

The Jayhawk Planner

The University of Kansas
Graduate Program in Urban Planning

2009

Letter from the Chair

The big story of this academic year has been the economy. We intended to hire a transportation planner, but this search was suspended to address budget issues that all academic units at KU had to address. Eventually, we will fill this position, but for now we must be patient.



Beginning this fall semester, our School will have a new name, the School of Architecture, Design, and Planning. This name change is the result of the University dissolving the School of Fine Arts, and as a result, the Design Department will now be part of our School.

Next year will be eventful for our Program. In the spring of 2010, a team of academics and professionals will visit our Program for accreditation. Accreditation visits enable us to reflect upon how we can improve our curriculum as well as other aspects of our Program. We have been accredited continuously since 1988.

For alumni and professional planners and architects, we plan to offer continuing education courses that qualify for AICP certification maintenance. At this time, local planners typically attend the national APA conference to earn these points. There are some local options in Kansas City. Dr. Daniel Serda is heading this effort, and the aim is to offer these courses at the Kansas City Design Center.

Planning Advisory Board Has New Leadership and By-Laws

In the May meeting, our Advisory Board celebrated the retirement of Ron Williamson as our Board Chair. Ron was the Chair from 1995 to 2008. During the winter, board members convened to prepare by-laws to guide how the Board assists our Program in advancing its aims. A Chair and a Vice-Chair are now elected. Our new officers are Wayne Feuerborn as Chair and Sheila Stogsdill as Vice-Chair. The Chair will appoint current board



members to Board committees for board membership, fundraising, accreditation, internships, outreach and recruitment, and continuing education. This committee structure will enable the Board to play a bigger role in our Program in helping us to advance its opportunities and to address its needs.



Publications and Ongoing Research

Kirk McClure's "Deconcentrating Poverty with Housing Programs" was published in the winter issue of the *Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA)*, and he has also reviewed N.P. Retsinas and E.S. Belsky (eds.) *Revisiting Rental Housing* in *JAPA*.

We have a number of forthcoming publications. Bonnie Johnson has a book chapter on accountability waiting in press. Stacey White has an article on American universities and climate change action on the way. Kirk McClure has an article on low-income housing tax credits and a book review awaiting the press. Jim Mayo has two articles on time and landscape to be published. Next year, we will give you the details.

Planning faculty members continue to be involved in the research world that brings credibility to our Program. In addition to serving on editorial boards this past year, they have reviewed manuscripts for the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *Housing Studies*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *Journal of Public Administration and Management*, *International Journal of Public Administration*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *American Review of Public Administration*, *Environmental Planning and Management*, *Journal of Planning Literature*, and *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*.

Conference Presentations

Our faculty presented papers at the joint meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). Bonnie Johnson presented "Site Planning

for Planners: The View from the Other Side,” Johnson and Stacey White jointly presented “Promoting Sustainability through Transportation Infrastructure: Is there a Disconnect between Policy and Design?” Kirk McClure addressed “Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Developments: Can Homeownership be an Exit Strategy?”

For other conferences, Bonnie Johnson made an invited presentation of “Social Capital, Rent-Seeking, and Accountability Processes in U.S. Counties” at the Kettering Foundation Symposium on Accountability. Kirk McClure also presented “Where Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Developments Locate: Leading or Lagging Market Demand?” at the annual conference of the Urban Affairs Association.



Alumni gathering at 2009 APA conference in Milwaukee.

Grants

In October, Kirk McClure received a \$34,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop a marketing opportunity index for census tracts nationwide. Kirk McClure and Daniel Serda, working with the Mid-American Regional Council and Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., received a grant of \$100,000 for an evaluation of workforce housing needs in Platte and Clay counties, the northland of Kansas City

White Wins School Teaching Award

In Spring 2008, Professor Stacey White was awarded the Jack and Nancy Bradley Teaching Award, the highest teaching honor given by the School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Students have consistently noticed her devotion to teaching and the excellence she brings to the classroom.

Johnson Wins National Teaching Award

Bonnie Johnson has won the 2009 award for “Best Use of Technology for a University Urban and Regional Planning Program” sponsored by the Technology Division of the American Planning Association. She entitled her submission “Digital Storytelling as Learning and Communication Tool” for our Program’s

required History and Theory of the Planning Process course. In juxtaposing the old and the new, she has our graduate students bring to life major figures from planning’s past like Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses while learning new communication tools relevant to planning’s future. Instead of the standard research paper, the major assignment is a digital story, which is a multimedia narrative combining music, sound, text, and images (still and/or moving).



For the assignment, students are divided into teams of three and assigned a major person or event from planning history. Each team produces an eight minute digital story explaining why the person/event is important to planning history, how that person/event used or influenced planning theory, and how the person/event shaped what planners do today. Multiple learning goals are accomplished in this one assignment as students link history and theory with planning practice, learn multi-media production skills which will help them communicate with the public in the digital age, gain experience working in teams, and practice using stories as a communication device.

National Service and Recognition

Stacey White served as the chair of the Environmental Planning and Resource Management track of the 2008 ASCP/AESOP Joint Conference. For the same event Kirk McClure served as the chair for the Housing track.

In a February 2009 decision, Associate Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito cited Jim Mayo’s book, *War Memorials as Political Landscape* (1988) in his majority opinion in the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Pleasant Grove City, Utah v. Summum*.

A Graduate Is Publishing a Book

Mike Tedesco, a 2005 graduate, will publish his first book, *City Boy: Urban Planning, Municipal Politics, and Guerilla Warfare*, which is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2009 by Sunstone Press. Tedesco says *City Boy* is like no other book in the field: “Urban planners are a pretty nerdy bunch and that lack of charisma shines brightest in planning literature. I hope my book helps to change that.” Tedesco explores the gulf between planning practice and planning theory. “I’m probably a little biased, there are few planning programs in the country that could ever hold a candle to KU’s Planning Program,” Tedesco said. “I wouldn’t trade that education and experience for anything.” Tedesco points out, however, that when planners depart graduate school for professional practice, it is

often difficult to apply academic skills to day-to-day planning life. "When one leaves graduate school, reality slaps you in the face."

Tedesco is the Executive Director for the Urban Renewal Authority of Pueblo, Colorado, a position he has held since the summer of 2006.

Student Work

In the October, 2008, Kirk McClure's students in his course, Local Economic Development Planning won the Kansas American Planning Association's New Horizon Award. Eric Anderson, Matthew Coates, Britt Crum-Cano, and Gabriel Casner were the student team members. Their project, "Retail Market Dynamics: Overland Park, Kansas," examined the market for retail space in Overland Park. The study questioned whether or not the pace of growth is sustainable and in the best interests of all parts of the community. The study was presented to the membership of the Central Overland Park Homes Associations Forum which is using the study to preserve the city's older neighborhoods.

This spring semester students in this same class completed a project for the Central Overland Park Homeowners Association Forum (COPHAF) entitled, "The Uneven Pace of Development in Overland Park: What it means to the Northern and Southern Districts to the City." The study aimed to answer questions on the pace of growth of real estate markets in Overland Park and what this growth means for the older neighborhoods in the northern half of the city.

Stacey White's Environmental Planning Implementation class worked with a group of Ph.D. students in the NSF-IGERT C-CHANGE Program to prepare a Climate Action Plan for the University of Kansas. This plan is based on a greenhouse gas inventory the students conducted for KU's Lawrence campus, and recommends steps the University could take to reduce its carbon footprint with respect to its electricity use, buildings, and transportation system. The students presented their work to an audience that included Provost Richard Lariviere.

The Dr. Thomas D. Galloway Award

This spring, Susan Gelvin was the recipient of The Dr. Thomas D. Galloway Award "For Making A Difference" in your Community in the Field of Urban Planning. The Dr. Thomas D. Galloway Award was created to celebrate outstanding student experience that demonstrates a vision and dedication to community service and a commitment to urban issues. The award was created by Sharon Perry Galloway and the Galloway family, who also presented the award in person this spring. Last year's recipient was Kelsey Barr.

First Galloway Urban Planning Lecture

On April 27th, Michael Arad lectured on his winning design of the World Trade Center Memorial in commemoration of 9/11. He won the competition to design the World Trade Center Memorial in 2004. Mr. Arad's design was selected from over 5,000 submittals after lengthy deliberations by an independent jury appointed by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation.

This lecture was the first in The Galloway Urban Planning Lecture Series, which was created in 2008 by Sharon Perry Galloway and the Galloway family in honor of the late Dr. Thomas D. Galloway. Dr. Galloway was the Founding Chair and Professor of Urban Planning in the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Kansas from 1971 to 1980 and the Dean of the College of Architecture at Georgia Tech.



Dr. Thomas D. Galloway

The Galloway Urban Planning Lecture Series within the KU School of Architecture and Urban Planning will present topics and speakers meant to expand on leading issues within the urban planning profession.

As part of KU Earth Week events, UBPL co-sponsored a lecture by John Randolph on April 22. Randolph is Professor of Environmental Planning at Virginia Tech, and author of *Energy for Sustainability* and *Environmental Land Use Planning and Management*. His talk, "Toward Sustainability of Energy, Water and Land Through a Whole Community Approach," drew a large audience to the Spencer Museum Auditorium. Professor Randolph also consulted with Stacey White's Environmental Planning Implementation students on their class project, as he had just finished chairing Virginia Tech's climate action planning efforts.

Alumni in the News

In the ESA environmental consulting firm, Crescentia Brown (class of 1992) has been promoted to the position of Manager in the San Francisco Bay Area Region's 20 plus person Community Development Group.

Tim Colon (class of 2000) has taken a position with the Office of Community Planning and Development at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C.

Kelley Kent (class of 2002) has taken the position of Senior Program Manager for National Programs with the Corporation of Supportive Housing in Chicago.