

The Jayhawk Planner

The University of Kansas
Department of Urban Planning

Revised 2010

Letter from the Chair

This edition of the Jayhawk Planner features some significant happenings. You may want to save this issue.

We are no longer the Graduate Program in Urban Planning. Our new title is the Department of Urban Planning. This change came along with a new administrative structure in our School. The School of Fine Arts was divided into other academic units. As a result, the Department of Design is now part of us. Our Department is now part of the School of Architecture, Design, and Planning. In the future, our Department will function more autonomously than in the past.

Accreditation Visit

In March the Planning Accreditation Board visited our Department. There is a great deal of work and care in this process as some of you know. During their stay, the site-visit team spent two and a half days interviewing students, faculty members, our Advisory Board, former-student employers, and university administrators. They inspected our facilities and reviewed student work. Reinforcing many of the goals we have strived to achieve over the years, they commented in their report:

In October, the Planning Accreditation Board will decide upon reaccrediting our Department. So many of you are responsible for this Department's success and I want to thank all of you for working toward what we have become today.

New Joint Degree with Architecture

On February 5th of this year, the Kansas Board of Regents approved of a joint degree for a Bachelor of Architectural Studies and the Master of Urban Planning. You read it correctly, a joint degree that involves a bachelor degree and a master degree. A student in one's senior year will take courses in the first year of the master program. Together both degrees require 154 semester hours, reducing the time to get both degrees from six years to five years. Architectural Studies students must have a minimum GPA of 3.25,

take the GRE, and gain faculty approval for acceptance into joint degree program.

There is precedence for this joint degree. This idea is actually quite old. Decades ago, pre-med students spent three years in undergraduate school and then entered medical school in their senior year. In recent times, some planning programs have developed this opportunity for those students who know that they want planning as a career. Although this option will not likely add large numbers to our enrollment, we will certainly offer an alternative that is attractive to some students in our School.



New Student Planning Lab

As many of you remember, Room 309 was your student home in Marvin Hall, and it has remained so for many years. Those days are gone. This summer, rehabilitation of a former architectural studio, 303 Marvin, began. Students now have three times the amount of space they had previously. The planning lab has a lounge space, conference table, computer area, a storage area, and a sink. The conference area is demarcated by panel units and has a projector and screen for students to use. The number of computer stations has been increased from six to eight, and we replaced most of the old furniture and ordered new desks, chairs, and sofa units. There will be refinements to 303 Marvin over time, but it provides an entirely new learning setting for our students.

Student Work

In October, 2009, Gabriel Scott Casner, Tyler Means, and Lance White won the Kansas APA New Horizon Award for its study, “Regional High Occupancy Vehicle HOV and Managed Lane Study for the Kansas City Metropolitan Area.” On the KU website, Jessica Mortinger was highlighted for her efforts enabling KU students to have free bus service.



Tyler Means, Gabe Casner, and Sara Copeland



Jessica Mortinger

Publications, Presentations, Ongoing Research

Bonnie Johnson’s article “Site Planning for Planners: The View from the Other Side” was published in the *Journal for Education in the Built Environment*. Her book review of *Planning for Place and Plexus* appeared in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Jim Mayo was the guest editor of a theme issue in the *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* on the topic, time and landscape. His article entitled “Temporary Landscapes” was part of that issue. With former faculty member Cliff Ellis, their article “Capitalist Dynamics and New Urbanist Principles: Junctures and Disjunctures in Project Development” was published in the winter issue of the *Journal of Urbanism*. Kirk McClure reviewed W.H. Rohe and H.L. Watson’s book, *Chasing the American Dream: New Perspectives on Affordable Homeownership*, for the *Journal of Urban Affairs*. He completed a nine-month study for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This study examined possible changes to the Housing Choice Voucher program by guiding some households into high opportunity neighborhoods. Stacey White’s article, “Early Participation in the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment” appeared in the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*.

At the annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Stacey White presented “Sustainability Innovation in Rural America” and Bonnie Johnson discussed “Democratic Assessment of a Televised Town Hall Meeting.” Kirk McClure presented the paper “Do Housing Choice Voucher Households Reveal a Preference for Low-Poverty Neighborhoods?” Johnson also presented “City Planners, Professional Culture, and Public Service Motivation” at the International Public Service Research Conference. McClure also presented the results of his research to staff members of HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research in Washington, D.C.

Planning faculty members continue to be active participants in research journals. 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*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *Journal of Urban*

Planning and Development, Journal of Transit and Land Use, American Review of Public Administration, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Urban Affairs, American Review of Public Administration, Environmental Planning and Management, Journal of Planning Literature, City and Society, and Journal of Architectural and Planning Research.

Stacey White Receives Major Grant and Wins Research Award

As a co-investigator, Stacey White has received a five-year \$2.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program entitled “Farmers’ Decisions to Grow Crops for Fuel.” Her portion of this



research will examine the connections between innovations at the community level and new practices farmers adopt with respect to bio-fuels. She received an additional \$125,000 from KU’s Transportation Research Institute in combination with this NSF grant. In addition, Professor White’s article, “Early Participation in the American

College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment,” was selected as the Outstanding Paper Award Winner in the *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*.

KAPS Initiates a Brown Bag Luncheon Series

The Kansas Association of Planning Students (KAPS) inaugural Brown Bag Lecture Series has enjoyed a successful first year. The fall semester featured academics and practicing planners discussing a wide variety of topics. KAPS holds its Brown Bags talks on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of the month during the semester. In its first semester, Brown Bag talks included KU Distinguished professor H. George Frederickson discussing Accountability and Institutional Resilience, Dean John Gaunt discussing the Land/Sea Interface in design and Robert Antonio on the Growth Imperative. Practitioners Steve Padgett, Sara Copeland and Stephen Hardy shed light on sustainable infrastructure, planning in practice and new growth possibilities.

Brown Bag lectures have experienced encouraging attendance from across the campus. Attendees have included interested undergraduates and academics from other disciplines in addition to Urban Planning faculty and staff. The spring semester brings a new slate of speakers with wide experience in planning disciplines. Karl Brooks, newly named regional EPA Region 7 Administrator, held a frank discussion about environmental planning and goal setting. Lisa Koch discussed transportation planning in Southeast Asia and Planning Directors Chris Chiodini of Grandview and Bill Ebel of Overland Park discussed implementing historic preservation plans and corridor planning respectively. William Woods from KU’s Geography Department, Chris Dunn Planning Director in Leavenworth and Milena Dinic, visiting scholar from Serbia, spoke this spring to finish a great start to the Brown Bag series. KAPS is encouraged by the success of the series in 2009-2010 and looks toward more great talks next year.

The Galloway Urban Planning Lecture Series

Last year was the Department’s second Galloway lecture, and in April, Professor Robert Cervero, Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley presented “Transportation investments, place-making and economic development.” His research involves the area of sustainable transportation policy and planning, focusing on the nexus between urban transportation and land-use systems. A reception was held at the Oread Hotel prior to the lecture. Thanks to Sharon Perry Galloway and her family for funding the Galloway Lecture Series.



Professor Robert Cervero

John E. Elias Selected as a White House Fellow

John Elias who graduated this May was selected as a White House Fellow, a very prestigious and competitive recognition. John will be a policy analyst in the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.



Ariel Heckler Wins Scholarship



The U.S. Department of Transportation has recently selected Ariel Heckler to receive the Dwight David Eisenhower Scholarship. Ariel is a second-year student who is currently working in the Transportation Research Institute.

Recent Hiring of Graduates

John Elias, White House Fellow, Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

Zach Flanders, planning division of BNIM in Kansas City, Missouri.

Jessica Mortinger, Planner, City of Lawrence, Kansas.

Nick Pappas, Director of Planning, City of Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Kassie Shelton, Planner, MidAmerica Regional Council, Kansas City, Missouri.

Caryn Woods, State Highway Safety Analyst, Kansas Dept. of Transportation, Topeka, Kansas.