



Cambria Pines: Winning entry, Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low Income Housing Challenge, 2013.

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# City & Regional Planning Newsletter Fall 2013

**CAL POLY**  
SAN LUIS OBISPO

## Bank of America / Merrill Lynch Affordable Housing Challenge



Cambria Pines, Cambria 2013 winner



Alere, Inglewood 2012 winner



Entrada, San Luis Obispo 2011 winner

## Cal Poly team wins third time in a row

Cal Poly and CRP have a long history of competing in the Bank of America / Merrill Lynch Low Income Housing Challenge, and 2013 is the third consecutive year that a team from Cal Poly has taken first place against other highly ranked colleges in California. The Low Income Housing Challenge is an annual interdisciplinary competition open to both undergraduate and graduate students that provides a unique opportunity for collaboration between different majors to design financially feasible and sustainable affordable housing in California.

In 2013 the challenge was won by the Terra Housing team (composed of five students

from CRP, one from architecture and one from business administration) with a project in Cambria, a small coastal town north of San Luis Obispo where high housing prices force workers to commute long distances or to crowd multiple families in single-family homes. The team's developer partner was People's Self-Help Housing. Their proposal, Cambria Pines, is an affordable 40-unit apartment complex. The project is financially realistic and sustainable, uses "green" building techniques and environmentally friendly urban design, and provides various social resources, such as a community center with day care, educational programs, counseling, and basic health services.



From left to right: Cameron Anvari (Buss. Adm.), Brian Harrington (MCRP), Smita Naik (MARCH), Nuri Cho (BSCR), Andrew Levin (BSCR), Emily Gerger (BSCR) and Tim McGarvey (BSCR).



## A note from the Department Head

Very warm holiday greetings to the CRP family from the City and Regional Planning Department! Another year has gone by with many successes and celebrations. CRP organized a very successful California Climate Action Planning Conference (CCAPC 2013), the first of it's kind in the state. A Cal Poly team once again won the Bank of America Affordable Housing Challenge. In July CRP with other U.S. planning academics joined European counterparts in a joint Association of the Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)/Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) congress in Dublin, Ireland, around the theme of Planning for Resilient Cities and Regions. Important connections were forged. CRP faculty have been engaged globally and locally, in academic and professional endeavors in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Japan. Our studio projects continue to contribute to planning in communities throughout the state.

The 2013 issue of FOCUS is hot off the press. This 10th volume is a milestone celebrating a decade of annual examination of the CRP family's civic and intellectual engagement with communities and places in California and around the world. Few planning departments in the U.S. have a journal quite like it - one exclusively dedicated to the concerns and questions of the planning profession.

We have been entrepreneurial in seeking out alternative sources of support and resources to keep the intellectual life at CRP robust. This past year our alumni and friends have provided student internships, served as mentors, offered projects for our studios, organized alumni reunions, and endowed scholarships for students. We thank them deeply. This holiday season we ask that you continue your support for CRP financially and with your good will.

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

## 2013 California Climate Action Planning Conference

Cal Poly's CAED, in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, hosted the California Climate Action Planning Conference on Jan. 31 and Feb 1. It was the first conference to focus solely on the practice of local and regional climate action planning in California, and was attended by over 200 professionals from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors from around the state. The conference was kicked off by introductory remarks from Cal Poly President Jeffrey Armstrong, who talked about actions taken by Cal Poly to reduce the campus carbon footprint. The presentations are available at <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/ccapc/2013/>.



Cal Poly President Jeffrey Armstrong at the CCAPC.



## CRP Student wins National Award

Jenny Cadigan, (MCRP 2012), received the National Marsha Ritzdorf Award for the Best Student Work on Diversity, Social Justice and the Role of Women in Planning from the American Collegiate Schools of Planning. Her award-winning paper, "Paradox of Plenty: A Community Roadmap for Overcoming Hunger," was based on her master's project, "Hungry No More," a plan she completed for the San Luis Obispo County Food Bank. While the Central Coast of California is often seen as an affluent place, approximately 40,000 residents of San Luis Obispo County either go hungry on a regular basis or are unsure about their next meal.

## Sustainable Planning for Vietnam

In the spring quarter 2013, an elective studio engaged graduate and undergraduate students in an international visioning project sponsored by Eric Lloyd Wright & Associates. The 2013 Organic Design Challenge looked for plans for the sustainable development of Gheng Rang, a district and village of Quy Nhon city, on the coast of Vietnam. The student teams came up with three alternative visions that integrated the client's key development anchors (university campus, hospital, medical tourism, and high-tech zone) to the local context and its culture, agricultural and fishing practices, small-scale artisanal industries, and tourism potential.



## Parents Weekend

With a turnout of some 30 parents and supporters of the CRP Department, Parents Weekend was a success. Members of the Associated Student Inc. Planners Club provided an opportunity for parents and supporters to come and experience what their student will be doing for the next four years. Student volunteers conducted tours of the CRP Building, presented perks of the major, and shared their personal experiences from their years at Cal Poly.

Last but not least Professors Umut Tokar and Chris Clark gave presentations on department activities and classes. It was a very successful event, made possible by numerous volunteers and amazing staff. make it possible.



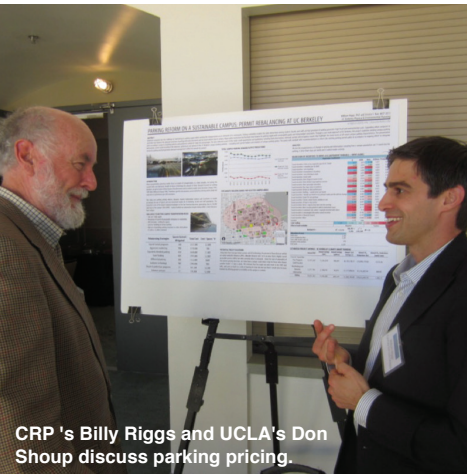
Vicente del Rio's Sabbatical in Lisbon

Professor Vicente del Rio spent a sabbatical leave last spring at the Universidade Lusofona's Urbanism Department in Lisbon, Portugal, where CRP has an exchange agreement. He has been teaching short courses and contributing to that department annually since 2005. During his stay, del Rio taught Methods for Urban Design, a class in the graduate program supervised by students. He also started a study on the quality of Lisbon's public spaces. He exercised his observational and drawing skills by sketching urban places in different cities in Portugal, Paris and Oxford, England.



Transportation Research

Professors Cornelius Nuworsoo, William (Billy) Riggs, Anurag Pande, students Wes Catanzaro (MCRP) and John Swartz (civil engineering) presented at the University of California Transportation Center (UCTC) conference in July. The center is designed to facilitate exchange on recent transportation research in California. Attendees included subject-area experts Marty Wachs, Don Shoup, Robert Cervero and Jonathan Levine. Nuworsoo and Catanzaro presented their research on bus stop spacing and Riggs on his research on parking pricing and behavior.



Busy Summer

Launching a new book and teaching a planning workshop in Brazil were part of Professor Vicente del Rio's busy summer schedule. "Desenho Urbano Contemporâneo no Brasil" is the Brazilian revised and updated version of "Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil: Beyond Brasilia," edited by del Rio and Professor William Siembieda and published in the U.S. in 2010. Book signing events in the Brazilian Institute of Architects in Rio de Janeiro and in São Paulo included round-tables with some of the contributing authors.

Professor del Rio was also a consultant to the Institute for Transportation and Development Policies (ITDP) to organize a planning charrette on transit oriented development for public officials in Rio de Janeiro. Over



three full days 18 participants worked on a vision and implementation proposals for the development of an area around a future bus rapid transit station on one of Rio's most important highways leading to the downtown. The charrete was based on implementing ITDP's eight principles for a sustainable development: walk, cycle, connect, transit, mix, densify, compact and shift. He presented the results during a one-day seminar on TOD in Rio promoted by the ITDP, the British Council, and several local agencies.

del Rio returned to Brazil in November as the keynote speaker at the national conference of the Brazilian Federation of Architects in Goiania, where he talked about the social role of the architect-urbanist and also participated in a book-signing session.



Resilient and Sustainable Cities in Chile

Professor William Siembieda was a keynote speaker at the seminar "Local Strategies for Planning Resilient and Sustainable Cities" in Santiago, Chile on October 9-10, 2013. The other keynote speakers were Ralph Becker, mayor of Salt Lake City, and Jeff Soule, APA's director for international cooperation. Professor Siembieda also conducted a one-day seminar for mayors and local officials. The event was promoted by the Catholic University and Chile's Ministry for Housing and Planning.



Women's Housing Collective in Bolivia

In August, Hemalata Dandekar travelled to Bolivia to serve on an APA team that provided technical assistance to a self-sufficient, women-focused collective-property community, Habitat para la Mujer Comunidad Maria Auxiliadore (CMA) in Cochabamba, Bolivia. CMA strengthens the family unit by providing access to homeownership for more than 400 women, men and their families. The APA team assisted CMA in its interface with city officials to promote infrastructural commitments. Dr. Dandekar presented her research in Mexico to show avenues for cooperation between informal communities and the city. The initiative was part of APA's Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas Urban Planning Initiative.



Mitigating Natural Hazards

For the third time, CRP faculty and graduate students are playing a key role in helping the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to update California's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP). Revised every three years, the plan is the state's primary hazard mitigation guidance document. It provides a comprehensive description of historical and current hazards and defines a long-term mitigation strategy through more resilient communities. California's SHMP is identified in several studies as one of the best examples in the country of a state-level hazard mitigation plan. Cal Poly's SHMP support team includes Professors David Conn (director), Kenneth Topping, William Siembieda, and Michael Boswell.



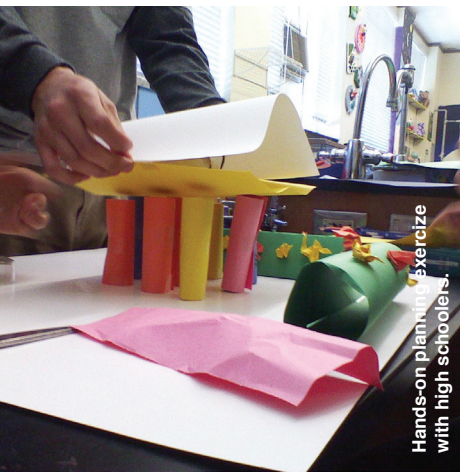
CRP Interns at the EPA

During the summer, third-year CRP student Alice Zannmiller interned at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 in Chicago, Ill. She researched existing green infrastructure and low-impact development in the Great Lake states for the Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch. Her efforts included extensive web research and phone, email, and in-person interviews with knowledgeable employees from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, FEMA, local governments throughout Region 5, and more. This internship was part of a larger fellowship granted to Zannmiller in fall 2012 by EPA's Greater Research Opportunities for Undergraduate (GRO-U) fellowship.



CRP goes to High Schools and Junior Colleges

Minority MCRP students visited high schools and junior colleges in their hometowns to make presentations about planning as a career option and encourage students to work in communities of need. In 2003, three of our graduate students gave a presentation to students in Fillmore High School's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) class, which prepares them to apply for college and informs them of possible majors. The high school students participated in a hands-on planning exercise tailored to the city of Fillmore. CRP was invited to return in 2014 to present to all Fillmore High School's AVID classes. CRP intends to expand these presentations to AVID programs in other Cal Poly partner schools.



Kelly Main gets promoted to Associate Professor

In June 2013, Kelly Main received tenure and was promoted to associate professor. Main holds a Ph.D. in urban planning from UCLA. Prior to completing her doctorate, she was a public planner in Southern California for more than fifteen years. Main's research interests and teaching focus include planning with culturally diverse communities, community outreach methods, and building healthy communities. She has conducted research in California and Mexico. In 2009, Main's studio in Delano, Calif., received the APA's National Small Town and Rural Planning Award.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

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 one of our student funds.

To make a gift, please make checks out to City and Regional Planning indicating the fund you support. Mail to: City and Regional Planning, College of Architecture & Environmental Design, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0283.

To contribute online visit: [www.giving.calpoly.edu.n](http://www.giving.calpoly.edu.n)

Focus 2013 is here!

CRP's award-winning journal is celebrating its 10th anniversary with its largest issue so far: almost 150 pages in full color that demonstrate the department's breadth and its commitment to community outreach and to discussing fundamental issues in planning and urban design. Focus 10 contents are exciting: guest lectures by Lewis Knight (director of planning and urban design, Gensler) and Claudia Issac (professor, University of New Mexico); essays from the U.S., Argentina, Brazil, India, and Mexico; student essays; studio and award-winning projects; and more! Focus is available through CRP or directly from Amazon. Past issues are available for download from Kennedy Library at <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/focus/>.

