

**urban planning
spring 2013 newsletter**

A Tradition Of



Table of Contents

Chair's Corner	1
A Tradition of Excellence in Advising	3
A Tradition of Excellence in Impactful Leadership	5
A Tradition of Excellence in Graphic Communications	7
A Tradition of Excellence in the Guest Lecture Series	8
A Tradition of Excellence in Scholarship	10
A Tradition of Excellence in Learning through Service	11
A Tradition of Excellence in Turning Internships into Full-time Employment	13
A tradition of Excellence in Global Immersion	14
The Role of Planners in Transportation Safety	17
From the Second-Year Studio	19
Calendar of Events	20



Michael A. Burayidi, Ph.D., Professor Chair, Department of Urban Planning

Excellence! That is an attribute most people would like to be attached to their name or organization. As a student,

I know I was overjoyed when my professors referred to my work as excellent (and by the way, this happened often!). Excellence is what all organizations covet but few achieve. Here at Ball State, both our graduate and undergraduate programs in urban planning have a reputation of excellence. But you don't have to take my word for it.

For the last three years, I traveled across the US doing research for my book on downtowns. In the process, I got to meet and talk to several people who are in the trenches of planning practice. I was also blessed to enjoy the reputation of Ball State in my travels. I would always introduce myself as a Professor at Ball State's urban planning program and almost

invariably everyone I met had heard of and knew of the program. One community development director went as far as to compare graduates of Ball State's planning program to those of an Ivy league school and told me that he would employ our graduates over those of the well renowned school anytime. His reason: While our students come prepared and instantly know what to do he has had to spend two years re-training graduates of the other school on what is expected of them in the planning office. We ended up spending the better half of our meeting discussing what it is that we do at Ball state to make our students stand out!

Aristotle once said that "We are what we repeatedly do." Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. In our department, we habitually excel in what we do. This newsletter celebrates this excellence. The progenitor of this excellence is in our curriculum. The underlying tenets of the curriculum are our common first-year program. We use studio as the nexus of our

education, align our curriculum with our community based projects that immerse students in planning practice, support our students to participate in professional conferences, and offer field trips that provide students with opportunities to meet and interact with planning practitioners. We also use charrete graphics to inculcate skills of visual communication and representation, and portfolio reviews to simulate real life employer interview scenarios, among others. Add to this, highly commendable outcome metrics such as high alumni satisfaction rates, high job placement rates, and a high quality learning environment and you have a recipe for excellence.

Speaking of outcome metrics, about 85 percent of our alumni reported in a recent survey that the education they received at Ball State prepared them well for their professional career. Over 90 percent of them were able to find a job within two years. Of those who took the AICP exam, 76 percent of our BUPD alumni and 88 percent of our

MURP graduates passed the exam. These pass rates are significantly higher than many other comparable programs in the country. More than 85 percent of our students received a seven or better rating on a 10-point scale from their employers following their internships. Several of our students received full time employment at their places of internships.

As we welcome the site visit team (SVT) from the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) this March, there is a lot that we are proud of and excited to share with the team. We welcome them with open arms and are eager to be the excellent hosts for which our reputation is equally well known.



Francis H. Parker, Ph.D., Professor of Urban Planning

Advising is part of a tradition of excellence for the Department of Urban Planning, both for graduate and undergraduate planning education at Ball State. Advising starts with potential students considering a decision to come to Ball State. It continues throughout the students' career here as decisions are made about courses, minors areas of concentration, and

electives both within and outside the department. Finally, as students near completion of their degrees, advising shifts to the question, "what next?" graduate school, an appropriate job, or a career choice?

This tradition of excellence was recognized at the University faculty meeting in fall 2006, when we received the 2005-2006 Ball State Award for Outstanding Academic Advisor. It was a specific recognition of achievement by the designated faculty advisor, but in a larger sense it honors our overall department commitment to the task.

Formal advising involves the determination of appropriate courses for graduate and undergraduate students. At both levels there is a designated core, but decisions must constantly be made about when to take courses and which additional electives to take. At the undergraduate level the process is complicated by the requirements of the University Core. Departmental advising works constantly with the University advising staff, specifically Kathryn McCartney in the advising center. She works with all

CAP students, and in conjunction with our departmental advisor makes substitutions as necessary to keep students on track.

Advising provides the flexibility to help students take advantage of special opportunities, like study abroad, CAPAsia, or other special experiences which enrich the student's program at Ball State. Frequently, substitutions or waivers are required by the timing of these opportunities, and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis for students.

Advising also helps determine whether students have met all requirements for their respective BUPD or MURP degrees. As the University puts more pressure on departments to graduate students on time, there is greater need for individual student plans to make sure this happens. The department advisor and the department administrative assistant collaborate daily on questions of this type for individual students.

Advising is complicated when the department does not have a clear plan of its own for future course offerings. There have been times in the past when this was a major hurdle, especially for graduate students. A process is now underway to determine a three- or four-year matrix of course offerings, giving students reasonable assurance that a course they need will be available at a known semester when they need it.

Advising is both a formal and an informal process, and it involves most of our faculty in one capacity or another. The portfolio review process is a component of advising,

Advising (con't)

providing a diagnostic waypoint for students as they prepare for internships. All active department faculty participate in the portfolio review process.

Advising also addresses the big questions students face: How do I get an internship? What do I do after I leave Ball State? Should I get more education? What kind of a job do I want, and how do I get it? These are questions that are not limited to any one advisor. Students tend to establish rapport with specific faculty and turn to them in the process of self-discovery. Questions may even include the discussion of whether planning is really the appropriate

field for the student. Sensitive faculty have heard these questions before. They work with individual students in ongoing conversations either in the office or at less formal lunch sessions.

Our department takes very seriously our commitment to advising, and the tradition of faculty being readily available for discussion with students. Advising is both a formal process and an ongoing conversation. It involves, one way or another, the entirety of our department faculty and staff. We believe we have a tradition of excellence in advising, and we are proud of it.

A Tradition of Excellence in Impactful Leadership



Bruce Race, FAIA, FAICP, Associate Professor of Practice

The first class of MURP students graduated in 1977 and the first BUPD students graduated in 1990. Since then Ball State urban planners have made important contributions to America's communities, the American Planning Association and the profession. Ball State planners are visible leaders.

This year, the Indianapolis Business

Journal (IBJ) chose two Department alumni as members of their annual Forty Under 40 class. Brad Beaubien, AICP, (BUPD 01, MURP02) is the director of the CAP Indianapolis Center and lead author for the APA national award-winning Regional Center Design Guidelines. David Leazenby (BUPD99) is a founding partner of Milhaus Development, LLC, in Indianapolis. He and Tadd Miller (BUPD98), another former Forty Under 40 awardee, have established one of the most progressive and successful urban development companies in Indianapolis.

Several of our Urban Planning Department alumni are APA leaders. Cynthia Bowen, AICP, (BUPD96) is the Region IV representative on the APA National Board of Directors. She has created a successful planning division in the international engineering firm RW Armstrong in Indianapolis and was selected for a BSU-CAP Award of Outstanding Achievement in 2001. Shane Burkhardt, AICP, (BUPD98) is the current APA Indiana president and was preceded by Rose Scovel, AICP, (BUPD99). Amy Williams, AICP, (BUPD 04, MURP05) is a founding

partner of Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group and has been a visible leader in APA Kentucky. Dennis Gordon, FAICP, (URS75) is the executive director of the Northern Kentucky Planning Commission and also served on the APA National Board. Dennis was the first BSU alumnus to be awarded AICP fellowship and was selected as the BSU-CAP Distinguished Alumnus in 2002.

Our department's alumni are chief administrators of key planning agencies in Indianapolis. Adam Thies, AICP, (BUPD00) is the director of the Department of Metropolitan Development. Adam was recognized in IBJ's Forty Under 40 in 2009 and was a founding principal of the Eden Collaborative. Another recipient of the IBJ Forty under 40 is Ehren Bingaman, AICP, (BUPD99). Ehren is the executive director of the Central Indiana Regional Transit Authority. Sean Northup, AICP, (BUPD 07 MURP08) is the assistant executive director of Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Jeff Kingsbury, AICP, (BUDP91) is a founding principal at Greenstreet Consulting. Jeff is a visible economic development planner and leader in the Urban Land Institute (ULI). Jeff was a recipient of the BSU-CAP Award of Outstanding Achievement in 2002. Another ULI leader is Jennifer Milliken, AICP, (BUPD94). Jennifer is the director of ULI Indiana.

Our alumni are also leaders in state and federal agencies. Teresa Jeter-Newburn (MURP95) was a BSU-CAP Award of Outstanding Achievement in 2001. Teresa is a team leader at HUD Region V and is a former HUD Community

Impactful Leadership (con't)

Builder fellow. Alicia Goehring (MURP92) has been a leader in preservation planning and is currently working for the Wisconsin Historical Society. Alicia received a BSU-CAP Outstanding Achievement Award in 2000.

Recent graduates are continuing the leadership traditions and working in a variety of professional settings. Here are several to watch: Katie Bannon (MURP09) is the zoning and long range-planner in Bloomington, Ind., and is active in APA Indiana's board. Aletha Dunston, AICP, (BUPD05) is the city planner for Marion, Ind., and is on the APA Indiana board. John Marron, AICP, (MURP09) works for Public Policy Institute of Indiana focusing on community development research. Kyle Miller (BUPD09, MUD10) is

an urban designer for Jacobs Engineering in Atlanta, Ga. Erin Mattingly (BUPD09, MUD10) is the non-vehicular transportation and outreach planner for the Evansville MPO. Trevor Traphagen (BUPD11, MUD12) and Tyler Clark (BUPD11, MUD12) have been hired to work on the Rezone Indy project for DMD. Jake Dietrich (BUPD 12) is working with Milhaus Development in Indianapolis.

There might be others that I have not mentioned, so this should serve as a call out to our alumni who are out there to let us know what you are doing. Join our Urban Planning Alumni group. Contact Amy Williams, AICP (awilliams@TSWDesignGroup.com).



Brad Beaubien, AICP



David Leazenby

A Tradition of Excellence in Graphic Communications



Lohren Deeg, ASAI, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning Coordinator, College of Architecture and Planning First Year Program

Planners have a common need to communicate information and ideas to others. The ability to plan requires creative,

analytic thinking, but such skills alone are not enough if one cannot communicate that creativity, analysis, and recommendations to the client or public. Some contemporary theories have placed communication at the center of planning practice in what Patsy Healey famously referred to as the “communicative turn in planning.”

The Department of Urban Planning at Ball State University has a tradition of excellence in introducing, instructing, and developing proficiency in various media for communicating ideas to others. Active listening, interviewing, public speaking, presentations, mapping, spatial analysis, and technical writing are skills that we purport to be essential. The Department, housed in the

College of Architecture and Planning, with programs in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Historic Preservation, allows us to share a learning environment with talented faculty who have skills in graphic communications.

Courses, electives, and immersive learning opportunities that utilize geographic information systems, traditional (hand) graphic communications, desktop publishing, and digital modeling extend and build on the tradition of excellence in effective planning communication and aspects of physical planning that the department values. Key faculty in the Department support these efforts in the CAP common first year program and into the undergraduate and graduate course offerings.

The Department evaluates and celebrates the proficiency of our students’ graphic communication skills through the “Chair’s Wall,” an on-going exhibit of graphic pieces, the Department’s social media outlets,

and through an annual student portfolio review.

This tradition of instilling the skills of visual communication in our students sets us apart from many other urban planning programs and it is one that we will continue to uphold in our curriculum and in the education of our students for years to come.



Artist: Geoff Desmit, PLAN 605 Spring 2011

A Tradition of Excellence in the Guest Lecture Series

Lisa M. Dunaway, LEED AP, Instructor of Urban Planning

Aside from the College of Architecture and Planning's Guest Lecture Series, the Department of Urban Planning has its own lecture series. We take great pride in bringing in speakers who are both experts in their field and interdisciplinary in nature.

On March 21, 2013, the Department will be bringing in Jim Leggitt, architect, urban planner, author and professional illustrator, whose book *Drawing Shortcuts* has been used in the first year program for many years. He will be speaking about the techniques he uses for illustrating that are relevant to the professions within the College, and also doing a live demonstration of those techniques. We are looking forward to his presentation and hope that all faculty, students, and alumni can attend.

In January 2013, we brought in Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Dr. Tallamy specializes in bolstering biodiversity and preserving human life through the use of native plants to maintain healthy food webs and ecosystem services. Without functioning food webs, the ecosystem cannot provide services that humans need such as clean air, clean water, food resources, and new soil. And food webs cannot function without the use of native plants. Dr. Tallamy's lecture called on design professionals of all types to stop the crashing of our ecosystems, and therefore our way of life, through design and planning efforts from the backyard scale to the regional scale.

In 2012, Cynthia Hoyle of the Orion Planning Group, Illinois, gave a lecture on complete streets. Also in 2012,

Mohamed Yehiya, director of the Urban Development Authority in Sri Lanka's Hambantota District, joined us for several weeks and spoke to various classes and groups.

In Spring 2011, Roberta Brandes Gratz of New York City, an urban critic and lecturer, spoke about "urban husbandry" or how urban regeneration works in reality. Her books are *The Living City*, *Cities Back from the Edge: New Life for Downtown* and *The Battle for Gotham*, the latter of which is a critique of the typical sprawl approach to community development.

In October 2011, Roxy Gagdekar, our guest from India, gave a presentation on "Discrimination, Theater, and Ball State's Intervention." Roxy was a host to our students when they were in India on CapAsia in Spring 2010. His talk centered on the efforts that indigenous people are making to redevelop their communities in the midst of significant resource and political constraints.

In recent semesters, our guest lecturers included Jennifer Kime and Jamie Thompson, Co-Directors of Downtown Mansfield, Inc. The city of Mansfield, Ohio, is a rustbelt city that has undergone similar development experiences as Muncie but has found a way to keep the downtown healthy. There were many lessons we learned from them and they were helpful to us as we contemplate the redevelopment of Muncie's downtown. Also recently, Adrian Fine and Cynthia Bowen, both distinguished alumni, shared a variety of personal experiences with large-city planning. Adrian is the Director of Advocacy for the Los Angeles Conservancy and Cynthia is the Director of Planning for RW Armstong in Indianapolis.

Guest Lecture Series (con't)

In 2009, Allan B. Jacobs, professor of urban planning at UC-Berkeley, gave a talk on great streets. In 2010, John Norquist, former mayor of Milwaukee, gave a lecture on new urbanism and smart growth.

We would appreciate your requests for future speakers!



Professor Dunaway with Dr. Douglas Tallamy





Michael A. Burayidi, Ph.D., Professor Chair, Department of Urban Planning

Our department is making significant contributions to the field of urban planning in several areas. Professor Kelly's book, *Community Planning: An Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan* (2009) was published in its second edition by Island Press. Stuart Meck of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers

University described the book as "nothing less than a master work planning practice. Whether you are a student or seasoned pro, you absolutely cannot be without it. Kelly goes well beyond the conventional land use perspective in describing the formulation of comprehensive plans and addressing all plan elements and how they fit together. Moreover, he teases out implementation issues in every chapter, propelling the reader from analysis to action."

Professor Perera's co-edited book with Wing-Shing Tang, *Transforming Asian Cities: Intellectual Impasse, Asianizing Space, and Emerging Translocalities* (2003) was recently published by Routledge. The book draws attention to how Asians produce their contemporary urban practices, identities, and spaces as part of resisting, responding to, and avoiding larger global and national processes.

Additionally, my book, *Resilient Downtowns: A New Approach to Revitalizing Small and Medium City Downtowns* (Routledge 2013) is described by William Lucy, Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Virginia in a pre-publication endorsement thus: "Despite downtown revival being essential for old cities, few descriptions of revival exist and there are even fewer comparative analyses. Burayidi

demonstrates numerous paths to renewing downtowns with mixed uses that include housing and demonstrate crucial roles for both local government and businesses."

In addition to these books, faculty in the department have also published in peer reviewed journals, influencing the professions thought and practices in the area of urban design, law, and transportation planning among others. Professor Lohren Deeg's co-authored article, "Throwing Paint: Using Divergent Thinking to Energize the Traditional Design Studio" was published in *In Form: A Journal of Design Culture*.

Our newest faculty member Professor Jiao has been particularly productive in this regard. In addition to being named Global Health Institute Fellow in the Fall Semester of 2012, he has co-authored two peer-reviewed journal articles with several graduate students. The first, "Fast Tracks: A comparison of high speed rail in China, Europe, and the United States" in the *Journal of Transportation Technology* was written with Jenna Harbin and Yang Li. The second, "Transit Deserts: The Gap Between Demand and Supply" in the *Journal of Public Transportation* was authored with Maxwell Dillivan. Professor Jiao has also co-authored three other peer-reviewed articles and a book chapter, "Locations with frequent pedestrian-vehicle collisions: Their transportation and neighborhood environment characteristics in Seattle and King County, Washington" in *Planning Support Systems for Sustainable Urban Development*, Springer (forthcoming).

Our faculty are in the forefront of planning scholarship and research, an endeavor we intend to continue well into the future.

A Tradition of Excellence in Learning through Service



Scott Truex, Associate Professor Director, Community Based Programs

For more than 40 years, the College of Architecture and Planning has provided project based learning opportunities for its students, combining teaching, research, and service activities that focus on the environmental design and planning professions. At the core of this effort is the Community Based Projects (CBP) Program, which is

primarily responsible for activities focused on the many communities that make up Indiana--from inner-city neighborhoods to small rural towns.

Each prospective community is analyzed before any CBP assistance is initiated to ensure that the community in question has all the necessary ingredients for a successful project. Virtually all projects undertaken by the CBP Program follow one of three major formats: academic studio or class projects, charrette workshops, or grant-supported research, design, or planning studies. The format is determined through negotiation and discussion among the community representatives, the CBP coordinator, and participating faculty members. The criteria used in determining the optimum format include community and academic goals, community and academic time schedules, and available community resources.

Projects are the product of collaborative efforts of diverse CBP planning and design assistance teams made possible through hundreds of volunteer hours donated by faculty, students, and community participants. The format of

each project is unique and is developed specifically for the respective context in which the project is rooted. Projects are unified by the program's commitment to public participatory planning and design. All community-based projects are initiated by communities.

The primary goal of the CBP Program is to give CAP students, at a minimum, a series of viable learning experiences in urban planning and design, citizen participation methods, and strategies for neighborhood revitalization. This goal is based on the belief that a more realistic and pragmatic understanding of these activities can best be gained by the students through their participation in a community-based, problem-focused, hands-on format.

The second instructional goal of the program is to provide education in environmental planning and design to both the public and private sectors so they may more effectively participate in the decision-making process that is an integral component of creative problem solving. This goal is based on the belief that an informed and educated public is the key to effective community planning, revitalization, and development. The development of communication techniques geared to increasing public awareness and facilitating a "take-part" process is an important focus of the program.

The third goal of the program is to provide service in the form of technical assistance in urban planning and design to both the public and private sectors. This goal is based on the belief that responsible decisions concerning

Learning Through Service (con't)

the future of Indiana's physical environment hinges on accurate, unbiased information and objective comparisons of alternative strategies and proposals.

The fourth goal of the program is to promote applied research activities that focus on Indiana urban contexts--from inner-city neighborhoods to small rural towns. This research concerns itself with the methodologies used in the analysis, programming, planning, and design synthesis of urban environments and the teaching of professionals who will be involved in them.

The Charrette workshop

The charrette format has been refined by the CBP Program and is the cornerstone of the program. It is most often used in communities too far from Muncie to use the academic studio or in situations requiring a substantial amount of community involvement. Modeled after the nationally acclaimed AIA-sponsored R/UDAT Program, this program uses the intense two- or three-day community-based workshop as a vehicle for initially responding to community-defined issues, problems, and potentials. Heavily dependent on substantial community participation, this procedure is best used at the front end of the planning-design sequence. The major aims of the charrette workshop are to promote citizen awareness and education, goal formulation, problem and issue

assessment, generation of "talk pieces," ideas, and images, and overall strategy development. To date, this format has been successfully used in more than 100 communities throughout the state.

Urban Planning Department and CBP

Students from the urban planning department have been engaged in CBP projects since the beginning of the department. Nearly all of our studios have a community-based learning component, and the majority of our undergraduates participate in community charrettes or studio projects. Urban Planning faculty have integrated community-based learning into all facets of the curriculum and have used this forum to advocate for a greater quality of life for Indiana communities. These applied research activities not only benefit the students, future planning professionals, but also the leadership within the communities we work.

As communities evolve in their understanding of sustainability and resource constraints, CBP is well positioned to continue nurturing the economic prosperity of these communities by leveraging all of a community's resources. Our student projects represent a form of capital that not only benefits the students but also the communities we partner with through community based learning and serving.



Abby Wiles, MURP 2013

A number of urban planning students have turned their internship experiences into full-time jobs. As an undergraduate student, many of my classmates believed that good grades and a college diploma would automatically earn them a well-paid, mid-level job. However, with a tough economy and tight municipal budgets, students

must find a way to set themselves apart from their peers. Internships are a way to do just that.

My first internship as an undergraduate student was at the Chamber of Commerce in my hometown of South Bend, Indiana. At the Chamber, I worked on a variety of research and marketing projects that gave me valuable, real world experience. Since then, I have completed a year-and-a-half of internship in community development at the city of Michigan City, an economic development internship again with the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County, and a summer internship with Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG), an MPO. My goal in my last two internships was to gain experience in areas different than

my first job. My internships not only strengthened my resume, but gave me a real-world context for assignments and coursework in the MURP program. They also helped me to understand what area of planning I was most passionate about and where I wanted to work long-term.

However, getting the internship is just the first step. Success is more than just showing up. From my experience, my advice to students is that they should be willing to go above and beyond what is expected of them at the place of internship. Do not just put in the hours and meet the minimum that is expected of you. Always go a step further. While an internship may seem like a pesky requirement for graduation, the experience you gain and connections you make can help to advance your career. A successful internship can often lead to full-time employment. Two recent MURP graduates—Julie Collier and Robert Wertman—are now working full-time at agencies where they completed internships last summer. I know that the internships I completed before and during the MURP program have helped me to secure a permanent planning position with the City of Goshen. You can be successful, too!

A tradition of Excellence in Global Immersion

The following two stories provide examples of the department's tradition of immersing students in the global environment through our much acclaimed CapAsia program. The first story is from Xiaofei Xue recounting his experiences in India. The second contribution is from

Bottom-Up Planning in India Xiaofei Xue, MURP 2013

It is hard to believe that this is the fourth week in Bhubaneswar, India. I have learned so much in the past few weeks.

As you may know, Bhubaneswar is one of the two planned cities in India, which is why we selected Bhubaneswar as our study site. It is also called “temple city” of India. The city is the capital of the State of Orissa. It was planned by a German architect called Otto H. Königsberger in 1947. After more than 60 years, the planned city sector was developed beyond the original plan by the local people. Our approach is to understand how the people here make the changes to plans for their daily lives. How do they understand the city from their perspective? We try to understand the city and people's lives through five components: government housing, middle class housing, informal settlements (slums), transportation, and heritage.

The new Bhubaneswar was planned for 40,000 government officials as the city became the state capital. Nine units were designed in the original neighborhood plan. Public facilities such as schools, hospitals, and markets were included in the plan. Some of them are still being used, while others were changed according

Alkeyna Aldridge. Together both of these stories illustrate the importance of providing an international perspective on urban planning issues to students to broaden their scope of planning practices.

to the needs of people. It is really interesting to see how local people, as the users, modify spaces to create new functions.

We formed five teams to explore the city and then chose particular sites to focus on. I am currently working with Chido Moyo on the private middle class housing. We try to understand when and how the private middle class housing started to develop in a capital city that was solely planned for government officials. We do this by talking to people. As planners, we need to talk with people, try to understand their life journey, build a relationship with them so that we can better understand the city. We call this “bottom-up” approach which is very different from the traditional way that we plan. We do have public meetings, but in another way, we spend most of our time talking with people. We join them in their spaces, instead of asking them to come to us.

Dr. Nihal Perera organized meetings for us to talk with the local planners, government officials, NGOs, and other community leaders. We learned different things from various perspectives. We also work with Mr. Bibhu Kalyan Nayak and his students from the College of Engineering and Technology (CET). They help us familiar ourselves

Global Immersion (con't)

with the city and communicate with the local people who cannot speak English. We also cooperate with the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) students from New Delhi, which is one of the top planning schools in India; they are doing a master plan for the city. We have had several very nice discussions between the two teams about the different approaches to planning and development. We

work together and learn from each other.

Study abroad is not easy, some of us get sick, or home sick. Some of us express difficulty with the bottom-up approach. However, overall we are changing. I guess this is part of “immersive learning”. As someone once said, how can we change the community without changing ourselves?

CapAsia Transformed Me Alkeyna Aldridge, MURP 2014

We’ve only been in India for a month now, but I can honestly say this experience is shaping the woman and the planner that I’m becoming. A month ago, when this girl from Middletown, Indiana, stepped off the plane in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, she was greeted by a cloud of muggy smog, blaring car and auto rickshaw horns, inexpressible scents (both good and BAD), and howling dogs. I thought “What have I gotten myself into?” I initially longed for certain first world “conveniences” like constant air conditioning, a softer mattress, toilet paper, and would often declare without reserve “Oh no, I’m not eating that!” Thus, my fellow CapAsians jokingly offered me the moniker Diva Keyna. Although I was physically in India, I was not allowing myself to be fully present.

As a part of the self-established settlement group, also known as slums, we began frequenting some of the poorest neighborhoods in the city. According to the municipality, there are more than 400 so-called “slum pockets” throughout the city; literally just around almost every corner. And although I was brought up in what can be described as an American “slum,” nothing could prepare me for this experience. In the beginning of our

field visits, I was very reserved, electing to hide behind my camera or the language barrier, but as time progressed I soon came out of my introverted shell. In fact, we were walking through the community one day when I noticed the remnants of New Year decorations citing, “Welcome 2013...Happy New Year!” I immediately thought back to a class discussion on the topic of “timesharing” which argued that planning professionals are guilty of not allowing themselves to inhabit the same time and space as the people for whom they are planning. This small depiction reminded me that it’s 2013, I am across the globe—even in the slums of India—and that if I was truly committed to the promise of this profession then I must allow myself to be open to the experience, open to timesharing, and open to learning.

Building relationships with the loving and hospitable people of Orissa, and finally opening myself up to the full experience of India, has rocked my foundations in unspeakable ways. I plan because, for me, exploring sustainable ways to end the cycle of poverty has a personal stake. Since being here, the so-called “slum dwellers” of the Satyakali community have revealed new

Global Immersion (con't)

perspectives to me, obliterating the assumptions that we as planners made from middle-class frames. From the people, I have learned that methodology matters and that talking *with* people instead of *at* people is valued and appreciated in immeasurable ways. Secondly, that understanding the issues from the inside-out rather than outside-in can debunk false preconceptions and blur the lines between the proverbial us and them. Lastly, that the aspirations and daily structures of people's lives are just as, if not, more important than land use maps, statistics, and other Newtonian methods of measurement.

I find it ironic that this component of the program is termed "Planning to Learn," as I don't believe that any of us planned to be transformed by India, both personally and professionally, in so many ways. My prayer as I move forward in this profession is that the "voice" and aspirations of the people are always reflected and responded to within my work.

Please follow us on Facebook CapAsia or visit our website <http://www.capasia.net/>



Yuyi Wang converses with NGO- IIEC Director Dr. Shisir Kumar Das.



Dr. Perera sketches an informal structure as new friend, Payel, looks on.

The Role of Planners in Transportation Safety

Corey Hull, AICP, BUPD 2002

Urban planners are experts in seeing the panoramic view of the communities in which we work, yet at the same time, we are able to zoom in with precision to focus on our area of expertise. A close-up view of the transportation planning professional reveals a montage of data: traffic counts, freight commodity surveys, transit ridership, benefit-cost analysis, budgeting, forecasting, socioeconomic data, crash data, and more. Shaping this data into a meaningful picture for local officials is key to improving the safety of our communities. Crash analysis data is a focal point of this image.

Analyzing crash data can be a challenge because in many cases, each crash is unique. Many crashes are caused by human error and cannot be designed away. However, examining crash data over long periods of time, and focusing on the circumstances that planners, engineers, and designers can change, can result in safer roadways in our communities. For five years, the Valdosta-Lowndes County Metropolitan Planning Organization has researched locations and trends in crash data to make recommendations to local engineers, law enforcement officers, educators, and emergency responders on crash circumstances that cannot be solely addressed through the design of a roadway.

Using GIS analysis to develop crash density and crash trend maps (see Figures 1 and 2), we are able to analyze location trends over several years and develop a list of high-crash locations. After further detailed analysis by engineers, this list can lead to possible project development in future long-range transportation plans

or minor, low-cost operational improvements. Due to a high level of truck freight traffic in this region, an analysis of commercial vehicle crashes was completed in 2012 resulting in the identification of six new locations where commercial vehicles had high crash frequencies. This information has been shared with economic developers who can be more informed about local transportation issues when they are speaking to prospective and existing businesses.

The crash analysis also looks at trends such as seat-belt usage, alcohol usage, and contributing factors to crashes. This information is shared with law enforcement agencies, drivers' education schools (including adult DUI programs), colleges, and high schools, among others. The top contributing factor in many high-frequency crash locations in Valdosta and many other communities is following too closely, a human factor that does not yield to a design solution. The challenge then becomes to educate the public about driving too closely in heavy traffic, avoiding in-vehicle distractions, and speeding.

While crash analysis for transportation safety is an important part of the transportation planner's job, it is important to see that transportation planners do not work in a small-picture world with just engineers to share our vision. Transportation planners also apply our knowledge and experience to allied professions to inform decision makers across other disciplines about transportation safety and the impacts of crashes in our communities, thus impacting the big picture in meaningful ways.

Planners in Transportation Safety (con't)

About the Author:

Corey Hull, AICP BUPD'02 is a transportation planner for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Valdosta, Ga., a city of about 54,000. More information about these and other projects in the Valdosta area can be found by visiting: www.sgrc.us/transportation.

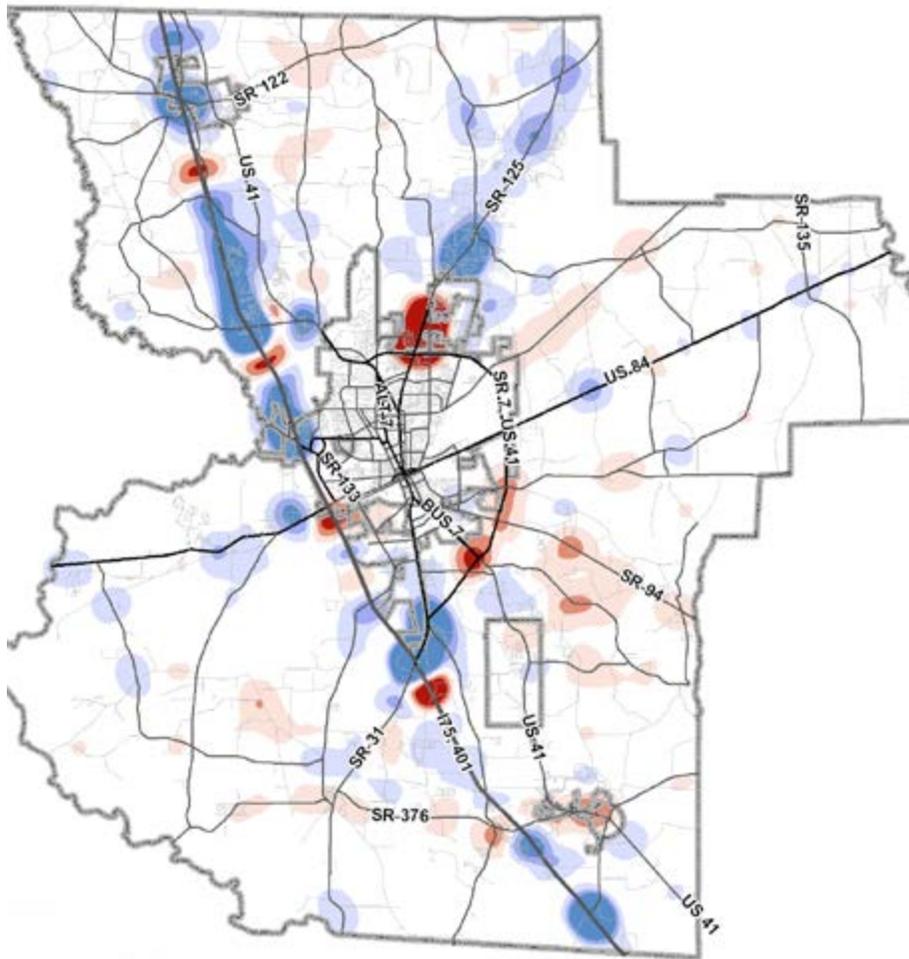


Figure 1 - Increase (red) and Decrease (blue) of crashes in Lowndes County, 2000-2009



Figure 2 - Crash Density in Valdosta, 2007-2009

From the Second-Year Studio

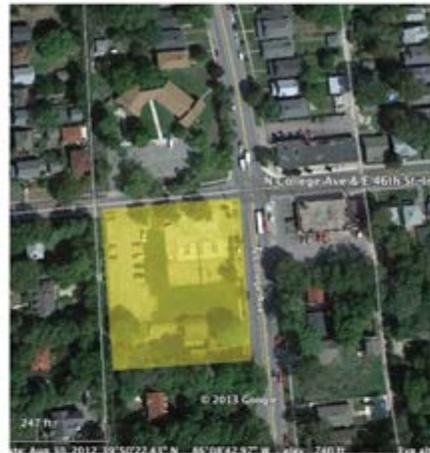


creating a transit node

PLAN 202 - Class of 2015

The **sophomore** studio is examining the intersection of 46th Street and College Avenue in **Indianapolis** this semester. The goal is to create a **neighborhood center** along this **historic streetcar corridor**. We visited the site and surrounding **Meridian-Kessler neighborhood** one chilly January afternoon. The field trip lead us south on College Avenue to provide context to the site. **Paul Diebold**, author of *History and Architecture of the Meridian-Kessler Neighborhood*, and **Mary Owens**, land use chair for the Meridian-Kessler Neighborhood Association, accompanied us. The St. Joan of Arc Community Garden, School, and Branch Library rounded off a day of **walking, visual notes, diagramming, and photographing**.

By: Chelsea Fenimore



Spring is a busy time for planners. Here are highlights from our calendar:

March 15 – APA Indiana Chapter conference in Columbus. Check out the organization's new website for details. See you there!

March 17-20 – The Planning Accreditation Board's site team will visit the department and meet with students, APA members, alumni, faculty members, and administrators. We have electronic versions of the reports available online here.

March 21 – Jim Leggitt, author of *Drawing Shortcuts*, will be presenting at part of the Department's Guest Lecture Series.

April 3 – CAP Faculty and Student Symposium. Paper presentations, panel sessions, poster displays, and workshops will be featured in this day-long event. Deadline for proposals is Feb. 15.

April 12-17 – APA National Conference in Chicago. We'll be taking a large group of students and hope to see many alumni in the Windy City. Conference-goers and Chicago-land alumni are welcome to join us that Monday, April 15, between 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Emerald Loop Bar and Grill, 216 North Wabash, for an alumni and APA reception for APA-Ohio, APA-Kentucky, APA-Indiana, University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University, Cleveland State University, and Ball State University.

April 18-20 – Urban Agriculture Symposium. Several of our classes are pairing up with the Muncie Urban Gardening Initiative and the Muncie Action Plan to explore the relationships between food producers and consumers and to encourage local food production. We'll soon post details on the CAP website calendar and hope many of you will be able to join us.

May 4 – Commencement exercises for the class of 2013.