Planning Department, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

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City & Regional Planning & Environmental Design

CRP Newsletter | Spring 2016 Newsletter

Stay tuned for further communications on what is being planned to mark this occasion. Ray Hashimoto, chair of CRIPAC (see note below) invites you to join the group and help in organizing and participating in events.

We hope you enjoy the glimpse this newsletter provides of the work and activities of faculty and students. It reflects the energy that permeates the department. As you will see, CRP faculty and students continue to flourish and excel. In my role as department head, it has been a privilege to get to know the CRP family and its legacy of excellence, entrepreneurship, and commitment to planning practice.

Thank you for making my time as CRP department head memorable and for including me in the CRP family. I am honored to have had this opportunity to serve. I look forward to continuing my connection with you as a professor; to reinvigorating my teaching, research and scholarship; and to engaging with remarkable CRP undergraduate and graduate students in our two degree programs.

Warm regards,

Hematalla C. Dandekar, Ph.D.

A Note from the Department Head
It is a particular pleasure to write this note, as I approach the end of seven years as City and Regional Planning (CRP) department head. We started from this position on Aug. 31, 2016, to begin teaching full-time at Cal Poly. These seven years have been very rewarding. I have had the pleasure of getting to know the CRP family, helping sustain CRP’s excellence as a premier institution for aspiring planners, discovering the beauty of the Central Coast, learning in detail about California planning practice, and helping to bring this knowledge into the academy.

The planning profession watches California’s forward-looking, cutting-edge planning practices closely. It is gratifying to see how the work done in CRP classrooms and through sponsored research makes contributions to advancing the discipline. I had the opportunity to learn about the practice at the grassroots level during four years of service on the city of San Luis Obispo’s Cultural Heritage Commission, two years on its Land Use and Circulation Task Force, and now on the City Planning Commission. A grant from the state of California Housing and Community Development Department enabled me to work with CRP students on researching how private developers are designing affordable housing in partnership with local government planning offices. I intend to assimilate lessons learned from California practice into my CRP classes. It has also been a particular joy to see that engagement in professional service to the community and in practice-driven research is the norm and embraced at Cal Poly and by the CRP Department. It is rare in academia, and it is our strength. It helps render our students singularly capable as they enter the professional planning world.

When I inaugurated this newsletter in fall 2010, many of you told me that you enjoyed learning about the department and being informed about the intellectual curiosity, professional practice and priorities of the CRP family. During my visits to some of your offices, or when you visited our campus, you were most generous with your time and enthusiasm about the department and the education you received in CRP. This was corroborated by a 90 percent satisfaction rate in the alumni survey we completed last year. Our thanks go to the 200 of you - representing all cohorts of our alumni - who took that survey.

Many of you have expressed a desire to assist the department in moving forward. A system is now in place to facilitate such participation. It gives me great pleasure to report that we transitioned the CRP Advisory Council (CIPC) to CRP Alumni in May 2015. The board members are an experienced volunteer group representing different generations of CRP alumni. They want to engage with you in various ways, including celebrating the 50th anniversary of the department in 2017-18.

A Note from Ray Hashimoto, Chair of CRIPAC
Alumni of the CRP Department, with the help of the faculty and staff, have established an Advisory Council, CRIPAC. It has been several years in the making, and in 2015, it officially got off the ground. With a nucleus of devoted alumni from both the public and private sector – and representing a wide panoply of California – we believe we can make a difference in assisting the students, the department and fellow CRP alumni. We want to advise the department on the needs of the industry and the profession from the inside out. Our graduates are well positioned to enter the workforce. We also want to provide opportunities for the department to meet its advancement goals.

A priority is to build a solid network of CRP alumni who can raise interest in our program and strengthen its already renowned reputation. Last and certainly not least, we want to have fun and hold events and programs in San Luis Obispo and the state that further our purpose and goals. If you are interested in joining us or want to be a part of our alumni network, please let me know at rhashimoto@eHtica.com.

Show Your Support

We are proud to be recognized as one of the very best planning programs in the nation. And we are proud of our nearly 1,500 alumni, many of whom hold key positions in the public and private sectors, contributing to society in a profession that enhances the quality of life for all.

Student Leadership Fund: Enhances students’ education through scholarships and participation at conferences, competitions, studio field trips and international study.

Serving Communities Fund: Supports undergraduate and graduate planning studies and theses/projects that directly partner with communities to assist in their planning needs.

Outreach and Research Fund: Supports publication of CRP’s journal, FOCUS, and other scholarly work; contributes to vibrant and involved alumni networks; supports guest lectures and student/faculty research.

To make a gift, please check payable to Cal Poly Foundation, indicating the fund you support. Mail to: City and Regional Planning, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0283. To contribute online visit: www.giving.calpoly.edu.

We would like to thank the Ernest Fisher Foundation for their ongoing support of the CRP program and generous gift of $250,000 for student scholarships.

A Plaque for Ken Schwartz

Kenneth (Ken) Schwartz, former mayor of San Luis Obispo and the first director of CRP, long supported and advocated for the creation of Mission Plaza, and his contributions were key to its creation. Through Schwartz’s vision, perseverance and dedication, the creation of a community plaza in front of the historic mission was approved by voters in 1968. The plaza now serves as the heart of the city. Schwartz’s contribution is now recognized in a plaque at the seat entrance to the plaza. The plaque quotes him as follows: “The plaza is a people place, and that is what cities are all about – people. This is a sentiment that planners share universally!”

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City and Regional Planning (CRP) de...

CRP Class of 2016

MCRP Class of 2017 Visits Panoramic Residence

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Patrick Kevin Kelly guided the students around The Parkway, its 8-story micro-unit apartment building of 160 units on Mission Street, the largest micro-unit development in the city. The group also attended sessions designed explicitly for students at California’s American Planning Association Conference in Oakland. One session was moderated by CRP Professor Michael Boswell.

—Daniel Harrison, MCRP Class of 2017

BSCRP student Emily Foley and two civil engineering students attended the California Transportation Foundation Education Symposium. The event paired transportation planners and engineers with students to produce a mock request for proposals for a highway corridor in the city of Gotham. Teams of seven students were tasked with understanding the requirements, collecting information and support from “stakeholders” (role-played by professionals), and giving an oral presentation explaining the team’s qualifications and proposal idea.

The Cal Poly, USC and UCLA joint team handed out “business cards” made on hotel notepads and confidently claimed that we have grown up in Gotham and to have built the Wonder Woman skyscraper. Their creativity and confidence impressed the stakeholders, and the team took first.

—Emily Foley, BSCRP Class of 2016
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Gregg Errett Brown Bag
In fall quarter 2015, Greg Errett (BSCRP), a planner for 22 years in the city of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and most recently the transportation planning manager, gave a brown bag lecture to CRP students. He de- scribed a major city project – Business Loop I-40 – through downtown Winston-Salem, which presented an opportunity to reinvent the city as a desirable place to live and work, as dozens of old manufacturing facilities and warehouses transformed into a biotech re- search district specializing in medicine and medtech industry. The North Carolina Department of Transporta- tion closed Business Loop I-40 for two years of construction. Championed by Errett, this project is a multi-use path running parallel to I-40 with the right-of-way, which includes pedestrian bridges, expanded sidewalks, greenways and bicycle pathways. It connects the revi- vivized downtown to suburbs. The project creates potential for new parkland, real estate development, the rehabilita- tion of buildings and structures, and an op- portunity to infuse art and design that honors tradition.

Land Use Conference
In January 2016, the 30th Annual Land Use Conference hosted by UCLAE was attended by faculty member William Riggs, graduate student Jana Schwartz, and Howard Merino. The conference was attended by 160 people, and Alex Hunt. Funding for the conference atten- dance was provided by the Laura and John Arnold Environ- ment Scholarship Program and the Freilich Foundation. Our conference hosts university representatives and professionals and provides a big-picture view of current and emerging land-use law and planning practice in California. Sessions provide succinct and provocative discussions of current trends in case law and legislation and best practices on basic land-use and planning issues. Presentations are made by and for attorneys, plan- ners, environmentalists and developers. Involv- ing university students and faculty to join the conversation allows the intricacies of land use and land use to be shared between highest education and experts in the field and fa- cilitates their inclusion in the classroom setting. Involvement in the conference has strength- ened CRP’s collaborative understanding of current issues and enabled students and faculty to ex- plore topics that are on the planning horizon.

CTF Symposium and Weed Green Team
A report by Department Head Hemlata Dan- dekar for the California Housing and Com- munity Development contains encouraging news. It features housing case studies in high-cost California communities. Private- sector and nonprofit developers in collabora- tion with cities and counties are constructing – without state or federal government subsidy – low- and moderate-income hous- ing. Built in the last decade, this housing is primarily located in regions where real estate prices escalated, employment increased, and demand for housing is extremely high. Designing Affordability: 10 cases understanding the localized, context-grounded nature of housing choices and the varying needs of low- and moderate-income households make us live in today’s world. Paul Donegan (BSCRP 2016) was invited by Diane Tran, Kyle Van Leeuwen Darrel, Franceso Vargas, Yuri Way, Sarah Wood, and Alice Zammel.

Faculty Advisors: Vicente del Rio and Hemlata Dandekar.

Designing Housing Affordability
Following a devastating wildfire in 2014 that burned about 150 structures, including homes and community facilities, the area was faced with the daunting task of rebuilding. With an outdated General Plan adopted in 1982, the city found itself in dire need of direction for rebuilding and future development. With a generous but limited grant from the city of Weed, in the fall of 2015, they conducted an inventory of land use, background research and outreach to generate a report on existing ordinances and community aspirations to inform development of the General Plan in winter of 2016. The Mount Shasta News Weekly posted the following article celebrating their efforts: http://www.mtsashanews.com/article/20151014/NEWS/151019904/?Start=1.

Collaborating with a Research Center in Lisbon
CRP Professor Vicente del Rio was invited to be a part of a three-member panel of international experts for a peri- odic assessment of the research in the area of urbanism at the Ciauid (Center for Research on Architectural, Urbanism and Design) at the University of Lisbon, one of Portugal’s top public institutions. He joined other panel members Yves Cabannes (University College London) and Anne Vernet-Mouton (University of Washington, Seattle). As part of the panel, the Ciauid is an important research center that, in the area of urbanism alone, has 29 faculty members, 46 collaborators, and 57 doc- toral students. During three busy working days in November 2015, the panel listened to dozens of presentations on research projects and worked on an as- sessment report. They will perform another periodic evaluation in two years, as required by the university and Portu- gal’s Ministry of Education.

U.N.-Habitat Initiative on Climate Change
Professor Michael Bossel serves as an expert advisor on “Guiding Principles for Climate Action Planning” for the U.N.-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative. He was part of an international group of specialists invited to present at and participate in meetings in Oslo, Norway, and Bonn, Germany. He ended the year as a U.N.-sponsored observer to the U.N. climate conference in Paris, where the “Guiding Principles” document for climate action planning was launched. Bossel has authored the informal document, “Local Climate Action Planning,” with CRP faculty member Adrienne Greve and subject-area expert Tammy Steeley.

Adrienne Greve’s Efforts in Climate Action Planning
This year notably marked the first time CRP students have travelled to Kampala, Uganda, and three cities in Tanzania (Arusha, Kinondoni and Temeke) as part of the Citi Group’s Climate-Smart Capital Investment Plan (CIP). During the fall and winter quarters, with Pro- fessor Chris Clark, she led the Senior Com- munity Planning Laboratory in developing Cal Poly’s Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP). Students engaged the Cal Poly community through outreach efforts and presented the final report to university administrators. Their work will contribute to the ongoing update of Cal Poly’s Master Plan.

William Riggs and Walkability
Professor William Riggs is developing an extensive portfolio of work in the areas of technology and the design of walkable cities. His work translates to significant benefits to cities – creating better tools to communicate with the public and reshaping their communities for greater levels of livability and active transportation. It challenges cities to increase the number of walkable destinations and rethink the way streets are designed to facilitate walking and biking. During the 2014-2015 academic year he authored six peer-reviewed publications in this area and was awarded $21,000 in research funding through a grant from the CSU Chancellors’ Office to explore self-directed learning strategies. A CityLab article by Richard Florida reiterates Riggs’ work. It is available at: www.citylab.com/ housings/2015/05/walkability-and-race/309398/.

Disaster Recovery
Professor William Siembieda’s work on disas- ter recovery has two focal points: 1) using land use corrections to lower natural hazard exposure, and 2) structural recovery, as a potential life-threatening problems arise before getting occupants out and emergency first- responders in. Even if access is not blocked by fire, those who have adequate road widths and the presence of obstacles can inter- fere with timely movement, possibly entrapping civilians and rendering responders unable to do their job.

California Code of Regulations Title 14, 1270, Fire Safe Regulations, Section 1273.09 Dead-end Roads established standards on the maximum lengths of dead-end roads that deepen the fire pinch. In 2011, the Cal- fire心头 account into other factors that affect egress and ingress, such as land use, road system, fire hazard, and location of a “safe place.” A team of Cal Poly researchers, including CRP faculty David Conn, Corinna Nuewolls, and Ken Topping, plus Chris Dicus of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science and affiliate Dan Turner have reviewed the regulations for shortcomings. The team is recommending improving the law and has developed a prototype tool for assessing how long it would take to evacuate single-access subdivisions under the threat of wildfire.

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CAL Fire Research
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Faculty Advisors: Vicente del Rio and Hemelata Danekar.

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In January 2016, the 30th annual Land Use Conference held by UCLA's Depart- ment of Urban Planning was attended by faculty member William Riggs, graduate student Jana Schwarz, and Melissa Johnson. The conference was organized by the Habitat and Alex Hunt. Funding for the conference attended by the students of the Environmental Planning Program and in cooperation with the UC Irvine's School of Architecture.

The conference focuses potential for new parkland, real estate development, the rehabili- tation of buildings and structures, and an op- portunity to infuse art and design that honors history.

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National AIR Award-Winning Project - Milpitas

Greg Eric Stratton Brown

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Disaster Recovery

Professor William Strode’s work on disas- ter recovery has two foci: 1) using land use and urban design techniques to lower natural hazards, and 2) developing a post-disaster recovery framework. After a disaster event, helping communities re- build in ways that result in safer places to live. He is an appointed member of the international advisory board to the Chilean National Center for Risk Management, the National Natural Hazards Research Center, and in 2015, he worked with staff of the Asian Development Bank’s Natural Hazards project. The work was shared with professionals from Nepal, Bangla- desh, and Indonesia. Disasters prompt various incentives that local people want to use is a tricky task. This work is on the design of land use incentives that are effective. A recent article points to the AID Technical Report on Risk Reduction Methods.

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Ray Washi...