Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) accredited both the BSCRP and MCRP programs through the end of 2019, pending satisfactory performance and reports. This positive outcome affirms the continued quality and excellence of the CRP Department and its programs.

In May, a Cal Poly team captured another win at the Bank of America Low Income Housing Challenge, utilizing an entry from UC Berkeley. This marks the second consecutive year that Cal Poly has earned top honors in this competition.

The winning entry came from Poly Led Affordable Neighborhoods (PLAN), one of two teams from Cal Poly. Working with Los Angeles-based nonprofit developer PATH Ventures, PLAN proposed Project Alere, to provide 32 units of affordable rental housing targeting low-income, single-parent headed households in the City of Inglewood. The team designed a residential community that would provide an affordable, supportive, and convenient environment for this demographic. Alere features a daycare facility for young children.

The competition judges were impressed by the thoughtfulness of Alere's design, its replicability, the soundness of its proforma, and the project's potential to make a major impact in a community of modest means.

Cal Poly also fielded a strong entry from Equitable Concepts in Housing Opportunity (ECHO). Partnering with ROEM Corporation, ECHO proposed Sakura Village, a rental development located in the City of San Jose's Japantown. Utilizing modular construction methods and incorporating many sustainability measures, Sakura Village was a study in innovative design in a physically challenging site. This was a first for Cal Poly to submit multiple team entries. Teams included students from City and Regional Planning, Architecture, Business, Construction Management, and Landscape Architecture.

The full project proposals can be viewed at http://sites.google.com/site/planalere and http://sites.google.com/site/planclaireres.

On May 22, 2012, an interdisciplinary team of nine Cal Poly students won the annual Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low Income Housing Challenge, utilizing an entry from UC Berkeley. This marks the second consecutive year that Cal Poly has earned top honors in this competition.

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MCRP Forms New Student Association

MCRP students organized the Graduate Planning Students Association (GPSA) this year to address graduate-specific issues and support academic understanding of, and professional development in, planning. GPSA is the CRP Department’s first graduate student organization and is recognized by the American Planning Association as an APA Planning Student Organization. GPSA members provide a unified voice for the student body and work to ensure that future planning students are better informed about on-campus events and resources.

CRP Faculty Members Release Books

Michael Boswell, Adrienne Greve

Local Climate Action Planning is a collaboration between Professors Michael Boswell and Adrienne Greve, with Tammy Seale, Managing Director of Sustainability and Climate Change Services at PMC. The authors sought to create a resource that would be accessible to planners, public officials, citizens, students, and others interested in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) through community-based Climate Action Plans (CAPs). CAPs are essentially a community’s visions for reducing GHG and preparing for the impacts of climate change. With 180 cities and counties having already completed a CAP, and more than 1,000 having made a commitment to do so, this book makes a timely contribution. Local Climate Action Planning is published by Island Press.

Umut Toker

Professor Umut Toker says work for his book Making Community Design Work first began when he was a doctoral student working under North Carolina State University Professor Henry Sanoff, an expert on community design. Drawing from Sanoff’s work, Toker shows how planners can guide the community planning process toward effective decision making and good community design. This book presents a good participation in design from project level to regional scale. The book illustrates ways successful planning projects can address both the physical space and users needs. Making Community Design Work is published by APA Planners Press.

CRP Attends National APA Conference

CRP students, faculty, and alumni converged April 14-17th at the 2012 National Planning Conference in Los Angeles. First time generous support from the Cal Poly’s Instruction Related Activities Fund (IRA) allowed many students to participate in the nation’s largest planning event. MCRP student and first-time planning conference attendee Steven Rogers was excited about the “large number of discussions breaching topics of interest, such as climate action planning, and disaster recovery, resiliency, and mitigation.”

The conference was an opportunity for students to network and learn how to market themselves to prospective employers. MCRP student David Eng took advantage of one-on-one sessions with planning leaders at the Job Connection booth. On the experience, Eng “found it highly informative to learn about the state of private sector planning in San Diego,” an area he hopes to work in.

Faculty members were active at the conference and shared their knowledge. Professor Adrienne Greve outlined community responses to climate change. Professor Umut Toker demonstrated community participation techniques at various scales. An alumni mixer was an opportunity to reconnect alumni, faculty, and current students.

CRP Planning Studios 2011-2012

Local Climate Action Planning

Michael Multari

The Guide to Local Government Finance in California distills the complexities of this topic in a comprehensive and accessible manner. This book will be useful for local officials, business leaders, planners, and others. Multari and coauthors Michael Coleman, Bill Statler, and frequent CRP guest lecturer and former San Luis Obispo City Manager Kenneth Hamman saw a need for a guide that would complement William Fulton’s authoritative text Guide to California Planning. The book covers essential concepts such as budgeting, accounting, and investing, that have a significant impact on the ability of cities, counties, and special districts to deliver essential services. Guide to Local Government Finance in California is published by Solano Press.

Professor Toker Earns Teaching Award

The Cal Poly Academic Senate presented CRP Associate Professor Umut Toker with the Distinguished Teaching Award at this spring’s commencement ceremony. He is one of only three Cal Poly faculty members to win the award this year.

Toker was honored for the quality of his course material, enthusiasm, professional development, and concern for student success. “I’m very happy that Professor Toker was recognized for his contributions as a teacher and mentor. His dedication to students’ learning really exceeds our expectations,” said MCRP student Jean Long.

Current students and alumni nominated Toker and other faculty members for the Distinguished Teaching Award. Former award-winners visited and evaluated the nominated teachers in spring.

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