



College of Architecture and  
Environmental Design  
1 Grand Avenue  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

## City & Regional Planning Fall 2012

CAL POLY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO



### California Climate Action Planning Conference 2013

Partnering with the Governor's Office of Planning & Research, CRP will host the California Climate Action Planning Conference at Cal Poly from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1, 2013.

The two-day conference will feature in-depth presentations and discussions on both technical and political facets of climate action planning with a focus on local and regional practice in California. The event will feature experts and practitioners from across the state. Sponsors include PG&E, the California Chapter of the American Planning Association, and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design's Planning Design & Construction Institute.

For additional information, see the conference web page:

<http://planning.calpoly.edu/ccapc2013>



### The Season for Giving!

Remember where it all began! 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 alums, 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. Help us continue to make a difference for the next generation of planners. Please consider supporting current CRP students by giving to these funds:

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

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

**Outreach and Research Fund:** Supports publication of CRP's FOCUS and bi-annual newsletter, as well as helps fund guest lectures and student/faculty research.

To make a gift to CRP, please make checks out to City and Regional Planning 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](http://www.giving.calpoly.edu).



### A note from the Department Head

Warm holiday greetings to CRP alumni and friends! The months since our summer 2012 newsletter have gone by in a flash. We have relocated to Building #5, above the CAED administrative office. Air quality issues in our old quarters continue to perplex the experts.

CRP was well represented at the California APA conference - on panels, at student sessions, winning awards and recognitions. The CRP alumni reception allowed all to reconnect.

This fall we welcomed an outstanding group of BSCRPP freshmen/transfers. They are a two-studio cohort who fill the CRP corridor with their exuberance. They are enthusiastic about the planning profession, and their energy is contagious. In introductory classes they have engaged in participatory group work, brainstormed the differences between home and house, attended weekend sketching workshops and become immersed in campus life.

We also welcomed 37 first-year MCRPP students - our largest incoming group to date. The qualifications of the graduate students continue to impress. They join us after having earned undergraduate degrees from some eight University of California campuses, three CSU campuses, and universities in six states besides California.

This holiday season we ask you to support CRP with even a modest financial donation. As state funds for education get scarce, we need your help to keep our enriched curriculum and practical hands-on training that has become the hallmark of our department and served our alumni well. Thank you in advance for your support. Look us up when you are on the Cal Poly campus and say hello. We would love to see you and show you around.

*Hemalata Dandekar*

Hemalata Dandekar, Ph.D.  
Department Head  
City and Regional Planning

### Parents Weekend

Undergraduate students organized Parents Weekend this fall and convinced visiting parents that their student made a sound decision in choosing CRP. Professors Vincent del Rio and Adrienne Greve presented studio-driven work in urban design and climate action planning. Professor Umur Tokar's hands-on activities involved participants in preference surveys and in the design of downtowns using land-use icons on street grids. Parents asked questions and gave positive feedback. Representatives of the Associated Students in Planning described work and play in CRP. The opinionated interaction between parents and students made this event a great success and brought together the CRP community.

Contributed by Kimber Guierrez



### A Santiago-Valparaiso Connection

Professor Vicente del Rio lead a team in an international workshop in Santiago, Chile, which was organized by the Universities of Buenos Aires and Chile schools of Architecture and Urbanism. Featuring professionals from several countries, each team of two young faculty and a group of students labored for five days to develop proposals for a connection between the capital city Santiago and the coastal town of Valparaiso. The del Rio team prepared a strategic urban design plan addressing the themes of travel speed and place making. The work from this international workshop, the third in the series, will be published as a book in 2013.



Phil Schenkel, principal landscape architect at Walt Disney Imagineering, speaks to a group of 21 CRP students about the work of Disney Imagineers.



Contributed by Lisa Ellyn

### Not too Young to 'Imagineer'

At 4 a.m. on Nov. 1, 2012, a group of 21 students and Professor Hemalata Dandekar headed to Southern California for an exciting two days of learning and fun. At the Walt Disney Imagineering Studio, they were introduced to four "Imagineers" who described their past projects that took them around the world. A studio tour followed, and the group glimpsed how large scale models, sculptures, acute sound recordings and 3-D imaging is achieved with cutting-edge technology. The group was star-struck!

Pasadena's Paseo Colorado, winner of the CCAPA's 2003 Planning Project Award for Mixed Use, was the group's next stop. This 10.9-acre development features retail,

restaurants, a cinema, professional offices and residential apartments. Pasadena Senior Planner Jason Mikaelian joined the group. At the Paseo over lunch he described the project and its connection to historical plans for the city. A tour of the project and Pasadena's City Hall ended in the city's "one-stop" Permit Center, where students learned about the work of a "behind-the-counter" planner.

The last stop was the offices of SWA Group in downtown L.A., where staff presented ongoing projects. Students were invited to stroll through the office and talk with planners and designers. The following day at Disney's California Adventure, they went on a guided tour of the theme park and learned about the behind-the-scenes planning that makes a theme park visit magical.



### Siembieda Helps with Disaster Planning

If you were looking to find Professor William Siembieda in his office last year, you would have been out of luck. Professor Siembieda was some 8,000 miles away in Australia, New Zealand, and, Japan working on strategic land use planning decisions in post-disaster regions. As a visiting research professor at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, Siembieda studied recovery plans of coastal cities in Japan and advised on neighborhood relocations. At the Joint Center for Disaster Research, Massey University, NZ, he worked on an earthquake recovery program for the city of Christchurch, thus adding to his expertise in disaster mitigation planning. This November Siembieda was keynote speaker at an international conference, Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

### Toker Brings Entrepreneurship to Campus

Professor Umut Toker was an invited participant at the national conference of Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization in Chicago, organized by the Coleman Foundation. As a recent recipient of the Coleman Fellowship for Entrepreneurship, he collaborated on the development of an online forum for academics that will focus on the integration of entrepreneurship and self employment in design disciplines. Toker is also working on the development of a new public forum, titled "Design Thinking," which will be organized by Cal Poly's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in April 2013.

### Boswell and Greve Describe Climate Action Plans

CRP faculty were featured in SPUR-hosted presentations in San Jose and San Francisco on Oct. 15 and 16. Drawing on their recently published book, "Local Climate Action Planning," co-authors Professors Michael Boswell and Adrienne Greve and PMC Principal Tammy Seale addressed community efforts throughout California to develop climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They elaborated on the successes and challenges of these efforts. They also presented preliminary results of their statewide survey of local climate action plans.



### Putting Pen to Paper

Early morning Saturday, Oct. 27, some 40 CRP students -- freshmen to graduate -- gathered to learn the basics of using pen, pencil and paper to record observations. With CAED Professors Chuck Crotsler, Jim Bagnall and Jake Feldman providing instruction, students scaled, outlined, shaded, and experienced the fact that what you draw you really see. In a world where capturing images is at everyone's fingertips, students developed the hand-eye coordination that allows for a deeper understanding of the environment. A second workshop is planned for Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013, when students will learn more sketching techniques and be introduced to watercolor.



President Jeffrey D. Armstrong congratulates scholarship recipients in May at the CRP end-of-the-year graduation celebrations in the KTYG gallery.

### Awards Celebration

At the end of spring quarter, May 24, 2012, the CRP department said goodbye to graduating seniors and master's students and recognized scholarship recipients for the 2012-13 academic year. Benefactors of various scholarships who were present included: the Hubal family; the Jonas family; Donna McDougal; and Mark Brown board member of the Errett Fisher Foundation. Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong attended the event, which was held in the KTYG gallery. In his remarks, he thanked donors for their generosity and support. Benefactors and student scholarship winners got acquainted at a banquet following the celebration. Stay tuned for the awards celebration in May 2013. All are welcome.



### Alumni Profiles

**Bill Ramsey** (MCRP 1984) was promoted to assistant development services director for the City of San Juan Capistrano, Calif. With 21 years' experience in planning, his focus has been on historical preservation, land use and environmental resource management. As a longtime city employee, Ramsey has had a significant impact on the urban fabric. He wrote the city's "bed & breakfast" ordinance, which provides an incentive for historic preservation through adaptive reuse of buildings. "I'm excited to once again be involved in a larger role in helping the city protect its important historic and cultural resources," says Ramsey.

**Angela Freitas** (BSCR 1999) has worked her way up the Stanislaus County Planning Department starting as an intern in 1998. Recently promoted to director of planning and community development, her current projects include a reuse plan for a 1,500-acre general aviation facility that was handed over to the county. "Planning is very diverse," says Freitas, "It's truly never boring." When asked for advice for soon-to-be planners, Freitas said, "Don't always be so literal. Planning is not black and white, it's very grey. You need to use common sense to maneuver in planning."



MCRP students Rachel Cohen, Nikki Streegan, Dana Hoffman and Matt Downing (not pictured) were awarded California Planning Foundation scholarships in Rancho Mirage in October.

### CPF Scholarships



### Firm Profile

Dedicated to improving urban environments, Urban Planning Partners is a small but growing company established in 2009 by CRP alum Lynette Dias (BSCR 91). Key services include land use policy, environmental review, and entitlement assistance. The firm's six urban planners work collaboratively and each plays an important part in the firm's success. Their new office is in Uptown - a hip Oakland neighborhood--where opportunities abound to indulge their urban, artsy and foodie passions. Urban Planning Partners work involves urban infill and transit-oriented projects. Recent efforts have focused on directing the planning entitlement process for several significant redevelopment and public-private-partnership projects that involve multiple

transportation agencies and significant transit access components. The firm also assists municipal governments in developing land and development regulations, project management, and preparing specific and master plans. Notable projects include: Trukee Railyard Reuse Master Plan and EIR; Georgia-Pacific Fort Bragg Mill Site Reuse Specific Plan; MacArthur BART Transit Village project planning and EIR; Oakland Uptown Mixed-Use Development Plan EIR; environmental review of Pixar Master Plan; and environmental review of the Chevron Richmond Refinery Revised Renewal Project. Read more at: [www.up-partners.com](http://www.up-partners.com).

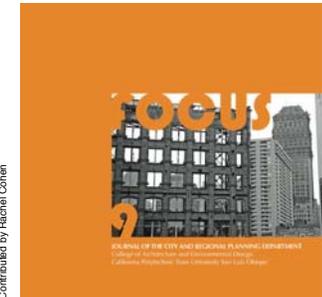


### Staying Current!

The CRP Department is offering two new "enrichment" courses. This winter Chris Steins, founder and CEO of L.A.-based Urban Insight and co-founder/ editor of Planitizens, offers a social media workshop introducing the 10 most important web technologies needed by planners to communicate planning concepts and engage citizens in the planning process. This spring 2013, Ken Hampian, former longtime city manager of San Luis Obispo, will offer Leadership Skills for Organizational Management, which explores the secrets of effective leadership and helps students develop these skills.



**CRP at 2012 California APA Conference**  
Held in Rancho Mirage, the conference brought together California planners to discuss and share the highlights, struggles and strategies of planning in California. The conference started with a day for students. Student posters, panels and an awards luncheon featured planning students' accomplishments and their post-graduation career plans. Sessions covered three days and included topics such as legislative updates, revitalization without redevelopment funding, and graphics for planners. CRP faculty's session on science and technology in sustainable design and planning attracted an appreciative audience.



**Focus 2012 is here!**  
CRP is very pleased to announce that the 2012 issue of our annual journal FOCUS 9 is now available. Professor Vincente del Rio's efforts as senior editor of this publication make FOCUS a "must see" for everyone interested in learning about the intellectual engagement and successes in CRP during this last academic year. The journal includes essays, articles and projects and highlights the work of CRP faculty, students and alumni. FOCUS 9 Journal of the City and Regional Planning Department, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, can be viewed at [Cal Poly's Digital Commons: digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/focus/](http://CalPoly's Digital Commons: digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/focus/). It is also available at Amazon: [www.amazon.com/Focus-9-2012-Regional-Planning-Department/dp/1480052175](http://www.amazon.com/Focus-9-2012-Regional-Planning-Department/dp/1480052175).