

## City & Regional Planning Summer 2012



Urban Design Proposal for Buellton, CA, CRP 203

## PAB Reaccredits BSCR and MCRP Programs

Affirming the continued quality and excellence of its faculty, staff, curriculum, and resources, the CRP Department's BSCR and MCRP programs have been reaccredited through 2019, given needed performance reports.

Accreditation is a system for recognizing educational institutions and professional programs for performance, integrity, and quality. The accreditation was conducted by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB).

With this successful outcome the CRP Department looks forward to implementing a strategic plan to consolidate and improve its uniquely practice-based curriculum. It plans to enhance the student experience through expanding and improving facilities and technological infrastructure. It hopes to diversify the student and faculty composition and embrace the opportunity to engage in planning work nationally and internationally. The CRP Department is actively seeking funding to achieve these goals.

The accreditation process was a lengthy and involved about 18 months of preparation by department staff, faculty, and students. Even during the lull of the summer quarter, staff was busy with an extensive self study that culminated in a five-volume report. The PAB conducted a site visit last fall that included interviews of faculty and students.

## Brown Bag Series Learning "Planning as Play"



CRP students practice using toys and everyday items as participatory planning and visioning tools from planner and community engagement expert James Rojas. The CRP Department and Central Coast APA invited Rojas to Cal Poly in April to share his knowledge of planning in diverse communities. This is part of the department's commitment to instilling the importance of inclusiveness in planning practice.



### A note from the Department Head

Hello to CRP family and friends from faculty, students, and staff. It is hard to believe another academic year has closed. It has truly been an exciting and busy time for us all.

We are delighted to announce that the Planning Accreditation Board accredited both the BSCR 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. It was gratifying to observe the confidence and professional competency our students bring to such competitive engagements.

In April, CRP had a strong showing at the National APA Conference in Los Angeles. Several faculty members presented their research and autographed recently published books (see Page 2) for a national audience. These three books cover local government finance, climate action planning, and community participation. In the spirit of the University's philosophy of learn-by-doing, these books are sure to influence planning practice for years to come.

The success and strength of CRP would not be possible without our dedicated faculty and staff, passionately engaged students, and support of our CRP family. We ask you to please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the City and Regional Planning Department. Your gift will help us to continue training excellent planners who make a difference.

*-Hemalata Dandekar, Dept. Head*

## Cal Poly Team Wins Low Income Housing Challenge for Second Consecutive Year



PLAN team members and their faculty advisors (left to right) Shanna Hurley, David Eng, Lisa Elgin, Kyle Mendizabal, Allie Freund, Jacob Hummel, Emily Pool, Carlos Krinsky, advisor Dr. Hemalata Dandekar, Brenton Gibbons, and advisor Dr. Louisa Brown strike a confident pose after an almost an hour long question session by a five member panel of housing experts at Bank of America's San Francisco offices.

On May 22, 2012, an interdisciplinary team of nine Cal Poly students won the annual Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low Income Housing Challenge, tying with 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 [www.calpolyecho.com](http://www.calpolyecho.com)



Left: PLAN's winning proposal for Alere in Inglewood targets single-parents and their children.

Top: ECHO's proposal for Sakura Village in San Jose includes an innovative "green wall."

## 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.

MCRP students formed GPSA to provide a unified voice for communicating their needs as graduate students. Due to planning's interdisciplinary nature, many MCRP students want better access to courses in allied fields such as public policy and natural resources. They also desire a stronger graduate student culture in Cal Poly, where graduate students are only five percent of the student population. Attention and resources are needed to promote a culture where research and professional leadership is enabled.

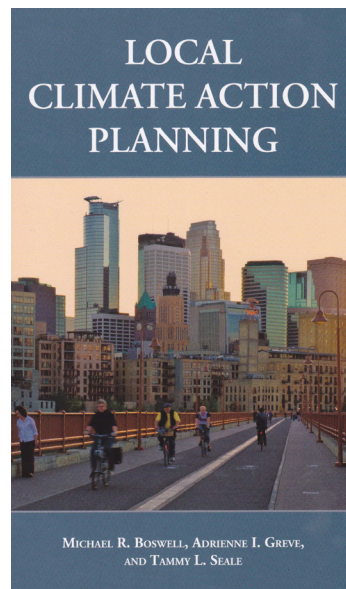
GPSA has established relationships with University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong, Provost Kathleen Enz Finken, and ASI student leadership to discuss needs. It has inspired the administration to encourage greater solidarity among the University's graduate students with activities and potential study and social spaces in the future.

## Learn by Doing



MCRP students Daniel Findley and Juliet Oh help run a community meeting in Newark, CA

## 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 (GHGs) through community based Climate Action Plans (CAPs). CAPs are essentially a community's visions for reducing GHGs and preparing for the impacts of climate change. With 160 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 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.

## MAKING COMMUNITY DESIGN WORK

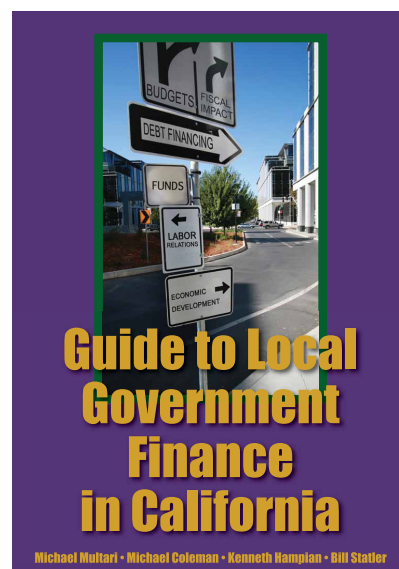
A GUIDE FOR PLANNERS

Umut Toker



### 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 Hampian 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.



## 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 Steve Rogers was excited about the "large number of discussions breaching topics of



Alumni from near and far gather at a CRP mixer.

interest, such as climate action planning, and disaster recovery, resiliency, and mitigation.

The conference was also 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.

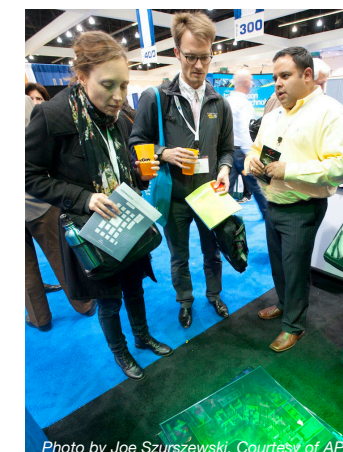


Photo by Joe Szurszewski, Courtesy of APA  
MCRP students Trina Blanchett and Keith Williams watch a 3D visualization demonstration at the APA conference.

## 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.



Photo by Joe Szurszewski, Courtesy of APA

Toker joined the CRP faculty in 2005 and teaches courses in participatory planning, visual communications, and urban design studios. He just released his first book, "Making Community Design Work: A Guide for Planners."

Reflecting the excellence of CRP faculty, Professor Professor Vicente del Rio also won the award in 2001.

## Help Support our Future Planners

Make a tax-deductable donation to the City and Regional Planning Department. Visit [planning.calpoly.edu](http://planning.calpoly.edu)



David and Cher Dubbink (left) are pleased to support MCRP students Elizabeth Brighton and Dana Hoffman, recipients of the Dubbink Family Scholarship.

## Making our Mark Across the State

### CRP PLANNING STUDIOS 2011-2012

