

# The Jayhawk Planner

The University of Kansas  
Graduate Program in Urban Planning

Fall 2005

## Letter from the Chair

The 2004-2005 academic year was certainly eventful.

In fall 2004, the Planning Accreditation Board once again accredited the Urban Planning Program. The review team was impressed with the rigor of our curriculum, the social mix of our students, and faculty research productivity. Although the team feels there is room for improvement, their suggested changes were related to enhancing our Program rather than redirecting it. The Program was reaccredited for a full five-year term. We have begun the process of addressing their concerns to improve ourselves.



The Program had its first alumni reunion on April 30<sup>th</sup> celebrating the Program's thirtieth anniversary, and the attendance was over ninety people. We held an afternoon luncheon reception for the alumni to renew old acquaintances with former classmates. That evening we gathered at the Adams Alumni Center for an evening meal and social. For the first time, all former Chairs were gathered together. All of the individuals who had served as Chair of the Program were present. These include: Tom Galloway, founder of the Program and now Dean at the College of Architecture and Planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology; Alan Black, former chair and now professor with the Program; Eric Strauss, former Chair and now director of the Urban Planning Program at Michigan State University; and I recollect past events of our Program's history. Elinor Brown, the student president of the Kansas Association of Planning Students, presented her views of our Program and its legacy. Everyone owes Kirk McClure a big thank you for his successful promotion and implementation of this reunion. He did a magnificent job!

At the commencement ceremonies this spring, the Program hooded its 30<sup>th</sup> graduating class, bringing the total number of graduates to over 400. Most of those graduates are from the classes in the 1990s and the 2000s, a mark of our continued growth.

In fall 2005, our Program will be a co-host for the annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning that will be held in Kansas City. Students and faculty will serve a variety of duties to help attendees from across the United States and other countries to learn more about planning in Kansas City and to support conference activities. Professors McClure and White are actively involved in the conference paper selections in their areas of research, and Professor Daniel Serda is coordinating on-site events in Kansas City. This national conference is a new adventure for us, and we intend to do our best.

The spirit of the Urban Planning faculty is as good as I can ever remember. We are sharing in a variety of committee activities, and we often help one another in sharing ideas about our teaching and research. As a result of this camaraderie, I believe we will accomplish a great deal in future years.

Jim Mayo



30<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Adams Alumni Center

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*Urban Planning Chairs:  
Eric Strauss, Tom Galloway, Jim Mayo and Alan Black*

## **Concentration Revisions**

The faculty has pursued revisions to the current concentrations, and we intend to implement them in fall, 2006. We want to ensure that a sequence of theory and policy, methods, and implementation are provided in a consistent manner. Also, we have realigned some concentrations and have renamed some of them. In 2006, our four concentrations will be: Environmental Planning (formerly Environmental and Land-Use Planning), Housing and Development Planning, Land Use and Urban Design (formerly Physical Development Planning), and Transportation Planning. This fall, Bonnie Johnson and key alumni who majored in Transportation Planning, will initiate an in-depth study to reconfigure this concentration. As many of you know, we hired a new faculty member in transportation planning who remained only a year. We intend to stabilize the Transportation Planning concentration and to expand its courses for many years to come.



*30<sup>th</sup> Reunion Open House, Marvin Hall*

## **A New Joint Degree**

In 2004, the Kansas Board of Regents approved of a joint degree between Geography and Urban Planning. This was our first new joint degree in some years, and it made sense. Lindley Hall is but a few steps away from Marvin Hall, and we share more than proximity with the Department in Geography. Students interested in cultural geography and advanced GIS can avail themselves of educational opportunities that Urban Planning Program cannot provide with our limited faculty size. We can thank Cliff Ellis and Stacey White for their committee efforts to make this joint degree come into fruition.

## **Faculty Members Continue the Program's Research Tradition**

Since the Program's inception a focus on research has been a mainstay with faculty members. That focus continues.

Alan Black reviewed Richard Hogan's book, *The Failure of Planning: Permitting Sprawl in San Diego Suburbs, 1970-1999*, in the journal, *Urban Studies*.

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In 2004, Cliff Ellis (with Sabina Deitrick) published "New Urbanism in the Inner City: A Case Study of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania," in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, and he (with Emily Talen) published "Cities as Art: Exploring the Possibility of an Aesthetic Dimension in Planning," in *Planning Theory & Practice*. In 2005, Cliff published "Lewis Mumford and Norman Bel Geddes: the highway, the city and the future," in *Planning Perspectives* and "Planning Methods and Good City Form," in *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*.

Stacey White and Jim Mayo had their article, "Learning Expectations in Environmental Planning: Predictions and Interpretations," published in the fall 2004 edition of the *Journal of Planning Education Research*. Stacey also has three articles accepted for publication. "Environmental Education in Graduate Professional Degrees: The Case of Urban Planning," (with Jim Mayo) will be published in the *Journal of Environmental Education*. "Sustainability, the Environment and New Urbanism: An Assessment and Agenda for Research" (with Cliff Ellis) will be published in the *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*. "Planning for Water Quality: Implementation of the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program in California and Kansas," (with Mike Boswell) will be published in the *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*. Stacey and Mike jointly presented a paper on this topic at the annual ACSP conference in Portland, Oregon. Stacey also published a review of Robert L. Thayer, Jr.'s book, *Bioregional Thought and Practice*, in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.

During the past year, Kirk McClure published "Section 8 and Movement to Job Opportunity: Experience after Welfare Reform in Kansas City," in *Housing and Policy Debate* and "Deciphering the Need in Housing Markets: A Technique to Identify Appropriate Housing Policies at the Local Level," in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. Kirk also reviewed Edward G. Goetz's book,

*Clearing the Way: Deconstructing the Poor in Urban America*, in the journal, *Housing Studies*.

Daniel Serda presented "Advocacy, Civic Engagement and the Public Realm: Structures and Institutions for Urban Design," at the annual ACSP conference in Portland, Oregon.

Most certainly this level of faculty productivity speaks well of faculty members attempting to keep pace in their respective specialties, and our performance has another unusual twist. In the past year, four of the six faculty members published an article in the *Journal of Planning Education Research*, the most prestigious journal for planning academicians. Considering the fact that we do not have a Ph.D. program with a variety of means to generate research support, this accomplishment is truly outstanding for a master-only planning degree program. This feat has unlikely been matched by other faculty in master-only programs, if at all.

## **Promotions and New Hires**

Cliff Ellis was promoted to Associate Professor this spring, and we are quite proud of his accomplishments. Having published numerous articles in the profession's finest journals, he has established himself as an accomplished scholar on the topic of New Urbanism. At the same time, Cliff has proven to be an excellent teacher that students praise for his knowledge and counseling.

Daniel Serda joined our permanent faculty this fall. He teaches Planning Institutions and courses in the Housing and Development concentration. For the past five years, Daniel has been the Director of the Kansas City Design Center. Professor Serda received a Bachelor of Government Studies from Harvard, and for graduate work he has a Master and a Doctorate of City and Regional Planning from MIT.

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## **Cliff Ellis Receives School Teaching Award**

During the School's graduation luncheon, Cliff Ellis received the School's Jack and Nancy Bradley Student Recognition Award for teaching excellence. This honor is noteworthy in that student representatives in the School, both in Architecture and Urban Planning, serve annually on a committee to select the best teacher in Marvin Hall. Cliff is the first planning faculty member to receive this award.



*Jack and Nancy Bradley Student Recognition Award presented at Commencement Lunch*

## **Kirk McClure Receives Research Award for Best Article in the Journal of Urban Affairs**

Each year the Urban Affairs Association holds a national conference attended by people who teach and prepare research on urban issues. At each conference, they present an award for the Best Conference Paper presented at the previous annual conference. At the 2005 annual conference, McClure was presented the Best Conference Paper award for his paper "Deconcentrating Poverty through

Homebuyer Finance Programs." The paper examines the recent federal housing finance initiatives seeking to extend more mortgage credit to low-income and minority homebuyers. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research funded the research for this paper. The paper will appear as the lead article in an upcoming issue of the *Urban Affairs Journal*.

## **Kirk McClure Continues to Gain Research Funds in Housing Research**

The United States Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Policy Development and Research awarded Kirk McClure a \$40,000 grant to research deconcentration of poverty through home ownership programs. How well housing assistance programs support poverty deconcentration is becoming a primary means to evaluate the success of each housing subsidy mechanism. Kirk's research proposal was one of only a few to be funded from a nation-wide competition. He is the Principal Investigator for this grant, which runs from September 2004 to August 2005.

Just prior to winning this grant, McClure completed another research grant from HUD. This research project examined the national database covering all households receiving Section 8 vouchers. The purpose of the research was to identify those households who continue to pay a very high percentage of income on housing, despite receiving the housing subsidy. This research will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Cityscape*, published by HUD.

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## Stacey White Acquires Planning Grant

Stacey White is Principal Investigator for a \$17,773 grant funded by the Kingsbury Family Foundation. Working with Dr. Kelly Kindscher of the Kansas Biological Survey, she will develop a land protection plan for Miami County, Kansas. This plan will serve as a model plan for other Kansas counties interested in conserving high quality natural areas. White will also use this work as the basis for examining the role of social networks and innovation in land protection planning. She will present the results of this analysis at the 2005 ACSP conference.

## Consider a Gift

Our fund drive to create the first alumni scholarship continues. Many of you have been generous in your contributions, and we greatly appreciate your help in supporting future students in our Program. We hope to raise \$30,000 in celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If you have not yet given, please consider a gift. Direct your contribution to the KU Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044. Make your check payable to the KU Endowment Association noting "Urban Planning Alumni and Friends" in the memo portion. Gifts are tax deductible and can also be given online at [www.kuendowment.org](http://www.kuendowment.org). Contact Amy Piersol with questions about financial support at (785) 832-7421 or [apiersol@kuendowment.org](mailto:apiersol@kuendowment.org).

## Check Out the Alumni Webpage

We have a special website page for alumni listed by their year of graduation. We invite everyone to submit his or her current email address. All email addresses are protected so that no one can gain access to your personal email address. If you include your email address, then there is a greater likelihood that a lost friend will contact you. We invite your participation in this alumni service.

## 2005 Commencement



Nishtha Mehta and Jesse Gotz, Phi Kappa Phi Awards



Elizabeth Shoemaker, AICP Outstanding Student Award



Chris Carucci,  
UBPL Service Award



2005 Graduates on Marvin steps

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## A Chance Encounter

Professor Alan Black attended the conference of the American Planning Association in Denver. Because of his interest in public transportation, he naturally spent some time riding around in Denver's light rail system.

While waiting for a train on a platform at a suburban station, Alan noticed a young woman wearing a conference badge. It said that she was Grace Bazylewski, Director of Planning for Lansing, IL. He approached her and said, "My mother grew up in Lansing. My grandfather was mayor of the village."

"What was his name?" she replied.

"Alfred Van Steenberg."

Grace became excited and said, "Do you have a picture of him that we could have?" She explained that pictures of all the mayors of Lansing were hanging in the Village Hall, except for two that were missing. Van Steenberg was one of the missing ones.

After Alan got home, he searched his files and found some photos of his grandfather, but they were not very good. He contacted his sister in Massachusetts, and she had a good photo. Alan received a copy and sent it on to Grace. It is now hanging in the Village Hall.

Van Steenberg was mayor (actually President) of Lansing for 34 years, from 1897 to 1931. He was a building contractor and built the Village Hall, among other things. He also served on the Cook County Board of Commissioners for 14 years. He died in 1933.

There is a planning angle to this story. Alan's grandfather was on the County Board at the time Daniel Burnham completed his Plan of Chicago in 1909. Along with other politicians, he was given a copy. Alan now has that copy, which is number 812 out of 1,650 copies in the original printing.

