Letter from the Chair

Although there are no major changes, all faculty members agree that this past academic year has been one of our busiest in recent times. Marketing the image of our Program has been a major concern. Although relying mainly on our website to attract prospective students, we hired a graphic designer to provide alternative poster designs so that students can see who we are. I am very grateful to Bonnie Johnson for coordinating these activities. In the future, we will have a major renovation to our website, and I hope to update you on this change next year.

Publications

As you remember, our faculty members continue to be interested in doing research. It’s more than earning promotion and tenure to us. We enjoy it! Our research involvement is a key to our keeping informed and remaining students ourselves.


Conference Presentations

For planning practitioners, the annual American Planning Association is the most important conference, but the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference is the gathering of the academic clan. We continue to be highly involved in ACSP, because we meet and discuss issues with the most knowledgeable planning people in the world. But we are more than attendants. We are actively involved.

During the 2007 ACSP conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Kirk McClure served as Co-Chair of the Housing and Community Development Track, and Stacey White chaired the Environmental Planning and Management Track. Bonnie Johnson was the moderator for the Public Participation in Environmental Planning session.

We also presented papers. Bonnie Johnson discussed “City Planners, Public Service Motivation, and the Public Interest.” Kirk McClure posed “What Will Planners Need to Do When a LIHTC Project Becomes of Age?” White speculated on “The Role of Higher Education in Addressing Climate Change.” Jim Mayo and Bonnie Johnson presented “Toward a Role Dynamics Theory of Planning.”

We also made presentations at other conferences. Kirk McClure read his paper, “Deconcentration of the Poor and Minorities through Housing Programs,” at the annual conference of the American Planning Association. This paper was invited and selected as part of a national competition, sponsored by JAPA, for best papers identifying the future of housing policy in America. Bonnie Johnson presented “Making the Most of Public Service Motivation” at the Midwest Political Science Association. She was also invited to present “Public Servants and Politics” at the annual meeting of the Kansas APA Chapter meeting. Jim Mayo gave a public lecture at the Nelson-Atkins Museum on “Temporary Landscapes.” He was also an invited speaker at the Kansas Association of Planning and Zoning Officials Conference where he presented “Signage.”
**Faculty Grants, Consulting, and Community Involvement**

Kirk McClure and Daniel Serda received a $100,000 grant in partnership with the Mid-America Regional Council and the Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. from the Northland Community Foundation of the Greater Kansas City Foundation. They will be conducting a housing affordability study for Northland, Kansas. Bonnie Johnson and Stacey White received a $52,000 grant from the KU Transportation Research Institute for the project, “Promoting Sustainability through Transportation Infrastructure: Is There a Disconnect between Policy and Design?”

The United States Attorney General’s Office hired Jim Mayo as an expert witness on war memorials in regards to a case that will be presented to the U.S. Supreme Court. Kirk McClure served as a member of the Public Incentives Review Committee for Lawrence, Kansas. Alan Black, Professor Emeritus, served as a judge in a student paper competition held by the Transportation Planning Division of the American Planning Association. Alan will present the awards at the APA national conference in Las Vegas late in April.

**Editorial Boards**

A good indicator of a planning program’s academic reputation is its faculty’s participation on editorial boards of professional journals. We continue to be well represented, and this year, we have new additions. Stacey White recently joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, and Kirk McClure became an editorial board member for *Housing Policy Debate*.


**Class Projects and Awards**

Stacey White’s environmental planning class received the Kansas APA Chapter’s New Horizon Award for its study, “Fort Scott Revitalization Report.” Bonnie Johnson’s site planning class provided guidance for the Overbrook, Kansas PRIDE Park Committee, which is developing the historic Hylton House Complex in their city park. Her land-use planning class and her site planning class have been working on land-use plans and site plans for the Camp Shalom not-for-profit corporation.

Kirk McClure’s course on local economic development planning completed a study of the retail market of Lawrence identifying the mismatch between the pace of growth in supply and the pace of growth in demand.

Daniel Serda’s class on neighborhood and community revitalization worked with a group of community stakeholders in Kansas City for the beautification of Benton Boulevard from 18th Street to Cleaver Boulevard.

**Faculty Awards and Recognition**

Chancellor Hemenway of the University of Kansas has recommended to the Kansas Board of Regents that Kirk McClure be promoted to full Professor. All of us are happy for Kirk reaching this ultimate academic goal.

In November, 2007, the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society at the University of Kansas honored Professor Jim Mayo for his distinguished career as a scholar. He was one of two KU faculty members recognized for this achievement.

**New Scholarship and Endowment Funds**

Sharon Galloway has generously recognized her late husband, Tom Galloway, the first Chair of our Program. She has established a scholarship to honor those students who have contributed significant service to communities through their direct involvement. In addition, her contributions will also fund the future Dr. Thomas G. Galloway Center, to be located on the third floor in Marvin Hall. Bonnie Johnson and Stacey White are currently preparing the program requirements to facilitate the development of this center.

Chris McKenzie, Executive Director of the League of California, has donated a scholarship in honor of Jim Mayo. We are very grateful to Chris for his continued support of our Program over the years.

If you wish to make an online contribution to the Urban Planning Alumni and Friends Scholarship, see: [https://www.kuendowment.org/GiveNow/give.aspx?FundUid=24](https://www.kuendowment.org/GiveNow/give.aspx?FundUid=24)
Marketing the Program

Bonnie Johnson has been in charge of managing our Program’s campaign to market itself effectively to prospective students. We now have three different posters that we can selectively send that match particular academic departments. One of the most popular items is a Program pin, our first one ever. On the outer rim it says: “Save the World. Be a Planner.” In the center is the KU logo over an earth image. This marketing campaign will continue as the School and the Program will revise its website during the next academic year.

Would You Believe – Meat Loaf?

Can you believe the Great Lawrence Loaf Off, a competition of meatloaf lovers? Our students played a key role in this event. Christina Hoxie, Susan Paxton, and Steph Mott helped to run the event. In the March 5th edition, The Lawrence Journal World provided photos, an extensive written description, and a recipe describing the entire event. The winner by secret ballot was Steph Mott. Christina Hoxie remarked: “Just making foods that hearken to our past and our family orientations and our community is what I’d like to have grow from this tradition.” If this is community planning, I think we’ll all eat to that!

Student Events

In the fall, the second-year students hosted one of the most memorable parties for entering students with a wide array of ethnic foods and fine drink. In the spring, the Kansas Association of Planning Students (KAPS) hosted a raffle at the 23rd Street Brewery to raise funds for students to attend the American Planning Association Conference in Las Vegas. It was an economic success as well as a festive occasion. After spring classes were completed, KAPS hosted a luau party for planning students and faculty members. A good time was had by all.

KAPS Officers for 2008-2009 are:

President: Hai Nguyen
Vice-President: Katie McKain
Secretary: Kelsey Barr
Co-Treasurers: Amanda Ripstra and David Murray
State APA Representative: Kaely Dawson
National APA Representative: John Greenwood

UBPL Students Involved in the KU Center for Sustainability

UBPL students continue to hone their skills in a variety of internships. This year, Ester Bedard and Steph Mott have been working as Research Assistants at the KU Center for Sustainability (CFS), focusing on projects to improve campus operations. Ester has been studying strategies for reducing paper use at KU, including reducing default margin settings on word-processing software and deploying printers with duplex capabilities. She is working with an Environmental Studies class as a case study for changing default settings and has developed a survey for faculty, staff, and students to examine current paper use behaviors and determine potential challenges to establishing a campus-wide reduction program.

Steph has been researching composting opportunities for the University of Kansas. After studying a variety of composting techniques, she has proposed an enclosed system that is capable of processing food waste from one of the campus dining halls into compost that could be used in campus landscaping. Along the way, Steph has built partnerships with the Department of Student Housing, Environmental Stewardship Program, Facilities Operations, KU Dining Services, and KU Memorial Unions. Based on her research, a feasibility study is being conducted by Design and Construction Management with these partners to
determine how the project could best be implemented on campus.

Both students are also involved in gathering data on sustainable practices at KU for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. KU is one of over 90 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada participating in a pilot project to evaluate the STARS and develop it as a guide for campus sustainability. For more information on these and other CFS projects, visit www.sustainability.ku.edu.