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Welcome Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of URP News, an alumni and student newsletter for the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida! This newsletter marks our new emphasis to rejuvenate our ties with alumni!

URP is on the move. We have many changes and new initiatives that will lead us to a more prominent future. First, I was delighted to come to Florida in fall 2007 from the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where I worked for 11 years as a tenured full professor and Director of the Center for Advanced Spatial Information Research.

Second, the Department welcomes Dr. Dawn Jourdan, from Texas A&M University. Dr. Jourdan is a planner and lawyer and will have a joint appointment in the Levin College of



Law, similar to that held by Dr. Jim Nicholas, who is now professor emeritus.

Third, we are in the process of revamping our website, re-viewing our core specializations, focused research areas, curriculum, graduate funding opportunities and doctoral program to strengthen our identity and gain

further recognition at the national and international level.

We also are scheduling an event for early spring, called *Planning Day*, tentatively scheduled for February 15, 2008, to bring alumni, our present students and faculty together. *Planning Day* will be an opportunity for you to meet our students, to catch up with each other, to meet with our new faculty, and to see our exciting new program initiatives and research and teaching projects that are underway. We'll provide further information about *Planning Day* in the near future.

We encourage your participation and involvement in any capacity as we attempt to integrate students, alumni, and faculty of the Urban and Regional Planning program into the Gator Planning Nation!

Zhong-Ren Peng, Chair and Professor

Ernest Bartley Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

By Allison Abbott

Dr. Bartley was honored for the Florida APA Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Florida APA Conference in September 2007. He was one of the principal authors of the landmark 1975 Florida Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act, which was the original enabling legislation for growth management in Florida. He served the department for over 30 years, and the university for almost 50 years counting his teaching in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Bartley was presented his Lifetime Achievement award at a special faculty and student retirement celebration at Lillian's Music Store held in Gainesville. Presently, URP students are raising money to dedicate his office within the department as the Ernest Bartley Urban Planning Office. His contributions to the department are countless and we wish him the best as he enjoys his second retirement!

Allison Abbott is a graduate student in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida.



URP student Lauren Simmons presents Dr. Bartley with the FAPA Award for Lifetime Achievement at Lillian's Music Store in Gainesville, FL.



URP Alumni Scott Lagueux, AICP presented a guest lecture on Nov. 28, to DCP students and faculty on "Realizing Icons: Planning and Design in the Middle East and Asia." Lagueux also spoke to the URP Colloquium Class.

He is a member of the Department's Advisory Committee and has extensive international experience in port and maritime facility planning and design. He is a senior associate at LandDesign, Inc., a 300-person urban design, engineering, landscape architecture and branding firm

URP Fundraising Opportunities

By Dr. Richard Schneider

URP is beginning a concerted fund-raising drive as part of an overall effort to more closely connect alumni, faculty and students, and to support new activities as well as on-going commitments to our students. The faculty has contributed their own funds to kick off the campaign and we are asking you to also invest in the future of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida. I know you probably have gotten a letter from the UF Foundation. But I want to emphasize the importance of your contribution to your department in support of the following activities.

- Periodic newsletters (such as this one) about student and faculty projects and including, among other things, information about fellow alums: where are they and what they are doing.
- Scholarships, fellowships and assistantships to deserving students (some of you were beneficiaries of these when you were here)
- Student book awards
- Endowed lectureships, courses, professorships and chairs
- Endowed student awards, presented annually
- Endowed and named classrooms, lecture halls, and faculty offices
- An opportunity to name the Department
- A "Distinguished Planner in Residence" program
- Traveling fellowships for students and faculty
- Sponsorship of "Planning Day" which will be an opportunity for alums, students, faculty and planning practitioners to meet and, as the case may be, to re-connect
- International planning initiative to engage planning in the context of globalization and internationalization.

We ask you to consider making a contribution to the UF Department of Urban and Regional Planning. There are many opportunities and levels to do this. You can send your gift (any bit helps) to the department or give on-line at <https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=000805>

Dr. Peng and other faculty will be contacting URP alumni with more information relative to these opportunities. We appreciate your support as we move forward with an exciting teaching, research and service agenda in 2008 and beyond.

Dr. Richard Schneider is a Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Center for Building Better Communities

By Lauren Simmons and Kaycee Mertz

Under the leadership of Gene Boles, the Center for Building Better Communities is under rapid growth and playing more important roles in Florida's community planning. The Center's mission is to provide comprehensive planning and services to small and local communities in an academic and research setting. Over the last couple of years, CBBC has worked with Florida Department of Community Affairs and a variety of local governments on diverse planning projects, specifically comprehensive planning, transportation planning and best practices development. Some of the CBBC's research projects over the past year include: the Transportation Element for the Comprehensive Plans for the Cities of High Springs and Zephyrhills, the Best Practices Guides for Small City Transportation Planning, the Small Cities Tool Kit for the Department of Community Affairs and the Land Development Regulations for the City of Archer.

CBBC not only provides planning assistance to Florida communities through Gene Boles and other faculty expertise, it also has become a center for our graduate students to obtain real world planning experience. Many master's and Ph.D. students have been working there throughout the year, providing services to our communities by utilizing their planning knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

Lauren Simmons & Kaycee Mertz are graduate URP students and assistants for the Center for Building Better Communities.

Student Internships: Modeling Downtown Asheville, NC

By Nathaniel Wingfield

Over the summer I interned in my hometown of Asheville, NC. After decades of stagnation, the city has entered its third golden era of economic growth. (For context, its second golden era coincided with the roaring twenties.) The creative destruction accompanying economic growth spared downtown Asheville through most of the 20th century, leaving many landmark historic buildings intact. Our downtown is architecturally rich, and residents rightfully want to keep it so. The latest wave of growth has locals on the defensive, as hotels and condominium developments spring up. Many are concerned that new development will dilute the historic architectural character of downtown, or that tall new buildings are simply out of place.

Needless to say, the city's planning staff is feeling the heat. To help in the design review process, they asked me to build a 3D model of all buildings in the central business district. To build an accurate model, I first had to gather lots of data. I traced building footprints using aerial photographs. Then I hit the street to measure each building's height with a range-finder, a handheld laser device that inspired endless curiosity in passersby. Finally, I photographed several hundred buildings in the most central parts of downtown. Using my measurements, I modeled the buildings in 3D using Google SketchUp. The photographs I used for texturing, to give each building a recognizable façade.

City staff will use the finished model for visualizing proposed buildings in the urban context where they might eventually be built. Used responsibly, the model will be a powerful tool for demonstrating to city council members and concerned residents the impact of a proposed building on Asheville's urban form and skyline.

Nathaniel Wingfield is a graduate student in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida

Student Practicum In Dunnellon, FL

By Marcus Oberlander

The premise behind taking the Practicum course is to gain knowledge of the planning process outside of what we learned in class through lectures and books. The knowledge obtained through the courses which established our planning foundation can now be applied to the issues and challenges in the real world. This semester's Practicum course was taught by Gail Easley, who has had 30 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. The focus of the course was on the comprehensive plan updates in the city of Dunnellon, which is located in southern Marion County, has a population of approximately 2,000 people, and is located near the Withlacoochee and Rainbow Rivers and has one of the largest natural springs in the state of Florida. Dunnellon has not updated its comprehensive plan since 1991, and there are many challenges that the residents of this City and surrounding areas now face involving growth and pollution. The conservation of environmental resources and the preservation of the community's character are the top two priorities that have been voiced by the residents and elected officials. Our charge was to update the comprehensive plan related to the recreation and open space element, the aquifer protection section, and wastewater treatment facilities section of the infrastructure element.

The residents were very enthusiastic to have our help and contributed to the success of this course. Assistance was provided to further our efforts and not to hinder our progress. The importance of our work was not just compiling data and analysis and creating goals, objectives, and policies, but to understand the community as a whole. What does the City of Dunnellon want to accomplish? What does the City of Dunnellon need to accomplish? How can the city manage growth as well as conserve the City's natural resources? These are issues that a planner deals with on a daily basis, and it especially becomes critical with smaller towns that have limited available resources related to planning and growth management.

The words "thank you" were so wonderful to hear from people that really appreciated our help. After all of the workshops have been held and all of the reports have been written, as a group we can smile knowing that what we have done has made a difference to a community both now and into the future.

Marcus Oberlander is a graduate student in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Florida.

JOIN THE URP ALUMNI NETWORK!

**Let us
know what
great
things you
are doing!**

As part of our campaign to keep in touch with alumni, we ask that you fill out the form below and return it to the department to become a part of our alumni network!

Once you are in the URP Alumni Network you will receive information on upcoming events, student, alumni and faculty accomplishments, and more!

If you prefer, in lieu of the form, feel free to email your information to Ella Littles at elittles@ufl.edu.

For more information, please visit our URP website at <http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/urp/>. We look forward to your participation in the URP Alumni Network!

Happy Holidays!

Tear-off Form Title



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<http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/urp/>

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail Address

Graduation Year

Current Position

Business Address

Business Phone

Interest in Involvement in the URP Alumni Network:
Student Mentor, Speaker, guest lecture, others (please circle one and specify others if you so choose.)



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Current Faculty Research

- **Dean Christopher Silver:** “*Planning the Megacity: Jakarta, Indonesia in the Twentieth Century*” by Routledge, 2007. In May, Silver chaired a session of the Consultation Forum on the Revitalization of Kota Tua, Jakarta, Indonesia, sponsored by the Pacific Rim Council on Urban Development and the Provincial Government of Jakarta.
- **Paul Zwick**, Professor of URP, and **Margaret Carr**, Professor of Landscape Architecture, published “Smart Land Use Analysis: The LUCIS Model” in March 2007 by ESRI Press. The pair were awarded the APA National Award for Best Use of Technology by a University.
- **Zhong-Ren Peng**, together with Dr. Yaoyu Li at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has won the prestigious Honda Initiation Grant award in 2007 for their research integrating the intelligent transportation systems with the plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to optimize power management, increase fuel efficiency and reduce emissions.
- **Richard H. Schneider** recently published the book *Crime Prevention and the Built Environment* (Routledge 2007) with co-author Ted Kitchen. He is also the author of a chapter for the United Nations-HABITAT’s Global Report on Human Settlements 2007 (Earthscan Publications Ltd.) on “Urban Crime and Violence Conditions and Trends,” contributing author of two other chapters on emerging policy and trends for crime prevention planning and editor of nine city case studies for the report.
- **Ruth Steiner**, Associate Professor, is a member of a team of researchers who brought the Center for Multimodal Solutions for Congestion Mitigation (CMS) – a new U.S. Department of Transportation Tier I university transportation research center – to UF. The center will examine congestion on both passenger and freight transportation systems and will develop solutions for enhanced multimodal connectivity and coordination, accessibility, system interoperability and transportation community outreach.
- Professor Emeritus Earl Starnes is completing a book with co-author, Richard Rubino (of Florida State University) on *History of Planning in Florida, Lessons Learned*. The book, which describes how planning and growth management have tried to contend with the combined forces of land exploitation and localism, will be published this fall by Century Press.
- Assistant Professor **Kristin Larsen**, Associate Professor **Ilir Bejleri** and **William O’Dell**, Associate Director of the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing in the Rinker School of Building Construction, received a \$500,000 grant from the Wachovia Foundation. Over the next three years, they will develop a model to identify and assess the suitability of sites for affordable housing development and preservation. The affordable housing suitability model has applications for state agencies, local governments, for-profits, lending institutions, community development corporations and other non-profits.
- **Joseli Macedo**, Assistant Professor, completed her fourth Summer Study Abroad program in Brazil. Students from across the U.S. spend six weeks in Brazil; they visit São Paulo, Maringá, and Curitiba, where they spend most of their time. They work with students at the Federal University of Paraná and also attend lectures in various planning agencies in the city.