

**VIRGINIA
CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN
PLANNING
ASSOCIATION**

2010 AWARD
WINNERS

SUMMARIES

2010 VAPA Awards Jury

Bob Kuhns, Chair
Clark Nexsen
Washington, DC

Earl Anderson
VP External Affairs, VAPA
York County

Liz Friel
VP Chapter Affairs, VAPA
Williamsburg

Elaine Echols
Principal Planner
Albemarle County

Tracey Shiflett
Town Manager
Clifton Forge

Jeffrey Walker
Executive Director
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission/PD9
Culpeper

Sarah Capps
Student, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

**Outstanding Planning Award
Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan**

City of Virginia Beach

The Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the City Council in December 2009 after a 2-year planning effort built upon an extensive engagement of the public and focus on strategic growth areas and the development of Urban Development Areas (UDAs). As the most populous city in the Commonwealth, Virginia Beach has substantial rural areas, a vibrant waterfront and tourist community and two major military installations. This planning effort is the latest comprehensive planning effort that succeeds the previous 2003 effort. The 2009 Plan is comprised of three documents – the Policy Document, Technical Report and Reference Handbook. The Policy Document includes urban, suburban, transitional and rural growth management strategies, such as the Green Line and Strategic Growth Area (SGA) components. The Technical Report conforms to the state mandate for comprehensive plans to survey and study their jurisdictions relevant characteristics and features. This report provides citywide and subarea overviews of data and information about the city’s physical, demographic, and economic makeup. The Reference Handbook is a new document that provides design guidelines and other reference material that relate to the comprehensive plan. It also identifies 22 plans, guidelines, studies and programs that have been adopted as part of the plan by reference. **The diversity of issues and the completeness of this planning effort represent a model for successful long range planning relevant to both urban and rural challenges.**

**Planning Innovation Award
MUMI Planning Grant Initiative**

Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA)

The VHDA has a long history of assisting in the financing of housing and, since 2004, with mixed use developments throughout the Commonwealth. A recent program has been developed that has been catalytic in assisting the early planning and conceptualizing of mixed use projects and revitalization areas. VHDA began funding MUMI (mixed use mixed income) Planning Grants of up to \$10,000 each to help localities and local redevelopment and housing authorities “jump-start” potential revitalization efforts. Since an initial \$5,000 pilot grant with the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority was awarded in 2005-2006, 22 planning grants of \$10,000 each have been funded – ten to towns, five to redevelopment and housing authorities, four to cities, and three to non-profit organizations working with local governments. Examples of the use of the small planning grants have covered such efforts as adaptive re-use study/renderings, asbestos report/preliminary design plans, survey of neighborhood site conditions/GIS mapping, a building structural report and preliminary site master planning. This program represents the middle element of VHDA’s three stage program to increase the capacity of local government and redevelopment and housing authority (RHA) planners to deal with MUMI projects: 1) Authorization and Implementation of Mixed-Use/Mixed-Income

Financing (2004), 2) Creation and Promotion of MUMI Planning Grants (2005-present), and 3) Facilitation of Capacity Building Opportunities (2009). The final stage facilitates training to increase the knowledge and capacity of planners and local officials to utilize financing tools.

**Planning Innovation Award
Honorable Mention
Building the 21st Century Code: the Portsmouth Experience**

City of Portsmouth

This new Portsmouth code integrates form-based and hybrid zoning techniques. The document includes a form-based district with a stand-alone regulating plan for the downtown area. It also identifies a comprehensive set of mixed-use zoning districts and development standards based on context (transitional standards), development type (multi-family or commercial), or zoning district designation. The previous code included 32 base districts, consolidated to 19, primarily mixed-use districts by the new ordinance. Unnecessary distinctions between different zoning classifications are gone, and the range of allowable uses includes new housing types like live/work dwellings, upper story residential, and two- to four- family homes. The new code allows low-intensity neighborhood-serving commercial uses to locate within the city's higher density residential districts. The new ordinance includes a tiered system of incentives for use of sustainable or "green building" techniques that allows varying degrees of density increase, extra building height, increased lot coverage, or reduction of other development standards like parking or landscaping based upon green building techniques. The new Portsmouth zoning ordinance can be characterized as a "redevelopment code". Many of the provisions have great use in other mature, built out communities where the zoning ordinance is not congruent with historic development patterns.

**Student Planning Project Award
Lakeside Avenue Revitalization Plan

Urban & Regional Planning Program
Wilder School of Government & Public Affairs
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)**

Members of Dr. John Accordino's Fall 2007 Urban Commercial Revitalization class completed a revitalization plan for the County of Henrico and the Lakeside Business Association. The Plan was comprehensive including excellent mapping, organization, and analysis. Lakeside is situated immediately outside of Richmond in Henrico County between Bryan Park and Lewis Ginter

Botanical Garden. Lakeside is challenged in that the length of the corridor is bisected by a small section of residences, dividing the district into two commercial nodes: a “Park End” and a “Garden End”. Bryan Park and the Botanical Garden each draw hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. A competitive market analysis revealed unmet demand for goods and services, as well as new goods and services to attract the wider, shopper’s-goods market and the many visitors who come to the area. These new uses include sit-down restaurants, women’s and girls’ apparel, a specialty food store, a garden shop, a coffee/ice-cream shop, and a 1950s-style diner. The students coupled the corridor’s existing challenges with the market study that considered future possibilities and recommendations for the area. The Plan was comprehensive and considered the history of the area, the plans in place or pending, as well as a myriad of survey results to produce a realistic plan.

**Private Sector Planning Award
Brandermill Master Plan**

Design Forum

An updated master plan was developed by Design Forum for the planned community of Brandermill. Brandermill is a community of 12,500 persons located approximately 20 miles southwest of Richmond in Chesterfield County. The community sits on 2600 acres against the backdrop of the Swift Creek Reservoir. Due to changing conditions within and surrounding the community, the Community Association selected Design Forum to assist them in developing a new master plan that would create a vision, enhance the quality of life and value of property and protect the integrity of the Swift Creek Reservoir as a source of drinking water. An extensive study of the community was conducted by car, foot, bike, and boat and golf cart. Seven areas were examined more closely: connections, existing amenities and programs, new amenities and programs, the reservoir, the Boathouse Restaurant and the Brandermill Church / Sunday Park, commercial areas and community spirit. Workshops and dialogue with the community was extensive in identifying the values and vision and in the development of the plan. The new master plan emphasized a balance of community needs and natural resources, the restoration of the community facilities, enhancing of mobility options, reclaiming vitality in commercial centers and community action. An Action Plan was also developed to reinforce and implement the master plan.

**Public Outreach and Engagement Award
Wanted: Public Input and Engagement**

James City County

James City County’s public outreach process for the 2009 Comprehensive Plan ‘stretched’ the limits of traditional methods in attempting to dialogue with the mix of a diverse population including college and retired residents. They utilized tremendous variety, including public

meetings, radio, television, newspapers, neighborhood newsletters, and more popular media sources like the internet, Facebook, and YouTube. The County formed a Community Participation Team (CPT) to guide and help with the first stage of the plan update by collecting and summarizing public input, educating participants, and encouraging citizens to get involved and stay involved. The CPT consisted of three members of the Planning Commission, seven citizens, and their proxies. The CPT met weekly for 12 months in addition to participating in speaking events, distributing comment boxes and posters, and attending public meetings. At the end of the first stage, the CPT produced a binder of citizen input and forwarded it to the Steering Committee, which guided the second stage of the Comprehensive Plan update. Key tools that were used included CPT Forums, listening stations, and other new technology such as Facebook, YouTube videos and a Steering Committee blog.

Planning Leadership Award (Citizen Planner)

Richard Krapf

James City County

Mr. Krapf has emerged as a leader in the James City County planning community and a visible, vocal advocate of smart planning practices. As current chair of the Planning Commission and a prominent member of both the Community Participation Team (CPT) and Steering Committee, he was an integral part of the comprehensive plan update for the County. His dedication to the update process in James City County over the past several years is an extension of years of service to his community. Through his role on the CPT, Mr. Krapf reached out to, encouraged, educated and heard the input of hundreds of County residents and other stakeholders. He was an instrumental link between key decision makers and the public in a way that ensured that the public voice was remembered throughout the update.

Planning Leadership Award (Local Elected Official)

Supervisor Sally Thomas

Albemarle County

Supervisor Sally Thomas has represented the Samuel Miller District on the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors from 1994 to 2009. She has been a tireless supporter of good planning efforts through development of and adherence to the Albemarle County's Comprehensive Plan. During her time on the Board she worked to promote rural preservation and smart growth in the County. She has represented the county on numerous local, regional and state associations and

committees, exemplifying her strong commitment to water quality, rural preservation, intergovernmental cooperation, historic preservation, sustainability, and high quality urban development. Some of those committees included the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir Stewardship Task Force, the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, representing the Virginia Association of Counties, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Commission, the Virginia Transit Association, the Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council and many, many more. Many of these groups she chaired. Prior to joining the BOS, she also was a member of the School Board and the League of Women Voters.

Planning Leadership Award (Local Elected Official)

Supervisor Stran Trout

New Kent County

Mr. Trout has served as a member of the New Kent County Board of Supervisors for the past six years. Prior to being elected to the Board, Mr. Trout served on the County's Planning Commission for eight years. While on the Planning Commission, Mr. Trout played an instrumental role in the creation and adoption of the current Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan which incorporates smart growth principles. Mr. Trout has taken the lead as a Supervisor in implementing many of the strategies of the Comprehensive Plan, to achieve the County's long range goals including the rewrite of the County's Subdivision Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance, the improvement of our public recreation facilities, the creation of a Purchase of Development Right's program and the preservation of agricultural, forestal, and open space. Mr. Trout is extensively involved in New Kent's efforts to increase tourism and economic growth. As Supervisor, he took the lead in the organization of New Kent's Jamestown 2007 Committee. Mr. Trout is a strong proponent of natural resources-based planning and serves on the *Green Infrastructure for Connected Communities* focus group.

Planning Leadership Award (State Official)

Assistant Secretary Nicholas M. Donohue

Commonwealth of Virginia

As the Commonwealth's Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Donohue oversaw the first effort in the Commonwealth to link transportation and land use at the statewide level. He provided leadership to the Traffic Impact Analysis requirements, Access Management Standards, Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements, and revisions to VTrans 2035. Additionally Mr. Donohue oversaw the development of manuals and models for implementing road impact fees and regional transportation performance measures and led the Commonwealth Transportation Board toward creating a grant program to provide planning assistance to localities in implementing Urban Development Areas. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Donohue consistently

applied planning practices and principles. Mr. Donohue specifically and consciously reached out to the planning community through the APA Virginia Chapter to ensure that planners were represented on working groups and teams. He asked members of the Chapter to meet with him on a number of occasions to provide direct feedback on areas of mutual concern independent of other groups and interests. APA Virginia Chapter became one of the “must have” organizations asked to provide representatives to advisory and technical committees and workgroups. The Chapter’s profile at the state level has never been higher than it is today; this can, at least in part, be attributed to Mr. Donohue’s invitations to come inside the tent and participate in the decision-making. Mr. Donohue has been a frequent panelist and presenter at Chapter Conferences and Section events as well as to the Citizens Planning Education Association of Virginia and the Rural Planning Caucus of Virginia.

**VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
2009-10 VIRGINIA PLANNING SCHOOLS
OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

**VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY
URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING**

Graduate Outstanding Student – Christopher Chop

Chris, originally from Maine, received his BA in International Affairs and History from The George Washington University. After working for several years in Boston, he enrolled last fall in the Urban Affairs and Planning graduate program at Virginia Tech. His areas of focus are housing and physical land use and he plans to write his major paper on airport-driven urban development. In addition to his excellent academic work, Chris is working for the Center for Housing Research and has distinguished himself for his professionalism in representing the Center and the University at the Governor's Housing Conference and in the development of housing affordability metrics for Housing Virginia.

Undergraduate Outstanding Student – Rachel Stair

Rachel, from Oakton, Virginia, excelled in two other majors (Architecture and Wildlife Science) before she found her passion in environmental policy and planning. Rachel is now enrolled in the combined Bachelors/Masters Program and will receive her B.S. in December with honors and MURP in Spring 2012. Upon completing her studies at Virginia Tech, Rachel plans to attend law school. She is a service chair for Alpha Phi Omega, a community service fraternity and is involved with Virginia Tech's chapter of the Nicaraguan Orphan Fund.

**VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY'S NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING**

Graduate Outstanding Student – William T. Cook

William is a second-year student in the Northern Virginia masters program and has excelled in every class. He is noted for the clarity and incisiveness of planning and communication skills, and is mature, totally responsible, and a great team player. With a 3.96 GPA, he has embraced all aspects of the planning field. Bill demonstrates his leadership skills particularly well in studios—for example, the Falls Church and Route 1 Studios. He is on track to be future leader in the planning profession.

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OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

**VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING**

Graduate Outstanding Student - Christopher E. Michael

Our faculty believes Chris is the most worthy recipient of the VAPA Outstanding Student Award among our MURP students. He is on track to graduate this May with an outstanding 3.83 GPA. Furthermore, Chris has been superb in teamwork situations, practicing the gentle, yet persuasive leadership that marks all good planners. But it is his work outside the classroom that really sets him apart. After one semester, MURP students elected him president of the Urban and Regional Planning Student Association. Under his leadership, the group developed new initiatives to serve the community and to strengthen relationships with planning practitioners, as well as to help recruit prospective planning students. In the view of the VCU faculty, Chris is not only an outstanding student, but has all the makings of an outstanding planner, and we are very proud of him.

Undergraduate Outstanding Student – Emily E. Ruf

As an undergraduate student, Emily has excelled in all classes she has taken at VCU. Emily entered VCU as a student of Fine Arts, wanting to show people the vision she had for the world. At the end of the first year she realized that she was much more interested in social subjects, so she changed her major to International Studies. A class in international sustainable development sparked her interest in urban studies. Urban Studies was the perfect fit for her, and driven by passion she accomplished two years of work in one. Emily maintained a 4.0 in major, and a 3.78 overall. She was awarded the Dean's Scholarship upon enrollment, and has been on the Dean's List every semester since her freshman year. During her sophomore year Emily was accepted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars due to her scholarly achievements.

Her motivation and commitment to excellence have shown in her work in class, but her dedication to helping others can best be seen outside of school. As a tutor at the Campus Learning Center, she seeks to guide and encourage struggling students, and work with them to set long term goals. She also enjoys volunteering for community events, such as the Ukrops 10k, and working with organizations such as the Salvation Army and Food for Others to help those less fortunate.

Emily plans on continuing her education at VCU in the fall in the Masters of Urban Studies and Regional Planning program, where she will greet the many new challenges with the same enthusiasm and perseverance she has shown in her undergraduate career.

**VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
2009-10 VIRGINIA PLANNING SCHOOLS
OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

Graduate Outstanding Student – Dana M. Smith

For outstanding academic performance, consistent professional quality in her work, effective student leadership and vigor in making the sustainability connection between the built and natural environment. She has been instrumental in fostering the “Food Security” movement at the University and has been the local farm manager for creating the student run food garden on the grounds of the University.

Undergraduate Outstanding Student – Anne Catherine Pfuntner

For exceptional academic achievement and demonstrated consistent high quality professional work. She has also pursued a minor in Historic Preservation. She has been actively engaged in student initiatives toward developing sustainability at the University of Virginia including research to create a “Share a Bike” program.