October is National Community Planning Month

Celebrate the achievements of planning this October during the inaugural National Community Planning Month. This annual event will help raise the visibility of planning and APA. It’s time to recognize the contributions of the planning profession and the individuals who work hard to make our communities enjoyable, endearing, and valuable.

This year’s theme is Making Great Communities Through Planning. Communities don’t just happen — they take hard work, foresight, and commitment. Each week in October will be focused on a specific aspect of planning:

- **Our Legacy of Great Communities**
  - October 1-7
  - Early visionaries helped create communities that set the foundation for many ideas and theories in planning. Communities that were considered revolutionary when first built continue to thrive and offer residents the same benefits, illustrating the long-lasting benefits of good planning.

- **Today’s Great Communities**
  - October 8-14
  - Our communities today offer residents numerous choices — where to live, how to commute, and where to recreate. Planners work to ensure that the character of a community is maintained, while addressing the challenges and needs associated with growth and change.

- **Tomorrow’s Great Communities**
  - October 15-21
  - Planning today will create the communities of tomorrow. Planning is a visionary process, always looking toward the future. How can we keep residents safe from crime, natural and man-made disasters? How can we help protect the environment through planning so future generations can enjoy green space, clean air, and unpolluted waters? The work in progress today will create communities of lasting value for future generations.

- **People Making Great Communities**
  - October 22-31
  - Planning takes hard work and a visionary individual to transfer ideas from paper into actual results within a community. Good planning is best achieved when all community members participate in the planning process and provide input and feedback. Engaging younger community members helps build understanding about the importance of planning and participating in the process — it may even inspire some to become future planners.

See more at [www.planning.org/ncpm/](http://www.planning.org/ncpm/)
The 5th annual Oklahoma Sustainability Network (OSN) conference was held at the Tulsa Convention Center on September 15th. OSN “serves to connect and educate the people of Oklahoma concerning the many aspects of sustainability. OSN is a catalyst and a resource for the improvement of Oklahoma’s economy, ecology, and equity.” Approximately 400 people, representing a wide variety of interests were in attendance.

The conference was hosted by Sustainable Tulsa, a charter member of OSN and this year’s conference theme was Smart Growth: Building a Sustainable Community. The conference was designed to encourage participation from a variety of professional interests and provided participants with the opportunity to explore a variety of topics important to the planning community.

The keynote speaker was Robert Waldrop, founder of the Oklahoma Food Cooperative. His address “It’s All About Us” focused on the use of diminishing traditional energy resources. Waldrop urged Oklahomans to encourage both state and federal government agencies to promote the development of alternative energy resources such as wind generators and solar power. Waldrop also mentioned that much of our most viable agricultural land is being lost to urban sprawl at an alarming rate.

Sustainable Legacies: Today’s Plan Produces Tomorrow’s Outcome was the focus of the discussion panel. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Charles Warnken, Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma Division of Regional and City Planning. Discussants included Alan Hart, Principle of Via Architecture in Vancouver, Canada; Wayne Alberty (INCOG); Robert Gregory (Land Legacy); Dr. James Horne (Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Oklahoma State University); and Linda Koenig (Benham Companies). The panel was designed to represent a variety of public, private and non-profit agencies all involved in Smart Growth initiatives. Topics discussed included how various professions and groups in Oklahoma concerned with urban sprawl, the preservation of agricultural lands, increasing mass transit can accomplish their goals.

Breakout session designed around land use, transportation, energy conservation and individual and community actions to improve sustainable development practices were held during the afternoon. These sessions provided the participants with a diverse array of in-depth presentations centered on various aspects of sustainability.

The conference was complimented by a wide selection of exhibits and products related to sustainability. Some of the 38 exhibitors include the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, The City of Tulsa, the Oklahoma Alliance for Public Transportation, Land Legacy, the only state-wide non-profit involved in promoting conservation easements, and the Tulsa area Metropolitan Environmental Trust (MET).

The 6th annual OSN conference is tentatively scheduled to be held in Oklahoma City in April 2007.
TULSA – An economic impact study to be unveiled Thursday predicts that The Channels will create 21,000 permanent jobs and generate $38.5 billion over 20 years – quite a return on a project that will cost $788 million.

Most of the economic impact is not from construction jobs, which would temporarily boost the economy, but from a long-term economic revival that would benefit the entire Tulsa region for decades.

About $35.3 billion comes from the long-term impact of revitalizing a workforce that is losing its young, educated workforce in large numbers. According to the study, Oklahoma retains too few of its college graduates, especially those in math, science and engineering programs.

The study was conducted by Angelou Economics, an Austin, Texas-based consulting firm that specializes in helping companies select sites and assisting communities that want to recruit those companies.

Angelou Economics’ team of economists has made some of the most accurate population, economic and industry forecasts in the country. The company counts Dell Computer and UPS among its clients. It also has worked with the communities of Stillwater, Broken Arrow, Bartlesville and Oklahoma City, along with Oklahoma State University.

The study lauds The Channels as an “ambitious quality-of-life project.” It addresses the public’s concerns that the project is too costly and that the money could be better spent on other projects.

“While there are other areas any community could improve upon and many worthy causes, very few will offer the long-term opportunity that we strongly believe The Channels represent,” said Daniel Kah, research director for Angelou Economics. “We don’t say this lightly. Education, transportation, incentives for other potential employers are all important, but none matter if Tulsa is unable to retain and attract the country’s best and brightest.”

These young professionals are concerned about the perception of the city where they live, so they (continued on page 5).
Thoughts on the San Antonio APA Conference
by Jan Ramseyer-Fees, OKAPA Vice-President

The 2006 American Planning Association conference was held in San Antonio, Texas this year. I had never visited San Antonio, so I was excited to experience this colorful city, especially during Fiesta week. Over the weekend, Steve Boettcher, INCOG Planner from Tulsa, and I visited the Market Square, The Alamo, and other historic locations. The conference hotel, Rivercenter Marriott, was connected to a shopping mall, and from being an amateur shopper, the location was PERFECT for me. The opening reception, NIOssitta (A Night In Old San Antonio), Sunday evening at La Villita, was wonderful with the food and beverage selections being outstanding. I attended a mobile workshop on S.M.A.R.T Housing taking me to Austin on Monday, and then back to San Antonio for the OU reception that evening. The host hotel also provided a wonderful view later that evening of the Texas Cavaliers River Parade. On Tuesday, I attended conference workshops and later that evening, Steve and I went to the San Antonio Spurs Basketball game. Steve and I try to visit a professional sporting event at every APA conference and loved it. If you like to attend pro-games, be sure to look Steve or I up at the next conference as I’m sure we’ll be going to some game. Overall, I enjoyed the San Antonio conference and loved the Hispanic flavor of the city.

Photo courtesy of http://www.planning.org/2006conference/

Congratulations to the new Oklahoma members of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

OKAPA would like to congratulate the following individuals who passed the May 2006 American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Exam:

- Lee Fithian, AICP, from the University of Oklahoma
- Elizabeth Jones, AICP, from the City of Moore
- Anais Starr, AICP, from the City of Midwest City

In the planning field, AICP certification is the accepted credential for professional competence and ethical practice. To become a certified planner, a candidate must belong to the American Planning Association, fulfill rigorous education and work experience requirements, and pass a four-hour long, computer based AICP examination. The national pass rate for the May 2006 AICP Exam was 67%. The State of Oklahoma had a 60% pass rate for the May 2006 AICP Exam. These new AICP members from the Oklahoma Chapter join over 14,000 APA members who have made this extra commitment and joined APA’s professional institute.
The U.S. economy continues to transform from goods-focused to service-oriented. Companies tend to locate where the most young, well-educated populace is anchored.

Those young people first choose the city where they want to live, then find a job in that area. More companies choose sites based on where that workforce lives rather than which city provides the most attractive incentives package.

The study also looked favorably on The Channels because it would act as a community anchor near downtown.

Tulsa lacks a community anchor, a central meeting place, a recreational mecca, a development or location that citizens will use to define why they choose Tulsa,” Kah said. “Large-scale projects can redefine a community’s quality of life options but also organize the idea of a community. It also will benefit downtown significantly.”

The Channels is a bold vision for river development. It begins with a dam at the 23rd Street bridge that creates a 12-mile lake north to Sand Springs. A 40-acre, manmade island anchors the project between the 11th and 23rd Street bridges. Lined with parks, the island will feature a mix of retail, restaurants, cultural, entertainment and residential development. Amenities include an open-air market, children’s spray park, plaza, floating stage and a framework canopy that will provide a naturally climate-controlled area. Opposite the plaza on the east bank is an almost five-acre park called the Tulsa Green with a swimming pool and beach to its south.

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Tulsa Stakeholders Inc. initiated the plan, along with renowned waterfront architect Bing Thom and international engineering firm Arup, to develop the river and attract young people to our area.

Even the stakeholders were amazed by the economic impact study’s findings.

“This study proves that Tulsa really is losing it well-educated workforce and the companies that want to attract them,” said John-Kelly Warren, one of the original stakeholders. “But the river has so much potential. If we can build a whole culture around The Channels, we’ll be able to keep our young people here. That means more jobs will come to Tulsa. And it means that Tulsa’s future will be bright.”

###

Highlights from the Economic Impact Study

- Total impact of The Channels will be $38.5 billion over a 20-year period.
- Price tag of the project is $788 million.
- 21,000 jobs created.
- Most of the economic impact – $35.3 billion – comes from retaining/attracting a new, educated workforce.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are strictly those of the organization issuing the press release. The facts and conclusions provided have not been reviewed or approved by the editor or the OKAPA.


What Do You Think?
Email the newsletter editor at eenyart@incog.org and share your thoughts — please note if you would like your thoughts shared in a future newsletter article.
By Sarah Jo Peterson, University of Oklahoma Assistant Professor of Regional and City Planning

This article first appeared on Planetizen at www.planetizen.com.

As the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) institutes its new Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, Sarah Jo Peterson, PhD, Assistant Professor of Regional and City Planning at the University of Oklahoma, remembers the old code and its greater capacity to inspire America’s planners.

Every spring I close the semester in the Regional and City Planning program at the University of Oklahoma with a three-week unit on planning ethics. This year, I’ve had to change my lesson plans. The American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the professional institute for the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the professional institute for the American Planning Association, put in place a new "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" on June 1, 2005.

Like other professional codes of ethics, the AICP code guides the behavior of its members. It also communicates to employers and the public what they should expect from certified planners. Despite having the same name, the "new" code makes a significant break with the past. Whereas the "old" code was organized around a unified set of responsibilities, the new code divides ethical standards into "Principles to Which We Aspire" and "Rules of Conduct". Before cranking out the powerpoint slides for my lecture on the new code's twenty-one "aspirational" principles and twenty-five rules of conduct, I want to pause for a moment in memory of the "old" code.

Although I had studied planning ethics and the AICP code in planning school, it was through teaching that I truly began to appreciate the power of the code to inspire. Granted, the "old" code could be a confounding document. It mixed idealism with common sense, including some goals perpetually out of reach, as well as clear no-no's. The code provided one guiding principle -- "the planner's primary obligation is to serve the public interest" -- but otherwise left it to the planner to find the ethical balance among competing precepts applicable to an issue or a career. In its enforcement it was like the Ten Commandments. It left ambiguous what parts would be enforced by the AICP under threat of penalty, what would be relegated to the realm of peer approbation, and what would remain between the planner and her maker.

Scenarios drawn from the real world, such as those in Carol Barrett's Everyday Ethics for Practitioners (Continued on Page 11)

OKAPT Announcements
Courtesy of Jose Perez, Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA) Planning Intern

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15TH APT LUNCH AND QUARTERLY MTG
Invite your favorite City Council member, Mayor, or County Commissioner! The APT always encourages partners like you to get to know your local elected officials, so the APT will even arrange for a free lunch for them if you let us know (see below).

Zachary Taylor, Executive Director, Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) will be addressing the Oklahoma Alliance For Public Transportation (APT) on Wednesday, November 15th.

General Topic: What If? How the Fixed Guideway Study Fits into Regional Transportation Planning for area Communities.

Contact the APT through the website (the “contact us” page) at www.okapt.org or by calling 297-3935 and leaving a voicemail by 4:00 on Tuesday, November 13th.

“COORDINATED PLAN:” ATTEND A MEETING TO DEFINE HOW THE REGION IS TO COORDINATE SERVICES AND SPEND NEW DOLLARS
There are two meetings, and one is the same day as the APT meeting at 2:00 pm. Both are aimed at a variety of people and will be similar: please come to one or the other. You will likely also hear about this meeting through other agencies and through allies like United We Ride. In accordance with the federal law, COTPA will create the coordinated plan that takes into consideration the needs of older adults, low-income persons, and persons with disabilities.

Wednesday, November 15, 2:00 p.m. The new History Center (NE 23rd and Laird by the Capitol) in Oklahoma City Monday, November 20, 10:30 a.m. ACOG, 21 E. Main Street, Bricktown District of Oklahoma City

DECEMBER 6TH LUNCHEON ABOUT TRANSIT AT PETROLEUM CLUB
Mark your calendars for December 6th! Hats off to a local private organization which has tentatively scheduled a special lunch about transit! Should be a tremendous event and will feature a nationally respected transit consultant. More on this lunch later, but if you attend the November 15th APT Lunch then a local sponsor is offering you a chance to win a free ticket to the December 6th lunch. The APT is still planning its own holiday luncheon featuring a faith-based panel for December 5th, so please mark that date too.
Explore Opportunities with Brownfields
Submitted by Jimmie Hammontree, Oklahoma City Brownfields Coordinator

Do you have Brownfields in your community? The possibility is highly likely. The number of potential sites in Oklahoma City alone is estimated at nearly one thousand. The definition of a Brownfield has been greatly broadened in recent years, and rules for eligibility and use of funding have also become more flexible. Brownfields redevelopment is a subject that is just beginning to catch on in Oklahoma, whereas other parts of the country have decade-old Brownfields programs. There have been several successful Brownfields redevelopment projects throughout Oklahoma in the last couple of years and the momentum continues to grow. In a time of increased competition for ever-diminishing federal funds, Oklahoma communities, regional planning agencies, non-profits, and other governmental entities can apply for these grants provided that eligibility requirements are met. The 2006 Brownfields grant proposal guidelines will likely be issued in October, with proposals due in December. Interested parties should periodically check EPA’s Brownfields website http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/ for more information. Governmental entities and non-profits can apply for community-wide or site-specific Brownfields grants from the EPA to help fund the assessment and cleanup of eligible Brownfields. Currently, the City of Oklahoma City, Tulsa Industrial Authority, and the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) possess EPA Brownfields grants that may be accessed by eligible entities within their jurisdictional areas. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oklahoma Water Resources Board also possess Brownfields programs that can assist local redevelopment projects. Additionally, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission is in the process of developing its Brownfields program. During the 2005 grant award period, Oklahoma City was the only grant recipient in Oklahoma due in part to a low number of applications from the state. As a comparison, 12 Brownfields grants totaling $2.3 million were split between Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana.

The second noteworthy event is the effective date for the new All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) rule. Any entity acquiring a piece of property after November 1, 2006 needs to comply with the new rule, which specifies a revised approach to the Phase I/II Environmental Site Assessment process. A guidance document is available from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), ASTM E1527-05. There are two very important benefits of complying with the new rule: liability protection and Brownfields eligibility. First, prospective purchasers that comply with the new AAI rule will have liability protection under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, referred to as CERCLA. This means that an entity can knowingly acquire a contaminated property without also acquiring the liability. The second benefit of performing AAI prior to purchase is Brownfields funding eligibility. With these two benefits, the new AAI rule helps to reduce fears associated with contaminated property acquisitions and allows prospective purchasers to apply for financial assistance under federal, state, and local Brownfields programs.

Lastly, the City of Oklahoma City is partnering with DEQ to host a statewide Brownfields conference November 30 – December 1, 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Oklahoma City. The conference targets government and private sector entities involved in redevelopment projects throughout the state. Topics to be addressed at the conference include the new AAI rule, owner/purchaser liability, Brownfields resources available to the public and private sector, Oklahoma success stories, and the environmental decision process for redevelopment projects. Come learn how you can be a part of the growing Brownfields redevelopment initiative in Oklahoma. More information is available at http://www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/Brownfields/Conference.htm. For questions about the conference or about Brownfields in general, please contact Jimmie Hammontree, City of Oklahoma City Brownfields Coordinator at (405) 297-1639.
and worldwide experience provided by the keynote speaker, Alan Hart, who described zoning as a ‘recipe book,’ which should be modified as needed to suit the needs of the community. “It’s not ‘Either/Or,’ it’s ‘Both/And,’” and “Tweak what you have” were the more pointed of the recommendations. Hart went on to note that Portland, OR is widely considered to be one of the best planned cities in North America, but it continues to use traditional prescriptive zoning in an effective way.

Hart’s presentation focused around the Vancouver, B.C. success story, and lessons that could be borrowed from this Pacific Northwest city. Neighborhood development patterns in the “West End” for a six or seven year period during the 1950s and 1960s resulted in a number of high-rise buildings. This development pattern served as inspiration for development which has transformed Vancouver primarily since the 1990s.

Hart noted several parallels between Vancouver and Tulsa – including large areas fronting a river. After the Expo ’86 in Vancouver, initial plans for a riverfront development along the False Creek in Vancouver, titled “The Lagoons,” called for a series of interconnected islands along the riverfront, then occupied by industrial districts and vacant and underutilized land (note the parallel with a recent development proposal in Tulsa, titled ‘The Channels’; see related article in this newsletter). This proposal was not ultimately realized, but riverfront development along a similar theme, which Hart referred to as a ‘String of Pearls,’ has been hugely successful.

Hart highlighted a significant key which changed the dynamics of the community, and ultimately transformed it: citizens, initially in a position of opposition to development plans, were brought into the planning process; indeed, a reported 20,000 citizens participated in the City Plan 1990.

Hart had the following advice for listeners:

- Recognize and appreciate what you have.
- Maintain and improve what works best.
- Celebrate the diversity that happens by chance (happenstance).
- Pedestrians are the link between every single forum – design for pedestrians.

The panel discussion was arguably the most interesting and engaging event of the evening. Form Based Codes (FBCs) were really first discussed in detail at this time. Questions and answers are paraphrased as follows:

**Older buildings in downtown Tulsa – should they be torn down?**

**Alan Hart:** Reuse of older and historic buildings is important – but don’t make them into museums.

**Segregation of land uses?**

**Alan Hart:** Vancouver used to segregate uses like most every other city; Vancouver now allows the marketplace to determine the use of buildings.

**Terry Taylor:** Oklahoma City has identified the need for more flexibility in terms of mixed uses – it is in the process of rezoning the downtown area, and is working to collapse 15 different zoning districts into three. Industrial uses are proposed to be limited, and building use will be more at the discretion of the developer. The zoning previously called for a suburban style setbacks, but is now encouraging building up to the street.

**Alan Hart:** Zoning is a recipe book, a cook book. Zoning may incorporate elements of performance-based zoning, or form-based zoning. Zoning codes should be modified; renewed. New Urbanism, or “Real Urbanism,” as he calls it, should not be the new dogma, but should be realistic.

What Do You Think?

**Does your community use, or is it considering a move to Form Based Codes?**

**Do you have any experiences with FBCs that you would like to share?**

Email the newsletter editor at eenyart@incog.org and share your thoughts — please note if you would like your thoughts shared in a future newsletter article.

How to balance market forces?

**Terry Taylor:** Have dialogue with the market, with the development community. Try to develop a regulatory process which fits the market needs.

**Alan Hart:** Success is often achieved by fortunate circumstances – being in the right place at the right time. Try, and trust, and learn from your experiences. Get the community talking

**How can Form Based Codes (FBCs) be used to capitalize on recent new developments such as The Village at Central Park development in downtown?**

**Jamie Jamieson:** The benefit of FBCs, in the context of the Central Park development, is that it may provide an assurance that a [popular gas station] or [chain drugstore] won’t be plopped down across the street.

Some Tulsans prefer walkable communities, and some prefer their gated/ segregated neighborhoods – can FBCs accommodate both populations?

**Jamie Jamieson:** FBCs are not just for urban cores – the transect is designed to provide for the extremely rural to the civic center. Buildings are to be “contextual,” suited for their environment.

**What precise measures can Tulsa take to develop mass transit?**

**Jamie Jamieson:** You need density to make transit viable.
The preservation of its historic properties is a major avenue for a community to nurture local civic pride and promote heritage tourism. The State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) Certified Local Governments Program (CLG) provides a direct role for local governments in the nationwide historic preservation program in partnership with the National Park Service and the SHPO. As a CLG, your community is eligible for a share of the SHPO’s annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) award.

Currently thirteen towns in Oklahoma – Ardmore, Anadarko, Cordell, Enid, Guthrie, Grandfield, Muskogee, Norman, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee, Ponca City, Sapulpa, and Tulsa – participate in the CLG Program.

To become a CLG, the local government must enforce a historic preservation-zoning ordinance that establishes a historic preservation review commission with the power to designate historic districts and landmarks and to review proposed alterations, demolitions, or new construction affecting designated properties. To qualify as a CLG, the city’s local ordinance must address the specific criteria set forth in Certified Local Governments Program for Oklahoma (www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm).

Each city must enter into a Certification Agreement with the SHPO that stipulates, among other things, that the design review will be carried out under guidelines consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation; maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties; provide adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program; and recommend properties for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

A community must decide if the adoption of a historic preservation-zoning ordinance is appropriate for its future plans and goals. The CLG Program helps strengthen a local government's historic preservation efforts through financial and technical assistance and through direct participation in the federal preservation programs.

For additional information, contact Glen R. Roberson, Coordinator of the Certified Local Governments Program for Oklahoma, State Historic Preservation Office at 405/521-6387 or grober-son@okhistory.org.

**SAVE THE DATE**

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association (OKAPA) and the University of Oklahoma Division of Regional and City Planning’s Student Planning Association (SPA) announce the fall 2006 luncheon.

Date/Time:  Friday, November 17th from 12:00-2:30pm
Location:  Price Business College Room 3040  
University of Oklahoma Campus  
Norman, OK

John Williams of Williams, Box, Forshee and Bullard, P.C. will be making a presentation on current issues in land use law in Oklahoma and across the country (formal presentation title forthcoming).

Lunch (free!) will be served at noon, followed by the talk at approximately 1:00pm. Ample time will be provided for an open question and answer period.

Make plans to join us and spread the word about this event.

Watch for more information on this event.

Questions can be directed to Charles Warnken, 405.325.3871 or cwarnken@ou.edu
On March 31st, 2006, RCPL welcomed Carol Barrett, FAICP, and current Planning Director of San Marcos, TX to the Department to give a presentation on changes to the AICP Code of Ethics. The presentation, entitled A Conversation at the AICP Code Gym: Flexing Your Ethical Muscles, discussed several of the recent changes to the AICP code of ethics that took effect in June of 2005. Bringing in distinguished planning practitioners adds to our students’ education and the Regional and City Planning Division is committed to providing students with the most practical and applied educational experience.

During the American Planning Association’s (APA’s) Annual national conference in San Antonio, RCPL hosted a reception that was well attended by several generations of alumni. Established in 1947, RCPL is one of the oldest planning programs in the country. In addition, our alumni include three Past-Presidents of the APA and several others who have become members of achieved prominence within the profession. The reception allowed current students to intermingle with these individuals and other friends of RCPL. Several important announcements were made at this event including: Major renovations planned to the College of Architecture’s main building, Gould Hall; the establishment of the Joseph Lee Rodgers Scholarship fund (more information below); and the announcement of RCPL’s 60th anniversary celebration scheduled for November 30 - December 1 2007. Watch for additional information on the 60th anniversary conference and mark your calendars.

In Spring of 2006, working in conjunction with several alumni, RCPL has established the JOSEPH LEE RODGERS SCHOLARSHIP IN REGIONAL AND CITY PLANNING. The fund is aimed at providing scholarship money to students and the award is based on academic merit. We need your support in making this project happen and donations of any dollar amount are welcome. Please contact RCPL Associate Professor and Director Guoqiang Shen at 405.325.1698 or guoqiangs@ou.edu for more information on how to contribute to this important initiative.

RCPL is proud to announce that nine students will graduate in the 2006 calendar year:

- Christina Alexander
- Nick Bishop
- Rachel Clyne
- Chad Derouin
- Janay Jeanis
- Anne Munkres
- Clayton Robinson
- Amar Sarvepalli
- Umit Zamudio

Student Planning Association (SPA) News

On Friday, April 21st, 2006, a group of eight SPA members participated in an Earth Day event with the third grade class at Lincoln Elementary School in Norman. RCPL students prepared an interactive lesson on the environmental and public health impacts of transportation choices made by students. Using Google Earth and aerial photos, children were asked to identify with crayons on laminated maps the locations of schools, friend’s homes, restaurants, shopping areas and identify travel directions and modes between these sites. Both RCPL students and the third-graders had a wonderful time while learning about their neighborhoods and the impacts of transportation choices on the community and the environment. RCPL would like to thank Janay Jeanis and Amar Sarvepalli, students who contributed considerable time in making this event a success.

New Student Planning Association (SPA) officers for the 2006-2007 Academic Year include:

- Mary Troyan, Co-President
- Anna Jenkins, Co-President

*RCPL would like to thank Rachel Clyne and Nick Bishop, our outgoing SPA Officers, for their service this year

2005-2006 Award winners include:

- Robert Goins Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Planning Student: Nick Bishop
- AICP Outstanding Student Award: Christina Alexander

and just to be official........

******************************************************************************

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******************************************************************************
ing Planners, quickly made clear to students that the AICP took the common sense and the idealism seriously. Take her scenario "Temporary Toilets". You’ve been asked to evaluate a project that placed temporary toilets serving the homeless in an alley behind the downtown business district. Would you succumb to pressure, subtle and overt, from the city council, the chamber of commerce, and your own boss to tilt the study of temporary toilets against the homeless? To a group of starry-eyed twenty-three year olds, the answer may be obvious. To students with children and mortgages and all too familiar with the power of hierarchies, the answer is as straightforward as its implications are real. And what about the opposite -- would you tilt the study to favor the homeless? Putting the idealism into action in such scenarios taught students that AICP membership was not just about joining a professional organization, but an awesome responsibility. Even if actual enforcement was only a remote possibility, students saw how AICP’s expectations could give planners the impetus to speak up when it would have been far easier to hold silent.

Sure, we would joke about the seemingly impossible dictate contained in the code: Go forth and plan with concern for long range consequences; interrelatedness; full, clear, and accurate information; meaningful citizen impact on plans and programs, including citizens who lack influence; the expansion of choice and opportunity for all, and especially for the disadvantaged; the integrity of the natural environment; strive for design excellence and preserve the heritage of the built environment. Yes, the AICP Superhero capes come in red and blue. I would also start to see students’ spines stiffen and heads held higher. This effect was unintentionally amplified the year I had students from architecture and landscape architecture in the class. Out of sense of fairness, I assigned everyone to read all three professional codes. My new planning superheroes couldn’t resist gently ribbing their more earthbound classmates.

As mentioned above, the new code distinguishes between principles and rules, but it appears that the AICP only intends to hold members accountable to the rules section. Reportedly, the legal world demanded enforcement clarity. The "Principles to Which We Aspire" are still there, of course, some expanded, some strengthened, and some watered down. The planner’s primary obligation to the public interest is still a guiding principle, but not a rule. The AICP has also weighed in on finding an ethical balance. In those hopefully rare cases when the rules conflict with the principles, I feel that I must advise students intending to join the AICP to follow the rules. Presumably, the new code still holds the power to inspire, although it won’t be in quite the same elegant way that the old code did. I miss it already.

Sarah Jo Peterson, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Regional and City Planning at the University of Oklahoma. She teaches ethics in the course Planning Management.

Reference:

Proposed OKAPA Bylaws Amendment
You should by now have received in the mail an official election ballot — ballots are due by November 17, 2006. Remember — A majority vote of all chapter members is required for any amendment to the bylaws. You can view the present bylaws and the version showing the proposed changes at www.okplanning.org. You may direct any questions to the OKAPA secretary at eenyart@incog.org. Thank you in advance for your time and participation~
The historic, restored Collinsville City Hall (photograph courtesy of Bob Wolfram, AICP).

Your Article Here!
The Oklahoma Planner is your Newsletter. Article submittals are welcome and encouraged. If you see or know of an article or other useful information, please email the newsletter editor at eenyart@incog.org. Thanks!