



CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO

City & Regional Planning
Department

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

City & Regional Planning Fall 2014

THIS IS THE Season OF Giving

The perfect holiday gift ...



A beautifully engraved flashdrive featuring the complete first decade of our journal Focus.

That's 10 issues filled with first-rate articles and projects for only \$7 (includes shipping and handling). Call us at 805-756-1315 or email us at crp@calpoly.edu while supplies last!

This is the Season of 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 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. 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 participation in conferences, competitions, studio field trips and international study.

Serving Communities Fund: Supports undergraduate and graduate planning studios 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 bi-annual newsletter and helps fund guest lectures and student/faculty research.

To make a gift to CRP, please make checks out to Cal Poly Foundation, indicating the fund you support. Mail to: City & 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.



A note from the Interim Department Head

All of us at City & Regional Planning hope you are doing well and making a meaningful contribution to your community. We still try and run the department under the student mantra "get an education, get a job, and then make a difference."

This year is one of transitions for CRP. There are faculty retirements, new awards for great studio projects and student work, more international involvement, and overall, a broadening of the ways we engage in planning practice. Our students are smarter and better prepared than ever before and want involvement in meaningful work and practice. This is a positive sign for the future.

We are quite grateful to the continuing support from alumni and other donors. Your kindness and faith in us creates more scholarships for needy students and funds state-of-the-art equipment for instruction. We thank you for your support and telling your friends about City & Regional Planning. We do need to expand our base of external support. This year we made a special effort to reach out to community colleges to share with them what we do and how planners make "place, out of space." We see the community colleges as an important partner in attracting more of California's best transfer students to CRP. If you have ideas to improve recruitment, please share them with us.

Yes, Zeljka Howard and David Conn have retired. Zeljka will continue to teach a few courses, and David is engaged in several research projects being administered by the College's Resilient Communities Research Institute. Paul Wack is still with CRP, but for fewer courses each year. He is now adventuring all over the U.S. Linda Dalton has returned to Cal Poly as an interim planning officer to help President Armstrong with the new campus master plan. Hemalata Dandekar was on sabbatical during fall quarter and will be back winter quarter. We are also moving toward establishing a CRP Advisory Council. If you are interested in serving, or know someone who is, please contact us.

In closing, remember that this newsletter is a means for us to keep in touch with alumni and all of our community supporters. Share it with others. Please continue to send us emails, photos and updates on your personal and professional lives.

Warm regards,

Bill Siembieda, Ph.D.
Interim Department Head
City & Regional Planning

Surfing for Better Communities

MCRP (2014) students Matthew Orbach and Thomas Park took a trip to Nicaragua to work with nonprofit Surf for Life, which is made up of surfing enthusiasts who want to give back to developing coastal countries. Thanks to donations from CRP faculty and recent graduates, they completed the construction of an elementary school at Mazano Uno, a small agricultural and fishing village. This project sets a model for other countries, showing that economic growth and improving the quality of life for local communities can go hand-in-hand.



Summer in India

MCRP students Richard Williams and Kelsey Steffen spent the summer of 2014 in Chennai, India, working on a community planning project that addressed public health issues at targeted school sites. Working full time, they engaged with community members in onsite meetings to explore interventions, such as ways to improve hygiene, increase use of sleeping nets and encourage water purification strategies. Prior to implementing such activities and programs at targeted school sites, they contacted Indian community development and public health professionals to learn the processes required to achieve successful implementation. Cal Poly Professor William Riggs and UC Berkeley Professor David Levine, directed the student work. In addition, Ricky and Kelsey explored some of India's fabled architectural sites and monuments and got a taste of cultural tourism first-hand. It's hard work, but someone has to make sacrifices for the profession!



Zeljka Howard Retires

We wish to celebrate the enormous contribution made by Zeljka Pavlovich Howard to the quality and success of the City & Regional Planning Program. After 28 years of service, she retired in June 2014 but will be teaching urban design history and global cities courses part-time in 2015.

Zeljka was initially trained as an architect in Serbia and then as a city planner at Florida State University. She practiced in Florida for a time. In between her education in Eastern Europe and the U.S., Zeljka spent some years in Brazil. This international experience allowed her to give students a sense of the importance that urban design and planning practice have domestically and abroad.

Zeljka was a master at teaching the community studio courses. It is this work that helped the City & Regional Planning bachelor's program gain national recognition. In 2000, her Atascadero Colony for the 21st Century studio received the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) national award for best applying the planning process. Many other of her studios received state of California American Planning Association (APA) awards for their excellence in plan making content. This helped put the department on the map as a program of professional excellence in California. Students in her classes also benefited from her commitment to their learning and her insistence on being professional in every way. Two of her students, Allison Pernell and Mike Marcus, won national APA awards as top student planners. This is powerful evidence of her influence and support for student success.

Zeljka perfected many techniques to help students learn the science and art of plan making. This experience was the means by which the undergraduates integrated all they learned into a single document. They also learned to make professional presentations before city councils and planning commissioners, to write well, and to be part of a team. California cities from Ventura to Milpitas and Half-Moon Bay benefited from the quality work that students produced in her courses.

Over the years she became a rolemodel for alumnae. Considered a stylish fashionista, she was always elegant and professionally turned. Zeljka kept in touch with many students over the decades and was interested in their lives over time. Surely her impact on them will be felt for decades to come. She still lives in San Luis Obispo, has two married children, a few grandchildren, and is married to Bill Howard, her husband of 15 years.



Zeljka Howard is the second from the right in the group photo.

Sabbatical in Japan

Assistant professor Adrienne Greve returned from her year-long sabbatical at Kyoto University in Japan. She visited and studied the areas and communities recovering from the 2011 triple disaster (earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown) that impacted the Tohoku region. She joined faculty, students, local officials, community members, and staff from nongovernmental organizations to better understand ways in which local policy can bolster long-term community recovery, with a focus on grassroots efforts.

As a part of a local cooperative, solar panels were installed over agricultural fields contaminated by the nuclear disaster in Minamisoma, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.



Professor Greve is the second from the right in the group photo.

Vicente's Busy Summer

During his summer vacations, Professor Vicente del Rio was a guest speaker at two important events in his native Brazil. At the opening of a week-long event on architectural education at the University of Londrina, Parana, he spoke on the pedagogical and social importance of community outreach projects, citing several of CRP's projects as examples. He was also a speaker in a series promoted by CAU-MG (the State of Minas Gerais section of Brazil's professional body for architects and urbanists) during a national construction event in Belo Horizonte. This presentation included principles of good urban design and some of his professional projects. At both events Vicente held book-signing sessions for "Desenho Urbano Contemporaneo no Brasil," his new book in Portuguese.



Zeljka Howard is the second from the right in the group photo.

Place Making Christchurch, New Zealand

CRP interim department head Bill Siembieda is deeply involved in land use planning as a tool for hazard mitigation and disaster recovery. In March 2014 he was part of a Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) team to Christchurch, New Zealand. GEER coordinates efforts sponsored by the National Science Foundation sponsored efforts. Following the 2010/2011 earthquakes, flooding occurred in many neighborhoods, and the GEER team was sent to assess the linkages between those events. Professor Siembieda was in charge of preparing chapter 9 of the field reconnaissance report, which can be found at <http://goo.gl/bZ3NnT>.

While in Christchurch, Bill Siembieda had a chance to visit a unique memorial across the street from where a large office building collapsed in 2011, killing 129 people. This simple but powerful memorial houses the same number of chairs as people killed. The chairs vary by design, reflecting the diversity of the building's occupants, and they are painted white, representing equality in death.



Saving the Environment Through Oil Recycling

California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is seeking ways to increase the curbside collection of used oil and oil filters as a means to conserve natural resources and reduce environmental damage due to improper disposal. Professor David Conn completed a comprehensive assessment of the state's Used Oil Program, and he has been asked to study obstacles to the implementation of successful and sustainable curbside collection programs and opportunities to do better. The information will be shared throughout California, with the hope of fostering new programs and increasing participation in those that already exist. Currently a faculty member in City & Regional Planning, David is assisted by Research Analyst Meg Henry, with additional help from CRP professors Michael Boswell and Adrienne Greve.

For more information about the study for CalRecycle, contact David Conn at dconn@calpoly.edu or 805-756-5474.

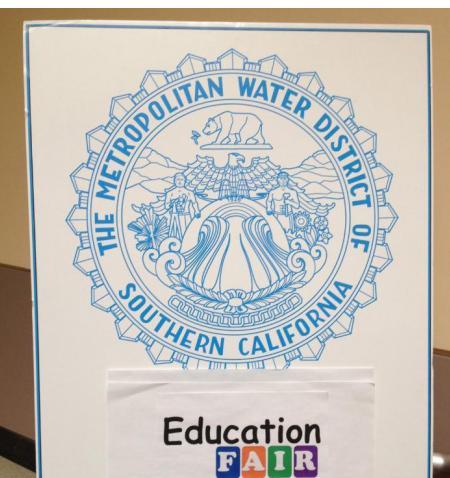
2014 American Planning Award of Merit for Academic Award

In the fall quarter of 2013, professors Vicente del Rio and Hemalata Dandekar, who teach CRP 341 Urban Design Studio III, were challenged by the City of Milpitas Planning and Neighborhood Services Department. They were asked to have the class develop land use and urban design studies, pre-planning insights, visions, and urban design concepts for two catalyst areas in Milpitas: California Circle, which had the potential to become a "billboard" development on highway 880; and an area around Main Street and Serra Way with the potential to become a gateway to the historic downtown area and the newer civic center plaza.

The broad-ranging visioning exercise turned the energy of 29 third-year CRP students to imagining creative and dynamic futures that would have a transformative effect on what Milpitas aspired to become in the 21st Century. The students developed recommendations and visual imagery to inspire new identities for both sites, creating activity nodes that could contribute to the city's economy. The class's final report was honored with the 2014 Academic Award of Merit from the California Chapter of the APA, and Awards of Excellence from its Northern and the Central Coast divisions.



2014 Central Coast APACA Awards at UCSB.



Educating Water Leaders

CRP Lecturer Chris Clark coordinated a graduate program in water leadership and management for the Metropolitan Water District, which supplies water to Southern California's 19 million customers. The program offered emerging managers an opportunity to learn leadership skills and interdisciplinary strategies designed to help them more quickly take on management possibilities.

The need is becoming critical since more than 30 percent of the Metropolitan Water District's personnel are eligible for retirement within 10 years, and not enough graduates are being produced in California to meet workforce needs in the year 2020.

To help address this need, an interdisciplinary team of Cal Poly professors from the CAED, College of Liberal Arts, and the Orfalea College of Business teamed up with faculty from Cal State LA to teach the skills and knowledge necessary to become top managers and successful leaders.

"The industry needs professionals working together who understand what the other is doing," stressed Clark.

Classes included Water Development and Delivery, Water Resource Law and Policy, Economics of Water and Power, Infrastructure Finance, and Global Futures. The courses were taught at the Metropolitan Water District's Union Station offices on alternating Fridays over seven weeks.

Planning for a CRP Study Trip to Europe in 2015

In early summer, Department Head and Professor Hemalata Dandekar and Professor Vicente del Rio presented papers at the 2014 conference of the Association for International Studies of Urban Form at Oporto, Portugal. They took advantage of the trip to start planning for a CRP-led four-week study visit to London; Lisbon, Portugal; and Barcelona, Spain. They visited potential places to study and held meetings with planning faculty at the University College London, Oxford Brookes University, and the Universidade Lusofona, Lisbon. The study trip will offer a general education course on global cities and an urban design elective. It will take place from June 20 to July 19, 2015.



Focus 2015 is Available

CRP is pleased to announce that the latest issue of the annual journal, Focus 11, 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. The journal can be viewed at Cal Poly's Digital Commons: digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/focus/.