small GI” decision and its impact on the global GIS community is the subject of an article by Andrew U. Frank, a Professor of Geoinformation, and Martin Raubal, a Ph.D. candidate, both at the Technical University of Vienna in Austria. This burgeoning situation along with a GIS education model to help explain it, are presented in their paper which highlights the Spring Issue of the URISA Journal.